ANALYSIS 7

WHY NOT HAVE A MINISTRY

OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS?



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KOLLYWOOD **BEAUTY SAI** DHANSIKA MAKES HER BIG SCREEN **DEBUT IN TELUGU**

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Polavaram dam completion target pushed to June 2024

VIJAYAWADA

Contrary to the expectations, the Polavaram Project Authority (PPA), in a report, revised the prestigious irrigation project's completion target to June 2024. It was in March on the Floor of the State Legislative Assembly that Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy affirmed and exuded confidence that the Polavaram project will be completed by Kharif 2023.

Most importantly the PPAappointed committee attributed low spending capacity, inadequate construction, and contract manage-



ment, and lack of strategic planning and coordination of the project implementing agency as the key reasons for the delay in completion of the project. Initially, the target

was set to complete Polavaram Irrigation Project (PIP) by April

2022 and it was missed.

BOTSA FAULTS TS MIN'S COMMENTS ON DAM HEIGHT

nister for Education Botsa Satyanarayana has found fault with Telangana Transport Minister Puvvada Ajay Kumar with his comments that Bhadrachalam is still reeling under floods due to the Polavaram project. Speaking to the media persons on Tuesday, the minister advised Puvvada Ajay to refrain from making unnecessary



Flood-ravaged districts in AP limping back to normal

Giving a big respite to six districts, the inflows to the river Godavari have come down considerably and the normalcy is limping back in the flood-affected districts.

Though the flood water receded, slush accumulated in the houses in flood-hit villages. Victims were seen cleaning their houses in some areas where water receded substantially.

Though the flood water started receding on Monday, 30 villages in Konaseema district are still in knee-deep water. The flood victims were accommodated in the 74 relief centres in the district. Officials sources said that 22 vil-



lages have no power supply due to the uprooting of electrical poles and damage to the transformer. The water level at the Dowleswaram barrage stood at

17.7 feet in the evening and 19 lakh cusecs of water were discharged downstream into the sea.

Amarnath slams TDP for financial mismanagement

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Industries Minister Gudivada Amarnath slammed the TDP for its financial mismanagement during 2014- 2019 which was confirmed in RS on Tuesday. "TDP's false narrative against YŚRCP was exposed when the Union Minister of State for Finance hinted that TDP is the reason for financial troubles in AP, " said IT Minister Amarnath.

Rs 1.11 L cr excess expenditure by TDP govt went unexplained: Centre

It has emerged that the departments concerned during the previous TDP government had failed to submit Explanatory Notes (ENs) for an excess expenditure of Rs 1,11,151 crore incurred between 2014 and 2019.

Union Minister of State for Finance, Pankaj Chaudhary, in a written reply to TDP Rajya Sabha member, Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar, said that as per the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General



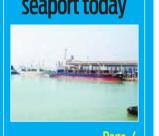
(CAG) of India on the State Finances Audit Report for the year ended March 31, 2020, after bifurcation of the State, an excess expenditure of Rs

1,62,828.70 crore pertaining to the year 2014-15 to 2018-19 occurred which was yet to be regularised.

"As per the Report, Explanatory Notes (ENs) were furnished for only an amount of Rs. 51,677.74 crore against Rs. 1,62,828.70 crore by the concerned Administrative Departments/Finance Department of the State to the CAG for excess expenditure requiring regularisation relating to the years 2014-15 to 2018-19.







TRS and YSRCP spar over five villages

RAMA RAMA!

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana and Andhra Pradesh Ministers exchanged barbs over the under-construction Polavaram multipurpose project across river Godavari. The inundation of Bhadrachalam temple was point of contention. It started with Telangana Minister Puvvada Ajay Kumar demanded that the five villages part of Bhadrachalam should

be merged back into Telangana as every time there was a flood, it became difficult for the relief efforts in those five villages. The give villages are Etapaka, Purushottapatnam, Kannaigudem, Pichukalapadu and Gundala panchayats in Telangana. He said, "Earlier, Godavari flood flow used to have equal inflow and outflow.



Jagananna Government has embarked on building 4 seaports in 5 years in circumstances when accomplishing one in 10 years is considered a big achievement.. As part of this

BHOOMI POOJA of

Sri. Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Hon'ble Chief Minister will perform Bhoomi Pooja Today, marking the beginning of the Rs. 3,736.14 Crores worth Ramayapatnam Port first phase works in Sri Potti Sriramulu Nellore District..

Jagananna Government has set itself a target of completing the First Phase works of Ramayapatnam Port within 36 Months...

Sri. Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Hon'ble Chief Minister,

Government of Andhra Pradesh

In the first phase, it is envisaged to set up a total of 4 berths including one coal berth, two container berths and one multipurpose berth with Cargo handling capacity of 25 million tons. The total capacity of the project is 163.54 million tons with 19 berths to be constructed in two phases..

Ramayapatnam Port will be developed on par with Mumbai, Kolkata and Visakhapatnam Ports.. Ramayapatnam Port will become one of the biggest Ports in the Country and will become the key to the State's economic development...

Steps towards setting up the largest industrial corridor in 3,773 Acres along with rail connectivity, 4 lane roads, eco-friendly transport facilities and setting up of Allied Industries.. Envisaged to provide employment opportunities to 40,000 people which include direct employment to 10,000 and indirect employment to 30,000 people...

Rehabilitation and Resettlement will be taken up with Rs. 117.64 Crores to the 600 families of Mondivaripalem, Avulavaripalem and Karlapalem villages who are likely to be displaced.. One job per family will also be provided to the displaced families...



- Works to begin soon at Machilipatnam, Bhavanapadu and Kakinada Gateway Port Limited (KGPL) with an expenditure of Rs. 10,000 Crores...
- ...this will not only create Lakhs of jobs but will also facilitate export of goods at a lower transport cost...
- Special focus on Industries pertaining to shipbuilding and repairs...
- Farmers will have easy access to export their agriculture produce with the establishment of Port-linked logistics...
- Steps towards Industrialization of Coastal and surrounding regions of Sea Ports..
- Construction of 9 fishing harbors with world class infrastructure to benefit the fishermen.
- Steps towards construction of a Port or a fishing harbor for every 50kms of the coast line..



Jagananna Government marching ahead with a comprehensive development plan for the long seacoast of AP - A Nature's Gift.

Sri. Gudivada Amarnath,

Issued By: Commissioner, Information & Public Relations Department: Government of Anchre Pradict

Jagan may go for early polls along with TS

A Minister and ruling YSR Congress confidence of winning even the Kuppam seat, represented by TDP supremo N. president YS Jaganmohan Reddy may go for early elections in the state in Chandrababu Naidu for 33 years. The reaview of the growing disson for this level of POINT content among sections of the public over the style confidence of Jagan is the outcome of the recent municipal elections that came of his administration, which has started pruning the lists of in favour of YSRCP. beneficiaries of various welfare It is a different matter that

voters may exercise their fran-Bent upon retaining power, chise differently for local electhe Chief Minister is showing party legislators the way to reach out to people and feel their pulse. He has already tions, Assembly elections and the General Election depending on their priorities. It is possible that for the local bodies expressed his resolve to capture they selected representatives a total of 175 seats in the next irrespective of their political affiliations. For example, durelections to the AP's Legislative ing the 1996 Lok Sabha polls, Assembly. His mind games there was a huge lead of 40,000 since then are aimed at making the principal opposition votes for Congress candidate Telugu Desam Party (TDP) Nandi Yellaiah in the Medchal segment that falls under the diffident, despite the palpable Siddipet LS seat. Medchal was

Jagan is working to make TDP irrelevant post the 2024 polls. Besides, if TDP is defeated again in the 2024 elections, age factor would come into play rendering Naidu less appealing in future elections. In contrast. Jagan has made no bones about his resolve to rule AP for 30 years. Jagan wants to capitalise on the fact that he is 22 years younger than Naidu.

then represented by TDP strongman and home minister in Chandrababu Naidu's cabinet in the combined state of Andhra Pradesh T. Devendar Goud. Political circles were stunned at the outcome and everybody thought that it was the beginning of the end of Goud's political career. But in the 1999 General Election, Goud emerged victorious, and continued in Naidu's cabinet

YSRCP will be making history should it wrest the Kuppam seat from TDP. Losing the seat might pose serious challenge to the very existence of TDP in the state. So, Jagan is working to make TDP irrelevant post the 2024 polls. Besides, if TDP is defeated again in the 2024 elections, age factor would come into play rendering Naidu less appealing in future elections. In contrast, Jagan has made no



M D RATNA KUMAR Senior Journalist

bones about his resolve to rule AP for 30 years. Jagan wants to capitalise on the fact that he is 22 years younger than Naidu.

However, the growing discontent among people is causing concern in ruling party circles. MLAs, despite not being directly involved in the process

ciaries of various welfare tricts, MLAs preferred to book schemes, are being made cases against those beneficiaresponsible for ensuring that ries who had dared to question the constituents vote for them on corruption, irregular-YSRCP. The government believes that 87% of families in ities and removal of their names from the lists of bene-Andhra Pradesh are beneficiaficiaries of welfare schemes, ries of various welfare schemes, including old age and widow including 'Nava Ratnas'. The pensions. This has attracted schemes are so designed that at widespread criticism. Some of least one member of each famthe MLAs lost their cool while talking to beneficiaries. Often ily is a beneficiary of one welthe kith and kin of legislators fare scheme or the other. So, also take part in these programmes and interact with the Chief Minister thinks that MLAs could talk to the beneficiaries and ensure that they people. At times, they also would vote for YSRCP. He has reacted in a harsh way. This assured MLAs that he would has caused heartburn among bring money for the welfare people. Such incidents may schemes at any cost and dismar the prospects of the rulburse the funds by pressing the ing party.

Given the deteriorating fis-Still, many of the MLAs are cal health of Andhra Pradesh, facing embarrassing moments there is no guarantee that the when they meet people during current welfare schemes will be continued after the next their door-to-door campaign on the welfare schemes. In elections, regardless of who

comes to power. In this backdrop, Jaganmohan Reddy may decide to go for early polls in Andhra Pradesh, though elections in the state are scheduled for 2024. He may prefer to go to polls along with the neighbouring Telangana State, which is scheduled to go to polls in 2023. Mutual cooperation between the two ruling parties of AP and TS can be better handled if the two states go to polls simultaneously.

The Union government headed by Narendra Modi has to concede such a proposal for early polls in AP. He will consider the prospects of BJP in AP in the context of electoral adjustments with friendly parties. It depends on the relationship between Modi and Jagan. The Chief Minister, despite having a good rapport with Modi, may have to agree to conditions set by the Prime

Complete land survey in 2,000 villages by Oct: Ministers' panel

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Ministers' Committee has directed the officials to work with the aim of completing a comprehensive land survey in at least 2,000 villages across the State by October.

The Ministers' Committee on Tuesday held a review on the progress of the 'Jagananna Shaswata Bhoo Hakku – Bhoo Raksha' scheme. The meeting was presided over by State Energy, Forest, Environment, Science and Technology and Mines Minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy and Revenue Minister Dharmana Prasada Rao, Education Minister Botsa Satyanarayana and Chief Advisor to Government Ajay Kallam participated in this meeting.
On the occasion, the officials

explained the details of the comprehensive land survey to

the Ministers' Committee and the ministers said that with the initiative started by Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, there will be no room for land disputes in the future and the land details will be recorded in the most transparent manner at the field level. The land survey is already going on in the rural areas and the survey programme should be taken further in the urban areas as well. The minister directed the officials to review the survey programme in Tadepalligudem Municipality from time to time and solve all the problems that are encountered. At least two rovers and drones will be allocated to start the survey in urban areas in each district, they said. They said that the government will resolve the issues related to Gramkanthams positively and will take all steps to issue ownership rights to the deserving beneficiaries. He said that for the first time in the history of

the state, ownership rights are

being given to those living in

Gramakantam lands. The

Ministers' Committee said that

CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy

has granted house plots to 31

lakh women across the state and promised to get them registered and the officials were ordered to take steps in this

They said that many are enjoying the forest lands by encroaching and with fabricated certificates and to resolve it a survey is being done jointly by revenue and forest officials and suggested providing additional rovers and drones to speed up the land survey.

The officials said that the ORR process has been completed in 1977 villages so far. As part of this, the ground truthing process of examining the map at the field level has been completed in 1170 villages. The process of ground validation has been completed in 864 villages and 13 notifications have been issued stating that the survey has been completed for about 775 villages.

Presidential polls: AP govt sends ballot box to Delhi

The ballot box containing the votes cast by the Andhra Pradesh legislators in the polling held in the state on Monday for the election of the President of India was sent to Delhi on Tuesday morning amid tight security. Officials opened the strong room in the Legislative Assembly premises in the presence of Election Observers Chandrakar Bharti, State Chief Electoral Officer Mukesh Kumar Meena, and Assistant Returning Officer K



Raj Kumar on Tuesday morning and removed the sealed bal-

The sealed ballot box was then moved to Gannavaram International Airport in a special vehicle under tight police security led by Chief Marshal of the State Assembly Theophilas.

airlifted by the officials to be handed over to the officials in Parliament building in Delhi. Election observers Chandraker Bharti along with Presidential election assistant returning officers K Raj Kumar, Vanitarani, and others went to Delhi with

this sealed ballot box. State Chief Electoral Officer Mukesh Kumar Meena, Deputy CEO Venkateswara Rao, Assistant CEO JV Srinivasa Shastri and others followed this sealed ballot box to

Rs 1.11 L cr excess expenditure...

Continued from page 1

Further, as per Article 205 of the Constitution of India, it is mandatory for a state government to get the excess over a grant/appropriation regu-

larised by the State Legislature," said Chaudhary. Also, as per the report, the excess expenditure is to be regularised after a discussion on the appropriation accounts

by the Public Accounts

Committee (PAC) of the State. For this purpose, the departments concerned are required to submit Explanatory Notes for excess expenditure to the PAC through the Finance Department of the State.

Amarnath slams...

Continued from page 1

TDP MP Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar was left when the Union Government said that it was during TDP's tenure that Andhra Pradesh got into the financial burden to his unstarred question in the parliament on Tuesday, he said. Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary has quoted in Rajya Sabha about Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) on State Finances Audit Report. The Minister said, "After bifurcation of the state, an excess expenditure of Rs.1,62,828.70 crore between 2014-15 and 2018-19 occurred. But it was yet to be regularised. For this purpose, concerned departments are required to submit Explanatory Notes for excess expenditure to the PAC through the Finance Department of the State. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy has repeatedly informed the people of the State that the current financial burden occurred due to the mismanagement of the previous TDP regime. On Tuesday, it was confirmed by the Centre when the Minister of State for Finance said in his written reply to Rajya Sabha, Amarnath added.

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TRS and YSRCP...

Continued from page 1

able situation due to the Polavaram project work". He opined that the outflow was slow this time as the Andhra Pradesh government finished fixing the gates of Polavaram project and also the water levels may have been retained in those seven mandals, which were transferred to the neighbouring state from Telangana in 2014. There is a chance that once the Polavaram project is completed, water levels at Bhadrachalam will permanently remain 45.5 ft. "So earlier also we demanded that the height of the Polavaram project has to be reduced," he recalled. Andhra Pradesh government on Tuesday asked the former to avoid creating "new disputes" between the two neighbouring Minister Botsa Satyanarayana said, "If those villages are merged with Telangana, we will also ask for AP to be merged as well. As AP's revenue has decreased, will it now be merged with Hyderabad?" AP Water Resources Minister

Ambati Rambabu said, "The But this time the outflow was

Centre has granted all permisslow. As we mentioned earlier, sions for Polavaram after all surmandals from Telangana with AP because they faced the threat of submergence due to the multipurpose project. If we were to give back five villages, would you give us Bhadrachalam back". Rambabu said, "Telangana could find out from the Central Water Commission if indeed Polavaram caused inundation of villages in that state. There are no disputes between AP and Telangana now. Please don't try to create new disputes. If there is any problem, Chief Ministers of the two states could sort that

However Puvvada Ajay later issued a statement that his words were misunderstood and blown out of proportion. He said "the ministers Botsa and Ambati Rambabu should talk to CM YS Jagan and hold talks with CM KCR to ensure that Badrachalam temple of Lord Rama is not inundated again. Devotees from Andhra and Telangana visit the temple and it was on behalf of both states that I spoke"

Polavaram dam ...

Continued from page 1 The Government of Andhra

Pradesh (GoAP) is executing Project (PIP) on behalf of the Government of India. The PIP was earlier

planned for completion by April 2022. However, presently the progress on the head works, right main canal, and left main canal is reported to be about 77 pc, 93 pc and 72 pc, respectively. Thus, the project has missed the deadline for completion by April,

"On intimation by GoAP regarding spilling of execution of PIP beyond April, 2022, Polavaram Project Authority (PPA) constituted a committee in November 2021 to comprehensively examine and analyze the current construction schedule, the present status of works, factual reasons for the delay and come up with an updated project schedule. The committee submitted its report in April 2022 and has suggested the revised target for completion of the project as June 2024,"

union minister of state in Ministry of Jal Shakthi, Bishwesar Tudu told Lok

Some of the key reasons for the delay in implementation of the project suggested by the PPA-appointed committee include low spending capacity, inadequate construction and contract management, lack of strategic planning and coordination of the project implementing agency, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

PPA convenes regular meetings to review the work progress and resolve the pending issues of the project. Additionally, Dam Design and Review Panel (DDRP) is constituted for providing expert advice on dam design aspects, as well an Expert Committee is constituted to supervise various activities of the project, meet frequently, and provide the required inputs to the project authority. While the PPA has held 14 meetings so far, DDRP has met 20 times and the Expert Committee has held 7 meet-

Botsa faults... Continued from page 1

He also stated that the government knew what to do for the people of the villages were merged with Andhra Pradesh. Botsa said that the height of the Polavaram project was done according to the approved designs and no one has changed it. Heavy floods were witnessed after 100 years in July's first week. Even Bhadrachalam flooded villages were discussed before the bifurcation of the state and everything is going according to the bifurcation Act, the minister said. The minister satirically said, "AP lost the revenue of Hyderabad due to state bifurcation. Can we ask for the merger of Hyderabad with AP? It is not right to speak such things now and resolving the present problem should be the first

priority, said the minister. He said that people need to speak responsibly, be it the CM or the ministers, they should speak responsibly. It cannot be appropriated if someone speaks to provocative others.

against IRS officer

HC quashes case

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh High Court quashed the case against IRS officer Jasti Krishna Kishore.

A case was filed against the IRS officer by the State government citing irregularities while discharging duties as EBD CEO. The High Court viewed that the criminal charges slapped against the IRS officer were baseless. The AP CID sleuths had

filed an FIR based on a letter purportedly written by a whistleblower on the alleged irregularities by the senior IRS officer when he was serving as the chief executive of the AP Economic Development Board (APEDB).

The whistleblower's letter also pointed out in the complaint that the IRS official was a friend of the then joint director of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Lakshmi Narayana, who had investigated the cases against the pre-sent Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy.

While quashing the FIR,



the High Court judge justice D Ramesh, in his orders dated July 13 that was uploaded on July 19, said the allegations made in the FIR or the complaint were baseless. Pointing out that the purported letter of the whistleblower that alleged the relationship between the IRS officer and the then CBI top cop who had probed the cases against Jagan Mohan Reddy clearly discloses that the present crime is registered for extraneous

Flood-ravaged districts in AP limping back to normal

Continued from page 1

The officials withdrew the third warning signal at the barrage with the receding of inflows on Tuesday.

According to official information, 165 villages in seven mandals were affected of which 143 villages were inundated by the floodwater affecting 69,112 people in the ASR district. 38 villages in 38 mandals were affected in the EG district of which 13 villages were inundated affecting 2,208 people. In the worst affected Konaseema district, 74 villages in 18 mandals were affected of which 61

villages were inundated in

flood water affecting 1,96,072 people. In Eluru district, 93 villages in 9 mandals were affected of which 76 villages were inundated and affected 55,545 people. As many as 403 villages in 54 mandals were affected by the floodwater of which 324 were inundated, affecting a total number of 3,48,815 people. As many as 217 NDRP and 417 SDRF personnel were deployed to the affected areas to carry out relief operations.

The floodwater was overflowing on the Palakollu-Narasapuram road disrupting vehicle traffic in the WG district while 15 island villages in Achanta, Elamanchili, and Narasapuram mandals are still in the flood water.

The flood water is yet to recede completely from the worst affected villages in Kukkunuru and Velerupadu mandals. According to information received, 800 families in the ASR district took shelter on a hillock at Chintarevulapalli village

Vararamachandrapuram mandal. They were provided essentials including milk.

Food relief operations special commissioner Pravin Kumar directed the WG district Collector P Prashanthi to take steps to carry out sanitation works in the flood-hit areas on

war footing as water started receding. At a video conference with the officials on Tuesday, he directed to take up relief operations in the flood-ravaged areas in a planned manner. "All the flood victims should be provided essential commodities by the evening of Tuesday. All the affected families should be disbursed Rs 2,000. All officials should work two more days in the affected areas. Medical camps should be set up in a big way to provide medical treatments in the flood-hit areas," the special officer directed the officials. Collector Prasanthi appreciated all the officials to ensure that no loss of life in the

flood-hit areas. All must work with the same spirit for two more days as normalcy is limping back in the affected areas, she told the officials. She directed the officials to supply essentials to the victims in the areas where the flood water receded. The Collector asked the officials to provide seeds on 80 percent subsidy to the horticulture farmers. Meanwhile, close on the heels of heavy floods to the Godavari, the river Tungabhadra river has started getting heavy inflows and 1.67 lakh cusecs of water was being released downstream of Andhra Pradesh at the reser-

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH PANCHAYAT RAJ DEPARTMENT, GUNTUR E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

No.112822-2823 E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

NOT No.48 to 502322-23

Tenders are being limited from 21-07-2022 through e-procurement platform for execution of 3 works in warriance constituencies under the jurisdiction of Superintending Engineer, Panchayet Ral Circle, Guntur with an estimated cost of Rs. 1980.00 lakh sanctioned under PMUVK and OTS grant. Total: Three works to be executed at an estimated cost of Rs. 1980.00 lakh. For further details, contact www.anexerceurement.evviv. and contact the office of the Superintending tetails, contact www.apeprocurement.gov.in and contact the office of the Superintending R.O.No: 5267/CLIADVTH1/2021-22, Dt. 19.07.2022

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGG. DEPARTMENT

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE NIT No.12 to 39/T0/2022-23 Online tenders are invited under e-procurement platform for 11 Road works & 17 levelling of sites with an Estimated Cost of Rs.38,16,57,776/- in Krishna District. Bid download staffing date: 21.07.2022 onwards. Details can be seen at

e-market place i.e., www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in. Ph.6305693265. Sdi- Superintending Engineer R.O.No: 5269CLIADVIN12921-22, Dt. 19.07.2022 Panchayat Raj, Machilipatnam, Krishna Dist

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WELFARE SCHEMES

CM disburses Rs 137 crore to residual beneficiaries

PNS AMARAVATI

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, on Tuesday, credited Rs 137 crore into the accounts of 3,39,096 beneficiaries who were left out from receiving the benefits of welfare schemes and also provided fresh pension, Arogyasri, and ration cards to 3.10 lakh families.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that his government is truly committed to the welfare of the poor unlike the previous one, where people used to wait and run from pillar to post to avail welfare schemes. He said that the government brought this initiative to provide welfare schemes for those who are eligible and have not availed of the benefits, twice every year. The intention is to extend the welfare schemes to every eligible person in the State, he said, adding that the situation has changed since the inception of the YSRCP Government, and the benefits of the schemes are being delivered right at the doorstep of the beneficiaries.

The Chief Minister said that 2,99,085 new beneficiaries were added to YSR Pension Kanuka, while 7051 are getting Ration Cards and 3035 are being provid-



ed with Arogyasri Cards. With the fresh issue of cards, an additional expenditure of Rs 935 crore shall be borne by the State government, he said adding that the government is implementing every scheme with utmost responsibility in a transparent way without any discrimination.

Drawing comparison with the previous TDP regime, the Chief Minister stated that the previous government had tried to minimise the number of beneficiaries by providing welfare schemes only to a select few people through 'Janmabhoomi Committees' and did its best to exclude as

ernment as the people's government, he said that only eligibility is being taken as the criteria and extending the benefits in a transparent way irrespective of the caste, religion, or political affiliation of the beneficiary duly following the welfare calendar. He urged people to notice the dif-ference between the two governments.

He stated that his government could confidently go to each beneficiary's house under 'Gadapa Gadapaki Mana Prabhuthvam' programme because of the good governance that has been provided in the left three years and said that these in the last three years and said that those in the government should have commitment, credibility, and character to bring revolutionary changes in the governance.

Ministers Budi Mutyalanaidu, Adhimulapu Suresh, Karumuri Venkata Nageswara Rao, Chief Secretary Sameer Sharma, Municipal and Urban Development Special CS Y Srilakshmi, Housing Special CS Ajay Jain, BC Welfare Principal Secretary G Jayalakshmi, Handlooms, and Textiles Principal Secretary K Sunita, Higher Education Principal Secretary J Syamalarao and other officials were present.

Stone laid for 168 additional classrooms

PNS VIJAYAWADA

"Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's aim is to improve the quality of education in government schools in the State and increase the literacy rate on a par with Kerala and Maharashtra States," Minister of Education Botsa Satyanarayana has said. "For that, the State government has that, the state government has been developing the govern-ment schools by providing infrastructure and additional classrooms," he said.

Minister

Botsa

Satyanarayana laid the founda-

tion stone to construct 168

additional classrooms in 28 municipal corporation schools of Vijayawada Central con-stituency, at Andhra Kesari Tanguturi Prakasam Pantulu (AKTP) Municipal Corporation School at Satyanarayanapuram on Tuesday. He also inaugurated six classrooms constructed using the 14th Finance Commission's funds. The State government has sanctioned Rs.33.49 crore for constructing the additional classrooms.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that as per the National Education Policy

(NEP) - 2020, the State government had made several reforms in school education. "To compete with corporate and private schools, the government has started foundation schools. The government introduced pre-primary-1 and pre-primary-2 at Anganwadi

He further said that from the 2022-23 academic year subject teachers were introduced to Classes 3, 4, and 5.

schools," he added.

centers, and these centres were

merged with nearby primary

Each class had five teachers while there was one teacher for one class, he said. Andhra Pradesh is the only State to implement the foundation schools across the country under the New Education Policy. By implementing the

"Foundations schools were started to lay a strong foundation in children at an early age,"

closed, he said.

NEP, no school would be

He added that the State government had sanctioned two junior colleges for each mandal and one degree college for each assembly constituency, and hence the high schools were upgraded to Plus Two. So, the State government shifted Classes 3, 4, and 5 to nearby upper primary and high schools, he pointed out.

"In this system, if there are any problems, then anybody may bring the issues to me through MLAs and then I will sort out the problem," he added. Botsa said that in schools having more than 20 children, two teaching posts would be sanctioned.

Vijayawada Central MLA Malladi Vishnu said that the State government was spending many funds to develop the education and health sectors. Mayor Rayana Bhagyalakshmi said that the State government sanctioned Rs.112 crore for constructing additional classrooms in 90 schools out of 104

in the city.

AP Fibernet Corporation Chairman P Gowtham Reddy, NTR District Collector S Dilli Rao, Vijayawada Deputy Mayor Avuthu Sri Sailaja, DEO CV Renuka, DYEDO K Ravi Kumar, and corporators were

TDP running false campaign on flood relief: Minister

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Rebutting TDP leaders for malicious propaganda about the relief measures in the floodaffected areas, Minister for Industries Gudivada Amarnath said that the State government is efficiently handling the flood situation and slammed the Opposition for creating unrest among the public and trying to mislead them ahead of the N Chandrababu Naidu's tour in flood-hit areas.

Addressing a press conference here on Tuesday, the minister

refuted the baseless articles that were published by the vernacular media and stated that it was all part of the opposition TDP's mind game to create a roadmap for Naidu's tour in flood-affect-

He said that the government was extending all support to the flood-affected families and played an active role in evacuation to relief camps, besides providing ration supplies and financial aid of Rs 2000, which no other Chief Minister had done in the past. In this context, former Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu played in TDP rule during the floods, apart from promoting himself in disasters like Hud-hud.

Asserting that Godavari floods have come much earlier this year, Minister Amarnath said that the State government had reacted immediately and evacuated people to safer places on a war footing, ensuring that there should be no loss of life. The Chief Minister had actively reviewed the flood situation and put the officials including he said, and flayed a section of media for misleading the public with evil propaganda.

The Minister said that TDP leaders and their allies couldn't digest the government's successful tackling of floods and thus made false news that elderly people were not being supplied food, children were not given milk, and animals were suffering without feed. The minister stated that the government has been extending all its support to the flood victims and said that people are not going to fall into



he questioned the part that the district authorities on high alert,



Jagan finalises names for Graduate MLC posts

PNS AMARAVATI

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has finalised the names of candidates to contest for MLCs from Graduate Constituencies.

The decision was taken at a meeting with Party MLAs, MLC s, and other leaders here on Monday as the Chief Minister gave the nod to party leaders' proposal to contest for Graduate MLC

The names finalised by the Chief Minister include S Sudhakar, Brahman Corporation Chairman to contest from the joint Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, and Visakhapatnam districts.

Syam Prasad Reddy of Gudur will be the Party Graduate MLC candidate from former Prakasam, Nellore and Chittoor districts while V Ravi will be the candidate for Kurnool, Kadapa and Ananthapur dis-

The MLC candidates for Teachers' constituencies will be decided later but the process will be taken up now, it was decided in the meeting.

'Amrit Utsav': Cultural prog organised

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The weeklong celebrations of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) commenced at Visakhapatnam railway station on July 18 and will be celebrated up to July 23. Various events or programs are being organised at the station at Gate No.3 and No.1 of Visakhapatnam railway sta-

On Tuesday patriotic songs Divisional Cultural Association



railway employees and the employee Prashanti and her enthralled the viewers and group presented a dance pro-

ried out throughout the week. On Wednesday Krishna Rao, philatelist will showcase various stamps of Mahatma released by India Post, stamps of various countries, the currency of various countries, etc at Gate No.1 of Visakhapatnam railway station.
DRM Anup Satpathy appre-

ciated the efforts of Prashanti and her team for a wonderful performance. He appealed to Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav cel-

NIA raids house of social activist

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday conducted search operations at the residence of social activist Duddu Prabhakar in Ajit Singh Nagar on Tuesday. NIA officials with the help of Vijayawada city police raided the residence of Duddu Prabhakar located near Luna centre in Ajit Singh Nagar. The NIA has conducted searches on suspicion that Prabhakar has links with the Maoists and he had arranged funds for the Maoist party. Prabhakar has been living in Ajit Singh Nagar with his wife and daughter. The searches continued

till evening and the local people and media were not allowed into the house. Prabhakar is the president of Kula Nirmulana Porata Samithi and has been living in a rented house in Ajit Singh Nagar in Vijayawada for the last four years. Swathi, daughter of Prabhakar, said that earlier the police conducted raids on their residence on three occasions. She said the police are harassing the family on suspicion that her Maoists and arranging funds for the Maoist party.

TDP for hike in relief for flood-hit

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The TDP said that the State Government miserably failed in the flood management and demanded that the compensation for the affected families be increased and essential commodities are continuously sup-

plied for some more days.

Party senior leader Kala Venkať Rao on Tuesday told media persons here that it is really disgraceful that the

measures to deal with the calamity. The Chief Minister conducted an aerial survey of the areas and is sitting quietly at his Tadapalle palace while the official machinery is fol-

Government could

not take timely

lowing him. He said that the official machinery is not provided with the necessary infrastructure to deal with the situation Recalling how Chandrababu Naidu dealt with the Hud

Hud cyclone by camping in the affected areas and medicines, milk, and other essen-

He said that the CM does not have any idea how to deal with calamities when they strike the State. When the local Minister and the district collector visited the flood-hit areas, the victims questioned them on their failure to come to their rescue and take timely measures, they ran

away from there and did not visit the areas later, said the TDP The TDP

demands that the compensation of Rs 2,000 paid to the affected families be increased and essen-

tials, including edible oil and dal be supplied for some more period and increase the 25 kg rice to 75 kg. The damaged houses should be rebuilt and assurance be given to the famand added that the flood-hit ilies to this effect besides comers who are the worst-hit, he

Funds released before works for 'Nadu-Nedu': JC

Krishna district Joint Collector R Mahesh Kumar has said that 'Manabadi Nadu-Nedu' is the only scheme that releases funds before the construction of additional classrooms in the government schools begins. The scheme aims to develop infrastructure and amenities for the students, he Mahesh Kumar, along with

Krishna District Education Officer (DEO) Tahera Sultana, conducted a meeting with Deputy Education Officers (DYEO), Mandal Education Officers (MEO), and Executive Engineers and reviewed the construction works under the second phase of Nadu-Nedu



scheme at the Spandana meeting hall in Machilipatnam on

Speaking on the occasion, Mahesh Kumar said that the State government sanctioned Rs.147.24 crore for constructing additional classrooms in 405 high schools in the district. So far, 292 additional classrooms have been built in 53 high schools spending Rs.36 crore, he said. Every school has

toilets with running water, classrooms have fans, tube lights, drinking water, and furniture for students and teachers, he said. Also, the classrooms have green glassy boards. English labs have been set up. Works on kitchen sheds and painting works were done, he added.

Samagra Siksha APC Dr. A Sekhar, DYEO UV Subbarao, and others were present.

UNIDO workshop stresses need for proper waste management

The UNIDO workshop on climate investment planning for VMC has stressed the need to address the municipal waste management and sanitation sector. The Sustainable Cities Integrated Approach Pilot (SCIAP) project is being by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) in close cooperation with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), with funding assistance from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in Vijayawada, Guntur, Bhopal, Mysore, and Jaipur.

The technical assistance on climate-smart capital budgeting to improve the creditworthiness of the cities is one of the key



activities supported under the SCIAP project in addition to the implementation of sustainability planning, investments in low carbon solutions to address municipal waste management, and enhancing the capacity and skills of city officials for effective implementation and management of projects in waste and sanitation sector.

A two-day workshop of UNIDO concluded on Tuesday. The team of University of

Washington (UW) Prof. Janice Whittington, Prof. Adrienne Greve from California State Polytechnic University, Sujatha

Srikumar, and UNIDO project team Nand Pal Singh and Manasa Suresh and Ramana Rao had meetings and work-shops with VMC officials and provided hands-on training to 25 officers from engineering, planning, and finance officers at Command Control Centre,

The team of UW explained capital investment planning, process for energy auditing, carbon emission forecasting, and lifecycle cost analysis for selected projects of VMC. The team focused on resilience, costeffectiveness analysis of the projects, and how to prioritize capital projects against various criteria and indicators, including measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve resilience.

The UW team also demonstrated the design strategies to engineers to reduce the impact of hazards for each project. The workshop also included discussions on screening projects for Public-Private partnerships and sources of revenue from the proposed projects.

Priti Lamba wins 2 gold medals at World Railway Games

PNS VIJAYAWADA

tricts.

Divisional athlete Priti Lamba, who is a junior clerk in the Engineering Department in Vijayawada Division, has won gold medals in both 10KM cross country individual and team events at the World Railway Games (Athletic) held in Berlin, Germany. Priti Lamba represented the Indian Railway athletic team.

Lamba got selected in the national trials and underwent rigorous training at the sports camp held in Patiala. Previously, Priti Lamba had won bronze in 5000 m race in the South Asian Games-2019, held in Nepal.

Mohan, Shivendra



D Srinivasa Rao, ADRM, Infrastructure, M Srikanth, ADRM. Operations, Valleswara B. Tokkala, Divisional Sports Officer & Sr DSC, E Santharam, Sr DEN, Coordination, congratulated Priti for her incredible performance at the international stage and for bringing laurels to the Division

PNS VIJAYAWADA

In a rare incident, Trans Catheter Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI) gave a new lease of life to two elderly women aged 92 and 76 years old in Vijayawada, and both the patients were able to walk within 24 hours and were discharged within 48 hours after the procedure. Cardiothoracic surgeon Dr. Guntur Varun successfully performed the duo surgeries in one day to high risk geriatric

Addressing the media persons here on Tuesday, Dr. Varun said that 92-year-old Nagamma belongs to Bangalore, faced a lot of problems due to heart problems and

her heart pumping capacity dropped drastically. She was suffering from severe LV Dysfunction and a high risk of surgery. The family members went from pillar to post but in vain. They consulted Dr. Varun who decided to take up the case and perform TAVI. Another 76-year-old woman Saroja belongs to Vijayawada was suffering from a heart valve leak which is a complicated condi-Dr Varun said that the two

cases threw up big challenges and after studying their health and body conditions thoroughly it was decided to opt for TAVI. He said that Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery which is also called keyhole surgery is the best option for fast recov-



TAVI gives new lease of life to two geriatric women

ery against conventional open heart bypass surgeries and he did over a hundred keyhole surgeries. He explained that there is no chance for keyhole surgery for the duo of super senior women due to their age and body conditions and opted TAVI procedure.

Dr. Varun explained that TAVI involves inserting a catheter into a blood vessel in your upper leg or chest and passing it towards your aortic valve. The catheter is then used to guide and fix a replacement valve over the top of the old one. The main advantages

heart doesn't need to be stopped, so a heart-lung (bypass) machine doesn't need to be used, and it avoids making a large cut (incision) in your chest. This puts less strain on the body and may mean TAVI is more suitable for people who are too frail to have a conventional valve replacement.

Explaining the successful surgeries, Dr. Varun said that on July 16, he with his team performed TAVI on the duo geriatric women and they started to walk within 24 hours and as their condition is satisfactory they were discharged. He said that TAVI surgery is available in metro cities for a huge cost but first time in

of this technique are that the Vijayawada Varun Cardiac Sciences performed duo TAVI surgeries giving new lease of life to the two women.

Patient Nagamma and relatives said that Dr. Varun gave a new life through TAVI and donated Rs 5 lakh to VCS. Dr. Varun said that his father passed away due to the unavailability of modern treatment for heart and lungs ailment hence he decided to provide modern treatment to people and work for the aim. He said that he will spend the money on needy people through their trust.

Patient Saroja and her relatives also thanked and praised Dr Varun is providing the latest technology-based treatment for heart ailments in Vijayawada city.

the pioneer



Jagan to lay foundation for Ramayapatnam seaport today

The Ramayapatnam seaport, to be constructed at a cost of Rs 3,736 crore in a sprawling 850 acres of land in the first phase, will change the face of Nellore as it helps a great deal for the rapid development of the

Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy is laying the foundation stone for the construction Ramayapatnam seaport on Wednesday.

Ramayapatnam seaport would be constructed at a total cost of Rs 10,640 crore with a target of 19 berths in a phased manner.

Adding another feather to the crown of the Nellore district, which has already mega projects in its credit including the Somashila, Kandaleru reservoirs, Krishnapatnam seaport and a long coastline, Chief Minister Y S Jaganmohan Reddy will inaugurate the construction of Ramayapatnam port on July 20 by performing the Bhumi Pooja to fulfill the long pending dream of the



one of the biggest seaports in the world. The Ramayapatnam seaport is coming up, adding another feather to the Nellore Industrially, the Nellore dis-

trict is developing rapidly. The Ramayapatnam seaport will lead to the establishment of new industries here which helps the generation of employment opportunities in a big way in the district.

As a part of this, the construction of Ramayapatnam port is taking fast steps. The Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu was limited to only the foundation people. Ited to only the loundation. The existing Krishnapatnam stone but the present Chief

Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy was keen on completing all the projects. The Adani company has already received the Central government's environmental clearances for City Krishnapatnam port.

On the other hand, the Cabinet approved the construction of the Bio Ethanol Plant. Andhra Pradesh has a wide coastline and earlier, cement, iron, tobacco and many other minerals were exported from the Rayalaseema, Ongole, and Nellore districts. Coal and fertilizers are being imported through the ports.

Ramayapatnam port is coming

ports.

up with a targeted capacity of 25 million tonnes and will be constructed at a total cost of Rs 10,640 crore. Meanwhile, the police made

elaborate security arrangements for the Chief Minister's programme. The police conducted a trial

run of the Chief Minister's con-

SP Vijaya Rao told the media that 700 police personnel were deployed for the security of the Chief Minister's tomorrow's programme. Parking slots for vehicles were set up and steps were taken to regulate traffic and crowd. He directed the police officials to be alert till

the programme is concluded.

RSI arrested for cheating

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Reserve Sub-inspector of Police Viswanathapalli Ganesh of Machilipatnam was arrested for allegedly cheating a married woman on the pretext of marriage. The police conducted an inquiry and found that the accused had cheated the woman after having an affair with her.

According to the Machilipatnam police, RSI Ganesh befriended the woman on Facebook three years ago. They were class-mates a long time ago. The woman was living with her husband in Penamaluru near Vijayawada. Ganesh had promised that he would marry her if she divorced her husband. She blindly trusted Ganesh and left her husband. But, Ganesh refused to marry her citing various reasons. Shocked, the woman lodged a complaint with Disha police in Disha police in Machilipatnam. Krishna SP P

Joshua ordered a probe. During the course of investigation, it was found that Ganesh had cheated the woman after having a relationship. He was arrested on Monday. With the evil intention of maintaining a relationship, Ganesh contacted her and cheated her later.



Lella Appireddy lays stone for gym at NTR stadium

PNS ■ GUNTUR

MLC Lella Appireddy laid the foundation stone for the construction of a building for a modern gymnasium in the NTR municipal stadium here on Tuesday. The gymnasium will be constructed at a cost of Rs 50 lakh. Municipal Commissioner Keerthi Chekuri and Mayor Kavati Manohar Naidu also participated in the programme.

Speaking on this occasion, Lella Appireddy said that exercise is the best medicine for complete health in today's competitive world. He opined that regular exercise reduces the chances of hospitalization due to chronic diseases. That is why Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy, who is prihigh priority to sports and exercise in the state.

"In accordance with his ideas, from the first days of coming to power, the Chief Minister disclosed that he had specially focused on bringing the glory of the NTR Stadium to the benefit of the majority of the people in the West Constituency", the MLC said, adding that the gym would come up with all modern facilities.

He called upon people to avail the gymnasium to improve their health condition. Mayor Manohar Naidu said that exercise is a must for everyone in today's modern life. He said that exercise helps to improve muscle movements and blood circulation and

marily interested in public achieve good proficiency in health, said that he was giving sports.

After knowing the necessity of people for a gym, the construction of a gym with advanced exercise equipment at the NTR Stadium began and all facilities would be made available. Commissioner Keerthi Chekuri said that as per the government's priorities, Guntur city would provide a suitable environment for people to exercise. She said that parks and stadiums were being developed keeping in view the aspirations of local people and

public representatives.

GDCC bank chairman Ratamshetti Sitaramanjaneulu, district library corporation chairman Battula Devanand and AE Anusha were among those who were present.

Stray dogs kill two antelopes

PNS ■ RAJAHMUNDRY

The heavy floods to River Godavari entered not only the residential localities but also habitations of animals. A large number of deer and antelopes live on the islands located in River Godavari. The Godavari flood water inundated the islands causing the deer and antelopes to dislocate from their habitats. Some of them were washed away in the floodwater while trying to come out of the island.

Some deer and antelopes were able to swim ashore safely. However, stray dogs attack and kill them. The forest officials found two antelopes that were killed by stray dogs at Kadiyapulanka village in Atreyapuram mandal. The forest officers seized bodies of antelopes and buried them. officer

Rajamahendravaram deputy forest range officer Padmavati went to Kadiyapulanka and inspected the areas where the



deer and antelope reside. The officials said that so far three antelopes have been killed and they could save two deer. The forest officials visited the areas

Rajamahendravaram rural, Atreyapuram mandals and Yanam division where some of the deer and antelopes strayed while escaping from the flood water. Most of the deer and

antelopes reside on the islands located downstream of the Dowleswaram barrage. tle including cows and buffalos were seen starving since the rears were unable to feed

TDP leader attacked; accused arrested

PNS NARASARAOPET

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader Venna Bala Koti Reddy was attacked by unidentified miscreants when he was on his morning walk Chittipotunivaripalem village in Rompicherla mandal in which he suffered grievous

Chittipotunivaripalem mandal TDP president Bala Koti Reddy was on his morning walk on the Alava- Chitti Petlurivaripalem road at the village. Some unidentified persons stabbed him indiscriminately in which he suffered injuries. The profusely bleeding Bala Koti Reddy was shifted to the government hospital in Narasaraopet. The followers of Bala Koti Reddy said that the miscreants stabbed him and hoping that he died they fled the scene.

However, the seriously injured Koti Reddy was undergoing treatment in the GGH. The condition of Koti Reddy is said to be stable. TDP leaders that Rompicharla MPP's husband Gaddem Venkata Rao was behind the attack. The police registered a case and began an investiga-



tion. No one has been arrested so far in connection with the case, police said.

TDP state president K Atchannaidu condemned the attack on TDP leader Bala Koti Reddy. He alleged that Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy did not give up his faction-minded politics. The YSRCP activists were behaving like beasts and they were committing atrocities and attacks on the TDP activists including women cadre.

Meanwhie, the police arrested the culprit who allegedly made a bid on the life of TDP leader Balakoti Reddy. The murder attempt on TDP leader Balakoti Reddy took an interesting turn as the police



claimed that the accused is also a TDP leader.

Talking to the media, DSP Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy said that those who tried to kill TDP leader Balakoti Reddy are also TDP activists. The DSP said that personnel hostility led to the attack on him.

The DSP said that the accused Venkateswara Reddy, who was arrested today, belongs to the same village and he is also a TDP leader. Venkateswara Reddy grew a grudge against Balakoti Reddy on the reasons that the farmer was not being given impor-tance in the party because of Balakoti Reddy.

Accused Venkateswara Reddy was also angry at Balakotireddy for not inviting him to the party programmes. At around 7:30 am on Tuesday, victim Balakoti Reddy and accused Venkateswara Reddy happened to see each other when they were on a morning They started abusing each

other on political issues. Irate this, accused Venkateswara Reddy attacked Balakoti Reddy with a stick and later he hit him with a stone on the head. The victim was taken to an RMP doctor at the village and later he was shifted to a private hospital in Narasaraopet. On the com-

Narsi Ředdy, the Rompicherla

police registered a case under

section IPC 307 against

Venkateswara Reddy.



allegations: MLA Vishnu

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Vijayawada Central MLA Malladi Vishnu has said that the Opposition parties were not ready to face the YSRCP politically, but making false allegations against the State government.

MLA Vishnu conducted 'Gadapa Gadapaku Mana Prabhutvam' at Bhavajipeta, Lankavari street, Repallevari street, Durgapuram, and other areas of the 27th division of the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation under ward sachivalayam 197 on Tuesday. He went on a door-to-door campaign and distributed pamphlets to the people and explained the State govern-

Vishnu congratulated Pallavi for explaining 60 social issues within 60 minutes. He held a discussion with Pallavi and

Prakasam Police trace

expressed happiness over her The MLA said that Chief

Minister Jagan fulfilled 85 percent of his election assurances within three years. He took petitions from the people and were solving them on a priority basis. The State government allotted Rs.20 lakh per sachivalayam to take up development activities and as per the orders, Vijayawada Central constituency would get Rs.19.20 crore, he said. He thanked the Chief Minister for allotting Rs.2 crore for the development of his constituency.
Vijayawada Municipal

Corporation Executive Engineer Srinivas, zonal com-Ramakrishna, Dr.Ramakoteswara Rao, YSRCP leaders and others were



Players selected for Youth Basketball Championship

PNS VIJAYAWADA

NTR District Sports Authority (DSA) basketball players have been selected for the national level 3 and Youth Basketball Championship, which will be organised by HCL Foundation at Nagpur in Madhya Pradesh from July 20 to 23.

DSA basketball players Sk Majid Umme Hafsa, Syed Sana, B Vyahruthi, and L Poorna Hasitha will participate in the Nagpur Youth Basketball tournament. These players were trained at Indira Gandhi Municipal Corporation Stadium in Vijayawada by coach S Santosh Kumar.

According to DSA chief coach SA Azeez, these players were selected based on their performance in the tournament conducted in Chennai in June. He congratulated the players and coach Santosh

Mani Sravani wins gold in powerlifting

N Mani Sravani, studying BSc at PB Siddhartha Science and Arts College in Vijayawada, won a gold medal in the All-India Power Lifting championship, held at Kotla Vijayabhaskar Reddy Stadium in Indoor Hyderabad from July 5 to 10. She participated in the 84+ kg sub-junior category and lift-ed 392.5 kg to bag the gold

Siddhartha Academy secretary P Lakshmana Rao, PB Siddhartha College Principal Dr. M Ramesh, director V Baburao and others congratulated Mani Sravani at a function held on the college premises on Tuesday.

NIA searches house of **Maoist leader's widow**

PNS ONGOLE

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) officials conducted searches in the house of Shirisha, wife of departed top Maoist leader Akkiraju Hara Gopal alias Rama Krishna, at Alakurapadu village in Tangutur mandal on Tuesday.

The officials conducted the searches in the presence of Tahsildar. The officials broke open the door of the house Shirisha who was not at home at the time. She was in Vijayawada for medical treatment when the NIA officials went there.

A large number of policemen were deployed in the village to assist the NIA officials. The villagers panicked at seeing a large number of police at once in the village. The NIA officials did not speak to the



media nor were allowed into the premises. The police cordoned off the colony in view of the searches.

Meanwhile, Virasam leader Kalyan Rao objected to the NIA officials breaking open the doors when Shirisha was not at home. The NIA officials broke open the doors and entered the house in the presence of Tahsildar Chiranjeevi.

According to sources, the NIA officials searched every inch of the house thoroughly and seized some books and CDs. Kalyana Rao told the media that the NIA conducted searches as part of a conspiracy against them.

AISF officebearers elected

PNS VIJAYAWADA

All India Students Federation (AISF) Vijayawada city's new office-bearers were unanimously elected at a meeting held at Dasari Bhavan in Vijayawada on Tuesday.

Sivaram is the new city president and Sai Kumar was elected as secretary. Rahul is vice-president. Chandu and Bunni are secretariat members while Siva Praveen. Naveen. Devendra, Sudheer and Madhu were elected to the

city committee. Former corporator G Koteswara Rao, who attended the meeting, said that students should organise agitations against the problems facing the education sector.

The State government is not solving the problems, but encouraging corporate and private schools, he

1,358 lost mobile phones

The Prakasam district police have traced 1,358 lost mobile phones and handed over the owners.

Superintendent of police Malika Garg here on Tuesday personally handed over 218 cell phones, recovered using advanced technology, to the concerned victims at the District Police Office.

Contemplating that people face many problems by losing their mobile phones due to various reasons and difficulties in giving complaints in Police stations, the district SP outlined a new proforma in every PS to receive such complaints immediately and designed a dedicated SOP to trace the lost/missing mobile phones. Due to this initiative taken by the SP, till now 1,358 mobiles have been



identified and handed out to the victims in various police stations across the district with the smart use of technology.

Speaking on this occasion, the SP said that a special technical crew was set up in the IT Core wing to effectively trace the missing mobiles and 218 mobiles have been recovered within two weeks through a special mobile tracing drive. The SP informed that 3322 missing mobile phone complaints have been received across the district and so far 1358 mobile phones worth around Rs.1,35,80,000 had been identified and given to the victims and the remaining

phones would also be traced

Collector asks people to adhere to ban on single-use plastic

PNS ■ ONGOLE

District Collector AS Dinesh Kumar appealed to the people not to use single-use plastic products as they are detrimental to the environment and ecosystem.

The Collector called upon people not to use single-use plastic covers and other such products at a programme here on Tuesday. He said that the government has imposed a ban on the manufacture, supply and consumption of singleuse plastic from July 1.

He asked people to cooper-

ate by not using those items. The Collector said that the stocks of single-use plastic products in the stores should be handed over to the secretariats. He directed the officials to take action in this direction.

DRO Puli Srinivasulu,

Mayor Gangada Sujatha, SC Welfare and Empowerment Officer Lakshma Naik, ZP CEO. Jali Reddy, DRDA PD. Babu Rao, Fisheries JD Chandrasekhar Reddy, BC Welfare Officer Anjala and Joint Director of Agriculture Department Srinivasa Rao were among those who were



Later the Collector inspected the arrangements being made for the construction of additional classrooms in the

municipal school premises in Ramanagar here. The officials explained to the Collector about the development works carried out during the first

phase of the Nadu-Nedu programme in the school. The Collector went round the school and saw all the rooms.

The Collector directed the officials to formulate plans to construct 15 classrooms under the G+2 model. He instructed them not to compromise in maintaining quality in the construction. Later the Collector also inspected the Balasadan building and inquired about the services being provided to

the children. The headmistress of Balasadan apprised the Collector that there are 70

orphaned children in Balasadan. The Collector made some suggestions and advice to the headmistress. DEO Vijay Bhaskar, Deputy DEO Anita Roja Rani, ICDS PD Danalakshmi and municipal engineer Malyadi were among those who accompanied the Collector.

Earlier, participating in a programme, the Collector said that 523 new ration cards were issued to eligible families. He said that under the various schemes Rs 2.65 crore was disbursed to 3177 eligible people today as they could not get the benefit previously.

WEDNESDAY LJULY 20, 2022

Gyanvapi mosque case: Next hearing tomorrow

he district court here fixed for July 21 the hearing into the Gyanvapi mosque-Shringar Gauri temple case as it heard one of the plaintiffs on Tuesday. Lawyer Man Bahadur Singh represented litigant Rakhi Singh in the court and claimed that the Muslim side is misleading and confusing the court on the Places of Worship Act and the Waqf Act. He said in the next hearing, their argument will be completed after which the Anjuman

Intezamia will present its arguments. Rakhi Singh and others had filed a petition seeking permission for daily worship of Hindu deities whose idols are located on an outer wall of the mosque but the Muslim side had urged the court to dismiss the case. Her lawyer Shivam Gaur contested the stand of the Muslim side that the case is not maintainable, saying "it is completely wrong". "The Places of Worship Act, Waqf Act and Kashi Vishwanath Act, which the Muslim side has repeatedly cited, are not applicable in my case," the lawyer said



12,611 enemy properties left behind by Pakistani, Chinese citizens

total 12,611 establishments, called enemy properties, were left behind by people who Ahave taken citizenship of Pakistan and China, the Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday.

Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Kumar Misha said out of the 12,611 properties, 12,485 were related to Pakistani nationals and 126 to Chinese citizens. Enemy properties are those left behind by the people who took citizenship of Pakistan and China after leaving India

during the partition and after the 1962 war. The enemy properties are vested with the Custodian of Enemy Property for India (CEPI), an authority created under the Enemy Property Act 1968. The highest number of enemy properties were found in Uttar Pradesh (6,255 properties), followed by West Bengal (4,088 properties), Delhi (659), Goa (295), Maharashtra (208), Telangana (158), Gujarat (151), Tripura (105), Bihar (94), Madhya Pradesh (94), Chhattisgarh (78) and Haryana (71).



ED files charge sheet against six Bangladeshis in money laundering case

he Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday said it has filed a charge sheet in a special court in West Bengal under the anti-money laundering law against six Bangladeshi nationals for allegedly indulging in offences of "cross-border implication". The prosecution complaint was filed by the federal probe agency

before the special court under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in Kolkata on July 11 and the court has taken cognisance of the charge sheet, the ED said in a statement. Those named in the charge sheet include Proshanta Kumar Halder alias Shib Shankar Halder, Imam Hossain alias Imon Halder, Amana Sultana alias Sharmee Halder, Swapan Maitra alias Swapan Kumar Mistry, Uttam Kumar Mistry alias Uttam Maitra and Pranesh Kumar Halder. They have been charged with offences of cross-border implication," it said.



Very serious crisis in Sri Lanka, worry about spillover: EAM

PNS NEW DELHI

Sri Lanka is facing "a very serious crisis" that makes India naturally worried, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar told an all-party meeting here on Tuesday and dismissed suggestions about such a situation arising in India.

Jaishankar, who made the

initial remarks, and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi were among the senior members of the government at the briefing, which was also attended by P Chidambaram and Manickam Tagore of the Congress, Nationalist Congress Party's (NCP) Sharad Pawar and T R Baalu and M M Abdulla of the DMK.

"The reason we took the initiative to request you all to join an all-party meeting was...this is a very serious crisis and what we are seeing in Sri Lanka is in many ways an unprecedented situation," Jaishankar said.

"It is a matter which pertains

to a very close neighbour and given the near proximity, we naturally worry about the consequences, the spillover it has

Jaishankar also said there have seen some "misinformed comparisons" in the context of Sri Lanka wherein some people have asked whether "can such a situation happen in

for us," he added.

Thambidurai (AIADMK), Saugata Ray Conference), Sanjay Singh (Aam Aadmi Party), Keshava Rao (Telangana Rashtra Samithi), Ritesh Pandey (Bahujan Samaj Party), Vijayasai Reddy (YSR Congress) and Vaiko (MDMK) were among those who attended the meeting.

Sri Lanka is facing its worst economic crisis in seven decades, with a severe foreign exchange shortage hampering the import of essentials, including food, fuel and med-

The economic crisis has also sparked a political crisis in the island nation after a popular uprising against the government. Acting president Ranil Wickremesinghe has declared a state of emergency in the

Political parties from Tamil Nadu such as the DMK and the AIADMK had demanded at an all-party meet before the Parliament's monsoon session began that India should intervene in the crisis shrouding the

SC declines plea to reschedule judicial exams in three states

PNS SRINAGAR

A bench of Justices S K Kaul and M M Sundresh said the candidates will have to exercise their choice in appear-

ing for the examinations.

The top court said it would not be possible to ask all High Courts to send their examination calendars to avoid a clash of dates.

Filling up of judicial vacancies is of prime urgency. There appear to be some clashes of examination and earlier also some deferments took place and that too at the behest of a couple of students.

We cannot countenance a situation where exams are continuously deferred as they are different examinations and the petitioner(s) will have to take a choice where he/they want(s) to appear as otherwise, it causes grave prejudice to other candidates and to the examination process, the bench said while dismissing the

Six states yet to constitute UMTA, says Parl panel

more than four years, out of

12 states where Metro rail net-

work had either commenced

or was under construction, six

states were yet to constitute

UMTA, viz., NCT of Delhi, Karnataka, Gujarat, Madhya

Pradesh, Maharashtra (in r/o

Mumbai only) and Rajasthan,"

according to an official state-

The committee, therefore,

recommended the Union

Ministry of Housing and

Urban Affairs to "take up and

encourage setting up of UMTA

in the states without any fur-

ther delay", it said.

ment.

PNS NEW DELHI

Despite a lapse of more than four years, six of the 12 states where Metro rail networks are either operational or under construction were yet to constitute Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority (UMTA) as a statutory body, according to a Parliamentary panel report tabled in Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

These six states are --National Capital Territory of Delhi, Karnataka, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra (in Mumbai only) and Rajasthan, as per the 13th report (17th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Housing and Urban Affairs (2021-22) on the subject, 'Implementation of Metro Rail 'Implementation of Metro Rail Projects - An Appraisal'.

As per Metro Rail Policy, 2017, state governments are required to constitute UMTA as a statutory body for preparation of a comprehensive mobility plan for the city.

"Noting the capital intensive nature of metro projects, the Committee recommended "The committee, however, adoption of less capital intenfound that despite a lapse of sive MetroLite and MetroNeo

networks in smaller cities with low ridership, and as feeder to high capacity metro systems," the statement said.

Noting that currently, metro rail projects are being governed by three central acts, the committee felt the need for a single and comprehensive legislation, as many metro projects are under planning, development and operating phases in different cities under different models viz. exclusive ownership of state governments, JV (joint venture) with central government, PPP (public private partnership) basis, private ownership, etc. and many more cities are expected to take up the different kinds of metro projects- MRTS, LRTS MetroLite, MetroNeo, etc., it

further said. The panel also said barring Delhi Metro and Mumbai's Line 1, many operational metros vis. Bengaluru Metro, Hyderabad Metro, Lucknow Metro, Chennai Metro, Kolkata Metro and Kochi Metro, had low ridership leading to delay

Centre closely following Covid-19 trajectory in India and the world: MoS

PNS NEW DELHI

public health implications, the Union health ministry is closely following the Covid trajectory globally and in the country, the Rajya Sabha was informed on Tuesday.

Funding support has been provided to states and Union territories (UTs) for health system strengthening to meet any exigency due to resurgence of cases in the

country through

National Health

Mission, State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), COVID-19 Emergency Response and Preparedness packages, and PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission, Minister of State for

said in a written reply. She was responding to a question on whether the government foresees any new wave or variant of coronavirus in the

Health Bharati Pravin Pawar

coming future. "Given the emergence of variants of COVID-19 virus with variable transmissibility

and other public health implications, the Union Ministry of Given the emergence of Health is closely following COVID-19 variants with vari- COVID-19 trajectory globally various expert committees, the minister underlined.

In addition, the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) of laboratories is taking whole genome sequencing of samples for detection of

mutant variants of the virus, she said. The health ministry provides requisite support states/UTs enhance preparedness and response capacities against the deadly infec-

tion. On the progress achieved in vaccinating the complete population of India, Pawar said the National Vaccination Programme is targeted towards vaccinating all those above 12 years of age.

Notably, the cumulative COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in the country has crossed 200 crore, covering 98 per cent of the eligible populabeen fully vaccinated.

Kerala in-flight protest case: Cong leader Sabarinadhan arrested

PNS THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The ongoing political row in Kerala over the in-flight protest staged by Youth Congress activists against Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan took a drapolice probing the case arresting Congress leader K S Sabarinadhan, accusing him of hatching a conspiracy behind

Alleging "high-level con-spiracy" behind the police nove, the Congress alleged that information about the arrest of Sabarinadhan was first revealed in a court here when it was considering his anticipatory bail plea. Police, however, claimed

The Indore district administra-

tion has sealed a private hos-

pital which was operating

without registration near here

and also filed a complaint

against its director, an official

tal in Simrol town, about 30



that Sabarinadhan was summoned by the police probing the case at Valiyathura police station here in the morning for questioning and his arrest was recorded at 10.50 am.

An ex-MLA and son of late leader Karthikeyan, Sabarinadhan spoke to the media while being taken to the hospital for medical examination rejecting the

Hospital being run illegally in Indore

district sealed, FIR filed against director

During an inspection, it was

found that the application for registration of the hospital

was rejected long back by the Madhya Pradesh health

department due to incomplete

information. Despite this, the

km from Indore city.

police version regarding his arrest. He claimed that his arrest was recorded at 12.30 Condemning the arrest of

Sabarinadhan, who is also the state vice president of the Opposition in the State Assembly V D Satheesan said it was an "anti-democratic" action of the CPI(M)-led government. "It cannot be accepted," the Congress leader said.

"Sabarinadhan was arrested following a conspiracy at the highest level of the government. He has been charged with attempt to murder. He will be protected politically and legally," Satheesan told

during the inspection health

department personnel also

found medicines which had

expired. An FIR has been registered against the hospital director, DL Deora, and others

under relevant provisions of

the Madhya Pradesh Nursing

Home and Hospital Establishments (Registration

and Licensing) Act, 1973, and

the Indian Penal Code (IPC),

'Har Ghar Tiranga' programme: 80 lakh flags

PNS GUWAHATI

The Assam government has decided to hoist 80 lakh national flags across the state of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' programme, an official release said on Tuesday.

The state Cultural Affairs Department has started preparations for the successful implementation of the initiative, it said.

As part of the Union Ministry of Culture's events under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to mark 75 years of the country's Independence, Assam has set a target to cover 80 lakh rural and urban households, state-run institutes, private entities, schools and commercial establishments, the release said.

The Panchayat and Rural Development Department has engaged self-help groups for production of national flags. It will also set up stalls at district and village levels so that people can purchase tricolours at their nearest locations, it said.

The state government will also take up extensive awareness activities to ensure mass participation of people in the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' programme.

Denying maintenance to estranged wife, child the worst offence: HC sure of seeing the agony of the

Denying maintenance to an be dictated by the egoistic estranged wife and child is the propensity to possibly teach humanitarian perspective, the Delhi High Court has said.

Justice Asha Menon observed that husbands forcing wives to file execution petitions in order to delay payment is a sad truth and it behoves no husband or a father to deny a fair standard of living for a wife who is a homemaker and their

child of tender age . The judge made

the remarks while dismissing with costs of Rs 20,000 a challenge by the peti-tioner's husband to the family court's order direct-

ing him to pay interim monthly maintenance of Rs 20,000 to his wife and child.

The petitioner assailed the family court's order on the ground that his expenditure was around Rs 25,000 on a salary of Rs 28,000 and was therefore willing to pay Rs 4,000 per month to the wife.

The court noted that the intentions of an estranged husband are to depress his income for the sadistic plea-

dependent wife, which may line with his dictates. The court thus called for a

change in the attitude and said that bitterness in the litigation serves nobody's pur-To deny maintenance to an estranged wife and child is the

worst offence, even from a humanitarian perspective. Yet, it is a sad truth that husbands force their wives to file execu-

tion petitions to delay payments, even after a court of law has determined her entitlement, albeit, even if as

an interim measure, the court said in its order dated July 18.

The malafide intentions of an estranged husband is to depress his income as much as possible, for sadistic pleasure, of seeing the agony of someone, who has no choice, but to be dependent on him, maybe dictated by egoistic propensity to also possibly teach his wife a lesson for not falling in line with whatever be his dictates.

medical facility was treating The official said the illegal and admitting patients and healthcare facility was being tion in the country with the first also operating a pathology lab dose and 90 per cent have run as a multi-specialty hospiin its premises, he said. According to the official,

PNS ■ INDORE

said on Tuesday.

TESTING AGENCY SAYS GIRL'S CLAIM 'FICTITIOUS' NEET: Protest turns violent in Kerala

PNS KOLLAM/NEW DELHI

The protest against NEET frisking personnel asking girl students to remove their innerwear turned violent in southern Kerala on Tuesday while the National Testing Agency (NTA) asserted that the allegation made by her in a complaint to police

is fictitious. While the Kerala government took up the issue with the Centre seeking strong action against the agency which allegedly forced students to do it, Kerala Women's Commission registered a case based on complaints it received. The state police has already registered a

The agency hired by NTA, in



District, for purposes including carrying out frisking, allegedly asked the girl students to remove their innerwear. A 17-year old girl has lodged a formal complaint with police and several other girl students have made similar allegations, though they have not separately filed com-

A senior NTA official said: No complaint or representation has been received by us. On basis of claims in media reports, an immediate report was sought from the centre superintendent and observer. They have informed that no such incident took place and the complaint is fictitious and has been filed with wrong intentions."

The NEET dress code does not permit any such activity as alleged by the parent of the candidate. The code provides for ensuring sanctity and fairness of exam while observing sensitivity towards gender, culture and religion during frisking of candidates, the NTA official added. Kerala Higher Education

Minister R Bindu, in a letter to Union Education Minister Dharmendra expressed "dismay and shock" at the news of "naked assault on the dignity and honour of the girl students. Bindu sought action to pre-

vent future occurrences of a similar nature and sought the Union Minister's intervention in the matter. Protests that began on July 18 intensified on Tuesday and a

section of agitators, who took out protest marches, vandalised a private education institution at Âyur in Kollam District, where the girl was allegedly asked to remove her innerwear before writing the National Eligibility cum Entrance test.

R-Day: Steps to seat 1 lakh visitors

he added.

The government has planned to make seating arrangements for around one lakh people for the Republic Day celebrations on the newly developed Rajpath, with CPWD floating a Rs 112-crore tender to hire bleachers for such functions for five years, official sources said on Tuesday.

They said that a stepped seating arrangement will be provided to visitors to allow better view of the Republic Day Parade. Each row of seat will have sufficient level difference to ensure good visibility. Bleachers or tier stands are raised and tiered rows of benches found at stadiums and other events.

As COVID-19 situation is



under control in the national the lawns on either side of capital, the Central Public Rajpath for seating purpose during every Republic Day. Works Department (CPWD) is making such arrangements It says the arrangement is very old and has been used which were in place before the

since or before 1996. This pandemic. According to the CPWD's damages the grass of the lawn, while the fixing and removing tender document, currently, the angle iron and MS (mild steel) channel tiered stands

take one to two months.

To overcome this, 33,200 with bucket seats are placed on bleachers were purchased last

year for the 2022 Republic Day celebrations, the document states. This year, we are making

seating arrangements for one lakh visitors and hence, we have floated a tender worth over Rs 112 crore to hire 31,000 bleachers," a source told PTI.

The bid document states that bleachers/chairs erected for the Republic Day parade will be shifted for the beating retreat ceremony immediately.

"After approval of samples of material to be used in the work, the contractor shall prepare a mock-up on the site of actual size as directed by engineer in-charge and architect. This mock-up shall include all components, i.e bleachers, chairs and railing.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Justice denied!

121 tribals rotted in prison for a crime they did not commit. Time for judicial reforms is now.

The acquittal of all 121 tribals in a five-year-old Naxal attack case in Dantewada is a sad commentary on policing and the justice system. A designated National Investigation Agency (NIA) court said on Friday, "No evidence or statements recorded by the prosecution was able to establish that the accused were members of the Naxal wing and were involved in the crime. No arms or ammunition seized by the police were proved to be found from the accused." Yet, the unfortunate 121 had to rot in jail for five years; 13 of them will remain behind bars on other charges. Naxals, also called Maoists, on April 24, 2017, attacked the 74th battalion of the Central Police Reserve Force (CRPF), killing 25 troopers, including an inspector-rank officer.

Chhattisgarh Police's shoddy investigation proved to be painful for the accused but also for the fallen CRPF personnel who were denied justice.

Imagine spending five years in some dingy hole for having done nothing; over a hundred people had to undergo that ordeal. Just because a bunch of cops didn't do their jobs properly. And even if they were incompetent or worse, why did it take over five years to get the accused out of prison? Couldn't they be bailed out earlier? The plight of the accused tribals has underlined, for the nth time, the gulf between political rhetoric and ground reality.

Tribals, like Dalits and some other communities, are the people for whom our political masters' hearts bleed all the time—or so they claim. No speech is complete without the expression of concern for these groups. The reason Draupadi Murmu has been chosen as a candidate of the ruling National Democratic Alliance for the Presidential election is that she is tribal. This is not to suggest that she doesn't deserve to become the head of the state; she has been a senior leader and served as governor of Jharkhand. Hers is an inspirational story, but unfortunately, she has been chosen, and even some non-NDA parties are supporting her, because of her tribal credentials.

Tokenism plays a role in every democracy, but when this role becomes excessive, statecraft gets vitiated and large sections of society suffer. The political class keeps increasing its emphasis on identity politics and symbolism (like appointing people based on their caste and community). A concomitant development is less interest in governance. The poorest of the poor suffer the most because of the lost focus on governance. Like the 121 tribals. "Five years of their lives were wasted behind bars and they were brought to court hearings only twice during the trial when it is mandatory to produce the accused in person in every hearing. Bail was denied in the designated NIA court at the district level as well as the high court," Bela Bhatia, a human rights activist and one of the defense lawyers in the case, told the media. Indeed it is about time we initiate comprehensive police and judicial reforms.



A Heinz ketchup bottle sign, that was part of Heinz scoreboard, is removed from the newly named Acrisure Stadium AP

Legislators grow up please!

The conduct of Kerala legislators leave much to be desired. They need to behave in the house.

ignity, decency, and decorum are the basic elements of proceedings in parliament as well as legislatures, the temples of democracy. How the lawmakers behave and what they speak in the Houses are the benchmarks of the country's culture. If this is taken in its true spirit, the behavior of the members of the Kerala Legislative Assembly lies in a quagmire. Viewers were alarmed and frightened when they saw the hooliganism by elected members vandalizing the Speaker's podium and destroying costly equipment like computer and television screens inside the House.

The video of a minister in the present government demolishing and pulling down the Speaker's chair went viral as the then Opposition tried to block the then finance minister K M Mani from presenting the budget. The Government had to cut a sorry figure when even the Supreme Court dismissed its petition to withdraw the criminal complaint filed by the legislature secretariat against the members who perpetrated the ruckus inside



the House. If one took recourse to the view that the unfortunate events dating back to 2015 were a oncein-a- lifetime incident, the recent events that took place in the House prove that the members are out not to remove the blot on the face of democracy. The sights of Opposition and Treasury benches raising slogans against each other may be a unique event in other States but not in Kerala. It has become a regular feature as the ruling CPI(M) and Congress fight it out in the House as part of political one-upmanship. Last week saw yet another shocking event as a CPI(M) member belittled and ridiculed K K Rema, an opposition MLA. "You have become a widow because of

fate. You alone are responsible for it," said M M Mani while speaking in the House. The language of Mani, a former minister, pained many

people as Rema's husband T P Chandrasekharan, was a CPI (M) leader who was murdered in a gruesome manner by his party leaders. When CPI leader Annie Raja bemoaned the quality of Mani's words, he turned against her and used invectives against her. Political parties that were at the forefront to challenge the Lok Sabha Speaker's decision to categorize certain words as unparliamentary have a responsibility to set a trend in parliamentary discourse. The Congress and the CPI (M), the saviors and guardians of secularism should show the world that they are serious in their opposition to BJP's Hindutva politics. Otherwise, it will end up as Gusthi in Kerala and Dosthi in Delhi. It does not synch well.

Indian democracy: work in progress?



The British democracy shows maturity in the testing times while we in India are still amateurish in our approach.

oris Johnson's confessed hero, Winston Churchill, once said, a lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to get its pants on, and it worked well with the blustering buffoonish act of Boris, till the sheer quantum of lies in the age-of-rage imploded the 'BoJo' party! Knives didn't come out from the Labour benches, but in a typically British

way of democracy as Churchill had forewarned, 'The opposition occupies the benches in front of you, but the enemy sits behind you. BoJo was ousted by his party colleagues. Britain will soon have its fourth Prime Minister in a row, from the same political party i.e., Conservatives in power since 2010! Unlike India, where leadership cults ensure that the electorate elects 'leaders' (who outsize parties), in more mature democracies like Britain, the electorate elect parties. In 2016, after six years of continued Prime Ministership (including winning the first Conservative majority since 1992), David Cameron left 10 Downing Street owning to the non-legally binding result of Brexit at the age of 49 – his famous last words at retiring from active politics, 'I was once the future! Cameron's successor and Brexit position rival, Theresa May, soon took over. There was no overt bitterness

between the two and certainly no manipulation of intra-party intrigues by the outgoing Cameron – the Conservatives stayed put, and the intra-party rivals moved on. Soon the hot potato of Brexit proved too much for Theresa May too, as she found herself facing no-confidence motions from her party colleagues. By May 2019, May announced, 'it is now clear to me that it is in the best interests of the country for a new Prime Minister to lead that effort, and in a move that may seem shocking in the Indian context, May relegated herself to the role of a 'backbench' IP to 'devote her full time to her constituency of Maidenhead. May paved the way for her party's Brexit rival, the posh Etonian with laddish charms, Boris Johnson. But for occasional disagreements



our political leaders are

superhumanly deified, they remain infallible and essential-

ly, forever.

Whenever political parties implode (as they did recently with the BoJo dispensation), there is no talk of the creation of a new party by disgruntled elements, no sheepherding of Parliamentarians in a resort or anti-defection clauses. The party (in this case, Conservatives) is visibly over and above the individuals who lead the same, and the DNA of internal democracy ensures the criticality of accountability and responsibility, on all leaders - no one is beyond questioning.

The same seamless shift in dership took place in the opposition Labour ranks with the exit of Jeremy Corbyn and the subsequent ascendancy of a rival from within, Keir Starmer. Idle talk of 'dis-



INDIA SHARES SO MUCH IN COMMON WITH **BRITAIN WITH ITS** WESTMINSTER STYLE OF DEMOCRACY, AND YET, SO MUCH DIFFERENCE.

ciplined/loyal soldier of the party' or vacuous concepts like 'high-command', simply does not exist. Boris Johnson's resignation speech said it all, the herd is powerful and when the herd moves, it moves and my friends in politics no one is remotely indispensable, and our brilliant and Darwinian system will produce another leader equally committed to taking this country forward, and so the political curtains come down on the once-indefatigable, BoJo, at just 58!

Now, in what might seem like a dangerously divided house to the Indian political sensibilities, there are over ten serious contenders to Conservative leadership, and none of them pertain to the previous leaders like May and Cameron. The diversity of their individual positions on issues like Brexit, tax and spending, culture wars, NHS, etc., is staggeringly different. No wild attributions of unnecessary extremities like 'antinational' are at play.

Even for a traditionalist party like the Conservatives, the contender's list is composed of diversities of ethnicities, religions, and colors that truly depict the multiculturality of Britain, which was once prided by democracies like ours and was starkly

missing in democracies like

Britain. Times have changed. In such moments of precarious health and uncertainty within the Conservative ranks, the principal opposition party i.e., Labour, is only making perfunctory noises of 'Labour is ready for government', but unlike our instinct of political machinations and manipulations, no efforts to 'win' over elected members towards their ranks, is initiated. British citizenry will simply not accept such selfish 'ratting' of individuals, owing to the change of political fortunes for political parties.

The ensuing British political drama is also a lesson in the limits of populism and verbiage that is directed solely at the 'past' and 'others', as the restless British citizenry demands hard results and promised transformation. The distraction of real issues, as perfected by the gift of the gab leaders like Boris Johnson was exposed by his party and the people, and not so much by the opposition ranks. India shares so much in common with Britain with its Westminster style of democracy, and yet, so

> (The author is former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Island and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HUMILIATION FOR GIRL STUDENTS

Sir — Examination centers are like temples as the place decides the future of students appearing for the examination. Proper checking and scrutiny are done in these centers before entering the hall and during the examination as well. Both male and female students are checked and counter-checked to prevent unethical practices, which include copying as well. In the Thiruvananthapuram examination center girl students appearing for the NEET examination were subjected to scrutiny, which included removing their inner wear to complete the formalities.

It is indeed a violation of human rights and needs to be taken seriously with a detailed inquiry. It is most unfortunate and not heard of in any civilized society. Such incidents should not happen in the future. The morale of the girl students as their confidence level must have nose-dived just before the exam not to speak of the humiliation they must have endured. It is a humiliation that will not be tolerated by girl students and their parents.

C.K. Subramaniam | Mumbai

FOUR-DAY WEEK IS NOT PRACTICAL

Sir — The idea of a four-day work week has been going on for some time now across the globe. The debate first started in Germany when IG Metall, Europe's largest trade union, envisaged this concept in 2020. Germany has the lowest rate of working hours in a week

Though the four-day work week concept has become the latest buzz across the world, especially after the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, with employees being joyous about spending an extra day on leisure activities and recovering from the weekly work stress, this theory is virtually impossible, especially in a big country like India where the labor class forms a huge chunk, and who contribute towards better and increased productivity at the workplace.

Also in manufacturing sectors, which need to be operated round-the-clock, the concept of a four-day work week is impractical. Implementing a four-day work week

Suffering from 'Bulldozer Raj'



demolition drive was conducted by the Khargone district administration after Madhya Pradesh's home minister Narottam Mishra said, "Jis ghar se patthar nikle hain, unko hi pattharon ka dher banayenge (The very houses used for stone pelting will be reduced to piles of stone). Following this, the district administration went on a demolition spree and razed down at least 16 houses and over 2 dozen shops citing 'illegal encroachment'. The BJP, meanwhile, projected it as an 'action against rioters'. "My name is Haseena and my house was bulldozed by the government... they have destroyed everything," said Haseena Fakru, whose house, which was built under the flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Aawas Yojana (PMAY) of the central government, was demolished in Khargone, MP.

Haseena's house was razed down a day after communal clashes broke out in the region on 10 April. "After our house was demolished,

is not all that easy as it requires the right sup-

Sir — The defection by elected members

has become a routine affair nowadays

throughout our country, which is indi-

rectly insulting the voters' decision and

damaging the tenets of democracy.

Therefore it is the need of the hour to

apply the anti-defection law strictly,

which has been amended in past.

Moreover, if an elected member defects

he should be disqualified immediately

from the seat and be banned from con-

testing the election for at least TWO

TERMS. Such practice will save the vot-

port, technology, and workplace culture.

DEFECTIONS INSULT VOTERS

problems... We don't have a house. We have rented a small 8x8 ft room and eight people live in it. We can't afford a bigger place, and we can't pay a monthly rent of ₹3,000-4,000,".

However, for the families who suffered because of the demolitions - dubbed irrational by many - this has only added to the struggles of daily life. It s a sad commentary on the administrative heft at display in Jahangirpuri. There may be encroachers in the area, but there exists a system to deal with such encroachments. Brazen action, that too on sensitive religious occasions, invites communal conflagration. It is correct that such religious celebrations, not heard or seen in the past, have suddenly emerged to assert majoritarianism. All law-abiding Muslims are our brothers and they have the right to live in this country as citizens.

Bulldozing houses of those who were allegedly involved in the riots amount to settling scores for reasons purely extraneous and are in no way related to those of illegal structures. The due course of law must be followed. It is cruel, revengeful, and most unbecoming of an elected government. Such thoughtless and hasty deeds lead to chaos in society. A civilized democratic society can ill afford such ugly incidents.

Divya Rana I Ujjain

ers' rights and the democratic value.

S.M.Arif Hussain | Hyderabad Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai **PRESIDENT OF NEW INDIA**

Sir — The candidature of Draupadi Murmu as the presidential candidate is laudable one. Wow, this is India, where we embrace and respect every community. Representation of an Adivasi woman to India which is in its Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav a splendid 75 years of independence is a remarkable achievement. Her win would indicate the feeling of the new vibrant India. The nation welcomes her to the grand chair as the first citizen of this nation.

> Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

In addition to the conventional security challenges, there are new frontiers as well which need to be addressed.



—Narendra Modi



He has created poverty, inequality and insecurity. That is Boris Johnson's

British MP —Jeremy Corbyn

Another blow to the Indian Film Music Industry Our dear Bhup uncle the legendary singer Bhupinder

Singh is no more! May God bless his soul with eternal peace

-Dr. Jaspinder Narula

We don't let the pressures of the game change us, we change the game instead.



Indian Cricketer

Modi government has betrayed India's army and India's security.In 20 years, India's army will be

halved...no money for army

Rajya Sabha MP

-Sanjay Singh, AAP

FIRST COLUMN

PERILS OF CHILDREN ON RAILWAY PLATFORM

Children who lived off at rail platforms face harsh realities



he Covid-19 pandemic had left a telling impact on the street children, particularly those who lived off the railway platforms. The children are coming back to the railway platform after they had left following the shutdown of the train operations and excessive restrictions afterward for the entry and exit at the stations. The overall trend was echoed by Railway Children India (RCI), which works with street children and communities around stations, including running initiatives like funding the operation of toll-free, helpline booths for children. "The number of children being rescued is nowhere near to the pre-lockdown era (as of July 2021). From 500 children every month in pre-lockdown to not more than 100 or maximum of 120 a month (in July 2021) to 250 a month in December 2021," Navin Sellaraju, CEO, RCI, said, based on the experience at about 10 stations of Indian Railways.

Another NGO working in Central India explained that it saw a much lesser number of children being rescued since the Covid-19 struck. The trend of drop in the number of children surprises Sellaraju a bit, who knows that the root causes that were forcing children onto platforms or getting trafficked have not changed. "Rather, COVID-19 made the circumstances of those children more difficult. Most of the children that RCI rescued were from unemployed families, small farmers, and vegetable vendors," Sellaraju said.

Sellaraju reckons stringent screening at entry-exit points at large railway stations, higher restrictions, and a drop in running unreserved coaches (the railway only restarted operating these in 2022), which are easy to access for the children may have led to an overall drop in the numbers of children found on platforms in the concerned timeperiods. Other stakeholders feel many children have changed their mode of transport from trains to buses, and so have traffickers, who lure children into different cities. Also, traffickers are engaging in newer methods in the post-pandemic time.



A stakeholder from Salaam Balak Trust, a charity that works with street children, including children in contact with railways, explained, "Such children can be broadly grouped into those who lived around stations and came to stations for some time to earn their living; those who were lost while traveling in trains and those who used trains to escape difficult family situations, including poverty. With trains and stations closed for a good part of the year (2021), naturally, there were no new arrivals. However, those who stayed with families near stations stayed with their families; and the rescued kids who were there in our shelters stayed put in the shelters."

But almost all stakeholders agree that the pandemic-induced conditions have made the children more vulnerable to adversities, including trafficking. Even according to official numbers shared by the Railway Police Force (RPF), the children rescued from traffickers at railway stations saw an increase in 2021. About 492 children were rescued from trafficking in 2021, up from 181 in 2020, 361 in 2019,

The pandemic led to the death of parents, illnesses, and job losses, pushing families to poverty, and prompting an increase in child labor, said an International Labour Organisation (ILO) and UNICEF report of 2021, estimating that in early 2020, 160 million children (one in ten children globally) were involved in child labor. Stakeholders agree that there's a need for the social inclusion of such vulnerable children who are in contact with the railways at its stations or premises and those who are on the streets be provided with identity cards.

(The author is a journalist.)

Why not have a ministry of Religious affairs?



Indians' concept of religious tolerance does not necessarily involve the mixing of religious communities.

or quite some time, opinion makers from different quarters have been asking the Narendra Modi government to scrap the Ministry of Minority Affairs and replace it with a new Ministry of Religious affairs. There is a great deal of justification for such a demand. India is a growing international power, and the identity of India can be secured globally by presenting its culture and religion from a global perspective. The proposed Ministry of Religious affairs could be headed by a practicing spiritual leader to propagate the face of India's spiritual strength.

India has all along respected all religions, but major religious groups see little in common with Hinduism and want to live separately. A learned spiritual leader at the head of the proposed ministry could bridge this gap and integrate the communities together.

In the West, some people could argue that Hinduism is an old-styled religion with a huge baggage to reconcile with the contemporary world. Modernity, which emphasises the relegation of religion firmly to an individual's private life, is a challenging idea for any culture. In India, it faces a particularly unusual problem: the persistence of numerous traditional and religious practices means that religion and modernity have to cohabit here in a complex, plural, transient, and historically evolving relationship.
The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) has

already passed a resolution seeking an "immediate scrapping of both the Minority Commission and the Minority Affairs Ministry" as the "very idea" of these institutions "gives credence to a separatist

The resolution noted that "the Jehadis and Missionaries are not the persecuted but the persecutors," and "with the help of the Minority Commission, separate Ministry, they gather sympathy and carry out their anti-Hindu and anti-national activities." It said that the National Human Rights Commission is "more than enough to take care of the rights of all citizens of the country."

It contended that "the Minority Commission creates a false feeling that the Muslim and Christian communities are being persecuted," whereas "the reality is that it is they who are responsible for the persecution of not only Hindus but on other minority communities like the Sikhs and the Buddhists."

The main functions of the Ministry of Religious Affairs should be:

a) Extending overall co-operation in implementing development activities, providing grants, taking initiatives for resource mobilization, introducing online registration, and utmost use of ICT in religious affairs management;

b) Assisting research and publications in the field of religion, and providing cooperation in the management of charitable institutions:



IMPORTANT TO

RESPECT ALL

RELIGIONS TO

(The writer is a regular

columnist of The

Pioneer)

BE 'TRULY

INDIAN'

INDIANS SEE RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE AS A CENTRAL PART OF WHO THEY ARE AS A institutions; NATION. d) Conducting various programmes in the religious and edu-**ACROSS THE MAJOR** RELIGIOUS GROUPS, munal harmony; MOST PEOPLE SAY IT IS VERY

c) Arranging and participating in international conferences, seminars and dialogues on matters relating to religions and religious affairs and establishing connections and improving relations, and signing contracts, agreements, conventions with different countries and international organizations/

cational institutions for social development, conducting research and strengthening anti-terrorism campaigns, religious values, integrity, brotherhood, and com-

d) Providing grants-in-aid including reforms of different religious organisations and institutions, matters relating to moon sightings and celebration of important religious festivals; and supporting the destitute people for their rehabilitation with financial assistance.

More than 70 years after India became free from colonial rule, Indians generally feel their country has lived up to one of its post-Independence ideals: a society where followers of many religions can live and practice freely. India's massive population is diverse as well as devout. Not only do most of the world's Hindus, Jains and Sikhs live in India, but it also is home to one of the world's largest Muslim populations and to millions of Christians and Buddhists.

Indians see religious tolerance as a central part of who they are as a nation. Across the major religious groups, most people say it is very important to respect all religions to be "truly Indian." And tolerance is

Indians are united in the view that respecting other religions is a very important part of what it means to be a member of their own religious community.

These shared values are accompanied by a number of beliefs that cross religious lines. Not only do a majority of Hindus in India (77%) believe in karma, but an identical percentage of Muslims do, too. A third of Christians in India (32%) - together with 81% of Hindus - say they believe in the purifying power of the Ganges River, a central belief in Hinduism. In Northern India, 12% of Hindus and 10% of Sikhs, along with 37% of Muslims, identify with Sufism, a mystical tradition most closely associated with Islam. And the vast majority of Indians of all major religious backgrounds say that respecting elders is very important to their faith.

Yet, despite sharing certain values and religious beliefs - as well as living in the same country, under the same constitution - members of India's major religious communities often don't feel they have much in common with one another. The majority of Hindus see themselves as very different from Muslims (66%), and most Muslims return the sentiment, saying they are very different from Hindus (64%). There are a few exceptions: Two-thirds of Jains and about half of Sikhs say they have a lot in common with Hindus. But generally people in major religious communities see themselves as different from others.

Moreover, Indians generally stick to their own religious group when it comes to their friends. Hindus overwhelmingly say that

a religious as well as a civic value: most or all of their close friends are also Hindu. Of course, Hindus make up the majority of the population, and as a result of sheer numbers, may be more likely to interact with fellow Hindus than with people of other religions. But even among Sikhs and Jains, who each form a sliver of the national population, a large majority say their friends come mainly or entirely from their small reli-

gious community. Indians, then, simultaneously express enthusiasm for religious tolerance and a consistent preference for keeping their religious communities in segregated spheres - they live together separately. These two sentiments may seem paradoxical, but for many Indians, they are not. Indeed, many take both positions, saying it is important to be tolerant of others and expressing a desire to limit personal connections across religious lines. Indians who favor a religiously segregated society also overwhelmingly emphasize religious tolerance as a core value.

In other words, Indians' concept religious tolerance does not a essarily involve the mixing of religious communities. While people in some countries may aspire to create a "melting pot" of different religious identities, many Indians seem to prefer a country more like a patchwork fabric, with clear lines between groups. Most Hindus in India say being Hindu, and being able to speak Hindi are very important to be 'truly' Indian.

Against this backdrop, the time has come to scrap the Ministry of Minority of Affairs without any further delay and create a unifying Ministry of Religious affairs.

...THE CENTRAL DRUG STANDARDS CONTROL ORGANISATION, NEVER APPROVED THE 'PRECAUTIONARY DOSES' THAT PM MODI FLAGGED FOR ROLLOUT. —LAWYER AND POLITICAL ACTIVIST PRASHANT BHUSHAN





200 CRORE VACCINATIONS IN JUST ONE AND HALF YEARS. THIS REFLECTS THE WILL AND MIGHT OF NEW INDIA UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF PM NARENDRA MODI. —HOME MINISTER

Unplanned population growth will result in chaos

The government needs to weigh the pros and cons of population growth and choose the right path

rs the population a boon or a bane for India, and will we be able to convert its human resources to productive use? Experts say it could be a boon but only if the people are involved in regulating it.

The topic has come to focus as India will be the world's most populous country in 2023, surpassing China. According to the latest World Population Prospects report, it may go up to 1.429 billion next year when China's would be 1.426 billion.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres released the UN report on the world population day this week and said that by November 15, it would reach an eight billion global population mark. It could grow to 8.5 billion in 2030 and 10.4 billion in 2100,



(The writer is a senior

journalist. The views

expressed are personal.)

Those who support population growth believe that it would supply low-cost labour, a valuable resource for India. They say it is positive, resulting in higher incomes and wages and excellent export potential. India's population is young and multitalented, so it could be more productive.

Historically, it took many centuries for the global population to reach one billion. In 2011 it reached the seven billion mark and tripled between 1950 and 2020. (Source: UN DESA)

From 23 crore Indians in 1901, the population growth was slow until 1951. In the next five decades, it shot up three times. The 2001 population census recorded 1.02 billion (102 crore).

Globally, there are about

has a population of 1.4 billion, become a liability. And educahas 80 per cent Hindus. The BJP leaders are concerned about the declining population of Hindus and the increasing number of Muslims.

Those who oppose population rise argue that an accelerating trend means more people to feed and provide clean water, electricity, and adequate social services like education and healthcare. It also means a significant environmental

Secondly, India's economy was already showing signs of weakness before the Covid-19 crisis. A new report from the McKinsey Global Institute identifies a reform plan for the next 12 to 18 months. "If India does not create enough jobs and its workers are untrained,

tion and skill development will be the biggest enablers for reaping this dividend," the

Thirdly, 'demographic dividend' is a result of investment in quality education, healthcare, and employment generation, and how best we deal with aging, disease, and disability.

Fourthly, children have lost almost two years of education due to the pandemic. The gap needs to be addressed. There should be more budget allocation for health and education, as seen as lacking during the pandemic crisis.

India's efforts to curtail population growth began relatively early and were the first to launch a national family planning programme in 1952. And 1.2 billion Hindus. India, which its demographic dividend may since then, there have been

many attempts to contain the growing numbers. The "family planning" pro-

grammes became coercive and controversial in 1975 when Indira Gandhi declared a state of Emergency. In April 1976, the government adopted an "integrated" approach to family planning that incentivised contraception and sterilisation. Since then, the subject has been a no-no for politicians, and the family planning department has been renamed family welfare.

In his Independence Day address on August 15, 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi brought the issue to the national focus. He extolled the virtues of small families; he wanted the "uncontrolled growth" to be checked. According to BJP insiders, discussions are going

on to prepare a new population policy before the next general elections in 2024. Some BJP-ruled states like UP have already taken measures to regulate the population acceleration. Now is perhaps the time for formulating policies to contain it.

A national commission, set up by former prime minister AtalBihari Vajpayee in 2000, also recommended constituting population regulation laws.

Parliament has also been demanding regulation from time to time. Lawmakers from both the houses and from different parties have, till now,

oposed 35 Private Bills. The RSS, the parent organisation of the ruling BJP, has also advocated a uniform population policy. In his usual

the last Vijayadasami Day, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat said, "A population policy keeping in mind the next 50 years should be formulated, and it should be implemented uniformly for evervone."

The family planning budget is only a meager 4 per cent of the health budget, and India spends only 1.5 per cent on birth spacing methods. We need to invest more in the health and education

Analysts believe population growth can be a doubleedged sword, and the country needs to maximise its potential. The government needs to weigh the pros and cons of

population growth and choose the right path.Unplanned growth will address to the RSS workers on only result in chaos.

Around 1,000 passenger complaints received against Air India in 3 months

round 1,000 passenger complaints have been received against Air India during the Alast three months related to various issues, including refund of fares, overbooking of flights, and staff behaviour, Minister of State for Civil Aviation V K Singh said on Monday.The Tata Group on January 27 took control of Air India after winning the bid for the airline on October 8 last year."Ministry of Civil Aviation has been receiving grievances related to air transport, including Air India

on the various issues such as refund of fares, flight issues, staff behaviour. baggage issues, overbooking of flights, etc.," Singh said in his written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha. Around 1,000 such complaints were received against Air India during the last three months, he mentioned. Aviation regulator DGCA on June 14 said it imposed a fine of Rs 10 lakh on Air India for denying boarding to passengers holding valid tickets and thereafter not providing mandatory



RBI imposes curbs on 2 co-op banks; customers cannot withdraw funds

ustomers of Karnataka-based Sri Mallikarjuna Pattana Sahakari Bank Niyamita and Maharashtra-based Nashik Zilla Girna Sahakari Bank will not be able to withdraw funds from their accounts with the RBI imposing restrictions on the lenders The restrictions have been imposed on the two cooperative banks by the Reserve Bank of India in wake of their deteriorating financial positions

The restrictions on Sri Mallikarjuna Pattana Sahakari Bank Niyamita, Maski (Karnataka) and Nashik Zilla Girna Sahakari Bank Nashik (Maharashtra) will remain in force for six months, as per two statements issued by the central bank. In the case of Nashik Zilla Girna Sahakari Bank, the RBI said 99.87 per cent of the depositors are fully covered by the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) insurance scheme. Also, 99.53 per cent of the depositors of Sri Mallikariuna Pattana Sahakari Bank Nivamitaare are fully covered by the DICGC insurance scheme



Bank of Maharashtra shares gain after Q1 earnings

hares of Bank of Maharashtra gained 1.50 per cent on Tuesday after the firm reported a more than two-fold jump in net profit in the June quarter. The stock gained 1.50 per cent to settle at Rs 16.90 apiece on the BSE after a firm start in early trade. During the day, it went higher by 2.10 per cent to Rs 17.0n the NSE, it advanced 1.50 per cent to Rs 16.90. In volume terms, 9.05 lakh shares were traded on the BSE and 67.90 lakh shares on the NSE during the day.On

Monday, state-owned Bank of Maharashtra reported a more than two-fold jump in net profit to Rs 452 crore in the April-June quarter, helped by a healthy net interest income and improvement in asset quality The lender had reported a net profit of Rs 208 crore on a standalone basis in the year-ago guarter of the fiscal 2022. Net Interest Income (NII) rose by 20 per cent to Rs 1,686 crore as compared to Rs 1,406 crore in the first guarter of FY22. Net Interest Margin (NIM) improved to 3.28 per cent from 3.05 per cent



Rupee rises 6 paise to close at 79.92 against US dollar PNS MUMBAI

The rupee recovered from its all-time low of 80.05 to close 6 paise higher at 79.92 (pro-

visional) against the US dol-

lar on Tuesday, tracking its regional peers and a positive trend in domestic equities. At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened lower at 80.00 against the greenback and fell further to

an intra-day low of 80.05. The local unit recouped losses later and settled at 79.92 (provisional), registering a rise of 6 paise over its

previous close. On Monday, the rupee for the first time declined to the low level of 80 against the US dollar n intra-day spot trading before ending the session 16 paise lower at 79.98 amid a surge in crude oil prices and unrelenting foreign fund out-

The Indian rupee broke the level of 80 after many days' failed efforts by the dollar bulls amid higher crude oil prices.

Economy on course to achieve 8-8.5% growth based on Q1 data

Finance ministry on Tuesday said that the economy is on course to achieve projected 8-8.5 per cent growth based on high-frequency indicators for the first quarter of the current

The Economic Survey tabled in the Parliament on January 31, 2022 projected the real GDP during 2022-23 to grow

at 8.0-8.5 per cent.
"Since then, sustained growth momentum has been observed in several High Frequency Indicators (HFIs), indicating that the projected growth path is on course in the first quarter of FY 2022-23," minister of state for finance Pankaj Chaudhary said in a written reply to Rajya Sabha.

IMF, in its April 2022 update of World Economic Outlook, has also projected India's real GDP growth at 8.2 per cent in

To ensure continued growth



momentum, he said, the government has taken several steps to address high inflation imported from abroad.

These include cut in excise duty on petrol and diesel and special excise duty/cess on the export of petrol, diesel and aviation turbine fuel that are likely to alleviate inflationary pressures, he said.

Further, he said, to rein in inflation, RBI in its June

Monetary Policy Committee meeting hiked the repo rate by 50 basis points, on top of the earlier hike of 40 basis points in May 2022.

On the impact of geopolitical tension on Indian economy, he said, Russia-Ukraine war has led to global supply disruptions resulting in steep increase in global commodity prices, including prices of crude oil, gas, edible oils and fertilizers,

The government is closely monitoring the global price movements and their impact on India's economy through

Recently, prices of various commodities, including edible oils, metals and crude oil, have stbilised. Many central banks including the US Fed have also tightened their monetary policy to tackle inflation. The RBI and government is closely monitoring the situation and stand ready to take appropriate action, he said.

As per provisional estimates of annual national income 2021-22, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at current prices for 2021-22 stood at Rs 2,36,64,637 crore, he said in another reply. Using the implied exchange rate for India for 2021-22 from World Economic outlook (WEO) of April 2022, the GDP for India at current prices stood at USD 3.2 trillion in 2021-22, he said.

CAG: Review spectrum pricing mechanism for captive users

finalised the policy for allot-

ment and assignment of spec-

trum for captive uses/other commercial services with the

approval of the Digital C o m m u n i c a t i o n s

Commission.The DCC is the

apex body for telecom policy

formulation."DoT had also not

reviewed the pricing of spec-

trum assigned for captive users

administratively, on formulae

basis since 2012, though a

Committee had recommended

for a periodical review of the

PNS NEW DELHI

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has pulled up the telecom department for not finalising policy on spectrum assignment for captive uses and flagged the absence of spectrum price review for captive users administratively.

In its report titled 'Management of spectrum assigned on the administrative basis to government depart-ments/agencies', the CAG asked the Department of Telecom (DoT) to review the spectrum pricing mechanism for captive users to incentivise ministries, departments and agencies, and for maintaining spectrum management discipline.

They may consider differential pricing, depending on the features and usage of various spectrum bands," the CAG said in a report tabled in Parliament on Monday.

It noted that despite receiving a legal opinion (July 2021) on its own reference, regarding the method for allotment of spectrum for captive uses, pricing policy in 2013," the including government depart-CAG report said. ments, the department had not

There was no differential pricing for spectrum, depending on features and usage of various spectrum bands assigned to users, it observed.

"DoT may devise a policy on allotment and assignment of spectrum for captive users/other commercial usages in alignment with statements made in NDCP 2018 (National Digital Communication Policy) and end adhocism in allotment of spectrum to government departments/ agencies," the

Higher power demand necessitated coal imports: R K Singh

PNS NEW DELHI

Addition of 28.6 million consumers under the Saubhagya scheme, good infrastructure and perked up economic activities post COVID-19 pushed up power demand and necessitated coal import, Parliament was informed on Tuesday.

Sabha, Power Minister R K Singh said electricity demand has gone up exponentially because of the economic growth post pandemic, the addition of 28.6 million consumers under the Saubhagya scheme and strengthening of the transmission and distribution system, which necessitated coal imports.

He pointed out that the domestic coal production has increased

The all-India coal production (for all categories of consumers) in 2021-22 was 778.19



million tonne (MT) in comparison to 716.083 MT in 2020-21.

In current financial year (up to June 2022), the country produced 204.876 MT coal as compared to 156.11 MT during the same period last year, he stated. Considering high demand of domestic coal in thermal power plants and the level of coal stocks in the plants, Ministry of Power on April 28, 2022 issued advisory to generating companies to import coal for blending at the rate of 10 per cent of their requirement.

This would ensure availability of adequate stock in the power plants to cater to their demand during monsoon when the domestic supply of coal reduces.

Canara Bank raises Rs 2,000 cr by issuing Basel III compliant bonds

PNS NEW DELHI

Canara Bank on Tuesday said it has raised Rs 2,000 crore by issuing Basel III compliant additional tier I bonds this month.

The bank came out with the issuance of Rs 2,000 bonds on July 15, 2022.

"The bank received total bid amount of Rs 5,719 crore, out of which full issuance of Rs 2,000 crore was accepted at 8.24 per cent," Canara Bank said in a regulatory filing. The stateowned lender said it issued 2,000 bonds to 21 allottees on July 19, 2022. The nonconvertible, perpetual, taxable, subordinated, fully paid-up secured Basel III compliant additional tier I bonds carry coupon at 8.24 per cent per annum.

Patanjali Foods to soon reduce prices of palm, sunflower and soyabean oil

Patanjali Foods Ltd will soon cut prices of soyabean oil, sunflower oil and palm oil by Rs 10-15 per litre to pass on the benefits of fall in global prices, a top company official

Earlier this month, the food ministry had directed edible of edible oil in line with the fall in global rates. Following the Centre's direction, Mother Dairy has reduced prices by up to Rs 14 per litre and Adani Wilmar by up to Rs 30 per litre."We are going to reduce prices of palm oil, sunflower oil and soyabean oil by Rs 10-15 per litre each in a day or two. But in the last 45 days, the total reduction will be Rs 30-35 per litre," Patanjali Foods CEO Sanjeev Asthana told PTI.The effective reduction in the last 45 days, including the



cut, would reach to Rs 30-35 per litre, he said, and pointed out that its competitors have not taken similar cuts in the last one and half months.

Asthana highlighted that the global prices have come down by 15-20 per cent but said the market is very volatile. Patanjali Foods, erstwhile

Ruchi Śoya Industries Ltd, sells its products under brands like Ruchi Gold, Mahakosh, Sunrich, Nutrela, Ruchi Star and Ruchi Sunlight.It is also into oil palm plantations and

In 2019, Baba Ramdev-led Patanjali Ayurved acquired Ruchi Soya, now Patanjali Foods, for Rs 4,350 crore through an insolvency process.

Marico Ltd spokesperson said the company has recently revised prices downwards ut did not give any detail.

'As one of India's leading consumer products' company, Marico Ltd has always been committed to ensuring the best value and quality to our

Investment via P-notes drops to

R1 RCM to recruit 3,000 people by Dec

PNS CHENNAI

Technology-driven solutions provider and revenue cycle management company, Nasdaq-listed R1-RCM, Inc on Tuesday inaugurated its new office in the city and has drawn up plans to add 3,000 people by end of the year, official.The company currently has presence in New Delhi National Capital Region, Hyderabad and Bengaluru with an employee base of over 13,000, R1RCM Executive Vice-President-Global Operations and India Country General Manager, Abhijeet Pawar said."India has always been mission critical for R1RCM. A hotbed of cross functional talent, the country has played a vital role in our growth as an organisation over the past decade.

India's passenger vehicle exports jump 26 pc in Apr-Jun

India's passenger vehicle exports rose by 26 per cent in the first quarter as compared with the April-June period of last fiscal which saw disruptions due to the second wave of COVID-19.

As per the latest data released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), passenger vehicle shipments rose to 1,60,263 units in the April-June period of this fis-

22.Passenger car shipments saw an 88 per cent year-on-year growth at 1,04,400 units while utility vehicle exports rose 18 per cent to 55,547 units during the period under review, SIAM data showed.Export of vans declined to 316 units in April-June as compared with 588 units in the same period of the last fiscal.

Domestic car leader Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) led the exports during the period, folcal as compared with 1,27,083 lowed by Hyundai Motor India

units in the same guarter of 2021- and Kia India at the second and third positions, respective-

> MSI exported 68,987 PVs in the period under review, up 53 per cent from 45,056 units in the same period of the previous fiscal year.

MSI's top PV export markets include Latin America, ASEAN, Africa, the Middle East and neighbouring regions while its top five export models comprise Baleno, Dzire, Swift, S-Presso and Brezza.

Hyundai Motor India's international dispatches stood at 34,520 units during the June quarter, up 15 per cent from the year-ago period.

Similarly, Kia India exported 21,459 units across global markets in the period under review as compared with 12,448 units in the same period of last fiscal year.

Nissan Motor India shipped units, while Volkswagen exported 7,146 units during the June quarter.

Benchmarks rebound from initial losses, climb for 3rd day

PNS MUMBAI

Equity indices overcame a wobbly start to clock gains for the third session on the trot on Tuesday, propped up by banking, metal and energy stocks amid a mixed trend in global markets.A recovery in the rupee also bolstered sentiment, traders said. The 30-share BSE Sensex advanced 246.47 points or 0.45 per cent to settle at 54,767.62 after starting the

trade on a weak note. In a volatile session, the benchmark hit a high of 54,817.52 and a low of 54,232.82 during the day.On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty climbed 62.05 points or 0.38 per cent to close at 16,340.55.Axis Bank topped the Sensex gainers' chart, spurting 2.35 per cent, followed by IndusInd Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Steel, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finserv, SBI and Bharti Airtel.

Rs 80,092 cr in June; volatility

PNS NEW DELHI

Investment in the Indian capital markets through participatory notes (P-notes) declined to Rs 80.092 crore till Juneend, making it the lowest level in 20 months, on aggressive rate hike by the US Federal Reserve.

With the continued global uncertainty and volatility, experts believe that investment through P-notes will be volatile in the near future.

P-notes are issued by registered Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to overseas investors who wish to be a part of the Indian stock market without registering themselves directly. They, however, need to go through a due diligence process.

According to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) data, the value of P-note investments in Indian markets -- equity, debt, and hybrid

securities -- stood at Rs 80,092 crore at June-end compared to Rs 86.706 crore at May-end.

This was the lowest level

since October 2020, when investment through the route was at Rs 78,686 crore. The June figure also marks the second consecutive monthly decline in investment num

Of the total Rs 80,092 crore invested through the route till June 2022, Rs 70,644 crore was invested in equities, Rs 9,355 crore in debt, and Rs 92

crore in hybrid securities. In comparison, Rs 70,644 crore was invested in equities and Rs 9,355 crore in debt dur-

Divam Sharma, founder at Green Portfolio, a portfolio management service provider, said the participation in equities has seen the lows of October 2020 whereas the AUC (assets under custody) had shown a low of April 2021.



39 new societies registered after creation of coop ministry

PNS NEW DELHI

As many as 39 new multi-state cooperative societies have been registered since the formation of a separate cooperation ministry in July 2021, Union minister Amit Shah informed

Parliament on Tuesday. Out of 39 cooperative societies, a maximum of 17 are in Maharashtra, followed by Uttar Pradesh (5), Kerala (4), Gujarat (3), New Delhi and Manipur (2) each) and Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh (1 each), according to the data placed

before the Lok Sabha. Shah, in his written reply to

cooperatives have been registered under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act as of June 30 this year after the creation of a new cooperation ministry. A total of 1,508 multi-state

cooperatives are registered in

the country as of June 30, 2022. Out of which, 81 are under liquidation, the cooperation minister said. "As per record, eighty-one multi-state cooperative societies are under liquidation in

As and when instances of irregularities in any multi-

which process of winding up

has been initiated," Shah



A total of 1,508 multi-state cooperatives are registered in the country as of June which, 81 are under minister said.

state cooperative society come In order to make 8.55 lakhs to notice, action is taken under of Primary Cooperatives ecothe relevant provisions of the nomically vibrant, the minis-Multi-State Cooperative ter, in a separate reply, said the Societies Act, 2002, and rules government has adopted a made thereunder, he said. multi-pronged approach by

To revitalize the cooperative sector, a centrally-sponsored project 'Computerization of Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS)' has been approved with a budgetary outlay of Rs 2,516 crores for digitalization of 63,000 functional PACS which are the grassroot level economic entities of the three-tier rural credit structure. This project will bring transparency and efficiency in their operations in a big way, he said.

In order to diversify the business activities of PACS and make them vibrant multipurpose economic entities at Village/Panchayat level, the

Bye-Laws" are also being prepared in consultation with the state governments, national cooperative federations and all other stakeholders.

These Draft Model Bye-Laws contain various provisions for bringing professionalism, transparency and accountability to their operation. PACS are registered and administered under the respective State Cooperative Laws.

The ministry is also formulating a new scheme titled "Cooperation to Prosperity" for all round development of cooperatives at all levels in consultation with all the stake-

what's brewing?

Brett Goldstein Sent His Parents to *Thor: Love and Thunder* Without Telling Them About His Post-Credits Cameo

Brett Goldstein opened up about his entrance into the Marvel Cinematic Universe at the Ted Lasso FYC event in Los

Angeles Monday evening.

The actor made his franchise debut at the conclusion of Taika Waititi's Thor: Love and Thunder, which hit theaters earlier this month. In a post-credits scene featuring Zeus (Russell Crowe) fretting over his defeat at the hands of Thor (Chris Hemsworth), the god sends his son, Goldstein's Hercules, to enact vengeance on his behalf. Viewers are treated to a brief glimpse of a buff, hairychested Goldstein, who simply replies to Zeus, "Yes, father."

Goldstein joins a growing list of A-listers who have made their Marvel Cinematic Universe debut in recent post-credit scenes. Charlize Theron popped up in May's Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness as a mystical character named Clea, while Harry Styles was the big surprise in Eternals as the cosmic fighter

On the carpet, Goldstein told Variety's Marc Malkin about sending his parents to see the Thor



sequel without informing them of his cameo in the film. The two

were surprised to see their son in the blockbuster, though there was a stretch of time where Goldstein worried that his mother would Hannah Waddingham recalled when Goldstein confided in he miss his brief appearance.

"I didn't tell anyone because Marvel put a chip in my neck that said 'If you talk about this you're dead," he joked. "My mom and dad, I sent them a text and said 'I've just seen Thor. I knew it's not the kind of film they'd see. I said, 'You should go see it. It's

"My mom is texting me all the way through the film giving me a running commentary," Goldstein continued. "I'm like, 'Just watch the film.' It gets to the end bit, where it shows Russell Crowe... My mom texts me 'Russell Crowe's in it again, he's very funny.' I go, 'Fucking look up at

the screen."
As for his future in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, Goldstein is adamant that he has no idea what's in store for his Hercules.

"I truly, honestly this isn't me lying or being coy I know nothing," Goldstein said. "All I know is what I did that day and that's it. That could be it. It was a fun three seconds."

Goldstein's Ted Lasso co-star

when Goldstein confided in her regarding the Marvel role.

"He said to me, 'I've been offered this thing... Do you guys think I should do it?" Waddingham said. "I went, 'Are you mental? Are you actually having a little bit of a moment? You're seriously thinking that you might not play Hercules?'... Then he didn't tell me he bloody did it. So everyone was like 'Brett Goldstein.. Brett Goldstein' And I was like, 'You cheeky bastard."

Goldstein also touched on his reaction to the impressive load of Emmy nominations Ted Lasso scored for its second season. The Apple TV+ series has matched its nomination total from last year, earning 20 nods across all categories, including best supporting actor in a comedy series for Goldstein.

"It's surreal because it was so surreal last time. My brain hasn't gotten used to any of it. It hadn't gotten used to it in Season 1. I don't know if we were expecting anything again. It felt so magical the first time. Well, we got back in again," Goldstein said.



John Wick was 75 yrs old but Keanu made character his own

riginally, the character of John Wick was an elderly man of 75 who was supposed to be essayed by the likes of Harrison Ford or Clint Eastwood, but Hollywood star Keanu Reeves took the character and changed it, played it and turned it into one of cinema's most iconic characters, reports Variety.

Franchise producer Basil Iwanyk confirms in the new book They Shouldn't Have Killed His Dog: The Complete Uncensored Ass-Kicking Oral History of John Wick, Gun Fu, and the New Age of Action.

Quoted by Variety, Iwanyk in the book (via Entertainment Weekly), "One of my best friends is Charlie Ferraro at UTA, who sent me this script from Derek Kolstad called 'Scorn'. The lead was a 75-year-old man, 25 years after being retired. It was the fun of watching Clint Eastwood kick ass. I thought, 'Okay, there's probably one or two names you could do this with: Clint Eastwood, Harrison Ford"

"My other best friend in the world, this guy Jimmy Darmody, is an agent at CAA, who at the time represented Keanu," continues Iwanyk, And he said, "Do you have any action movies

for Keanu Reeves?' I remember thinking to myself, 'Keanu is one of the great action stars of the last 25 years, what happened to him? What's he been doing?' And he was directing his movie, Man of Tai Chi, and doing 47 Ronin. We give him the script, we tell him, 'Clearly, you[†]re not 75".

Variety further states that Reeves says in the book that he immediately knew John Wick would be such a great collaboration, adding that, "We all agreed on the potential of the project.

It has this character of

John Wick, but then you also have the real world, and at the same time this kind of underworld. This den of thieves that have this honour and a code. It has this emotional connection with John Wick, who's grieving, who's lost the love of his life and has this mythical dark past. And I loved the quest that he goes on to reclaim his life. And the world he moves through to do it."

According to screenwriter Kolstad, it was Reeves himself who got his talons into (the script) and made it his own. The Matrix actor loved the script so much that he overhauled the character so that he could play him.

Calvin Harris Drinks Raw Sheep Milk From His Ibiza Farm

Scottish DJ Calvin Harris has revealed that he drinks fresh raw milk from his own flock of sheep in Ibiza, adding that it tastes 'tremendous'.

The DJ, 38, has ditched his London lifestyle in favour of being a farmer and spoke about his country life on Roman Kemp's Ćapital Breakfast show on Monday, reports mirror.co.uk.

Harris explained nothing tastes better than the produce

made from his flock of sheep. He said, "We have 28 lambs that were born at the farm and there's more to

come.
"Obviously once the lambs
have had their milk, I get a little bit of raw sheep's milk afterwards, which is tremen-

dous. It's great for you."

When Roman asked if he would consider doing a pro-gramme like Clarkson's Farm which follow's Jeremy Clarkson's journey as a new

farmer, Calvin politely declined.

"No, there's a lot of things that are just mine, you

His 138-acre farm was where his secret romance with his fiancee Vick Hope blossomed.

crate of oranges with the

Amongst the pictures of DJ sets and famous friends, Harris proudly shares snip-pets of his farm life with fans. In one photo, he holds a

simple caption, "Just a lad and his oranges."
At Christmas time he also

shared a photo of himself posing with two sheep. On his grid, there is a photo of a huge tree from the estate, which is where it is

rumoured he popped the question to the Radio1 DJ. Recently Vick spoke out about her life not being as complex as it once was after she managed to get a hold on her work life balance.



ARCHIE









CALVIN AND HOBBES WHEN ARE YOU IS THAT









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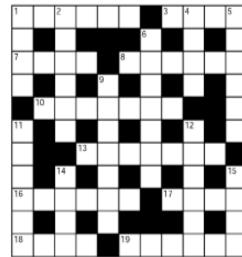
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ACROSS

 An eight-legged creature Small mark

7 Opposite of succeed

8 Well-mannered 10 Spectacles

13 Largest

16 A stringed instrument. 17 Floppy

18 Uncommon 19 An imaginary fire-breathing monster

DOWN Not in danger 2 A frozen drip

4 Twosome



5 One tenth of two

9 A drug used for

11 A precious metal.

12 Enquiring

14 Bitter-tasting

6 From another country

treating headaches

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'Dark characters are my t

The Pioneer connects with Rushad Rana for a candid-chatty interview about his recently released Miya, Biwi Aur Murder, and Juda Hoke Bhi, his comeback with Anupama, and a lot more.

TEJAL SINHA

o matter what the medium or the role is, an actor should be able to ace all of them. Today, we have with us one such actor, who has not only made a name in the television industry but was also part of some amazing films. Let's give you all a hint. He is all over the internet as Anupama's ex-husband.

He is none other than Rushad Rana, who is currently seen in MX Player's Miya Biwi aur Murder. He is seen playing the character of Abbas Bhai, a character that is very different from his real life.

Taking us through his character, he says, "This is the most challenging role I think that I have ever come across. What makes it very challenging is also that in this, they have entirely changed my look, making me look like a drug lord. They were clear that my character needed to look deadly and dreadful to the people. A lot of transformations have gone through, and a lot of changes have been made to this character physically. These changes were made in a



series of sessions that were held with Sunil Manchanda sir, the producer, the director, and the creative team, and every time they kept adding things to my look to make me look dreadful or scary. It was a result of a lot of days of sheer hard work, which got Abbas Bhai alive and made this character more relatable for the people now."

His characters have made a special place in the hearts of his fans and other audiences, whether he worked with the King Khan of Bollywood in Mohabbatein to Dor to Calendar Girls or in television shows ranging from Hip Hip Hurray to the recent Anupama and Kumkum Bhagya.

Out of the uncountable and memorable

characters that Rushad has played, he has got some of his favourites, and they are, "My all-time favourite character will always be Raghav, who I played in Hip Hip Hurray,

where I started my career. That, for me, is like that first love of yours that will always be special for you. I did a role with Nagesh Kukunoor, sir, long back in 2006 for the film *Dor*. That is also something that is going to be something memorable and special. Recently, what I have done in *Aashram* is that people are loving my part. I play an integral part in the story. Last but not least is Abbas Bhai in *Miya*, *Biwi*, *aur Murder*."

After the pandemic, he made a comeback with the most talked about show in town, Anupama. The show proved to be that golden opportunity, opening many more doors for him.

"I think Anupama really has proven to be a lucky show for me because as soon as I did Anupama, a lot of things came into my kitty. Also, the kind of recognition that I got for Anupama has been wonderful.

People know me and call me Anirudh now. They call me Anupama's ex-husband (he laughs) and that is what my identity has become. The character was written so well that he had those slightly sarcastic touches. That actually made it fun for the audience to watch," he says.

What was the major difference he found in being able to work in television shows, films, and even web series? He says, "If you ask me what I enjoy more, then I would say, everything has its own pros and cons. On TV, there is sustainability; you know there is a job for you practically. You are seen and appreciated by people almost every day. On the web, it is obviously shortlived. You work on a project and release it, and it's done. That is it for you. You have to wait for something new to come your way. But talking of the process, I think web and films have much more time to prepare for your character. You have the luxury of preparing your role and working on your character that you don't get on television. On television, everything is instant. You get the script, you memorise them, and everything just has to be done on the same day."

While people generally find dark characters as negative roles and like how they say 'Vamps', for Rushad, he would like to play more of the dark characters. He continues, "I would like to work on more shows like Miya, Biwi, aur Murder. That is exactly the kind of genre that I like to work on. I like gritty thrillers and dark comedies. I like playing dark characters, so I am hoping that Abbas opens up new doors for me to do those kinds of roles." Lastly, there have been talks that Rushad has been keeping him away from the silver screen for his own reasons. However, looks like there's no truth behind the misconception.

"For a simple reason that I have to say, there are not many offers on the silver screen. I have in fact done a film last year which has released on July 15 Judaa hoke bhi, Vikram Bhatts comeback film. I have played a pretty important part in the film and apart from that I have been giving auditions and hoping for a new one in the pipeline very soon. Comparatively, there's more work in OTT than in the films. I think because I have done quite a lot of work in OTT and I have received a lot of responses for OTT," he signs off.



Methi and amla for healthy hair

vurvedic scriptures like Charak Samhita and Sushrut Samhita, suggest herbs for achieving healthy, strong and well pig-mented hair. These herbs are known as Keshya and its nutrient dense properties make it an essential part of Diet and Lifestyle. Amla and Methi are two such herbs that are easily available, can be used in

many ways. Shreedha Singh, Co-Founder T.A.C, The Ayurvda Co. guide us to understanding more about these herbs and choosing the right hair-care products as per your concerns.

Amla is known as 'Amalaki' in the Ayurvedic texts and its latin name is Emblicia officinalis. It is rich in Vitamin C and minerals like phosphorus, iron and calcium which provides intense nutrition to the hair. The active compounds present in the fruit, find its usage as dried powder of the pulp known as Churna, cooking the fresh pulp in the form of Murabba for daily consumption in diet, using the fruit to make a specialised Ayurvedic hair oil and preparing herbal hair rinse by soaking the fruits in water, using this for hairwash.

Benefits of Amla-

Hair growth: Amla contains phytonutrients, vitamins, and minerals that aid in improving scalp circulation and promote healthy growth. Collagen protein is also produced by amla's vitamin C. This promotes both volume and length growth of the hair.

Prevents frizzy hair: Amla can help in avoiding dryness, restoring moisturiser and eliminating dead cells from hair and scalp. It contains important fatty acids that support healthy hair growth and give hair shine.

Helps fight dandruff: The major component of amla, Vitamin C, performs multiple functions and assists in dandruff reduction by preserving the health of the scalp. It works as a mild exfoliator and helps the scalp become clearer.

Controls hair dam-

age:Consider amla to be nature's sunscreen for

your hair since it helps shield it from the sun's damaging rays. Calcium and tannins are abundant in amla. Tannins are a naturally occurring vegetable source of polyphenol, which binds to the keratin proteins in the hair and assist them in strengthening and shining the strand.

Methi seeds are known as "Methika" in the Ayurvedic texts and its latin name is Trigonella foenugraecum which is rich in flavonoids, saponins and proteins all of which are essential nutrients for repairing and strengthening the hair. This is a must use ingredient for preparing Hair oils, Hair packs and Hair rinses as it helps in repairing the damaged hair, dandruff, infections and promotes healthy hair growth.

Benefits of Methi-

Reduce hair loss:

A natural emollient lecithin that deeply nourishes and hydrates your scalp and hair is present in fenugreek. Additionally, by giving substantial nourishment, it strengthens your hair from the roots up. As a result, it effectively manages hair shedding.

Revives damaged hair:

The protein and amino acids included in fenugreek aid in healing the hair shaft when it has been harmed by dryness, heat style, chemicals, UV damage, or colour treatments. It promotes thicker hair growth by enhancing cuticle integration in the hair shaft.

Prevents premature greying:

You can effectively combat premature greying issues, thanks to the high iron and potassium content of fenugreek. The optimal melanin formation in your hair follicles naturally gives your hair the black colour.

Improves shine and tex-

The mucilaginous fibre found in fenugreek is very effective at absorbing moisture. Fenugreek assists in preserving the moisture in vour hair strands enhances shine and gives your hair a softer texture.

Game of Numbers

SHIKHA DUGGAL

Some people say that believing in lucky and unlucky numbers is superstitious, what do you think? Well, the concept of numerology is said to have originated from the civilisa-tions in Babylonia and Egypt. People in those days from the ancient civilisations believed that numbers had true powers and that they had the essence of the divine which led humans to know more about life and god.

Taking this a one step ahead, we spoke to a numerologist who suggested us on how to select the right name for a newborn not with the help of a alphabet this time, but a digit. Shweta Surekha, the numerologist said, "For

parents, their newborn is like a treasure. And

why not? God has given you a precious gift of life that you must value. In order to make their children happy, parents often buy expensive gifts for them. But do you know what is the best gift you can give to your child? The best gift for your child is the name that you give him/her. It is important to select a lucky name that will be compatible with the date of birth of vour child. So, there should be harmony between the name and the date of birth?

Another wave of numerology started in Greece by the Greek philosophers especially Pythagoras, who is considered to be the father of numerology in the modern day because of the amount of knowledge that he had gathered and shared. The numerologist continued on sharing some tips on how to name your newborn on the basis of a number, "To calculate

the lucky name number, you must know the psychic number and destiny number of your child. A lucky name will be one, which is compatible to both; psychic number and destiny number of the baby. Let's take an example ly to each other. They are anti-numbers. So, in name number which is friendly to both these numbers. If we select number 1 as name num-

anything. Furthermore, as he was also more

where psychic number is 2 and destiny number is 8. Now, number 2 and 8 both are not friendthis case it becomes more important to select a ber, then it is friendly to both numbers 2 and 8. Similarly, 6 is also friendly to both 2 and 8. So, we can select any name, whose number either comes to 1 or 6."

Even according to Pythagoras, numbers play an important role in identifying the nature of



inclined towards mathematics, he considered numbers to be an authentic and a practical source to know the absolute truth. However, in spite of this, people were still not aware of the magic that one can create with numbers, and the state church was always against it as well.
She continued, "You can give

your child a great start in life by choosing a name that reflects the positive qualities associated with the numerological value of the name. The name of person is a personal mantra by which individual will be called during his life. The name can be one that supports or

does not support person's karma.
This is one of the biggest responsibilities of parents in front of their child."

Although some sceptics and non-believers found this difficult to accept the fact that there can be a rational explanation behind this notion, numerology saw a boom in the latter part of the years. Moreover, till now, a lot of research has been done which can easily prove that numbers play a vital role in everyone's life and that each number has a spe-

cific meaning.
"Numbers have a deep and impactful connection with everything in the universe. There are certain characteristics of numerology associated with this science. A value can be placed to each alphabet and letter. So, every name has a number value which plays a vital role in influencing the relationships and fate of an individual. Based on your baby's name and the number value attached with it, your baby's life changes radically," she added.

There are other types of numerology as well, depending on when they were discovered and how they were used. But, the Chaldean Numerology is one of the oldest forms of numerology. Unlike the Pythagorean system where alphabets determine the calculations, this form of numerology is based on the vibrations that each letter emits, which in turn, helps in further cal-culations. The Kabbalah Numerology is associated with the Hebrew culture where the name of the person is taken into consideration in the process of calculations rather than the date of birth, which does not hold much importance.

Then, the Tamil Numerology originated from the southern part of India. This form of numerology considers three essential aspects with each individual while the calculation is made. These are the Psychic Number, Destiny Number, and the Name Number.

Lastly, we have the Western Numerology and was discovered by none other than Pythagoras himself. In this form of numerology, each letter in the alphabet is assigned a specific numerical value which further helps in the process of calculation. So you see, the personality that we carry and in knowing the relationship between the numbers and the incidents that have either taken place or may take place in the future is all the 'khel of numbers'.

CHINA TO HOST ASIAN GAMES IN 2023 AFTER COVID POSTPONEMENT



AFP KUWAIT CITY

China will host the 2022 Asian Games in autumn 2023, organisers said on Tuesday, after postponing the event in Hangzhou because of Covid-19.

The Games were originally scheduled for September this year, but organisers postponed them in May as China tried to stamp out a large Covid resurgence in several parts of the

The event will now be held in Hangzhou from September 23 to October 8 2023, the Olympic

Council of Asia (OCA) said. Hangzhou lies less than 200 kilometres (120 miles) from the country's biggest city Shanghai, which endured a months-long lockdown earlier this year as part of the ruling Communist Party's

zero-tolerance approach to the

The OCA said on Tuesday that the new dates were chosen to avoid "conflict with other major international sporting

The Hangzhou organising committee vowed to "present a wonderful and marvellous sports and cultural event with Chinese

confirming the new dates.

China is the last major economy committed to stamping out domestic spread of the virus through harsh lockdowns, mass testing and strict controls on international travel.

But that has hurt the country's international sporting ambitions, with the world's most populous nation cancelling or postcharacteristics", in a statement poning almost all events since the

The Asian Games typically

start of the pandemic, with the exception of this year's Winter Olympics in Beijing.

The World University Games, scheduled to begin in University Changely and already

June in Chengdu and already delayed from last year, have also been postponed again, until 2023.

attract over 10,000 athletes from across the region Sports under zero-Covid

Hangzhou, a city of 12 million in eastern China, had finished constructing 56 competition venues for the Asian Games and Asian Para Games.

Hangzhou will be the third city in China to host the continental competition after Beijing in 1990 and Guangzhou in 2010.

Some events are also expected to be held in other provincial cities including Ningbo, Wenzhou, Huzhou, Shaoxing and Jinhua.

Almost all international sport has ground to a halt in China since Covid emerged in the Chinese city of Wuhan in late

The Beijing Olympics was an exception but was held in a "closed loop" with everyone inside it -- including athletes, staff, volunteers and media -- taking daily Covid tests and not allowed to venture into the wider city or have contact with the pub-

The Chinese government has touted the zero-Covid strategy as proof that it values human life above material concerns and

can avert the public health crises seen in many Western countries. Covid restrictions around the country eased slightly this summer as case numbers from the earlier Omicron-driven outbreak dwindled.

But a rising wave of fresh infections this month have led to new restrictions in parts of the country, with millions of people receiving orders to stay home



Los Angeles Olympics to begin July 14, 2028

AP LOS ANGELES

The 2028 Los Angeles Olympics kicked off ▲ a six-year countdown with the announcement of the dates for the Games' return to the

The opening ceremony will be July 14. Competition will run through July 30. The Paralympic Games will be Aug. 15-27.

This milestone makes the games real for every athlete actively training for their LA28 dream and the fans who follow the journey," said LA chief athlete officer Janet Evans, a fivetime Olympic medalist swimmer.

Los Angeles previously hosted the Olympics in 1984 and 1932.

Olympics in 1984 and 1932.

International Olympic Committee
President Thomas Bach was on hand for the
announcement. He visited future venues and
met with LA28 leadership.

"I have been really impressed by the
progress and creativity of the LA28 team," Bach

"They are using the power of the Olympic Games to inspire young people to get involved

The Games will use existing stadiums and venues across the region. The organizing committee said 15,000 athletes are expected to compete in both the Olympic and Paralympic



Spurs sign Middlesbrough defender Spence

AFP ■ LONDON

Tottenham signed Middlesbrough defender Djed Spence on Tuesday in a deal that could rise to a reported £20 million (\$24 million).

Spence agreed a five-year contract with Tottenham after impressing during a loan spell with Championship side Nottingham Forest last sea-

The 21-year-old right-back's initial price is believed to be £12.5 million but that could rise to £20 million if add-on clauses are reached.

Spence shot to prominence as Forest won promotion to the Premier League via the second tier play-offs last term.

He made 46 appearances, scoring three goals in a season that culminated

Huddersfield in the play-off final at Wembley.

Tottenham boss Antonio Conte has been on a major recruitment drive since leading his team to Champions League qualification via a top four finish in the Premier League.

The addition of Spence follows Conte's moves for Ivan Perisic, Fraser Forster, Yves Bissouma, Richarlison and Clement Lenglet.

London-born Spence came through Fulham's academy before moving to Middlesbrough in 2018, with his time at the Riverside Stadium disrupted by a host of managerial changes.

His temporary switch to Forest kick-started his career, earning him England Under-21 recognition in March and now a dream move to Tottenham.

Sable finishes disappointing 11th in 3000m steeplechase final in World Championship Morocco's Olympic cham-pion Soufiane El Bakkali, who the then national record time PTI EUGENE

Tndia's Avinash Sable finished 11th in the final of the men's 3000m steeplechase event with a disappointing show on the fourth day of competitions at the World Championships

The 27-year-old Sable clocked 8:31.75, way below his season's and personal best of 8:12.48, which is a national

est 3000m steeplechase final race in World Championships history with all the three medal winners clocking way below their season's and personal best. The runners ran a tactical race with medal in mind.



has a season leading time of 7:58.28, won the gold, clocking 8:25.13, while Ethiopia's Lamecha Girma (SB: 7:58.68), who won silver in both the Tokyo Games and last World Championships, finished second in 8:26.01.

Kenya's defending champion Conseslus Kipruto (SB: 8:08.76) was third with a time of 8:27.92. Kipruto had won time of 8:01.35. Sable had qualified for the

final after finishing third in heat number 3 and seventh overall with a time of 8:18.75. He had finished 13th in the

last edition of the champi-

of 8:21.37.

The Indian Armyman from a village in Maharashtra's Beed district was at 14th spot at the 1km mark with a time of nearly 3 minutes (2:59.46) and remained there at the 2km mark with 5:53.72.

He moved up to 12th in the last lap and to 11th in the final 100m stretch.

Sable, who has earlier before taking to athletics, has been on a national record breaking spree in recent times. His latest best was 8:12.48 when he finished fifth at the prestigious Diamond League Meeting in Rabat last month.

Harshada clinches Gold medal at Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting C'ships

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $F^{\text{ast-rising Indian lifter}}_{\text{Harshada Garud won the}}$ women's 45kg gold at the Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championship in Tashkent.

The 18-year-old claimed the yellow metal with an aggregate of 157kg (69kg+88kg) on Monday. The total effort was four kgs better than her junior world championship title-winning lift of 153kg (70kg+83kg), which she had recorded in May. Soumya Dalvi bagged the

bronze in the 45kg youth event.



The youth world championship bronze medallist heaved 145kg (63kg+82kg) to make the podium.

In the men's 49 kg youth event, L Dhanush won the bronze in the snatch section

with an 85 kg effort.

However, the Indian finished fourth overall with a best effort of 185kg (85kg+100kg). Medals are awarded sepa-

rately for snatch, clean and jerk, and total lift in continental and World Championships. But, just one medal - for total lift - is awarded in the Olympics.

1 players from ACG-NBA Jump 2022 will receive full scholarships to attend NBA Academy India, an elite basket-ball training center for the top

most promising young players. The ACG-NBA Jump 2022 National Tryout marks the culmination of a nationwide talent search which tipped off on May 21, 2022, at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, New Delhi, and

Currently in its sixth edition, the program saw participation from more than 1,600 aspirants. Following are the selected prospects for the NBA Academy Índia: Harjeet Singh (Patiala), Tajinder Bir Singh (Jalandhar),

Abhimanyu G (Chennai), Lavish Khanchi (Panipat), Jatin Hooda (Haryana), Mayank Chaudhary (Meerut), Mohammad Ishan (Jaipur), (Meerut), Guremaninder Singh Sandhu (Panipat), Vedansh Ranot (Mohali), Arshneil Dhaliwal

LAUNCHED IN 2015, THE 2022 **EDITION OF ACG-**NBA JUMP MARKS THE FIRST TIME THE PROGRAM HAS BEEN HELD SINCE 2020.

ment to grow basketball in India, the program provides talented young players from around the country an opportunity to develop their skills under the guidance of NBA-certified coaches.

Launched in 2015, the 2022 edition of ACG-NBA Jump marks the first time the program has been held since 2020. Palpreet Singh, the top prospect from program's inaugural edition, attended the 2016 NBA G League National Tryout in the United States and was subsequently drafted by the Long Island Nets in the 2016 NBA G League Draft. NBA Academy India, which is also supported by ACG, opened in 2017 and has seen multiple players earn scholarships to prep schools and junior colleges in the U.S or sign professional contracts, including Princepal Singh, who became the first NBA Academy India player to sign with the NBA G League and first player from India to win an NBA Summer

CWG: A happy hunting ground for Indian lifters

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A new rule prevented India from Arejigging the weight categories of its lifters for maximum advantage but country's 15-strong contingent, headlined by Mirabai Chanu, is still expected to return with a bagful of medals from the Birmingham Commonwealth Games.

The Commonwealth tournaments, be it the CWG or the Commonwealth Championships, have been a happy hunting ground for Indian weightlifters, who revel in the absence of traditional powerhouses like China and North Korea.

India have finished as the bestperforming nation in the sport in the 1990, 2002, and 2018 editions.

They are the second most successful nation in the sport with 125 medals, including 43 golds, behind Australia (159), whose dominance has taken a hit in the last few editions. Indian weightlifters reigned



supreme in the 2018 Gold Coast Games, bringing home a rich haul of nine medals including five golds. And this year too, all 15 lifters are

capable of podium finishes.

are expected to strike gold. To increase India's chances of

winning more gold medals in the women's events, the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLF) and However, only a handful of them head coach Vijay Sharma planned to whose personal best in the women's told PTI in an interview last month.

field Tokyo Olympic silver medallist Chanu, a sure-shot title contender, in the 55kg weight division. Jhilli Dalabehera and S

Bindyarani Devi were to compete in the 49kg and 59kg respectively while Poppy Hazarika would have presented her challenge in the 64kg division.

But the entries were rejected based on a new rule that stated only the top-ranked lifter in a category will qualify for the CWG and if he/she withdraws, the next best lifter will not get the berth, as was the case before.

This forced Chanu (49kg), Bindyarani (55kg), and Poppy (59kg) to drop back a weight class each which resulted in Jhilli missing out on the quadrennial event and no Indian representation in 64kg.
At the Games, all eyes will, no

doubt, be on Chanu but while all others will strive to stand atop the podi-

The former world champion,

49kg stands at 207kg (88kg+119kg), a whopping 39kgs more than the second best lifter in the field, winning the yellow metal is almost a certainty.

All she has to do is execute two legal lifts, one each in the snatch and clean and jerk, to win her third CWG medal. She doesn't even need to bring her

A game as her nearest rival, Nigeria's A game as ner nearest rival, Nigeria's Stella Kingsley's best effort to date is just 168kg (72kg+96kg).

However, the 27-year-old, who already has a CWG gold and silver in her trophy cabinet, has set herself big-

ger targets. Chanu is expected to rewrite her clean and jerk world record of 119kg and is also eager to breach the muchanticipated 90kg mark in the snatch section. "CWG is relatively easy for

have planned to lift 91kg or 92kg at Hopefully, it will happen," she had

me, I will be fighting with myself. We

11 players selected to join NBA Academy India

PNS NEW DELHI

prospects from across the country. From July 14-16, the ACG-Jump National Tryout was conducted at Jaypee Greens, Noida, bringing together 30 of India's

visited six cities across India -Delhi, Kottayam, Ludhiana, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai.

(Chandigarh), Dorian Lal

Sangmawia (Aizwal) ACG-NBA Jump is India's first national basketball scouting program that provides aspiring basketball players from across the country with a platform to compete alongside one another, showcase their skills and receive additional basketball development opportunities. As part of the NBA and ACG's commit- League Championship. Akshay, Samantha Unleash

Laugh Riot In Third Episode

Karan Johar candidly

asked the Khiladi of

you do if Chris Rock

made a joke about Tina"

pragmatically replies, "I

would pay for his funer-

al," he says while suggest-

ing that no one gets to mess with his wife

For Samantha Ruth

Prabhu, who makes her

debut on the show, the

her preference for the

industry by asking, "If you had to host your

best friend's bachelor

best dancer in the

party, which two

Bollywood hunks

would you hire to

dance?" To this, the

leading lady in a heart-beat said, "Ranveer

Singh, Ranveer Singh." The new episode of Koffee with Karan

Season 7 will drop on

host cleverly weeded out

Twinkle Khanna.

To this, the show veteran

Bollywood, "What would

Of Koffee With Karan

Kumar and

Samantha

episode of the seventh

season of popular chat show Koffee With Karan,

the two are expected to unleash a laugh riot on

the show given Akshay's quick wit and Samantha's

The third episode's

secrets and witty one-lin-ers delivered by the two

celebrated guests. Akshay

Kumar makes his entry

in true Khiladi fashion,

debutant Samantha Ruth

Prabhu in his arms. The

episode marks his third

Touching upon the controversial Chris

slapgate, show host

appearance on the show.

Rock-Will Smith Oscars

carrying the show's

teaser hints at a lively

potboiler of glamour,

sense of humour.

Ruth Prabhu

are set to grace the upcoming

Kollywood beauty Sai Dhansika makes her big screen debut in Telugu

SHIKHA DUGGAL

aybe the story of *Shikaaru* may not be new to Telugu audiences, but the lead heroine Sai Dhansika is a newly discovered gem here

As said in promotions, the movie is an out-and-out comedy with a message. Those haven't gotten the chance to grab it on big screens can now stream it on Aha Video from July 29 and audiences roar Dhansika to be a reliable debut here in Tollywood. So we didn't wait a second and got into a call and know what's the actress upto currently.

The Kollywood beauty told, "The true art of storytelling involves writing active characters who engage the audience. It makes us care what is happen-

Dhansika is all set to make her debut in the Telugu film industry and shared with us some exclusive tidbits related to the movie and behind the scenes

in the story. Of course script, locations, lighting choices, visual effects, camera movement and placement and strong cinematography all go to telling the best story possible. So, medium isn't a thing to bother these days. Films are coming my way no mat-ter whatever is happening outside but, yes we can sense OTT platforms are a helping hand in saving cinema. A small budget film now can be streamed on OTT or new topics can be explored. Perspectives are changing on the couch."

Telling us about what went behind the camera on the movie sets, she excitedly tells, "We couldn't stop laughing, there was a laughter riot that followed on the sets. I was always on my toes to fit into my role because this girl has a plight of pity that's following her. I watched a lot of comedy movies before fitting myself into the plot. I understood on the sets how any moment life can have it's own ups and downs and we have to rectify accordingly.

Before, signing this pro-

ject, I was apprehensive of whether I'll be able to pull a comical role but Shikaaru diminished this dilemma in me. I am ready to take on more such roles now." The set cul-

ture was pretty

and she says this

much same to her,

with a reasoning that was, "I am born in Thanjavore and settled in Chennai then I had my Telugu friends even there. I noticed people here enjoy massy films more. While doing multilingual films, it made me realise one set culture can be extremely easy to go, other can be rigid and another one can even go to bossy levels."

She strongly feels it was the ideal time given by pandemic to us that we went on a journey of traverse, "We were desperate to sit on our couches and watch something atleast and that led people to survey into region-al films as well. Earlier, I had only seen two Korean films but today I know each and every Korean release that's all set to roll. It was an eyeopener for me that we have stupendous content outside India too, and you can just have it in your mind with some help of subtitles. International films were a much needed craving in pandemic. It really changed the preferences."

Sharing her association with Hyderabad city, she speaks, "Weather is too good here, I would love to move in here. I am not promoting at the moment but it's a reality. There is some another level of cinema that goes crazy down with the fans here. Everyone is making their own perceptions of Shikaaru by the way, & this film will signify that communication can break any barriers & we can come out of entangled



Motion Poster Of Telugu Political Thriller Sasana Sabha Released



he unit of director Venu

Hotstar on

Thursday

Mandikanti's racy political thriller,

Sasana Sabha, has released the motion poster of the film, featuring actors Rajendra Prasad, Indra Sena, Aishwarya Raj Bhakuni and Sonia Aggarwal in the lead. Actress Sonia

Aggarwal tweeted the link to the motion poster on Twitter say-

ing, "Assembly begins." The film, a pan-Indian political entertainer, has been pro-duced by Thulasi Ram Sappani and Shanmugam Sappani, popularly known as the Sappani Brothers for the production house. Sapbro Production

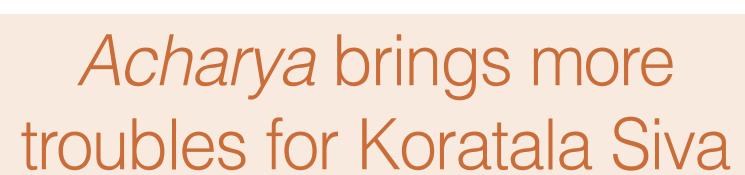
Private Limited.

The unit claims that the movie's subject will be apt for present-day society. The film, the unit says, will deliver an important message to society but without

getting preachv. The film will simultaneously be made in Telugu, Kannada, Tamil, Malayalam and Hindi, and will have musical score by Ravi Basrur of KGF 'series

and Salaar fame. Aishwarya Raj Bhakuni plays the female lead of Sasana Sabha. Veteran actor Rajendra Prasad, Sonia Aggarwal and Prudhvi Raj will be seen playing pivotal roles in this

film. Actress Hebah Patel will be making a special appearance in a dance number in this film.





Charan starrer Acharya ended up as one of the biggest flops of the Telugu cinema. The investors have been

demanding a refund as they lost big amounts. Koratala Siva who took the responsibility of the business has been pooling the funds. Chiranjeevi and Niranjan Reddy did their parts after the release. Koratala Siva sold off the non-theatrical rights

for record prices and the payments are yet to be received

by the director. Gemini TV

acquired the satellite rights of

the film for Rs 15 crores and

hiranieevi and Ram the tv channel is yet to honor the payment. Koratala is waiting for the payment from Gemini TV to clear other dues. Gemini TV is not ready to pay Rs 15 crores for the satellite deal. As the film received poor response and reviews, Gemini will have to struggle to recover its investment. They are not ready to buy the satellite rights and the channel has two options for Koratala; either sell the satellite rights to another channel or revise the satellite deal for Rs 7.5 crores. Gemini TV wants their advance back if Koratala Siva wants to sell the satellite rights for a new channel.





Pushpa star to unveil Indian flag in the US

Mahotsav.'

almost right the corner and people of the country are all set to celebrate the 75th Independence Day in a memorable manner. The Government of India headed by PM Modi has

been conducting various events paying floral trib-utes to the freedom fighters across the country for the last one year with 'Azadi Ka Amrit

In the meantime, Icon Star Allu Arjun according to sources will be unveiling the tricolor on August 15 in the USA. This has been thrilling all the fans of Icon Star. The Federation of Indian Associations New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut is hosting an event celebrating the occa

sion and Allu Ariun will

Day parade.

lead India's Independence

event along with guests including New York City's Mayor Eric Adams and others. Shankar Mahadevan and Kailash Kher will also be present at the event. The organisers are also planning to create a Guinness World Record by following it up with the events like 'Most Different Flags Flown simultaneously' and the 'Largest Ensemble Damaru.

He will be sharing the