

**ANALYSIS 7**  
KCR FOR CONSCIENCE VOTE  
IN PREZ ELECTION**MONEY 8**  
INDIA TO BE SELF-SUFFICIENT IN  
UREA BY 2025 END: GOVT**SPORTS 11**  
DJOKER BATTLES BACK  
TO BEAT SINNER

VIJAYAWADA, WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, 2022: PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

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'I CHOOSE SCRIPTS  
THAT SUIT ME,  
REGARDLESS OF  
THE BUDGET'

Page 12

**20 AIRPORTS EQUIPPED WITH  
AMBULIFTS TO HELP 'DIVYANG'**

Twenty airports have been equipped with ambulifts to help flyers with disability or reduced mobility in boarding an aircraft under the Centre's Accessible India campaign, the Disability Affairs Department said. These airports include Vijayawada, Kanpur, Port Blair, Jodhpur, Belgaum, Silchar, Jharsuguda, Rajkot and Hubli, officials said. The initiative has been taken to facilitate passengers with reduced mobility, 'divyang' travellers on wheelchair and passengers on stretchers during their air travel. The department also said India's 35 international airports and 55 out of 69 domestic airports are now accessible to 'divyangjan' with accessibility features, and 41 airports are fully equipped with aerobridges.

**BODY PARTS, GEAR FOUND ON ITALIAN  
GLACIER AFTER AVALANCHE**

Rescuers found body parts and equipment as they searched Tuesday for hikers missing following a powerful avalanche that killed at least seven people and is being blamed in large part on rising temperatures that are melting glaciers. Officials initially feared 13 hikers were still missing, but the province of Trento on Tuesday reduced the number of people unaccounted-for to five, after eight others checked in with authorities. Rain hampered the search Monday, but sunny weather on Tuesday allowed helicopters to bring more rescue teams up to the site on the Marmolada glacier, east of Bolzano in the Dolomite mountains, even as hopes dimmed of finding anyone alive.

**FATHER-DAUGHTER DUO CREATES  
HISTORY IN IAF, FLIES SAME FORMATION**

A father-daughter duo has created history in the Indian Air Force (IAF), when they flew in the same formation here recently, IAF said on Tuesday. There has not been any previous instance in the IAF where a father and his daughter were part of the same formation for a mission, an official release said. Air Commodore Sanjay Sharma and his daughter Ananya flew in the same formation recently. "The father-daughter duo created history on 30 May 2022, when they flew in the same formation of Hawk-132 aircraft at Air Force Station Bidar, where Flying Officer Ananya Sharma is undergoing her training before she graduates onto faster and more superior fighter aircraft of the IAF," the release said.

**HIGH COST OF RUSSIAN GAINS IN  
UKRAINE MAY LIMIT NEW ADVANCE**

After more than four months of ferocious fighting, Russia claimed a key victory: full control over one of the two provinces in Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland. But Moscow's seizure of the last major stronghold of Ukrainian resistance in Luhansk province came at a steep price. The critical question now is whether Russia can muster enough strength for a new offensive to complete its capture of the Donbas and make gains elsewhere in Ukraine. Yes, the Russians have seized the Luhansk region, but at what price? asked Oleh Zhdanov, a military analyst in Ukraine, noting that some Russian units involved in the battle lost up to a half their soldiers.

# Nine initiatives changed the face of edn in AP: CM

PNS ■ ADONI (KURNOOL DIST)

For the third consecutive year, Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has distributed Jagananna Vidya Kanuka kits to 47.4 lakh students at a cost of Rs 931 crore as schools across the State were reopened on Tuesday.

Addressing a public meeting here on Tuesday, The Chief Minister emphasised providing quality education to every student for eliminating poverty and stated that everyone should study in English medium. In regard to 'Vidya Kanuka' kits, he said that it was a gift to the students from their uncle, and there will not be any compromise on the quality of the contents.

He said that the value of the kit has been increasing over the years and went up to Rs 2,000, as the kit



quality also gets improving. In the academic year 2020-21, each kit was valued at Rs 1,530 and was distributed to over 42 lakh students at an expenditure of Rs 650 crore. In

2021-22, the cost of the kit increased to Rs 1,726 and was given to over 45 lakh students at a cost of Rs 790 crore. In the current academic year 2022-23, each kit costs

Rs 1,964, which will be distributed to 47 lakh students with an expenditure of Rs 931 crore. The kit comprises three pairs of uniform clothing, bilingual textbooks, workbooks, notebooks, a school bag, shoes, a belt, two pairs of socks, and an Oxford Dictionary will be given to the new admissions and to those who lost their previous one. The Chief Minister said that the government will be providing Tabs to 4.7 lakh class 8 students with Byju's content free of cost, with an additional expenditure of Rs 500 crores. He stated that in three years of governance, the overall admissions in government schools across the State increased by 7.2 lakh, registering a total strength of 44.3 lakh students in the academic year 2021-22.

2

**ABV moves AP HC  
against suspension**

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Senior IPS officer AB Venkateswara Rao, who was suspended for the second time, has moved the Andhra Pradesh High Court seeking to quash the case filed by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) against him in 2021 suspecting corruption in the purchase of security equipment during his regime as intelligence chief. In his petition, Venkateswara Rao submitted that not a single rupee was spent on the purchase of any equipment and not a single paisa was paid to anybody. The ACB had foisted a case against him by making the general inquiry, without going through the process of an investigation by the AP Vigilance Commission.

2

## BJP planning to check Pawan Kalyan with brother Chiranjeevi

SNCN ACHARYULU  
■ HYDERABAD

In a significant development, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has invited former Union minister megastar Chiranjeevi to New Delhi.

Prime Minister Modi unveiled the statue of Alluri Sitarama Raju at Bhimavaram in West Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh on Monday. Chiranjeevi was also invited to the function.

When Chiranjeevi greeted Prime Minister Modi on the dais they had a discussion for a few seconds. It appeared that Prime Minister Modi had given special attention to



Chiranjeevi. Sources on the dais said that Prime Minister Modi had invited Chiranjeevi to New Delhi. They said that the PM told Chiranjeevi, "Please come to New Delhi once. We can have a discussion. In the past too I have invited

you." It may be recalled some time ago that there were speculations that Chiranjeevi may join the BJP. Chiranjeevi himself denied rumours about him joining the BJP. He had categorically made it clear that he has no interest in joining politics again.

In 2014, after the Congress-led UPA was defeated in the general elections, Chiranjeevi kept away from politics and concentrated on films. Chiranjeevi has good relations with both Telugu Chief Ministers, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and K. Chandrababhan Rao.

2

## Fresh plea challenges 'Agnipath'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A fresh plea has been filed in the Supreme Court challenging the Centre's 'Agnipath' scheme for recruitment in the armed forces.

The petition filed by ex-servicemen Ravindra Singh Shekhawat has sought quashing of notification issued by the Ministry of Defence, contending it as illegal, unconstitutional, and ultra vires to the rights guaranteed under the Constitution.

The recently launched scheme has received skepticism nationwide and has left several questions unanswered. Some of the concerns are related to the aspirants who were in the middle/final stages of their recruitment process. This abrupt change in the recruitment process has evoked several unforeseeable circumstances for the aspirants and has put their futures at stake/ in the dark.

## Food Security Act: State ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in implementation



PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Adding another feather to its cap, Andhra Pradesh stood among the top three states in the general category in the State Ranking Index for National Food Security Act (NFSA).

While Odisha has been adjudged the top-ranked State followed by Uttar Pradesh at the second spot, Andhra Pradesh stood third amongst the general category States in the 'State Ranking Index for NFSA'. Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Piyush Goyal released the first edition of 'State Ranking Index for NFSA' during the conference of Food Ministers of States/UTs on 'Food Nutrition and Security in India' organised by the Department of Food and

Public Distribution in Delhi on Monday.

While Odisha obtained an index score of 0.836 and ranked number one, Uttar Pradesh at second rank obtained a 0.797 index score. Andhra Pradesh stood third among the general category states in the country had obtained a 0.794 index score. This "State ranking Index for NFSA" attempts to document the status and progress of implementation of NFSA and various reform initiatives across the country, post consultation with states. It highlights the reforms undertaken by states and UTs and creates a cross-learning environment and scale-up reform measures by all states and union territories.

2

## Pithapuram girl tops APPSC Group I exam

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

APPSC Chairman Gowtam Sawang released the 2018 Group I results on Tuesday. Rani Sushmitha from Pithapuram, East Godavari secured the first in Group I-2018 examinations followed by K Srinivasulu Raju, Kotulaguttapalli, Kadapa district who secured the second rank and V Sanjana Simha of Hyderabad, Telangana, secured the third. Among the top 10 ranks, seven ranks were secured by women, he said. The results were released by APPSC Chairman at the R&B conference hall in Vijayawada. The results have been uploaded to the APPSC website.

2



# Desilting works at Prakasam Barrage gain steam

Project taken up at a cost of Rs.102.447 cr to increase storage capacity of Prakasam Barrage

DASARI SRINIVASA RAO  
■ VIJAYAWADA

Desilting of the foreshore of Prakasam Barrage across River Krishna to store water to the full reservoir capacity of 3.071 TMC is progressing at a brisk pace. Five desilting works are in progress and another one will begin soon.

The Water Resources Department (WRD) has proposed 12 works for desilting the barrage with help of the Andhra Pradesh Mining Development Corporation Limited (APMDC) and the tender process was completed two years ago. Tender agreements for five works are yet to be done.

The Water Resources Department took up these works worth Rs.102.447 crore with the help of

*The works began in  
September 2021 and the  
department could extract  
8,60,566 cubic metres of  
silt from the river bed so far*

APMDC a few months ago. The desilting is expected to help in increasing the storage capacity of Prakasam Barrage, apart from increasing the availability of sand.

According to available information, the State government had accorded administrative approval to take up desilting works upstream of Prakasam Barrage spending Rs 102.44 crore, in March 2021. As per the orders, desilting operations have to be taken up half-a-kilometre

away from Prakasam Barrage upstream (from 0.50 km to 13.50 km on River Krishna). The works began in September 2021 and the department could extract 8,60,566 cubic metres of silt from the river bed so far. Of this, 2,02,499 cubic metres of de-silt material have been handed over to APMDC and 6,58,067 cubic metres are yet to be handed over. The target is to extract 50 lakh tonnes of de-silt material from the foreshore of Prakasam Barrage, sources said.

The government told the department that the value derived from the sale of the desilted material should exceed the cost of the end-to-end operation i.e., survey, excavation, transportation, and sale among others, and result in net profit to APMDC Limited/government.



**TODAY**  
**ALMANAC**  
Month & Paksham:  
Tithi: Saptami: Jul 05 07:28 PM  
to Jul 06 07:48 PM  
Ashtami: Jul 06 07:48 PM  
to Jul 07 07:28 PM  
Nakshatram:  
Uttara Phalguni: Jul 05 10:30 AM  
to Jul 06 11:44 AM  
Hasta: Jul 06 11:44 AM  
to Jul 07 12:19 PM  
Rahukalam: 12:20 PM to 1:58 PM  
Yamagandam: 7:28 AM to 9:05 AM  
Varjyam: 08:20 PM to 09:59 PM  
Gulika: 10:43 AM to 12:20 PM  
Amritakalam: None  
Abhijit Muhurtham: Nil

**VIJAYAWADA WEATHER**  
Forecast: Thunderstorm  
Temp: 34°  
Humidity: 83%  
Sunrise: 5:40 AM  
Sunset: 6:44 PM  
Updated: JULY 5, 2022 5:00 PM





# Why YSRCP MLAs feel left out in disbursal of welfare benefits

Every legislator of the ruling YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) in Andhra Pradesh is aspiring to get re-elected in 2024. Although YSRC president and Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy has fond hopes that the party would return to power on the strength of his government's welfare schemes bundled as 'Nava Ratnas', the YSRCP legislators are jittery about re-election at the individual level. For, none of them is seen publicly disbursing the benefits under popular welfare schemes in the present system.

The Chief Minister has given priority to implementation of the welfare schemes, claiming that there is absolutely no scope for corruption. The schemes are so structures that there is Chief Minister one the



side and just beneficiaries on the other side, with the money getting credited directly to the beneficiaries' accounts. The whole thing looks if the Chief Minister is giving money directly to the beneficiaries to obviate graft. This is where the legislators are feeling the pinch, because they are nowhere in the picture when it comes to disbursal of welfare schemes.

Thousands of crores of rupees are going into the bank accounts of beneficiaries of welfare schemes before the eyes of the MLAs, but without their direct involvement. During the erstwhile regimes, it was customary to involve local MLAs in the disbursal of welfare benefits to the beneficiaries. This practice gave the

**Thousands of crores of rupees are going into the bank accounts of beneficiaries of welfare schemes before the eyes of the MLAs, but without their direct involvement. During the erstwhile regimes, it was customary to involve local MLAs in the disbursal of welfare benefits to the beneficiaries. This practice gave the MLAs some heft.**

MLAs some heft. That is why even establishing a pump to ensure drinking water in a village is done under the aegis of the local MLA. Likewise, pensions for old age people are disbursed by legislators.

Legislators believe that it would benefit them if they are involved in Nava Ratnas too. They are not all that happy at the present arrangement for



M D RATNA KUMAR  
Senior Journalist

disbursement of funds relating to various schemes in the presence party cadre at the constituency-level meetings. These legislators feel that their 'graph' of performance and image in the public domain has gone down. Despite having the power to decide the list of beneficiaries of various welfare schemes, they rue their 'non involvement' in the dis-

bursement exercise.

Votes required for the party's victory at the hustings are drawn from the individual image or graph of legislators. The rest of the contribution of votes for victory probably comes because of the influence

of the government or leadership! Only blending of the images of the legislators and the Chief Minister would lead to the ultimate result. Thinking of retaining power with only the image of the Chief Minister in the public domain may not be the correct approach, it is felt by legislators. Even if the Chief Minister assures anything to people during his visit to any constituency, that would get fulfilled only at the behest of the local legislator.

If it is proved tomorrow that a seat has been lost because of the low image of the local legislator, the leadership may have to be held responsible for such a loss. Images of both leadership and legislator may turn out to be a double-edged sword for success. The contribution of a legislator at the constituency level is essential for success.

Will Jagan lend his ears to the feelings of legislators who are keen on shoring up their individual image in the minds of people? Internal differences among party leaders surfaced recently at constituency-level meetings involving public representatives. Of course, the leadership has gagged public representatives.

Local legislator Perni Venkatramaiah @Nani is a powerful man out there and so is MP Vallapaneni Balasouri, a business partner of Jagan. By virtue of being CM's 'own man', the MP had pressed for stern action. But the leadership turned down his demand. In regional parties, there is no scope for acting against the MLA at the behest of an MP.

An amount of Rs. 1.37 lakh crores of rupees has been disbursed through the accounts of the beneficiaries of various welfare schemes. A total amount of Rs.2.47 lakh crores of rupees will have been credited to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries for the period 2019-24.

Legislators are looking longingly at the huge amounts going to electors without their active involvement. Another source of embarrassment for some of the legislators is the non-clearance of bills relating to party workers who had executed government works on contract basis. Such party workers had mobilized money at high rates of interests from financiers. They chose to avoid their legislators who had come to their streets for campaigning. Legislators are feeling that they have become useless when it comes to even getting pending bills cleared.

# 2 of Raghurama's security men suspended for attack on AP cop

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The CRPF has suspended ASI/GD K Ganga Ram and CT/GD (Jawan) Nanaware Sandip Sathu of Battalion-221 for man-handling and injuring Intelligence Constable Sk Farooq Basha of the Andhra Pradesh police in Hyderabad.

Farooq Basha had filed a complaint with the Gachibowli police station against Raghu Ramakrishna Raju's family members and some CRPF constables, who had attacked him while he was discharging duty at ISB gate in Hyderabad on Monday morning.

YSRCP rebel MP from Narsapuram K Raghu Ramakrishna Raju's security personnel (CRPF) constables had assaulted Sk Farooq Basha while he was on duty in Hyderabad during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit on July 4. As per reports, the constable was attacked and forcibly taken to the MP's house on Monday morning when he was posted near the

## MP writes to KCR over 'recce'

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) rebel MP from Narasapuram, Raghu Ramakrishna Raju wrote to Telangana CM, K Chandrasekhara Rao, on Tuesday stating that six people were conducting recce around his house at Emaar Boulder Hills on Monday. The CRPF security allotted by the Central government had identified the persons and managed to catch one of them while the others escaped in a 4-wheeler, presumably an AP police vehicle. The person, who was caught, was identified as Subhan Ali Basha who claimed to be an employee of the Intelligence Department, AP Police. Raghurama Raju said that they had requested to show the identity card but Subhan Ali Basha told he was not carrying the same.



lines, the AP police appointed Intelligence Constable Farooq Basha from Anantapur as a spotter at the ISB gate in Hyderabad on Monday morning. The ISB gate is about a kilometre away from the MP's residence at Boulder Hills in Gachibowli.

As Farooq was discharging duty, some members of the MP's family along with CRPF constables came in a car (a white Ford Eco Sports bearing number 7777) and attacked Farooq. They thrashed him up on the sidewalk and questioned him. Though he tried to show his identity card and stated that he was an Intelligence Constable, they paid no attention and confiscated his ID card. Not stopping there, they

held his hands behind and assaulted him on the road, and dragged him to the MP's house even as people were watching on the main road. Some of the pedestrians also took videos of the constable being assaulted and dragged on their cell phones. They, along with Raju's family members, took him to the MP's house and beat him up for more than two hours. They later took him to the Gachibowli police station and handed him over to the police and lodged a complaint stating that the person was caught moving around suspiciously.

Farooq Basha filed a complaint with the Gachibowli police station against Raghu Ramakrishna Raju's family members and some CRPF constables and said that they had snatched his purse, mobile phone, and ID card. Farooq Basha was shifted to a hospital and his condition is said to be stable. The MP was said to be present in the house when the constable was assaulted.



# Grandeur marks celestial wedding in Washington DC

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Srinivasa Kalyanam fete was observed with utmost religious grandeur at Washington DC in the United States of America during the early hours on Tuesday. The team of TTD 'Archakas' and 'Veda' pundits performed the Srinivasa Kalyanam as per

'Vaikhanasa Agama' tradition to the accompaniment of 'Mangala Vaidyam'. TTD is organising the holy event across various cities in the United States of America in collaboration with APNRTS and TTD advisory committees in each city. The event was a celestial feast for the scores of NRI denizens who participat-

ed in the divine wedding ceremony with utmost enthusiasm and devotion.

The various stages of Srivari Kalyanam fete included 'Punyaha vachanam', 'Viswak sena Aradhana', 'Ankurar panam', 'Maha Sankalpam', 'Kanyadanam', 'Mangalya Dharana', 'Varana Mayiaram' and finally 'Harati'.

# Increased enrolment at govt schools...

Continued from page 1

The government has made certain changes under the new National Education Policy (NEP) which has come into force right away.

This academic year has started with Pre-Primary 1 (PPI) and Pre-Primary 2 (PP2) to strengthen the foundation of education. These schools have been categorised into Satellite Foundation, Foundation, Foundation Plus, Pre-High School, High School, and High School Plus. The Education Department has also issued instructions to the officials to shift students of Class 3, 4, and 5 of the primary schools to nearby high schools and pre-high schools.

For the current academic year, the schools will function for 220 days. The Education Department has taken up the school readiness programme from June 28 for

## Top IAS official puts wards in ZP school

Continued from page 1

She said that the classrooms are good and the parents are allowed to check the classrooms unlike in private schools. The school has a good playground and is maintaining good infrastructure, well-maintained toilets and nice colours on the walls with quotes that inspire the students, she said.

the reopening of schools. Besides cleaning every school, and providing drinking water facilities, it also conducted village visit programmes to encourage children from neighboring areas and villages to join government schools. The government is explaining the edu-

cational programmes to the parents and encouraging them to enroll their children in schools. On the other hand, there are complaints about the shortage of textbooks and 'Jagananna Vidya Kanuka' kits in a few schools. DEO Krishna Tahera Sultana said that there is a good response to admissions in government schools and said that she had been receiving calls stating that there was no vacancy in a good number of schools in the district. In a few schools in the State, more than 80 per cent of attendance was reported from schools that wore a festive look. She said that 90 per cent of textbooks and JVK kits with nine articles were distributed to the students on the first day of school. The kits will continue to be distributed for a few more days until the admissions are completed.

Nutrition initiatives. The NFSA was enacted on July 5, 2013, and in order to celebrate the day, the conference was organized to deliberate and discuss nutritional security, food security, best practices followed in Public Distribution System, crop diversification, reforms in PDS, and storage sector.

# Food Security Act..

Continued from page 1

The present Index is largely focused on NFSA Distribution and will include procurement, and PMKAY Distribution in the future. The Index for rank-

# Pithapuram girl tops APPSC Group I exam

Continued from page 1

He said that the selected candidates will have to give the undertaking letter either through post or directly at the APPSC office. He said that APPSC has conducted a recruitment process for 167 Group I posts in 2018, including 30 Deputy Collector posts, and 28 DSP posts. Of the 167 Group I posts, 67 female and 96 male candidates have been selected for the jobs and four

posts could not be filled due to various reasons. As many as 9,679 candidates appeared for Group I Mains in December 2020 and the results were announced on April 28, 2021 after digital valuation, but this year, as per the orders of the High Court, manual valuation was done again and the results were released in May. According to the orders of the High Court, the interviews for filling the vacancies of 165 Group I

posts have been successfully completed. Group-I interviews were conducted by appointing three interview boards. He said that the APPSC would issue a notification in the next month for 110 Group-I posts and also 182 Group-II posts. He said that the written test will be conducted on July 24 for Endowment department EO posts, and a written exam for 620 junior assistant posts on July 31.

# ABV moves AP HC against...

Continued from page 1

He requested that the false case against him be dismissed and wanted that all the actions to be taken on the basis of the FIR filed by the ACB be suspended till the case is disposed of by the court. The senior IPS officer argued that he had absolutely no role to play in the government in purchase of any security equipment as there is a separate committee for the same. The State Trade Corporation of India Ltd had

returned Rs 10 lakh to the government, which had paid the money towards the transaction fee, he said. Last week, ABV was suspended for the second time within 10 days after giving posting orders as commissioner of printing and stationery. He said though the case was registered a year-and-a-half ago, no charge sheet was filed to date. He wondered how he could influence or threaten the witnesses charge sheet was not filed and the hearing did not begin in court at all.

# Nine initiatives changed the face of edn in AP: CM

Continued from page 1

With nine initiatives such as 'Mana Badi Nadu-Nedu', 'Vidya Kanuka', 'Jagananna Gorumuddha', 'Sampoorna Poshana', 'Amma Vodi', English Medium education, 'Vidya Deevana', 'Vasati Deevana', and pact with Byju's, revolutionary changes were brought in the education sector. He said that the government is making Byju's app available to underprivileged children, which would change the lives of poor students and the content would guide them to learn better, as content provided by Byju's will make it easier for children to achieve

good results. 'Byju's content was not available without paying Rs 20,000 per year towards a subscription, whereas the government has made it available for free to the students studying in government schools,' said the Chief Minister. On this occasion, the Chief Minister interacted with the students and also checked the kits to see whether all the contents were in place. Later, he announced plans to take up developmental projects in Adoni. Ministers Botsa Satyanarayana, Gummanuru Jayaram, MLA Sai Prasad Reddy, party leaders, and various other officials were present at the event.

CHICKEN RATES ₹/KG	
Dressed/With Skin	₹225
Without Skin	₹235
Broiler at Farm	₹200

EGG RATES ₹/100	
VIJAYAWADA	477
HYDERABAD	484
VISAKHAPATNAM	477
RETAIL PRICE	₹4.84



GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH  
AYUSH DEPARTMENT

No. 33/G.PMU/2015, 2015  
Applications are invited for the following posts for project management unit of NAM in the AYUSH Department on temporary basis for a period of one year:  
1) PANCHAKARMA THERAPISTS; 2) YOGA INSTRUCTORS  
Candidates qualification, eligibility criteria & salary etc., are displayed in website hmfw.ap.gov.in. Interested eligible candidates may submit their applications as per the format shown in website. The applications should be sent to email ayushpmu2022@gmail.com. Last date for submission of applications is 10 days from the date of notification issued. In case of any difficulty in filing of application please contact: 9700079360 and email: teja.k.kambhampati@gmail.com  
Sd/- Commissioner  
AYUSH Department, A.P., Vijayawada



# Benz Circle, Ramavarappadu Ring Road to be developed

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) Commissioner Swapnil Dinakar Pundkar has said that the VMC will develop Benz Circle, Mahanadu junction, and Ramavarappadu Ring. He has directed the engineering department to prepare designs. He directed the officials to take necessary action to improve greenery on both sides of the national highway from Benz Circle to Ramavarappadu. The VMC Commissioner inspected the stretch from Benz Circle to Ramavarappadu, Bank Colony, and Pinnamaneni Polyclinic road on Tuesday.

He enquired the officials about greenery and sanitation in the city. He also directed them to prepare a design for the development of the Benz Circle junction. “Set up a bus stop for the convenience of bus commuters between 13th and 14th pillars under the flyover,” he said.

He further directed the officers to develop greenery in the



Ramavarappadu ring and remove the police box from there. The Engineering and Horticulture departments were asked to coordinate with each other to develop the ring. Develop encroachments and develop the ‘Mana Vijayawada’ area, he said.

Later, he visited several areas and gave instructions to the Health, Engineering, and Horticulture officials on sanitation.

He instructed that the concerned departments should develop the Mahanadu junction, which is the busiest junction

on the national highway. VMC Deputy City Planner Jubin Siral Roy, Executive Engineers V Chandrasekhar, ASS Prasad, Health Officer Dr. Sridevi, ADH Srinivas, Zonal Commissioner Pardha Saradhi, and others accompanied the Commissioner.

## Surprise checks at pilgrim centres, tourist spots

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

In view of complaints that shopkeepers at pilgrimage centres and tourist places were selling food items to the public at prices exceeding MRP, surprise raids were conducted by the Vigilance and Enforcement officials along with the officers of the Legal Metrology Department across the State on Tuesday. Raids were conducted at 218 shops spread across different districts in Andhra Pradesh.

Following the surprise inspections, 136 cases were filed under section 18(2) of Legal Metrology Packaged Commodities Rule, 2011 and the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 for selling items at rates exceeding MRP and for committing various other irregularities.

The Vigilance and Enforcement Department gave statutory warning that food and other business operators should not sell any item above MRP and strictly conform to law, rules and regulations.

### GANJA UP IN SMOKE



As much as 770 kg of ganja seized during the last three months was set on fire by the Special Enforcement Bureau (SEB) officials in Vijayawada on Tuesday. The contraband was seized at various places by the police in Krishna, East and West Godavari districts.

## TTD plans Kalyana Mandapam

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) is planning to construct a Kalyana Mandapam at Nunna in the NTR district. Deputy Executive Engineer (DEE) Mallela Nagabhushanam inspected the government land at the Teachers Colony in Nunna, the site proposed for the Kalyana

Mandapam, on Tuesday. The engineering department of the TTD has prepared a rough estimate of Rs 2 crore for the Kalyana Mandapam, a long-pending demand of the local people. The State government had acquired five acres of land in 2006 for the Indiramma housing scheme beneficiaries, but it was not utilised. Meanwhile, local people’s rep-

resentatives submitted a representation to MP Vallabhaneni Balashowry urging him to construct the Kalyana Mandapam. The MP sent a proposal to TTD chairman YV Subba Reddy.

Following the request of the MP, the TTD chairman directed the engineering department officers to inspect the land and send a report to him within a week.

# Blood donation marks ban on single-use plastic

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Commemorating the ban on single-use plastic in the Smart City Visakhapatnam, Helping Hearts Foundation president and founder S Rajkumari and his team organised a blood donation camp at GVMC office on Tuesday.

GVMC Commissioner Lakshmisha and deputy mayor Jiyani Sridhar inaugurated the blood donation camp.

The GVMC Commissioner donated blood for a social cause to save life and motivated other staff members of the GVMC to donate blood.

Many took this as an inspiration and all zones of GVMC staff came forward to donate blood. Around 300 units of blood were collected during the day-long camp from the donors.

Sha told the donors to donate blood every 4 months as it will help the needy and



blood donating is one of the holy forms of helping fellow humans. Redcross Society Chairman K Shivanagendra Reddy attended the program along with other members.

Visakha Women’s College students participated as volunteers as a part of the NSS Awareness programme.

Redcross Society of Visakhapatnam and Rotary Blood Bank Visakhapatnam is the blood bank that participat-

ed in this GVMC mega blood donation camp.

GVMC Commissioner distributed mementos to the volunteers of Helping Hearts Foundation ‘Life Saver Award 2022’ for their service by arranging blood for the needy at times of emergency across the country.

Deputy Mayor distributed mementos to the students of Visakha Women’s College for participating as volunteers.

# ‘Jagananna Vidya Kanuka’ kits distributed

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Krishna and NTR District Education Departments organised the third phase of the Jagananna Vidya Kanuka distribution programme at Penamaluru ZPH in Krishna and MK Baig Municipal Corporation High School, Ajith Singh Nagar, in Vijayawada on Tuesday.

Krishna ZP Chairperson Uppala Harika, Collector P Ranjith Basha, MLAs K Pardha Saradhi and K Anil Kumar distributed the books and bags to the students under Jagananna Vidya Kanuka at Penamaluru, while Vijayawada Central MLA Malladi Vishnu, NTR District Collector S Dilli Rao and Municipal Commissioner Swapnil Dinakar Pundkar distributed the kits in Vijayawada.

Speaking on the occasion, Uppala Harika said that the State government had been setting up good infrastructure facilities in government schools to enhance the educational standards. The newly implemented English medium had



given fruitful results and several government high school students spoke in English very fluently. Under the Nadu Nedu scheme, the government schools got a number of additional classrooms, she added.

Krishna Collector P Ranjith Basha said that Penamaluru

ZPH School would be developed as a model to other schools in the district. “The State government is spending Rs.500 crore every year to develop the education sector. Students should utilise the facilities and get more results. As many as 1,29,921 students from 1,461

schools have got the Jagananna Vidya Kanuka kits,” he said.

“Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy wishes that no student should be denied education because of financial problems and hence he introduced several welfare schemes for the benefit of students,” said

Penamaluru MLA K Pardha Saradhi.

APSRTC Vijayawada Regional Chairperson T Padmavati, APTIDCO Director P Ramarao, Sarpanch L Bhaskara Rao, DEO Tahera Sultana, SSA Additional Project Coordinator Dr A Sekhar, Vuyyuru RDO Vijay Kumar, Tahsildar Bhadru, MPDO J Vimala Kumari, MEO Kanaka Mahalakshmi and others were present.

In NTR district, Jagananna Vidya Kanuka kits distribution function was held at MK Baig Municipal Corporation High School. Collector S Dilli Ram, VMC Commissioner Swapnil Dinakar Pundkar and MLA Malladi Vishnu distributed the kits to the students.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Vishnu said that CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy was taking utmost care on the education sector and he implemented several development and welfare schemes for the benefit of students. “Students should overcome all the hurdles to reach their goals by utilising the government facilities,” he said.

# Will solve land issues of Bobbillapadu farmers: Collector

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

NTR District Collector S Dilli Rao has assured the farmers of Bobbillapadu in Chandarlappadu mandal of sorting out the land issues by verifying the records. He said he would be ready to solve the problems of farmers at any time.

Bobbillapadu farmers, along with Bobbillapati Sai, met the NTR Collector at his camp office in Vijayawada on Tuesday.

Bobbilapati Sai said that their lands had belonged to the Muktyala estate and later, they went into the hands of zamindari families in 1956. Later, the forefathers of the farmers purchased the lands from the zamindars and enjoyed full rights on them, he said.

He further said that, Bobbillapadu lands were reg-

istered, by mistake, in the name of zamindars after the completion of land re-survey. However, the Sri Vedadri Lakshmi Narasimha Swami lands were also registered in the names of zamindars. As a result, the farmers had been facing several problems. The District Collector should sanction a No Objection Certificate (NOC) to the farmers, he urged.

Later, the Collector said that the farmers should complain to the Land Settlement Court, which is under the jurisdiction of the Joint Collector. An inquiry would be conducted and orders would be issued under section 15 to solve the problems.

Farmers’ leaders Vasireddy Prasad, T Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy, M Srinivas Reddy, G Naveen Babu and others were present.

## Four fishermen go missing

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Four fishermen belonging to Cambelpet of Machilipatnam city, Krishna district, have been missing at the sea for the past two days. The incident came to light on Tuesday when the family members approached the district administration.

Viswanathapalli China Mastan, 51, Ramani China Nancharaiiah, 64, Chekka Narasimha Rao, 51, and Moka Venkateswara Rao, 44, along with other fishermen ventured into the sea four days ago.

However, one fiber boat with registration number IND-AP-k2-Mo-60, file No AP 3469 went missing with the four fish-

ermen due to some technical problem. The only mobile phone they had was switched off as the battery was exhausted. There has been no communication between the fishermen and their families since 7.30 p.m. on July 3.

Krishna District Collector Ranjit Basha, in a press release on Tuesday, said a massive search was launched in the sea to trace the missing fishermen.

He said one chopper was pressed into service on Tuesday to search the missing persons and the boat. He said the helicopter searched for four hours and would resume the search on Wednesday.

# INS Satpura participates in RIMPAC harbour phase

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

INS Satpura is at Pearl Harbour in Hawaii, participating in one of the largest multilateral Naval Exercises, the ‘Rim of the Pacific’ exercise, also known as RIMPAC since June 27.

During the harbour phase of the exercise, the ship has taken part in multiple symposiums, exercise planning discussions, and sports competitions.

The ship’s crew also visited the historic museum ship USS Missouri and paid homage to fallen soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice during World War II at USS

Arizona Memorial.

INS Satpura and one P8I maritime patrol aircraft are participating in the exercise which spans over six weeks of intense operations and training aimed at enhancing interoperability and building trust among Navies of friendly foreign countries.

As many as 26 countries, 38 warships, nine land forces, 31 unmanned systems, 170 aircraft, and over 25,000 personnel are participating in the multi-dimensional exercise. The sea phase commences on July 12 and will culminate with the closing ceremony on August 4.



# Agniveers recruitment rally in Vizag from Aug 14 to 31

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The recruitment rally for enrolment to the Indian Army as Agniveers will be held at Indira Priyadarshini Stadium, Visakhapatnam from August 14 to 31. Candidates from 13 districts of Andhra Pradesh, i.e., Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Parvathipuram Manyam, Alluri Sitharama Raju,

Anakapalli, Konaseema, Eluru, Kakinada and NTR as well as Yanam (district of Union Territory of Puducherry) will be screened for categories that include Agniveer General Duty, Agniveer Technical, Agniveer Clerk / Store Keeper Technical, Agniveer Tradesman 10th pass and Agniveer Tradesman 8th pass.

The registration for the recruitment rally is open till July 30. Only candi-

dates who apply online are eligible to attend the said rally. The admit cards will be issued online with effect from August 7. The date of reporting at the rally site will be intimated on the Admit Card and the applicant can take a print-out of the Admit Card after August 7 from www.joinindianarmy.nic.in.

To avoid large gatherings at one place, candidates will be directed to report to different Report Centres in

the vicinity of the main venue Indira Priyadarshini Stadium, Visakhapatnam. The same will be coordinated by the recruiting staff at the venue when the candidates report.

The recruitment process is fully automated, fair, and transparent. Candidates must guard against touts/fraudsters who claim that they can help anyone pass or get enrolled. Only hard work and preparation will

ensure selection as per merit.

Candidates can clarify all recruitment-related queries from the online mobile application ‘Army Calling’ which provides a live chat facility for aspiring candidates and can be downloaded from Google Play Store. Candidates may also call the Army Recruitment Office, Visakhapatnam on Telephone No 0891-2756959 & 0891- 2754680 for further information.





# Novel protest by Kotamreddy for upgrading sewage drains

PNS ■ NELLORE

Ruling party MLA Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy held a novel protest by sitting in a sewage drain in protest against the municipal authority's indifference to modernising the drainage system in the Ummareddy Gunta area of the city.

Sridhar Reddy, along with his followers, went to the Ummareddy Gunta area on Tuesday. While questioning the officials why they had failed in modernising the drainage system at the place, taking everyone by surprise, he entered the drain and stood in the sewage water for some time. Later he sat on a boulder in the canal.

The MLA expressed anguish that though the YSRCP is in power, the construction of drainage canals and modernizing the system at the place have not taken up so far. He



expressed anger over the railway and municipal corporation officials for not constructing a drainage canal at the place. He vowed to continue his fight for the construction of a drainage canal at the place for the convenience of the people of the

area.

He demanded the municipal corporation officials to give him a written assurance on by what time they would take up the works and when they could complete it.

The officials have given a

He demanded the municipal corporation officials to give him a written assurance on by what time they would take up the works and when they could complete it.

written assurance to the MLA that the works for the construction would begin by 15. With the written assurance by the officials, the MLA relented. Talking to the media he said that he fought for the construction of a drainage system at the place when he was in the Opposition party and fighting for the same cause though he is in the ruling party. Due to the lack of a proper drainage system in the area, the situation turned out to be miserable during the rainy season, he lamented.

## Check drunken driving: SP

PNS ■ BAPATLA

Superintendent of Police Vakul Jindal has directed the police officials to conduct checks to curb drunken driving to curb road accidents.

The SP directed the police officials to conduct visible policing to give assurance to the people of protection. In visible policing, awareness should be created among the people about the crimes. He directed the officials to conduct checking of vehicles to contain the illegal transportation of ganja, liquor, banned gutka, and other banned tobacco products.

Police officials were also directed to intensify patrolling at women's colleges, girls' schools, bus stands, railway stations, and important intersections and take action against miscreants who misbehave with women.

"It is said that road accidents are caused due to some drivers driving under the influence of alcohol, due to which even the motorists and pedestrians who are following the rules and regulations are exposed to danger, therefore frequent drunk and driving checks are conducted and strict legal action is taken against those who drive under the influence of alcohol and counseling them not to drive under the influence of alcohol again", the SP told the officials. The officials were ordered to organize and register cases against those who drink alcohol in public places.



# 55 red sanders logs seized, 7 arrested

PNS ■ KADAPA

The police seized 55 red sanders logs worth Rs 9.05 lakh and arrested seven red sanders smugglers including notorious smuggler Fakruddin.

Disclosing this to the media here on Tuesday, Superintendent of Police KKN Anburajan said that the police conducted raids at two places and seized 55 red sanders logs weighing over 2 tonnes and worth Rs 9.05 lakh. The police also seized four cars and mini transport vehicle and a motorcycle from them. A police team led by taskforce teams led by CIs Nagabhusanam, Satyababu, RSI Pothuraju and Ibrahim conducted the vehicles and found 40 red sander logs. On seeking the police, some smugglers fled the scene in a



gler Fakruddin.

The police team noticed five cars at Maduru road in Proddatur town near Krishna Reddy oil mill. On suspicion, the police checked the vehicles and found 40 red sander logs. On seeking the police, some smugglers fled the scene in a

car. The police seized the 40 red sander logs worth Rs 9.05 lakh and 4 mobile phones. They tried to attack the police with axes, hunting sickles and stones but the police overpowered them.

Notorious smuggler Fakruddin was involved in 71

various criminal cases and he was sent to prison many times. He formed a gang with Jakhir, Latif, Raman, and Shiva Babu. He established contacts with red sander smugglers in other states. He used to bring woodcutters from Tamil Nadu to cut red sander trees here and export the logs to neighbouring states. The SP Appreciated the police for arresting the notorious interstate red sander smuggler and seizing red sander logs.

In Khajipet, a police team led by S Kullayappa conducted a raid and seized 15 red sander logs weighing 277 kg which were loaded in a Mahendra mini goods vehicle to be transported at Kothapet village in the reserve forest area.

## SHORT TAKES



### Seized 'gold' turns out to be gilt jewellery

**BAPATLA:** The seizure of what was thought to be gold jewellery by the SEB officials turned out to be gilt jewellery. The police on a tip-off conducted a checking of vehicles on the highway at Martur. They inspected an Innova car and found 2 kg of jewellery. The officials thought them to be gold jewellery and being transported without relevant documents including waybills. The officials got the seized jewellery tested by experts at a jewellery shop. After testing the jewellery the gold exports certified that they were gilt jewellery, made of copper but the gold layer was coated. With this, the SEB officials let the five people go with the gilt jewellery.



### 10 passengers injured as private bus rams into lorry

**NALGONDA:** Ten passengers suffered injuries when a private travel bus rammed into a lorry on a flyover on National Highway 65 at Narketpally in the early hours of Tuesday. A bus, owned by a private travelling agency, was on its way to Khammam from Hyderabad when the accident happened. The condition of two of the injured is said to be critical. The injured have been admitted to Kamineni Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) at Narketpally. The lorry fell on the road and the traffic on the busy national highway was hit. The traffic came to a grinding halt at a stretch of one kilometre.

### Police arrest two, seize 120 kg ganja

**NALGONDA:** Police on Tuesday arrested a two-member inter-state gang of ganja smugglers and seized 60 packets of marijuana weighing 120 kg. It is estimated to be worth Rs. 7 lakhs. Police also seized a car and two mobiles. District Superintendent of Police Rema Rajeshwari told media persons that the Nakrekal police, in coordination with the Task Force police, organised 'vehicle checking' on the highway. The culprits were caught. While of the arrested hailed from Andhra Pradesh, another from Telangana. The arrested were identified as Rathod Mohan from Wangdal village in Sangareddy district and Mandalanka Praveen from Sanath Nagar in Visakapatnam district in Andhra Pradesh State.

# NHRC DG lauds AP's secretariat system

PNS ■ GUNTUR

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Director-General Prakash Mehra has lauded the Andhra Pradesh government's secretariat system which is playing a key role to take welfare scheme benefits to the eligible poor.

Prakash Mehra visited the village secretary 5 of Pedakakani and Rythu Bharosa Kendra at Namburu village on Tuesday. State Human Rights Commission member Dr.G Srinivas Rao and Joint Collector G Rajakumar accompanied him.

Mehra inquired with the ANM Mobina Begum about the responsibilities of the secretariats, its staff, and their duties. The ANM told him that from 8 am to 12 noon, she visits the village to find out whether the pregnant women, infants, children, and the elderly have received the necessary medicines and vaccinations, and they would be given to



those who need them.

Prakash Mehra examined the medicines available at the ANM. Panchayat Secretary and Digital Assistant Kakarla Sai Sneha informed Prakash Mohra about the services provided in the Secretariat. Later, Prakash Mohra told reporters that he would study the welfare schemes being implemented in AP and development being carried out here and submit a report to the central government.

The secretariat system and the volunteer system which were introduced by Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy are working well and a report in this regard would be submitted to the Central government, he informed.

Mehra also praised the implementation of development and welfare programs in the state. He said that if the entire country implements

such schemes good results could be obtained. Later Prakash Mehra inspected Rythu Bharosa Kendra in Namburu village.

District Agriculture Officer N Venkateswarulu told him that the state achieves progress when the farmers are prosperous, adding that the government is implementing revolutionary schemes for the development of farmers for the welfare of farmers.

He said that the agriculture department has made all arrangements to supply quality seeds and fertilizers through RBKs for the Kharif crop to the farmers. It was explained to him that in order to get the benefits the farmers have to register the details of their crops in the e-Crop app.

Earlier he was welcomed by JC Rajakumari, SHRC Srinivasa Rao, RDO Bhaskar Reddy, DRDA PD Harinath, Tahasildar Ratnam MPDO Vijaya Lakshmi, and sarpanch Golla Swaroop were among those who were present.

# Noted playback singer P Susheela felicitated

PNS ■ ONGOLE

Noted playback singer P Susheela was felicitated by Vasavi Choultries president Devaki Venkateswrlu couple in Ravindra Bharati in

Hyderabad on Monday night.

The felicitation programme was organised on the occasion of the 90 birth anniversary of former Chief Minister K Rosaiah.



# Civic chief assures supply of potable water to denizens

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Municipal Commissioner Keerthi Chekuri has said that all steps have been taken to provide purified potable water to the people of the city without compromise at any point. She said that the engineering official concerned would be held responsible if drinking water pollution is found anywhere in the city.

The Commissioner on Tuesday inspected the HLR reservoir and she saw the process of cleaning the tank from atop the tank. She went house to house in the Gunturvarithota area and inquired about the quality of water being supplied by the corporation.

She also saw the chlorination and pumping of water to various localities. She directed the officials that the chlorine level should not come down at the tail-end areas.

She directed the amenity secretariats to take some samples of water and register the



quality in the log book. She directed the officials to take steps to clean the reservoir every month and mention the date on the notice board. The chlorine should be laced to the water at the reservoir appropriately.

Later Keerthi Chekuri interacted with the people of the locality and knew their problems in getting water. SE D Srinivas, EE Santhi Raju, and DEE Rafiq accompanied her.

# Garagaparru victims take out rally demanding justice

PNS ■ BHIMAVARAM

The victims of Garagaparru village organised a rally demanding the government fulfil the assurances which were given to them and do them justice.

The victims holding flexi banners and raising slogans organised a huge rally on Tuesday. They said that in 2017 some Dalits were ostracized by the villagers. The Garagaparru Sanghika Bahiskarana Baditula Sankshema Sangam president Dr Raja Sundara Babu said that when some Dalits at Garagaparru village were socially boycotted the then government made some assurances to the victims.

They assured to fulfil five demands on January 19 but not fulfilled the same.

He said that they had been trying to meet the Collector for the last one month to explain their woes but they were not given permission. Ignoring fulfilling the assur-



ances amounted to not implementing the SC/ST Act, he opined.

He demanded that funds should be released to install the Ambudkar statue, and Ambedkar library and to construct a community hall at Garagaparru village. He also demanded to add some other sections in the charge sheet

pertaining to the social boycott case. He also demanded to allocate three acres of land to the victims.

If the demands were not conceded they would organise a siege of the Collectorate, he warned. Later they met Collector P Prashanti and SP U Ravi Prakash and submitted a memorandum.



INDIA CORNER

Free coaching for NEET, JEE launched for tribal students in J-K

The Jammu and Kashmir Tribal Affairs Department on Tuesday launched a first-of-its-kind initiative to provide coaching for meritorious tribal students preparing for NEET and JEE entrance exams, officials said. The course fee will be sponsored by the department and the candidates qualifying for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) and Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) after coaching will also be provided with a scholarship, they said. Tribal Affairs Department Secretary Shahid Iqbal Choudhary said 100 tribal students are being selected for NEET coaching in government-empanelled coaching institutes, under two different sub-schemes. The two sub-schemes are 'Host-50' for hostellers and 'Top-50' for other tribal meritorious students in the first year under the scheme which is being implemented through the education wing of the Tribal Research Institute. Choudhary said the coaching fee for NEET and JEE at select institutions would be sponsored by the department after verification of attendance and evaluation.



'Murmu will win Prez polls comfortably'

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Tuesday exuded confidence that NDA presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu will comfortably win the election. Murmu visited Patna during the day and met NDA leaders, including legislators and parliamentarians from the state, seeking their support for the presidential election scheduled on July 18. "I am confident that Droupadi Murmu will comfortably win the presidential election. It is a matter of happiness that a tribal woman is running for the highest constitutional position of the country," Kumar told reporters after Murmu's meeting with NDA leaders here. Murmu was given a rousing welcome when she reached Patna earlier in the day. Accompanied by Union ministers Sarbananda Sonowal and Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, she arrived at Patna airport aboard a special flight at 11.13 AM. Deputy Chief Ministers Tarkishore Prasad and Renu Devi, Union minister Nityanand Rai, state BJP chief Sanjay Jaiswal and several state ministers received her at the Jay Prakash Narayan International Airport.



Kali is meat-eating, alcohol-accepting goddess: Mahua Moitra

Tripinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra on Tuesday stirred a controversy by saying that she has every right as an individual to imagine Goddess Kali as a meat-eating and alcohol-accepting goddess, as every person has the right to worship god and goddess in his or her own way. While the BJP went hammer and tongs against Moitra and wondered if it was the official stand of West Bengal's ruling party to insult Hindu gods and goddesses, the TMC distanced itself from the comment and condemned it. While taking part in India Today Conclave East held in Kolkata, the Krishnanagar MP said it is up to individuals how they view their gods. "If you go to Bhutan or Sikkim, for example, when they do puja, they give whisky to their god. Now, if you go to Uttar Pradesh and say that you give whisky to your god as prasad, they will say that is blasphemous, she said. Moitra said that people have the right to imagine their gods or goddess in the way they want.



'Modi's determination has shaped India's Pak policy'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's determination that he would not allow cross-border terrorism to be normalised has helped in shaping India's Pakistan policy since 2014.

Speaking at an event at Delhi University, S Jaishankar noted that Prime Minister Modi is perceived abroad as "quintessentially Indian" and his intuitive feeling for diplomacy has led him to form a connect with foreign countries and their leaders.

Reading excerpts from the chapter written by him in the book 'Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery', Jaishankar said, "When I first met him (PM Modi) in China in 2011, I was the ambassador. Unlike many other chief ministers, he specifically sought political briefing". "I recall his (Modi's) empha-



sises that on the issue of terrorism and sovereignty, we needed to make sure that we speak with one voice abroad, especially in China.

"When it comes to terrorism, especially of cross-border nature, he has been crystal clear that he would not allow it to be normalised. This deter-

mination has shaped our Pakistan policy since 2014," he added. The minister highlighted that PM Modi looms large on the world stage as his policies and initiatives have had an impact.

"Peers perceive him as quintessentially Indian and respond accordingly. His language,

metaphor, appearances and mannerism define a persona that a world has come to recognise," he said, reading another paragraph from the book.

"Prime Minister Modi's intuitive feeling for diplomacy has led him to find connect with foreign countries and their leaders with India," he added.

Jaishankar was the chief guest at a special discussion organised by the DU on the book.

Speaking about the book, Jaishankar noted that a large part of the book has been written by people outside the government.

"Books are written about prime ministers. That is not unusual... But to have a book where sitting foreign minister and Home Minister (Amit Shah), National Security Advisor (Ajit Doval) have written about the sitting prime minister, that is unusual, he asserted.

MP gov't forms committee for G-20 conferences

PNS ■ BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh government has constituted a committee of top officials to look after the hospitality and security for two conferences of G-20 countries to be held in Indore and Bhopal, an official said on Tuesday.

The committee, headed by the chief secretary, will look after the hospitality and security arrangements of the international participants during the two conferences of G-20 countries, a statement said. However, no dates for these events were mentioned in the statement.

The committee includes additional chief secretaries of the general administration and home departments, besides other senior officials, it said. The principal secretary of the tourism department will be the secretary and nodal officer of this committee, it was stated. As per the statement, India will host over 190 meetings and conferences of G-20 delegates from December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2023 across the country.

'BA.2.75 sub-variant of Omicron has limited circulation in India'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The highly transmissible strain of Omicron's BA.2 sub-variant BA.2.75 has been documented to have a limited circulation in India, official sources said on Tuesday, underlining that this lineage has so far not been recorded to have enhanced severity or the spread of the disease.

Currently, the predominant circulating variant of concern of SARS-CoV-2 is Omicron VoC and globally, the BA.2 Omicron lineage has been seen to replace the BA.1 lineage, the sources said.

In India, BA.2.75 has been documented to have a limited circulation and so far, this lineage has not been documented to have enhanced severity or the spread of the disease.

As the BA.2 lineage is evolving, many of its sub-lineages are now developing with a set of distinct mutations. B.2.75 is a similar sub-lineage of BA.2. The sources also said it is critical to continue to monitor



the spread of this sub-lineage and also the other emerging sub-lineages of Omicron. The scale of genomic sequencing needs to be expanded and maintained for an early detection of the variant strains of SARS-CoV-2.

BA.2.75 -- the second generation of the BA.2 variants - has high transmissibility and is being said to be behind the

recent increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in the country.

There has been an uptick in the number of Covid cases in India. The country recorded 13,086 fresh coronavirus cases on Tuesday, pushing its tally of such cases to 4,35,31,650, while the number of active cases of the infection climbed to 1,14,475.



ED charge-sheet against Jharkhand IAS official Pooja

PNS ■ RANCHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday filed a charge sheet against former Jharkhand mining secretary Pooja Singh and others as part of a money-laundering probe against her and those linked to the IAS officer, officials said.

The federal agency submitted the around 5,000-page prosecution complaint along with annexures and a list of witnesses and evidence collected before a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court in Ranchi and has named Singh, Suman Kumar, a chartered accountant allegedly linked to her, and few others.

The ED requested the court to take cognisance of the charge sheet and issue the process for a trial in the case, officials said.

Singhal, a 2000-batch IAS officer, was arrested by the agency in May as part of a probe linked to alleged embezzlement of MGNREGA funds and some other alleged suspicious financial transactions.

The 44-year-old bureaucrat was suspended by the Jharkhand government soon after her arrest. She was posted as the secretary of industries and was handling the charge of the secretary of the state mining and geology department in an additional capacity.

Sumar Kumar was also arrested. They both are in judicial custody.

The ED had first raided the premises of Singhal, that of her businessman husband Abhishek Jha and the chartered accountant on May 6 in Ranchi and covered a few other locations in the state.

CPI(M) rejects opposition demand for Kerala Minister's resignation

PNS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM / NEW DELHI

The central leadership of the CPI(M) on Tuesday rejected the opposition demand for resignation of Kerala Minister Saji Cheriyan over his harsh criticism of the Constitution, terming it as just a slip of tongue.

CPI(M) politburo member M A Baby said an explanation was sought from the minister, who is also a member of the party's Kerala state secretariat, and he has explained that no criticism was made against the Constitution.

It would have been just a slip of tongue, Baby said.

The minister has said what he meant was the current socio-economic system pre-

vailing in the country. Cheriyan said he has said nothing adverse against the Constitution, Baby said.

Saying that the minister's remarks might have been misinterpreted, Baby, talking to Malayalam media persons in New Delhi, said there was no need to ask for his resignation on the basis of it.

Cheriyan, while addressing a party function in Pathanamthitta district, had harshly criticised the Constitution, saying it "condones exploitation" and is written in a way helping to "plunder" the people of the country, drawing sharp reaction from the opposition which sought for his immediate removal from the Pinarayi Vijayan-led LDF cabinet.

BJP demands sacking of Kerala Minister for criticising Constitution

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Tuesday demanded the removal of Kerala minister Saji Cheriyan for his comments against the Constitution, saying he cannot hold an office enabled by the Constitution he has disrespected. Union minister V Muraleedharan, a BJP leader from Kerala, also said CPI(M) leaders such as Sitaram Yechury describe the Constitution as a template of Indian nationalism but choose to ignore this deliberate attempt to disregard it. This is shameful and proves their 'so called respect for the Constitution is just for show', he

alleged while demanding that Cheriyan be sacked. In visuals aired by local TV channels in Kerala, the minister can be seen saying at a recent event that the Constitution of the country "condones exploitation" and is written in a way that helps to "plunder" the people of the country. The @CPIMKerala leaders, including Ministers in @VijayanPinarayi's Cabinet, have crossed all limits of decency in public life. What can we expect from those who toe Chinese Line. CPM never cared or respected Indian Republic," Muraleedharan said on Twitter.

Mandaviya orders clearing pending CGHS dues worth Rs 1,400 crore

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has reviewed the issue of outstanding CGHS dues of around Rs 1,400 crore and ordered officials to clear those within a month, official sources said. According to officials, there are complaints of over 11 lakh bills pending for the last few months, forcing many empanelled hospitals to discontinue cashless treat-



ment of Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) beneficiaries. At the three-hour-long review meeting on Monday, Mandaviya ordered

the health secretary, the CGHS director and the CEO of the National Health Authority to present a detailed report on the matter and the solutions to it, a source said. He instructed them to clear nine lakh pending CGHS bills within 15 days and repay all pending dues within a month. The health minister also ordered officials to increase the number of claim clearance officers immediately to clear the pendency, official sources said.

Maha: Boy falls into water-filled lift duct, dies

PNS ■ THANE

A 6-year-old boy died after falling into a water-filled lift duct in an under-construction building in Thane district's Dombivli area on Tuesday, a police official said. Vedant Jadhav had gone missing at around 11:30am and a probe found he fell into the pit while trying to retrieve the ball with which he was playing, the Manpada police official said.



Cong slams BJP's willingness to 'flirt' with anti-nationals

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Accusing the BJP of showing a "disturbing willingness to flirt with anti-national forces", the Congress on Tuesday questioned the silence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah on the alleged links of two arrested terrorists with the ruling party.

Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera alleged the BJP was indulging in "fake nationalism", remarks coming in the backdrop of alleged links of Udaipur tailor Kanhaiya Lal's



killer Riyaz Attari and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist Talib Hussain Shah with the BJP. He said two incidents in the

past week have exposed the "double-faced" BJP, after Attari and Shah, who was captured by villagers in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, were claimed to be associated with the Centre's ruling party. Their photographs with BJP leaders have gone viral on social media, he said.

Khera also asked how Talib Hussain Shah, who was allegedly planning to attack the Amarnath Yatra in Kashmir, was seen in a photograph with Amit Shah. He wondered whether it was not a security breach.

A photograph tweeted by the Congress' Jammu and Kashmir unit showed a bearded man standing among people at a meeting attended by Amit Shah which some claimed was Talib, the alleged mastermind of serial bomb blasts in Rajouri.

"It is shocking that the BJP, a party that loses no opportunity to preach to Indians about nationalism, has members and office-bearers who are deeply implicated in violent anti-national activities," Khera told reporters, adding these were disturbing instances.

'Will not allow terrorism to take root'

PNS ■ JAMMU

In a remote hamlet in the Mahore belt of Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district that was once a hotbed of militancy, villagers who displayed exemplary courage by overpowering two heavily-armed Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists say they are determined not to let militants regain ground.

The terrorists who were later identified as the most-wanted LeT commander Talib Hussain Shah - the mastermind behind a series of explosions in his home district Rajouri - and his



associate Faisal Ahmad Dar of south Kashmir's Pulwama district were escaping the dragnet of security forces and had reached the village for shelter on Saturday night.

The six close relatives kept their wits about them as they took on the two armed terrorists bare-handed in an hour-long confrontation in the hilltop village that can be reached only after trekking for over two hours from the last motorable road.

When I returned to my 'dhok' (hamlet) in the evening (on Saturday) after work, I saw two unknown persons inside the house and got suspicious as they introduced themselves as businessmen. They ordered me to switch off the mobile and keep it on the floor. They also restrict-

ed me from going outside, Mohammad Yousuf said.

As it was dark, Yousuf said, he tricked the terrorists by keeping his mobile phone on the ground with one hand and swooping it up with the other before pleading with them to let him go outside to attend nature's call.

Outside the premises, Yousuf said he telephoned his brother and told him that this might be our last conversation as some people have come to my house and collected all the information about our extended family. They might kill us all.







FIRST COLUMN

SEEKING NEUTRALITY, DETACHMENT IN WORLD

Neutrality brings balance and fairness in all actions



RAJYOGI BHRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

Those who know driving are aware that we need to shift gears to change the speed of the vehicle. And when we stop the car, we bring the gear to neutral position. Just like the car, there is a neutral gear for everything. It is the gear that brings everything to stillness, neutrality, balance and renewal. When things are in neutral gear, they are at rest, and they get aligned properly. Neutrality brings balance and fairness in all actions.

In India at several places, especially in workshops, they have something called 'dharam kaanta', which is basically a device used for weighing goods in commercial vehicles such as trucks. It is believed that weighing at such a place assures accuracy in weighing standards. It is again a way to ensure neutrality and fairness in commercial transactions. Similarly, in political and social affairs, mediators play a vital role. That's because they act neutrally to find a solution for different parties or groups of people involved in a conflict or disagreement. Likewise, there are mediators even in families and communities who help to resolve family disputes.

Meditation helps in looking at a problem or dispute from a neutral perspective, which facilitates a balanced and unbiased decision and choices. In order for things to flow or move smoothly even speed needs to be controlled and brought to a neutral point. That is why we see how traffic signals ensure the smooth flow of traffic on roads. Similarly, a taxi meter is readjusted to neutral or zero and so is the petrol vending machine in order to ensure fair transaction. In the same way, when we need to change the colour of clothes, we have to first bleach and make them white, which is a neutral colour. There is a neutral power above all creation that acts neutrally to bring the creation to its best state.



HE, whom we know by different names, is both loving and detached. HE is always neutral – HE does not act out of bias, likes or dislikes. That is why everyone prays to HIM to solve their problems and to guide them to well-being. Hence, it is important for humans also to be detached whilst performing actions. For, it is only through spiritual awareness that one can act neutrally and be free from the bondage of 'Karma'. And, it is only when we perform neutrally that we can empower others or do welfare and constructive work. Remember! When we are too involved and attached to actions and roles, we cannot do good or empower others in spite of wanting to do so because attachment creates expectations and dependence on people and results.

So, in order to act and live neutrally, we have to come to the zero point, i.e., to a neutral position. We have to detach even from our body and become soul conscious. As souls we are the children of ONE Supreme, hence, we need to live in this world like a trustee who owns nothing. When we act in the remembrance of ONE, we accumulate tremendous power and fortune, which further adds the power of zero to our account of Karma like 10, 100, 1000.... One of the easiest and effortless ways to become neutral is to put a full stop. YES! Throughout the day while playing different roles, we just have to pause and stop thinking about external things and connect to our original state of being peaceful and pure for a minute and then come back to action. These full stops, applied periodically during the day, help us to become neutral, balanced and empowered to do our best. So, let's begin the journey to ZERO.

(The author is a spiritual educator.)

# KCR for conscience vote in Prez election

VANAM JWALA  
NARASIMHA RAO  
& VJM DIVAKAR

## KCR has sought conscience vote for Presidential candidate Yashwant Sinha to boost anti-Modi front



CANDIDATES OFTEN APPEAL FOR CONSCIENCE VOTE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, AND THE TELANGANA CM KCR ARGUED IN AN ADDRESS TO MPs AND MLAS THAT YASHWANT SINHA'S VICTORY COULD HERALD MANY CHANGES FOR THE BETTER



parties are harassed and targeted, etc. This according to KCR is nothing but murder of democracy.

Touching upon the aspect of how the BJP rulers are conspiring to destabilize the state governments, KCR said the Modi government has toppled nine Opposition-ruled states.

Taking serious objection to Modi's exerting pressure on Sri Lankan government to allot contract works to his favored persons, which was openly confessed by a Sri Lanka Electricity Board official, KCR demanded a clarification from PM. He also labelled that the present crisis in Sri Lanka is the handiwork of Modi and Sri Lankan economy's collapse hurt India's reputation. KCR hinted at fighting against this. KCR wanted Modi to disclose the inside story of the Sri Lanka crisis.

Criticizing the much-hyped 'Make in India' programme, KCR sought a clarification on job creation due to this, as well as industrial growth in the Modi regime. KCR also suggested to Modi to learn lessons from China where the rulers speak less and work more.

While the country has abundant coal stocks, KCR asked why the Modi government forced Telangana to buy 10 per cent imported coal at a higher price. Charging that Modi is working like a salesman of big traders, KCR said that he should explain why the BJP government is promoting coal imports. KCR sought an explanation from Modi as to why many major international companies like Fiat, Ford, GM motors, Datsun, United Motors, Harley Davidson stopped their businesses in the country.

Asserting that the 130-crore population cannot be a spectator, KCR expressed concerns at black money doubling in the Modi regime, depreciation of rupee to an all-time low, privatization of profit-making public-sector undertakings, including LIC. The inference is that the Modi government played a major role in the decline of all sectors.

Referring to the period of corona crisis, KCR said that while the holy Ganga River was flooded with corpses, while the Modi government failed to provide any succor to the migrant labor, it was Telangana government that did its best in extending relief to one and all. Every policy adopted by the Modi government proved disastrous for the country.

With statistical data, KCR explained how under the Modi regime rankings in many sectors at the international level had fallen, be it Human Development Index, Human Rights, employment, happiness index, environment, etc. It shows the poor performance of the Modi government in the last eight years.

Asserting that the Modi government killed democracy and weakened federal structure, besides harassing state governments, KCR took serious objection to the statement of a Union minister that Telangana government would be toppled. He said if Modi's dictatorial rule dethrones Telangana government, his party would unseat the BJP government at the Center, hinting that Telangana is ready for another big fight.

Among others, KCR also cate-

gorically mentioned that India is being insulted on international platforms due to Modi's decisions and policies; India's Father of the nation is insulted repeatedly by the Modi's men; Modi is unnecessarily interfering in elections of other countries as he supported Donald Trump in the US elections; Harassment of states and exploitation of the constitutional bodies continue.

In his concluding remarks, KCR said that it is time for people in the country to wage another non-violent movement to dislodge the BJP-led government at the Center and pave the way for a new, honest, peaceful, secular, democratic and progressive government. The first step in this direction is to get Yashwanth Sinha elected as the President of the country. Hence, he made an appeal for a conscience vote for Sinha. In this context he made the timely reminder of the Presidential contest between Neelam Sanjeev Reddy and VV Giri, when the conscience vote gave India its President.

KCR's address has raised hopes that Modi can be questioned, and his actions can be opposed. KCR's speech may well be the first step in the direction to restore the country back to its glorious past. It also is the beginning to lay a strong foundation for the country to once again stand tall with true democratic and secular values and become once again an economic power in Asia.

Though KCR demanded replies from PM Modi to the points he raised, PM remained silent in his address in the public meeting held after the BJP national executive committee meeting.

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

AS AN ORGANISATION, WE HAVE BECOME BIGGER THAN THE CONGRESS IN GUJARAT. IT EXISTS LARGELY ON PAPER HERE.  
—AAP NATIONAL CONVENER  
ARVIND KEJRIWAL



CONGRESS HAS BEEN WORKING IN GUJARAT WITH THE PEOPLE... YOU WILL COME ACROSS PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN OUR IDEOLOGY.  
—GUJARAT CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY  
NISHIT VYAS

# EPS, OPS slug it out for control over AIADMK

## It's a challenge for AIADMK as to how to engage with ally BJP which is trying to use it as a counterforce to DMK

While the Shiv Sena has split in Maharashtra, the AIADMK in Tamil Nadu is engaged in a power struggle with two former chief ministers, E. Palaniswamy (EPS) and O. Panneerselvam (OPS), fighting with each other.

In a fast-developing drama, the EPS camp would like to relieve OPS of his present post of party treasurer and Deputy Leader in the Assembly. After losing the Assembly elections last year, and successive local body polls, the EPS camp feels that the dual leadership has only hampered the working of the party.

Amid its golden jubilee celebrations, the AIADMK cadres are confused. Five years ago, when a relatively unknown EPS was chosen as



KALYANI SHANKAR

(The writer is a senior journalist. The views expressed are personal.)

CM candidate by ex-AIADMK general secretary V.K. Sasikala, EPS and OPS reached a truce in 2017 to establish dual leadership. Together they steered the party and government successfully for four years, braving a pandemic.

After five decades, the AIADMK is facing a bleak future. Carefully built by two former chief ministers—founder M.G. Ramachandran and his protegee J. Jayalithaa—it is undergoing a bad patch. There is a disconnect between the leaders and cadres. Some of the party's challenges include factionalism and the approach towards the ally Bharatiya Janata Party, which is trying to replace the Dravidian party as a counterforce to the DMK.

A gradual erosion in the post-Jayalithaa era is amply

clear. The AIADMK's vote share stands at 25.47 per cent in the urban local body election. It got 33.29 per cent of votes in the Assembly.

The charismatic matinee idol MGR established the AIADMK on October 12, 1972, two days after the parent party DMK expelled him. He served as the chief minister from 1977 till his death in 1987. He chose to be on the right side of the Centre and made compromises with the prime ministers, including Indira Gandhi.

The philosophy of DMK founder and former chief minister C.N. Annadurai became the founding principle of the AIADMK. MGR's successor Jayalithaa aligned with BJP and the Congress at different times, and became

chief minister six times with interruptions.

It is not the first time the AIADMK is facing a split. Following MGR's death in 1987, there was a power struggle between one faction headed by MGR's wife Janaki and the other by Jayalithaa. While Janaki succeeded MGR as chief minister for a short period, both sections lost miserably to the DMK in the 1989 polls. Then Janaki withdrew from politics, and Jayalithaa became the sole leader.

OPS and EPS have taken their fight to the general council, which has the power to elect an interim general secretary, not a permanent one. OPS has the support of just nine district secretaries and leaders like Manoj Pandian and R. Vaithilingam.

post and created new positions such as coordinator and co-coordinator, which are also temporary.

In the current situation, OPS got a midnight hearing before the Tamil Nadu High Court to restrict discussion points in the general council meeting. He thus stopped the party from elevating EPS as the sole leader at the June 23 general council meeting. However, the discussion turned ugly when clashes broke out between the two camps.

Seventy-five district secretaries, headquarters functionaries, and general council members have moved to the EPS camp in the last few days. OPS has the support of just nine district secretaries and leaders like Manoj Pandian and R. Vaithilingam.

OPS blamed vested interests and asserted that the general council and Monday's meeting of top AIADMK functionaries were illegal. Similarly, a proposed GC on July 11 is also not legal. It is doubtful whether it will take place or OPS will move the court to stop it.

After Jaya, the BJP has remote control over the AIADMK from the Centre. The change was abundantly clear on issues like NEET, New Education Policy, three-language policy (giving the nod first and then withdrawing it after the protests), the CAA, farmers' law, handling of the pandemic, etc.

The BJP is not able to penetrate much because of its ideology. In Tamil Nadu, the Dravidian-Tamil sentiment is

strong. So just like Congress, the BJP is riding piggyback on AIADMK. The Dravidian parties have had tie-ups with the two national parties at different times.

OPS tried to rope in the BJP, which had backed him earlier, but Prime Minister Narendra Modi refused to give him an audience last week. A disappointed OPS came back from Delhi and is resorting to other measures to survive.

In any political party, the cadres decide who gets to lead the party, and, in this case, Panneerselvam is certainly not their first choice. It is about time he accepted the fact and worked towards gaining acceptance of the large number of AIADMK cadre as their leader, as, after all, courts cannot get him back to his workers.



MONEY MATTERS

## Passenger vehicle retail sales up 40 pc in June as chip supply improves

Passenger vehicle retail sales in the country rose 40 per cent in June indicating an improvement in semiconductor supplies even as demand, especially for SUVs, remained robust, auto dealer body FADA said on Tuesday. According to the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA), passenger vehicle (PV) registrations rose to 2,60,683 units last month, as compared to 1,85,998 units in June 2021, registering an increase of 40 per cent. The PV segment continued to see robust growth. An increase in dispatches clearly shows that semiconductor availability is now getting easier," FADA President Vinkesh Gulati said in a statement. Due to chip shortage, however, waiting periods, especially in compact SUV and SUV segments, continue to remain high, he added. Despite long waiting periods, new vehicle launches are witnessing robust bookings thus reflecting a healthy demand pipeline. Gulati said. Two-wheeler retail sales last month rose 20 per cent to 11,19,096 units, as compared to 9,30,825 units in the year-ago period, FADA data showed.



## Marico reports mid-single-digit volume decline in domestic market

MCG major Marico on Tuesday reported a volume decline "in mid-single digits" in its India business, as the sector continued to witness " tepid demand" as rising retail inflation exerted pressure on the share of wallet. Current trends indicate that consumers "titrated consumption" in some nonessential categories and either "downtraded among brands or switched to smaller packs" in the essential categories, said Marico. "In the given context, India business volumes declined in mid-single digits. The performance was particularly dragged by a sharp drop in Saffola Oils. Excluding Saffola Oils, the India business posted marginal volume growth. Parachute Coconut Oil recorded a minor volume decline," said Marico in its quarterly update for Q1 FY23. However, premium discretionary categories fared relatively better in the April-June quarter because of a lower base and lower consumption dip in the upper-income consumer segment.



## Bajaj Auto looks to sell Chetak from 75 locations in current fiscal

Witnessing a robust demand for its electric scooter Chetak, Bajaj Auto plans to scale up the sales infrastructure for the model to 75 locations across the country in the current fiscal. The Pune-based firm had brought back its iconic Chetak scooter in electric avatar in October 2019. "Seeing the enthusiastic demand for this iconic model, the company has increased the touchpoints to 20 locations in FY 2022. This is expected to grow to 75 in FY 2023," the company said in its Annual Report for 2021-22. Initially, Chetak was sold from only two locations, Pune and Bengaluru. The company noted that when bookings for the model were first rolled out in early 2020, it had to be stopped on account of COVID. "When we restarted online bookings on April 13, 2021, we had to stop 48 hours later, owing to overwhelming demand," it noted. During the last fiscal, the company said it has sold 8,187 units of the e-scooter. "We are committed to the development of Electric Vehicles (EVs).



## ED conducts raids against Vivo, related companies in money laundering probe

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday conducted searches at 44 places across the country in a money laundering investigation against Chinese smartphone manufacturing company Vivo and related firms, officials said. The searches are being carried out under sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) at locations in several states including in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Meghalaya, Maharashtra and others. The agency is conducting searches at 44 places related to Vivo and associated companies, they said. A query sent by PTI to Vivo did not elicit a response. The news piece will be updated once the company issues a statement. The federal agency filed a money laundering case after taking cognisance of a recent Delhi Police (economic offences wing) FIR against a distributor of the agency based in Jammu and Kashmir where it was alleged that few Chinese shareholders in that company forged their identity documents.

# India to be self-sufficient in urea by 2025 end: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India will not need to import urea by 2025-end as the domestic production of conventional urea and nano liquid urea is expected to be sufficient to meet the country's annual demand, Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers Mansukh Mandaviya said on Tuesday. At present, the country's urea (conventional) production is 260 lakh tonnes, while around 90 lakh tonnes are imported to meet local demand.

"As per our estimate, we will be self-sufficient in urea by 2025-end and there will be no import dependence. Our domestic production of conventional urea and nano urea will be more than the demand," he told reporters here.

The minister said around 60 lakh tonnes of production capacity will be added for



conventional urea, while the output of nano urea is estimated to rise to 44 crores bottles (of 500 ml each) per annum, which will be equivalent to 200 lakh tonnes of conventional urea.

Mandaviya said the adoption of nano urea by farmers has been very encouraging and highlighted that the liquid nutrient is effective for maintaining soil health as well as for increasing crop yield.

According to a ministry

official, the government will save foreign exchange of about Rs 40,000 crore per annum due to a reduction in imports.

One bottle of nano urea is equivalent to one bag of urea. Its application can effectively lead to a reduction in soil, water and air pollution which happens due to the overuse of chemical fertilisers both at production and consumption levels.

At present, the capacity of nano urea is 5 crore bottles per

year.

Co-operative major IFFCO has introduced innovative nano urea in the market. The commercial production started on August 1, 2021 from IFFCO's plant at Kalol in Gujarat.

Seven more nano urea plants are being set up by IFFCO as well as two state-owned firms RCF and NFL. IFFCO has transferred the nano urea technology to these two public sector undertakings free of cost.

On demand of nano-urea, the official said the total despatch of nano urea was 3,90,03,284 bottles and sales 2,87,25,822 bottles between August 2021 and June 2022.

Nano urea has been sold across various states. As many as 3,36,456 bottles have been exported as well. Explaining the benefits, the official said that nano urea is eco-friendly as it leads to less soil, air and water pollution.

## NTPC mines 61 pc more coal at 42.20 lakh metric tonnes in April-June

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned power giant NTPC on Tuesday said that its coal output grew by 61 per cent to Rs 42.40 lakh metric tonnes in April-June quarter from 26.40 lakh metric tonnes (MT) in the same period a year ago.

"The three operational coal mines -- Pakri-Barwadih (Jharkhand), Dulanga (Odisha) and Talaipalli (Chhattisgarh) -- have contributed to achieving 42.40 lakh metric tonnes of coal production," an NTPC statement said. According to the statement, the coal production of 42.40 lakh MT in the first quarter of FY23 was 61 per cent more than the production of 26.40 lakh MT achieved in the same period last year.

The production of coal during the month of June 2022 almost doubled to 15.55 lakh



MT from 7.73 lakh MT in the same month a year ago.

Along with this coal production, the NTPC has also contributed to the removal of 106 lakh cubic metre and coal despatch of 41.74 lakh MT to NTPC power plants, in this quarter. NTPC said that it has also started mining operations in its Chhatti-Bariatu coal mine (Jharkhand) and has

already touched coal in May this year.

The coal from this mine will be supplied to Barh Power Station of NTPC.

NTPC was awarded the operation contract for Talaipalli (West Pit) (Chhattisgarh) on June 30, 2022 and the mining operations in this pit will commence soon.

## Bounce to sell its electric vehicle product offerings

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Bengaluru-based electric vehicle startup Bounce on Tuesday announced its partnership with the central government's e-governance service delivery network CSC to strengthen its presence across rural markets. Under the collaboration, Bounce will sell its product offerings through the Common Service Centre (CSC) network, the company said. CSC, a special purpose

vehicle of the ministry of electronics and IT, allows Village-Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) the option to launch a rural e-store. CSC Rural e-Mobility promotes the use of EVs (Electric Vehicles) and charging infrastructure across the country through a strong and vibrant network of VLEs. Initially, the company will offer Bounce Infinity e-scooters, fleet rental service and two- and three-wheelers retrofitting. Bounce said in a statement.



## Rupee plunges by 41 paise to record low of 79.36 against US dollar

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The rupee fell by 41 paise to close at a fresh lifetime low of 79.36 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday amid a strong greenback overseas and unrelenting foreign fund outflows.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 79.04 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 79.02 and a low of 79.38. It finally settled at 79.36 (provisional), down 41 paise over its previous close. On Monday, the rupee had closed at 78.95 against the US dollar. The Indian rupee hit a fresh record low against the US Dollar on Tuesday on the back of stronger dollar and weaker-than-expected domestic data, said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.

## Public-pvt partnership projects can boost trade in ports sector

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Public-Private Partnership (PPP) projects in the port sector are of great significance in making Indian ports more competitive and strengthening the country's position in international trade, minister of state for ports, shipping and waterways Shripad Yesso Naik said on Tuesday.

The minister said that roping in private players has helped in improving the efficiency of the port sector and increase earnings.

Naik was addressing the Maritime Public-Private Partnership Enclave 2022 here, organised jointly by the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) and Mumbai Port Authority (Mpa) on 25 years of PPP investments in major ports.

"PPP mode has become the perfect mode of infrastructure development. While we celebrate these fruitful 25 years, we need to further strengthen the existing and future PPPs by providing a supportive environment," he said.

When the port privatisation programme was flagged

off in 1997, the minister said, the port sector witnessed new investments including those from overseas.

"PPP projects in the ports sector are of great significance in making Indian ports more competitive and thereby strengthening India's position in international trade," he said. To drive the economic transformation through the modernisation of port infrastructure requires expansion and upgradation of berths, construction of new berths and terminals, automation of port operations, among others, the minister said.

"As we embark on a new era of economic resurgence, bolstered by port-led development, we look forward to streamlining initiatives to promote private participation," Naik said. He said the government is working on providing a conducive ecosystem by implementing policies to enhance the legal and political environment, improving the efficiency of the public sector, preparing a robust institutional framework, expediting the clearance processes and providing funding assistance.



## Industry body CII pitches for simplification of GST

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

CII's President Sanjiv Bajaj on Tuesday pitched for the simplification of Goods and Services Tax structure, and suggested that electricity as well as fuel should be brought under the GST ambit as that will help make the industry more competitive. He also suggested that the number of tax slabs under the GST should be brought down to three. "Going forward, we believe that on GST further simplification, cutting some of the inconsistencies, there are sectors where there is inverted tax structure, bringing in items like electricity, fuel under GST will further help simplify, cut costs, make industry more competitive," he said in an interview to PTI.

Further, the president of the industry body said there is justification for keeping sin and luxury goods in the highest slab. "We believe there is (scope for) simplification to probably three slabs. Now that five years have gone and there is experience over there, is what makes sense and that is something that should be deliberated upon," Bajaj, who is Chairman and Managing Director of Bajaj Finserv Limited, said.

## Shoppers Stop to add 12 new stores in FY23; focuses on private labels

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Retail chain Shoppers Stop Ltd has plans to launch 12 new stores in FY23, primarily in tier-2 and tier-3 cities, and will continue to invest in store renovations.

Shoppers Stop plans to increase the share of new and refurbished stores to over 50 per cent in FY23, said the latest annual report of the company.

The company will also continue to invest in its private labels, including celebrity endorsements.

Shoppers Stop is investing in the new-age technology and is backing its data analytics project Jarvis to maximise its understanding of customer behaviour and preferences.

"Project Jarvis, a massive data lake and analytics project, will significantly improve our overall analytical capabilities, enabling us to get 'closer' to our customers through the use of a propensity model and better mining of behavioural data and preferences," the report said.

This can then be translated into much more effective marketing and product recommendations, leading to greater customer accretion and stickiness.

"We are enhancing the supply chain function through an automatic inventory replenishment system that can trigger customer-centric product assortments to optimise sales," it said.



## Bombay HC upholds disqualification of Tata Motors from e-buses tender process

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday upheld the decision of the Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) Undertaking to disqualify Tata Motors from a tender bid for operating electric buses in the city. A bench of Justices S V Gangapurwala and Madhav Jamdar dismissed a plea filed by Tata Motors challenging the

disqualification. The bench held that BEST had been right in disqualifying the Tata Motors. The auto major had approached the HC challenging the BEST's decision to disqualify it from the tender process for operating 1,400 electric buses for Mumbai. Tata Motors had participated in the tender process, but its bid was disqualified by BEST following a technical suitability evaluation, the parties

had previously told the high court. It had argued that its technical bid was "arbitrarily" rejected to favour the company that won the tender process. As per the plea filed by the automobile company, BEST had published an e-tender notice on February 26 this year for two-bid e-tender for the operation of stage carriage services for 1,400 single-decker AC electric buses for Mumbai and its suburbs.

# PLI scheme can add 4% to GDP annually

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The production-linked incentives (PLI) scheme, which seeks to boost manufacturing in key areas by offering nearly Rs 2.4 lakh crore in incentives over the next five years, can add 4 per cent to the GDP annually in terms of incremental revenue, says a report.

So far, the scheme has seen maximum response from the electronics, auto components, and pharma sectors, according to Emkay Investment Managers.

The PLI scheme has the potential to add nearly 4 per cent to GDP per annum in

terms of incremental revenue if fully realised, the report released on Tuesday said.

Manufacturing companies are adding capacities due to robust returns and this is evident from the number of new manufacturing companies registered.

Registration of manufacturing companies has shot up to the highest ever in the last seven years and the share of manufacturing companies in total registrations is also at almost highest level since the past decade.

Also, the number of environmental clearances sought and granted was the highest ever in



FY22, which was 10x of FY15, says the report and credits the same to the structural changes unveiled during 2018-21 which are reminiscent of the many such things that happened

prior to the 2003-06 boom cycle. The report said that domestic manufacturing was hit due to demonetisation, badly rolled out GST, and the pandemic apart from the miss-

ing consumer demand. As a result manufacturing companies have been reporting dismal RoCEs (return on capital employed) till FY18.

Since then the cash ROCEs have improved to almost 20 per cent driven by tighter working capital cycles and the cash return on capital employed was the highest in FY22.

The report goes on to add that the current difference between cash ROCE and comparable investment is one of the highest and the attractiveness of cash returns coupled with better capacity utilization has put manufacturers on the front foot.



## James Cameron planning to leave *Avatar* franchise after third sequel

Filmmaker James Cameron, who is awaiting the release of his upcoming fantasy epic *Avatar: The Way of the Water*, has shared that he might possibly stop directing the films in the franchise after the third sequel, reports 'Variety'.

The director told 'Empire' magazine that he's considering leaving the world of Pandora behind for other projects down the line and would pass on the baton to other deserving filmmakers in the process.

The first *Avatar* sequel, subtitled *The Way of Water*, is set to hit theatres on December 16. A third film in the *Avatar* series was shot back-to-back with *The Way*



of the *Water* and is eyeing a release in 2024.

Cameron told 'Empire' magazine, as quoted by 'Variety', 'The *Avatar* films themselves are kind of all-consuming. I've got some other things I'm developing as well that are exciting.

"I think eventually over time, I don't know if that's after three or after four. I'll want to pass the baton to a director that I trust to take over, so I can go do some other stuff that I'm also interested in. Or maybe not. I don't know," he said.

Even so, Cameron expressed excitement about the potential to watch his grand plan for the *Avatar* saga come to fruition.

He says, "Movie four is a corker. It's a mo\*\*\*\*. I hope I get to make it. But it depends on market forces. Three is in the can so it's coming out regardless. I really hope that we get to make four and five because it's one big story, ultimately."

Cameron has stepped away from the director's chair for projects that he has poured years into, starting with 2019's *Alita: Battle Angel*, which was ultimately helmed by Robert Rodriguez, although he stayed attached to the production as an executive producer and co-writer.

## Actor Judith Chemla reveals injuries from domestic abuse

French actor Judith Chemla has shared pictures of her injured face after she was hit by her ex last year. She did not reveal his name but opened up about such incidents in a long Instagram post late Sunday. The pictures, clicked on different days, show her with a cut injury on her cheek, a bruise on her eyebrow and a swollen eye.

Judith wrote in French along with the pictures, "A year ago my face was injured, blue, purple under my eye, I saw myself deformed. A year ago, I looked at my face in the mirror and I knew that I could no longer hide my face. My daughter's father. Those who are able to do this must be out of harm's way. But how? I'm not ashamed of this photo. But he should be ashamed, he should be ashamed today, a year later, instead of continuing to pressure me, to think that he still



has the means to manipulate me, instead of rotting my child's head he should be ashamed and quiet, really want to be forgiven. This is not the case."

Judith Chemla shared a note and some pictures of herself on Instagram.

She further wrote, "I have so much evidence that he continues to try and harm me. Should I go back to the police a third time? Filing a third com-

plaint in a year? To be in the film industry and have the sword of Damocles of a suspended sentence, isn't that enough? Really go to jail? He will still play the victim with my daughter and she will suffer from not seeing her father."

"Should I keep this to myself? He will still feel above the law, will continue to complain and challenge court decisions with

his 5-year-old daughter, who sees him as a normal father who he is not. He will continue to believe that he is able to pressure me and bully me morally. I can not stand it anymore. I demand peace. Is it clearer like this?" she added.

According to Deadline, Judith was earlier dating film director Yohan Manca, who was sentenced to an eight-month suspended jail sentence for domestic abuse against her in May. Variety had stated at the time that Judith had filed a police complaint against Yohan Manca in Paris after he reportedly hurled a cell phone at her in the street on July 3, 2021.

Judith was seen in *Camille Rewinds* (2012), *Une Vie* (2016) and recently released comedy *Not My Type*. She also starred in *My Brothers And I* which was screened in the Un Certain Regard section of Cannes.

## Men are less likely to misbehave, if raised in the same environment: Vidyut Jammwal

Vidyut Jammwal, has made a mark with his films including *Force*, *Commando*, and *Khuda Haafiz* among the rest. Vidyut is all set to be seen in his next film *Khuda Haafiz Chapter 2 Agni Pariksha*.

He has recently talked about how the society often restricts women from exploring certain areas, to assure their safety. He said that men and brothers, who were raised in the same environment, are less likely to misbehave with women.

Speaking about paternity, and how he would become a father, he said that he would give all the freedom to his daughter and added that we often limit our daughters. He says, "I would tell her 'do whatever you want, tumhara baap hai na'."

Vidyut told Prabhat Khabar, "Since I was born, the scenario has been the same. It's not the government, but society that can change into this. I think if a sister and two brothers, a brother would turn out to be good. There will be rare cases where a sister is raised in an atmosphere of equal

treatment and a brother misbehaves with women outside the home. Basically, we must ensure the education of girls and boys is done equally."

Vidyut is currently busy promoting for the second installment of his action film, titled *Khuda Haafiz Chapter 2 Agni Pariksha*, which will be released in cinemas on July 8. The film was written and directed by Faruk Kabir, who had worked on the first film in the franchise.

Apart from *Khuda Haafiz Chapter 2 Agni Pariksha*, Vidyut also got *IB 71* and *Sher Singh Raana* in the pipeline.



## Sona Mohapatra draws Twitter CEO's attention to sexism in his alma mater

Playback singer Sona Mohapatra, who has crooned hit numbers such as *Bedardi Raja*, *Ambarasariya* and *Rangabati*, has addressed a lengthy tweet to Parag Agrawal, CEO of the microblogging site, slamming the practice of not inviting women as headliners for cultural events at his alma mater IIT Bombay. In her tweet, Sona wrote, "Dear

@paraga, Ur alma-mater has for decades, mostly never hosted women as headliners in their cultural festival. IITB alumni, even CEOs slammed me on fb for writing this letter." Sona urged Agrawal to watch her documentary *Shut Up Sona* to get a glimpse of what female artists have to go through to get equal respect, representation, and remuneration.

She added, "I hope U watch my film *#ShutUpSona* to see what our reality as female artists in the 21st century is. Love & Light." She also attached screenshots of her viral open letter on Facebook. The tweet serves as a reminder to what even the most successful women have to face when they come up against systemic sexism.



### ARCHIE



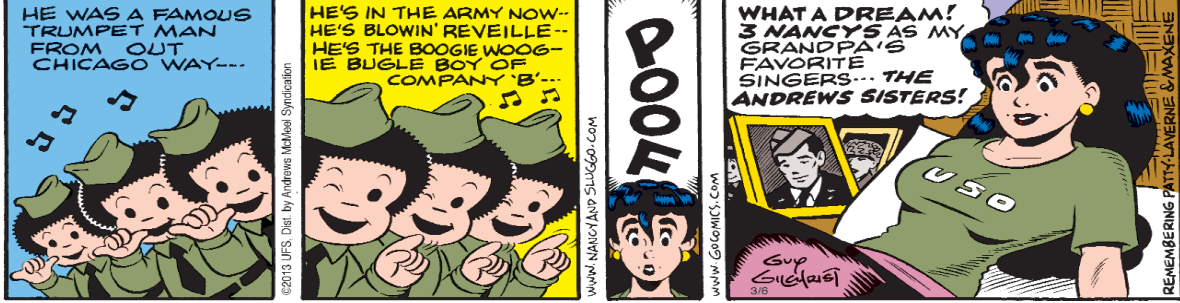
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### GARFIELD



### NANCY



### GINGER MEGGS



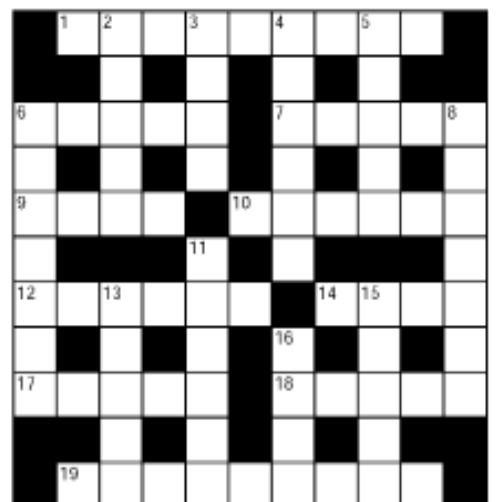
### REALITY CHECK



### SPEED BUMP



### CROSSWORD



#### ACROSS

- Look at the stars through this
- Naming words
- Memorise
- Awful to look at
- Say again
- A team game with sticks
- Trip over
- A short spell of very wild weather with wind and rain
- Instructions for building houses
- Played make-believe

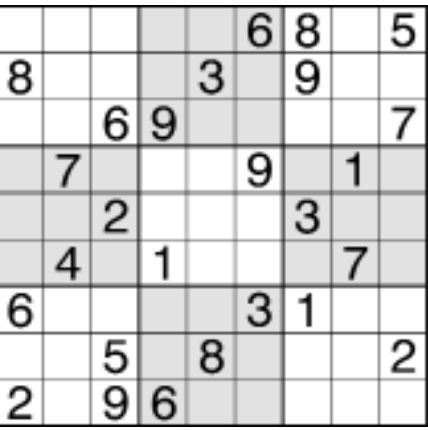
#### DOWN

- Of the same length
- A compass direction

#### SOLUTION



### SUDOKU

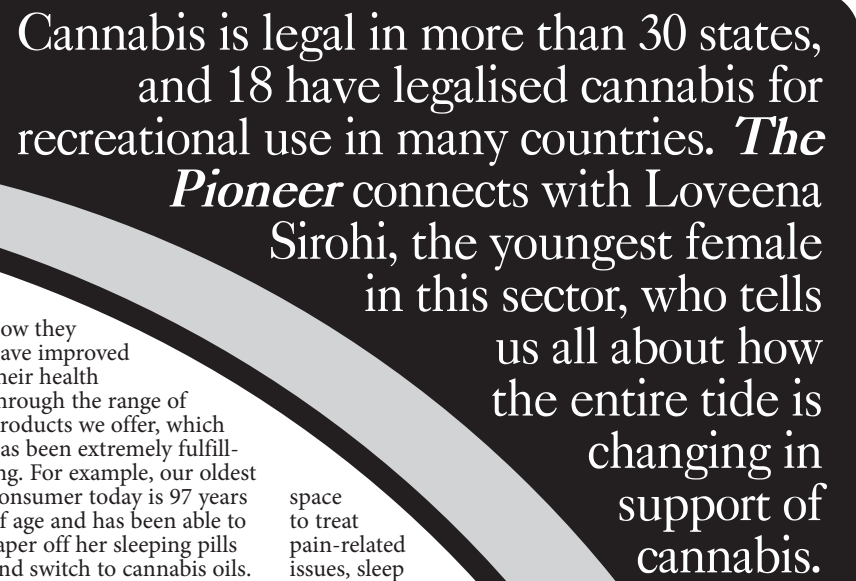


Yesterday's solution									
9	6	1	3	7	5	4	2	8	
7	5	4	8	6	2	9	3	1	
8	2	3	9	1	4	6	7	5	
4	9	6	1	8	3	2	5	7	
2	1	8	6	5	7	3	4	9	
3	7	5	4	2	9	8	1	6	
1	4	9	5	3	8	7	6	2	
5	3	7	2	9	6	1	8	4	
6	8	2	7	4	1	5	9	3	

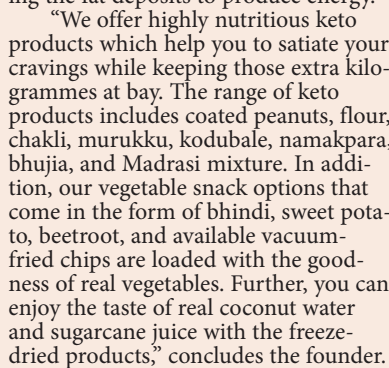
#### Rules

- Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9) exactly once.
- The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.





of awareness, legality, and operations. I can say it was the passion to be able to help others lead a better life through holistic medicine that kept me going. I have witnessed several rewarding stories of consumers and





# DJOKER BATTLES BACK TO BEAT SINNER

AP ■ LONDON

Defending champion Novak Djokovic battled back from two sets to love down to defeat Jannik Sinner and reach his 11th Wimbledon semi-final on Tuesday.

Djokovic triumphed 5-7, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 and will face either Britain's Cameron Norrie or David Goffin of Belgium for a place in Sunday's final.

It was the seventh time in the Serb's career that he had recovered from two sets to love at the Slams.

"Huge congrats to Jannik for a big fight, he's so mature for his age, he has plenty of time ahead of him," said Djokovic.

"The first two sets compared to the next three were like two different matches. He was the better player for those first two sets.

"But at the end of the second set I took a toilet break, gave myself a little pep talk, tried to gather my thoughts.

"I broke early in the third set. I saw a little bit of doubt start to come into his movement. I have many years' experience of playing on these courts and coping with the pressure."

Djokovic is bidding to go level with Pete Sampras as a seven-time Wimbledon champion and stand just one off Roger Federer's men's record of eight.

He appeared set for a routine afternoon when he swept into a 4-1 lead in the opener and had a break point for 5-1 against the 20-year-old Italian.

Sinner, the 10th seed, saved it and rallied to move 6-5 ahead, carving out an opportunity to serve for the set.

Djokovic saved a set point but a netted service return gave



## HALEP DOWNS BADOSA

AP ■ LONDON

Former champion Simona Halep swept past fourth-seeded Paula Badosa to reach the Wimbledon quarter-finals for the fifth time on Monday.

Halep won 6-1, 6-2 in just one hour as her Spanish opponent's game fell apart with 21 unforced errors.

The Romanian, who was champion in 2019, has yet to drop a set at the tournament.

Halep, 30, had to sit out Wimbledon in 2021 due to a



calf injury that sidelined her for three months.

Her build-up to this year's tournament was compromised by a neck injury.

"It means a lot that I'm back in a quarter-finals after I struggled so much with injuries and self-confidence," said Halep.

"I'm working hard every day. I feel like if I do that, I will get better. I'm really happy with the way I'm playing. I'm really confident. It's a pleasure to be on court."

the Italian the set.

Sinner, relentlessly unleashing winners from all corners of the court, stunned the top seed again with breaks in the third and seventh games on his way to a two-set lead.

However, Djokovic is no stranger to Grand Slam adversity, having twice come back from two sets to love down as recently as last year's French Open.

The second of those stunning recoveries came in the final against Stefanos Tsitsipas.

A break in the fourth game of the third set enabled Djokovic to cut his quarter-final deficit.

In control, the 35-year-old levelled the tie with a double break in the fourth set as Sinner took a worrying tumble on his ankle scrambling to the Centre Court net.

Djokovic carved out two more breaks in the decider, the second off the back of a stunning, cross-court backhand on the stretch to go to 5-2 before calmly serving it out.

MARIA WINS

Germany's Tatjana Maria came from behind to beat compatriot Jule Niemeier 4-6, 6-2, 7-5 on Tuesday and reach her first Grand Slam semi-final.

The 34-year-old mother of two will play either third seed Ons Jabeur or unseeded Marie Bouzkova for a place in the final.

"I have goosebumps everywhere," said Maria, who returned from maternity leave just under a year ago.

"My two little girls, it's a dream to live this with my family, to live this with my two girls. Almost one year ago I gave birth, it's crazy."

She said would like to face world number two Jabeur in the semi-finals.

## Sania-Pavic in mixed doubles SF

PTI ■ WIMBLEDON

Indian tennis ace Sania Mirza and her Croatian partner Mate Pavic advanced to the Wimbledon mixed doubles semifinals with a hard-fought win over fourth seeds Gabriela Dabrowski and John Peers.

Mirza and Pavic, seeded sixth, eked out a thrilling 6-4, 3-6, 7-5 win over Canadian-Australian duo in one hour 41 minutes on court 3 on Monday night.

The Indo-Croatian pair will take on the winners of the quarterfinal between Robert Farah and Jelena Ostapenko, the seventh seeds, and second seeds Neil Skupski and Desirae Krawczyk.



This is Mirza's best mixed doubles performance at the All England Club. She had previously reached the quarterfinals in 2011, 2013 and 2015.

A Wimbledon title is the

only mixed doubles Grand Slam missing from her trophy cabinet.

Mirza, a six-time Grand Slam winner, has already announced her retirement at the end of this season.

## Rafa into 8th Wimbledon quarters

AP ■ LONDON

Rafael Nadal reached the Wimbledon quarter-finals for the eighth time on Monday with a straight-sets defeat of Botic van de Zandschulp.

Nadal, who has already won the Australian and French Opens to stand halfway to the first calendar Grand Slam since 1969, triumphed 6-4, 6-2, 7-6 (8/6).

Next up for the 36-year-old Spaniard is a clash against American 11th seed Taylor Fritz, who beat him in the Indian Wells final earlier in the year.

"To be back in the quarter-finals after not being here for three years is amazing," said the 2008 and 2010 champion.

"I expect a very tough match against Taylor — he won his first Masters title this year against me in the final.

"The quarter-finals of a Slam are always very tough."



## HS Prannoy regains his place in world's top 20

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Star Indian shuttler HS Prannoy on Tuesday regained his place in the world's top 20, riding on his consistent show in the international circuit this season.

The 29-year-old from Kerala, who had played a pivotal role in India's monumental Thomas Cup win in May, improved two places to 19 in the men's singles rankings.

Prannoy, who had reached a career-best ranking of eight in 2018, has been one of the most consistent male shuttlers in the circuit with a series of quarter-finals and semifinals appearance this season.

He is now the third highest ranked Indian male shuttler in the world after Lakshya Sen (10th) and Kidambi Srikanth (11th).

Prannoy, who had reached

the finals of Swiss Open in March, surpassed Tokyo Olympian B Sai Praneeth (20th).

Two-time Olympic medalist P V Sindhu maintained her seventh spot in the latest chart, while Saina Nehwal also stayed static on 24th.

Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy were steady on eighth in the men's doubles rankings, while Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy dropped a rung to 24th position.

Among others, 2014 Commonwealth Games champion Parupalli Kashyap jumped three places to reach the World No. 36 ranking, riding on his second round appearance at the Malaysia Open Super 750 event.

The Verma brothers — Sameer and Sourabh — were the other two Indians inside the world's top 50.

## Malacia becomes Ten Hag's 1st Man Utd signing

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester United completed their swoop for Feyenoord defender Tyrell Malacia on Tuesday as Erik ten Hag made his first signing since taking charge at Old Trafford.

United landed Malacia in a reported £12.95 million (\$15.4 million) deal after making a late move for the Netherlands full-back, who had been close to joining French club Lyon.

The 22-year-old has agreed a four-year contract with the option of a further 12 months.

It is a landmark deal for Ten Hag, who had been linked with a host of potential signings before finally making Malacia the first acquisition of his United reign.

Ten Hag arrived at United in May after finishing his successful spell at Ajax, where he had plenty of opportunities to see Malacia's quality with Dutch rivals Feyenoord.

Malacia, who made 136 appearances for Feyenoord, said: "It's an incredible feeling to have joined Manchester United. This is a new chapter for me, a new league with new teammates and a tremendous manager leading us.

"I know from playing against his teams in the Eredivisie, the qualities that he has and what he demands of his players.

"Whilst I know that I am still young and will continue to



## ORIGI JOINS AC MILAN

AP ■ MILAN

Divock Origi signed for AC Milan on Tuesday after being let go by Liverpool at the end of last season.

The 27-year-old Belgian international Origi has joined Milan as a free agent after his contract was registered with the Italian top flight.

Origi arrives at the Serie A team after not having played enough matches to trigger an extension to his contract with

Liverpool.

He has reportedly signed a four-year deal which will net him four million euros (\$4.23 million dollars) a season.

He was largely a bit-part player at Liverpool but scored vital goals over his eight years on Merseyside which made him a favourite of fans and manager Jurgen Klopp.

Those strikes include two in an astonishing comeback against Barcelona in the Champions League semi-finals

in 2019, and the second is that year's final as Liverpool lifted their sixth European Cup against Tottenham.

Origi made 176 appearances for the Reds after arriving in 2014, scoring 41 times.

He has been capped 32 times for his country, but all three of his international goals came in 2014. Milan have brought in Origi to bolster a forward line which struggled for goals despite winning last season's thrilling Serie A.

## Badminton Asia Technical Committee apologises to Sindhu for 'human error'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Badminton Asia Technical Committee chairman Chih Shen Chen has apologised to two-time Olympic medalist P V Sindhu for the "human error" committed by the referee during the women's singles semifinal match of the Badminton Asia Championships in April.

Sindhu had been left in tears after an "unfair" call by the umpires midway through her semifinal match against Japan's Akane Yamaguchi saw her go down in three games and eventually sign off with a Bronze medal, her second in the continental championship.

"Unfortunately, there is no rectification at this time. However, we have taken the necessary steps to avoid a repetition of this human error," the



official said in the letter to Sindhu.

"We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience caused to you. We believe it is part of the sport and that it is accepted as such."

The incident had happened

while Sindhu was leading 14-11 in the second game after having won the first game when the umpire handed her a one-point penalty for taking too much time to serve between points.

Sindhu, who turned 27 on Tuesday, lost her momentum

## Treesa & Gayatri exits

PTI ■ KUALA LUMPUR

India's Commonwealth Games-bound women's doubles duo of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand made a first round exit from the Malaysia Masters badminton tournament, losing to local pair of Pearly Tan and Thinaah Muralitharan here on Tuesday.

The Indian pair was outplayed by the Malaysians 14-21, 14-21 in the opening round match that lasted just 33 minutes.

None of the Indians won any match on Tuesday with two other women's doubles pairs also suffering first round

defeats.

The combination of Ashwini Bhat and Shikha Gautam lost 7-21, 10-21 to Yuki Fukushima and Sayaka Hirota of Japan while Pooja Dandu and Arathi Sara went down to Bulgaria's Gabriela Stoeva and Stefani Stoeva 17-21, 17-21.

In the women's singles, Malvika Bansod also suffered a 10-21, 17-21 defeat against host country's Goh Jin Wei in 33 minutes to exit from the Super 500 tournament.

Olympic medalists PV Sindhu and Saina Nehwal will feature in the women's singles first round matches on Wednesday.

after that incident and lost 21-13, 19-21, 16-21.

The Indian was seen having an animated discussion with the chief referee after the chair umpire asked her to hand over the shuttle to Yamaguchi but it all fell on deaf ears.

"The umpire told me you're taking a lot of time but the opponent wasn't ready at that point. But the umpire suddenly gave her the point and it was really unfair. I think that was one of the reasons why I lost," Sindhu had said.

"I mean that is my feeling because at that moment it was 14-11 and could have become 15-11 but instead, it became 14-12 and she took continuous points. And I think it was very unfair. Maybe I would have won the match and played in the final."

Sindhu, who is a member of Badminton World Federation's (BWF) Athletes' Commission, had immediately written a letter to the world body and the Asia badminton confederation, protesting against the decision.

## PSG sack Pochettino, appoint Galtier as new manager

AP ■ PARIS

Paris St Germain announced Christophe Galtier as their new manager on Tuesday, shortly after the Ligue 1 champions parted ways with Mauricio Pochettino.

Galtier joins PSG after leaving Nice last month, having guided them to a runners-up finish in the French Cup and fifth place in Ligue 1 last season.

The 55-year-old Frenchman joined Nice in 2021 after leading Lille to their first Ligue 1 title since 2011 in the previous campaign. Before joining Lille, Galtier spent eight seasons at Saint Etienne, where he won the French Cup in 2012-2013.

Galtier's appointment comes after PSG president Nasser al-Khelaifi put an end to speculation surrounding France great Zinedine Zidane, dismissing reports that PSG had been in talks with the 1998 World



Cup winner about becoming their new boss.

Pochettino, who was appointed by PSG in January 2021, won the Ligue 1 title in 2021-22 and the French Cup in 2020-21 but failed to deliver in the Champions League, the only major trophy that has eluded PSG since Qatar Sports Investment took over in 2011.

PSG, eight times league winners since the takeover, were Champions League runners-up in 2020 but they were knocked out in the last 16 last season by Real Madrid.



# Ram Charan to film a peppy campus number for *RC15*

The latest schedule of the filming of *RRR*, actor Ram Charan's much-anticipated big-budget film, is about to begin under the direction of Shankar Shanmugham. Ram Charan is all set for the shoot of an upbeat song number, which is being choreographed on expensive sets and multiple locations. The college-themed track will feature close to 400 dancers. As reported earlier, the film, whose working title is *RC15*, will be shot in Amritsar, among other places. Shanmugham is best known for the grandeur of canning visually extravagant songs, so this particular song is expected to be one of the major highlights of



the movie. In this song, which is being choreographed by Ganesh Acharya, Ram Charan will appear in a new look being billed as stunning by the makers. The music is being composed by the ever-popular Thaman. Kiara Advani plays the female lead opposite Ram Charan in *RC15*, which is being bankrolled by Dil Raju.



PNS HYDERABAD

Krithi Shetty awaits the theatrical release of *The Warriorr* this July 14. In this interview, the actress talks about her journey so far in the industry, working with actor Ram Pothineni and director N Lingusamy. Well, in the initial conversation in a chatty mood, she revealed, "My previous two films, *Shyam Singha Roy* and *Bangarraju* were

released within a short period of time. *The Warriorr* is my second release of the year. Director N Lingusamy is someone I have admired ever since I watched his Tamil movie many years ago. When an offer came my way, I was excited about doing an entertainer with him. His heroines are unique characters." And you know what, she was very nervous while doing the *bullet song* given that Ram Pothineni is an energetic dancer. Once the shoot began, her nervousness abated because the song

has a classy feel. Talking about her character in the upcoming movie, she spilled the beans, "I have played a lovable character and I hope the audience will find her cute. She is a girl-next-door character with whom you can relate. Maha Lakshmi is a Radio Jockey. The love track between her and the male protagonist will be striking, much as the chemistry between them in the songs." Compared to her characters in her previous three films, this one is more energetic, it seems. "Lingusamy is always clear about what he wants. He also emotes so that the actor finds it easy to figure out. He knows how to modulate the voice and all. So, it was not highly challenging for me. I watched a number of podcasts of RJ's before the shoot began. I worked on my expressions to play the role authentically," she added. Actor Aadhi Pinisetty is not left behind, he's playing a crucial role too. But how well did the lead actress get along with him? "I have no scenes with Aadhi but all I can tell is he is a softie off-screen. In this film, though, he has played a very aggressive part. I liked

him a lot in *Rangasthalam*." Because *The Warriorr* is coming out in Tamil too, Krithi also started learning Tamil. And said, "People feel that I have been choosy. I choose scripts that suit me, not in terms of whether the project is big or small. I shot three movies simultaneously last year. At that time, it was not easy at all. After listening to a narration, I jot down my observations about the character I am playing. That helps me understand the character in-depth. I have the responsibility to entertain the audience. Definitely, there is pressure. I do listen to my mother's opinions too. I have only done commercial films so far." She expressed this when the question clicked on choosing scripts pounded her. On her future endeavours, she disclosed, "I am doing Suriya's movie directed by Bala. About 30% of the shoot is over. I am also doing Naga Chaitanya's movie directed by Venkat Prabhu. Both are bilinguals. Bala sir has been very easy to work with. He gives his artists the freedom to interpret a scene as they want. He suggests changes if any after seeing what the actor has to offer. *Aa Ammayi Gurinchi Meeku Cheppali*, starring Sudheer Babu and directed by Mohan Krishna Indraganti, is among my other upcoming movies."



## Allu Arjun chills with his family in Tanzania

Before Icon Star Allu Arjun gets busy with the shoot of the Sukumar-directed sequel to *Pushpa: The Rise*, which is scheduled to start in August or September, he is taking a break at the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania. The actor's wife, Allu Sneha, posted a family photo from the vacation on her Instagram page. The image featuring the Allu family has gone viral on social media.



## Nithya Menen indulges in Hyderabad delicacies

After a successful run of *Modern Love* Mumbai, Amazon Prime Video is gearing up for its second edition of the three localised and fictionalised versions of the international series, *Modern Love Hyderabad*. Set against the backdrop of the 'City of Pearls', the series features six heartening stories exploring different shades and relationships of love. One of the episodes titled 'My Unlikely Pandemic Dream Partner' brings together two powerhouse actors, Revathy and Nithya Menen, in an episode directed by Nagesh Kukunoor. The story explores a special bond between the lead actors. Set in the heart of Hyderabad, as the director Nagesh Kukunoor says, the episode marries his two loves, the old-world charm of Hyderabad and local cuisine. During a recent interaction, Nithya Menen revealed a detail that will leave everyone surprised and appreciative of her dedication. "I had been practising vegetarianism for a while, and when I told the team about it, they were amazed," said Nithya Menen, and elaborated that the special chef who was invited to cook the Hyderabad delicacies also made vegetarian versions of those dishes for the shoot. "There was so much Hyderabad food... Finally, at one point, I was like, just give me the chicken, I'll just eat it, it's fine, I have to look authentic. So literally, I keep telling them, they turned me into a non-vegetarian. There was too much to eat," she said. Interestingly, it was one of those episodes where the cast and crew would wait for the cut and run to the dining tables to gorge on the Hyderabad feast. From the famous biryani to Khubani-ka-Meetha, you name it and the delicacy was served. *Modern Love Hyderabad* is set for a global premiere on Amazon Prime Video on July 8th. The anthology brings six stories revolving around the idea and facets of love. The cast of *Modern Love Hyderabad* also includes popular names like Suhasini Maniratnam, Naresh, Aadhi Pinisetty, Ritu Varma, Abijeet Duddala, Malavika Nair, Naresh Agastya, and Ulka Gupta, among others.



## Bimbisara, a four-part franchise?

The makers of *Bimbisara* released the trailer of their film on Nandamuri Kalyan Ram's birthday. The trailer for the film was a visual treat and gave us a hint of the film's having wars and stunts. The movie is about the time travel of a great Magadha King, *Bimbisara*. According to the latest update that was recently shared by Kalyan Ram himself, if things go well with the film, *Bimbisara* might turn up as a three or four-franchise film. The first instalment will be released in theatres on August 5, and the second instalment will be released in 2023. Kalyan had also stated that his brother NTR might also be a part of *Bimbisara*. The film is directed by debutant director Mallidi Vashist. Meanwhile, Hari Krishna is producing the film under the banner of NTR Arts Banner.

Nalgonda MLA, Kancharla Bhupal Reddy and Nagarjuna Sagar MLA, Nomula Bhagat, along with Nalgonda municipal Chairman, Mandadi Saidi Reddy, graced the mahurat ceremony of Silly Monks Studios' "Production No. 09" at Chinna Madaram, Nalgonda District in Telangana. The film is directed by RG Gandikota. The music is given by Charan Arjun and Praveen K

Bangari is the DOP with a debut cast of Vignesh and Arshita. The movie is

tentatively scheduled to be released in the month of November 2022.



## Abhay's next, a political drama

Abhay Bethiganti, who rose to fame with the film *George Reddy*, is coming up with another entertainer in which he is both directing and acting. The film titled

*Ramanna Youth*, is produced by Rajini under Fire Fly Arts banner. On Tuesday, actors Priyadarshi and Rahul Ramakrishna released the first look of *Ramanna Youth*, an

entertaining political drama. *Ramanna Youth* is about the twists and turns in the life of a young man aspiring to become a political leader. The story also deals with today's

social issues, with a different storyline, where Abhay Bethiganti plays the role of youth leader Raju. My Village Show Anil is also said to play a key role in this film.



## Swetha Avasthi will play the lead in Veerabhadram's next

Talented director Veerabhadram Chowdary, who directed several superhit movies like *Poola Rangadu* and *Chuttalabbayi*, among the rest, will next be directing young hero Naresh Agastya of *Mathu Vadalara* and *Senapathi* fame in a new film which was announced recently.

Nabishaik and Thumu Narsimha Patel will be producing the movie under the Deccan Dream Works and Jayadurgadevi Multimedia banners. The latest update is the yet to be titled flick, which is billed to be a crime comedy and will feature Swetha Avasthi of *Merise* fame playing the lead actress. The actress will join the shoot in the first schedule of the movie that commences this month. Veerabhadram Chowdary has prepared an intriguing script with a different concept. Melody specialist Anup Rubens renders soundtracks for the movie that will feature some noted actors. Furthermore details will be unveiled soon.

