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ACOLYTES ATTAIN LIBERATION



Bellamkonda Ganesh considers himself as a 'successful





#### **Destination** weddings ...

The destination weddings of celebrities have an impact on the weddings in general. For instance, when a person is buying a house, he negotiates if the price can be reduced, but when it comes to a wedding, they only request to do the needful and this has become an emotion now. At least 85 per cent of the Indian population now saves to ensure their daughter is married on a grand scale. Society stigma..

#### Mamata takes to streets on...

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday took to the streets here to protest against the alleged manhandling of wrestlers at New Delhi's Jantar Mantar after they tried to march towards the new Parliament building following its inauguration three days ago. Holding a placard with the message, "We Want Justice". written on it. Baneriee participated in a rally...

#### Rs 1 lakh cr to increase grain...

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a Rs 1 lakh crore programme to create the world's largest grain storage capacity in the cooperative sector to reduce crop damages and prevent stress sales by farmers, be strengthening the country's food security.

The government is planning to create 700 lakh tonne of grain storage capacity in the cooperative sector over the next five years and said...

-PAGE: 8

#### ICC seeks PCB assurances...

The International Cricket Council (ICC) chairman and CEO are in Lahore to seek guarantees from the PCB that it will not push for implementing a hybrid model for its matches in the ODI World Cup in India later this year. Insiders confirmed to PTI that ICC chairman Greg Barclay and CEO Geoff Allardice have specifically come to Lahore to get some assurances from the Pakistan Cricket Board on the national team's participation in the World Cup..



#### **Centre's TS Formation Day fete** at Golconda Fort

PNS HYDERABAD

Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy has announced that Telangana Formation Day celebrations will be held at Golconda Fort in Hyderabad on June 2 nd by the Union Department of Culture.

At a media conference in Delhi on Wednesday, Kishan Reddy said that BJP had played a crucial role in the formation of Telangana State. The party's MPs had demanded the formation of a separate Telangana during Parliament sessions. In all, 160 MPs, led by the party's late leader Sushma Swaraj, had expressed their support for Telangana in Parliament. He recalled that a resolution had been passed in Kakinada on the formation of a separate Telangana.



#### CM OPENS BRAHMIN SADAN

# KCR showers sops

SANSKRIT UNIVERSITY TO BE SET UP IN MEDAK 🛨 HONORARIUM OF VEDA PANDITS UP FROM RS 2,500 TO RS 5,000 🖈 DOOPA DEEPA NAIVEDHYAM PROGRAMME UP FROM RS 6,000 TO **RS 10,000, COVERING 6,441 TEMPLES** 

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao on Wednesday inaugurated the Telangana Brahmin Sadan, first of its kind facility in the country built for the welfare of the Brahmin community.

Speaking on the occasion, KCR observed: "Elders say that anyone who acquires Brahman knowledge attains Brahminhood. Universal welfare is the aim of Brahmins. Lokasamastasukhinobhavantu is the ideal spoken by Brahmins. Brahmin's mind, words and actions are for the welfare of the world."

The Chief Minister expressed his wish that a comprehensive library related to various rites, temple constructions, rules of Agamashastra, deity pratisthas should be established in the Sadan. He said: "As a repository of Vedic knowledge, a center of spiritual awareness, a platform for the poetic prophecies of India, Bhagavata, Ramayana, and a measure of arts, Brahmin Sadan should flourish. The Government constructed a Brahmin Parishad building in Suryapet on an acre of land donated by Dr. A. Ramaiah. I



"As a repository of Vedic knowledge, a center of spiritual awareness, a platform for the poetic prophecies of India, Bhagavata, Ramayana, and a measure of arts, Brahmin Sadan should flourish

ins to linseat

leaders, before making their next

In the upcoming crucial Telangana

launched soon. The Telangana government is also constructing Brahmin buildings in Khammam, Madhira, Bachupally area".

KCR said that the Telangana government had started a trend by constructing a wonderful 'Brahmin Welfare Sadan' at a cost of Rs.12 crore on 9 acres of land in Hyderabad. He said that the Kalyana

am happy to announce that it will be Mandapam in the building would serve as a platform for free marriages of poor Brahmins. Should any poor person, irrespective of caste and caste, seek the services of priests for auspicious functions at their house, then Brahmin priests from the Sadan would perform the function free of cost, he said.



Working on 'perfect plan' to topple KCR government

move. They want a critical mass to

be formed to achieve their objec-

tive of having at least two dozen

sources said they can control KCR

want to draw inspiration from

#### MISAPPROPRIATING CLIENTS' FUNDS

#### Sebi cancels registration of Karvy Stock Broking

Capital markets regulator Sebi on Wednesday cancelled the registration of brokerage firm Karvy Stock Broking Ltd (KSBL) for mis-utilising clients' funds and securities.

Cancelling the registration, Sebi said that Karvy was involved in transferring of funds from clients' accounts to own accounts. Such funds were, in turn transferred to the group companies of the brokerage house. Further, it raised funds by pledging clients' securities.

Going by the order, the overall borrowing of Karvy, which was raising loans from financial institutions by pledging shares of its clients as collateral, was Rs 2,032.67 crore by September 2019 and the value of securities pledge by the stock broker was Rs 2,700 crore during the period. In addition, the brokerage firm did not settle clients' funds and securities, failed to furnish details of bank accounts and depository participant accounts and failed to cooperate with the forensic auditor in the proper assessment of the assets and liabilities of the member towards clients, Sebi said in its order.

Noting that Karvy has been declared a defaulter and expelled by BSE and NSE in November 2020, Sebi has cancelled "the certificate of registration of Karvy Stock Broking Ltd" under the Intermediaries

Regulations.

This comes after Sebi last month barred Karvy and its promoter Comandur Parthasarathy from the securities market for seven years and imposed a penalty of Rs 21 crore on them for misappropriating clients' funds by misusing the Power of Attorney given to it.

In November 2019, the watchdog, through its interim order, barred KSBL from taking new brokerage clients after it was found that the firm had allegedly misused clients' securities to the tune of over Rs 2,000 crore. The interim order came after NSE forwarded a preliminary report to Sebi on non-compliances observed with respect to pledging or misuse of clients' securities by Karvy Stock Broking. Finally, the directions issued through the interim order were confirmed by Sebi in November 2020.

The exchange's preliminary report was the result of the limited purpose inspection of Karvy Stock Broking conducted by it on August 19, 2019, covering the period from January 1,

### **BRS MLCs competing** with MLAs for tickets now!

**NAVEENA GHANATE** 

Although BRS president and Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao has clear that sitting MLAs will be given tickets, certain MLCs of the party have complicated matters by becoming strong contenders for the tickets.

This has prompted MLAs to state openly that they need to tackle their partypeople first and then think about fighting opposition, with the intra-party tussle often spilling over

În more than a dozen constituencies, MLAs and MLCs don't see eye to eye as ticket aspirants. Minister Satyavathi Rathod, who

is an MLC, has expressed her wish that she wants to contest from the Dornakal seat, replacing BRS MLA Redya Naik. In Janagaon, with each passing day, the war is intensifying between Muthi Reddy and MLC Pochampally Srinivas Reddy. Likewise, in Peddapalli it is MLA Manohar versus MLC Bhanu Prasad; in Station Ghanapur, MLA Thathikonda Rajajah vs Kadiyam whose fight became murkier a few months ago. In Bhupalpalle, it is MLA Gandra vs MLC Madhusudhana Chary; in Medak,

MLA Padma Reddy vs Seri Shubash Reddy as well as Mynampally Rohith. In Mynampally Qutubullapur, it is KP Vivekananda vs MLC Raju. Tandur witnessed



In more than a dozen constituencies, MLAs and MLCs don't see eye to eye as ticket aspirants. Minister Satyavathi Rathod, who is an MLC, has expressed her wish that she wants to contest from the Dornakal seat, replacing BRS MLA Redya Naik. In Janagaon, with each passing day, the war is intensifying between

and MLC Mahender Reddy. While



Muthi Reddy and MLC Pochampally public tussle between Rohit Reddy

in Alampur, it is MLA Abraham versus MLC Challa Venkat Rami Reddy, though Rami Reddy is yet to become vocal about his aspirations of becoming MLA. In Nagarjuna Sagar, the fight is between Nomula Bhagat and MLC Koti Reddy.

Even in Kukatpally, MLC Naveen is only seen as next in line after incumbent MLA Madhavaram Krishna Rao, though the MLC has behaved professionally so far.



# Advantage KCR in poll campaign

SNCN ACHARYULU HYDERABAD

Assembly elections, the campaign of major parties will be fierce with the main fight being between Bharat Rashtra Samiti on the one hand and the Congress as well as the BharatiyaJanata Party on the other hand. The election campaigns of these parties will depend on five top leaders. For the BJP, it will be Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah: while for the Congress, it will be AICC former president Rahul Gandhi and AICC general Secretary Priyanka Gandhi. To counter these four leaders, from BRS there is only one leader: none other than Telangana Chief Minister and BRS president K Chandrasekhar Rao. The entire campaign will depend





Ponguleti and Jupally to form group for next move



KCR has a distinct advantage. KCR can address the public in their language and idiom, but the other four leaders do not have this advantage.

crowd pullers. Among these five leaders, KCR has a distinct advantage. KCR can address the public in their language and idiom, but the other four leaders do not have this advantage. The mainpurpose of election campaign is to have free and open on these five leaders. All these five discussion about who is a better rep-



#### leaders are effective orators and resentative and to posit which party will make a better government. It is

a different matter that these days the election campaign by political parties is getting side-tracked, with the levelling of personal allegations taking precedence.



VIVEKA MURDER CASE

TS HC grants anticipatory

bail to Avinash Reddy

#### **TSPSC** bars 13 more candidates

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana State Public Service Commission (TSPSC) on Wednesday barred 13 more candidates from writing its public examinations until further notice.

On Tuesday, TSPSC barred 37 candidates from writing its public examinations.

In a press statement, the commission said, pending further orders, it has taken this decision in view of prima facie evidence of involvement of these candidates in TSPSC examination paper leakage case, their arrest, and subsequent remand to judicial custody. If the candidates have any explanation, they should submit within two days to the authorities concerned.



## Will hang myself if charges against me proved: Brij

PNS BARABANKI

Outgoing Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who is facing sexual harassment charges levelled by female wrestlers, on Wednesday said he will hang himself even if a single allegation is proved against him.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP also said all wrestlers are like his children and he will not blame them as his blood and sweat have also gone into their success. "I am once again saying that if even

if a single allegation is proved against me, I will hang myself," Singh said while addressing a programme at the Mahadeva auditorium in the Ramnagar area here.

"It has been four months since they (wrestlers) want me to be hanged, but the government is not hanging me. So



medals in the Ganga. Brij Bhushan will not be hanged by throwing medals in the Ganga. If you have proof, give it to the court and if the court hangs me, I will accept it," the member of Parliament from

Kaiserganj said. He said he will not blame the wrestlers as his blood and sweat have also gone into their success.

"All the players are like my children. Until a few days ago, they used to call me the god of wrestling. When I took they were going to immerse their over as the wrestling federation chief, detained before being released later.

India was ranked 20th in the world. Today, after my hard work, India's name is included among the five best wrestling teams in the world.

"I have lived wrestling day and night. Five of the seven Olympic medals (in wrestling) came to India during my tenure. The allegations levelled against me are baseless," the outgoing WFI chief said.

He urged the people to join the "Jan Chetna Maha Rally" to be held in Avodhya on June 5 in large numbers.

The wrestlers, including Olympic medallists Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia and Asian Games gold medallist Vinesh Phogat, who were protesting at Delhi's Jantar Mantar since April 23 demanding Singh's arrest, were removed from the site by police on Sunday after they tried to march towards the new Parliament building following its inauguration. They were

## Wrestlers 'vow of silence'

BARABANKI: The "shell-shocked" protesting wrestlers, except Sakshi Malik, have returned to their homes in Haryana, and did not speak with the waiting media in Haridwar due to a silence vow, a member of the protest group said on Wednesday.

The grapplers had resumed their agitation against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh on April 23 at Jantar Mantar and stayed there till May 28, the day they were detained by the Delhi Police during their march towards the new Parliament building. Immediately after their deten-

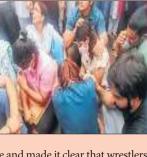
tion, the police cleared the protest



site and made it clear that wrestlers will not be allowed back to the Jantar Mantar.

The police action against the wrestlers drew criticism from different quarters.





completed the hearing last week, pronounced

its order Wednesday. The CBI and Vivekananda Reddy's daughter Sunitha Reddy had opposed the anticipatory bail. The

in the YS Vivekandnda Reddy's

murder case. The special

vacation bench of the

High Court, which had

PNS VIJAYAWADA

High Court took up the hearing



times this month.

after the Supreme Court had expressed displeasure over the delay in considering Avinash Reddy's anticipatory bail petition. Avinash Reddy had failed to appear before the CBI three







## Telangana's special efforts in conservation of forest resources

Conservation Act of 1980 provided ample scope for the conservation of precious forest resources while putting down the indiscriminate use of forests. To ensure balance between development and sustainability of environment, the Government permitted the use of forests for various non-forest purposes under certain conditions, including the provision of equivalent non-forest land for compensating loss of forest by way of planting in equivalent non-forest land. One of the main purposes behind this condition was to compensate for the depleting forest cover resulting from diversion of

As per one study, nearly 14,000 sq.km of forest lands have been diverted for various non-forestry purposes since

1980 in the country and, barring a few categories of works like those related to public utility up to a certain extent, use by Central or State government for various projects of national importance etc, all other categories of diversion have been permitted under the mandatory condition of handing over equal non-forest land and its notification as reserved forests.

A cursory examination of most forest land diversion cases post-1980 reveals a lackadaisical approach on the part of the authorities concerned in respect of notification of nonforest lands as reserved forests as mandated in the conditions of approvals of diversion of forest land. The ever-increasing scarcity of land, and its skyrocketing market value, coupled with poor monitoring of the progress of notification

A cursory examination of most forest land diversion cases post-1980 reveals a lackadaisical approach on the part of the authorities concerned in respect of notification of non-forest lands as reserved forests as mandated in the conditions of approvals of diversion of

and lack of priority among forest and revenue authorities, have also resulted in the neglect of this important aspect of notification of nonforest land as reserved forests.

In the absence of effective demarcation and legal instrument of notification, coupled with huge demand for land, especially in growing cities, to meet the challenges of rapid economic growth and other infra needs, many of these lands handed over to forest staff are subject to problems of encroachment, counterclaims by revenue and other agencies etc. In most of the State Forest departments, the notification and related tasks are considered less attractive or even a punishment posting compared to other tasks, due to which they do not get the required attention.

TELANGANA STANDS OUT The new Indian state of Telangana has accorded environmental conservation and protection as one of the top



priorities and launched a flagship programme 'Telangana Ku Haritha Haram' aiming to increase the forest cover to 33 %. In addition to various proactive policy changes, the notification of forest blocks was also given equal importance by the government.

Number of SI.No. Period Non-Forest Blocks Acres 1996 - 2016 498.540 1231.890 2017 - 2023 8651.5 Under 1631.678 18 4031.876 processing 13915.3251 5631.456

Another highlight of this notification was adopting land description using the geo-coordinates taken using a state-of-the-art DGNSS survey thereby providing an accurate, foolproof and modern method of land demarcation. In many states, this is being done in a very formal and routine manner without accuracy and proper description of the land, which makes these lands prone to manipulation and likelihood of being exploited by people for their

benefits. From 1996-2016, 14 blocks were notified for an extent of 498.54 hectares, while the Telangana govern-ment after its formation, in 2016 notified 103 blocks covering 3501.23 ha over seven years. There are 18 blocks covering 1631.67 ha which are likely to be notified shortly. Showing its equal commitment and concern towards conservation of forests and this neglected aspect of notification of non-forest land nearly 5,132 hectares or

12,676 acres of area has been protected legally.

As per the recently released State of Forest Reports of Forest Survey of India, Telangana registered a remarkable increase of 6.85 per cent in its forest cover from 2015 to 2021. This timely notification of land, based on latest technology, is providing availability of dispute-free and legally supported land for talking up tree planting of various species under the Compensatory
Afforestation programme to the forest department. This will help the Telangana to continue its mission to further increase its green cover in addition to improving the biodiversity of local regions.

(The author is a senior IFS Officer Telangana. He tweets as @pargaien Views

#### Amit Shah has a house at Shamshabad: Asaduddin Owaisi

PNS HYDERABAD

forest land.

AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi said that a big businessman constructed a house for Amit Shah Shamshabad.

He said that Amit Shah will stay here for some days in his Hyderabad house. Owaisi said that the Telangana government should be alert or else the BRS party would be at the receiving end.

While speaking to the media on Wednesday, Owaisi said that Amit Shah will stay here and focus on Telangana state to win the next elections.

Finding fault with the BJP leader's allegations, Owaisi said that the Hyderabad Old City development would have taken place if BRS steering was in his hands.

He said that several development activities would have taken place along with Metro

# **Kishan: Don't raise** south vs north issues

PNS HYDERABAD

Decrying IT Minister KT Rama Rao'srecent statement that southern states would be affected by the proposed delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies based on population, Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy said that leaders should not raise matters in terms of south vs north. He pointed out that leaders from the south had become Prime Ministers. The Centre was focused on the development of southern states, Kishan

While addressing the media in Delhi on Wednesday, Kishan Reddy said that delimitation of constituencies would take place as per the Constitution. He said that it was better to not comment on anyone in this matter as it would create dif-



He said that it was better to not comment on anyone in this matter as it would create differences and provoke people.

ferences and provoke people. Referring to those working to promote differences between south and north', he asked: 'Do they not see the programmes being under-taken by the Central government in the name of 'Ek Bharat - Shresth Bharat?'

In the context, Kishan cited keeping 'Sengol' from Tamil Nadu in Parliament as well as the conduct of Kashi-Tamil confluence, Tamil-Saurashtra confluence, Kashi-Telugu confluence, Vitasta' programme combining Kashmiri and Tamil traditions, as examples of the Centre's pan-India vision.

#### Govt to sell up to 3% stake in Coal India

PNS NEW DELHI

The government on Wednesday proposed to sell up to three per cent stake in Coal India Ltd through the offer for sale route from June 1. The Offer for Sale (OFS) will be open for retail and non-retail investors on June 1 and 2.

The proposal is to offload 9.24 crore shares amounting to a stake of 1.5 per cent in the coal producer. Besides, there will be a green shoe option for selling an equal amount of stake in case of over subscription, according to a regulatory filing. At the closing price of Rs 241.20 apiece on BSE on Wednesday, the sale of 3 per cent stake in Coal India would be worth around Rs 4,400 crore. "The seller proposes to sell up to 9,24,40,924 equity shares of face value of Rs 10 each of the company (representing 1.50 per cent of the total paid-up equity share capital of the company) (base offer size), on June 1st and 2nd for retail investors and non retail investors," the filing said.

### Science, Arts most popular streams: MoE

PNS NEW DELHI

Science and Arts have been the most popular streams among students over the last 10 years while commerce has stagnated with only 14 per cent students opting for it, according to a study conducted by the Ministry of Education.

The study, which is an assessment of Class 10 and 12 board exam results, noted that there are huge variations in choice of

streams across states. "Only 2 per cent students in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Telangana opt for Arts stream but in states like Tripura and Gujarat over 82 per cent students choose the stream while in states like Punjab and Rajasthan the percentage of such students is above 70," it said. Similarly, the popularity of science stream is extremely low in Punjab, Haryana and Assam where just about 17 per cent students opt for it, whereas in states such as Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Tamil Nadu, more than 60 per cent students choose

science to study after class 12. "In Goa and Karnataka, distribution of students is almost similar in major streams," the report

A large difference in performance of students from various boards, significant variation in pass percentages and no level playing field for students in terms of standard are among the challenges identified by the ministry in the

According to School Education Secretary, Sanjay Kumar, this difference between pass percentages of various states has led the education ministry to now look at standardising the assessment pattern for all 60 school boards across states in the country.

Currently, there are three central boards in India Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) and the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS). Apart from these, various states have their own state boards, taking the total number of school boards to 60.

#### **BRS MLCs...**

Continued from page 1

In Mahabubabad, the fight is between Shankar Naik vs MLC Talakalapalli Ravinder and in Warangal east, the tussle is between MLA Narender and Basvaraju Saraiah. While some of these faceoffs were exposed during Atmeeya Sammelanams, now with the decennial celebrations, BRS legislators are keeping their fingers crossed to avoid any public embarrassment.

Sources in the party said: "Having competition is good. It is not opposition but the competition starts

from the party itself. But this should only be up to the point of distribution of ticket. After that, everyone should work together". An MLA who is facing similar contest said: "CM KCR has the final say in tickets and so constantly there is a possibility of attempt to expose incumbents. You see a lot of candidates' lists being circulated; then, suddenly a few issues come out on incumbent MLA to write off all the good work of the candidate".

#### **Centre's TS Formation Day fete at**

Continued from page 1

were martyred in the communities had a role in the movement. The Union Minister men-

tioned that Telangana Formation Day was organized in Delhi last year. This time it would be organized in Golconda Fort under his aus-On June 2 nd, the tricolour

would be hoisted on the Golconda Fort and a parade of the armed forces would be held. According to Kishan Reddy, cultural programmes would be organized in the evening, including performances by Shankar mances by Shankar Mahadevan, Dr. Ananda Shankar and team, Manjula Ramaswamy's team, while Mangli and Madhupriya will sing songs reflecting Telangana traditions and the

TODAY

**ALMANAC** 

**Month & Paksham** 

Tithi:Dwadashi

Nakshatram: Chitra:

5:44 AM to 7:22 AM

12:25 PM to 02:02 PM

8:59 AM to 10:36 AM

10:03 PM to 11:39 PM

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:48 AM to 12:39 PM

**Updated:** MAY 31, 2023 5:00 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Mostly Sunny

Swati:

Varjyam:

Amritakalam:

**Temp:** 39<sup>∞</sup>

Humidity: 37%

Sunrise: 5:41 AM

Sunset: 6.47 PM

Gulika:

movement.

He said that Painting and He said that 1,200 people Photo competitions were organized for school students on the theme Qila aur kahani.

Kishan said that the Centre had decided to organize Telangana birth celebrations in different states People of Telangana living

in various states had been invited to the Raj Bhavans. Arrangements had been made to conduct the programmes under the auspices of

He said that in the spirit of Ek Bharat - Shreshtha Bharat , the Centre had decided to celebrate the foundation days of all the states everywhere. In Telangana, Governor

Tamilisai Soundararajan will conduct the celebrations at Raj Telangana Bhavan. Foundation Day celebrations will be held under the leadership of Lt. Governor in Delhi

## KCR showers sops

Continued from page 1

honour mMallinatha Suri, who had highlighted great poet Kalidasa's literary excellence, the Telangana government will start a Sanskrit University in Kolacharam (Medak district), birthplace of the great man. KCR said, "We are currently increasing the monthly stipend given to Vedic scholars by the Brahmin Parishad from Rs.2,500 to Rs.5,000. Eligible age for receiving this allowance has been reduced from 75 years to 65 years. Presently, the DhupadipaNaivedya scheme is applicable to 3,645 temples in the state. We will extend the DhupadipaNaivedhyam scheme to another 2,796 temples across the state. With this,

The CM said: "As of now,

the government is providing

Rs.6,000 per month to priests for maintenance of the temples DhupadipaNaivedhyam scheme. We are increasing this amount to Rs.10,000".He said Rs.2 lakh given for maintenance of Vedic schools will be given as an annual grant from now on. "We will also take a decision to apply the fee reimbursement scheme to Brahmin students studying in prestigious institutes like ITM and IIM. Similarly, rest assured that the issues of hereditary

resolved soon in the cabinet," he said. KCR said that the Telangana

priests will be discussed and

receive maintenance expenses government had been working under the to support people. "The of DhupadipaNaivedhya Telangana Brahmin Welfare ala scheme". the Telangana government on 1st February 2017. We are allocating funds totalling Rs 100 croreto 'Brahman Parishad' every year. Various welfare schemes are being implemented with these funds. For students who wish to study abroad, so far 780 students have been supported through 'Vivekananda Scholarship'. A scheme called BEST (Brahmin Empowerment Scheme of Telangana State) is being implemented for the livelihood of poor Brahmins. Under this scheme, the government is providing a maximum grant of Rs.5 lakh under investment assistance. The government has spent Rs. 150 crore towards

#### Continued from page 1

Advantage KCR...

It is interesting to note that a study by the American Political have "an average effect of zero" in the General Election. In fact, many people decide whom to vote long before the campaigns begin. In the past, political circles used to analyse which party has more influence among the people based on attendance at the public meetings conducted political parties. Nowadaysmost people have stopped attending public meetings conducted by political parties. So, political parties have started mobilising people by offering free transport and "daily wages" in addition to biryani packets and liquor. In this process, the size of the crowd at public meetings organised by any political party is almost same and

linked to their resources.

#### Ponguleti and Jupally... Jitta Balakrishna Reddy

Continued from page 1

share dais with BJP leaders-Konda Vishweshwar Reddy, EatalaRajender, Boora Narsaiah Goud and others besides balladeer Gaddar in the 'Alai-Balai' meeting to be held at Bhongir on June 4th.BJP senior leader and Telangana protagonist Jitta Balakrishna Reddy is organizing this program to unite Telangana protagonists. He has invited Congress leaders also, including Madhu Yashki

So, sources explained, the Bhongirgathering could become a turning point in Telangana politics in case Ponguleti and Jupallyannounce their next move.

Oppn insulted country's sentiments: PM

told The Pioneerthat he had Before that Ponguleti and invited many leaders to parthe invitees expressed their wish to participate in the meeting.

Meanwhile, Ponguleti and Jupally have initiated discussions with leaders of other political parties. While speaking to the media on Wednesday, Jupally said that they had "a perfect plan" to topple the KCR government. However, the other significant leaders, "in touch with Ponguleti and Jupally", will come out of their respective political parties only after the modalities of the group are finalised. After forming that group, all the leaders will discuss whether to float a new political party or join existing political party.

#### Wrestlers 'vow... **TSPSC** bars

6,441 temples in the state will

13 more...

Otherwise, they will be barred from writing the examinations to be conducted by TSPSC

Continued from page 1

till further orders. The names of those barred on Wednesday are Poola Ravi, Rayapura Vikram, Rayapuram Divya, Dhanavath Bharath Naik, Madhusudhan Naik, Pashikanti Rohit Kumar, Gade Sai Madhu, Lokini Sathish Kumar, Boddupally Narsing Rao, Guguloth Srinu Bhukya Navak, Mahesh, Mudavath Prashanth, Vadithya Naresh and Poola Ramesh Kumar.

Continued from page 1

On Tuesday, they threatened to immerse their medals into the holy river Ganga but the farmer leaders stopped them from taking the extreme step.

They were crying since morning. It is not easy to throw away even a medal won at district level and they were ready to throw away those big international medals. They were shell-shocked, not a word was coming out of their mouths," said a member of the protesting group. "They had taken a silence vow for Tuesday and that's why they did not speak with anyone in Haridwar. All have returned to their respective homes but Sakshi is still in Delhi," he added. While the wrestlers did not address the media, they were seen having discussions among themselves, whispering

in each other's ears. The mood was sombre when

the wrestlers arrived at the famous Har ki Pauri with their medals as they wept and were being consoled by their family

members.
They did not carry out their threat and returned with their medals after farmer leaders sought five days to sort out their The wrestlers have been

demanding the arrest of Brij Bhushan, who they have accused of sexual exploitation. Two FIRs were filed against him, including one in POCSO act, but it is now being claimed that the 'minor' who has filed a

is actually not a minor. The oversight panel, which was formed by the government to probe the allegations, did not make its findings public but sources had claimed that the sixmember committee did not find any incriminating evidence against Brij Bhushan.

complaint against the WFI chief

#### TS HC grants...

this till now".

Continued from page 1

The MP had not appeared before the CBI in Hyderabad on May 16 and May 19. On May 16, he cited prior-fixed official engagements in Pulivendula as the reason and

the CBI that his mother was ill. She was admitted to a hospital in Kurnool and the MP was also staying there. The Central agency issued a fresh notice on May 19, directing him to appear before it at its Hyderabad office on May 22. Amid reports of CBI officials reaching Kurnool for a possible arrest, he wrote to the CBI seeking exemption from appearance till May 27 in view of his mother's condition. Former AP minister Vivekananda Reddy was murdered at his residence in Pulivendula on March 15, 2019, weeks before the elec-

sought four days' time. On May 19, he conveyed to

> "India got a new Parliament building three days back. I ask at a rally in Ajmer. The Congress and 20 other

# Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday attacked

the Opposition for boycotting the inauguration of new Parliament building, saying the Congress "insulted" the sentiments of the country and the hard work 60,000 labour-

you whether you are proud of it or not. Did you feel the joy on the increase in India's prestige? The Congress and some parties like it hurled the mud of politics on this too," he said

parties boycotted the inauguration of the new Parliament building by the prime minister on Sunday, saying it was an insult to President Droupadi Murmu, a tribal woman, that she was not invited by the gov-



ernment to do the honours. Modi said such opportunities come once in generations, but the Congress used this for its "selfish protest".

"They insulted the hard work of 60,000 labourers and the sentiment of the country," he said, adding the Congress is unable to digest the progress the country is making.

Referring to main Opposition party Congress, Modi said they are angry because a "son of the poor" is not allowing them to do what they want and is "raising questions on their corruption and parivarwad (dynastic politics)".

The prime minister accused the Congress of following a policy of misleading the poor and keeping them deprived during its rule. "Fifty years ago, the Congress guaranteed that it will remove poverty. But it turned out to be their biggest betrayal to the poor."

"It has been a policy of the Congress to mislead the poor and keep them deprived. The people of Rajasthan have also suffered a lot due to this," Modi said. The rally was organised to mark the completion of nine years of the Modi government across its two terms.

The nine years of the BJP government were dedicated to the service of people, good governance, and welfare of poor, he said.

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NEW CYBER SECURITY AND ANTI-NARCOTICS BUREAU LAUNCHED

# **Every crime has a cyber** component to it: DGP

The Telangana police announced the establishment of two new bureaus, namely the Telangana State Cyber Security Bureau (TSCSB) and the Telangana State Anti-Narcotics Bureau (TSANB).

State Home Minister Mohammed Mahmood Ali and Prohibition and Excise Minister Srinivas Goud inaugurated the departments at the Telangana Integrated Command and Control Centre building Wednesday.

During the inauguration, Telangana Director General of Police Anjani Kumar emphasised the importance of cyber security in combating crime in the digital age.

"Technology has become an integral part of policing. Every crime has a cyber component, whether in its execution or investigation, due to the increasing integration of technology in criminal activities. The line between con-



ventional crime and cyber crime is becoming blurred. So this bureau strengthens the police department. Drug culture is not as rampant in India as it is in the West but we must rise to the occasion. Our Strength lies in how well we can manage our exceptions," said DGP Anjani

The Ministers also launched logos for the new bureaus. Hyderabad Commissioner of Police CV Anand will act as

stations will be established in Hyderabad, Cyberabad, Rachakonda, and Warangal, covering multiple districts within the state.

The Cyber Security Bureau will establish auxiliary units in all districts and six different commissionerates. It will also function as the Joint Cyber Crime Coordination Centre for six

Equipped to address emerging threats such as Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain and Cloud Infrastructure security. The bureau aims to stay ahead of cyber criminals.

Minister Srinivas Goud emphasised that the introduction of these high-tech bureaus and robust policing capabilities will attract industries to invest in

He expressed confidence that these initiatives will enable the police to stay one step ahead in maintaining law and order.

#### Constable saves a passenger's life

PNS HYDERABAD

A routine day at Begumpet railway station took a heroic turn when RPF constable K. Sanitha rescued a lady passenger from a life-threatening situation on May 30. Amidst the hustle and bustle of the station, train No. 47176 (Lingampalli-Falaknuma Express) was in motion when Sanitha noticed a passenger attempting to board the moving train. Realising the imminent danger, she swiftly sprang from action.

Constable Sanitha rushed to the aid of the passenger, who was at risk of falling into the gap between the train and the platform. She managed to catch hold of the passenger and successfully pulled her out, saving her life. The rescued passenger, Saraswathi, expressed gratitude for the selfless action taken by constable Sanitha.

Sanitha, a resident of Nalgonda district, joined the Railway Protection Force in 2020 and has since been serving at Begumpet railway station. After this incident, she has earned the recognition within the

## Hyd tops sales share of new housing units

Hyderabad accounted for the highest sales share of new units. Of approximately 14,280 units sold there in the first quarter of 2023, approximately 46% were launched in the same period.

The city is ranked first among the list of housing supply in top seven cities, which also includes the National Capital Region of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Pune, Bengaluru and Kolkata. The Anarock group conducted a survey regarding housing

supply.

Shedding light on sales of ready to move houses,
Anarock Group Chairman,
Anuj Puri said, "For the longest time, ready-to-movein homes remained in highest favour with home-buyers because of the previously abysmal project completion track record in many areas of the country. This is now changing - under-construction homes in new launches are increasingly finding takers, though ready-to-move homes retain the top demand slot."

He then explained the reasons for the preference. "Firstly, much of the new sup-



ply is by well-funded by branded developers who will comply with RERA regulations and complete their projects as per schedule. In Q1 2023, 1.14 lakh new units were launched in the top seven cities. The branded vs nonbranded developer share ratio stood at 59:41 while back in 2015, it was the reverse at 41:59. Secondly, investors are back on the housing market. Early-stage under-construction homes offer the kind of cost arbitrage that make residential real estate attractive to investors, who has largely given housing a miss over the

last 3 to 4 years. It is a heart-

market in remaining 2023.

The trend requires observation as it has strong mid-tolong-term implications for the Indian residential property market. While the return of investors is positive for overall sales, an end-user driven market helps keep prices in check. Accelerated investor activity has historically led to unreasonable price hikes which eventually throttled back the overall housing market growth.

In Q1 2019, approx. 4,020 units were sold, of which 24% sales were of newly launched

## Registration for SC, ST & BC scholarships open till June 15

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government on Wednesday opened scholarship applications for students under the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme for students from the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Backward Class.

The applications will be available on the TSe-Pass website from June 1 to 15. The registration of colleges and students for the academic year 2022-23 on the TS e-Pass website for process

A tragic incident unfolded in Hyderabad on

Wednesday as a businessman from Metpally committed suicide due to alleged cheating by

one of his employees. Sabbani Naresh ended

his life by hanging himself, leaving behind a

selfie video where he explained the reasons for

Naresh owned a two-wheeler showroom in

Kathalapur mandal headquarters, and had

employed a person named Pratap for sever-

al years. The showroom also operated lucky

draw schemes for customers. In his selfie

video, Naresh accused Pratap of being respon-

sible for collecting money from customers but

and sanction of scholarship applications commenced from August 15, 2022 and closed on March 31, 2023.

The students of TSECET, TSEAMCET, TSICET, TSED-CET and TSCPGET programmes, SW-II Minority College, Government Degree College, Quthbullapur, Medchal Malkajgiri district, Osmania University and Narayanrao University of Health Sciences have not applied on TS e-Pass portal due to various

Businessman ends life over worker's cheating

"All the regulatory authorities and college managements must ensure that all colleges & students who wish to register in e-Pass will upload their data from June 1-15 for sanction of renewal and fresh scholarships for the academic year 2022-23. All Welfare Departments are requested to educate the public on the registration process for renewal and fresh scholarships and ensure that the registration process be completed by June 15.

TSNAB while Cyberabad

Commissioner of Police

Stephen Raveendra will act as

The newly established

Anti-Narcotics Bureau will

consist of five wings and

employ 300 police personnel.

It will serve as the Secretariat

for the Anti-Narcotics Task

Force in the state, focusing

on investigating drug traf-ficking cases. Additionally,

four new Narcotic police

the Director for TSCSB.

#### Goldstone Tech, Quantron JV set to focus on using Al solutions

PNS HYDERABAD

City-based Goldstone Technologies on Wednesday announced partnership with Quantron AG, a German emobility major, to establish a joint venture to address the high potential fleet management market valued at around Rs 5.8 lakh crore by 2032.

The two firms will set up headquarters in Hyderabad and Augsburg in Germany. They also plan to set up an office in the US by the third quarter of 2023. The joint venture will emphasise on the global electric mobility market and hydrogen economy.

The joint venture is already focusing on enhancing its AIsupported solutions for sustainable integrated operations, catering to the demand in Europe, the USA, India, and the Middle East. By focusing on zero-emission transport, the JV aims to offer Service (MaaS) solutions, addressing efficiency and digitalization challenges. With their combined expertise, the company is well-positioned to shape a cleaner and more efficient future for mobility and logistics.



#### **VALEDICTORY OF CM CUP HELD**

## 18 different sports featured

The Chairman further

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

The four-day state-level tournament of CM Cup came to an end on Wednesday. The closing ceremony was held at the Saroornagar Indoor stadi-

Telangana Legislative Council Chairman Gutta Sukhender Reddy was the chief guest. Addressing the gathering, Reddy said, Telangana state will see a lot of growth in the field of sports as the government is working hard to provide a platform for athletes from

stated that Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has felicitated those who have performed well at the national level and it should be an inspiration for all the athletes from Telangana.
Reddy also lashed out at

the recently concluded Indian Premier League and said, "The league is highly ting which has resulted in like to inform you on this people losing money through betting.

Approximately 10,000 sportspersons from 33 districts of Telangana participated in the tournament which comprised 18 different sports. Nagarjuna Sagar MLA Nomula Bhagat, Telangana Sports Authority Chairman Anjaneya Goud and others attended the closing ceremony.

Earlier, CM Cup Shooting Championship was conducted at the Shooting Range. City Mayor Vijayalakshmi asked women to compete occasion that the government will provide 0.5 per cent reservation for professional courses and two per cent for government jobs," she added.

### 69% deliveries in govt hospitals of TS in April

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana's government hospitals have delivered 69 per cent of the babies born in April 2023, with more than 80% of deliveries in government hospitals having taken place in Sangareddy, Narayanpet, Medak and Jogulamba Gadwal.

Across the 16 districts of Telangana, 70% of deliveries have been registered in government hospitals. Rangareddy district marked lowest government hospital deliveries with only 48%.Hyderabad stood at 77 per cent at the sixth place.

On this occasion, Health Minister Harish Rao said, "The number of births occurring in government hospitals has more than doubled from 30% in 2014 to 62% in the year 2022-23. This substantial increase is a testament to the effectiveness of maternal and child care measures implemented under the visionary guidance of Chief Minister KCR, as part of the Arogya Telangana

#### Free entry to Golconda Fort on June 2 & 3

PNS HYDERABAD

The public will be allowed to enter the Golconda Fort for free on June 2 and 3, as the Union Ministry of Culture Formation Day and it will be will organise "Qila aur open for the general public as Kahania" and well. Wonder Caves"

events. The ministry has announced the two events as part of the "Azadi Amrit Mahotsav" under

the aegis of the

theme 'Cultural

Pride.' Golconda Fort is under Archaeological Survey of India. The Hyderabad Circle has been selected for the "Qila Aur Kahania" in collaboration with the South Zone Cultural Centre (SZCC).

Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy will inaugurate the event on June 2 by hoisting the Indian flag, which coincides with the Telangana

> This will be followed by the inauguration of photo exhibitions set up by various departments under the Ministry Culture Telangana. A cul-

tural event comprising performances by renowned singers, classical and folk dances by various artists will be held. The closing ceremony on June 3 will comprise a cultural event in

Agri drones for farm solutions unveiled

booked and it is being investigated.

that he denied bikes to the winners of the

had collected a staggering amount of Rs 1.90 crore from customers, but Naresh had no

knowledge of how many customers had actu-

ally received the bikes they had won. As the

transactions were conducted solely in Pratap's

name including the presence of bank

accounts, Naresh found himself in a difficult

had spread false rumours about Naresh,

claiming that he had incurred debts and was

planning to file for insolvency. A case has been

In addition to the alleged cheating, Pratap

According to the video of Naresh, Pratap

PNS HYDERABAD

Magellanic Cloud, a citybased drone manufacturer on Wednesday unveiled its agri drones. It also aims to enter the defence sector in the

Shedding light on the drone type and its usage, Joseph Sudheer Reddy Thumala , CEO, Megallanic Cloud said, "These are being developed as part of Scandron, a firm which was acquired last year. Approximately Rs 30 to 40 crore is being spent on related research and development.

These drones are being used to spray pestisides in the fields. These are programmed to fly at a height of 20-50 meters based on the area

which needs the pesticides." "Drone technology is one of the fastest growing sectors

and hence it was necessary to tap into it. The firm entered a contract with the DRDO to manufacture inspection-centric drones.

The 'make In India' initiative and the promotion of drones by the Government of India was also a factor in taking up the initiative," he

explained.
"These are indigenously built except for a few technical components which are imported from Germany and China. These can be classified into cargo drones as well which can carry a payload of 2-100 kgs, in the range of 5-60 km.

The firm has also designed beyond the sight drones which are indeginously built. The latest focus is on antidrone system which could help identify drones entering the territory. Depending on

the detection the drone will act accordingly. Shedding light on the var-

ious types of inspection Thumala said, "As part of inspection, these are designed to navigate through confined spaces, along with inspection of defence submarines."

The company is also aims to tap into the business sector while being in compliance with National Logistics Policy and Kisan Drone Shakti.

The e-surveillance system and advanced delivery system is a factor enabling the firm to tap into defence, real estate, pharma, e-commerce, agriculture and other sectors.

It has completed the stage two testing of the low range drones and will begin trials for the heavy-duty army drones. It awaits clearance from DGCA and Airport Authority of India.

#### Raja Babu appointed as DG of DRDO

PNS HYDERABAD

Ummalaneni Raja Babu, Scientist and Director, has been appointed as the Director General, Missiles Strategic

Systems, Defence Research and Deve lopment Orga nisa-(DRDO), Hyderabad.

Raja Babu is a graduate of mechanical engineering from Andhra University, obtained

his Master's from IIT Kharagpur and MBA from the JNTU. He started his career with the Air Force in 1988 and joined the DRDO in 1995. During his 35 years of professional aerospace career, he worked on air-

craft, helicopters and the development of many missile systems. As Programme Director, AD at RCI, he provided the necessary thrust to the design, development and

successful demonstration of Ballistic Missile Defence system capabilities. Under his leadership, Mission Shakti, India's first Anti Satellite Missile Test (A-SAT) has been successfully demon-

strated. As Director RCI, he worked on the development of many critical technologies and mission mode projects, development of advanced missile avionics for all tactical, ATGMs, strategic, cruise missiles and weapon systems for armed forces.

#### initiative. PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of Andhra Pensioners Party. The office of the party is located at H.No.8-6-666, Sri Balaji Nagar, Near B.N. Reddy Nagar, Vanasthalipuram, Ranga Reddy District, Hyderabad, Telangana State 500070. This party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under Section 29 A of the Representation of People Act. 1951 - Names / address of the office bearers of the party are as follows:

President: P. Subba Rayan, H.No.8-6-666, Sri Balaji Nagar, Vanasthalipuram, Hyderabad, R.R. District - 500 070.

Secretary General: P.S.N. Murthy H.No.4-12-197, Bhagyalatha Colony Vanasthalipuram - 500 070, Hyderabad

Treasurer: T. Nagabhushanam H.No.2-111, Santhi Nagar, Vanasthalipuram, Hyderabad

If anyone has any objection to the registration of Andhra Pensioners Party they may send their objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party) Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi - 110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

## Destination weddings of celebrities catching on

PNS HYDERABAD

The destination weddings of celebrities have an impact on the weddings in general. For instance, when a person is buying a house, he negotiates if the price can be reduced, but when it comes to a wedding, they only request to do the needful and this

has become an emotion now. At least 85 per cent of the Indian population now saves to ensure their daughter is married on a grand scale. Society stigma has moved in that fashion and weddings have been one conglomerate where different cultures are mixed, said Balaram Babu, President of Telangana

Chamber of Events Industry (TCEI).

He elaborated on top-trending topics as he launched Telangana Chamber of Events Industry (TCEI) Website of the largest congregation of national and international wedding planners to happen in Hyderabad on July 24 and 25 at HICC and HITEX, Hyderabad.

The programme is supported by the Telangana Tourism as it sponsors one of the dinners.

The wedding experts also said that on the other side of the cycle there are couples who prefer temple weddings and transition is part of the trend these days.

'We have a lot of international



speakers added for the second edition such as Teddy Manuel from Philippines, Joseph Radhik who covered grand celebrity marriages

such as Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra, Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma.

The caterers who served food for Indian cuisine.

Ambanis and all the big names who are involved in global big weddings will visit Hyderabad, Bahrain tourism, Turkey, Thailand, Dubai, Hungary and Bali.

The hosts conduct panel discussions, interactions and master classes for people who want to learn wedding decors and event manage-

The South Indian Wedding Planning Congress will also feature themed dinners and lunches, showcasing the best of Indian hospitality. Attendees will be treated to a culinary experience that highlights the rich flavours and traditions of

#### NORTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED CIN No.U40109TG2000SGC034119

Tender Notice No. 03/2023-24 of Spec. No. 08/2023-24 to10/2023-24 of SE/OP/MNCL

Sealed tenders were invited from TSNPDCL registered Contractors for execution of various electrical works in Operation Circle, Mancherial. The details of works and other information can be obtained from our website www.tsnpdcl.in Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Operation Circle, Manche

Short Tender Notice No.20/23-24 of DEE/OP/Nizamabad Sealed tenders are invited from TSNPDCL registered Contractors of Nizamabad District (Earstwhile) for various electrical works in Nizamabad Division of operation circle Nizamabad. The details of the works and other information can be obtained from our website www.tsnpdcl.in

Sd/- Divisional Engineer Elect., Operation, Nizamabac Short Tender Notice No.05/23-24 of DEE/OP/Metpally with Specification No. 05/ 2023-24

Sealed tenders are invited from TSNPDCL registered contractors of Jagtial District for the various works in Metpally Division. The details of works can be obtained from our website www.tsnpdcl.in Sdl- Divisional Elect., Engineer

R.O.No: 236-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2023-24

# **Telangana**

# **Etala reconciled to three options**

■ HYDERABAD

BJP national executive committee member and Huzurabad MLA Eatala Rajender, who recently made sensational comments in a chit chat with the scribes, has three options only: obey the BJP high command's decision which entails continuing Bandi Sanjay as party State unit president, maintain silence, or quit the BJP, accord-

ing to party sources.

BJP senior leader and former MLA Yennam Srinivas Reddy, who batted for Rajender to make him BJP State unit president, told the media that the Huzurabad MLA has only three options

Srinivas Reddy, while speaking to The Pioneer, said that it



It is learnt that Rajender may not take any hasty decision. He said time and again that he would not quit him out. Rajender also stated that he did not quit TRS/BRS, he was sent out

is up to Rajender to take his own decision.

Srinivas Reddy said, "It is true that we tried to make Eatala the president of the Telangana BJP, thinking that the party may win more seats with as party State unit president. But the party took a decision to continue Sanjay as the president. I follow the party's

decision as a party leader. I don't know about future devel-

opments". However, it is learnt that Rajender may not take any hasty decision. He said time and again that he would not quit a party till the party sent him out. Rajender also stated that he did not quit TRS/BRS, he was sent out by the party.

observers, but the BJP leaders like Srinivas Reddy stated that Rajender's chit-chat on May 29 reflected that the Huzurabad MLA is somewhat unhappy with the decisions that the party has taken.

In fact, BRS suspended leader Jupally Krishna Rao and stated that leaders like Rajender will come along with them (Jupally and Ponguleti) topple Chief Chandrashekar Rao.

Clarity on developments may emerge in June as BRS suspended leaders Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and Jupally Krishna Rao will reveal their next move in June.

Efforts to seek clarification from Rajender did not yield results as there was no response from his office.

## Traffic advisory for TS Formation Day fete

PNS HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Traffic Police have issued a traffic advisory in view of the upcoming Telangana Formation Day on June 2. The advisory states that moderate traffic congestion is expected due to the movement of invitees from 6 am to 2 pm. To ensure the smooth flow of vehicles and minimise inconvenience to the general public, specific traffic diversions will be implemented.

The main event will take place at the Secretariat, and the traffic will not be allowed between VV Statue, Necklace Rotary, NTR Marg, and Telugu Thalli

Khairatabad, Panjagutta Somajiguda, and intending to go towards Necklace Rotary, will be diverted at VV Statue towards Shadan-Nirankari. However, during VVIP movement, traffic from Shadan Nirankari/Somajiguda will be temporarily stopped.

Traffic coming from Nirankari/Chintalbasthi and intending to go towards Necklace Rotary will not be allowed to use Khairatabad flyover. Traffic coming from Iqbal Minar Junction and intending to go towards Tankbund, Ranigunj and Liberty will not be allowed towards Telugu Thalli

Jn/Ambedkar Statue/Tank Bund and will be directed to take the Telugu Talli flyover towards Katta Maisamma Junction and Lower Tank Bund. Traffic coming from Tank Bund and Telugu Thalli, intending to go towards NTR Marg, will be diverted at Telugu Thalli Junction towards Igbal Minar Junction. Traffic coming from BRKR Bhavan towards NTR Marg will be diverted at Telugu Thalli Junction towards Iqbal Minar

Junction. Traffic coming from Bada Ganesh lane towards Imax/Necklace Rotary and Mint lane will be diverted at Bada Ganesh towards Rajdoot lane.



#### Bickerings in Cong come to fore

PNS WARANGAL

Internal bickering in the Congress bickering came to the fore once against, this time in Warangal. Clashes broke out between rival factions in the party at a meeting in which former mayor Errabelli Swarna took

Chaos and confusion ruled the roost at the meeting. Former MLA Konda Surekha, supported by her supporters and rivals raised a ruckus at the meeting. The Congress activists belonging to rival factions fought with other with footwear and other weapons. The activists were seen with

It may be recalled that



level charges against each other in public only to hoodwink the

people, he said
The BRS leaders in their 10-

year rule had looted public

wealth to last for 100 years. Yet Prime Minister Narender

Modi and Home Minister

Amit Shah, who charged the

BRS government with unbri-

dled corruption, were reluctant

to take any action against the

KCR government, he pointed

at Dedinepalli as part of his Padayatra that entered its 76th

day on Wednesday, the CLP

leader said that people had

clearly understood that BJP

and BRS were two sides of the

He said that lakhs of people

villages during his people's march from Pippiri in

Adilabad to Kollapur complained against the government. The people were

seething with anger against the BRS government. They decid-

ed to put an end to KCR's rule.

Asserting that the Congress Party would take inspiration

from former Prime Minister

Pandit Nehru, the architec of

modern India, Bhatti said the

brimming in wells and tanks even in summer. The people in Maharashtra were still facing

drinking water scarcity, he said. "If truth is not told firmly, lies will rule the roost," he

same coin.

in hundreds of

Addressing media persons

oath as Warangal district unit president on Wednesday.

torn clothes.

Surekha was one of the contenders for the post of Warangal District unit president. The Telangana Congress Pradesh Committee, however, appointed Swarna as DCC



BRS, BJP have secret 'pact,'

Congress Legislature Party leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka addressing a media

party would achieve the goals of Telangana State building social Telangana with progressive thoughts. As part of the ongoing realignment of political forces at the field level, people were gearing up to elect Congress Party candidates with a huge majority. The Congress Party would win over 100 seats in Telangana, he predicted. As it is becoming evident that the Congress Party would win not less than 100 seats in the next elections, BRS and BJP leaders were

Emphasising the promises of the Congress Party, he said the construction of all projects on Krishna and Godavari that were taken up during the tenure of the previous Congress government would be completed once the party came to power,

looking towards Congress

Though the Congress Party

conference at Dedinepalli in Nagarkurnool district on Wednesday completed Kalwakurthy lift irrigation project, its distributary canals, and branch canals about 10 years ago, the BRS government neglected the project without digging irrigation channels/canals. The Congress party would complete the irrigation channels within one year of coming to power, he

> The Congress government which completed Srisailam, Nettempadu, Nagarjuna Sagar and Bhima projects, would complete Palamur -Ranga Reddy lift irrigation project and also Lakshmidevi Palli Reservoir once it came to power in the next election to bring Krishna waters to agricultural lands, Bhatti asserted. Similarly at Tummidi Hatti on Godavari, Pranahita Chevella project would be completed without delay. Water would be given to Devadula fully by completing Indira and Rajiv Sagar.

# Adilabad Police bust child

trafficking racket

PNS ADILABAD

Adilabad Police on Wednesday busted a child trafficking racket and arrested nine people, including three women.

According to District Superintendent of Police D Uday Kumar Reddy, two children were rescued during the operation and they were sent to a childcare home.

The arrested are S Ramana alias Rama, G Bala Balaji, Raj Kumar, D Mamatha Balgi, Sujatha and Shinde Jagannath from Karnataka, Shaik Abdulla alias Sharuk, M Gangadhar and M Ashok

from Telangana.

The police detained allegedly about to sell a child to a couple. The police launched an investigation following a complaint by the District Child Welfare Officer, the



Superintendent of Police

Gangadhar, during interrogation, spilled the beans and it led to the arrest of the gangsters. He confessed to having agreed to sell his two daughters to a couple for Rs 2.50 lakh. He told the police that Sharuk had helped him to make a deal with the couple. He said that he had agreed to sell his children following the death of his wife, the police said.

## Harish calls for grand decennial fete

Minister for Finance T Harisha Rao on Wednesday appealed to the people's representatives and officials to organise Telangana State decennial celebrations on a grand scale in the district and it should set an example for others to follow.

Reviewing the arrangements for holding the celebrations at a meeting here, the Minister advised the people's representatives and officials to ensure that the progress made during the last 10 years after the formation of Telangana State is spread to every nook and corner in the district.

District Collector Prashant Jeevan Patil, Additional Collector Muzammil Khan, officials and people's representatives attended the meeting.

Harish Rao stressed the need to ensure that a festive atmosebrations. "Siddipet became synonymous with development. We are at the forefront of development. We achieved development after hard work," he said. He said the decennial



Minister for Finance T Harish Rao speaking at a review meeting in Siddipet on Wednesday

celebrations would be held for 21 days, he said. "If we are able to explain the

progress made to the people, we will prove successful in our mission," he said and added that the officials and people's representatives should disseminate the development achieved during the last nine years to people at the ground level. Cautioning the people's representatives the Minister asked everyone to take part in the celebrations.

Harish Rao recalled that the people used to reel under drinking water crisis in the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh.

Now in the new State of Telangana, water has been

None dreamt about bringing Kaleshwaram water to the district to irrigate lands and provide potable water to the people. The State government has already procured 2 lakh tonnes of paddy and one more lakh tonnes of paddy is likely to arrive at the procurement centres, he said.

#### 'Kiran Kumar Reddy is now in darkness'

Minister for Finance T Harish Rao on Wednesday took a dig at the last chief Minister of United Andhra Pradesh N Kiran Kumar Reddy for passing "disparaging remarks" against Telangana. He played a video clip containing Kiran Kumar Reddy's comments that "dark days" were ahead. "Now it is necessary to explain the development that took place in Telangana. We are not in the darkness. It is Kiran Kumar Reddy who is in darkness," he said sarcastically. "Some people with vested interests are spewing venom against Telangana. We must give a befitting to those people," he said and stressed the need to challenge the false propaganda. Harish Rao called upon people to uphold the truth and counter the false claims.

#### Kavitha supports women wrestlers' cause

PNS HYDERABAD

BRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha came out in support of protesting women wrestlers who were protesting for the arrest of the WFI chief Brij Bhushan Singh, accused of sexual

She said that women wrestlers brought pride to our country with their victories across the globe and that absolute silence by the government at the Centre was no response to the emerging issue. She demanded action by the government that is in the national interest and that of the dignity of the athletes.

She tweeted, 'It is the hard work, dedication and patri-#Wrestlers that showed this talent of India to the world.

The government of India must think in the interest of action against the accused the country in these five amid protests by women days. Even after a serious wrestlers in Delhi.

10-yr-old's trauma with a



charge like POCSO, the accused is out in public, justice in no way can be denied to the victim, and the ongoing brutality with these gold medal-awarded women players is absolutely reprehensible.

The government must know that the entire country wants an answer and the Kavitha, former MP and daughter of Telangana Chief Minister. She demanded

## Cong accuses BRS of neglecting minority welfare

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress party has launched a scathing attack on the BRS government's handling of minority welfare, accusing the ruling party of persistent neglect and failure during Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao's nineyear rule.

These allegations were made during a special executive meeting of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) Minority Department held at Indira Bhavan in Gandhi Bhavan premises on Wednesday.

The meeting saw the participation of All India Congress Committee (AICC) Minorities Department chairman and Rajya Sabha MP Imran Pratapgarhi, Nalgonda Lok Sabha member N Uttam Reddy, TPCC Minorities Department chairman Shaik Abdullah Sohail, and several senior leaders.

During the meeting, a charge sheet was released, outlining the failures of the BRS government in upholding the welfare of minority communities in Telangana.

An audio-visual presentation on various issues concerning minority welfare was given. The Congress party highlighted several areas where they believe the BRS government has fallen short, including unemployment, housing, education, the Urdu language, the Shaadi Mubarak Scheme, the safety of religious structures, rising crime rates, Wakf prop-



Congress leaders at the TPCC Minority Department meeting at Gandhi Bhavan in Hyderabad on Wednesday

erties, the minority welfare budget, and diminishing Muslim representation in top positions.

The Congress expressed concerns about the unemployment rate among minority youths, estimated at 15 lakh. They alleged systemic discrimination in loan issuance and job placements, particularly affecting Muslim candidates from the Old City of Hyderabad. The party also emphasised the lack of adequate housing allocation, citing the Sudhir Commission report, which states that 43% of Muslims in Telangana live in rented homes and fewer than 1,000 families have benefited from the promised 10% allocation under the 2BHK housing

scheme. On the education front, Congress revealed the closure of over 80% of minority institutions and the absence of scholarships or fee reimbursement for Muslim students. They also expressed concern about the shutdown of hundreds of government schools in minority-dominated areas. The party accused the BRS government of neglecting the Urdu language despite its recognition as a second official language, resulting in limited appointments of Urdu officers and translators and the dysfunction

of the Urdu Academy.
Allegations were also made regarding the Shaadi Mubarak Scheme, claiming that thousands of applications for financial assistance towards marriages are pending, causing hardship to impoverished families who have been awaiting their cheques for years. The Congress party expressed concern about the demolition of six mosques, including two on the Old Secretariat premises, and the failure to rebuild them.

The rising crime rate in Muslim-dominated areas, such as the Old City of Hyderabad, was highlighted, with the Congress party citing unchecked instances of murders, drug abuse, and liquor abuse. They also accused TRS leaders of encroaching on Wakf properties worth hundreds of crores and criticized the lack of judicial powers given to the Wakf Board.

#### Kavitha, Bandi greet each other: Video goes viral

PNS ■ NIZAMABAD

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) MLC K Kavitha and BJP State unit president Bandi Sanjay Kumar greeted each other for the first time at a private function on

Wednesday. The two leaders, who are political rivals, came face to face at a function here. The video showing the two leaders greeting each other with a smile went viral on social media.

It may be recalled that Sanjay has been alleging that Kavith was involved in the Delhi liquor scam. He has also been criticising the Chief Minister and his family time



and again.

Kavitha and the BRS leaders have been going at Sanjay Kumar hammer and tongs whenever the opportunity arises. The BRS leaders have been accusing the BJP-led Central government of unleashing the CBI and Enforcement Director against rivals.



#### PNS HYDERABAD The cinema theatres in the city not only have expensive tickets and food to offer, but

are washing off hands when any inconvenience is reported by the viewer. On Tuesday night, when

one of the families in the city has gone to watch a Telugu movie in AMB Cinemas at Gachibowli, their 10-year-old has encountered a dangerous experience with a bandicoot on the glue trap right under the seat.

Narrating the incident, the child's father Ravi Korukonda

said, "My child with a relative, sat in the front row and we were sitting behind them, and as the movie was about to wrap up, my daughter began crying. When we rushed to her we saw the blanket she carried got stuck on the sticky pad and as it was not coming out. The kid has put her hand on the glue pad and saw a

scary bandicoot." "My kid cried continuously and I ran around to find people. The house-keeping team neglected the issue saying "Oh sorry." The manager on duty also ignored my complaint though my people did

not wish to carry blanket worth Rs 2,000. We spent Rs 1,500 and this is the way the famous theatres treat us," he

added. Social Activist Harish Kumar Daga said, "There are people struggling in single screen theatres where the situation is pathetic. There are bandicoots everywhere and there is a process to catch them. I got to learn that these glue traps were banned in Telangana in 2021 but they are easily available in shops. The theatres must function with amenities when people are paying them for service.'

#### PARTICIPATION IN GREEN INDIA PROGRAMME

## BCCI plants 1,47,000 saplings during playoff matches

PNS HYDERABAD

The recently concluded Indian Premier League (IPL) 2023 witnessed an environmental initiative by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) as they planted an astounding 1,47,000 saplings during the playoff matches.

This unique endeavour involved planting 500

MP J Santosh Kumar, the founder of the Green India Challenge (GIC), congratulated BCCI President Roger

Binny for the initiative. He lauded the BCCI's groundbreaking effort and expressed gratitude to Binny for spearheading such an endeavour to promote greenery and sustainability through the plat-

He emphasised that inisaplings for every dot ball bowled, garnered widetiatives like these serve as inspiration for millions to spread acclaim and admirajoin the cause and actively

form of IPL.

contribute to environmen-

tal welfare. The sapling plantation drive commenced during the IPL 2023 playoffs, with each dot ball bowled by the players resulting in the

planting of 500 saplings.

Dot balls refer to deliveries in which the batsman fails to score a run.

This innovative approach not only adds an extra dimension to the game but also contributes significantly to the enhancement of the environment

#### TS government committed to welfare of farmers

PNS MAHABUBNAGAR

Minister for Prohibition and Excise V Srinivas Goud has said that Telangana is the only state in the country which is committed to the welfare of farmers.

He was taking part in a spree of development projects in Kodugal village of Jadcherla Assembly constituency of Mahabubnagar district on Wednesday.

The Minister said that no previous regime in the past 70 years that ruled the united AP created amenities in Telangana. However, the BRS regime in the new State of Telangana developed infrastructural amenities in villages and towns.

schemes like Rytu Bandhu, Rytu Bima, and CMRF, the State government is striving to provide irrigation facilities to the farmers through Palamuru-Rangareddy LI Scheme, he said adding that other states are emulating the Telangana scheme. He reiterated that Telangana is the only state that protects the interests of the farmers

In the new State of Telangana, remarkable development has been achieved during the past nine years. He dwelt on establishing residential schools to make corporate school education accessible to poor students.

#### **CBI books Maharashtra postal** department employee for embezzlement

he CBI has booked a postal department employee in Maharashtra's Ratnagiri for allegedly embezzling Rs 63 lakh from 260 dormant savings accounts of beneficiaries of government welfare schemes, officials said on Wednesday Gajanan Parasram Gutte, during his posting at Anjarla sub-post office from 2018-20, prepared forged withdrawal vouchers faking the signatures and thumb impressions of

the beneficiaries who were either dead or too old to come to the post office regularly, they said. Gutte targeted savings bank accounts of beneficiaries of social welfare schemes such as Sanjay Gandhi Yojana, Shravan Bal Yojana and Indira Gandhi Old Age Pension Scheme. He could smoothly embezzle funds citing inability to run central banking software Finacle due to poor internet connectivity as an excuse, according to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) officials.



#### **Committed to implement guarantees,** K'taka cabinet will decide on June 2

sserting that his government will implement the five poll 'guarantees' promised ahead of the assembly polls, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday said A officials have shared their inputs on financial implications, and the cabinet will meet on June 2 to decide on the implementation. The cabinet meeting was earlier scheduled for June 1. In view of the implementation of guarantees, the Chief Minister today held a

meeting with all the Ministers and senior officials of the concerned departments at Vidhana Soudha, the seat of state secretariat and legislature, here. "We had given five guarantees to the people, regarding these five guarantees concerned officials and finance department officials have made a presentation together. All the Ministers have seen the presentation, it has all the details -- proposals and financial implications of the implementation," Siddaramaiah said.



#### **Eating junk food linked with reduced** deep sleep quality: Study

onsuming an unhealthier diet is associated with a lower quality of deep sleep, according to a small-scale study. Deep sleep, the third stage of sleep, repairs and restores necessary functions such as memory, muscle growth, and immunity. Researchers at Uppsala University in Sweden analysed how junk food affects sleep. Healthy participants consumed an unhealthier as well as a healthier diet in a randomised

order. The study, recently published in the journal Obesity, shows that after eating the junk food, the quality of the participants' deep sleep deteriorated, compared with those who followed the healthier diet. "Both poor diet and poor sleep increase the risk of several public health conditions," said Jonathan Cedernaes, Associate Professor at Uppsala University. A total of 15 healthy normal-weight young men participated in two sessions of the



# **Energy, trade ties focus of** Modi-Prachanda talks

Boosting India-Nepal cooperation in areas of energy, connectivity and trade is set to be the focus of talks on Thursday between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepalese counterpart Pushpakamal 'Prachanda'.

'Prachanda' arrived in Delhi on Wednesday afternoon on a four-day visit to India, his first bilateral trip abroad after assuming the top office in December 2022.

Nepal is important for India in the context of its overall strategic interests in the region, and the leaders of the two countries have often noted the age-old "Roti Beti" relationship.

Transforming the civilisational ties between India and Nepal with deeper cooperation in areas of connectivity, economy, energy and infrastructure is expected to be a focus area of talks between Modi and Prachanda on Thursday, peo-

One of the key priority areas would be to further deepen the power sector cooperation through new initiatives across the entire spectrum of cooperation, they said.

The India-Nepal joint vision statement on power sector cooperation of April last year is considered a milestone and Nepal has been exporting over 450 MW of electricity to India.

The two prime ministers are also likely to review the India-Nepal development partnership which forms the key

pillar of the bilateral relations. Strengthening the financial

connectivity between two countries would be a discussion point, said one of the people cited above. In April last year, RuPay card was launched in Nepal during the visit of the then Nepalese

prime minister Sher Bahadur Deuba to India. Prachanda was received at the airport in Delhi by Minister of State for External Affairs

Meenakshi Lekhi. Previously, he visited India in 2016 and in 2008 in his capacity as the Nepalese prime

"PM @cmprachanda of Nepal arrives in New Delhi on his first overseas visit after assumption of office. Warmly welcomed by MoS @M\_Lekhi at the airport. The visit will impart renewed momentum to the close and unique India-Nepal relationship, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi tweeted.

A high-level delegation is accompanying Prachanda.

He and Prime Minister Modi will hold talks on Thursday following which both sides are expected to ink

a number of agreements. The Nepalese prime minister is also scheduled to call on President Droupadi Murmu and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar.

Nepal is considered an important country for New Delhi as it shares a border of over 1850 km with five Indian states Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and

#### Prachanda arrives on 4-day visit to India

PNS NEW DELHI

Nepalese Prime Minister Pushpakamal 'Prachanda' on Wednesday began a four-day visit to India that is expected to inject a fresh momentum in the already close relations between the two countries.

It is the first bilateral trip abroad by the 68-year-old Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (CPN-Maoist) leader after he assumed the top office in December 2022.

He was received at the airport in Delhi by Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi.

"PM @cmprachanda of Nepal arrives in New Delhi on his first overseas visit after assumption of office. Warmly welcomed by MoS @M\_Lekhi at the airport. The visit will impart renewed momentum to the close and unique India-Nepal relationship," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi tweeted.

## Mamata takes to streets on 'manhandling' of wrestlers

PNS KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday took to the streets here to protest against the alleged manhandling of wrestlers at New Delhi's Jantar Mantar after they tried to march towards the new Parliament building following its inauguration three days

Holding a placard with the message, "We Want Justice", written on it, Banerjee participated in a rally which started at Hazra Road crossing in the southern part of the city and culminated at Rabindra Sadan, the cultural hub of the eastern metropolis.

Banerjee joined the 2.8-km rally at Bhabanipur, her own constituency

She was flanked by former women footballers Kuntala Ghosh Dastidar and Shanti Mallick, ex-soccer players Alvito D'Cunha, Rahim Nabi, and Dipendu Biswas and several other sports personalities and common people.

State minister Arup Biswas

and cricketer-turned-minister

Manoj Tiwary spearheaded the rally organised by the sports department to show solidarity towards the protesting wrestlers.

The wrestlers are demanding the arrest of the Wrestling Federation of India's former chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh who is accused of sexually harassing several women grapplers.

The rally was organised a day after the country's top wrestlers, including Sakshi

Bajrang Punia, along with hundreds of their supporters, reached Har ki Pauri to immerse their medals in the river Ganga but were persuaded by Khap and farmer

leaders not to do so. The wrestlers, who were protesting at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi since April 23 demanding the arrest of Singh, were removed from the site by the police on May 28 after they tried to march towards the new Parliament building.

They were detained, before

## 3-pronged approach to restore peace in Manipur

The Centre is working on a three-pronged approach to bring the warring Meitei and row common ground for lasting peace in trouble-torn Manipur, sources said on Wednesday.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who is currently visiting Manipur, has given clear instructions that violence must end immediately and peace should be restored in the northeastern state as early as

The government is working on a three-pronged approach to restore peace in Manipur. These include dialogue with the affected people, rehabilitating those who had to leave their homes with enhanced security and control over insurgents, the sources privy to the development said.

The major task before the government is to build confidence between the Meitei and Kuki communities.

Hence, the Centre is making all efforts to reach out to every segment of the society in Manipur and working to bring them into a narrow common ground for lasting peace, the sources added.

There has been a concern that several terrorists have moved away from their designated camps and efforts are on



to bring them back, they

Security forces are also asking the members of all communities to hand over weapons if they have any, the sources said. Some of the affected people belonging to both the Meitei and Kuki communities, who were moved to safer areas, want to return to their homes.

The administration is being instructed to provide them a safe environment so that they can restart their normal life, the sources said.

Shah, whose trip is part of the confidence-building measures in the northeastern state, is speaking to all segments of the society and visiting the violence-hit areas.

The home minister has said the peace and prosperity of Manipur are the government's top priority and instructed

officials to strictly deal with any activity that disturbs peace. This is for the first time that

the home minister is visiting Manipur since ethnic clashes broke out in the northeastern state on May 3. The state has been witnessing sporadic violence ever

The death toll from the

clashes has gone up to 80, according to officials. The violence first broke

out after a "Tribal Solidarity March" was organised in the hill districts of the state on May 3 to protest the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

The violence was preceded by tension over the eviction of Kuki villagers from reserve forest land, which had led to a series of smaller agitations.

## Covid curbs reduced aerosols' 'masking' effect, upped warming

PNS NEW DELHI

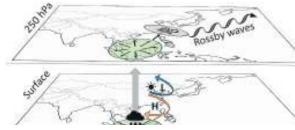
A new research has found that Covid pandemic restrictions led to stronger climate warming.

The study from Stockholm University, Sweden, said that this was because the restrictions reduced the aerosol content in mainly Pakistan, India and Bangladesh, but had no effect on the concentrations of the longerlived greenhouse gases.

A lower aerosol content meant less cooling, because of less reflection of incoming solar radiation back into space, and thus less 'masking' of the warming effect of the significantly longer-lived climate gases.

Measurements taken at the same time over the northern Indian Ocean revealed a 7 per cent increase in solar radiation reaching the Earth's surface. thus increasing temperatures. Hanimaadhoo, a measuring station in the northernmost Maldives off the coast of India.

The results published in NPJ Climate and Atmospheric Science showed that a complete phasing out of fossil fuel combustion in favour of renewable



energy sources with zero emissions could result in rapid 'unmasking' of aerosols, while greenhouse gases linger.

In the spring of 2020, pandemic restrictions significantly reduced industrial activity and transportation worldwide, both of which are known to cause emissions of sulphur and nitrogen oxides and other air pollutants leading to aerosol forma-

The study said that the pan-

demic became a 'natural' experiment to examine what happens to the climate if gas and aerosol emissions were rapidly reduced.

Through this large-scale geophysical experiment, we were able to demonstrate that while the sky became bluer warming increased when these cooling air particles were removed," said Orjan Gustafsson, professor at Stockholm University, lead researcher and responsible for the measurements in the Maldives.

#### NSUI protests against inclusion of course on Savarkar in DU syllabus

PNS NEW DELHI

NSUI activists on Wednesday staged a protest outside Delhi University Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh's office over the recent changes in the BA (Political Science) syllabus, including the inclusion of a course on Hindutva ideologue Vinayak Damodar

Political Science syllabus with one on Savarkar.

Savarkar. Teachers on Saturday claimed that the university has replaced a paper on Mahatma Gandhi in the fifth semester

On Wednesday, students affiliated with the Congress-

backed National Students' Union of India (NSUI) alleged that the university has included the course on Savarkar following pressure from the Centre.

There is also a proposal to drop a Philosophy course focusing on the works of Dr BR Ambedkar. The protesters submitted a

memorandum to the university administration opposing the changes to the syllabus.

The Delhi University administration recently decided that an elective course on the philosophy of Dr BR Ambedkar will be removed the Philosophy

(Honours) undergraduate programme. It is also probosed to teach Savarkar in the Political Science course," the NSUI said in a statement. The NSUI demanded that

instead of removing Ambedkar from the elective course, an additional chapter should be added on him and efforts made to motivate the students to do maximum research on him.

Kunal Sehrawat, the Delhi unit president of the NSUI, in the release that Ambedkar was an indigenous thinker of the social aspirations of the majority of the

#### **Chhattisgarh CM transfers Rs 32.35 cr** as dole to 1.05 lakh beneficiaries

PNS RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel Wednesday disbursed Rs 32.35 crore as the second instalment of the unemployment allowance into the bank accounts of 1.05 lakh beneficiaries, and said he would be happier if these youths actually get jobs.

Under the scheme, the state government pays Rs 2,500 monthly allowance to

each beneficiary. The first instalment of Rs 16.54 crore was transferred into the bank accounts of 66,256 beneficiaries on April 30, officials said.

The chief minister transferred

the second instalment amount during a function held at his official residence here.

"The unemployed youths are being provided assistance through this scheme, but I would be happier when you get employed," he said while addressing the gathering of youths present there.

Advertisements for recruitment into various departments are continuously being released. At the same time, the government has also been imparting skill development training so that youths could

start their own business. Unemployment allowance is just a small assistance through which you could

achieve your goals, he added. This allowance will help in buying books for competitive exams and other things. The state government has waived the examination fees for the youth of Chhattisgarh in exams conducted by the Chhattisgarh Professional Examination Board and the Chhattisgarh Public Service

Commission (CGPSC), he added.

Meanwhile, pposition Bharatiya Janata Party's Chhattisgarh unit Arun accused the r u l i n g Congress of misleading the youths in

the state. The Congress government has broken the dreams of youths in the state and they are filled with anger, he

alleged. During his Republic Day address this year, CM Baghel had announced that unemployed youths will be given a monthly allowance of Rs 2,500 in the state from April. It was one of the key promises made by the Congress ahead of the 2018 Assembly election, in which the grand old party returned to power in the state after a gap of 15

#### **DIALOGUE IN MANIPUR**

## When will life be back to normal, wonder villagers

PNS SANGAITHEL/SAHEI-BUNG (MANIPUR)

As Kuki and Meitei villagers pick up their lives after one of the worst bouts of ethnic clashes in this northeastern state, they have only one question in mind when will life be back to normal? Normal for most of them meant being able to chat with a fellow Manipuri, without worrying whether he or she belonged to another tribe, ride a motorcycle to the next district in search of a bargain or see a movie in the evening without worrying about an arson attack at the cinema hall.

"Politicians need to step out and work towards milap'(friendship) Only then, there will be peace and all will be able to sleep in their own homes. Otherwise, there will be no end to this madness," said N Sundeep Meitei told PTI in Sangaithel village in Imphal West district.

L Bimol Meitei, an ex-BSF personnel, said that his village Sangaithel is adjacent to a Kuki village and before the violence began, there was a cordial rela-

tionship between them with both sides visiting each other. village of Saheibung, located in the foothills of Kangpokpi district, Village Chief S Athang "There was trade happening between the two tribes. After



May 3, there is an atmosphere of fear because attacks took place in some nearby places. So, the contacts have stopped now," he lamented.

in the jungle. "After the Army came, we In the neighbouring Kuki

Haokip said his family was affected and they had to flee on the first night of rioting to hide

people from Sangaithel or any other nearby Meitei settlement, but by attackers who came from distant places.

both of us are finished. felt safer and relieved. But I don't know how long this will go on. Once the army leaves, what will be the situation --

and strong government will only time will say that," he have solutions ... Unless there Haokip said that houses in is a solution, this war will go his and other neighbouring on." Hoping that Shah's visit Kuki villages were not burnt by will provide some solutions to the problem, Haokip request-

The village chief said, "Kukis have nowhere to go, Meitis are in the same boat If violence continues after the Army leaves, we have no option but to fight. We have to fight until

The BJP government says it double-engined and they can do anything. Such a fast

ed the Central government to do whatever is needed to bring normalcy back. Bimol Meitei said there must be a dialogue between the two communities and the state or central government should

take the initiative to that end He said that people from Sangaithel and Saĥeibung met once after the violence started mainly due to an e initiative taken by the armed forces.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION----

# **Check hyperbole**

Rahul mocks and slams PM Modi at a gathering of Indian dispora in San Francisco, US

ongress leader Rahul Gandhi is at it again: he has lambasted and lampooned Prime Minister Narendra Modi on foreign soil. Addressing a gathering of Indian diaspora in San Francisco, US, he ridiculed Modi for having the pretensions of being omniscient. In fact, he mocked the top leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party of being delusional about their knowledge: "some groups of India think that they know everything. Even if they have a conversation with God, they might explain to him." He added, "Prime Minister is one of them." Deriding BJP leaders, Rahul continued: "They can speak to scientists and explain science to them. They can explain history to historians, warfare to the army and flying to the air force. But at the heart of it, they don't know anything." Barbed sarcasm can be effective, but Rahul seems to be going too far. His claim that the "normal instruments for doing politics were not working anymore." He also blamed the Modi Government



for threatening people and deploying Central agencies against political opponents. The use of law enforcement bodies to harass the Opposition is old in India; the present dispensation is no exception. But should the underbelly of our country be put on showcase? There is much that is wrong with governance and other aspects of India, but a senior Opposition leader advertising that in the United States doesn't make much sense. Rahul may succeed in scoring a few political points, but not without damage to India's image in the world.

To that extent, the BJP's sharp reaction to his remarks is justified. Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said, "During his foreign

visits, Rahul Gandhi insults India, which is unacceptable. He wants to insult PM Modi but ends up insulting India, questioning India's progress. He is trying to tarnish India at a time the world is acknowledging our growing stature." Just as in Rahul's comment, there is also an element of hyperbole in Thakur's reaction too. Rahul's remarks are bad for India's image, but not an insult. Besides, Congress leaders are not the only ones who discuss domestic matters abroad; PM Modi has also criticised previous governments on foreign soil in the past. Indian politicians will do well by scaling down the ingredient of hyperbole in political debate. Gruesome murder of a minor girl in Delhi doesn't mean that there is no fear of the police in the national capital; unjust arrest of a journalist doesn't imply that the entire press has been gagged in the country; India leaving the UK behind in terms of GDP doesn't mean that we have become a developed nation. Also, politicians should grow a thicker skin; every adverse comment their adversaries make against them shouldn't become an excuse to indulge in rant and cant. And they should also ensure that domestic political disputes are not internationalised.



# Modi's charisma transcends borders



PM Modi's recent tour of Japan, Papua New Guinea and Australia can be seen as a marker of his growing popularity and influence

LOOKS AT INDIA

WITH AWE AND

PM MODI 'S

LEADERSHIP,

RESPECT. UNDER

HAS BEEN SWIFT

AND PROMISES

OPPORTUNITY,

SUSTAINABILITY

PEACE,

n a world filled with diverse cultures, ideologies, and ambitions, PM Modi Ji's engagements have gone beyond the realm of mere diplomacy, becoming more of a celebration of India's global leadership and cultural heritage.

The immense respect and goodwill that the world leaders feel for India and its leader, PM Modi Ji is reflected in their various extraordinary gestures—be it President Biden seeking his autograph or Prime Minister James Marape of Papua New Guinea showing his respect by touching PM Modi's feet at the airport or Australian PM Albanese referring to PM Modi as 'The Boss', The New Zealand Prime

Minister specially came all the way down to Papua New Guinea to meet our leader, demonstrating a deep appreciation for India's leadership. All these countries may have varying opinions on several issues, but such heartfelt gestures highlight PM Modi Ji's popularity and India's growing

Several unprecedented hon-ours came India's way too. The highest awards of Papua New Guinea (Companion of the Order of Logohu) and Fiji (Companion of the Order of Fiji) were conferred upon PM Modi Ji, symbolizing his tireless efforts in championing the unity of Pacific Island countries and spearheading the cause of the Global South. Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister, James Marape, referred to PM Modiji as the leader of the Global South'. These accolades firmly establish PM Modi Ji's standing as an international leader and further enhance India's reputation on the world stage.

At the community reception in Australia, leaders of all hues-the Australian PM - accompanied by the Leader of the Opposition, Foreign Minister, former Prime Minister, and several other ministers - walked hand in hand with PM Modi Ji. The illumination of the Sydney Opera House in the colours of the Indian flag, and the renaming of Harris Park to Little India further emphasize the influence of India and its diaspora in Australia.

Great Push for Indian Culture, Values, and Ethos.



rials at the G7 and the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC), and hosting a lunch for FIPIC leaders featuring Indian cuisine and millet-based items, PM Modi Ji showcased India's commitment to sustainability. THE WORLD TODAY Hiroshima which was the first to face atomic bombing in the history of mankind, today serves as the most fitting setting for commemorating the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi and PM Modi ji's unveiling his bust in this historic city symbolises the message of non-violence that Gandhi ji stood INDIA'S ASCENT TO

Also, the release of the BECOMING THE 5TH timeless Tamil classic, LARGEST ECONOMY language, was an effort to bring Indian thought and culture closer to the people of Papua New Guinea. În his engagements with industry leaders, scientists, academicians, and cultural icons, PM Modi Ji positioned India as the DEVELOPMENT, AND world's preferred investment destination, fostering economic growth and job creation.

Nobel Laureate Brian Paul Schmidt, who met the PM, highlighted India's scientific prowess and its ability to undertake world-class

research. "PM Modi is one of the most visible leaders that India has had in my lifetime. He takes an interest in whoever he talks to, whether it's the President of USA or someone he meets for first time from society. India's ability to do world class science has become an order of magnitude higher," he told reporters after the

meeting.
In Professor Toby Walsh's words, India is "absolutely world's most extraordinary democracy. UPI is a wonderful example of how India can do things itself." During his diplomatic parleys in the Quad, FIPIC, and G7 summits, the Prime Minister underscored India's active role in shaping the global agenda and fostering collaborations among nations. He interacted with over two dozen world leaders throughout his visits. The community event in Sydney was attended by around 20 thousand people.

In contrast to some leaders who blame others or badmouth the country, PM Modi Ji's speech singularly focussed on the India Story, highlighting its progress, achievements, and aspirations. From Japan to Papua New Guinea and Australia, the newspaper headlines widely featured PM Modi Ji, capturing the collective attention and fascination of

readers everywhere. The world today looks at India with awe and respect. Under PM Modi Ji's leadership, India's ascent to becoming the 5th largest economy has been swift and promises peace, opportunity, development, and sustainabil-

Opposition politicians, like Rahul Gandhi, have developed a regrettable habit of resorting to abuse and falsehoods. They regularly undermine India's image, and our democracy and heap insults on our Prime Minister, our government and also our nation and leave no stones unturned to downplay India's staggering achievements. By this, they are doing a huge disservice to the nation and people will never forgive them.

PM Modi Ji's leadership, diplomacy, and vision have strengthened international relations, garnered admiration from world leaders, attracted investments, and fuelled economic expansion. Without indulging in such petty politicking, we all must work together for India's progress, celebrate its growth and development, in line with the Prime Minister's principle of Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas Sabka Vishwas and Sabka

> (The writer is MoS, Electronics & Information Technology, )

# Costly higher education a problem



The escalating cost of education is denying higher education to students who wish to pursue it but cannot afford its prohibitive cost

Baban Bhagat, from Chand Kewari village in Muzaffarpur district in Bihar, works as a daily wage labourer in the nearby town. His meagre income barely covers the subsistence needs of his family, let alone the educational aspirations of his two sons. While his elder son's academic journey abruptly ended after completing Class 12, his younger son, due to lack of money, just managed to get enrolled in Class 12. "I have tried my best to provide education to both my sons, but our financial circumstances render it impossible for me to bear the equivalent expenses for both of them, even for an undergraduate program at an ordinary institution," lamented Baban. Presently, his elder son, a high school graduate, has also become a labourer, trapped in the same cycle of limited opportunities. A recent official survey

reveals how a significant increase in education expenditure in India, has placed a substantial financial burden on households. Particularly for those households from rural areas with minimal income, educating their chil-



dren becomes a burden than an investment, especially when it comes to girls. According to Pankaj Kumar, a resident of the same village, due to prevailing poverty, most children can only study up to the 10th or 12th standard. With the increase in enrollment and examination fees for graduation in government colleges, dropout rates have further aggravated. Awadhesh Kumar Das who works as a teacher in a private school in Muzaffarpur, emphasized that children from economically disadvantaged backgrounds face significant challenges when it comes to pursuing education in fields like engineering, medicine, or enrolling in coaching classes for exams like the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) or Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC). This difficulty stems from the increasing privatization of designed to provide equi-

educational institutions.

In recent times, several reports have raised concerns about the potential impact of the New Education Policy on the privatization of higher education, leading to increased costs that could make education unaffordable for many students. According to a report, the National Education Policy is designed to support a neo-colonial economic order, favouring those from affluent backgrounds while potentially discriminating against the poor and oppressed. Addressing similar concerns, Devesh Chandra, the former District Councilor of Muzaffarpur, expressed his apprehension that the new education policy could make it increasingly difficult for underprivileged children to access higher education. He emphasized the need for a comprehensive policy that ensures equal educational opportunities for all individuals, regardless of their socio-economic background. On the other hand, Ajay Kumar Singh, the District Education Officer of Muzaffarpur, reassures that the new education policy is

table education to everyone. Whereas highlighting on dropping out of girls from higher education, Dr Shri Bhagwan Rai, an Assistant Professor at Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar Bihar University, Muzaffarpur, believes the government and parents share equal responsibility for this situation. "The government can be held accountable for the expensive nature of education, as it has become a major obstacle for girls to pursue higher education. Additionally, parents cannot be absolved of their role in perpetuating gender disparities by treating the education of boys and girls differently," the Professor expressed. The escalating cost of education has undoubtedy presented formidable challenges for individuals seeking higher education, particularly impacting girls. It is crucial to recognize that girls are disproportionately affected by these financial barriers and encounter significant limitations in the absence of accessible, free, and affordable education. (The writer is Charkha's

Volunteer Trainer) Charkha Feature

#### Sir — Given that its warring stalwarts namely poll-bound Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot and his former deputy

A GOOD OMEN FOR CONGRESS!

Sachin Pilot have decided to put their longstanding issues on the back burner for the time being in the party's interests. After a meeting between the Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge and former chief Rahul Gandhi, also participated by Mr Gehlot and Pilot, the latter duo said that the central leadership will decide on the problems between them after the upcoming significant assembly polls in the Congress-ruled Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh are over. This rapprochement might help the grand old party replicate its Karnataka landslide win in the rest of the States, going to polls as also in next year's Lok Sabha polls.

However, the Congress, the AAP and the TMC being on different page vis-avis The Congress' inclusion in the proposed United Opposition Front driving at taking on the BJP in the grand finale unitedly, the scenario seems to be going in the BJP's favour.

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

PRANNOY HAS BROKEN THE JINX Sir — After the USA open title six years ago, in the 2017 Grand Prix, India's topranked men's badminton player HS Prannoy has broken the jinx of being a giant killer without lifting the trophy by winning the Malaysia Masters 2023 crown. Although Prannoy has beaten contemporary stalwarts like Viktor Axelsen, Taufiq Hidayat, and Chen Long to name only a few, a big trophy consistently eluded him till the win at Kuala Lumpur. Even there, things seem to go awry for the Indian as China's Weng Hongyang came from behind to equalise at 18-18 in the final set, but Prannoy recouped to have the last laugh. All along, after 2017, the lingering feeling was that despite oodles of talent the 30- year-old was mysteriously unable to click at the right moment when it mattered most.

#### They are super kings!



he IPL meant CSK aka Chennai Super Kings for many cricket lovers. There is a worthy reason why this team is titled Super Kings. Yes, they are the super kings of the Indian Premier League, as recently the team clinched the Fifth trophy marking one of a kind triumph for itself. MS Dhoni, Ravindra Jadeja and Kadami like legendary stars proofed that old is gold for IPL.

Despite fans missing the Helicopter shots of MS Dhoni in T-20, ODI and World Cup-like events, fans are lucky to never miss his magic on IPL pitches. It's a great victory of the Chennai Super Kings over the Gujrat Titans of Hardik Pandya. It's time for celebration for entire cricket lovers. Dhoni lovers and CSK lovers

Ganapathi Bhat I Akola

Nerves said many, temperament said statement in praise of him, religiously it some, but Prannoy overcame all to finally come up with trumps.

The Indian champion has, however, continuously ranked within the top ten in the world. From number nine, now he is ranked seven. En route to the Malaysia Masters title, the hero of India's 2022 Thomas Cup win had the better of All England Champion Chinese Li Shifeng in round 16 and almost pipped Indonesian Christian Adinata who retired hurt in the semis. Again big names were scalped by Prannoy; the only difference this time was that he went all the way to finish at the top. After Prakash Padukone and Pullela Gopichand, no Indian has been able to lift the All-England title. Lakshva Sen came within striking distance of the crown but fell at the final hurdle in 2022

feet of any Indian leader or issues any

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

**PROOF OF POPULARITY** Sir — If any foreign leader touches the

needs to be portrayed as the "ultimate proof" of his "worldwide popularity and the "impeccable stature" being enjoyed by him in the international sphere! However, when internationally reputed newspapers and journalists speak of the deluge of intolerance as being practised during the "regime" of "Good Days" the 'saffron mainstream" immediately brands it as "colonial mindset" and "conspiracy" of the West! As far as the mindset of "Head I win, Tail You Lose" is concerned, the sycophants simply have nopeers!

It is high time these set of hypocrites be sternly told that mere popularity does not necessarily bear proof of one's "greatness" "efficiency" or "success". Also, utterances repeated long shrill and continuous enough do not render utter falsehood into "truth"!

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

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#### **FIRST COLUMN**

#### **EFFICACY OF SATSANG MUST BE UNDERSTOOD**

Satsang is association with good people; It is also about the inner quality of 'sattva' or purity



RAVI VALLURI

It was a desolate sight to see my nonagenarian grandmother. A deeply religious person whose life was dedicated to the Almighty, she lay afflicted by Alzheimer's, in an incapacitated condition in a small nursing home in Bangalore. There was just a nurse to attend to her needs. Misty-eyed, I entered the room along with two gentlemen.

Grandma was quite unexpectedly injected with vital prana as she stared at us. "Moorty garu!" she exclaimed, much to the astonishment of the nurse who was involved in an animated conversation with Moorty garu. As we left, my grandmother looked forlorn and her benefactor blessed her. A somnolent 94-year-old woman abruptly awakening upon seeing Shri VSR Moorty, obviously meant that the satsangs he rendered were exemplary. There was one rendition of the Narada Bhakti sutras at our house in Hyderabad which is etched in

The year was 2014 and it was a crisp and cool morning in early November. I was posted in Secunderabad on South Central Railway. As I was poring over files, I walked Shri VSR Moorty. Moorty Garu focused his attention on my computer screen. Pictures of Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar were flipping across the monitor. He looked at Gurudev's photograph quite intently and uttered, "Ravi, I would like to have an interaction with Guruji." This interaction or satsang would be recorded by Sri Venkateswara Bhakti Channel (SVBC).

My jaws fell in astonishment. Millions of devotees of Gurudev wait to have a glimpse of the Master and I had this onerous task of organising an interaction with the Master himself. But that is a challenge for any seeker and I promptly sent a mail to the Master and his sec-



He then shared, "Ravi, the Sankalpa needs to be pure, rest Almighty God will take ensure that things fall in place, Sai Ram." I was stunned that evening when the Secretariat agreed to fix the appointment at such short notice. We made the peregrination to the Bangalore Ashram of the Art of Living along with the staff from SVBC. For three days and three nights, we were witness to something transcendental. The interaction ranged on a variety of subjects from ancient Hindu practices, and various schools of Hindu philosophy to the present day. It is wellnigh impossible to decode the divine and pen the interaction.

A senior teacher of the Art of Living, Shri Vinod Menon was to tell Moorty Garu, "This is the closest one could unravel divinity, you are indeed blessed, coming so close to the Divine.

In the amphitheatre on my mind the graphic scene of BR Chopra's Mahabharata, the television serial played out, where Lord Krishna tells Bhishma, "Arjun woh nar hai jo Narayan ke darshan karwayega." (That is, Arjuna is the person who will be the medium to reveal the resplendence of Narayana himself). So, this was satsang ... What does one

(I quote Yogapedia to describe Satsang) Satsang is a Sanskrit term derived from two roots: sat meaning true and sangha meaning community, company, or association.

It can be translated as "associating with good people" or simply "being in the company of truth." It refers to the act of gathering likeminded, uplifting people, especially those on a spiritual path. Satsang is associated with the inner quality of sattva (goodness or purity), which is one of the three gunas (natural attributes) alongside rajas (passion) and tamas (inactivity). A sattvic person makes a natural Satsangi, or "seeker of truth."

So let us all be satsangis in quest of the quintessential truth. (The writer is an author and a spiritual teacher)

# Rs 2k note exchange: Demonetisation 2.0



Rs 2000 note exchange will not have any impact on black money. It will only help hoarders by exchanging Rs 2000 notes without disclosing their identity



n its decision to withdraw Rs 2000 currency notes from circulation announced on May 19, 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has stated that they will continue to be legal tender. The notification issued in this regard states:- "...in pursuance of the "Clean Note Policy" of the RBI it has been decided to withdraw the Rs 2000 denomination banknotes from circulation. The banknotes in Rs 2000 denomination will continue to be legal tender."

From the above, prima facie one gets a sense that it is not a demonetization exercise as it happened over six years ago when, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared on November 8, 2016, that Rs 500 and Rs 1000 denomination currency notes won't be legal tender with immediate effect.

#### If not demonetization then, what is?

Is it merely a "Clean Note Policy" as the RBI puts it? The central banks' argument runs something like this: high denomination notes such as Rs 2000 is normally avoided for cash transactions. Yet, these had to be brought in following the note ban of 2016 to address the logistics of swapping the mammoth old Rs 500/1000 notes for new currency within a short time frame and thus minimize economic disruption. Nearly 90 per cent of the Rs 2000 notes valued at Rs 673,000 crore at their peak as on March 31, 2018, were issued from November 8, 2016, to March 31, 2017.

The intent was to phase them out after the RBI had pumped in a sufficient stock of lower denomination Rs 500 (albeit new) notes to meet the transactional require-

ments of the economy. Already, the stock of Rs 2000 notes has declined from Rs 673,000 crore representing 37.3 per cent of notes in circulation on March 31, 2018, to Rs 362,000 crore constituting only 10.8 per cent of notes in circulation on March 31, 2023. Further, these being at the end of their estimated



THE CIRCULAR

ALSO ALLOWS A PERSON TO DEPOSIT RS **2000 NOTES** INTO HIS BANK ACCOUNT WITHOUT ANY LIMIT. FOR **DEPOSITS** ABOVE A SPECIFIED LIMIT. THE BANK IS

**REQUIRED TO** REPORT TO THE **INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT** 

(The writer is a policy

lifespan of 4 - 5 years and the stock of Rs 500 denominations adequate to meet the currency requirement of the public, it was logical to completely phase out the Rs 2000 note.

The RBI circular says that beginning May 23, 2023, the public may deposit Rs 2,000 banknotes into their bank accounts and or exchange them with banknotes of other denominations up to a limit of ten notes of Rs 20,000 value 'at a time' in banks until September 30, 2023. The facility for the exchange will also be provided at the 19 Regional Offices (ROs) of RBI having Issue Departments.

First, holders of Rs 2000 notes

get 131 days to get rid of them which is two-and-a-half times the time given to the holders of Rs 500/1000 notes in 2016 i.e. 52 days to exchange them with the new currency. Second, Rs 2000 notes are only 10.8 per cent of the currency in circulation value-wise (as of March 31, 2023) against old Rs 500/1000 notes being a whopping 86 per cent of the corresponding figure in 2016, this time the load on the system is much less.

#### Can we simply treat this as a routine exercise?

At a fundamental level, the 'withdrawal' of the Rs 2000 banknotes - an exercise that the RBI hopes will get consummated on September 30, 2023 - doesn't gel with its reiteration that these notes will remain legal tender even after September 30. Imagine a scenario whereby all of the Rs 2000 notes come back to the banks by this deadline then, any talk of whether it will remain legal tender is irrelevant. Look at it from another

If, the intention is to maintain the legal status of the Rs 2000 note even after September 30, 2023, implying that it will continue to be accepted for settlement of payments, then why would holders come forward for exchange or deposit in the bank account? To understand the real intent behind the RBI move, we need to know to what use Rs 2000 notes worth Rs 362,000 crore (as on March 31, 2023) are being put. Do these support legitimate economic activity or people are simply using them to 'hoard their unaccounted income? It can't be the former; had it been the case then, given the RBI issuing predominantly Rs 500 notes after March 31, 2017, Rs 2000 notes would have disappeared by

The bulk of these notes are likely held as black money. Daily reports of enforcement agencies raids yielding a mountain of cash from the premises of dubious bureaucrats, politicians, businesspersons and so on confirm this. Unfortunately, the measures outlined in the RBI circular and subsequent clarifications given by the governor and public sector banks (PSBs) such as the State Bank of India (SBI) fail to address this menace.

The RBI allows a person to exchange Rs 2,000 banknotes with other denominations up to a limit of ten notes of Rs 20,000 value 'at a time' in banks. While exchanging he is not required to share his identity. This means he can visit a branch any number of times in a day and increase the value of exchange. By doing say ten trips, he can get rid of Rs 2 lakhs worth of black money in a day. If this is repeated for 131 days, he can dis-

pose of Rs 262 lakh.

Under such an arrangement which doesn't insist on the identity at the time of exchange, a person holding say Rs 100 crore in Rs 2000 notes as 'unaccounted cash' can get this exchanged with smaller denominations of Rs 500/100 notes by hiring a number persons to visit branches of any number of banks and repeat for over 4 months. With anonymity preserved, he could go for a less tedious process. He could simply conspire with the bank manager under a quid pro quo - to have those Rs 100 crore exchanged. All that the latter needs to do is to show in records multiple entries of Rs 20,000 each.

The circular also allows a person to deposit Rs 2000 notes into his bank account without any limit. For deposits above a specified limit (Rs 10 lakh in a savings account), the bank is required to report to the income tax department. But, the hoarder of black cash won't take this route when the other option (read: exchange) where he can remain anonymous, is available.

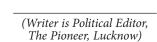
To conclude, far from combating black money, the RBI operation will only help hoarders keep it in a safer zone by exchanging Rs 2000 notes with smaller denomination Rs 500 notes without having to disclose their identity. The RBI/government should go for a course correction. First, it should say upfront that 'from October 1, 2023, Rs 2000 note won't be legal tender. Second, for every exchange, the bank should insist on a person's identity either PAN or Aadhaar. Third, for depositing money in the account, the banks should strictly enforce KYC norms.

# Manual scavenging is a curse, must end now

To end this menace Govt must provide alternative employment opportunities and encourage mechanised cleaning technologies

eath does not discriminate, but the system does," cried out Rukmani Devi, a griefstricken relative who lost her cousin, Nand Kushwaha, and his son Nitesh, in a horrifying incident that unfolded in Bahora Ramnagar village. The tight-knit community mourns the loss of four lives, all victims of the archaic and inhumane practice of manual scavenging. On a sombre Sunday morning, tragedy struck as these brave souls descended into a septic tank, unaware of the deadly consequences that awaited

them. The incident occurred under the jurisdiction of the Nebua Naurangia police station in the Kushinagar district of Uttar Pradesh, a region plagued by the persisting men-



**BANERJEE** 

ace of manual scavenging. Despite numerous promises and legislative measures to eradicate this degrading practice, it continues to thrive, claiming innocent lives and shattering families.

Manual scavenging, a practice that involves the manual cleaning of septic tanks, drains, and dry latrines, has been banned in India since 1993 under the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act. However, the law remains largely ineffective, with thousands of individuals still forced into this hazardous occupation due to poverty, social discrimination, and a lack of alternative livelihood options.

Incidentally, the government, which has introduced

several measures to prohibit manual scavenging and rehabilitate those involved, does not consider septic cleaning as manual scavenging, despite the National Human Rights Commission's (NHRC) recommendation to expand the definition of manual scavengers. The incident serves as a stark reminder of the hazardous conditions faced by manual scavengers. "Nand was our sole breadwinner," sobbed Rukmani Devi, her voice heavy with grief. "We had hoped for a brighter future for Nitesh, but now he is gone too. Why does no one care about

The tragedy that befell the Kushwaha family is not an isolated incident. According to a report by Safai Karamchari Andolan, an organization

fighting for the rights of sanitation workers, there have been over 1,800 deaths related to manual scavenging in the past decade alone. In four years, between 2017-2021, 330 people lost their lives due to hazardous cleaning of sewer and septic tanks" in India, as per the data presented in Lok

Sabha in August 2022. Each death represents a life cut short, dreams left unfulfilled, and families left devastated," Dinesh Kanojia, an office-bearer of Safai Karamchari Aandolan said and added: "We clean society's waste, but society refuses to acknowledge us as humans."

Despite the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and the Rehabilitation Act of 2013, which outlawed the employ-

and aimed to provide rehabilitation measures, the implementation has been woefully inadequate. The lack of political will, insufficient enforcement, and social apathy have perpetuated this grave injustice. The dangers of manual scavenging extend beyond the risk of asphyxiation and drowning. The workers are often exposed to toxic gases, disease-causing pathogens, and unsanitary conditions that pose serious health risks. The absence of social safety nets and adequate welfare measures further deepens their economic struggles, leaving them

ment of manual scavengers

The persistence of manual scavenging in India is a grave violation of human rights, as it subjects individu-

with limited choices.

als to dehumanizing conditions, health hazards, and social exclusion," Raghuvanshi, a Dalit activist, said. The tragedy in Bahora Ramnagar village should serve as a wakeup call for the authorities and society at large. Immediate action is needed to ensure justice for the victims and their families and to put an end to this brutal practice.

To address this grave issue, a multi-pronged approach is necessary. Strengthening the implementation of existing laws, providing alternative employment opportunities, investing in mechanized cleaning technologies, and raising public awareness are crucial steps toward eradicating manual scavenging. Collaboration between government bodies, civil society organizations, and

affected communities is essential to ensure sustainable change. "No more lives should be lost in the depths of septic tanks," declared Smita Yadav, a social worker. "It is time to break the chains of this exploitative practice and work towards a future where dignity and equality prevail."

She said: "As the Kushwaha family and the entire community grieve the loss of Nand and Nitesh, their deaths must not be forgotten. Their tragedy should ignite a collective resolve to eliminate manual scavenging and create a society where every life is valued and respected. Let us unite in our demand for justice and in our commitment to building a future free from this dark chapter of human suffering.

#### **Welspun Corp Q4 net profit falls** 8.90% to Rs 240 crore

ne pioneer

elspun Corp Ltd (WCL) posted an 8.90 per cent decline in its consolidated net profit to Rs 240.08 crore for the January-March quarter, hit by higher expenses. It had clocked a net profit of Rs 263.56 crore during the January-March quarter of the preceding financial year (FY) 2021-22, the company said in a regulatory filing. The company's total income rose to Rs 4,132.38 crore, from Rs 2,413.48 crore in the year-ago quarter. Its expenses rose to Rs 3.835.55

crore from Rs 2,033.16 crore in the January-March period of FY22. In a separate statement, B. K. Goenka, Chairman, Welspun Group said, "We have seen flawless execution and delivery for our customers resulting in strong cash flows and a substantial reduction in net debt. The acquisition of the plastic products business of Sintex has given us a head start in our foray into the B2C segment. "This will result in significant value creation for all our stakeholders in addition to providing growth to the existing business portfolio.



Briefing media,

**Information and** 

**Broadcasting Minister** 

**Anurag Singh Thakur** 

said the Cabinet has

approved the "world's

largest grain storage

cooperative sector"

#### **Retail inflation for industrial** workers eases to 5.09% in April

etail inflation for industrial workers eased to 5.09 per cent in April from 5.79 per etail inflation for industrial workers eased to 5.09 per cent in April from 5.79 per cent in March this year mainly due to lower prices of certain food items. "Year-on-year inflation for the month stood at 5.09 per cent compared to 5.79 per cent for the previous month and 6.33 per cent during the corresponding month a year before," a labour ministry statement said.

Similarly, it stated that the food inflation stood at 4.16 per cent against 5.02 per cent of the previous month and 7.05 per cent during the corresponding month a year ago. The All-India CPI-IW (consumer price index for industrial workers) for April, 2023 increased by 0.9 points and stood at 134.2 points. It was 133.3 points in March 2023. The maximum upward pressure in the current index came from Food & Beverages group contributing 0.39 percentage points to the total change



#### Rs 2,000 note withdrawal to add up to Rs 1.5 lakh cr in deposits

lakh crore for the banking system, Axis Bank Chief Economist Saugata Bhattacharva said on Wednesday. "Notes of Rs 1 lakh to Rs 1.5 lakh crore will come back into the system as deposits," Bhattacharya told reporters, adding that this should take the overall deposit growth to over 11 per cent in FY24. As per RBI data, the total value of Rs 2,000

notes in the system is Rs 3.62 lakh crore. Holders of the notes can either deposit the notes at banks, or get them exchanged over bank counters. It can be noted that the banking system has been passing through what some call as a 'war for deposits' at present, with a wide gap between the credit and deposit growth numbers. Bhattacharya said he expects the credit growth to slow down to 13 per cent in FY24 from 16 per cent, even as the deposit growth number will rise to 11-12 per cent from the singledigit figure in FY23.



# Rs 1 lakh cr to increase grain storage capacity in coop sector

PNS NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a Rs 1 lakh crore programme to create the world's largest grain storage capacity in the cooperative sector to reduce crop damages and prevent distress sales by farmers, besides strengthening the country's food security.

The government is planning to create 700 lakh tonne of grain storage capacity in the cooperative sector over the next five years and said the move will also help in creating job opportunities in rural

Briefing media, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur said the Cabinet has approved the "world's largest grain storage plan in the cooperative sector" On investment, he said the programme will start "with an

As per the plan, a godown of 2,000 tonne capacity will be established in each block.

expenditure of around Rs 1

This will help in strengthening the cooperative sector, as Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) can diversify

There are 1 lakh PACS in the country, out of which around 63,000 are functional. Thakur said the country's foodgrains production is around 3,100 lakh tonne, while

into the storage of food grains.

the storage capacity is only 47 per cent of the total output. In developed economies, he said, the storage capacities are

higher than output.

funding, Thakur said the funds available in ministries of agriculture, food processing and food and consumer affairs

would be utilised. At present, the total grain storage capacity in the country is about 1,450 lakh tonne, he said, adding that 700 lakh tonne storage capacity will now be established in the cooperative sector. This will take the total capacity to 2,150

On benefits, the minister said the creation of decentralised storage capacity at the

local level would reduce food grain wastage and strengthen the food security of the coun-

try.
This would hugely reduce the cost incurred in the transportation of food grains to procurement centres and again transporting the stocks back from warehouses to ration shops, he said.

According to an official statement, the Cabinet approved the Constitution and Empowerment of an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) for the facilitation of the 'world's largest grain storage plan in Cooperative Sector' by the convergence of various schemes of the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

To ensure time-bound and uniform implementation of the plan, the Ministry of Cooperation will implement a pilot project in at least 10 selected districts of different states/ UTs in the country.

## Centre's fiscal deficit narrows to 6.4% of GDP in FY23

PNS NEW DELHI

The Centre's fiscal deficit narrowed to 6.4 per cent of the GDP in 2022-23 from 6.71 per cent in FY22, as anticipated by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget in February this year.

In the Union Budget, the government aimed to further bring down the fiscal deficit -- a key indicator of borrowing -- during the current financial year 2023-24 to 5.9 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

Unveiling the revenue-expenditure data of the Union government for 2022-23, the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) said the fiscal deficit in absolute terms was Rs 17,33,131 crore (provisional), marginally down from the amount projected in the Revised Estimates (RE) in the

CGA said the government received Rs 24.56 lakh crore (101 per cent of corresponding RE 2022-23 of total receipts) during 2022-23.

It comprised Rs 20.97 lakh crore tax revenue (Net to Centre), Rs 2.86 lakh crore of



non-tax revenue and Rs 72,187 crore of non-debt capital receipts.

Non-debt capital receipts consist of the recovery of loans and miscellaneous capital

About Rs 9.48 lakh crore has been transferred to state governments as devolution of taxes by the central government, which is Rs 50,015 crore higher than the previous year (2021-22).

The CGA data further revealed that the Centre's total expenditure was Rs 41.89 crore (100 per cent of corresponding RE 2022-23), out of which Rs 34.52 lakh crore was on the

lakh crore on the capital

Out of the total revenue expenditure, Rs 9.28 lakh crore was on account of interest payments and Rs 5.31 lakh crore towards major subsi-

As per CGA, the revenue deficit for the fiscal ending March 2023 was 3.9 per cent of GDP while the effective revenue deficit worked out to be 2.8 per cent of GDP.

Aditi Nayar, Economist and Head -Research and Outreach, Icra, said the government was able to restrict its FY2023 fiscal deficit at Rs 17.3 lakh crore, a shade below the FY2023 RE, with higher than estimated revenue receipts and a small undershooting in revenue expenditure, offsetting the disinvestment miss and a healthier than expected capex.

"In FY2023, the government's net tax revenues reported a healthy growth of 15.2 per cent, amidst a 17.8 per cent contraction in non-tax revenues, 7.8 per cent increase in revenue expenditure, and a robust 24.2 per cent expansion

#### Civil Aviation Ministry comes out with draft aircraft bill

PNS NEW DELHI

The civil aviation ministry has come out with a draft bill for putting in place a simplified approach for regulations pertaining to the aviation sector.

The Draft Aircraft Bill, 2023, has been prepared after reviewing the existing Aircraft Act,

As per the preamble of the Draft Aircraft Bill, 2023, it aims to have an Act to make better provisions for regulation and control of the design, manufacture, possession, use, operation, sale, import and export of aircraft and for connected matters.

The bill has been issued by the ministry for public consultations for a period of 30 days, according to a communication dated May 30.

"The existing Aircraft Act, 1934 has been reviewed and accordingly a bill providing for regulating provisions in a simplified manner, identifying existing redundancies and to provide for provisions to meet the current needs for regulation of civil aviation in a simplified language...," the ministry said.

#### Sensex, Nifty trip over profits in banking. energy shares

PNS MUMBAI

Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty cut short their four-day gaining streak and closed lower by half a per cent on Wednesday due to profit-taking in banking, energy and metal stocks amid weak trends in global

Snapping its four-day rally, the 30-share BSE Sensex fell 346.89 points or 0.55 per cent to settle at 62,622.24. During the day, it tumbled 568.11 points or 0.90 per cent to 62,401.02.

The NSE Nifty declined 99.45 points or 0.53 per cent to end at 18,534.40.

In the four-day rally to Tuesday, Sensex advanced by 1,195 points or 2 per cent while Nifty rose by 348 points or 2.26 per cent.

"Markets witnessed profit-taking and shed over half a per cent, tracking mixed cues. After the initial downtick, the Nifty index traded with a negative bias for most of the session however a marginal rebound in the final hours trimmed some losses," said Ajit Mishra, SVP - Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

## CtrlS Datacenters enter Odisha with greenfield project

CtrlS Datacenters Ltd, the world's fastest-growing Rated-4 Datacenter company, held its ground-breaking ceremony on Tuesday for its green-field Edge data center in Odisha.

Naveen Patnaik, the Chief Minister of Odisha, laid the foundation stone for the facility in a virtual ceremony held on Tuesday. The new data center CtrlS Bhubaneswar 1 will be located in the State's Sridhar Pinnapureddy,

Chairman, CtrlS Datacenters Ltd, said, "Odisha is a fast-

ing it a strategic destination for CtrlS' expansion. We are excited to bring our expertise to the State. Built ay Infocity in Chandrasekharpur, the data center will be easily accessible to both the city centre and its airport Infocity site is an innovation hub and home to a broad community of emerging technologies. ČtrlS Bhubaneswar 1 will be embedded into a larger ecosystem, enabling the growth of data and infra-

around the facility." 'We are thankful to the Odisha Government for extending all support for our

project. Large IT infrastructure initiatives such as Info Park, Info Valley, Infocity and IT investment regions are under development, giving a big fillip to the IT/ITES sector," Sridhar stated

CtrlS Bhubaneswar 1 is ity designed to serve hyperscale, government and enterprise customers and will provide a range of hosting and cloud services. Phase-wise, the project

would eventually scale as a structure-savvy businesses hyperscale data center campus spread across 10 acres. The facilities will have all the sustainability features that CtrlS

CtrlS plans to invest over Rs 150 crore and create 110 jobs in Bhubaneswar in 10 years. The company's foray and expansion into the State will boost the digital infrastructure ecosystem in the region.

Odisha is a key region for trlS as the State has a strong presence in core industries like chemicals & petrochemicals, construction, electronics manufacturing, food processing, metal, mining & quarrying, seaports and textiles. The State has also developed IT-specific SEZs to aid growth in the sector.

CtrlS is on an expansion spree to set up a series of Edge ta centers in India, across

company currently operates facilities in Lucknow and Patna. The plan is to set up over 20 Edge data centers in the coming years.

The adoption of technology coupled with the launch of capacity in more locations. This needs a reliable lowlatency link (ensuring realtime access to data or applications) with high bandwidth to handle massive data flows, and storage closer to the devices at the 'Edge' of the network. By computing closer to where data is generated, companies are able to improve their sustainability.

#### Thermal power plants capacity utilisation projected to improve

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's total plant load factor (PLF) or capacity utilisation of thermal plants is expected to rise to 65.1 per cent this fiscal over 64.2 per cent in the preceding financial year (FY) 2022-23,

In its latest report, Icra projected the all-India thermal PLF level to improve to 65.1 per cent in FY2024 led by the growth in electricity demand and limited thermal capacity addition.

Its outlook for the thermal power segment is also stable, supported by the healthy improvement in the thermal PLF, coupled with the reduction in dues from state distribution utilities (dis-



tation of the late payment surcharge (LPS) scheme, the ratings agency said on Wednesday.

"The rating agency projects the full-year demand growth for FY2024 at a modest 5.0-5.5%, slightly lower than its expectation for the GDP growth for this fiscal (6 per cent), with unseasonal rains having dampened demand over the past two-and-

## Kerala govt raises ceiling on purchase of products from startups to Rs 3 crore

The Kerala government has considerably increased the ceiling on purchase of products and services from startups registered with KSUM from Rs 1 crore to Rs 3 crore in its effort to boost the state's startup ecosystem.

The raising of the public procurement ceiling on the purchases by government departments, public sector undertakings (PSUs), boards, corporations, and local selfgovernment (LSG) institutions from ventures registered under the Kerala Startup Mission



(KSUM), was announced by it in a statement on Wednesday. KSUM is the nodal agency of the Kerala government for entrepreneurship development

The increase in the monetary ceiling in public procurement will enable more government departments to leverage tions from startups, it said. As per the government order

(GO) issued in this regard, the benefits enjoyed by IT-related startups have been extended to non-IT ventures as well, there-by enabling PSUs, boards, corporations, and LSGs to purchase products and services from non-IT startups registered under KSUM.

Kerala has 49 parent departments along with more than 1,000 sub-organisations, and, as per the GO, all government organisations can purchase products and services from startups registered under KSUM, the statement said.

## NFRA slaps Rs 1.10 cr fine; bans 2 auditors, 1 firm

PNS NEW DELHI

The National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) has imposed a ban as well as penalties totalling Rs 1.10 crore on three entities, including two auditors, for alleged professional misconduct in connection with the audit of Giri Vidhyuth (India) Ltd for 2019-

Giri Vidhyuth (India) Ltd (GVIL) is a subsidiary of Coffee Day Enterprises Ltd (CDEL).

The case pertains to diversion of funds worth Rs 3,535 crore from seven subsidiary companies of CDEL to Mysore

Amalgamated Coffee Estate Ltd (MACEL), an entity owned and controlled by the promoters of

After markets watchdog Sebi shared its investigation report in April 2022, the audit regulator

R.O.No: 2564-PPICLIADVT/1/2823-24, Dt. 31.05.2823

started probing the professional misconduct of the auditors of GVIL.

Separately, NFRA imposed a fine of Rs 1 crore on Sundaresha & Associates and slapped a twoyear ban on the audit firm.

Commencement Date for Downloading Tender Document: 30-46-2023, Last date and time of submission of Tender: 30-96-2023 upto 10:30 AM. Date & Time of Opening of Technica Bid: 30-06-2023 at 10.30 AM, Date & Time of opening Financial Bid: 30-06-2023 at 3.00 PM. Andole-Jogipet Municipalit

#### GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION e- PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

NIT No. No.12/GHMC/MPT/EE/2023-24 Name of the Work: Civil Works. Estimated Amount / ECV: Rs. 130.00 Lakhs. Sta date & time: 02.06.2023 / 01.00 PM. Last date & time for receipts of Bids: 08.06.2023 11.15 AM, Name & Address Officer.: Sri P. Salya Narayana, Executive Engineer. GHMC, Moosapet Circle-23, Cell: 9989930362. For further details can be seen at e-procurement@www.tender.eprocurement.gov.in

#### HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY 4º Floor Swamajayanthi Commercial Complex, Ameerpet, Hyderabad Public Notification Uis. 15 (3) of HMDA Act. 2008

of 1253.345; nits., which is presently committed as Peri-Urban Use zone as per the notified filester plan MDP-2011 approved ride (E.O. Ills No.33 MAILID, #254.17.2115, is now proposed to be designated as Residential use zone. The details of the above are available in 11th sites thip disposettle fishingsangeviniff and http://finands.gov.inif. Objections/Suggestions would be considered from any person or body to the said proposeds. They can author deficionalsaggestions in writing either to the M.C. HAIDA or to the Special Chief Sconstary, MA & UD Dept. Telangama Sconstards; Hydrostand within Fiftner [15] days from the R.O. No.: 243-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2023-24

#### Sebi to mandate addl disclosure for high-risk FPIs PNS NEW DELHI ic interest and control rights. ments raise the concern and

To bring greater transparency in the Indian capital markets, Sebi on Wednesday came out with a proposal mandating enhanced disclosures from high-risk Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) that have concentrated holding in a single

company or a group firm. These proposals are aimed at preventing possible circumvention of minimum public shareholding (MPS) requirements and potential misuse of the FPI route to guard against

the inherent risks of oppor tunistic takeover of Indian companies, Sebi said in its consultation paper.

The proposal has its genesis in the Adani stocks issue where Sebi could not identify the beneficial owners of some foreign portfolio investments in Adani stocks since the existing regulations are lax in identifying the true owners of many investments.

V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said, under the proposal, the regulator said



that high-risk FPIs with concentrated single group equity exposures or significant equity holdings will be mandated to

provide additional granular disclosure. They would be required to identify all entities with any ownership, econom-

"Such FPIs shall be required to provide granular data of all entities with any ownership, economic interest, or control rights on a full look through basis, up to the level of all natural persons and/or public retail funds or large public listed entities," it said. Sebi noted that some FPIs

have been observed to concentrate a substantial portion of their equity portfolio in a single investee company/compa-

Such concentrated invest-

possibility that promoters of such corporate groups, or other investors acting in concert, could be using the FPI route for circumventing regulatory requirements such as that of maintaining Minimum Public Shareholding. If this were the case, the apparent free float in a listed company may not be its true free float, increasing the risk of price manipulation in

such scrips," Sebi said. Also, the regulator has suggested categorising FPIs based

# the pioneer derabad

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Thursday June 1, 2023

# attain liberation

This week for our weekly edition of Community Wise, The Pioneer connects with spiritual leader and founder of AiR-Atman in Ravi, founder of AiR Institute of Realisation and AiR Centre of Enlightenment, explaining to us about the foundation.

SHIKHA DUGGAL

re you looking for a spiritual leader who can guide you on your journey to self-discovery and enlightenment? Look no further than AiR — Atman in Ravi, the founder of the AiR Institute of Realisation and AiR Centre of Enlightenment.

This week for our special weekly column, with years of experience in the spiritual and personal development field, we get to know that the founder has helped individuals from all walks of life achieve inner peace, clarity, and purpose. This institute seemed very solitary, so, as a TEDx speaker and sought-after presenter too, he speaks to us and tells us, "The institute has been doing humanitarian work for the last thirty years, realising that serving humanity is like a prayer. Evolving from service to suffering humanity, it now tries to help people realise the truth. I am on a mission to show people the way to eternal happiness through enlightenment by helping

a mission to show people the way to eternal happiness through enlightenment by helping them move from the kindergarten of religion to the university of spirituality, to touch, trigger, and transform this world."

It is understood clearly that through his teachings and practises, he helps individuals realise the ultimate purpose of their lives. He continued, "We expect our organisation to be one that will become a beacon of light to help one that will become a beacon of light to help people overcome the darkness of ignorance. To help people go on a quest and realise the truth! To help people on the path of self-real-

isation, spiritual awakening, and realisation. To help people achieve a state of peace, bliss, and joy. Therefore, we expect our organisation to slowly transform this world from being a material one to a spiritual one."

AiR — Atman in Ravi's unique approach emphasises the importance of self-awareness, meditation, and mindfulness to achieve inner peace and happiness. Besides, "Our strategy is very simple: overcome ignorance and realise the truth; ask, investigate, and realise; don't believe the myth you have grown up with; evolve in spirituality; not just serve and do good karma but transcend karma. This strategy is based on the principles of the truth!" His teachings are grounded in spirituality and are not associated with any specific religion or belief system, making them accessible to individuals from all backgrounds. Anybody can realise God. It is not tuality and are not associated with any specific religion or belief system, making them accessible to individuals from all backgrounds. Anybody can realise God. It is not those who work in the faith community or those who are professionals in the secular field. If you really want to experience God, you must realise that God cannot be seen, touched, or felt. God is in me, God is in the butterfly, God is in the bee, and God is in the tree. God is in every molecule. Everything is a accessible to individuals from all back-grounds. Anybody can realise God. It is not those who work in the faith community or those who are professionals in the secular field. If you really want to experience God, you must realise that God cannot be seen, touched, or felt. God has to be realised. God God is in every molecule. Everything is a manifestation of God. Consequently, it needs enlightenment, not religion or any other dogma, ritual, or superstition."

It was his spiritual mentor who guided him to go on a quest to realise the true purpose of existence. Who is he? What is the purpose of his life? Is life just meant to seek pleasures to help people transform their lives!

and to live and die without any purpose? What happens after death? Will he be reborn? Several questions like these took him on a quest to evolve from the peak of achievement through fulfilment to enlightenment, which is the ultimate peak, to realise that we are not this body, mind, and ego; we are the divine soul. So this is what inspired him to realise

the truth! Moreover, "After the light of enlightenment has shown itself on me, not just life has been transformed, but there has also been a transformation from misery to bliss. From running through this rat race to living a life of divine grace It is not just a transformation; it is a metamorphosis, living as the soul—the spark of unique life—not as the body, mind, and ego

songs, or Jeevan sangeet; and over 1400 bhajans are written and sung. He also conducts Zoom talks every day, where live

Case in point: "People approach him every day on Zoom. People write e-mails, and they contact each other through WhatsApp. People have asked how to deal with life's issues in stressful situations. How to overcome fear, worry, stress, anxiety, and danger How to be happy How to face death How to understand the complicated subject of rebirth People have asked quesed subject of rebirth People have asked qualitions, and my institute has helped people step by step to overcome these things. These are not pieces of training in the physical world that are called 'motivation', these are spiritual 'inspira-tions' that go

deep and touch the soul."



# Disha is all 'minimalistic' when choosing her jewellery lowing for her ability to get into the skin of different characters. Especially those parts that

AMARTYA SMARAN

ctress Disha Patani shares a rather spe-Acial connection with the city of Hyderabad. She made her acting debut with Puri Jagannadh's *Loafer* (2015). A year after that, the resounding success of *M. S. Dhoni: The* Untold Story catapulted her to instant stardom. At the time, people affectionately called her 'National Crush'. Today, she enjoys a great folrequire complex action sequences.

Well, once again, Disha was here in Hyderabad, where she'd paid a visit to the Taj Falaknuma Palace, celebrating the rich legacy of Shiv Narayan Jewellers Pvt. Ltd., which

achieved

remarkable feat of

bagging eight Guinness World Records. The Radhe actress describes herself as someone who's minimalistic when it comes to her jewellerv choices. She doesn't really prefer wearing heavy designs. However, to be fair, the designs created by the makers are on the heavier side. Although heavy, the craftsmanship and elegance

of each piece are astound-

opulence of the set pieces swept Disha off her feet and allowed her to set her minimalist ideology aside for a while. The Pioneer questioned her about how she decided to sign up for or represent a brand. Particularly when it doesn't align with her ideology. Celebrities are usually extremely careful when it comes to representing brands of any kind. The Project K star walked into the Darbar Hall of the Falaknuma Palace in a superb all-black one-piece and sport-

ed a stunning, shiny diamond necklace.
"I usually choose brands that I resonate with. If I didn't resonate with something, I would not do it. And I feel that at this point in time, I can choose, and I just feel like I have changed as a person, and I like to do things that I really want

to do," said Disha. The *Bharat* actress signed up for two big-budget films: *Kanguva* and *Project K*. The former is a period action drama, and the latter is a mix of sci-fi and mythological drama. It's a no-brainer that these two films will have room for heavy

set pieces and, most certainly, some jewellery. The stunning actress was almost about to spill the beans regarding her projects but remained tight-lipped, saying, "I may get into trouble if I reveal anything about it... I don't know (haha)!"

Talking about one design that she doesn't really like, she said, "I have very small ears. So, anytime they give me very heavy-weighted jewellery, My ears can't take it. Any piece of design that is extremely (X2) heavy, I avoid

for my ear."

On the contrary, she played an important part in Jackie Chan's *Kung Fu Yoga*, where she sports a jewellery-heavy look. Asked about it, she wrapped up by saying, "That's a movie, and that's my job. I can't complain about that. I'm working with Jackie Chan! And the last thing I should be thinking about is my jewellery (haha). So, it didn't really matter."

Actress Disha Patani, who was here in Hyderabad recently, speaks to The **Pioneer** about how she keeps her choices minimalistic and simple when it comes to her choice of jewellery.

## Relax, revive, and restore with massage therapy for your overall well-being

assage therapy has been practised for centuries and is known for its ability to promote relaxation, reduce stress, and alleviate pain. Whether you suffer from chronic pain or anxiety or simply need to unwind after a long day, regular massage therapy can pro-vide numerous benefits for

your physical and mental well-being.

Anoop Singh, Director of Operations at Red Orchid Spa, shares five benefits of incorporating massage therapy into your self-care routine:

#### **Reduces stress and** anxiety

Stress and anxiety can significantly impact your overall health and wellbeing. Regular massage therapy can help ease the physical and mental symptoms of stress, including muscle tension, headaches, and diffi-culty sleeping. In addition, different types of massage, such as Swedish, deep tissue, or aromatherapy, can target specific areas of the body and promote relaxation.

Massage therapy can improve blood circulation and lymphatic flow, which can help remove toxins from the body and improve overall health. Regular massages can also help increase flexibility and range of motion, making it easier to perform daily activities and reducing the risk of injury.

#### **Relieves pain and** nuscle tension.

Massage therapy is commonly used to treat chronic pain and muscle tension. Deep tissue massage, trigger point therapy, and myofascial release are all techniques used to release stress and lighten pain in specific areas of the body. Regular massage therapy can also help prevent chronic pain and muscle tension.

#### **Boosts immune sys**tem function

Massage therapy has been shown to boost immune system function, which can help reduce the risk of illness and disease. These therapy ses-

sions can also reduce the production of cortisol, a hormone associated with stress that can weaken the immune

#### Improves mental health and well-being

It can significantly impact mental health and wellbeing, reduce symptoms of depression and anxiety, improve mood and energy levels, and promote feelings of relaxation and well-being. Different types of massage, such as aromatherapy or hot stone massage, can also provide additional mental

nealth benefits. Incorporating massage therapy into your self-care routine can benefit your physical and mental wellbeing. When choosing a massage therapist, research their credentials and experience to ensure you receive safe and effective treatment. You can also consider trying different types of massage to find what works best for your individual needs. Making massage therapy a regular part of your self-care routine can improve your overall health and happiness.



# what's brewing?

'I have always wanted to work with Sanjay Leela Bhansali,' said Jacqueline Fernandez

unshine girl Jacqueline Fernandez has been a part of some of the biggest blockbusters in her career. Her enlarged filmography is well-studded with some amazing films in which the actress worked with the prominent filmmakers of the industry and keeping ahead the spree the next dream direc-tor in her wishlist is ace filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali. In an interview, when asked about her dream actor and who would she like to work with, Jacqueline says "To be completely honest with you, I have always wanted to work with Sanjay Leela Bhansali. I know my answer is not an actor but a director. But it's because I feel one of my biggest inspirations for entering Bollywood was Devdas and just seeing his work. I remember watching it and thinking, "Wow, how is this even possible? Everything is so beautiful and dreamy." He has so much depth in his cinema. So I would say working with him would be any actor's dream as he brings out so much in them." Apart from this, Jacqueline has been making the audience go gaga over her dazzling aura at different award ceremonies and tours. While she ruled the stage of the 68th Filmfare Awards with her electrifying performance, she truly grabbed every eyeball at Da-Bangg Tour, ahead of which her dance

performance at the recently held 23rd IIFA Awards took over the heads of the audience. Meanwhile, on the work front, Jacqueline will next be seen in Fateh alongside Sonu Sood, while she also has Crakk alongside Vidyut Jammwal and Arjun Rampal in her future lineup.

Muzigal launched its 5th state-of-the-art music academy in Sarjapur, Bangalore. The academy is spread over 2700 sqft and boasts an unmatched ambience that is highly conducive to the learning of music, including vocal and instrumental.



#### **LISTINGS**

#### **Save the Date: TEDxHyderabad's** 9th Edition promises a day of inspiration and transformation

EDxHyderabad launched the 9th edition of its highly-anticipated annual event which is scheduled for Sunday, September 17, 2023, at Pradhan Conventions, Gachibowli. This full-day immersive experience promises to ignite the power within individuals, fueling their ambitions and desires with the spark of curiosity and inspiration.

Renowned actor and TEDxHyderabad speaker Rana Daggubati, set the ball rolling with an exciting event for the poster release of TEDxHyderabad 2023. Witness the action in this captivating video here. Under the theme of "Ignite," TEDxHyderabad 2023 embodies the transformative power of a single idea or moment of inspiration that can ignite a revolution, fueling progress and change. This full-day event is dedicated to nurturing the flame of passion within us, empowering attendees to embark on new ventures and ignite their ambitions. This year TEDxHyderabad will bring together 12-16 speakers from diverse backgrounds to share their ideas and experiences of how a tiny spark can ignite a blaze of inspiration and possibility. TEDxHyderabad 2023 expects to host approximately 1500-1700 attendees who are eager to engage with these exceptional speakers and participate in the thought-provoking discussions that TEDx events are known for.



#### **Haier India sets a** benchmark in AC segment

riven by its ethos of customer inspired innovation, Haier Appliances India (Haier India), the global leader in home appliances and the world's number 1 brand in major appliances for 14 consecutive years, announced the exemplary performance and milestone for Haier Kinouchi 5-Star Heavy Duty Pro air conditioners. Awarded as the 'Best Innovative Product of the Year', it cools the room 20x faster and provides optimum



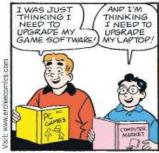
cooling even at extreme temperatures of up to 60 degree celsius In line with the 'Make in India' and 'Make for India' strategy, Haier has been expanding its product range in India, focusing on innovations that offer energy efficiency, durability, and convenience to its customers. Haier combined the perfect blend of innovation, design, and energy proficiencies in Kinouchi Heavy-Duty Pro Air Conditioner series.

#### Savor the goodness of summer with Amazon fresh super value days

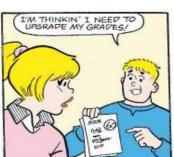
mbrace the summer season and find respite from the heat waves and sweat by indulging in a variety of delicious and refreshing fruits. Enjoy season's favorite fruits and vegetables – from juicy watermelons to luscious mangoes, from crisp cucumbers to vibrant bell peppers at great offers from Amazon Fresh's Super Value Days from June 1 to 7. Stock up on all your favorite fruits, vegetables and summer treats and curate recipes that keep you cool and healthy. Avail up to 45% off on popular brands including Sunfeast. Kwality Walls, Fortune, and Daawat, among others at home with convenient delivery

#### **ARCHIE**



















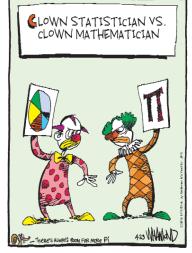
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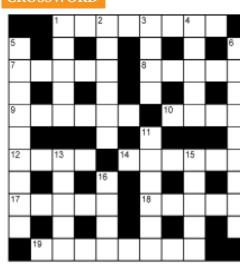
#### REALITY CHECK



# SPEED BUMP



#### CROSSWORD



#### **NANCY**







#### **GINGER MEGGS**







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- 8 Prepared
- 9 Breathe in 10 Say this to make a person or animal go away
- 12 Small rodents 14 The language spoken
- in Paris 17 Loud sound
- 18 Not decorated 19 Sightseers
- DOWN

3 A female horse

4 A dog's lead

 Use scales to do this 2 A stinging plant

16 Expensive SOLUTION

5 The things you need

6 A musical instrument

that you hit with a

11 Make wine from these

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13 The capital city of

Egypt

15 Gets closer

for doing something

# tollywood

Bellamkonda Ganesh considers himself as a 'successful actor'

PNS | HYDERABAD

ctor Bellamkonda Ganesh, who made a successful debut with the Swathimutyam, is getting ready for the thriller film Nenu Student Sir. Directed by debutant Rakesh Uppalapati, the film is produced by 'Nandi' Satish Verma under the banner SV2 Entertainment. Avantika Dassani is

playing the female lead.

Speaking to the media here in Hyderabad, the actor shared, "I always feel like a student. There are many situations in real life. Real incidents have been shown in a very unique way in this movie, and it will create a lot of curiosity till the end. You can't guess who the real villain is until the climax. We can

guarantee that one hundred percent."

The film has a story written by Krishna Chaitanya, whereas the screenplay and direction are by Rakesh.

"When Krishna Chaitanya narrated the story, I got extremely connected to the emotion and character arc in it. My character in Swathimuthyam is innocent from the beginning to the end. There are different shades in *Nenu Student Sir*. I really liked the character arc of how he got out of the trouble that he faced at the end and a lot of pain and tension in

Many big heroes have played the role of a student in their second film, and Ganesh feels this film will add more content to his career graph.

Producer Satish Verma gained enough with Nandi, and Ganesh feels that a film coming from a hit film company naturally means that the distributor and exhibitors also have a belief. "Satish Varma worked with a lot of passion for this moving. He used worked with a lot of passion for this movie. He used to come to the set first and leave last. Whatever the movie needs, it has been provided without compromise. High build values are visible," he added.

"When Swathimutyam was released, it was said to be a bad release date because it was coming together with Chiranjeevi and Nagarjuna's films. However, it got an amazing response on OTT. Wherever you go, you are praised for making a very good film. I consider myself successful as an actor in this regard. Now we have full confidence in Nenu Student Sir. I am coming with a good release date," he said about the average performance of his maiden film at the box office and what he expects from his upcoming film's release.

his upcoming film's release.

Speaking about Samudrakani's character in this film, he shared, "Samudrakhani garu is a big advantage to this movie. His screen presence is captivating. And he's got a very good character with enough meat. His acting gave the character more weightage."

On the work front, Ganesh is next doing a crime comedy, which is completely different from his previous films.



### **Rockstar DSP's fans go berserk on** Malaysia's *Oo Solriya* tour

Rockstar DSP's much awaited *Oo Solriya* tour just happened over the weekend and here's everything you've missed out on. Fans have been eagerly looking forward to inside images and moments from the Malaysia tour. Fans who attended the tour cannot stop raving about the most entertaining night.

cannot stop raving about the most entertaining night.

Fans in Malaysia have not just swayed and tapped their feet to Rockstar DSP's beats in Malaysia but hooted, jumped and also sung along. Rockstar DSP's Malaysia tour has been the most memorable, happening and eventful night and weekend for an audience of different age groups. The images from the electric night are proof. Rockstar DSP knows how to entertain his audience and the craze for his music reflects on how music is always about connecting and enjoying to the fullest.

These images are giving strong energies and one can easily say the audience have enjoyed every moment of this tour. The ones

enjoyed every moment of this tour. The ones who couldn't attend have also shared how they would be looking forward to his next tour and more.

Sharing a heartfelt gratitude DSP says, "The Malaysia Oo Solriya tour was high on energy, performance and songs. The audience was so excited and it was reflected in their hoot-



ing and more. Music is always a connection of the heart, words just help to understand better and this response from a global audience is proof. This has been one of the best weekends and I will surely do more of it. I'm grateful for all the constantly pouring in love from across the world.

#### Indian languages highlighted at the British Parliament House



**♦** The United Nations World Day for Cultural

The United Nations World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development was marked at the British Parliament's House of Lords recently, during which 18 languages of India were presented and highlighted. The founder of Sanskruti Centre, Dr. Ragasudha Vinjamuri, in addition to presenting her own poem in Telugu, spoke on the Tai Khamti language of Arunachal Pradesh. She highlighted how Tai Khamti language is on the verge of decline and how NGOs like Tai Khamti Heritage and Literature Society are working bard Heritage and Literature Society are working hard on language preservation. Also, on the occasion, an age-old rhyme, 'Koh-aui-Koh', translated into English by Chow Kalingna Mannoi, was included in the booklet Ramaneeyam – the

Expression brought out on the

occasion. Baroness Rt Hon Sue Garden rendered the opening words, outlinthe opening words, outlining the significance of Telugu, diverse languages and commended the organisers for bringing together meaningful linguistic content. Poems, mostly self-authored by different diaspora members in the UK, were presented, and rare scripts such as Takri, Sharda, and Mithilakshar were highlighted during the event

## Dhanush's Hathavidi highlights Naveen's sad life in a funny style

nushka Shetty's next movie is *Miss Shetty Mr Polishetty.* Written and directed by
Mahesh Babu P, the movie has Naveen Polishetty as the male lead. As announced earlier, the makers have released the second single from the movie.

Titled *Hathavidi*, the song is a tragicomedy about the sad life of Siddhu Polishetty, played by Naveen Polishetty, and the heartbreak he is suffering. The song is composed by Radhan, with lyrics penned by Ramajogayya Sastry. It is crooned by the well-known actor Dhanush. The lyrics are captivating and the composition is

The film also stars Murali Sharma, Jayasudha, Tulasi, and others in sig-nificant roles. Produced by UV Creations, the movie is a pan-

South project and will be released this summer in Telugu, Tamii, Kannada, and Malayalam.



# Operation Ravaan promises a mystery filled action thriller

akshit Atluri, who won critical acclaim with Palasa 1978, is Coming up with a unique film, Operation Raavan. Bankrolled by Dhyan Atluri under the Sudhas Media banner, this new-age action-suspense thriller has Rakshit Atluri and Sangeerthana Vipin in the lead roles.

The film has completed the shooting and is currently undergoing postproduction work and is all set to hit the screens soon. Ahead of the film's release, the 'First Thrill' from the movie was launched on Wednesday. and the directors Maruthi and Kalyan Krishna attended this event as chief guests. With this first thrill glimpse, it is understood that the film is a mystery action thriller that revolves around psycho killings. Holding the caption 'Your Thoughts are your Enemies, the film

teaser raised curiosity.
Speaking at this event, director
Maruti said, "It is rare for a father to direct his son and that rare incident happened to Raavan. Prasad is a good friend of mine. He has a lot of passion. He used to make films carefully. Palasa and London Babu are examples of that. One fine day, he said that he has written the story and he is directing it as well. I was surprised. Later, after a few days, he showed me the teaser of the

film, and it was very promising."

Speaking at this event, director Kalyan Krishna said, "I have heard the name of Rakshit from most of the



directors who are planning to do some innovative films. I think that is his success. Anyone can do regular stories. I wish all his upcoming films Operation Raavan, Narakasura and Sasivadana to be big hits."

Actress Radhika said that it was during the event that she'd got to know that the director and the hero are father and son. She further continued, "When I heard this story, I asked about the hero in the film and the director said Rakshit is going to play the lead actor role. However, as I don't know who Rakshit is, he asked me to watch Palasa. I saw Palasa. I liked the movie very much, and I saw it again. In this film, the director and his team have never compromised on getting a great output. A lot of effort has been put in, and I can say their hard work will not fail. All the artists in this film have done their part very well. They are all seasoned artists. The director's job is just to bring out their talent, and he has done it perfectly. I always wanted to do

different roles. If Telugu films like this come out for me, I will adjust my dates and will give high priority to those films. Rakshit is a very hard-working and sincere person. His eyes speak a lot. All the best to everyone." Actor Rakshit thanked the digni-

taries who had graced the event and said, "The first success of our film happened when Radhika Garu agreed to do this movie. My father, Venkata Satva Vara Prasad, who is my life, has directed this film. He established Sweet Magic in 1995. We used to have nothing at those times. But now he has given jobs to thousands of people through Sweet Magic. There would be no one in Andhra Pradesh who does not know about the sweet magic. Now, he has taken the megaphone with Operation Raavan. I hope this movie will get recognition across the nation. He gave his best as a director and he used to be on the sets early in the morning before everyone else. He has handled the film very well, and that is the reason for our confidence. During a Palasa event, I requested the audience to watch the film, and if anyone doesn't like it, they can grab my collar. Now again, I could say the same with the same confidence. heartfelt thanks to everyone who worked on this film. Also, I could never forget the support of my brother and my mother in the journey of this film. It is irreplaceable."

#### Kamal Haasan to play a negative role in *Project K*



irector Nag Ashwin's Project K featuring pan India star Prabhas, Bollywood Megastar Amitabh Bachchan, and Deepika Padukone is a highly anticipated film. This is a never before science fiction drama being made in Indian cinema and the makers are mounting on a huge budget.

Every now and then the team of Project K teases the fans with an update but it's hard to understand given the context. Perhaps for the first time rounds on social media and it excited the fans. The rumour is Universal hero Kamal Haasan has signed to be part of Proiect K.

If the rumours are to be believed, Kamal Haasan is playing a negative role and he has allotted 20 days for the film's shooting. The rumours had also claimed that Kamal is also getting paid a bomb and it is said that Rs 150 crore.

However, according to a few reports, Project K has wrapped up nearly seventy percent of the shoot and Kamal coming on board for this project doesn't make any sense. Moreover Rs 150 crore remuneration isn't believ-

There is a chance that Kamal might have been approached for a voice over or a cameo role. Yet these are just rumours and the team of Project K has to clarify or acknowledge them. But if it is true, Project K becomes mightier with the addition of the actor.

#### Bus carrying Pushpa 2 artistes meets with accident in Telangana

Two persons were injured when a bus carrying film artistes who were returning to Hyderabad from neighbouring state Andhra Pradesh after shooting of *Pushpa 2*, met with an accident in Telangana's wo persons were injured when a bus carrying film Nalgonda district on Wednesday.

The bus carrying the film artistes hit a stationary RTC bus near Narketpally on Hyderabad-Vijayawada highway.

Two artistes sustained minor injuries in the accident.

The artistes were returning to Hyderabad from Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh after completing a shooting schedule of *Pushpa 2* starring Allu Arjun.

The RTC bus driver had stopped the vehicle by road-side after developing some technical problem. The driver of the bus carrying the artistes failed to notice the RTC bus and rammed into it. The makers of the movie had last

month released the first look poster of Pushpa: The Rule, the much-awaited sequel of Pushpa: The Rise. The makers had released

the poster and a special video on the eve of Allu Arjun's birthday. Directed by Sukumar,

the movie is likely to release in summer of 2024.

#### Venkatesh concedes criticism, promises improvement in Rana Naidu season 2

ictory Venkatesh debuted in the digital space with the Netflix-backed web series Rana Naidu. Although the show garnered a high viewership on Netflix, Venkatesh and his nephew Rana Daggubati faced trolling and criticism. Venkatesh has been busy shooting for his next project and has recently been unavailable to the media.

Venkatesh Daggubati has finally responded to the reception of his series Rana Naidu during a press meet for the film Ahimsa. When asked about the reaction from fans, Venkatesh stated that Netflix is happy



with the response and they had attempted something new with the

Venkatesh acknowledged that it is not always possible to please every section of the audience. Regarding the second season, Venkatesh mentioned that since Rana Naidu is original content, they will consider making alter-

ations and try to reach a wider audience. He expressed that they would discuss Rana Naidu in the future but kept his initial response short and simple.

Expressing his satisfaction with the response to the show, Venkatesh stated that he always tries something new and will explore the possibility of making changes for the second season of Rana Naidu.

Venkatesh is set to resume shooting for his film Saindhav in June, with a scheduled release date in December

Directed by Sailesh, Saindhav is an action thriller.

# Mahesh Babu's film with **Frivikram titled**

mass and powerful title, Guntur Kaaram, is locked for superstar Mahesh Babu's 28th film under the direction of Trivikram Srinivas.

On superstar Krishna's birth anniversary, the makers released a small glimpse to announce the title and also the tagline- Highly Inflammable.

Guntur Kaaram is a powerful title and the tagline offers mass euphoria to the super fans. S Thaman's high-octane music with oora mass background score creates a double

As the title suggests, the story of the movie is set against a Guntur backdrop, and Guntur Kaaram seems to be high on action and mass, laced with family elements.

Mahesh Babu transformed himself into a slick and stylish get-up to play an action-packed character in the movie.

Trivikram Srinivas, who brings the best out of his actors, will be presenting Mahesh Babu in a never-seen-before avatar.

S Radhakrishna of Haarika & Hassine Creations is prestigiously making the movie on a massive budget, with Pooja Hegde and Sreeleela playing the heroines.

The movie *Guntur Kaaram* is set to make

Sankranthi festivities more entertaining, as

the movie is arriving for the festival.



# ICC seeks PCB assurances on team to India for ODI World Cup

**¬**he International Cricket Council (ICC) chairman and CEO are in Lahore to seek guarantees from the PCB that it will not push for implementing a hybrid model for its matches in the ODI World Cup in India later this year.

Insiders confirmed to PTI that ICC chairman Greg Barclay and CEO Geoff Allardice have specifically come to Lahore to get some assurances from the Pakistan Cricket Board on the national team's participation in the World Cup in October-November.

The development comes after PCB chief Najam Sethi made it clear that the team will not travel for the World Cup in India if the Rohit Sharma led side doesn't visit Pakistan for the preceding Asia Cup.
"The ICC and World Cup

hosts, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) are concerned with the hybrid



model being pushed by Najam Sethi who heads the cricket management committee of the

"Although the hybrid model has been suggested by Sethi for the Asia Cup which precedes the ICC event, the concern remains

that once accepted for the regional event the PCB might also then ask the ICC to implement it for the World Cup when it comes to Pakistan playing in India," he explained.

Sethi has already indicated that if the Pakistan government

Another source said this was the primary reason why BCCI secretary Jay Shah was still reluctant to accept the hybrid model for the Asia Cup and support having three or four match. es of the tournament in Pakistan and the remaining games in UAE or Sri Lanka.

India would guarantee the success of Indo-Pakistan matches

and also the tournament itself."

Pakistan are the hosts of the Asia Cup and Sethi has said repeatedly that if the tournament is moved to one neutral country from Pakistan, it will not take part in the competition.

He has also hinted that if

Pakistan didn't get to host some Asia Cup matches it could have an adverse bearing on the World Cup as well.

The ICC officials are trying to work as a bridge between the PCB and BCCI and resolve the outstanding issues pertaining to the Asia Cup and World Cup."

#### Indian bowlers focus on building workload ahead of WTC final

The Indian cricket team is focussing on building workload for the bowlers, who had an extensive run in the IPL, ahead of the World Test Championship final against Australia starting on June 7 at The Oval.

In the bowling department, while the likes of Mohammed Siraj, Shardul Thakur, Axar Patel, Jaydev Unadkat and Umesh Yadav were part of the first batch to travel to England, pace spear-head Mohammed Shami's departure was delayed as the IPL final in Ahmedabad last Sunday was moved to the reserve day after incessant rain.

The middle-order mainstay Virat Kohli was also among the players who left in the first batch along with the Rahul Dravid-led coaching staff. Kohli joined the camp on Monday along with Cheteshwar Pujara, who linked up with the squad in England as he was busy playing County

Championship for Sussex.

The Indian team is expected to have a few practice sessions at the Arundel Castle Cricket Club in Sussex ahead of the big final.

"The preparation has been good so far. The initial bit was to ease into the practice session but the last two sessions have been pretty happy — I think we pushed them a little bit. Just adding a little bit of workload for the bowlers, just kind of preparing them for the Test match," said India's bowling coach Paras Mhambrey in a video released by the BCCI.

"(We are) happy with the conditions, I think it is a lovely ground, (it is) kind of what you can



expect. The weather is holding up, it has been sunny, a little windy, a little chill but something that we have to get used to (when) playing in England," he said.

India's fielding coach T Dilip said the focus will be on close-in catching since the running part of the fitness drill was covered in the IPL.

"The players have been coming from an IPL so a key thing for us to take care of was the workload, how much they have run, how much they have taken care.

"What we understood and got out of that is things (like) ground fielding have been covered in the IPL, so the focus here was more on the volume of catching, especially when you are talking about close-in catching, the slip catching and the flat catches. These are the catches that we tend to increase the volume (of)," he said.

Mhambrey said while the bowlers will get some rest in days leading up to the WTC final, the group is determined to extract the maximum benefits from the training sessions.



#### Dhoni will take medical advice for knee injury and decide: CSK **CEO** Viswanathan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Chennai Super Kings captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni will be seeking expert opinion from sports orthopedics in Mumbai on the state of his dodgy left knee before taking a call on his treatment, CEO Kasi Viswana-

than said on Wednesday.

Dhoni had played the entire IPL season with a heavily strapped left knee and although he looked absolutely okay whil keeping, more often than not batted as late as No.8 and didn't look swift while running between the wickets.

Yes, it is true that Dhoni will be taking medical advice for his left knee injury and accordingly decide. If surgery is advised, it can only be ascertained after reports come out, it will be completely his call," Viswanathan told PTI.

Is there a possibility that Dhoni will decide against playing next season and thus free up a purse of Rs 15 crore for the mini auction, the CEO replied: "Frankly, we are not even thinking on those lines as we haven't reached that stage.

"It will be completely

Dhoni's call. But I can tell you in CSK, we haven't entertained those thoughts," Viswanathan

Asked if CSK supremo N Srinivasan addressed the players after the fifth IPL Trophy and if celebrations were in the offing.

"He is very happy but there were no celebrations. The players dispersed for their respective destinations from Ahmedabad only. Also if you have seen CSK, we are never big on celebrations," the veteran official

Asked if the fifth IPL title feels the sweetest, considering the spate of injuries to its top players, Viswanathan said: "It's all about team spirit and every player knowing his role which is very well defined in our set up.

"Even a player of Ben Stokes" stature despite his nature was brilliant around the group and the youngsters looked upto to him. This has been possible because of our captain.

What has been CSK's hallmark over the years which enabled them to reach final in 11 of the 14 editions that they have

been a part of? "I have been associated with CSK from season 1 and we have never deviated from our process. The key has been to keep things simple and explain every player what is expected of them. In our franchise, the skipper keeps everything uncomplicated," Viswanathan said.

CSK were barred from the league for two editions.

## Hazlewood praises Kohli's work ethics

doesn't give clearance or has

security concerns about sending

the team to India, PCB could ask

the ICC to hold Pakistan's

nor the BCCI want such a situ-

ation since Pakistan's unequiv-

"Naturally neither the ICC

matches at a neutral venue.

Australia pacer Josh Hazle-wood has spoken highly of Royal Challengers Bangalore teammates Virat Kohli and Mohammed Siraj ahead of the World Test Championship final against India at The Oval starting June 7. Hazlewood, who has been

battling with multiple injuries over the last six months, had to cut short his IPL stint with a side issue. However, he feels he is not far from bowling full tilt as Australia gear up for the big

Talking about Kohli, whose wicket he will be targeting at The Oval, Hazlewood said the Indian superstar's work ethic makes him the player that he is.

"I think it's probably how hard he works (that stands out). His fitness first of all - and then his skill work and batting and fielding in particular.

"He is always out there (training) first and leaves last ... and the intensity he trains at all the time is at such a high level it drags everyone else along for the ride. That can leak on to the other players and improve them as well," Hazlewood told the ICC.

taker Siraj, who is expected to play a big part in the WTC final, Hazlwood said: "I was a bit late getting there (to RCB this year),



but before then he was on fire.

"He is up there at the top of the wickets every time, and the economy rate was probably the thing as bowling at Chinnaswamy (RCB's home ground) is impossible sometimes and he was going at six or six-and-a-half an over. His control was great and he is bowling well."

'CLOSE TO BOWLING

**FULL PACE:** The Australian cricket team has been training in Formby in England ahead of the WTC final. Hazlewood trained with the team on Monday and said he is feeling good going into

the big game.
"My fitness is pretty good and it is just a matter of ticking off every session from here until that date (June 7) basically. "We will probably have anywhere from three to four more sessions - bat versus ball and then a couple of longer days in the nets as well or centre wicket down in London — so it is just ticking off those last few boxes and pulling up well from every

session," he said. "It was pretty close (to full pace today). I came down for a little bowl yesterday just to

Former India selector Sarandeep Singh says picking KS Bharat over Ishan Kishan as the

wicketkeeper for the World Test

Championship final against Aus-

tralia is a no brainer and he

would also choose Umesh Yadav

over Shardul Thakur in the

Rishabh Pant, Kishan, who is yet

to play Test cricket, can provide

the x-factor but Sarandeep feels

Bharat walks into the eleven as

proper Test match wicketkeep-

er and we saw that against

Australia at home, he kept

superbly. He has been around for

a while and he should get the

"KS Bharat for sure. He is a

the frontline wicketkeeper.

In the absence of the injured

PTI NEW DELHI

playing eleven.

loosen up and to get a bit more out of today's session, so it is feeling good. It is always good to get the first one out of the way and when we get to London we will steam in," he added. Hazlewood could feature

in only three games in the IPL before his injury flared up.

"In T20 you are bowling a lot of various different balls every over. A wide yorker, to a bouncer, to a slower ball and it probably got jammed up a little bit and a bit of scar tissue from previous injuries flared up.

"It calmed down pretty quickly, I had a week off but I

didn't quite get back to going 100 percent at IPL. But the last few bowls have been good and I have been building up nicely," he

Having played as many as 15 Tests against India, Hazlewood is looking forward to the challenge of playing the Asian giants at a neutral venue.

"It is a strange stat that as I think I have just played a lot of cricket against them. What is going to be interesting is playing them here in England.

"It is going to be interesting for both teams how they go about it and how different it is to playing them in Australia or dia as typically you only play them there," he said.

That is the exciting thing about it and everyone is looking forward to next week," he added.

#### Stokes plans to play as allrounder in Ashes

England captain Ben Stokes eased concerns about his ability to bowl in the upcoming Ashes series because of longstanding knee issues and said Wednesday he is planning to play every test this summer.
"Unless I can't walk, I'll be

on the field," Stokes said with a smile the day before England begins its one-off test against Ireland, which serves as a warmup for the five-match

Ashes series against Australia.

After having knee issues during the tour of New Zealand in February, Stokes played only twice for Chennai Super Kings in the recently-finished Indian Premier League, sending down just one over for 18 runs.

However, the 31-year-old Stokes said his knee is much better than it was in New Zealand and he will take his place in the England team as an allrounder against Ireland at Lord's and then Australia.

"What I have done is I have got myself in a position where I'm not able to look back and regret or say I've not given myself the best opportunity to play a full role with the ball this summer," Stokes said.

"I've worked incredibly hard with the medical team in Chennai, liaising with the ECB



guys. I have got myself into a place where I feel like back at 2019, 2020 space in terms of my own body and fitness and everything like that."

Pushed about the exact nature of his knee problem, Stokes said: "We know what it is and it's about managing it."

"It's managing it with work-load," he added, "and working it with the med team just to get through it."

England has already named its team for the Ireland test, with seamer Josh Tongue making his debut while fast bowlers James Anderson and Ollie Robinson are rested. Ireland has lost all six of its matches since gaining test status in 2017. That includes a defeat against England at Lord's in 2019

Captain Andrew Balbirnie has said beating England would be "the biggest moment in Irish cricket history."

"I don't see any concerns



Lakshya, Satwik-Chirag too win, Sindhu makes early exit

PTI ■ BANGKOK

**▼**ndia's Kiran George scripted a Istunning straight-game win over world number 9 Shi Yuqi of China but double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu made an opening round exit from the Thailand Open Super 500 tournament here on Wednesday.

Ashmita Chaliha and Saina Nehwal also made winning starts to their campaign in women's singles, while Lakshya Sen and world number 4 pair of Satwiksairai Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also progressed to

the pre-quarterfinals. On a day when Kidambi Srikanth and B Sai Praneeth also failed to cross the opening hurdle, 2022 Odisha Open winner Kiran, a product of the Prakash Padukone academy, notched up a 21-18 22-20 win over third seed Shi Yu Qi, who is a 2018 world championships silver medallist. Kiran will take on

China's Weng Hong Yang next. His academy mate Lakshya also dug deep to eke out a hard-fought 21-23 21-15 21-15 win over Chinese Taipei's Wang Tzu Wei. He is likely to square off against All England champion Li Shi Feng of China.

Commonwealth Games champion and top seeds Satwik and Chirag too had to work hard to outwit the Danish combination of Rasmus Kiaer and Frederik Sogaard 21-13 18-21 21-17 in a thrilling match.

A former world champion,

Sindhu, however, faltered in the opening round, going down fighting 8-21 21-18 18-21 to Canada's Michelle Li in 62minute match. In other matches, Ashmita, who came through the qualifiers, beat compatriot Malvika Bansod 17-21 14-21, while London Olympics bronze medallist Saina defeated Canada's Wen Yu Zhang 21-13 21-7.

## WTC: Steve Smith expects batting friendly conditions at The Oval

ustralia's batting mainstay Asteve Smith is expecting batting friendly conditions at the The Oval for the World Test Championship final but feels they could face India like conditions as the game goes on.

The venue offers one of the best batting conditions in the UK with true pace and bounce. India are expected to play their frontline spinners R Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja in their bid to make the most of the conditions. "The Oval can present itself with some spin occasionally particularly as the game wears on so we could face some sort of similarities to what we had in India at certain stages of

the game. But The Oval is a wonderful place to play cricket in. Lightening fast outfield, the square goes whole way across the ground so it is a nice place to bat when you get in and has some decent pace and bounce for an English surface. Should be an absolute cracker," Smith told cricket.com.au ahead of the final beginning June 7. Australia recently lost the Test series in India 1-2 though

their spin play improved as the series progressed. Smith was the captain when the team won the third Test in Indore. "The WTC is a great initiative. It gives every game we play

a lot of relevance and for us to have qualified on top and face India in the final is incredibly exciting. It is going to be India and us at the Oval. "I am sure there will be plenty of fans out there, proba-

Smith is among the Australian batters who played county

bly more Indian than Australian but I am sure it is going to be great fun and guys are looking forward to it," he said.

cricket in England as part of the preparations for the WTC final and subsequent Ashes.

**Bharat over Kishan, Umesh over** 

**Shardul for WTC XI: Sarandeep** opportunity," Sarandeep told PTI on Wednesday. The WTC final will be played at the Oval

in London from June 7. The for-

mer India spinner said Kishan's time will come. "Ishan is an opener. I am not saying he is not capable of playing Tests. He is one for the future but he opens in limited overs cricket. Things will be different at number six. "Yes he goes hard from ball one, which can be counter productive in England, but Bharat can also bat well and

play shots also," he reasoned. 'Umesh's extra pace and old ball skills will come handy': Mohammed Shami and Mohammed Siraj, who were breathing fire in the recently-concluded IPL, will share the workload in the pace depart-

the moment."



ment and the Indian team will need to choose between Umesh Yadav and Shardul Thakur as the third fast bowling option.
"I am picking Umesh ahead

of Shardul because he has that extra pace and he can reverse the old ball, he can be very helpful on that Oval track," said

Sarandeep.
"All of India's batters are in good form going into the one off game and that bodes well for the



Yes, the conditions will be challenging in England as always and they will be shifting to Test mode from T20s. The weather can change on a daily basis and

India will have to adapt. "Facing bowlers like Starc, Cummins and Hazlewood is a huge challenge but we have a world class batting attack.

"Shubman is the only one who has not played a lot in England but he is in the form of his life and should do great things there," said the 43-yearold, who was part of the selection panel when India won the historic series in Australia in



### Pujara's inputs invaluable for Indian batters: Gavaskar

Cormer captain Sunil Gavaskar on Wednesday reckoned Cheteshwar Pujara could provide valuable insights to his Indian teammates ahead of the World Test Championship final against Australia, having played extensively in the English County Championship.

With Pujara's knowledge and captaincy experience (at Sussex), his inputs could prove invaluable, especially against Australian batter Steve Smith, who is also a part of his county side. The WTC final is scheduled to be

"The fact that he is been around will mean that he will have also seen how the pitch has been behaving at The Oval. "He might not have played at The

Oval, he might be in Sussex not too far

away from London but he will have kept

an eye on what is happening and his inputs will be invaluable as far as the bat-

held at the Oval in London from June 7-

Gavaskar also said the Indian batters, coming off the IPL, will have to adjust their bat speed ahead of the WTC final, and advised them to play as late as pos-

"I think they are going to look at their bat speed. Coming from T20 where the bat speed is very fast to Test cricket where the bat speeds got to be a lot more control, that is something they'll need to do," Gavaskar told Star Sports.

He also emphasized the need for batters to play as late as possible in English conditions, allowing for swing and avoiding the mistake of reaching out for the



"They'll need to play in England as late as possible to allow for the swing to do it's bit, not to reach out for the ball which often a lot of people make the mistake having played on good pitches.

"Wherever you play on good pitches, you tend to play through the line, not necessarily half volleys, but in England those deliveries can move just that little bit. So, I think those are the things that as a batter you need to watch out for." He asked the bowlers to bowl fuller length deliveries to allow the Dukes ball

"As a bowling unit also you'll need to bowl a much fuller length for your new ball, for the bowlers to be able to get the movement in the air as well as after pitch-

Gavaskar highlighted the challenges India would face playing in English con-

"I think the English conditions are challenging because firstly we are used to play with the sun on our backs. When you are playing in England, often you are playing in conditions where there is no sun, it's a little overcast, the weather is a little bit cooler, so you sometimes wear

a jumper. "That's something that you know, the Indian player, West Indian players and Sri Lankan players are not really used to so that can be just a little bit of a dampener, little sort of light but you just feel little bit encumbered by that.