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I believe none of my roles has changed me as an actor



'I AM AN OPPORTUNIST, ALWAYS LOOKING FOR GOOD PERFORMANCE

**BASED ROLES**'





-K. T. Rama Rao,

Municipal & IT Minister of TS

P:2

#### DON'T MISS...

#### Jail 30 yrs after student's death

Over three decades after the death of a 21-year-old man in a fake encounter here, a local court on Friday sentenced a retired sub inspector to life imprisonment. Additional Sessions Judge Pashupatinath Mishra on Wednesday held Yudhisther Singh, the then sub inspector, guilty of killing Mukesh Johri alias Lali, on July 23, 1992 in Bada Bazar area of the city. The court awarded life imprisonment to Singh on Friday and also imposed a fine of Rs 30,000 on him, government counsel Ashutosh Dubey said.

#### Russia to enhance strategic...

Russia will focus on strengthening its strategic partnership and trade ties with India in Eurasia and ensure their resistance to "destructive actions" of unfriendly states and their alliances. according to an updated foreign policy doctrine approved by President Vladimir Putin on Friday. The ties between India and Russia remained strong notwithstanding Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. India's import of Russian crude oil has gone up significantly in the last few months despite.

-PAGE: 5

#### **India unveils** 'dynamic' foreign...

India on Friday came out with a 'dynamic and responsive' foreign trade policy with the objective of raising the country's outward shipments to USD 2 trillion by 2030, making Indian Rupee a global currency and incentivising e-commerce exports.

The approach of Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023 is to move from 'incentive to remission' based regime; encourage collaboration between exporters, states, districts and Indian Missions; reduce transaction...

-PAGE: 8

#### India have firepower in pace department...

Former New Zealand skipper Ross Taylor has backed the Indian pace unit to cause trouble for Australian batters in the World Test Championship final scheduled at the Oval in London from June 7-11. Taylor feels Indian fast bowlers have the wherewithal to create problems for Australia even though Jasprit Bumrah will be sidelined. "Any time you play in England, conditions and the weather play a big part," Taylor was told ICC website.

# US Senate confirms Indian-American Richard Verma for top State role

WASHINGTON: The US Senate has confirmed Indian-American lawyer, diplomat and executive Richard Verma as the Deputy Secretary of State, Management and Resources, a position which is normally seen as the CEO of the powerful State Department in the US government. Verma, 54, was confirmed by a vote of 67-26 on Thursday. He served as the US ambassador to India from January 16, 2015, to January 20, 2017, and is currently the chief legal officer and the head of global public policy at Mastercard. During the previous Obama administration, Verma served as the Assistant

Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs. Earlier in his career, he was National Security Advisor to United States Senator Harry Reid and was Democratic Whip, Minority Leader and then Majority Leader of the United States Senate. Verma has served as Vice Chairman of The Asia Group, Partner and Senior Counsellor at Steptoe and Johnson LLP, and Senior Counsellor at the Albright Stonebridge Group. He is a veteran of the United States Air Force, where he served as a Judge Advocate. Verma, who was born in 1968 to an Indian immigrant, grew up in Pennsylvania. He attended a private

college on a US Air Force scholarship. He earned a B.S at Lehigh University, a J.D. cum laude at American University, an LLM with distinction at Georgetown University Law Center, and a PhD at Georgetown University. He is the recipient of numerous awards and decorations, including the Distinguished Service Medal from the Department of State, the International Affairs Fellowship from the



Council on Foreign Relations and the Meritorious Service Medal from the United States Air Force. Verma was appointed to the President's Intelligence Advisory Board and is a former member of the Weapons of Mass Destruction and Terrorism Commission. He serves as a trustee of The Ford Foundation and is on numerous other boards, including that of the National Endowment for Democracy and Lehigh

#### TS-EAMCET engineering stream schedule changed

The Telangana State Council of Higher Education has released the schedule for the engineering stream of Telangana EAMCET which is being held from May 12 to 14 instead of May 7 to 9.

There will be no change in the examination schedule of the agricultural and pharmacy streams of EAMCET. They will be held on May 10 and 11.

The dates were rescheduled to avoid clashes with other exams. The National Testing Agency is scheduled to conduct NEET (UG) examination on May 7 while the Telangana State Public Service Commission (TSPSC) had planned to conduct certain examinations on May 7, 8 and 9.

The TSCHE decided to reschedule the engineering stream exam and conduct it from May 12 to 14, a TSCHE statement said. It said there would be no change in the timings of the exam and students should take note of the rescheduled dates

# **CENTRE POURS COLD WATER ON TS WELFARE**

NAVEENA GHANATE HYDERABAD

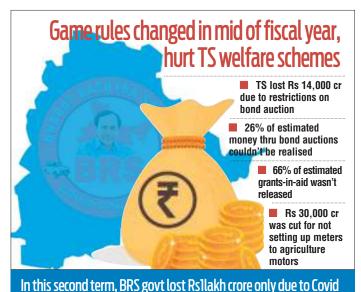
The Centre dashed the hopes of the Telangana government to make TS a welfare state by imposing cuts throughout the year. A substantial part of the income expected in the budget did not materialise and this led to a shortage in government funds.

The FRBM cuts imposed midway by the Centre, the absence of grantin-aid, and the inability to raise revenue through land sales, led to a shortage of around Rs 50,000 crore compared to budget estimates. While Telangana planned to bor-

row Rs 53,970 crore from the open market, due to the limitations placed by the Centre it could only raise Rs 40,150 crore. In the first quarter, the RBI didn't allow Telangana to go for open market borrowings. Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao had to request the Centre to lift the curbs.

The Centre released only around 35 per cent of the expected grantsin-aid, that is, only Rs 14,000 crore instead of the expected Rs 41,000 crore. A major chunk of the budget's income estimates couldn't be raised due to the Centre's sanctions.

Due to this, the size of the budget had to be reduced to Rs 1,950 billion from Rs 2,450 billion. Some of the schemes like Dalit Bandhu, promoting oil palm cultivation developing the tourism circuit, Rs 3 lakh assistance to those who have land and crop loan waivers couldn't be executed due to these cuts.



Telangana also suffered a shortfall of Rs 7,000 crore which it was oping to get through land sales.

Describing this as political vendetta Industries Minister KT Rama Rao said, "The Centre has imposed financial sanctions on us as if we are an enemy country. Rs 30,000 crore was cut for refusing to fit meters on agricultural motors. The financial year started with certain budgetary expectations Centre included loans taken through harassing us as is evident from the corporations in FRBM limits. Will anyone change rules after the game has started? In the middle of the fis-

cal, the Centre cut Rs 20,000 crore and introduced new rules as politically we do not see eye to eye with them. They don't want to give bills to sarpanches. As per the 15th Finance Commission, we should get an entitlement in PR&RD. We got the first instalment but the Centre is not giving us the remaining."

"Due to the covid-19 pandemic, Telangana suffered a loss of Rs 1,000 billion. The Centre has been reports coming in daily.



#### **CONMAN SUKESH'S CLAIM NOW**

# Rs 15 cr paid at TS office on behalf of Kejriwal

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

Alleged Sukesh conman Chandrashekhar, who is presently lodged in the Mandoli Jail in a moneylaundering case, on Friday said he delivered Rs15crore meant for Delhi CM to TRS office Hyderabad in 2020 to person 'AP' in a Range Rover 6060 parked inside office.

He released a press statement promising to show "a trailer" of chats between him, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and jailed AAP leader Satyendar Jain in the coming week.

In his handwritten letter addressed to Kejriwal, he wrote: "... your dramas, kattar corrupt mindset, lies and manipulation will be in the open."

Chandrashekhar has said that he has a 700-page WhatsApp and Telegram chat with him and that he will reveal it, which is related to Rs 15 crore paid on Kejriwal's behalf at a "political office, party office of TRS" to one of the accused of the "liquor gate case ongoing".

He wrote: "You wanted me to drop

this 15 kg Ghee @ 15 Crore Rupees at Hyderabad, because you mentioned there were 5 cases of Ghee which is 15x5 Crore which was already at Hyderabad and it was being converted for you so you had suggested that 15 which was from my side to be delivered to Hyderabad at TRS party office 6060 parked inside the office."

Calling the above-mentioned details a teaser, Chandrashekhar wrote that Kejriwal will be ashamed of showing

"Now all the details mentioned above are only a teaser, but coming week when the chats will be released, you will have no face to show, Kejriwalji," he wrote

his face once he releases the chats.

# The BRS said that Amit Shah

should try something as these tricks have become old. Krishank Manne of BRS said, & quot; Earlier he wrote a letter on Arvind Kejriwal, today on BRS, tomorrow conman Sukesh Chandrashekar will write on Siddaramaiah , in 2024 he will write on Rahul Gandhi ji also. We already know that BJP would do such script. This is not new. He is a fraud and is in jail. This has become a comedy case. They are using conman to do politics. These theatrics are done by Amit Shah. How will a conman write and release everything to media and expect parties to react&quot.

He further said that this chat he is referring to is only one of the "700-page '... now your countdown has chats". begun, my brother, stop troubling my you. I assure you I will make sure you will be shaken out from the chair of power. All your golmal and corruption will be in open, get ready," he said.

#### Congress in Catch-22 situation over BRS support K VENKATESHWARLU

The Congress is in a catch-22 situation in accepting the support offered by the BRS as it is not in a position to admit that it has an alliance with

Telangana is the only state where it can come back to power if it tries hard, but the BRS is now extending an olive branch which it cannot afford to refuse. Jana Reddy had to retract his state-

ment on Friday due to this situation. Earlier in the day he had said, "There will be an alliance with the BRS if necessary. Conditions will dictate whether to have an alliance with the BRS or not. Lord Rama will come and talk of an alliance with the BRS in my

But later he issued a statement saying, "The alliance depends on the high command. We follow the high command's orders."

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao has come out in the open and has taken the side of Rahul Gandhi after his disqualification calling it a 'black day' for democracy.

The BRS along with Congress and 12 other parties filed a plea in the Supreme Court complaining about hounding by Central investigation agencies of opposition leaders.

The BRS and the Congress partic-

ipated in the protest held in Parliament along with Sonia Gandhi seeking a probe on the Adani issue.



# 'TS has highest per capita income, lowest graft'

**JOHN PASAPALA** HYDERABAD

The Telangana IT Minister, KT Rama Rao (KTR), said that Telangana ranks first in India with the highest per capita income and the lowest corruption rate among 13 select states.

"The Čentre has revealed that Telangana has the highest per capita income which has increased from Rs 1.24 lakh in 2014 to Rs 3.17 lakh in 2023. Another survey showing voters' perception of the ruling party revealed that Telangana has the lowest corruption rate among 13 select states. This is a matter of great pride for Telangana,"

KTR was speaking at the function held to present the National Panchayat Awards 2021-22 held on Friday at the Prof. Jayashankar Telangana State Agriculture University Rajendranagar in Hyderabad.



The Minister for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development (PR&RD), Errabelli Dayakar Rao, Minister Malla Reddy, PR&RD Principal Secretary Sandeep Kumar Sultania and PR&RD Director M. Hanumantha Rao and the Sarpanchs of all TS Panchayats attended the func-

KTR said that Sarpanchs should be

trained before they take up responsi-"In 2014 I was the Minister for

Panchayat Raj. I did not have groundlevel knowledge like Chief Minister KCR but there was an important lesson to learn. Most leaders do not know what their role is as elected public representatives. They make all kinds of ple for all panchayats.

heir functions their term will end. This is why we need to train Panchayat Raj members in all their functions and push them to understand the elements of rural development. I request the Panchayat Raj Minister to organise training through grameen development programmes so that leaders can acquire the required knowledge." "With facilities like nurseries, vaikun-

ta dhamam, palle prakruthi vanam, dumping yard, plantations near every nome and drinking water supply to all homes Telangana villages are an example for the country. Leaders should set oals and work towards achieving them or rural development," he added.

He said that the cooperation of panchayats won the state 27 national awards enabling Telangana to win the second place. He said funds will be allocated to the awardees to set an exam-

#### UNSPOKEN PAIN

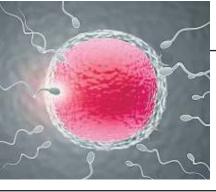
# Infertility's impact on mental health in Indian couples

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Infertility is an uncomfortable and stigmatised topic in India. This does not steal away from its alarming rise. "Nearly one in six married couples are believed to be impacted by infertility in India, sadly less than 1% seek medical assistance. This is due to lack of awareness, and difficulties in access/ affordability of treatment", Aatish Rathi, Birla Fertility. Diagnosis and treatment of infertility can cause extreme psychological stress among the couple spanning confusion, frustration, depression, anxiety, hopelessness, and guilt. Women bear the brunt of infertility distress because of the cultural conditioning that a woman is primarily responsible for bearing the child.

Still, a large number of medical ed that the andrologist insensitively

large number of medical experts are ill equipped to address infertility related mental health challenges especially with the sensitivity it demands.



Prior to the summit, GetIntimacy surveyed over 100 infertile couples and discovered alarming insights.

This is due to lack of awareness, and difficulties in access/ affordability of treatment", Aatish Rathi, Birla Fertility. Diagnosis and treatment of infertility can cause extreme psychological stress among the couple spanning confusion, frustration, depression, anxiety, hopelessness, and guilt.

fuss about desire, you are a man.' infertility related mental health challenges especially with the sensitivity it demands. One of the male clients struggling with low sexual desire stat-

To highlight the mental health

wellness gap in infertility diagnosis and treatment, GetIntimacy, India's leading platform for intimacy educaexperts are ill equipped to address remarked why are you making a big tion, with support from IMBesharam

and other sponsors, concluded the much-anticipated Infertility and Mental Health Summit on 22nd January 2023, in Gurgaon, India. The Summit saw participation from over 100+ healthcare professionals -

andrologists, gynaecologists, infertility specialists, mental health experts and sexual wellness brands - Birla Fertility, Ananta Hempcare, IMBesharam, Haplocare, Gravid, Apex Healthcare, to name a few. The Summit was dedicated to sensitising healthcare experts on mental health challenges couples (especially women) face while undergoing infertility treatment.

Prior to the summit, GetIntimacy surveyed over 100 infertile couples and discovered alarming insights. "It's high time we normalise discussions around infertility and its impact on a couple's psycho-social life", said Pallavi Barnwal, founder of GetIntimacy. The survey showed how a couple who is diagnosed as infertile' enters a vicious cycle.

A large number of couples reach the brink of divorce.

### Corruption synonymous with BRS govt: Nadda

PNS HYDERABAD

Pointing out that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao's daughter MLC Kavitha is stuck in the Delhi liquor scam, BJP President JP Nadda said that the ED summons

tunate development. "Telangana's image has become that of a corrupt state," he said.

to Kavitha is an unfor-

Inaugurating BJP offices in Sangareddy and in some other places in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh online from New Delhi, Nadda described Telangana's BRS government as Bhrashtachar Rishwat Sarkar and said that it has no

He said that corruption has become

right to remain in power.

ernment and ridiculed the tall claims made when the TRS became BRS, saying that it changed its name but not its ways Nadda said the people

of Telangana knew that the TRS and the BRS are the same and added that a mere change of name does not work. "The people of Telangana are giving a message to you. That is, you need to take VRS," he

He said that there are scams in all fields in Telangana. He reiterated that the Kaleshwaram Project had become an ATM for the BRS government and that the project outlay was jacked up from Rs 40,000 crore to 1.40 lakh crore.

# Clouds of alliance over disqualification dust!

ment convicting Rahul Gandhi of criminal defamation charges couldn't have come at a more opportune time for the Congress and the so-called 'Non-Congress, non-BJP' front of regional parties. The judgement imposed a twoyear jail term as punishment, thus immediately disqualifying Rahul Gandhi as a Member of Parliament, in line with the 2013 Supreme Court judge-

ment in the Lily Thomas case. The judgement came just around when Rahul Gandhi concluded that the Congress, fighting only with its UPA alliance partners, would face the same outcome in 2024 as it had in the last two elections. The Congress couldn't win enough seats to qualify for the Leader of the Opposition position both times. With this realisation, Rahul had just

where he tried to enlist support from foreign powers to drive a narrative that democracy was in danger in India under Prime Minister Narendra

At the same time, various

anti-BJP regional parties, which had grown in their states at the cost of Congress, had tried to project a 'Non-Congress, non-BJP' grouping and failed to get any traction. Major parties in this grouping were Trinamool Congress (TMC), led by Mamata Banerjee; Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), led by Arvind Kejriwal; Janata Dal-United (JDU), led by Nitish Kumar and Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), led by TS Chief Minister Kalvakuntla Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR). In addition, these parties have recently taken severe blows to their image due to allegations of large-scale

Yet, leaders of these political parties were quick to portray the disqualification of Rahul as Modi's handiwork and BJP's attack on democracy. Mamata Banerjee of TMC called Rahul's disqualification a "new low for democracy in PM Modi's New India". AAP's Arvind Kejriwal called it a "dictatorial move" and requested everyone to "come together and save our democracy".

corruption. Given the zero-tolerance stand taken by PM Modi on corruption, they had concluded that their only option was to paint the investigations as political targeting and vendetta by the BJP.

It was clear from the beginning that the BJP had no role in Rahul's disqualification. The specific law was on the statute for a long time; the earlier SC judgement in the Lily Thomas case and the current trial court judgement were delivered by the independent judiciary; it was Rahul himself who had

torn and trashed an ordinance that Manmohan wanted to bring to stay the disqualification in such cases. Legal luminaries, including Kapil Sibal, a confidant of Rahul Gandhi and Minister of Law and Justice in the Manmohan Singh Cabinet, were quick to point out that the disqualification of Rahul Gandhi was automatic upon the judge-

Yet, leaders of these political parties were quick to portray the disqualification of Rahul as Modi's handiwork



**KISHORE POREDDY** 

and BJP's attack on democracy. Mamata Banerjee of TMC called Rahul's disqualification a "new low for democracy in PM Modi's New India". AAP's Arvind Kejriwal called it a "dictatorial move" and requested everyone to "come together and save our democracy". BRS Minister, KCR, who earlier called Rahul Gandhi the "biggest buffoon" in the country, accused Modi of being a dictator and called it a "black day in the history of Indian democracy".

It is easily discernible that these parties had already concluded that their very survival depended on them uniting. These parties were waiting for an excuse they could use for joining forces with Congress, a party they had claimed to be fighting until then.
On the other hand, even

Rahul was aware of the consequences and did not want to clarify and apologise for his offensive remarks. Congress, filled with legal luminaries like no other party, did not try to secure an immediate stay on the conviction from a higher court. Both facts lead to the

conclusion that the Congress saw it as an opportunity to unite all anti-BJP parties who were until then reluctant to accept Rahul's primacy under the leadership of the same Rahul Gandhi.

Coming to Telangana, after failing to get traction on his non-Congress, non-BJP initiative and renaming TRS to BRS and relaunching it as a national party, options for KCR and BRS had narrowed down. With BJP becoming a potent alternative and growing even more robust by the day in the state, KCR had concluded that alliances are the only option for survival. The alliance with Communist parties in the Munugode by-election, and the narrow victory margin of the BRS candidate in it, had validated the necessity of alliances. His son Rama Rao's presence with Rahul

nomination, his defence of Nehru's and Manmohan's performance as Prime Ministers in the Assembly, his daughter Kavitha's invite to Congress president Mallikharjun Kharge and party supremo Sonia Gandhi to join her Jantar Mantar dharna were all apparent overtures to the Congress for an alliance. Rahul's disqualification was the opportunity KCR was waiting for, and he quickly pounced on it.

It's time for senior Congress leaders in the state, who claim to sincerely fight against KCR's misrule, to decide where they stand. The only force that will be fighting the Bharat Rashtra Samithi in the Assembly elections this year-end will be the Bharatiya Janata Party.

> (The author is BJP TS spokesperson)

#### You have no heart: Renuka to Modi

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

Declaring that she is thinking of proceeding legally against Prime Minister Narendra Modi for 'terming' her Shurpanaka, former Union Minister Renuka Choudhary said, "You have no heart Mr Modi.

Addressing the media on Friday as part of the high command's nationwide press meets on Rahul Gandhi's disqualification from the Lok Sabha, Renuka said the party would proceed legally on Rahul Gandhi's disqualification from the Lok Sabha.

She said the Congress would formulate an action plan and that it would be revealed soon.

Renuka demanded that BJP leaders should answer the questions raised by Rahul. She termed Union Minister of Law and Justice Kiran Rijiju as a 'useless fellow' and 'Luchagadu.'

#### 'Land value in TS increased due to good governance'

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana IT Minister KT Rama Rao said that the land Telangana has increased due to the good governance of Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao.

Addressing a gathering at National Panchayat Awards 2022-23 function, the minister said, "The land value has increased providing a sense of comfort and hope to anyone who owns a piece of land in any part of Telangana. Recently, I contacted my relative about a village called Mohinikunta, which is the hometown of my grandfather, in Mustabad mandal of Telangana. I wanted the piece of land that was once owned by my grandfather for sentimental value. The land that is very far away from Siddipet and even the village is worth Rs 30 lakh for one acre. That is the discounted price offered by the person since I was asking for it.

#### TODAY **ALMANAC** Month & Paksham Nakshatram: Magha: 1:51 PM to 3:23 PM Yamagandam: 06:06 PM to 07:52 PM Varjyam: 6:14 AM to 7:46 AM 03:01 AM to 04:48 AM Amritakalam: Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:55 AM to 12:44 PM HYDERABAD WEATHER Forecast: Mostly Sunny **Temp:** 36° **Humidity: 38%** Sunrise: 6:11 AM Sunset: 6:29 PM Updated: MARCH 31, 2023 5:00 PM

# Plaint with ED, probe sought on how KTR got TSPSC exam data

PNS HYDERABAD

TPCC President Revanth Reddy Revanth filed a complaint with the ED on Friday requesting it to probe the financial transactions that took place in connection with the TSPSC leak as the TSPSC question paper sellers had sent the money to foreign countries via hawala.

Addressing the media on Friday, Revanth asked KTR to reveal how he got data about the TSPSC exam as officials had said that they had not given it to KTR.

He demanded that the ED must probe how KTR got information about TSPSC exams. "How did KTR come to know details about cut-off

Life saved by

108 personnel

HYDERABAD: The 108

emergency ambulance

. Kistapur of Kukunoorpalli

mandal saved the life of a

personnel in Chinna

man named Raju by

resuscitation (CPR) on

incident, Motiram, Circle

under Rachakonda saved

a life by performing CPR

on a person who suffered

a heart attack while

Nagar, Hyderabad.

Minister Harish Rao

who performed CPR.

lauded both the people

MD in Emergency

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

medicine, Nephrology

to be offered at KMC

The National Medical

Council approved two cours-

es including MD Emergency

medicine and MD Nephrology at the Kakatiya Medical College (KMC),

Warangal. The NMC stated

that both courses will have

an intake of five seats each

for the academic year of

The MD in emergency

medicine course is reported-

ly going to be offered for the

first time in a state-led gov-

ernment medical college.

The NMC has reviewed the

assessment regarding facul-

ty's experience, publication,

and other teaching facilities,

including infrastructure

available at KMC and made

the decision. The KMC is

required to make appropri-

ate arrangements according

On this occasion, Health

Minister Harish Rao lauded

the Directorate of Medical

Education of Telangana.

to NMC norms.

2023-24.

driving a car in Hayat

Unfortunately, the victim

could not survive. Health

Inspector, Ramannapet

cardiopulmonary

Friday. In another

performing

with CPR



marks as the TSPSC had not revealed it?" he asked.

Revanth said that KTR has been controlling the SIT probe into the TSPSC leak scam.

He demanded that the probe should hold TSPSC employee

PNS HYDERABAD

The Special Investigation Team

(SIT) has taken a decision in the

TSPSC leakage of question

papers related to Group-1 exams

and issued notices to TSPSC sec-

and member Lingareddy to find

out the complete information in

this matter. The SIT intends to

issue notices to the Chairman as

It may be recalled that the

question papers of TSPSC

Group-1 and AE competitive

examination, along with four

other examination papers were

leaked. The main accused are

Secretary PA Praveen Kumar

and System Admin Rajasekhar

Reddy. After questioning the

two, it was revealed that the for-

mer employees Praveen, Ramesh

and Shamim were also given

Industries Minister KT

Rama Rao took a dig at

Modi and said that he is

ready to display his acade-

In a Tweet, he said, "I

have a Masters in

Biotechnology from Pune

University. I also have a

Masters in Business

Administration from the

City University of New

York. I am ready to display

both certificates publicly.

The BJP attacked Delhi

Chief Minister Arvind

Kejriwal on Friday and

accused him of "peddling

lies" against Prime Minister

Narendra Modi after the

Gujarat HC set aside the

CIC order asking the

Gujarat University to pro-

vide information on Modi's

The Gujarat High Court

on Friday set aside the

seven-year-old order of the

Central Information

Commission (CIC) asking

academic degree to him.

Just saying?

mic certificates publicly.

well if necessary.

SIT issues notices to

Shankara Laxmi as A-1 and TSPSC chairman and secretary as A-2. The government has been protecting them from the TSPSC leak and scapegoating junior employees, he said.

Praveen worked as secretary's

PA and Ramesh worked as PA to

the commission member Bandi

Lingareddy. Notices were issued

to the secretary and the member

of the commission. Notices will

be issued to the chairman and

other members of the commis-

sion and a key statement will be

taken regarding TSPSC duty

procedures, staff duties, the num-

ber of departments and those

who has been in the respective

posts since when. The arrested

accused have been working in the

custody of Suresh, Ramesh and

Shamim was completed. The SIT

is verifying the information col-

lected from the accused and on

the basis of the call data and the

extent of the truth in their state-

the Gujarat University to

provide information on Prime Minister Narendra

Modi's degree to Delhi

Chief Minister Arvind

Allowing the Gujarat

University's appeal against

the CIC order, Justice Biren

Vaishnav also imposed a

cost of Rs 25,000 on

Kejriwal and asked him to

deposit the amount within

four weeks to the Gujarat

State Legal Services

refused a request by

Kejriwal's lawyer Percy

CIC, M. Sridhar Acharyulu,

directed the Delhi

University and the Gujarat

University to provide infor-

mation to Kejriwal on the

academic degrees Modi had

Gujarat High Court stayed

the CIC order after the var-

sity approached it against

Three months later, the

received.

that order.

In April 2016, the then

Kavina to stay the order.

Justice Vaishnav also

Authority (GSLSA).

Kejriwal.

ments is being verified.

KTR's dig at Modi; says

ready to display certificates

Meanwhile, the third day of

respective departments.

Group-1 paper.

building up the network of his BRS in other states and KTR is enjoying himself by throwing parties at Jubilee Hills. Meanwhile, the SIT is threatening opposition leaders for providing evidence by issuing notices, Revanth said.

Revanth asked KTR to reveal whether he (Revanth) can use abusive words against him after giving him Rs 100 crore.

He asked KTR how he can decide that his dignity is worth Rs 100 crore and added that KTR should send a letter to the government asking it to order a probe by a sitting HC judge into the TSPSC leak if he has really any dignity left.

"Is it signing for a Rakul Preeth Singh film or is it an agreement for Samantha's series," Revanth asked.

#### Trump indicted by NY grand jury over hush TSPSC secretary, member money payments

PNS NEW YORK

Donald Trump has been indicted by a Manhattan grand jury on charges related to paying off a porn star during his 2016 presidential ng him the ign, mak first former US president to face a criminal charge and upending his bid to retake the White House in 2024.

The grand jury on Thursday voted to indict 76-year-old Trump, a Republican, for his role in paying money to porn star Stormy Daniels in an attempt to buy her silence over an alleged affair.

The indictment remains under seal and it is not clear what crimes and how many criminal counts Trump has been charged with.

#### L VPEI ranked among top 10 eye institutions

PNS HYDERABAD

Hyderabad-based LV Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI) has been ranked among the top 10 global eye health institutions for its research output by the SCImago rankings agency. In the SCImago Institutions Rankings 2023, LVPEI is ranked eighth in the world (ranked second in Asia) in the Ophthalmology (health) category, making it the only eye health institution from India to be listed among the top 10 global eye research institu-

Founder Chair of LV Prasad Eye Institutes, Dr Gullapalli N Rao said, "Research and innovation have been integral to LVPEI from its inception. It is very encouraging to be ranked as one of the top 10 global eye research institutions. Being the first Indian eye care institution to feature on this list is a matter of pride and a major milestone for Indian eye and medical research.'

#### Rahul disqualified for trying to expose Modi-Adani links: Sameer Bahadurpura candidate Kaleem

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad DCC President Sameer Waliullah called for unity against the Modi Government's suppression of dissent and corruption. He said that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was disqualified from the Lok Sabha for attempting to expose the relationship between Adani and Modi.

As part of the AICC's nationwide initiative to hold press conferences in each district headquarters, Sameer Waliullah and

other leaders held a press conference at the Charminar on Friday. Charminar area in-charge Advocate Mujeeb Ullah Shareef,

Baba, TPCC General Secretary C. Srinivas, Hyderabad Mahila Congress President Tahseen Fatima, Mirza Askari Baig, Shabaz Khan, Ali, Chandu, Ahmed, Aslam Shareef, Asad, Amir, KS Anand Rao, Kausar Fatima and other senior leaders too attended the press meet.

Sameer condemned the Modi Government for attempting to suppress dissent through Central agencies like the ED, the CBI, and laws like UAPA.

He provided examples of opposition leaders, activists and journalists being targeted with 'fabricated' cases and intimidation tactics and said that this was

part of a broader strategy to safeguard the government's interests and conceal its misdeeds.

Citing media reports, he said that over half of the FDI into Gautam Adani's conglomerate originated from offshore entities connected to his family. He challenged the BJP Government to address Rahul's questions regarding the source of Rs 23,000 crore and added that the Modi Government's relationship with Adani may be deeper than

Sameer defended Rahul's advocacy for farmers and marginalized communities and dismissed accusations of casteism

#### We must work together to prevent stray dogs: Mayor

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

City Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi has suggested that NGOs should work together to keep people safe from the danger of stray dogs. Veterinary department officer Vakil, corporators Shravan and CN Reddy participated in the all-party meeting on the danger of stray dogs at the GHMC headquarters on

On this occasion, the mayor said, "In the coming summer, they want to set up water pots for the drinking water needs of

to name the dog handling squad as Dog Stabilisation Squad. Information should be given to the stray dog squad as per the advice of the local leaders in the places where stray dogs roam a lot."

She said that a slide on the

dangers of stray dogs should be made by the cinema producers to spread awareness about stray dogs. The corporators should take steps to implement stray dogs in all divisions.

BJP corporator Shravan said that sterilisation programme should be carried the stray dogs. It is suggested out widely in the 150 divisions.

#### Techie ends life fearing being laid off by company

PNS HYDERABAD

prevails in Puppalaguda of Narsingi mandal as a software engineer Vinod Kumar committed suicide, reportedly due to fear of losing his job amidst mass layoffs in the city.

The Narsingi police revealed that the victim is a native of Guntur district of himself on Friday. The family members of Vinod Kumar revealed that he has been feeling very stressed over his job situation recently.

# T-Works to set up multi-layer PCB fabrication facility

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

T-Works, a Government of Telangana initiative and India's largest prototyping centre, and Qualcomm India Pvt. Ltd entered into a grant agreement to establish a unique multilayer printed circuit board (PCB) fabrication facility at T-Works. The facility will enable rapid fabrication of up to 12-layer boards to accelerate electronic product prototyping and development.

Qualcomm India is supporting this initiative as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility

programme in India. This initiative aligns with several programmes driven by Qualcomm across the country aimed at enabling and supporting design and innovation in India.

Sujai Karampuri, CEO T-Works said, "We are making Telangana, and indeed India, the preferred manufacturing destination for electronics. We are also extremely pleased to have Qualcomm partner with us and bring decades of experience and expertise to ensure this facility's success. Corporates partnering with us is validation of the

vision and direction of T-Works." Speaking about the collaboration, Shashi Reddy, VP, Engineering, Qualcomm India Private Limited said, "As a leading technology company, we understand the need for such facilities to drive innova-Telangana tion. The Government has taken a massive stride in the form of T-Works to democratise access to high-end tools as well as talent. It shows their commitment to making India a leader in product innovation with Hyderabad at its epicentre.'

### Congress in catch-22...

Continued from page 1

BRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha had invited the Congress to join her protest on the Women's Reservation Bill.

While all these points towards the BRS extending an olive branch, the Congress is confused over accepting BRS support.
While TPCC chief Revanth

Reddy has ruled out an alliance with BRS, senior Congress leader K. Jana Reddy said that an alliance between the Congress and the BRS is possible after Bhongir MP Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said so earlier. Both Venkat and Jana Reddy drew flak for their comments.

When Jana Reddy was asked whether the Congress will support the BRS in Kavitha's ED case, he said the Congress will support her if she is being hounded illegally.

"I am happy that the BRS condemned the BJP on the Rahul issue and came forward to fight the BJP government. I hope we will continue the fight against the BJP," Jana Reddy had said.

However, later he clarified, 'When a journalist asked me about electoral alliances I said that I had welcomed the fact that 17 political parties have joined hands with the Congress against the BJP to protect democracy," he said.

#### Centre pours cold...

Continued from page 1

Even for threshing platforms for which Rs 190 crore was spent they stopped money. In Gujarat, they build threshing platforms even for fish but in Telangana we cannot build one for maize and paddy. The TS government had to pay Rs 192 crore and bear the expenses," KTR added. In FŶ23, Telangana and 11 other big states borrowed Rs 7.6 trillion below the budgeted Rs 9.1 trillion as per a report by ICICI Securities. Telangana is among the 12 large Indian states which was forecast to witness aggressive spending growth in 2023-24.

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# Swapnalok fire: Helpless small vendors losing their business

thought that

**DEEPIKA PASHAM** HYDERABAD

Fifteen days have passed since six young people have lost their lives in the fire accident in Swapnalok building, but the struggle of the helpless vendors outside the building

is never-ending.
A group of small business stall owners has been restricted from opening their stores, utilise electricity and allow crowds to sit near the building. They were supposedly asked to get permission from the police and the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation as the Swapnalok building is shut temporarily due to the fire

Narsing Rao, who has a fast food centre said, "I am leave home empty handed at been feeding people with



night. Though our business is food. Me, my son and a shut, I am here with a hope worker used to be here and that God will help us in getnever ting permission to open the Swapnalok would hit our building. If I am at home, I livelihood. If we open also, eat and sleep. Instead I like to we were asked not to use electricity and without it our sitting here every day and sit in my place where I have



neighbour's machine has been robbed and they did check it in the CCTV, but could not find it. They are struggling with life expenses now.

With me it is the fifth generation. Initially, we had space

behind the building and now we are living there. One of the peersons who runs the insurance office in the building has my money also. Every month I invested money but he disappeared now. The building owner must be jailed for negligence and our suffering," he

Another fastfood centre owner said, "I am terrified to use electricity as officials may come any day and stop us for running the business. But who will feed us? We tried to get permission and we are visiting the officials so that we have our electricity connection and help ourselves to cook for our customers."

Sources said that two people per each floor would be allowed inside the building only with permission to shift equipment, material or any

# Simpliforge, IIT Hyd develop a prototype 3D printed bridge

A prototype 3D printed bridge has been developed and printed in collaboration between IIT Hyderabad and Simpliforge Creations.

The concept and design were developed and evaluated by Prof KVL Subramaniam and his research group, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT, Hyderabad. Engineering, III, Hyderabad. The bridge was printed by Simpliforge, a startup company specialising in providing 3D concrete printing solutions. Designed as a pedestrian bridge, the prototype bridge is undergoing load testing and evaluation for testing and evaluation for functional use.

The bridge has been designed at IIT Hyderabad broadly following form optimisation to minimise the use of concrete and reinforcement. The concept of the bridge was developed following the concept of 'Material follows Force'. Simpliforge Creations developed an extrusion and software system specifically for the project to fully exhibit the merits of their 3D printing system.

Enlisting the uniqueness of the 3D printing technology, Prof KVL Subramaniam, IITH, said, "3D concrete printing is an emerging technology that has the potential for transforming the construction industry with the promise of rapid, efficient, and free-form construction. Technology application in this space requires advancements in design methodolo-

gies, material processing, and

been a part of this ground-Director, Simpliforge Creations. "This bridge is a testament to the capabilities of 3D construction printing technology and its potential applications in infrastructural requirements, defense, and disaster scenarios owing to its speed and ease. We hope that this project will inspire others to explore the possibilities of 3D concrete printing in infrastructure and other industries.'



# Rs 2,710-crore loan plan for Stree Nidhi groups

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao said that Rs 2,710 crore will be allotted as the loan plan for the financial year of 2023-24, during the 10th general meeting of Stree Nidhi Parapati Saharaka Samakhya held at Shilpa Kala Vedika, on Friday.

The minister said that Stree Nidhi groups have been working brilliantly in Telangana for the last 12 years and are a role model for the country. He also said the state government has given women Rs 750 crore interest-free loans and congratulated everyone for achieving 28.20 per cent growth in loan balance.

Minister Dayakar Rao said, "Around 5,30,000 members out of 1.59 lakh Stree Nidhi groups have availed loans from Stree Nidhi in this financial year. The balance of Stree Nidhi loans is currently Rs 5,355 crore and the growth of 28.20 per cent in the loan balance is commendable. States like Rajasthan are implementing our Stree Nidhi scheme taking inspiration from us. The state government has given women Rs 750 crore interest-free loans.

The minister further added that women should give priority to setting up solar power panels in their small businesses, as it will reduce costs. He suggested the officials to increase the time limit of the Mandal Federation to three years. He said that the issue of Rs 5 lakh insurance for the members should be looked

Minister Davakar Reddy awarded many officials and employees who have shown

best performance in Stree Nidhi programme.

Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) CEO Sandeep Kumar Sultania, Municipal Director Satyanarayana, Stree Nidhi State President Indira, Warangal District Additional Collector Ashwini Tanaji, AP Mass President CS Reddy, Stree Nidhi MD Vidyasagar Reddy, Stree Nidhi Vice-President Raghava Devi, Saraswathi, Treasurer Managing Committee members, DRDOs and representatives of Mahila Samakhyas participated.



### First-ever EV charging centre launched

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana State Renewable Development Corporation (TSREDCO) chairman Y. Satish Reddy launched the first-ever electric vehicle (EV) charging centre at Yadadri through a public-pri-vate partnership (PPP model) on Friday. The charging machine installed near Surendrapuri is the first charging station to be set up in the state through this model.

A public-private partnership is a long-term arrange-ment between the government and private sector institutions. Speaking on the occasion, Satish Reddy said that the centre has been set up so that devotees who come to Yadadri

in electric vehicles can charge their vehicles. He said that it will be possible to charge the vehicles at a lower unit price

than the market price. Satish Reddy said, "TSRED-CO is working hard to increase the infrastructure for electric vehicles across the state. Several charging centres are being set up in Hyderabad city as well as in districts. These are going to be available to motorists in a few days. I urge people to take part in environmental protection and show more interest in purchasing electric vehicles.'

Vadaigudem sarpanch Poshetti and charging centre owner Jaganmohan Reddy participated in the programme.



# Priority for allocating lands to food processing zones: CS

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari held a meeting with officials of the industries department and took stock of the progress achieved on setthe progress achieved on setting up Special Food Processing Zones in the state, at BRKR Bhavan on Friday. The CS wanted the officials to give top priority and complete the process of allot-

ting land for setting up rice mills within the next four to

five months. She also asked the officials to take steps to operationalise the concept of setting up Aqua Hub in the Mid-Manair Reservoir. Principal Secretary Industries Jayesh Ranjan, TSIIC MD Narsimha Reddy and other officials were pre-

The Chief Secretary informed that the vision of the Chief Minister is to transform the state in food and agriculture sector and set up

Food Processing Zones is based on the demand and feasibility in each district. Accordingly, she directed the officials to formulate a strategy to promote food processing zones in seven places where there is a huge potential and demand from prospective investors. With the increasing paddy production in the state there is a need to promote setting up rice mills in these food pro-

cessing zones.

# SBI Ladies Club donates for pet needs



The SBI Ladies Club, Hyderabad, undertakes various philanthropic activities from time to time in order to bring a change in the life of less privileged ones in the society. In this pursuit, the club, under the leadership of its President Nupur Jhingran, organised a programme at Blue Cross, Hyderabad on

Nupur Jhingran has handed over a cheque of Rs 24,000- for donation of pet needs. She said that it is the responsibility of every one to take care of the pet animals. She has appreciated the work of Blue Croass for taking care of pets which cannot ask for their own

The Ladies Club members Sujata Mitra, Vice-President, Madhavi Prasad, Secretary and other members were present on this occasion,

Amala Akkineni, founder of Blue Cross, expressed her gratitude for the noble contribution by the SBI

# Electrification for 162 habitations discussed by Forest Department

PNS HYDERABAD

Electrification proposals pertaining to Adilabad, Asifabad, Mancherial and Nirmal districts were discussed by Principal Chief Conservator Officer of Forests and Head of Forest Forces (PCCF, HOFF) RM Dobriyal and Mohan Chandra Pargaien, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Nodal officer of Telangana Conservation Act.

There are 162 habitations (35 in Nirmal, 34 Adilabad, 84 in Asifabad and 9 in Mancherial ) for which rural



electrification proposals are being processed.

As all the proposals in these districts fall under Protected Area of Kawal Tiger Reserve,

permission under Wild Life Protection Act from National Board for Wild Life, Delhi, is also required. All the officers concerned were also informed

that the proposals are to be examined with reference to recently amended Forest Conservation Rules which also requires the need of equivalent non-forest land as Compensatory Afforestation for these proposals.

After detailed discussion and clarification of field officers, including concerned engineers, the Director of Northern Power Distribution Company Limited (NPDCL) was requested to submit proposals immediately for processing by the department and onward submission to the Government of India.

# Artistic swimming training for students at HPS

PNS HYDERABAD

Kazakh Synchro Stars performed an artistic swimming for Oscars won song Naatu Naatu from RRR movie at the newly inaugurated Olympic-length swimming pool at Hyderabad Public School on Friday

The group also created moves for world fame Chak De India songs and thanked the team HPS for being invited to perform. The swimmers of HPS who bagged various medals at inter-state and international competitions also performed.

The goal of the school to come up with the pool is to provide international training on artistic swimming and aquatic acrobatics to its students along with producing ace swimmers in all disciplines.

Chief Guest Vakati Karuna, Secretary to Government of Telangana, Department of Education and Chairperson, Board of Governors of HPS said,



" I congratulate the management for bringing such an ambitious project like Olympic pool in the school which is a monumental achievement. Witnessing all the playing grounds and students I wish to go back to student life, though as a chairman I have not spent time with the school. But passion for excellence is resonat-

ing and I am in much more

Chief Guest Vakati Karuna, Secretary to Government of Telangana, Department of Education and Chairperson, Board of Governors of HPS said, " I congratulate the management for bringing such an ambitious project like Olympic pool in the school which is a monumental achievement.

demand as Chairman of HPS

than my secretary job."
The Hyderabad Public School spent Rs 25 crore towards creating a sporting ecosystem that includes modern infrastructure, the right coaches and trainers, and the knowhow in these areas to mould their students into world-class sports persons capable of winning at the Olympics. The school will focus on cycling, swimming, badminton, table tennis, hockey and shooting as part of this objective.

Gusti J Noria, President, the Hyderabad Public School Society said, "In tune with our objective of creating excellence in academics and extra-curricular activities, HPS has embarked on an ambitious mission to produce world-class sportspersons. The inauguration of the Olympic-size swimming pool and introduction of the artistic and aquatic training programmes is another step towards realising our vision.'

## Metro Rail extends 'off peak hours' offer from today

PNS HYDERABAD

L&T Metro Rail announced 'off peak hours' offer on contactless smart cards (CSC) and will continue the super-saver offer from April 1.

A 10 per cent discount will be available on notified fare on CSC only, from 6 am to 8 am and 8 pm to 12 pm.

The super-saver offer (SSO-99) which was widely appreciated by Hyderabad Metro Rail passengers, and which saw more than 1.3 million rides, ends on March 31. L&TMRHL will continue it starting from April 1 to March 31, 2024. Passengers can travel unlimited on 100 notified holidays at Rs 99 only. Pre-existing SSO-59 smart cards can be used for SSO-99 offer. The list of notified holidays where the SSO-99 offer is applicable is



enclosed and is also available online and at stations.

KVB Reddy, MD & CEO, L&TMRHL said, "These offers are for the benefit of the passengers using the Hyderabad Metro Rail services. I believe these offers will further strengthen passenger com-

mute with Hyderabad Metro Rail to facilitate both office commuters and the general public.'

He also announced the withdrawal of 10 per cent discount on the notified fare on the usage of CSC and Digital QR (DQR) tickets.

CPI to launch

desh bachao

The Communist Party (CPI) will launch the BJP hatao,

desh bachao (remove BJP and

save nation) campaign across the country between April 14

CPI national executive com-

mittee member Chada Venkat Reddy told the media at

Husnabad in Siddipet district

on Friday that the BJP has been

trying to ignite communal

tensions in the country in the

name of "Hindu raj." The saf-

fron party has been misusing

religion to exploit the senti-

The Narendra Modi govern-

ment, he said, had borrowed

Rs 15 crore during the last nine

years and mortgaged the inter-

ests of the State. The Prime

Minister has been portraying BJP leaders as paragons of virtue. But, he has been

unleashing the CBI, Enforcement Directorate and

Income Tax officials against the

opponents to stifle the voice of dissent.

burden on the people once more by increasing the toll tax

by 5 per cent and 12 per cent

on essential medicines, Venkat Reddy pointed out.

continue the campaign against

pro-corporate economic poli-

cies of the BJP-led Centre. He

came down on the Union gov-

ernment for trying to intimi-

date opponents by foisting

CPI district council secre-

tary Manda Pavan, CPI State

council member G Mallesh

false cases on opponents.

and others were present.

He said the party would

The BJP government has been imposing an unbearable

ments of people, he said.

BJP hatao,

campaign

PNS HUSNABAD

and May 15.

# BJP will go Congress way, predicts Harish

Minister for Finance T Harish Rao has predicted that the BJP will meet the same fate as the Congress. The Congress, he recalled, faced defeat in the 2014 election as it ignored the State's interests.

Addressing the Bharat Rashtra Samith (BRS) Athameeya Sammelanam here n Friday, Harish Rao recalled that the then Chief Minister N Kiran Kumar threatened to starve the Telangana region of funds. In the election held in 2014, Congress bit the dust. The TRS (now BRS) came out with flying colours

The BJP-led Central government gave short shrift to the Telangana State interests. The Union government rejected the appeal for national status for the Kaleswaharam Lift Irrigation project. It also failed to sanction even one medical college to the State. The Centre did not even grant Navodya Schools and also Nursing Colleges.

The BJP government at the Centre even refused to implement the promise incorporated in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act. The Railway Coach Factory was



fully implemented welfare

activities and also develop-

rank and file to take the mes-

sage of BRS to the people. The BRS is the only party which

Harish Rao exhorted the

mental activities.

Minister for Finance T Harish Rao speaking at BRS party meeting in Medak on Friday

promised at the time of separation of the Andhra Pradesh. But the BJP government failed to implement the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, he pointed out.

He came down heavily on Prime Minister Narendra Modi for withholding funds to the State with an intention to hamper development. But, the

has plans to develop the State. state government under the leadership of Chief Minister K The party is committed to the welfare of the poor and down-Chandrashekar Rao has overcome all hurdles and successtrodden.

Medak Lok Sabha Kotha Prabhakar Reddy, Zilla Parishad Chairperson Redkala Hemalatha Goud, MLC Y Mallesham, Narspur MLA Madan Reddy and others took

# Hoardings mocking BJP MP spring up across Nizamabad

PNS HYDERABAD

mocking Hoardings Nizamabad MP Arvind Dharmapuri from BJP spring up across Nizamabad by turmeric farmers. On Friday, Nizamabad woke up with posters mocking the BJP, after the Centre denied Turmeric Board to the farmers, as a poll promise.

The yellow colour hoarding with Telugu text read,

'Turmeric Board'. Turmeric Board brought by our hon'ble Nizamabad MP'As the turmeric farmers begin their unusuboard within five days of winning elections failed to get the board in 4.5 years, the posters have taken Nizamabad and

Telangana by storm. The BJP MP even stated that he would resign from his position in Parliament and join the farmer's and people's campaign if he could not keep his word. Arvind made the promise in writing in March 2019 and even signed it on a non-judicial (bond) stamp. His associates printed copies of the pledge and distributed them throughout the turmeric-growing regions of the Nizamabad Lok Sabha constituency. Senior BJP leaders who supported the pledge included Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, Ram Madhav, and others.

The issue was brought to



al protest after a BJP MP who Hoardings mocking Nizamabad MP Arvind Dharmapuri in Nizamabad

light while replying to a question raised by BRS MPs Venkatesh Netha Borlakunta. Kavitha Malothu, Dayakar Pasunoori, and Gaḋdam Ranjith Reddy on the constraints that the Centre was facing to set up the Turmeric Board in Nizamabad, Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel said: "Spices a statutory autonomous body, set up under the Spices Board Act, 1986 is entrusted with the responsibility of promoting 52 spices including turmeric, coriander, and chillies. Therefore, there is no proposal to establish a Turmeric Board or any other spice-specific Board in the country

Kalvakuntla Kavitha, BRS MLC, and former Nizamahad

MP questioned sitting BJP MP Arvind Dharmapuri about his promises to bring the turmeric board to the district in the year 2022. Kavitha observed that Arvind had been unsuccessful in conthe Union vincing Government to set up a turmeric board in the district. In light of disclosures produced using an RTI, Kavitha asked the BJP Nizamabad MP the justification for denying the farmers and people of Nizamabad their basic dues. She also said that the MP was making exaggerated claims about the allocation of Rs 100 crore when, under his administration, every farmer only received Rs 200 from the turmeric board. Kavitha recalled MP Arvind Dharmapuri and the BJP's

lofty but erroneous promises to the Nizamabad people to just win an election and tamper with their hopes and

Following the clarification provided by the Centre that the Turmeric Board would not be granted to Telangana, the Turmeric Farmers of Nizamabad decided to voice their displeasure and remind Member of Parliament Arvind Dharmapuri of his broken promise. After the BJP government at the Centre shattered all expectations for the Turmeric Board, the farmers of Nizamabad put up posters mocking the Nizamabad MP from the BJP. These posters highlighted his empty promises and his failure to secure one turmeric board for the farmers of Nizamabad.

# **Senior journalist** Payam no more

PNS HYDERABAD

Senior journalist Payam Sudhakaran passed away on Friday afternoon while undergoing treatment in a city hospital.

1970 in Kerala, Payam Sudhakaran had worked in a string of leading English newspapers and magazines including the Times of India and Deccan



Chronicle etc. He carved a niche for himself in the field of journalism with his scholarly writings and impeccable language teaching skills. Suave and amiable, Payam Sudhakaran endeared himself to the people's cause and was always at the forefront to groom novices in the journalism field into perfect journalists. His funeral held at Bansilalpet cremation grounds on Friday evening was attended by a large number of journalists and people from different walks of life.

### KCR family engaged in 'time pass' politics: Sanjay

PNS HYDERABAD

Lashing out at IT Minister KT Ramarao for describing Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a broker, Telangana BJP President Bandi Sanjay Kumar said the Kalvakuntla family is engaged in 'time pass' politics by criticising Prime Minister

Sanjay described KTR as a broker and Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao as a passport

He said that Twitter Tillu KTR, liquor queen Kavitha, Happy Rao Santhosh and Aggipette Rao Harish Rao are ruling Telangana.

Addressing a public meeting held at Sangareddy on Friday, Sanjay asked KCR to reveal why he is not speaking about the TSPSC leak even though the future of 30 lakh youth has been destroyed.

He demanded that the government should disband the TSPSC and order a sitting HC Judge to probe the scam.

Sanjay said that the BRS government is not fulfilling the assurances

given to the people during elections. He said that people were opposing the Kalvakuntla family everywhere.

Making it clear that the BJP will win any by-election held in Telangana now, Sanjay said that he was confident that the BJP would come to power in the state. The BJP is now the strongest party in the country, he said.

Asking people whether they will give the keys once again to BRS thieves, Sanjay asked KCR to dismiss KTR from the Cabinet.

Asking the government whether it would conduct exams again without cleaning up the TSPSC, Sanjay demanded that the government should order a sitting HC Judge to probe the TSPSC leak. He said that the government must give Rs 1 lakh as ex-gratia to unemployed youth.

He said that the Kalvakuntla family has a hand in all businesses including illicit liquor and narcotics.

"It is surprising that a person who does not have any dignity filed a defamation case against me. We will not rest till we kick the BRS out of Telangana," he said

## Medico commits suicide

In a tragic incident, an MBBS student committed suicide by hanging in the hostel room here on Friday. The Medical College authorities and the police have been puzzled over the incident because the third-year medical student, identified as Sanath, did not leave any suicide note. He reportedly spent with his friends till the early hours of Friday and he was found hanging from the ceiling fan in his hostel room on Friday.

The police said he had sent a message through his mobile phone to his parents and brother, expressing an apology for resorting to the extreme step. But the parents, who arrived at the hostel, denied that they had received any message on their mobile phones from their son. He hailed from the Peddapalli

The Medical College authorities said that Sanath was a bright student and he



that second yearmedical student Dharvath Preethi committed suicide in Kakatiya Medical College recently.

passed his second-year examinations with 74 per cent marks. He had not been suffering from any health issues. It was puzzling as to why he had resorted to extreme steps.

On receiving the information that the student who belonged to the 2020 batch died by suicide, the police arrived on the scene and started an investigation. The Clues team collected evidence from the spot. The police also spoke to the students, but no reasons that drove Sanath to suicide could be found so

The parents, who arrived at the colleges, were seen weep-

ing inconsolably.

The body was shifted to the Government Hospital for post-mortem.

It may be recalled that second year-postgraduate medical student Dharvath Preethi committed suicide in Kakatiya Medical College recently. The incident sparked tension because she alleged ly committed unable to bear the harassment by a senior student. The police arrested the senior student Saif on the charge of harassing Preethi. She allegedly injected herself with poison. But, the postmortem report reportedly did not mention any trace of poi-

# Jungle safari to be developed in Mahabubnagar district

PNS MAHABUB NAGAR

Minister for Prohibition and Excise V Srinivas Goud on Friday vowed to develop jungle safari in Mahabubnagar district. The KCR Urban Eco Park and Patepur Maisamma temple would become tourist attractions, he said. The Minister inspected the ongoing developmental works at Maisamma temple. Later, he travelled a distance of 13 from the temple to the KCR Urban Eco Park through the forest. The Forest Department has been renovating Goal Bungalow to make it one of the tourist attractions.

Tourists would be taken through dense forest from KCR Urban Eco Park to Maisamma temple, the Minister said. Adventure activities, too, would



Minister for Tourism V Srinivas Goud visiting Goal Bungalow in Mahabubnagar district on Friday

be developed. Apart from it, restaurants would be established, Srinivas Goud said.

nied by State Tourist Department Managing Director Manohar, OSD Satyanarayana

## Guv attends Lord Rama's coronation in Bhadrachalam

The coronation ceremony of Lord Rama was held on a grand scale at Sri Sita Ramachandra Swamy Temple,

The ceremony took place at the decorated Mithila Stadium . The priests took the festival deities from the main temple to the Stadium amid chanting of Vedic hymns and performed coronation ceremony. The priests per-

formed the ceremony. Lord Rama was adorned with Khadgam, Racha Mudrika, Padukalu

and a glittering crown. Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan attended the ceremony and presented

The details of the proposed project are as follows:

2 Name of the Project, location of the Project and

Name of the authorized

person to be contacted

4 Name of the EIA Consultant

5 Capital cost of the project

6 Line of activity & capacity

7 Environment Protection

Date, Time & Venue of

proposed project:

Public Hearing

extent of land

1 Name of the Company with Address & phone number H.No:9-1-202/1, Bhag



silk clothes to the presiding deity. Minister for Tribal Welfare Satyavathi Rathod also attended the ceremony.

Existing Proposed

8,640 Cum/Annum | 58,752 Cum/Annum

TELANGANA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD REGIONAL OFFICE, RAMAGUNDAM - 505215

with the Notification No.S.O.1533 (E) dated 14th September, 2006 of Ministry of

H.No:9-1-202/1, Bhagathnagar, Karimnagar,

Shankarapatnam Mandal, Karimnagar District.

Email: seethugranites3@gmail.com

Kalyan nagar, Hyderabad – 500038.

Date : 04.05.2023, Time: 11.00 AM

M/s. Sri Sai Manasa Nature Tech Pvt. Ltd.

Sri I Vijay Bhasker (Proprietor), Cell:9849247105,

M/s. Seethu Granites (expansion project of 13.80 Ha. of Colour Granite Mine), Sy.No.157, Kothagattu Village,

Implementation of the Environmental management Plan as

Venue: Near quarry area of Mis. Seethu Granites, Sy, No. 157, Kothagattu Village, Shankarapatnam Mandal, Karimnagar District.

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION

Environment & Forests, Government of India, its Amendments thereof, we hereby notify that an Environmental Public Hearing for the proposed expansion project of 13.80 Ha. of Colour Granite Mine of M/s. Seethu Granites, Sy.No.157, Kothagattu Village, Shankarapatnam Mandal,

Karimnagar District to obtain prior Environmental Clearance (EC) from SEIAA, Telangana.

Cell: 9849247105

Rs. 100 Lakhs

S.No Line of activity

1 Mining of Colour

envisaged in EIA/EMP.

9.Place of the availability of Draft EIA / EMP, Executive Summary (English & Telugu) of the

Oro the General Manager, District Industries Center, Karimnagar.
 Oro MoEF&CC, Integrated Regional Office, 3rd Floor, Aranya Bhavan, Opposite to RBI,

Office of the Tahasilder, Shankarapatnam (M) Karimnagar District.
 Gram Panchayat Office, Kothagatlu (V), Shankarapatnam (M), Karimnagar District.

Salfabad, Hyderabad-500004.

5, T.S. Pollution Control Board, Paryavaran Bhavan, A-3, Industrial Estate, Sanathnagar, Hyderabad.

Suggestions, Views, Comments and Objections of the public, if any are invited within 30 days from the date of the publication of the notification from all persons including bonafide, residence,

environmental groups, others located at project site / sites of displacements/ sites likely to be affected. All the above persons can also submit written suggestions to the undersigned of the

Telangana State Pollution Control Board or through E-mail: ee-rgm-tspcb@telangana.gov.in. The

interested persons can also participate in the proceedings of the public hearing on the date and venue specified above. The executive summary (In English & Telugu) and draft EIA report is also

Granite

alli District. Ph No.06728-272597, Email: ee-rgm-tspcb@telangana.gov.

#### **GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA** DISTRICT COLLECTOR, NIZAMABAD REVENUE DEPARTMENT (LAND ACQUISITION) DECLARATION (See Sub-rule(1) of rule-25 and Section-19(1)

RDO / LAO, Nizamabad file No.B2/3434/2018 Date: 02:03:2023

Gazette No.03 Nizamabad that a total of Ac.1.38 1/4 gts land is required in the Navipet Village of Navipet Mandal, Nizamabad District for public purpose namely, Road widening and Strengthening of Janakampet sar Road (from KM 0/0 to 14/450), Janakampet - Navipet road om KM 0/0 to 8/2) Navipet - Yamcha road (from KM 0/0 to 11/ work in km 0/0 to 6/250 from 2 lane to 4 Lane of Nizamabad District.

Therefore the declaration is made that a piece of land measuring Ac.1.38 % ats of standard measurement under acquisition for the above said project in the Navipet (V) of Navipet Mandal Nizamaba

District whose detailed description is as following:

			L	Ana	Home of the	Boundaries				
SI. No.	Sy. No.	Type of Title	-4	under Acqui stion JAc.Gis	Name of the Pattadar / Enjoyer / Interest person	North	South	East	Wes	
1	2	3	4	5	6 7 8					
1	18	Polta	Dry	0.05	15 M. Narayana Reddy 18 18 R Sio. Laxma Reddy					
2	19	Petta	Dry	0.17	Pattedar: Dasari Gangamma Wlo. Pullaiah Enjoyer: Shaik Shaifuddin Sio. Jamaluddin	19, 20, 21	19	18	19	
3	20	Patta	Dry	0.00%	Pattedar: Desari Chinne Pullalah S/o.Venkalah Enjoyer: Shaik Shalfuddin S/o. Jameluddin	21	19	20	19	
4	21	Patta	Dry	0.23	Pattedar: Desari Chinna Pullalah S/o.Venkalah Enjayer Shaik Shaifuddin S/o. Jamaluddin	21	21, 19	21	22	
5	22	Pata	Dry	0.02	S/o. Narayana Reddy				Cana	
6	23	Patta	Dη	0.12	Pattedar: Devala Bojamma W/o. Balaiah Enjoyer: Golla Bojamma W/o. Balaiah (0.05) Bala Gangadhara Reddy S/o. Nereyena Reddy (0.07)	24	23	23	Cana	
7		Pata		0.01	Allapuram Raja Gengu Wo, Venkanna		23		Cana	
	Canal	Govt	Dry	0.18	Canal	Canal	Canal	29.24	Cana	

acquisition for Road widening and Strengthening of Janakamper Basar Road (from KM 0/0 to 14/450), Janakampet - Navipet road (from KM 0/0 to 8/2) Navipet Yamcha road (from KW 0/0 to 11/0) work in km 0/0 to 5/250 from 2 lane to 4 Lane of Nizamabad District in the limits of Navipet Village of Navipet Mandal, Nizamat

This declaration is made after hearing of objections of person interested and due enquiry as provided u/s 15 of the Right to fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition

Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 30/2013. Mines of coal, iron-stone, slate or other minerals lying under the said land or any particular portion of the said land, except such parts of the mines and minerals which may be required to be dug o emoved or used during the construction phase of the project for the purpose of which the land is being acquired are not needed, A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Land Acquisition Officer & Revenue Divisional Officer, Nizamabad or

Sd/- Addl. Collector Sd/- District Collector Nizamabad Nizamabad DIPR No. 1334/LA/PP-Pub/2022-23

displayed in TSPCB website @ tspcb.cgg.gov.in Sd/- Environmental Engineer, TSPCB, Regional Office, Ramagundam, Peddapalli District Place : Ramagundam Date : 29.03.2023 Note: This notice of Public Hearing is issued as per the Appendix IV of EIA Notification 2006 and its cost is borne by the project proponent.

DIPR R.O. No.: 1462-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2022-23

Of the District Collector, Karimnagar,
 Of the Chief Executive Officer Zilla Parishad, Karimnagar,

T.S. Pollution Control Board, Zonal Office, Begumpet, Hyderabad
 T.S. Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Ramagundam.

#### 1 crore mobile numbers linked with Aadhaar in February

residents in the month of February, an official statement said on Friday. The linking of mobile numbers with Aadhaar jumped 93 per cent in February from 56.7 lakh registration in January, according to the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). "Over 10.97 million mobile numbers were seeded in Aadhaar following requests from residents in the month of February 2023, a jump of more than 93 per cent over the previous month," the statement said. Linking of Pan number with Aadhaar is considered to be one of the key factors that pushed

the growth of seeding mobile numbers with Aadhaar. Till date 90 crore Aadhaar holders are estimated to have linked their mobile numbers with their unique ID. "The UIDAI has been encouraging residents to link their Aadhaar with mobile number for better and effective communication while availing welfare services and accessing multitude of voluntary services," the statement said



#### **Indore temple tragedy: 8 families rise above** grief, donate body parts of deceased kin

he families of eight of the 36 persons killed in the Indore temple stepwell roof collapse overcame deep sorrow to donate vital body parts of their deceased kin. The largehearted families agreed to donate the skin and eyes of their loved ones whom they lost after the roof of the stepwell collapsed during a havan' held on the occasion of Ram Navami at the Beleshwar Mahadev Jhulelal temple, said voluntary organisation Muskan Group. "After persuading the kin, we coordinated with doctors and bureaucrats. With a heavy heart, the families under grief gave their nod for organ donation to see their deceased kin in

others," said Sandipan Arya of the organisation. "So far, family members of Indra Kumar, Bhumika Khanchandani, Jayanti Bai, Daksh Patel, Laxmi Patel, Bharati Kukreja, Indar Chandki and Kanak Patel have given their written consent for eye and skin donation," he said. Their eves have been donated to an organisation working in this field, MY hospital and Sankara Eye Bank. Choithram Hospital authorities have received the skin donated by the kin of the deceased, Arya said



#### Mumbai: 21 held, 300 booked for clash during Ram Navami procession

Police have registered a first information report (FIR) against nearly 300 persons and arrested 21 so far in connection with a clash between two groups during a Ram Navami procession in Mumbai's Malvani area, as afficially in the connection of th Navami procession in Mumbai's Malvani area, an official said on Friday. The incident occurred on Thursday night at Malvani in suburban Malad (West) when the procession was going on and some people objected to high volume DJ and loud music accompanying it. Those involved in the clash are being identified with the help of drone and CCTV

footage of the area at the time and action is being being according to their role, he said. While nearly 300 persons have been booked, police have arrested 21 persons so far and more arrests are likely, the official said, adding that the probe in the case underway. In the FIR, police have pressed charges under Indian Penal Code sections 353 (assault or use of criminal force to deter a public servant from discharge of his duty), 324 (voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons or means)



# Russia to enhance strategic partnership with India

PNS MOSCOW

Russia will focus on strengthening its strategic partnership and trade ties with India in Eurasia and ensure their resistance to "destructive actions" of unfriendly states and their alliances, according to an updated foreign policy doctrine approved by President Vladimir Putin on Friday.

The ties between India and

Russia remained strong notwithstanding Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. India's import of Russian crude oil has gone up significantly in the last few months despite increasing disquiet over it in many Western countries.



According to the updated Concept of Foreign Policy, one of Russia's focus areas in Eurasia is strengthening strategic partnership and developing trade and other ties with India. "Russia will continue to build up a particularly privileged strategic partnership with the Republic of India with a view to enhance and expand cooperation in all areas on a mutually beneficial basis and place special emphasis on

eral trade, strengthening investment and technological ties, and ensuring their resistance to destructive actions of unfriendly states and their alliances," according to a paragraph on Eurasia.

The concept was approved amid tension between Russia and the US over the war, with the US slapping thousands of sanctions on Russia, while militarily, economically and diplomatically supporting Ukraine.

India has not yet condemned the Russian invasion of Ukraine and it has been maintaining that the crisis must be resolved through diplomacy and dialogue.

#### Guj: Eight AAP workers held for putting up anti-Modi posters

PNS AHMEDABAD

Eight workers of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) have been arrested for allegedly putting up posters saying "Modi Hatao Desh Bachao" in different parts of Ahmedabad city in Gujarat, police said on Friday.

The Gujarat unit of AAP condemned the arrests saving the action has proved their point that "democracy is in danger".

In a release, the city crime branch said eight persons have been arrested on the charge of damaging public property by putting up posters with the text "Modi Hatao Desh Bachao" in areas like Isanpur, Maninagar, Vatva, Narol and Vadaj.

# China border 'provocative'

for the United States in the 21st

Steps by Beijing along India-

"I believe we are destined to work more closely together. I believe that our people-to-people ties are strong, animate in a relationship that is becoming deeper, richer and more strategically important," he said.

The think tank -- Centre for New American Security (CNAS) -- in a report said that the India-China border intrusions and clashes have become more frequent and threaten to lead to all-out conflict.

The increased prospect of

India-China border hostility has implications for the United States and its Indo-Pacific strategy between the two Asian giants, it said.

India's engagement with China is "complex" and Chinese attempts to unilaterally alter the status quo along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh starting from April-May 2020 seriously disturbed the peace and tranquility in border areas and impacted overall ties, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a report

# Calling 'sarbat khalsa' is Akal Takht's prerogative

**PNS** ■ AMRITSAR (PUNJAB)

The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) said on Friday that the convening of a "sarbat khalsa" congregation is the sole pre-rogative of the Akal Takht chief, after fugitive radical preacher Amritpal Singh issues concerning the Sikh community.

In his two video messages that surfaced on social media on Wednesday and Thursday, Amritpal Singh has asked the jathedar (chief) of the Akal Takht, the supreme temporal body of Sikhs, to call "sarbat khalsa" -- a congregation of the faithful.

He also appealed to the jathedar to take out a "khalsa vaheer" (religious procession) from the Akal Takht in Amritsar to the Damdama Sahib in Bathinda and hold the congregation there on Baisakhi day.

Responding to the demands, SGPC general secto the retary Gurcharan Singh Grewal told PTI, "It is personal wish of Amritpal Singh.... To call or not to call 'sarbat khalsa' is the sole prerogative of Akal Takht iat

Since the jathedar is leading the Sikh community, he takes each decision with deep thought followed by the opinions of Sikh scholars and intellectuals, Grewal said.

The jathedar would see what needs to be done in the light of prevailing circumstances.... There is no doubt that many Sikhs who are close to Amritpal Singh were arrested under the National Security Act which is also a matter of grave concern," he said.



#### **2014 DEFAMATION SUIT**

# Since Rahul is not MP any more he can appear in person

An RSS activist, who had initiated criminal proceedings for defamation against Rahul Gandhi, has informed a court here about the Congress leader's disqualification after his conviction in a similar case in Gujarat, and opposed his application seeking permanent exemption from appearance.

omplainar Kunte, had in 2014 filed a private complaint before the Bhiwandi magistrate's court after watching Gandhi's speech where he allegedly

**CM Bommai's** 

PNS BENGALURU

car searched in

poll-bound Karnataka

temple in Bengaluru Rural district.

cle has gone viral on social media.

stopped at Hosahudya checkpost.

Election officials on Friday intercepted and checked Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj

Bommai's car when he was on his way to a

the State, which goes to polls on May 10.

The Model Code of Conduct is in force in

A video showing officials checking the vehi-

According to sources, Bommai was head-

ing to Ghati Subramanya temple in a private

car -- as he had surrendered his official car

on the day the election schedule was announced on Wednesday -- when it was



accused the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)

sination. Kunte claimed this statement slandered the reputation of the RSS.

Gandhi had appeared

before the court in June 2018 and pleaded not guilty.

Last year, he had filed an

application seeking perma-nent exemption from appearing in the court on the ground that he was a member of Parliament who had to visit his constituency, attend the party work and travel a lot.

Two days back, Kunte, while opposing Gandhi's application, submitted a purtion) to the court saying after Gandhi's conviction by a Surat court in a defamation case, the Congress leader was disqualified.

Birla calls for deepening India-

Israel ties to combat terrorism

He made these remarks

The delegation, led by Amir

Ohana, Speaker of the Knesset

(Parliament) of Israel, is in

India at the joint invitation of

Vice President and Rajya Sabha

Dhankhar and Speaker Birla.

The delegation is visiting India between March 31 and

April 4.

This is the first visit of

Chairperson

Jagdeep

while welcoming an Israeli parliamentary delegation to

#### BSF seizes narcotics in Punjab's Amritsar, Tarn Taran districts

PNS ■ AMRITSAR (PUNJAB)

PNS WASHINGTON

Some of the steps being taken

by Beijing along the India-

China border has been "provocative", a top White House official has said while

reaffirming that the United States is "destined" to work

Kurt Campbell, the Deputy

Assistant to the US President

and Coordinator for the Indo-

Pacific, told a Washington-based

think-tank on Thursday that

India is not an ally of the United

will not be close partners and

share many things. That's how

we need to understand the role

that India will play as a great

and support that and deepen

this relationship, which is

already very strong, probably

the strongest people-to-people

relationship of any country that

the United States has on the

US relationship "is the most

important bilateral relationship

Campbell said that the India-

global stage," he said.

"We want to encourage that

nation on the global stage.

"But it does not mean that we

States and will never be so.

more closely with India.

The Border Security Force on Friday seized huge quantities of contraband from two Punjab districts, officials here said. Troops deployed at the India-Pakistan border recovered two stuffed black socks in fields close to the border fencing near Daoke village around 6.30 am, a BSF official said in a statement issued here. Inspections revealed that the socks contained three pag rets of heroin weighing about 1.7 kilograms and a Pakistani currency note, he said. In the second incident, the troops recovered a packet wrapped in yellow adhesive tape during an area domination patrol near Kalash Havelia village in Tarn Taran district around 7.30 am.

Ohana to any country after

assuming office of the Speaker, the Lok Sabha Secretariat said

India have traditionally

enjoyed close and friendly

relations and underscored that

the two countries share a

robust democratic heritage

and as fellow democracies

both have many similarities,

including respecting diverse

cultures and following demo-

Birla said that Israel and

in a statement.

cratic values.

#### **GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA** REVENUE (LAND ACQUISITION) DEPARTMENT FORM - VII DECLARATION

(Under Section 19 (1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act of 2013 (Central Act 30/2013) and ilector's File No. G1/4461/2022 Special Deputy Collector's File No. BI53/2022 Date: 18-03-2023 Sazette No: 68/2023 Date: 28-03-2023 As per the directions of the Government of Telangana/ District Collector, Siddipet, acquisition of land to an extent of Ac. 2.19 gts

district for public purpose i.e. for excavation canal of LD6-LM1 right main canal of Sri Ranganayaka sagar Reservoir unde Kaleshwaram Project. Hence a declaration has been issued under Section 19 (1) of

the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act of 2013. Therefore, a declaration has been issued to acquire Ac 2, 19 gts

of land, in Baddipadaga village of Nangnoor mandal of Siddipe district for execution of the above said project, as shown in the SCHEDULE

	îlage:	Bad	dipa	daga	Mandal: Nangr	oor	Di	iddipet					
1	6	Туре	Type	Ava	Land Pattadar/	Bo	ounc	dark	15	Struc-			
	Sy. No.	of Title	if land	umder Acqui sition	Enjoyer/ Interested names	E	w	N	ŝ	Trees			
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11			
	31Dite	Pette	Dry	0.15	Mukkera Maraiah S/o Komuraiah	311	313	312	314	Vepa-8 Namenga-3 Mango-6			
	Tota	Extr	et	0.15									
	357 39/6%	Patta	Dry	0.17%	Bhukya Sampeth Slo Lakma Nayak	356	355	358	357	Vepa-2 Namenga-11			
	357 39/64	Pette	Dry	0.17%	Bhukya Raju S/o Lakma Nayak	356	355	358	357	Namilinaro-3 Task-8			
	357/డు /e/1	Pata	Dry	90.0	Kasam Padma Wo Kasinadh	356	355	358	357				
	357/රා /ක/3	Pata	Dry	90.0	Challeti Ramadevi Wio Vishwani	356	355	358	357				
	35716e /ea	Patta	Dry	0.09	Yellendula Krishnaveni W/o Anjaneyulu	356	355	358	357	Vepa-13			
	357/6e /m/2	Patta	Dry	90.0	Kothuri Nagaraju S/o Laxmi Narsaiah	356	355	358	357				
	357/64 /m/6	Patta	Dry	0.05	Shivagopel Bajaz Sio Kanyalal Bajaz		355			Naminga-15 Task-8			
	357/és /4				Gande Anil S/b Eshwar Charan	356	355	358	35T	Pipelineo-2 Khadiu-22			
	357/ 6:4				Rachakonda Abhishek Sio Ashok	356	355	388	357				
		Extr		2.04									
	Tota	Extr	et	2.19									

# 2 hybrid militants arrested in Shopian

**PNS** ■ SRINAGAR

Two hybrid militants of The Resistance Front (TRF) were arrested in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir for their alleged involvement in an attack on a social media journalist last year, police said on Friday.

During the course of investigation of the case, a special investigation team (SIT) was constituted, which, on the basis of oral, circumstantial and technical evidences, rounded up a number of suspects, a police spokesman

During questioning, two suspects identified as Suhaib Reyaz and Anayat Ullah Iqbal, both residents of Saidapora Payeen village of Shopian, admitted their involvement in the terror attack, the spokesman said.

He said it also came to fore that the duo was working as hybrid terrorists of proscribed terror group TRF - an off-shoot of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

On their disclosure, the weapon of offence - a pistol along with its magazine and five pistol rounds besides, an IED were recovered by the security forces in the orchards of Saidapora Payeen, the spokesman said.

Waseem Ahmad Wani (27), a resident of Heerpora area of Shopian, who ran a YouTube news channel, escaped unhurt after two motorcycle-borne militants shot at him on December 25 last year.

#### RAMANAVAMI PROCESSIONS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Friday called for deeper

cooperation between India

and Israel to combat terrorism,

saying a common strategy will

give a new direction to the

world in the fight against the

scourge.
Birla also said that in the

changing global dynamics, the relations between India and

Israel have become more

important.

# Security tightened in Jamshedpur; Akhara panel calls for bandh

**PNS I** JAMSHEDPUR

Security was tightened in the steel city on Friday ahead of Ramanavami processions being taken out in the evening while an Akhara Committee has called for a Jamshedpur 'bandh' (shutdown) on April 1 over seizure of a truck with a music system and trailer.

The district administration however said it has no information about the bandh called so far.

"We have called a dawn to dusk

bandh in Jamshedpur on April 1 in protest against seizure of DJ (truck with music system) and trailer ....Many akharas will not take out processions this evening," Central Ramnavmi Akhara Committee and senior BJP leader Abhay Singh



However, many akharas were seen taking out colourful processions headed for the river front.

"A Nagaland registered trailer with national permit and DJ has been siezed as it cannot be used for procession in narrow lanes. We had already prohibited use of DJ.., The entire city cannot be taken to ranson for some people's interest. No person has come forward so far to claim the trailer," Jamshedpur deputy commissioner Vijaya Jadhav told PTI. Asked about

bandh call, Jadhav said the administration has no information on this so far and that the situation in the industrial city is normal.

Dhalbhum sub-divisional officer Piyush Sinha said around 200 licensed akhara committees will take out Ramanavami immersion

processions in the city on Friday. The official said the deputy commissioner Jadhav and senior superintendent of police Prabhat Kumar inspected all routes of the processions, including sensitive and super sensitive areas and issued directions to senior officials.

Areas like Mango, Hanuman Mandir, Munshi Mohalla masjid, Daiguttu and Shastri Nagar are considered super sensitive, while Kharangajhar, Telco, Dhatkidih and Sakchi are sensitive areas.

The declaration has been issued as no objections were ecsived within the stipulated time under Section 15 (1) of the Act

The land acquisition in Baddipadaga village - Nangnoo Vandal for public purpose i.e. for excavation canal of LD6-LM1 right main canal of Sri Ranganayaka Sagar Reservoir unde Kaleshwaram Project is limited to small land holding and it would improve the livelihood of the farmers through improving intigation facility to their rest of the lands. Moreover, the land acquisition does not entail affecting livelihoods of the families and does not cause displacement. Therefore, rehabilitation and resettlement

he said land or any particular portion of the said land, except such parts of the mines and minerals which may be required to be dug o emoved or used during the construction phase of the project for he purpose of which the land is being acquired, are not needed

Mines of coal, iron-stone, slate or other minerals lying unde

The plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Lan Acquisition Special Deputy Collector, Land Acquisition unit-1 Siddipet during working hours on any working day. Sdl- Special Deputy Sd/- Addl. Dist. Sdl- Dist

Collector (LA), Collector

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-PAPER WITH PASSION—

# **Proof of the pudding...**

Foreign Trade Policy 2023 has good intentions but these need to translate into action for \$2-trillion exports

he new Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) is in sync with the basic thrust of the economic policy regime: doing away with incentives and moving towards a system in which is friendlier to exporters in terms of costs and procedural rigours. The key approach to the policy, according to the Government, is based on four pillars: incentive to remission; export promotion through collaboration involving exporters, states, districts and Indian missions; ease of doing business, reduction in transaction cost and e-initiatives; and emerging areas ase-commerce developing districts as export hubs and streamlining SCOMET policy. SCOMET is the acronym of special chemicals, organisms, mate-



rials, equipment and technologies. Announcing the policy, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said, "We will achieve \$2 trillion in exports by 2030, but it shouldn't be that merchandise exports are outperformed by services exports." The Government's focus is correct, for merchandise exports are laggards. In the first 11 months of 2022-23, they stood at \$405.94 billion, which was 7.55 per cent more than \$377.43 billion in the corresponding period 2021-22. In contrast, services exports went up from \$227.58 billion in April 2021-February 2022 to \$296.94 billion in April 2022-February 2023, which was a rise of 24.56 per cent. This is not surprising because India's weakness in manufacturing is no secret; economic reforms began

more than three decades ago, but they still have to percolate to the lowest levels. This explains the greater focus on states, districts, ease of doing business, reduction in transaction cost and e-initiatives in FTP.

FTP 2023 is based on continuity of time-tested schemes facilitating exports, an official press release said, adding that it is a document which is nimble and responsive to the requirements of trade. The release highlights the nimbleness and responsiveness by pointing out that changes were done subsequent to the initial release of FTP 2015-20. That may be true, but the point is that this did not help merchandise exports much, as the latest figures suggest. Services exports have been doing well, but that is primarily because the businesspersons in this sector don't have to interact much with the government officials. For instance, an IT firm is not bothered by the boiler inspector. An important feature of FTP 2023 is that it is open-ended. As Director General of Foreign Trade Santosh Kumar Sarangi told the media, it will be updated "as and when required." Another feature is a one-time amnesty scheme for exporters to close the old pending authorisations and start afresh. He also said, "The approach of the new policy is to move from an incentive-based regime to a remission of taxes regime." Just as the proof of the pudding is in the eating, the efficacy of a policy is in its implementation. The target of exports worth \$2 trillion can be achieved if the good intentions of FTP 2023 get translated into action.



A tiger cools itself in a pond on a hot day, at Maharajbagh Zoo in Nagpur

# Congress' OBC paranoia is age-old



Party leader Rahul Gandhi's stand against the other backward classes will cost the Congress dear, just as it had during Rajiv Gandhi's time

ate Rajiv Gandhi was the leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha in 1990 when the then Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh took the historic decision to implement the Mandal Commission Report to give effect to reservation to other backward classes (OBCs) to the xtent of 27 per cent. Six years before Rajiv Gandhi had led Congress to win 404 seats with over 49 per cent vote share.

The Mandal Commission Report was a turnaround for Indian politics, as Rajiv Gandhi stood in the Lok Sabha to oppose its implementation. The Bharatiya Janata Party leaders Atal Bihari Vajpayee and LK Advani welcomed the decision of the VP Singh government, stating that the time had come to recognise the legitimate demands of the OBCs in the

The stand of Rajiv Gandhi was almost unilateral as records of those times show that the OBC leaders within the Congress were appalled at the decision of their leaders. The Congress leaders were shocked that Rajiv Gandhi was disconnected from the masses. He was not ready for the march of social justice.

Within a few years, Congress was reduced to a party with the best tally of about 200 Lok Sabha seats even when the party came to power in alliance with other political parties. From the strength of 404 Lok Sabha seats, Congress' fortuned was cut by half in the Lok Sabha, solely for its anti-OBC mindset. The space vacated by Congress was occupied by the regional parties. They mushroomed all across the country. The political parties espousing the cause of the OBCs came up in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and elsewhere. They ate into the vote base of Congress. Even after seats in the 2019 Lok Sabha three decades, Congress has elections. Congress for the mostly lost its vote base in states where the OBC identity-based regional parties cropped up.

The BJP was clear from its beginning that the OBC deserved social justice and the party's leadership was steadfast in their support. The BJP's sup-

port for the OBC was also manifested in a strong leadership of the party from the backward castes. They were at the forefront of the party workers in several states. They also took the leadership of the party and even became chief ministers.

The journey of Congress and the BJP is in sharp contrast. Congress went into a steep political fall since the 1990s. The BJP rapidly rose in its political stock since the 1990s. The Congress base shrank. The BJP vote base expanded. Congress kept hitting lower and lower in its Lok Sabha tally. The BJP tally in the Lok Sabha kept rising. In the 1989 Lok Sabha

elections, Congress won 197 seats. The BJP had won 85 Lok Sabha seats in the same election. Three decades later, the BJP won 303 Lok Sabha second time in a row could not win enough seats to gain the status of the leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha. The people of the country punished Congress for its anti-OBC bias in the last three decades.



THE BJP WAS

**CLEAR FROM** THE BEGINNING THAT THE OBCs DESERVED SOCIAL JUSTICE AND THE PARTY'S LEADERSHIP WAS STEADFAST IN ITS SUPPORT TO THEM

Rahul Gandhi repeated the same mistake that his father had committed in the Lok Sabha in 1990. There is not a single independent voice in the country that didn't admonish him for his 2019 election speech in Kolar, Karnataka in which he asked "why all thieves have Modi surname". This was an outrageous statement by a person who was president of Congress. He had been a member of the Lok Sabha multiple times. He is also 52 years old. He couldn't have made the scandalous and outrageous statement to question the integrity of the OBC

community. Worse is the fact that there is no remorse on the part of Rahul Gandhi. He has occasions to express remorse and apologise in the Surat Court. But he chose not to apologise. It's beyond under- wrath, and the Opposition standing that a number of party given its current awvers who hold senior positions in Congress would not have gauged the consecorner of the Lok Sabha with quences of Rahul Gandhi a handful of members after not apologising for his defamatory statement.

Also, there had been a number of precedents in

EDITO

**Cause of great concern** 

which senior political leaders escaped judicial fury by apologizing in the court. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had also levelled baseless allegations to defame the late Arun Jaitley and Union Minister Nitin Gadkari. Both forgave him after he apologised for his mistakes. But here Rahul Gandhi doesn't want to own up to his mistake. In place, he has chosen to enact political stunts in the name of his conviction by the court in a criminal defamation case and the subsequent automatic disqualification from membership of the Lok Sabha, which was in accordance with the Supreme Court ruling of 2013. Rajiv Gandhi's anti-OBC stand had cut Congress' strength by half. Rahul Gandhi's stand against the OBC will also bring similar strength may find among the the 2024 general elections. (Author is the national gen-

eral secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party)

# Words matter, better choose them carefully-



It is imperative to choose words with empathy. They should build bridges, not create barriers

ords are a mysterious manoeuvre of communication in an individual's life. They are the most powerful drug used by humans so if they can inspire and connect at the same time they can divide, demoralise and incite hate.

Words are invasive and their impact on different people varies because it depends on their understanding and conception. As they are used in every aspect of life, their power is immense and powerful as a result. A single phrase, an uplifting word or even a single act of kindness can change an individual's life forever towards the betterment.

Words are what an individual uses to express themselves, thoughts and feelings. One must never underestimate words' power. A person's choice of language can affect not only how another person feels but also how they perceive events around them. Childhood bullying, verbal abuse in domestic relationships, and even word choice by medical



researchers have found that the choice of words can cause specific areas of the brain to activate and affect a person's subjective experience of pain. Pain-related words create stronger responses in many areas of the brain, including the anterior cingulate cortex and dorsolateral prefrontal cortex. Words when used as bullets, with a feeling of superiority and condemnation will never restore a relationship to love. As seeds of support and sincerity, they can rebuild a relationship in a positive and life-affirming way. Words impact different people differently because it depends on their understanding and conception of them. They are functioning. For adults, it

force available to humanity. Children or learners can be instilled with confidence by the words, tone, or even the tone of encouragement they receive from their parents, that helps thoughts take teachers, or coaches. This even helps promote cognitive development. Also, giving a compliment to a co-worker humiliate anyone. Since it is or a colleague positively not in anyone's control what impacts their emotional state resulting in creating a ripple effect of positivity. When people use powerful words and phrases such as "please and thank you"; "how may I help you?"; acknowledging and appreciating work, they inspire the individual, thus making their work environment more enjoyable. Such words even help in motivating, encouraging and building mutually respectful relationships with team members, clients and customers. On the other hand, negative words along with sarcasm at times, can tear down, intimidate and discourage an indi-

vidual especially young

learners resulting in the

release of dozens of stress-

producing hormones which

ultimately interrupt brain

by far the most powerful may lead to stress, anxiety and anger followed by a dis-

connect in the relationship. A word is not just a combination of letters or sounds but a functional unit shape. It's the words that have the power and power to help, heal, hurt, harm or others say or do to a loved one, learning how to respond in loving ways can always prove fruitful.

Remember, no one can create a better reality while complaining or crying over current problems. It is imperative to choose words carefully with empathy and intention. Words should build bridges, and opportunities and not barriers, spread love and affection and not hate and war. Always be mindful of the conversation going on in your mind, for it can destroy or uplift you. It is imperative to become aware of words because words and feelings, when directed outwardly, can rebound and cause havoc

in one's own life. (The author is an *educator*)

### **AMERICA'S BACKING FOR RAHUL**

Sir — All is not well for the Indian government as the United States of America and Germany are backing and supporting Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and noting his disqualification of membership from the parliament and receiving congratulations from all the opposition parties and its leaders and Congress sup-

porters across the country. Since it is a great embarrassment for the Indian government to intervene in foreign countries in the internal matter of India which has been rejected but the growing support or backing of foreign countries to Rahul Gandhi is a cause for concern which may spoil the friendship and relationship with US and Germany and many other countries in future. It is high time the tense situation in the country must be defused at the earliest to avoid many more foreign countries interfering in the internal matter of India to make it an international issue.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

#### **COMMUNAL TENSION ON RAM NAVAMI**

Sir — At a time when the world is admiring us watching different festivals being celebrated all over the country democratically, Ram Navami brought us shame and communal violence in the name of festivity. Ram Navami was celebrated across the country with grand processions and special pujas, but the festivities were marred in Madhya Pradesh where 14 devotees died after falling into a well at a temple, and in Maharashtra where a clash left 12 injured.

In the nation's Capital, Delhi, a large number of people defied a police order and took out a procession in Jahangirpuri, which witnessed riots last year during the Hanuman Jayanti celebrations. Meanwhile, stones were pelted at a march in Gujarat's Vadodara too. The celebrations remained largely incident-free in the rest of the country with people coming out on the streets with

# SAMPLE



s cases of the Covid-19 virus are rising again, it is yet another reminder that the world must not lose its guard against the pandemic, India logged 3,016 new Covid cases in the last 24 hours, over 40% rise in daily tally, A concern over a fresh spike in infections in the country, Though Number speaks: No cause for alarm on Corona outbreak as of now as nationwide we have administered around 220.65 crore doses of Covid vaccine

Though we have fully upgraded our health care system, with adequate ICU facility and Oxygen supply to meet any eventuality, India must take concrete steps for its prevention as in the view of the ground realities reflecting poverty, social backwardness, Lockdowns are not the answer as it affects more poor people with the closure of business establishments and the sufferers are especially daily-wage earners, and cannot be treated as the only solution. We have seen the plight of people during the Corona-19 second wave which will prove a counter-pro-

ductive and will further wreck the economy. Patients with slight symptoms of shortness of breath, and lowering of Oxygen should immediately report to their family doctor. Other notable steps are, fully adhering to Corona-19 protocols, like wearing masks in crowded places. keeping a safe distance, and if cases increase we can go for pre-screening with testing increase testing and citizens to adhere to strictly to the covid --19 protocols, Also virus knows no geographical boundaries, hence we must keep with on international traveller coming from those countries with cases of Corona-19

Ramesh G Jethwani I Bengaluru

Lord Ram will be an inspiration for from the states on the action taken humanity in every era. Maryada Purushottam' Lord Ram's birth anniversary brought a feud and fight in the streets and made a mockery of the celebrations. Thus, far we did make an impact as a country of different castes, creed and religions brought out the fighting past and a bleak future during the festivities of this nature. Again, as the festivals collide in this country, so do people go haywire and collide in disruptive ways.

CK Subramanium | Mumbai

#### HATE SPEECH — A VICIOUS CIRCLE

Sir — Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the Supreme Court that hate speeches were being made by several people against the members of the Hindu comreligious fervour and enthusiasm and munity and the court could not be seleclaw-enforcement agencies on the watch. tive in its approach in seeking a response against such statements. He asked the court why it had not taken Suo motu cognizance of such cases and held state governments to account even when those speeches were in the public domain.

The hate speeches were a vicious circle and said they are being made by fringe elements. Every action has an equal reaction. We are following the constitution and orders in every case are bricks in the structure of rule of law. We are hearing the contempt petition because states are not taking action in time. This is because the state has become impotent, and powerless, and

does not act in time. Jayanthi Subramaniam | Coimbatore

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### **FIRST COLUMN** THE HYBRID **WORKPLACE PUZZLE**

Post pandemic, 'hybrid' will define the employer-employee relationship



ARNAB GHOSH

ost-pandemic commercial real estate professionals are grappling with the word "hybrid." The agile workspace is dead. A hybrid workplace is the new holy grail of office design. How we interpret this new word will define the employer and employee relationship now. The perfect solution will take some time to arrive. Meanwhile, we can only attempt to solve this hybrid jigsaw with our eyes and ears open wide.

Designing a hybrid workplace involves creating a flexible work environment that allows employees to work remotely and on-site. As a design brief, it is a challenge and thus needs a structured approach.

The first step is to assess the needs of your workforce, including their work styles, preferences, and job requirements. One-to-one interviews with senior leaders, online surveys, and real-time occupancy data from existing workplaces will help establish the base-



The second step is to evaluate your technology infrastructure. A hybrid workplace relies heavily on technology, including communication tools, collaboration software, and video conferencing systems. After evaluation, we need to do a gap analysis and ensure the proposed new technology infrastructure is robust enough to support remote and on-site work.

Once the above is done, the designer is ready to start with his design thinking process. A few approaches which might work for the designer while designing a hybrid office space are as follows:

1. Redesign your physical office space to create a more flexible work environment that supports remote and on-site work. This may include the conscious selection of flexible work furniture, which can be rearranged for different work environments, dismountable partition systems, formal and informal meeting spaces, and quiet spaces.

2. Today, it is essential to understand that the purpose of the office has changed dramatically—accordingly, the spaces it used to contain need also to evolve. The ambience of an office today is designed to provide a positive and inclusive environment for all employees. The use of wallpapers, curated artwork, designer work furniture, and decorative light fixtures today help designers to achieve that desired reality. The new trend of serviced offices is forcing the new office design to be strongly influenced by hospitality design principles.

3. While we do all the above, let us remember the imminent climate change disruption expected soon. Energy efficiency and wellness thus need to be default goalposts for designers today—no compromise on those aspects.

4. Finally, please continuously evaluate your hybrid workspace's effectiveness and adjust as needed. Gather feedback from employ-

ees and make changes based on their input. By following the above steps, you can physically create a hybrid workplace that is flexible, productive, and supportive of your employees' needs. However, in addition to the physical execution, certain

managerial aspects need to be part of this change management. A key aspect of a hybrid workplace is to not have dedicated workstations for employees. This can be a major change to adjust employees. Please establish clear policies around remote work, including work hours, communication, and productivity expectations. Organizations must be cognizant of today's new reality and establish their design briefs accordingly. Design and project profession-

als should look at the workspace through all lenses before recommending solutions to their clients. (The writer is Managing Director, Corporate Fitouts, Colliers India)

# Reforming the capital gains tax a smart move



It is perfectly justified if the rich class is made to pay more which, in turn, helps the Government provide services to the poor



n the Finance Bill, 2023 passed by the Lok Sabha on March 24, 2023, an amendment relates to a change in the tax treatment of capital gains from non-equity or debt mutual funds (DMF). This has led to consternation in the investor fraternity including high net-worth individuals (HNIs), corporate, and so on who argue this will undermine efforts to deepen the bond market which is crucial for financing the long-term development needs of the

They also say such a change should have been introduced in the Union Budget. This would allow for thorough discussion in Parliament, instead of an official amendment. Now that it is part of the Finance Act, any discussion on the procedure adopted is merely academic. Before discussing the amendment that will take effect from April 1, 2023, let us look at the existing position. DMF is a scheme that invests in fixed income instruments, such as corporate and government bonds, corporate debt securities, and money market instruments etc. that offer capital appreciation. Debt funds are also called income or bond funds.

Currently, any capital gain on redemption of units in a debt fund held for three vears or longer is treated as long-term capital gain (LTCG) and is taxed at a flat 20 percent with the benefit of indexation (it adjusts the cost of a person's investment to account for inflation, effectively reducing her capital gains and in turn, her tax liability). Any capital gain on redemption of units held by investors before three years is treated as short-term capital gain (STCG) and is taxed at an individual's income tax (albeit personal) slab rate.

The amendment does away with this distinction in the case of 'Specified mutual funds' (SMFs) which essentially refer to mutual funds where not more than 35 percent of their total proceeds are invested in equity shares of domestic companies. As a result, gains arising from SMFs irrespective of the period for which the units



LOOK AT THINGS FROM **PERSPECTIVE** OF THE GOVERNMENT WHICH IS **EXPECTED TO** MAKE LAWS WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF INCLUSIVE **GROWTH THAT** ADDRESS THE CONCERNS OF ALL SECTIONS OF SOCIETY

(The writer is a policy

are held by investors are deemed STCGs and hence, liable to tax at the rate applicable to the slab in which their total income falls.

Given the way SMFs are defined, the new tax treatment will also apply to exchange-traded funds (ETFs), international funds, gold/silver funds, outbound mutual funds and even equity funds etc. wherein the gains will be taxed at the personal income tax (PIT) slab rate. The amendment will be rately depended and the personal taxes are the personal taxes and taxes are taxed to the personal taxed applied prospectively from April 1, 2023. This implies that all MF units already in possession of the investors as well as those acquired before this date will continue to be covered by the old dispensation.

#### **IMPACT ON INVESTORS**

Consider a high-income earn er earning Rs 2 crore per annum. The applicable effective tax rate in her case is 39 per cent. Assume she has invested Rs 100 in DMF units which yield a return of 10 percent per annum. Further, assume that nflation is 5 percent. With these basics, under the old regime i.e., 20 per cent LTCG tax with indexation benefit, her gain at the end of three years would be Rs 17.4 (value of nvestment Rs 133.1 minus inflation adjusted cost Rs 115.7). Tax @20 per cent on Rs 17.4 comes to Rs 3.5. Under the new regime i.e., tax rate in the relevant slab (39 per cent in this example) and no benefit of indexation, capital gain at the end of three years will be Rs 33.1 (value of investment Rs 133.1 minus cost Rs 100). Tax @39 per cent on Rs 33.1 will be Rs 12.9 which is almost 4 times the tax under the previous regime. It is this steep increase in the tax burden that is hurting the high-income

We need to look at things from

the perspective of the govern-ment which is expected to make laws with the objective of inclusive growth that address the concerns of all sections of society and not just pander to the interests of a par-ticular class. If the rich class is made to pay more resulting in more revenue for the government. This in turn, helps it cater to the majority of the poor, this is perfectly justified.

Even so, the existing taxation regime was arbitrary, inequitable and customized to grant undue benefit to HNIs/corporate etc. Income earned by a person has no colour. Irrespective of the source from where earnings are made be it salary, profit from business, more than a year. They were also investment in shares, bonds or mutual funds and so on, these add to her income. Therefore, the tax treatment must be uniform. It can't vary depending on the source.

Yet, the regime gave preferential treatment to income generated from DMF investment by taxing capital gains from these at 20 percent against the applicable slab rate of 39 percent. It was discriminatory even compared to investment in other avenues. For instance, interest income from investment in fixed deposits (FDs) in banks or bonds issued by governments or companies is taxed at an individual's income tax slab rate. These earnings don't also benefit from indexation.

While HNIs should have no grudges about paying more tax, those earning less, especially the middle class, will not stand to lose in the new dispensation. Under the proposed PIT regime as per the 2023-24 Budget, a person with annual income up to Rs 700,000 pays 'nil' tax. For those earning Rs 700,001-Rs 900,000, the tax rate is without any basis.

10 percent and for those earning Rs 900,001-Rs 1,200,000, it is 15 per cent. For all investing in DMFs, the switch to taxing capital gains at the applicable slab rate will be beneficial. Under the earlier regime, these were taxed at a higher rate of 20 percent.

The Finance Bill, 2023 also addressed another anomaly. This one relates to a fancy instrument called market-linked debentures (MLDs). Unlike a normal debenture on which a fixed return is paid, MLD holders get a return linked to stock price movement, say the Nifty 50 Index. Earlier capital gains from listed MLDs were taxable at 10 per cent if held for taxable at a slab rate if held for up to I year Now these will be taxed at the slab rate even when owned for more than one year.

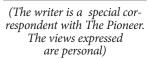
To conclude, the 2023-24 budget has ended DMF preferential treatment by taxing all capital gains — irrespective of the holding period — at the slab rate and withdrawing the indexation benefit. It has created a level playing field by aligning their tax treatment with other avenues such as FDs and bonds etc. It would be naïve to believe that this would lower the shine of such instruments (read: debt MFs) as investment in these units is liquid; it can be withdrawn at any time unlike FDs where premature withdrawal attracts a penal interest rate. Besides, the former offer investors the possibility of setting off capital gains in some units by shortterm capital losses in others thereby reducing tax liability. Any fear that the amendment would impact funding the long-term development needs of the economy is

# Fill top vacancies at 3 important institutions for PwDs

The Government must ensure that three institutions funded by it for the welfare of the disabled population function properly and deliver in right earnest

n a welcome move which though, comes much after dilly dallying for years, the Government has now promised to fill by April-end the top-level vacancies at the three statutory institutions Chief Commissioner of Persons with Disabilities (CCPD), National Trust (NT) and Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) — of the Union Ministry of Social Justice and

Empowerment. The Secretary of the Persons with Disability Department, Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in a recent submission before a Parliamentary Panel said that the process is on to fill the posts. He submitted that the candidates were being shortlisted and interviews will be held in the first week of the



ARCHANA JYOTI

next month i.e., April.

He also expressed confidence that by the end of April month they will send three proposals to the DoPT. After that the final accreditation will come from the ACC (Appointment Committee of the Cabinet), the Secretary submitted before the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment when asked about the vacancy position in the offices of the three statutory bodies. Headed by Lok Sabha MP Rama Devi, the panel submitted its report last week in Parliament.

However, disability rights activists are not impressed. In fact, they have dismissed these promises as just lip service. They argue that advertisements for appointments have been published from time to crat Upma Srivastava, an

time over the past years, but diditional secretary in the actually taking steps to the posts were never filled up. Ministry. additional secretary in the actually taking steps to empower, handhold the sec-

To corroborate their points, in this regard, they have drawn attention to a reply to a query in Parliament in 2021 when Union Social Welfare and Empowerment Minister of State, Pratima Bhoumik, while admitting that the post of Chairperson, RCI, has been lying vacant since September 15, 2015, the steps were being taken to fill the post.

However, it is needless to say that this has not happened till date. Presently, Secretary Rajesh Aggarwal is the officiating head of the RCI and NT. This speaks volumes of how serious the Government is for the welfare of the sector. The CCPD is headed by bureau-

In the absence of appointments of a candidate through a transparent process, new policies, existing programmes and funds remain half-heartedly implemented. Focus of the NT, RCI and CCPD has lost in between, leaving the sector to fend on its own, laments activist Alok Bhuwan from Manovikas Charitable Society.

This apathy also leads one to doubt government's intention if it is really keen for transparent appointments for the sensitive posts or wants to put its cronies who toe the government's line. The delay in appointment is also strengthening the doubts that the government is just doing lip service but not keen in Act.

tor which has big potential if given the chance. As per the latest report, India has 3 crore people with a wide range of disabilities.

The Council formed under the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992 is mandated to regulate and monitor the training of rehabilitation professionals while the activities of the National Trust include training, awareness and capacity building programmes and shelter, caregiving and empowerment to the people with intellectual disability. Similarly, CCPD has been conceived with an aim to ensure legal rights of the sector enshrined in the Persons with Disability Rights

it's high time that the government adopts a right-based approach instead of the Charity Model. Charity model of disability views the person with disabilities as the problem and dependent on the sympathy of others to provide assistance in a charity or welfare. This model treats the disabled as dependent upon society. Thus, leaving them hapless and helpless, dependent on the benevolence and charity of the so-called 'abled' in the society.

In contrast, the Rightsbased model of disability regards disability as a normal aspect and that the disabled are equally entitled to rights as others, ensuring that criteare prioritized by people dignity'.

Bhuvan maintains that themselves respecting their autonomy and freedom of choice. The disability rights model focuses on equality and non -discrimination, reasonable accommodation, accessibility, breaking down barriers, equal participation and inclusion and private and public freedom, says Dr Dilip Kumar Upadhyay, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, Madhav University, Rajas-

By ensuring that the three important institutions seriously deliver what they are meant to, the Government will be implementing what has been enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948. That is 'all human beings are born ria for support programmes free and equal in rights and

### Rupee rises by 17 paise to 82.17 against US\$ on forex inflows

ne pioneer

capital inflows and a rally in domestic stocks bolstered investor sentiment. esides, easing global crude oil prices and rising appetite for riskier assets also supported the domestic unit, forex traders said. However, a strong dollar against major rivals overseas ahead of US inflation data capped the rupee's gain, they added. At the

interbank foreign exchange market, the domestic unit opened strong at 82.12 and touched an intra-day high of 82.09 and a low of 82.26 against the greenback. The local unit quoted at 82.17 at 1530 hrs, registering a gain of 17 paise over its previous close of 82.34. The forex market was closed on Thursday for Ram Navami. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, gained 0.25 per cent to 102.08 ahead of the release of the US inflation data later in the day.



#### IFFCO-Tokio crosses Rs 10,000 cr gross written premium in FY23

Rs 10,000 crore of gross written premium for the current fiscal. IFFCO-Tokio General Insurance Company Limited is a 51:49 joint venture between Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative (IFFCO) -- one of the world's biggest cooperative societies -- and Tokio Marine Group, the largest listed insurance group in Japan. HO Suri, Managing Director and CEO of IFFCO Tokio, said there are many

seaments of the business, which represents growth. However, Health Insurance and Crop Insurance verticals are the top most segments, witnessing a growth of 28 per cent and 47 per cent. respectively, he said. In terms of geographical growth, Suri said Assam Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh and West Bengal have shown remarkable growth. "Besides, our active policyholders figure has also been improved significantly



#### **Sebi extends compliance period** for 3 yrs for large corporates

apital markets regulator Sebi on Friday extended the compliance requirement to three years for 'large corporates' to raise at least 25 per cent of their incremental borrowings through debt securities to a contiguous block from two years at present. This comes after the board of Sebi approved a proposal in this regard on Wednesday. Currently, the rules mandate large corporates to mobilise a minimum of 25 per cent of

their incremental borrowings in a financial year through the issuance of debt securities which has to be met over a contiguous block of two years. In a circular, Sebi "decided that the contiguous block of two years over which large corporates need to meet the mandatory requirement of raising minimum 25 per cent of their incremental borrowings in a financial year through issuance of debt securities will be extended to a contiguous block of three years (from the present requirement of two years) reckoned from FY 2021-22 onwards.



# India unveils 'dynamic' foreign trade policy

Eyes US\$ 2 trillion exports by 2030

Shri Pivus

PNS NEW DELHI

India on Friday came out with a 'dynamic and responsive' foreign trade policy with the objective of raising the country's outward shipments to USD 2 trillion by 2030, making Indian Rupee a global currency and incentivising e-commerce exports.

The approach of Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023 is to move from 'incentive to remission' based regime; encourage collaboration between exporters, states, districts and Indian Missions; reduce transaction cost; and develop more export hubs. India is likely to cross USD 765 billion merchandise and services exports in financial year 2022-23 which ends on Friday. The total exports were USD 676 billion in previous fiscal year.

Unlike the practice of 5-year FTPs, this time the government

and responsive trade policy without any end date, and will be updated as per the emerging global scenario.

We have ensured there is no end date to this policy, it will be updated from time to time," said Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Santosh Sarangi while briefing media on the salient features of FTP 2023 unveiled by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. Goyal said Department of Commerce will be making a massive focused outreach to the world, either sectorally or

country-wise, over the next 4-

5 months. Ministry of External

"Foreign Trade Policy 2023"

abroad will work with the

department.
"We have to meet our exports targets going forward. We will achieve USD 2 trillion in exports by 2030, but it should not be that merchandise exports are outperformed by services exports," the minister

PNS NEW DELHI

statement. During the in



#### Gold climbs Rs 380: silver declines Rs 280

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices climbed Rs 380 to Rs 59,680 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday amid a jump in prices of the precious metal in global mar-kets, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the vellow metal had ended at Rs 59,300 per 10 grams.

Silver, however, declined by Rs 280 to Rs 71,300 per kg.
"Spot gold prices in the Delhi markets traded at Rs 59,680 per 10 grams, up Rs 380 per 10 grams," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst -Commodities at HDFC

in the overseas market, gold was trading higher at USD 1,975 per ounce while silver was down at USD 23.75 per ounce. Gold prices turned bullish after weaker US GDP data for the fourth quarter of 2022, Gandhi said.

added. Speaking at the occasion,

Securities, said.



financial sector headwinds are set to take a deep toll on the domestic IT companies' revenue growth in FY24, a report said on Friday.

The Rs 10 lakh crore sector is likely to witness revenue growth plunging by up to 9 percentage points to 10-12 per cent in FY24 as against the nearly 20 per cent growth estimated in FY23, Crisil Ratings said. "Headwinds in key markets, especially the BFSI (banking, financial services and insurance) segment in the US and Europe, will affect the revenue growth of domestic IT services companies," it's senior director Anuj Sethi said.

The BFSI segment, which has seen quite a few instances of stress after the Silicon Valley Bank collapse, will see revenue growth getting halved to mid-single digit, the agency said, adding that this impact would be marginally offset by 12-14 per cent growth in the manufacturing segment and 9-11 per cent growth in other

IT Industry lobby grouping Nasscom has ceased its practice



mate for the next fiscal. The sector, which supports over 50 lakh people directly, has witnessed a slew of changes lately including some top companies reporting a decline in head count.

The rating agency, which analysed data from 17 companies which account for 71 per cent of the Rs 10.2 lakh crore Indian IT sector revenue, said the last two fiscals have been one of the best for the industry as it had put out a 19 per cent growth in FY22. Going ahead, healthy growth in cost-optimisation deals, along with strong digital solutions, cloud, and automation capabilities, and a wide range of offerings nario, it said. IT spends by clients are witnessing a shift towards cost optimisation and vendor consolidation away from discretionary spends by most end-user indus tries, the agency said.

The banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) segment accounts for 30 per cent of the sector's revenues, followed by retail and consumer packaged goods with 15 per cent with the balance almost equally contributed by life sciences and healthcare, manufacturing, technology and services, communication and media, and others, it

### Markets end last trading day of FY23 in style; Sensex Nifty rally 2%

PNS MUMBAI

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended the last day of 2022-23 fiscal with nearly 2 per cent jump on Friday global markets and heavy buying in index major Reliance Industries.

Fresh foreign fund inflows also added to the positive momentum in the equity

The 30-share BSE Sensex zoomed 1,031.43 points or 1.78 per cent to finish at 58,991.52. During the day, it jumped 1,108.38 points or 1.91 per cent to 59,068.47.

The broader NSE Nifty climbed 279.05 points or 1.63 per cent to end at 17,359.75.



Among the Sensex firms, Reliance Industries emerged as the biggest gainer as it Nestle, Infosys, ICICI Bank, Motors, Consultancy Services, HCL Technologies,

Mahindra and Axis Bank were the other major winners. Sun Pharma, Asian Paints, Bajaj Finance and Titan were the laggards. In Asian markets, Seoul,

Japan, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in the green.

BoM ED Asheesh Pandey said State-owned Bank of Maharashtra startups are entrepreneurial (BoM) on Friday said it has opened its first dedicated branch for startups in Pune. The dedicated branch will provide all kinds of support to a startup during its growth journey, BoM said in a and CEO AS Rajeev said, "India is one of the growing hubs for startups and unicorns in the world. It is imperative for us to start our own dedicated branch for startups, where we shall cater to all their needs - right from the inception to the issuance of IPO/FPO". Pune is strategically important for us to venture into, considering the technological and industrial advancement of the city

**BoM opens branch for startups** 

ventures in an early stage of business operation, which if properly nurtured, becomes an integral pillar of economic growth and employment generation while satisfying evolving needs of its clients with innovation There are so many start country, which have become global names and added glory to the nation's progress, the lender said. India is the largest talent pool in the world, and youth energy is the driving force of the nation, it added. "As the Amrit Kaal is upon us driven with Atmanirbharta, startups and youth energy are the best bet where we can invest. A vibrant startup ecosystem is a roadmap to achieve Atmanirbhar Bharat in totality," Pandey said. During the event, BoM signed a pact with SIDBI venture capital for proactive financing of startups.

# Registration of properties in Mumbai city set to fall 26%

Property registration in Mumbai municipal area is set to fall by at least 26 per cent year-on-year es, the strength of Mumbai property market was in March to 12,421 units on higher base and rise on display in March. The market saw an rates according to Knight Frank India. The registration data is up to 10.30 am on Friday and the numbers would increase by end of the day. Real estate consultant Knight Frank India said the property registration in March 2023 was highest during this fiscal year.

"Mumbai city (area under BMC jurisdiction) saw property sales registration of 12,421 units in March 2023, contributing over Rs 1,143 crore to the state revenues," real estate consultant Knight Frank India said in a statement. Of the total properties registered, 84 per cent were residential while 16 per cent were non-residential properties. In March last year, as many as 16,726 properties were registered. However, registration of properties rose

28 per cent from 9,684 units in February

this year. Knight Frank India Chairman & Managing Director Shishir Baijal said: "Notwithstanding recent interest rate increased its highest registrations for fiscal year 2023 in March 2023, driven by the resolute home-

buyer desire for ownership.' This reflects the buoyancy of the Mumbai property market, which remains strong in the face of headwinds, he added.

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA** 

REVENUE (LAND ACQUISITION) DEPARTMENT

DISTRICT COLLECTOR, JANGAON

Date: 03.02.2023

Date: 20.03.2023

FORM-VII

DECLARATION

(See Sub - rule (1) of rule -25 and Section -19(1) of the Act-30/2013

Where as it appears to the Government of Telangana / District Collector, Jangaon that a total land to an extent of Ac. 1.08 1/2 gts and is required in the limits of Uppugallu village of Zaffergad

Mandal in Jangaon District for public purpose, namely acquisitio of excavation of Nashkal Main Canal UT at Km. 1.525 & 2.190 of

Embankment of Canals under JCR DLIP, Phase-III Package-Vi for

providing water to Agriculture lands under the Government of

elangana, Collector, Jangaon District, as per L.A, Act. 30/2013.

Therefore the "DECLARATION" is hereby made that a piece of

and measuring more or less Ac. 1.08 1/5 gts under acquisition for

the above said project in the limits of Uppupally village of

Zaffergadh Mandal in Jangaon District whose detailed description

SCHEDULE

Nashkal Main Canal

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540 Patta Dry 0.065 Nalla Sanjeeva Reddy Sto Pulla Reddy

539 Patta Dry 0.015 Nalla Sanjeeva Reddy Slo Pulla Redd

4 554 Patta Dry 0.06 Lenkala Raju S/o Mallaiah

Name of the

Enjoyer

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557 Assigned Dry 0.01 Manda Shivaram S/o Ailaiah B 571 Patta Dry 0.12 Manda Lingalah Sio Rajalah 1,085

Mandal: Zaffargadh District: Jangao

Mandal: Zaffargadh District: Jangao

Rc. No. A/47-1/2022

szette No. JNILA/08/2023

is as following under acquisition.

Village: Uppugal

SI. Sy. Nature of Land fision

#### **Revamped loan guarantee scheme for** micro, small enterprises from April 1

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A revamped credit guarantee scheme for India's micro and small enterprises will come into effect from Saturday, with the annual guarantee fee for loans up to Rs 1 crore getting reduced from the peak 2 per cent to 0.37 per cent, reducing the overall cost of credit for small businesses.

The limit on ceiling for guarantees has also enhanced from Rs 2 crore to Rs 5 crore. Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro & Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) has issued guidelines in this regard. "The limit on ceiling for guarantees has been enhanced from Rs 2 crore to Rs 5 crore. For settlement of claims in respect of guarantees for loan outstanding up to Rs 10 lakh, initiation of legal proceedings will no longer be required," the MSME ministry said.

In Budget 2023-24, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the revamping of credit guarantee scheme for micro and small enterprises with effect from April 1, 2023.

### Citigroup CEO explores Global Capability Centres landscape

along with top management officials visited the company's Citi Solutions Centre here and held discussions about the landscape of Global Capability Centres (GCC) in the country, the company said on Friday. On her maiden visit to Chennai and to any Citi Solutions Centre in the country, Fraser during her brief visit was engaged with teams across

operations and technology on

Citigroup CEO Jane Fraser



and the expertise the bank has, the

This will begin a new vista for the

bank and also for startups in Pune

city and Maharashtra state, he

managed out of the Citi

Solutions Centre. "Jane's visit to the Citi Solutions Centre in Chennai was her first to any CSC in India. For more than a decade, our CSCs have extended stellar support to Citi businesses their projects and capabilities in more than 80 countries (of

Citi's total footprint in 95 and capital management, countries," Citi India CEO cash management among Ashu Khullar said in a company statement.

'This visit was a reaffirmation of Citi's focus on capturing the India opportunity by growing its institutional clients businesses and building scale and expertise with the exceptional talent that we have across Citi in India," Khullar

The Citi Solutions Centre in India houses teams across global consumer banking, markets and securities, risk cash management among

others 'We had productive discussions on the growing landscape of the Citi Solution Centres in India and the value they create for Citi globally. We will continue to invest in high-quality and diverse talent, upskilling and state-of-the-art infrastructure to further boost our capabilities...," Citi Solutions Centres head of South Asia Operations and Technology, Balaji Nuthalapadi said in the

# Untimely rains, hails damage about 20% of mango crop

PNS NEW DELHI

The mango crop in the country has been damaged up to 20 per cent because of untimely rains, hailstorm and strong wind, according to senior ICAR offi-

Many mango growers said the damage has been huge in North India due to hailstorm and thun-

derstorm. Mango is an important fruit crop in India and popularly called the 'King of Fruits'. India is a major mango growing country, contributing nearly 42 per cent of the world's production. Since last few days, unseasonal rains, hailstorm and gusty wind due to the western disturbance have impacted both foodgrain and horticultural crops in some parts of the country.

"First untimely rains did not cause damage, but later rains and hailstorm have badly impacted the mango crop. We anticipate the total damage to be about 20 per cent as of now," Indian Council of Agricultural Research(ICAR) Deputy Director General (Horticulture) A K Singh said.

The frequency of the mango crop loss has been more in North India, especially Uttar Pradesh which is a leading mango producing state in the country. The



anticipated mango crop loss in North India alone is about 30 per cent, while in South India the awaited from states, he added. damage is less than 8 per cent, he

However, the fresh data is

Lucknow-based mango grow-

er Upendra Singh, who owns a 5hectare mango orchard, said, There has been up to 75 per cent damage due to hailstorm in Maal-Malihabad mango hub area. In places where there was only untimely rains and no hailstorm, the damage has been less.'

The mango crop condition till March 19 was best in last 30 years. From March 20, unseasonal rains and hail have brought huge damage," he said and added that high moisture during flowering stage has led to black fun-

🔞 GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION 📾 TENDER NOTICE NITNo.46/ SE[M)/CRZ/GHMC / 2022-23, Date: 29.03.2023 Name of the Work: 9 No of Civil Work, Estimated Amount Rs. 1052.00 Lakhs

06.04.2023 @ 3.15 PM, Name & Address Officer Ph No.: Sri Y, Maheshwar Reddy. Superintending Engineer, Charminar Zone, GHMC, Phool Bagh, Baba Nagar Pf 7993354273. Further details can be seen at @ https://tender.eprocurement.gov.in R.O.No: 14038-PPICLIADVT/1/2022-23, Dt. 31.83.2023

vnicad Start Date & Time: 31.03.2023 @ 5.00 PM, Last date & time Receipt of Bids:

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NIL This declaration is made after healing of objections of person nterestd u/s 15 of the L.A.Act.No.30(2013 after verification of objections this declaration is issued. The number of families likely to be resettled due to Land Acquistion is NIL.

Mines of Coal, Iron-Stone, slate or other minerals lying under he said land or any particulars pertain of the said land, except suct parts of the mines and minerals which may be required to be dug or removed or used during the construction phase of the project for

the purpose of which the land is being acquired, or not needed. A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Land Acquisition Officer & Special Deputy Collector, LA, R&R, Unit-II rigation Project, Jangaon on any working day.

Sci-Special Dy. Collector, Sci-Addl. Collector, Sci-Dist Collecto L.A., R&R Unit-II, Irrigation

Projects, Jangaon.

# the pioneer derabad

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Saturday April 1, 2023

# Serving l'il hearts with care

This week for our weekly edition of the Hyderabond, *The* Pioneer connects with Dr. Kanchan S Channawar, a consultant pediatrician at Kamineni Hospital, who shares with us her association with the city.



**TEJAL SINHA** 

Paediatrics is one of the most exciting professions in the field of a medical professional. Many people opt for a family doctor who sees people of all ages, while others exclusively prefer their little one to a paediatrician

This week for our weekly edition of the Hyderabond, we interacted with Dr. Kanchan S Channawar, one of the most established consultant pediatricians in the region. After com-pleting her MBBS studies, Dr. Kanchan came here to Hyderabad to complete her post-graduation, and that was when began her journey excelling in this profession. "I was working in Yashoda as a DMO (Duty Medical Officer) and later joined KIMS

Secunderabad DNB

Pediatric. After 3 years, I continued working in KIMS, as well as in Lotus. At Lotus, I was there as a consultant and was also taking care of paediatric cardiac. After working till 2016 at Lotus, I joined Kamineni hospitals as a consultant, and

its been three years now that I completed my super specialisation in paediatric critical care scholarship," shared the doc about her prolonged alliance with the city of pearls adding, "I have had a lots of options and opportunities also.

I'm very satisfied with the work I'm doing or the places that I worked I really had a good satisfaction."

ing lived in Mumbai, Pune, and Nagpur to growing in her profession Hyderabad, feels, "Compared to the other cities I feel Hyderabad is quite calm. It has a

From hav-

space and you can balance your work and life efficiently like example Mumbai it's like you

have to be on your toes, here you can relax take your own time and work, you can have some time for yourself also. People here I feel are better professionally also." Childhood tuberculosis or paediatric tubercu-

losis (TB) represents an important burden of disease worldwide. It is estimated that 210.000 children die each year from TB. Today, the main strategy for preventing TB among children is to peregy for preventing TB among children is to perform household contact investigation complemented by the challenging diagnosis and treatment of latent TB. Highlighling more on the same, Dr. Kanchan shared, "Previously few decades back when they used to call TB, it was a social taboo like it is a bad disease and not curable but now TB is just like any other diseases only thing is you have to take treatment for a longer time and you have to take treatment for a longer time and you have to take treatment for a longer time and you have to adhere to the treatment and take care of yourself in terms of nutrition basically. Generally TB we see in rural population mostly since they have more overcrowding and since they interact more. And it's airborne."

So whats with paediatric tuberculosis? Parents,!

Here's what you need to pay attention to Let's hear

Here's what you need to pay attention to. Let's hear what the medico has to tell, "I would like to tell what the medico has to tell, "I would like to tell parents that whenever they feel their kids are having chronic cough and generally they say there should be a weight loss, but with the kids they are not gaining weight, we see either they don't gain weight, don't gain height and appetite will go down. That is when you'll have to think if it's a chronic thing if it's more than one and a held a chronic thing if it's more than one-and-a-half months. The first thing that should come in your mind should be TB. Symptoms for this includes: cough, mild fever coming and going not eating properly or if there's some history of other family members suffering from TB or having chronic cough then we have to suspect TB and we have to get the basic tests done so we can rule out."

No surprise that Hyderabad has turned out to be the country's healthcare hospital.

means to him

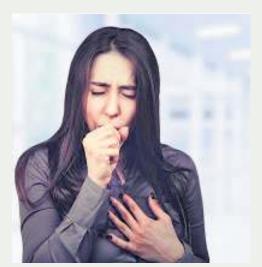
Within a few years of the state's formation, Hyderabad quickly emerged as the country's healthcare capital and has provided an alternative choice for medical tourism, which usually is a yardstick to measure the quality of healthcare services, when com-

quality of healthcare services, when compared to other metro cities.

The doc agrees too, as she said, "Hyderabad is very good for medical, any medical super specialty or a specialty here you have multiple hospitals, you have single standalone paediatric hospitals where you'll get higher end treatment basically. In Hyderabad, you have a government paediatric In Hyderabad, you have a government paediatric hospitals for those who cannot afford and have financial issues atleast they can go there. Then you have Rainbow, KIMS cuddles, and Lotus they are the standalone facilities for the kids."

"I like the weather it's not very hot or very cold.

Here the traffic is bad but since I travel from the outskirts but initially when I used to travel from the city traffic was very bad. Here people don't have a traffic sense and then there's traffic jams because of it so it's very difficult to reach on time. Even if you follow the traffic rules you don't know when and how someone can come from the opposite side in a very fast speed so you have to be careful on the roads," signed off the professional stating that Hyderabad is her heart because, "Hyderabad means a lot to me actually I have nurtured here been in a good profession achieved my



### **Tech evolution to detect TB** drug resistance

PNS| HYDERABAD

Tuberculosis has become another pandemic that's affecting city dwellers, as per our research. It is an infectious disease that is fatal. Many years ago, medical knowledge has made available the way to prevent this epidemic.

If you take the medication for the recommended amount of time and follow the doctor's instructions, you can achieve total health. But still many people do not know about this disease and every year 20 lakh people across the country and about one crore people around the world are affected by this disease. This is the epidemic that is killing the most people in the country! in the country!

This is the epidemic that is killing the most people in the country!

"We are analyzing the increasing pollution, smoking as well as not detecting disease at the right time, and not using proper medicines are the main reasons for not being able to overcome this problem. Contrary to popular belief, tuberculosis can affect any part of the body, not just the lungs. This illness can also damage the intestinal system, meninges, lymph nodes, bones, and kidneys. But the disease mostly targets the lungs. Symptoms include prolonged cough for more than four weeks, strong cough with expectoration, fever in the evening and at night, abrupt loss of weight, and full lack of appetite. I advise using some standardized tests to diagnose the illness. Sputum smear, chest X-ray, and sputum culture tests can be used to diagnose this condition. However, the recently developed nuclear acid amplification test can now quickly and accurately diagnose this illness in just a hundred minutes. called NAAT, this test is based on DNA. Provides three times better results in detecting caries, said Dr. Sr. D.S. Sowjanya, a pulmonologist at Kamineni Hospitals, Hyderabad.

Youngsters with poor immune systems, elderly persons, people infected with HIV, and malnourished adults are in danger of developing tuberculosis easily. It is easy to avoid infection and fatalities with a

adults are in danger of developing tuberculosis easily. It is easy to avoid infection and fatalities with a few precautions. Up to 40,000 pathogens are present before he coughs or sneezes.

She continued, "They enter, mix with the environ-

ment, and spread to other people. They thrive when the immune system is compromised, and appears. For this reason, medical professionals advise keeping the patient segregated and under close observation until the illness is treated. It is vital to ensure that the tuberculosis patient is taking the medication appropriately and to supply them with sustenance to cope with the minimal side effects of the drug as part of this treatment. The TB germs may become more resistant to the antibiotic if the treatment is stopped before it has totally cleared the problem. As a result, the patient's illness becomes more the immune system is compromised, and appears lem. As a result, the patient's illness becomes more

resistant to treatment."
As technology advanced in healthcare, the devel-As technology advanced in healthcare, the development of drugs treating tuberculosis came rapidly. The genesis of TB vaccines and drugs brought along a beacon of hope that tuberculosis will end soon! However, the chances of ending it became slimmer and slimmer as more patients started becoming resistant to the drugs earlier responsible for treating them. And this led to a rise of greater concern as the aim to confine the disease remained underserved. It immediately sparked discussions on are we equipped to tackle TB drug resistance.

The question remained for many years till the diagnostic industry witnessed a technological revolution with advanced technology such as genotyp-ing and molecular diagnostic facilities that started providing key results in tackling TB drug resistance!

"Several cutting-edge technologies are currently utilised for the identification of drugresistant tuberculosis. While the traditional methods for identifying TB resistance involve testing samples using culture-based techniques, which can take several weeks to yield results, the evolution of rapid diagnostic tools, such as mfloDxTM MDR-TB enabled the detection of drug-resistant TB within hours. These advanced techniques rely on molecular-based methods that techniques rely on molecular-based methods that target specific genes associated with drug resistance, thereby providing accurate and reliable results in a short period. Moreover, the integration of artificial intelligence and machine learning algorithms has further improved the accuracy of TB drug resistance identification. These techniques enable the analysis of large data sets and the identification of patterns that would be difficult for humans to detect. Additionally, AI-based algorithms can predict potential drug-resistant TB strains by analyzing genetic sequences and predicting mutations that may lead to resistance. Therefore, the use of technological advancements in the diagnosis of drug-resistant TB has greatly enhanced the speed, accuracy, and effectiveness of TB management and control, leading to better health outcomes for patients. With an aim to end TB from the root level, the government of India is consistently working on National TB Elimination Program along with other initiatives. The emergence of TB drug resistance is a multifaceted issue which requires a comprehensive approach to accomplish the desired goals. Besides improvement in healthcare systems and infrastructure, the mission to eliminate it requires increased investment in research and development," says Dr. Pavan Asalapuram, co-founder of Empe Diagnostics!

# Gashmeer Mahajani: I believe none of my roles have changed me as an actor

AMARTYA SMARAN

Tearly five months ago, *Tu Zakhm Hai* season 1 was released on MX Player. The long form TV serial has done really well and the makers are back with season 2. The new season dropped on the streaming platform on March 23. Dashing actor Gashmeer Mahajani gained a massive following for his portrayal of Viraj Trehan on

The actor quite certainly did not expect the kind of response the show has been getting. In conversation with *The Pioneer*, Gashmeer Mahajani schmoozed about *Tu Zakhm Hai*, how the show is different from other forms of content and what the craft of acting means to him.

There are certain roles that come searching for actors because it's just meant to happen. Can you imagine *Baahubali* without Prabhas? No way! The same goes with *Tu Zakhm Hai*. We asked the Sarsenapati Hambirrao actor as to what was the best compliment that he received for playing Viraj Trehan. He said, "When people say if you want to continue doing this show, Viraj Trehan can only be Gashmeer Mahajani. If he's not there, you don't do Viraj Trehan(haha); then you change the character or bring another character but nobody else can play Viraj Trehan. I think that's a huge thing and the biggest compliment that an actor can receive. I feel very flattered by such compliments."

He also informed us that many of them are watching season 2 first and then tuning into season 1

because they're intrigued by the show.
"I was quite surprised and overwhelmed at one point because after the first season, we came up with the second season after five months," began the actor. "I thought the audience was going to lose faith. There's so much content on the web now that people tend to deviate. Surprisingly that didn't happen. Right now wherever I see on social media, I'm getting feedback from the neutral audience; I've seen them tweeting and that feels nice. It's organically reaching people and they're feeling like talking about the show and the performances. They are not followers or crazy fans as such. They are just neutral audiences who checked out a show on MX Player and now they are writing threads about it on Twitter."

and now they are writing threads about it on Twitter. Playing such intense characters is bound to have an impact on the actors who give everything to play these parts. It could sometimes bring a huge change in the way they perform as well. However, Gashmeer says it didn't change him as an actor. "I believe none of my roles have changed me as an actor," explained Gashmeer. "I think I found a different side of mine while performing. I always get

more attracted to characters which have damaged parts, which have some kind of trauma that they can associate with; which in turn decides or defines the way they behave in their current scenario. It becomes extremely deep and interesting. During that journey, I started finding things from my past. I start finding certain sides and dimensions of my own self as a human being. I feel every character only brings out a different side of you. It

only makes you grow as a whole-some human being." People are consuming content in different ways. The format keeps changing and actors must adapt themselves at any cost. Tu Żakhm Hai is a long format serial for the web, according to the actor. He says it's not a mini series

of 8 episodes or 10 episodes. Having done a lot of web shows, he puts *Tu Zakhm Hai* in the TV serial category. "This is an MX TV serial, but having said that it is not like working on the Indian daily soaps or anything because here we knew the show was going and where it's going in the end."

Underscoring glaring differences between regular soap operas and MX

Player's TV serial format, he concluded: "In television things go nowhere after an episode.



# what's brewing?





Actress Pragya Jaiswal, unveiled the luxury jewellery line - Vega Sri Luxe, by Vega Sri gold and diamonds. collection is an exquisite range of premium jewllery in gold, diamonds, polki and kundan that showcases intricate designs and exception craftsmanship.









**Brinda Diamonds** launched an exclusive exhibition of exquisite bridal diamond jewellery, at its multi-storey showroom at Basheerbagh, which will end on April 2, 2023.













MLA Malakpat Ahmed Bin Abdullah Balala, and GHMC corporator Moosarambagh Bhagyalaxmi Madhusudhan Reddy, among the rest, graced the opening of Pista House restaurant at Gaddiannaram X Roads, in Dilsukhnagar.

















# GARFIELD







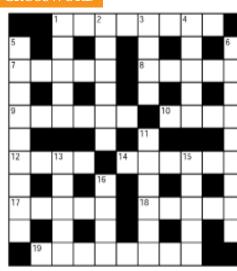


#### REALITY CHECK





#### **CROSSWORD**











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ACROSS

8 Call in on

12 Have a lie down

9 Get

17 Fabric

18 Defrosts

1 Large stone buildings built

in ancient Egypt as tombs

7 Steel pins knocked into wood

10 A song sung by one person

14 Thin cord for tying parcels

Indicate direction with



3 Shift

5 Wrong

13 Ruin

6 Most powerful

16 Large boat

11 A sculpted figure

15 Rome is the capital

SOLUTION

city of this country

4 A type of dance club

#### **GINGER MEGGS**







The sum of all numbers in

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# tollywood

'I am an opportunist, always looking for good performance based roles'

**TEJAL SINHA** 

🕇 eteran film director Relangi Narasimha Rao, who's best known for making rib tickling comedies such as Dabbevariki C h e d u (1987), D a g u d u m u t h a l a Dampathyam(1990), Iddaru Pellala Muddula Police(1991), and Edurinti Mogudu Pakkinti Pellam(1991), has a knack for getting the best performances from new comers. And he did rit again with up-and-coming actress Hindola Chakravorty. She starred opposite Yash Kondapaneni in Relangi Narasimha Rao's 75th film titled, Oo Antava Mava Oo Oo Antava

"It was quite a journey," said Hindola, who has been a part of several creative fields including theaters, modeling, ads, comedy, webseries, and now movies. "Absolutely proud to be a part of the Telugu film fraternity. Can't thank enough to Chadalavada Srinivasa Rao sir for introducing me to the Telugu film industry, he is the producer of my first Telugu film (which is yet to be released), and *Oo Antava Mava Oo Oo Antava Mava* is my second film technically. I'm happy to have shared a screen space with such a respected cast. Learned so much from each and everyone of them."

It's important for actors to play characters that they relate to on a deep level because it

makes it easier for the audience to connect with it as well. And so, when we asked the actress about how relatable she felt her character was to her, she humourously replied, "I loved my character in the film. Soundarya is a very challenging, performance based character. This movie is not a very regular go-to horror movie, it's a completely different concept horror and comedy. I got to play many roles for one character. As far as how the character is relatable in real life, I have a devil mind deep inside me which I explored through this role (she laughs), otherwise I don't want to encounter ghosts."

Samantha's sizzling performance in Oo Antava Mawa from *Pushpa: The Rise* has still been loved by the audience. In fact, people even call her the *Oo antava* girl. Not just this, actor Ranveer Singh had also said at Koffee with Karan that Samantha in Oo Antava is hotter than Katrina in *Tip Tip*. So on working on a film with a title of such a blockbuster hit, she said, "I was super excited when I heard the title of the movie from my producer Prasanna Kumar Tummala sir, already this title has become a word of mouth, and it brought some brownie points for the movie."

Being a Kolkata-native girl, how did she land up in Tollywood? Hindola gleefully shared, "I am an opportunist! I always look for good performance based roles. I like to

explore. I'm a multi-lingual actor. Honestly, Acting has no language. What connects an actor to the audience is the acting, not the lan-

Coming to an industry with no godfather is definitely not an easy quest. And this was the same for the budding actress too. However, being smart to understand things well, Hindola handled all of it with ace. But she did recall, "I have come across many casting groups and casting directors who wanted money in order to get me a character in a movie or series."

The artiste is not here to settle for less, and confine herself to just one genre, or just one particular industry. She's here to explore all, right from more of Tollywood to even Bollywood. "I would love to go for challenging roles. Would love to play a cop, or a very rustic character, even a love story," said the wondrous artist, who was overwhelmed with the response that the southern audience had treated her, as she said, "Audience in the south are very warm and very loving. I feel loaded with love now!

Going ahead, Hindola has a Telugu movie and a Bollywood single in the pipeline. However, without revealing much of the details she said, "I love to give and get surprises. I'm going to surprise you all soon with something. Stay intact with me!"

Actress Hindola Chakravorty, who recently made her debut on screen with Relangi Narasimha Rao's Oo Antava Mava Oo Oo Antava Mava, spoke about her Tollywood stint, type of roles she desires to play, and more in this exclusive chat

The Pioneer.



Neelima Guna: Mallika Mallika is very popular among youth

with the massive success of Yashoda(2022), superstar Samantha made it clear that she's here to stay in Tollywood. Now she's back again to prove her mettle as a star and actor with Gunasekhar's Shaakuntalam. The trailer of the film has been receiving rave reviews for its visual effects, set pieces and the plot line. Mani Sharma is the music

director and he enjoys a great reputation.
The makers released the *Mallika Mallika* video song from the much anticipated period drama on YouTube on March 31.

"I watched the movie and it felt great. Since the moment I watched the film, I've been eager to release the song. I even conveyed the same to Gunasekhar Garu. Mallika Mallika is my favourite song from the film. It feels great to watch the video song and I'm happy to present it to the audience," said the Yashoda actress.

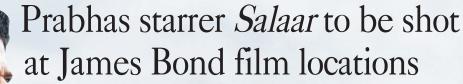
Speaking of the film, the creator of Shaakuntalam, Gunasekhar said, "Mallika Mallika is special to some of the unit members. As much as we enjoyed recording the song, it felt equally good watching it on the screen. I believe this song is going to impress everyone when they watch it on the screen because it is visually appealing. Everyone who saw it said it was amazing and felt happy. On the 14th of this month, we will bring the movie *Shaakunthalam* to the pan-India audience."

pan-india audience.

"Mallika Mallika is a song that is very popular among youth," said Neelima Guna sharing how pleased she is with the song. "Ramya Behara sang wonderfully. Everyone who heard said it was good. Now the video song is getgood response. This song will be even better in the movie. Samantha's facial expressions coupled with other visual elements in the song will impress everyone.

Written and directed by Gunasekhar, Shaakuntalam is presented by Dil Raju under Sri Venkateswara Creations Banner. The film is being produced by Neelima Guna under Guna





location Matera, Italy where the action prologue for the James Bond film No Time to Die was

The Indian tional titles. action movie Salaar starring Prabhas is currently ongoing in Italy. Pan-India

Prabhas seen playing a dual role in the film according to sources. The highly anticipated movie, written and directed by Prashanth Neel and produced shot at the s international by Vijay Kiragandur's Hombale Films company, has been filming mid march in Matera, the old southern Italian town famous for its prehistoric whitewashed caves. Matera was the setting for the prologue action sequence for the James Bond film No Time to Die, among other interna-

Salaar production has now moved to Naples, where preparations for filming in the southern part city's control Piegra del port city's central Piazza del Plebiscito plaza are underway. The dia star local police are assisting with the set Prabhas preparations, which include the will be use of drones and lighting for night shooting. Aside from Matera and Naples, other Salaar locales include Rome and

despite the distance and cultural differences, and overcome numerous challenges. The first installment of the thriller with a love undercurrent is set to be released internationally on September 23 in Telugu and dubbed in Kannada, Tamil, Malayalam, Hindi, and English.

Meanwhile, it is being learnt that Hombale Films' Salaar has been mounted on a very huge scale and has been budgeted at a whopping 400+ crores. While the dynamic team and technicians of KGF are also a part of Salaar, we can certainly now say that the era of Salaar has begun! Releasing on September 2023.

### Did Varun Tej reveals his look from his Bollywood debut?

Actor Varun Tej's pictures from his recent Mumbai visit has been making the headlines and kept us wondering about his purpose of visit to Mumbai. The VT 13 actor is all set to surprise audiences with back to back action packed projects that are currently untitled. VT 13 also marks Varun's Bollywood debut. He has been extensively shooting for his films across the globe and the country and recently was spotted in



Mumbai which made us wonder if he is signing another bollywood film.

The actor was seen in a new look that further piqued our interest if any Bollywood pro-

ject is on cards for him after VT13, and we can't wait to hear it from the actor himself.

Opening about his new look by ace celebrity stylist Aalim Hakim and visit Varun shares, "It was a wonderful experience to be in Mumbai and meet some of my fans.I am overwhelmed with all the love that I have been receiving and can't wait to take my audiences by surprise very soon."

Varun Tej has much awaited projects titled VT 12 and VT 13 (working titles) in 2023. Well, only time will tell what this new look is all about!

### Genelia Deshmukh grabs best popular actress Award at the Zee Chitra Gaurav awards



amous for her beautiful portrayal of movie characters to her buzzing social media, Genelia is a total collection of all things wonderful. She recently made

us prouder and proved that she is totally a people's favorite when she won the Best Popular Actress Award at the Zee Chitra Gaurav Awards 2023.

The 'Zee Chitra Gauray', is considered to be the most respected one in the Marathi entertainment world.

Actress Genelia Deshmukh enjoys a huge audience base with millions of fans. She takes pride in her work and has given us multiple films as well as ads with her best performances. She's an impactful personality that really brings courage to aspiring women in terms of fitness to motherhood to setting a perfect work life balance.

The actress is popular for her work in multiple lan-

# 'I'm not a film star,' said Sai Pallavi on coming to terms with the title!

he talented Sai Pallavi has undoubtedly left an impact on the audiences with her impeccable script choice and powerful performances on screen. The actor was recently in town and spoke exclusively with Ánupama Chopra on Film Companion about film-making being a spritual process, the success of her first film Premam, her biggest fear and many more

Sai Pallavi opened up on not having a manager and entourage she said to Film Companion "I like to speak to the director or producer myself to know what the film is for what it is. We're all going to work on the film together, so I don't need a middle person." She adds, "You can call me directly and we can talk and see how it goes. But also, I like doing things my way." and like to take care of her-

Sai Pallavi's unique dancing style is quite famous amongst the youth. When asked about the roots of her dancing prowess, she said, "I've never learnt to dance, I grew up watching Madhuri Dixit ma'am, Aishwarva Rai ma'am and Saroi Khan ma'am's dances. I think, for 3 years,



I just danced to one song and that is *Dola* Re Dola. It was my go-to dance, I liked it so much. Even when you wake me up in my sleep, I'll be doing that step." She adds, "I didn't realise, growing up, that dance will play a major role in disciplining me or bringing some sort of rhythm

in my body. So, I owe it all to dancing, and Mum letting me do what I loved, even as a child.'

When discussing her routine as a 'film star' who doesn't believe in the late-night lifestyle, Sai Pallavi finds it difficult to be called that term. "I'm not a film star, I'm just someone who's lucky enough to do what she loves and is getting so much love from the people around. I consider myself to be extremely blessed. But ves, I have made a few changes to be sane to stay up late at night." She recalls being a sleepy child on the sets of Premam. "For the last scene of the film, Alphonse (director) would say, "Pallavi, the shot is ready" and I would just wake up, do the shot & come back to nap. I was a child! Now, I think I've grown up to be a more friendly person."

When asked about the demand for female actors to wear makeup and look glamorous, she said "I think, it's maybe the person that I am...I don't know the other side...of how it might feel. Maybe there's a lot of pressure to look like your perfect version, and I'm not saying that makeup doesn't help. If it makes you feel confident, you should do it. I feel confident this way, and I think I'm doing

#### Bathukamma song an ode to Telangana's flower fest

The song Bathukamma from the upcoming Salman Khan-starrer Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan was released on Friday.

The track, which features Salman in traditional Telugu attire, celebrates the annual flower festival. Bathukamma, celebrated by women in Telangana for nine days. It was shot during the Bathukamma festival, making it an authentic representation of the event and

a tribute to Telugu culture. The song is an epitome of cultural richness and features a mix of traditional and modern music, with Pooja Hegde executing the dance in a graceful manner.

A source revealed that Telugu star Venkatesh Daggubati was the one who had suggested the festival and Salman loved the idea



on how the festival doesn't have a song dedicated to it and told the music director to come up with a song for the same.

The song has been composed by Ravi Basrur while the lyrics have been penned by Shabbir Ahmed, Ravi Basrur, Kinnal Raj and

# GAIKWAD TAKES CSK TO 178/7

#### Ruturaj scores 92 runs from 50 balls to help Chennai post a fighting total against GT



pener Ruturaj Gaikwad was all class in his 92 off 50 balls as Chennai Super Kings posted a challenging 178 for seven against defending champions Gujarat Titans in the IPL opener here on Friday.

Gaikwad regaled the near capacity crowd here with with his sublime strokeplay. It was a display of effortless hitting from Gaikwad, who relied on his lofted drives over extra cover and

relied on his lofted drives over extra cover and

crisp pull shots to collect as many as eight sixes.

Apart from Gaikwad, the only other batter who put the Titans under pressure was Moeen Ali who came up with a 17-ball 23. Ali's flat six off Mohammad Shami on a free-hit ball was the

highlight of his cameo. Gaikwad pulled IPL debutant Joshua Little on his very first ball to set the tone of his innings. That over went for 15 runs and with Shami conceding 17 runs in the following over, CSK got the momentum they were looking for.

Titans' trump card Rashid Khan was introduced in the powerplay and as he often does, he got the wicket that his team was looking for

Mumbai Indians on Friday replaced injured pacer Jasprit Bumrah with Sandeep

Warrier for the 2023 Indian

the entire tournament due to

arm fast bowler, will join the

Mumbai Indians squad as a

replacement player for Jasprit

Bumrah. Sandeep, who debuted for India in 2021, is an

Bumrah was ruled out of

Sandeep Warrier, right-

experienced player in the Friday afternoon.

Premier League.

a back injury

by getting the dangerous looking Ali caught behind.

Rashid's second over saw him getting rid of England Test captain Ben Stokes, who too was caught by wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha, leaving CSK at 70 for three.

However, the fall of wickets did not make Gaikwad change his game as he kept getting the boundaries. He welcomed Alzarri Joseph into the attack by smashing him for three sixes in the eighth over.

Titans did well to stem the flow of runs in the middle overs and got the wicket of Ambati

Shivam Dube struggled to find the big hits and that put pressure on Gaikwad who was caught in the deep in the 17th over and missed out on a deserving hundred. Skipper M S Dhoni came out to bat at num-

ber eight but still managed to make an impact as he pulled Little for a six before flicking him for a four in the final over, sending the crowd into a frenzy.

Kane Williamson injured his knee while fielding at the boundary and limped off the field.

Bangalore."

The release added,

"Sandeep will join the Mumbai Indians squad ahead of the team's first game of IPL 2023 against Royal Challengers

Warrier, who has played 66 First-Class, 69 List A and 68 T20 matches in the domestic

circuit taking 217, 83 and 62

wickets respectively, made his

debut for India in the shortest

format at Colombo in July 2021

against Sri Lanka. He repre-

sented Kerala in domestic

cricket before moving to Tamil

Warrier joins MI as Bumrah's replacement

domestic circuit having played

over 200 games with 69 of

them in T20 format, taking 362

wickets in his career so far across formats," Mumbai

Indians said in a statement on

#### **Hazlewood likely to miss** first 7 games of RCB

PTI MELBOURNE

Set to miss at least first leg of the IPL due to an Achilles (heel) problem, Royal Challengers Bangalore's Australian fast bowler Josh Hazlewood would reach India by April 14 but would take another week to be match-fit.

While Hazlewood will miss at least seven IPL games, his Australian teammate Glenn Maxwell is doubtful for RCB's opening match against Mumbai Indians on April 2 in Bengaluru as he is yet to fully regain strength post leg frac-

ture.

"Everything is ticking along according to plan, so I'll be heading over on the 14th (of April) depending on how the next two weeks go," Hazlewood was quoted as

saying by The Age.
"I probably won't be quite ready to go right then, but (after) another week in India to touch things up skills wise I should be ready to go hope-

Hazlewood, who had to opt out of Border-Gavaskar Trophy in India, is hoping to get ready for the Ashes via the IPL. "You don't need a lot of workload for T20. It's more just ticking off those boxes of getting up to speed and pushing back in the run-up. I'm probably only going to need to do one or two sessions at full pace and then I'm probably good to play.

T20 is a lot different to Test and even one-day cricket. You only need 20 balls at et. You only need 20 balls at full pace and that's pretty close to a game, which is a good thing," he said.

The 32-year-old pacer, however, is still awaiting a medical clearance from Cricket Australia before

Cricket Australia before departing for India.

"It's a niggly one, the Achilles tendon. It's a slow process but it thrives on a bit of work, and I'd have to be bowling to prepare for the Ashes, so it may as well be in a game of cricket," Hazlewood

#### India have firepower in pace department to trouble Oz in the WTC Final: Taylor

PTI DUBAI

 ${\mathbb F}^{
m ormer\, New\, Zealand\, skipper}_{
m Ross\, Taylor\, has\, backed\, the}$ Indian pace unit to cause trouble for Australian batters in the World Test Championship final scheduled at the Oval in London from June 7-11.

Taylor feels Indian fast bowlers have the wherewithal to create problems for Australia even though Jasprit Bumrah will be sidelined.

"Any time you play in England, conditions and the weather play a big part," Taylor was told ICC website.

"Any time you think of Australia and India, and also you're playing in a neutral ground, the seamers play a big part. The Australian seamers are renowned for bowling with the Dukes ball and have a lot of experience.

But taylor didn't rule out India's chances. "I wouldn't rule out this Indian side. They have had a lot of success over there in the years gone past, they have a few of these seamers," he added. While spin played a key role in the recent Border-Gavaskar Trophy in India, Taylor expects pacers of both the teams to rule the roost in the WTC Final at The Oval.

Taylor is confident that even without Bumrah, India have enough options in the pace department to make an impact in English conditions.

Very tough to replace someone like Bumrah. He has been fantastic in all three formats and is the leader of their bowling attack," he said.

"But I think there's still enough depth in this Indian line-up to trouble the Australian side. (Mohammed) Shami and co are fantastic in these condi-

"When you consider the India attack, (Mohammed) Siraj and Co. Are also very good with the Dukes ball.

"I think there are still a lot of (India) seamers that are fantastic and enjoy bowling with the Dukes ball. Úmesh Yadav also bowls 140-plus. They will relish the opportunity to bowl with the Dukes ball and in English conditions," Taylor added.



es, which over the years have flattered to deceive. Inconsistency in team selections seemed to have also affected the them badly.

two-time champions KKR ended a rung below in the seventh spot in the 10-team competition last year.

Both teams will be led by new skippers this season. While veteran Shikhar Dhawan will be at the helm of Punjab, domestic star Nitish Rana has replaced injured Shreyas Iyer as KKR captain.

On paper, though, PBKS looks a tad more stronger than KKR. But Englishman Jonny Bairstow's absence will certainly leave a big void in Punjab's team composition.

Bairstow has been ruled out of the entire IPL as he continues to recover from a leg iniury he had sustained while

playing golf last September.
In Bairstow's place, PBKS
has roped in BBL's player-ofthe-tournament this season, Matthew Short who is expected to open the batting along side Dhawan.

Other key PBKS players, who will miss Saturday's game are hard-hitting all-rounder Liam Livingstone, who is yet to get clearance from the ECB, following a knee injury, and South



These are the two franchises, which over the years have flattered to deceive. **Inconsistency in** team selections seemed to have

on national duty.

also affected the

them badly

PBKS squad is stacked with all-rounders, the most lethal among them being \$2 million plus buy Sam Curran, who is more than handy with the bat and is a very fine death bowler.

Zimbabwe's Sikandar Raza is another utility all-rounder PBKS could bank upon. But they would depend on Dhawan and Short to provide consistency at the top.
On the bowling front, PBKS would miss Rabada on

Saturday and in his absence the onus would be on Arshdeep Singh, old guard Rishi Dhawan, Curran and leg-spinner Rahul Chahar to do the job.

For two-time champions KKR, new coach Chandrakant Pandit will be the key man as take all decisions from the dug-out and Rana's only job would be to implement them.

KKR too have been hurt by injuries with regular skipper and batting mainstay Shreyas being almost ruled out of the tournament with a back probThe two Bangladeshis Shakib Al Hasan and Litton Das are also going to miss the opening game due to national commitments.

KKR's strength too lies in the team's all-rounders with the likes of Andre Russell, Sunil Narine, David Weise, Vernkatesh Iyer and Shakib Al Hasan in their rank.

Even though both Tim Southee and Lockie Fergusson have joined the KKR squad, the it is now an open secret that he latter is a doubtful starter on along with Mumbai stalwart Saturday having injured his

KKR's weakness lies in an unsettled top-order and it remains to be seen who will anchor the innings.

In Wiese, Rinku Singh and Afghan Rahmanullah Gurbaz, KKR have some terrific hardhitters who can pull off a win on their given day.

### DC look to corner under-pressure Rahul's LSG

Mitchell Marsh's brute power with the willow will be Delhi Capitals' lethal weapon as they brace up for life without Rishabh Pant while starting their Indian Premier League campaign against Lucknow Super Giants, here on

LSG, who will be playing at home for the first time, is an equally beleaguered outfit if not more, with skipper KL Rahul going through the toughest phase of his career and has been on a downward spiral for quite

By the look of it, neither DC nor LSG look like outfits that give you the



vibe of a champion side like Chennai Super Kings, Mumbai Indians or for that matter Gujarat Titans.

However in the shortest format, equations could change at the drop of hat as the margin that separates a master-stroke from a harakiri is as thin as

So when DC begin its journey on Saturday evening at the Ekana Stadium, it will be an Australian, who will hold the key to the kind of start that the franchise expects.

And that Australian isn't stocky New South Wales man David Warner, who is leading the side but the giant from Western Australia, who has provided some sort of a trailer during the

ODI series against India with 12 sixes in three games -- 11 of which came in the first two encounters.

It seems that Marsh has got a hang of Indian tracks and that can only augur well for DC.

Marsh, who hasn't bowled his medium pacers for some time, will be a vital cog in Powerplay overs if Warner and his flamboyant opening partner Prithvi Shaw, fail to get going.

DC head coach Ricky Ponting expects a lot from Shaw and on his day, he can butcher any attack. Shaw also likes to work with pace of deliveries and Mark Wood in the opposition ranks, with a speed in excess of 150 clicks, gives him that opportunity.

# Stirling leads Ireland to maiden Bangladesh win

**AP** CHITTAGONG

 $P^{\mathrm{aul}}$  Stirling hit an aggressive 77 off 41 balls to lift Ireland to their first win against Bangladesh on Bangladesh soil in Friday's third and final T20

The visitors lost the opening two matches but raced to overs after bowling out their

hosts for 124 in Chittagong. Shamim Hossain struck his maiden 50 to lift Bangladesh from a precarious 41-5 but it was not enough to deny Ireland their first win of the tour.

Stirling hit 10 fours and four sixes, including a six and three fours off

consecutive deliveries, to hasten

his team's victory.
Taskin Ahmed bowled Ross Adair for seven before Shoriful Islam dismissed Lorcan Tucker for four, but Stirling shared a 68-run partnership with Harry Tector for the third wicket to keep Ireland on



NZ beat SL by 6 wickets,

New Zealand capitalized on another failure by Sri Lanka's batters and avoided one of its own to win the third ODI by six wickets in Hamilton on Friday and to take the three-

match series 2-0.

After being bowled out for only 76 in the first match — which New Zealand won by 198 runs — Sri Lanka was dismissed for 157 in 41.2 cycles as missed for 157 in 41.3 overs as it batted first after winning the toss in Game 3.

New Zealand also was in trouble early when it lost two wickets in the second over of its innings and was 6-2, then 21-3. But Will Young, who had been out of form with only 30 runs from his last four ODI innings, ground his way back to



which guided New Zealand to victory with 17.1 overs remain-

Young and Henry Nicholls (44) shared an unbroken partnership of exactly 100 runs for the fifth wicket.



Pakistan-born Azeem Rafiq. A Cricket Discipline

was alleged to have used.

But it added that its findings the wider assertions" made by

#### on 'balance of probabilities' Rafiq, who told lawmakers in November 2021 that English cricket was "institutionally

Vaughan cleared of racism

AP LONDON

Former England cricket captain Michael Vaughan was on Friday cleared "on the balance of probabilities" of using racist language before a match for county club Yorkshire in 2009.

He was alleged to have used the term "you lot" when referring to a group of four players of South Asian ethnicity, including

Commission (CDC) report said it was "not satisfied on the balance of probabilities" that Vaughan spoke the words he

"do not in any way undermine

racist".

In its concluding remarks the CDC report said: "This is not a case which necessitated a conclusion from the panel that anyone has lied or acted out of mal-

"Far from it, the panel had to consider whether the case as presented to it by the ECB (England and Wales Cricket Board), in light of all the evidence, was sufficiently accurate and reliable, on the balance of probabilities, to rule out mistake.

was not." Vaughan, who appeared in person at a CDC hearing earli-

charges brought by the ECB, thanked the panel for "their careful attention in very difficult circumstances".

"It has been both difficult

and upsetting to hear about the

painful experiences which Azeem has described over the past three years," the 48-year-old said in a statement on social media. "The outcome of these CDC

proceedings must not be allowed to detract from the core message that there can be no place for racism in the game of cricket, or in society generally."

Yorkshire accepted in September 2021 that Rafiq, now 32, had been the victim of racial harassment and bullying during er this month to answer the his time at the club.