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It's a grand final for us:





Doing Sarvam Shakthi Mayam was Priyamani's divine **CALLING**



QUOTE OF THE DAY

the pioneer

I am not cut out for commercial

politics. I am thinking of retiring

- Uttam Kumar Reddy, Congress MP

Removal of scientific...

The term coined as rationalism meant to reduce burden on students by removing chapters from textbooks has reached the next level, all thanks to the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

The group of council members decided to remove Periodic Table and Democracy from Class X textbooks. The removal of these concepts..

Increase jail term to 7 years

The Law Commission of India has recommended enhancing the jail term in sedition cases from a minimum of three years to seven years, contending that it would allow courts greater room to award punishment in accordance with the scale and gravity of the act committed. In a report on the 'Usage of the Law of Sedition', the Commission said its earlier report had termed the punishment...

Small tea growers for clusters...

Small tea growers (STGs) have submitted a status report to the Union Commerce Ministry highlighting the issues faced by them and also sought assistance from the government to achieve scale in their operations by setting up clusters.

in the status report prepared by engaging consultancy firm BDO India LLP, the apex body of STGs the Confederation of Indian Small Tea Growers Associations (CISTA) said that although...

-PAGE: 8

India shouldn't pick WTC XI...

India should not pick the playing XI for the World Test Championship final with a predetermined mindset like they did two years ago, says former chief selector MSK Prasad, who feels it would be very tough to fill the injured Rishabh Pant's shoes as his overseas feats are unparalleled.

India's move to pick two spinners — Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeia — in the 2021 WTC final against New Zealand backfired as pacers...



50 dead, over 350 hurt in Odisha triple train crash

Coromandel, Bengaluru-Howrah Express trains derail, hit goods train

PNS ■ BALASORE/HOWRAH

At least 50 people were killed and more than 350 injured in a horrific triple train crash on Friday in Odisha involving the Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express, the Shalimar-Chennai Central Coromandel Express and a goods train officials said train, officials said.

They said several coaches of the 12864 Bengaluru-Howrah train travelling to Howrah derailed at Bahanaga Baazar in Balasore district and fell on adjacent tracks.

"These derailed coaches collided with 12841 Shalimar-Chennai Central Coromandel Express and its coaches capsized too," a senior

A goods train was also involved in the accident as the coaches of the Coromandel Express hit its wagons after getting derailed, the official said.

The accident happened around 7 pm, he said.

Over 350 people have been admitted to different hospitals across the district, officials said, adding that all private and government hospitals have been put on alert in the nearby districts, including state Bhubaneswar.

So far, 50 bodies could be brought out from under the overturned coaches, they said.



TS poised to conquer more peaks

CM KCR lists out Telangana's achievements in 9 years

NAVEENA GHANATE ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao said that Telangana needs to cross many more milestones.

Speaking at the Telangana Formation Day function held at the Secretariat he said, "Telangana needs to cross many more milestones and conquer many peaks. With your blessings, I promise that I will continue to work for the all-round development of Telangana. The Telangana government is trying to spread the spirit of Telangana throughout the country. Telangana will progress into a prosperous state where everyone will prosper and have equal opportunities."

KCR said that another 50 lakh

acres will be irrigated in the next two to three years and the dream to provide irrigation to 1 crore 25 lakh acres in the state will be achieved

In his one hour and 26-minute speech, KCR said that Telangana has ushered in the golden age of welfare with the slogan 'Let's increase wealth and share it with others.

"In 2014, the per capita income of Telangana was only Rs 1,24,104. Due to the progress achieved by the Telangana government, today the per capita income of our state has increased to Rs 3,17,115. Telangana, which is only 10 years old, has a



TS per capita income soars to 3.17 lakh

O GSDP has increased to Rs 12,93,469 crore.

Within nine years, Telangana has become an inspiring state in many

higher per capita income than many big states. In 2014, the GSDP of the state was only Rs 5,05,849 crore, but today, the state GSDP has increased to Rs 12,93,469 crore. That is, despite problems like corona and

demonetization Telangana has recorded a growth rate of 155 per cent," KCR said. Listing Telangana's achievements

after its formation on June 2, 2014, after hoisting the national flag at the Secretariat, KCR said that the state's installed power generation capacity increased to 18,453 MW from 7,778 MW nine years ago.

Before hoisting the tricolour, KCR offered floral tributes to those who died during the TS movement at the Telangana Martyrs Memorial in the

"I made a promise as Chief Minister at the state formation meeting held at Parade Grounds on



KCR tones down criticism of Modi, recalls Indira's bias

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao and the BRS have toned down their criticism of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In his Telangana Formation Day speech in 2022, KCR had come down heavily on the Centre asking it to end the economic sanctions imposed on the state. One year after that, KCR made

no direct reference to the Centre in his speech. He didn't speak about any discrimination by the Centre in this election year.

In fact, he spoke about the 1971 Central Government which was led by Indira Gandhi.

"The Telangana Movement that began in 1969 was brutally suppressed. In the elections held in 1971, even though the public opinion came out supporting the demand for a separate Telangana, it was not accepted by the Central Government. As a result, the people of Telangana were deeply disappointed," KCR said.

BJP plans reverse celebrations

Emulating the Congress's protests against the BRS government's Decennial Telangana Formation Day celebrations till June 22, the BJP has decided to hold a reverse Telangana Decennial celebration to expose the bluff of the BRS. While the BRS

using the occasion to highlight its achievements in the last nine years, the BJP would organise programmes to expose the failures of the KCR government.

Sanjay held a meeting with senior BJP leaders to discuss the programmes to be taken up in the next



Telangana BJP President Bandi under the BJP Kisan Morcha's banner on June 3 to expose the antifarmer policies of KCR. On June 4, the party will launch

programmes to expose the misuse The BJP will hold protest rallies of the law and order machinery by

the government. On June 5, it will hold protests on the power crisis and the abnormal increase in power tar-



Uttam may quit, blames 'commercial' politics

PNS HYDERABAD

Nalgonda Congress MP N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said that he is not made for commercial politics and that he is thinking of retiring from

In a chit-chat with journos on Friday at the Gandhi Bhavan, Uttam said that he thinks that Lok Sabha and Assembly elections will be held simultaneously. He said that the BJP wants to go for elections with Modi's charisma. The Congress stands to gain if both elections are held at the same time, he said.

Uttam said that if Sarath Chandra Reddy becomes an approver, the

No change in TS in 9 years: Meira



will be a death blow to AAP. He said that he does not know whether YSRTP chief YS Sharmila will join the Congress or not.

Some areas of Karimnagar, Suryapet, Bhupalpalle, Asifabad, Kothagudem, Mulugu and Khammam recorded more than 45 degrees Celsius.

Damacherla

till June 13

sizzles at 46.8c,

heat to continue

Telangana recorded the hottest

day of the year so far with the tem-

perature touching a new high of

46.8 degrees Celsius at Damacherla

in Nalgonda. Mutharam in

Peddapally recorded 46.4 degrees

GHMC recorded this season's highest maximum temperature on Friday in Khairatabad (42.7°C) and Gachibowli (42.3°C). Sheikpet, Musheerabad, Kukatpally, Secunderabad, BHEL, Charminar, Asifnagar and Uppal recorded 41 degrees Celsius. The rest of the city witnessed 40 degrees Celsius.

Experts said the situation will continue till the monsoon arrives around June 14, although mixed weather is expected in some places. "Summer and isolated pre-mon-

soon rains will continue till June second week.



CEC wants officials with 3 years of service at one place transferred

PNS HYDERABAD

The Central Election Commission (CEC) has started the process to hold Assembly elections in five states including Telangana. The CEC directed the Chief Secretaries of all the five states to transfer key officials in the Revenue and Police departments, who have completed their three-year term. The CEC also asked the CSs to complete the exercise before July 31 and to submit reports regarding this.

The CEC also directed the CSs to

keep officials who have been facing criminal cases away from the election process. The CEC directed the CSs not to post inspectors and subinspectors in their own districts.

The CEC asked the CSs to take a declaration from officials participating in election duties that they have no connections with any of the candidates contesting elections. The CEC is going to conduct Assembly elections in Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Mizoram November/December 2023.

PNS HYDERABAD

Pointing out that Sonia Gandhi agreed to the creation of Telangana after seeing the sufferings of Telangana, former Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar said that she is happy that nine years have passed since the formation of Telangana. But it is sad that the situation in

Telangana has not changed in the last nine years. The problems of Telangana farmers and workers are the same as it was earlier, she said.

Hyderabad, you will know the situation in Telangana. Sonia and end the suffering of Telangana.



The Congress will work hard to of Telangana people.





People should not take calls from 'unknown' numbers

PNS NEW DELHI

Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw urged people on Friday to not pick mobilephone calls from "unknown numbers" and asserted that measures taken by the ministry have resulted in a significant reduction in spam calls and cases of cyber frauds.

"People should never pick calls made from unknown numbers. I request every citizen that they should respond to calls from only (telephone/mobile) those numbers they recognise," he told reporters. He was responding to a question about spam calls and cyber frauds.

Vaishnaw said his ministry had and cyber frauds. Over 40 lakh from such callers, the minister said.



wrong SIMs and 41,000 wrong "points of sale" agents were blacklisted, he added.

The use of artificial intelligence has helped significantly to reduce these cases, he said. People should recently launched the 'Sanchar respond to unknown numbers only Saathi' portal to prevent spam calls if an identification message is sent

Demands 'Khap mahapanchayat'in Kurukshetra PNS ■ KURUKSHETRA (HARYANA)

A "khap mahapanchayat" here on Friday demanded the arrest of outgoing Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, accused of

sexually harassing some women

wrestlers, and gave the government

time till June 9 to act on its demand. The meet deliberated on the next steps to be taken in the agitation pertaining to the wrestlers issue.

Talking to reporters after the "mahapanchayat", Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait said WFI chief Singh should be arrested.

intensified by holding panchayats across the country and the wrestlers will return to Jantar Mantar in Delhi for protest.

Representatives of various khaps He said they are giving the govand farmers' outfits reached the Jat ernment time till June 9 to act on the Dharamshala from different places, demand, else the agitation will be including Haryana, Punjab, female grapplers, including a minor.

BKU chief Tikait said that they are giving the government time till June 9 to act on the demand, else the agitation will be intensified by holding panchayats across the country and the wrestlers will return to Jantar Mantar in Delhi for protest.

Arrest WFI chief Brij Bhushan by June 9th

Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

Farmer outfits had held a "khap mahapanchayat" in Uttar Pradesh and a series of protests in Punjab and Haryana on Thursday, showing solidarity with the wrestlers who have accused Singh of sexually harassing

CRICKET LEGENDS SUPPORT WRESTLERS



PNS NEW DELHI

Members of the 1983 World Cup winning cricket team on Friday came out in support of the protesting wrestlers and urged them not to take any hasty decision while hoping that players' issues will be

"heard and resolved" In a joint statement, the 1983 triumphant team said it was distressed and disturbed after seeing the visuals of wrestlers being manhandled but also hoped that law of the land will prevail.



June 2: Bouquets & brickbats get swapped

momentous day for everyone in Telangana. It was the day for which the people of Telangana fought for decades, and finally, after many sacrifices, including the ultimate sacrifice by hundreds, in the two-stage historic movement spanning decades, Telangana became a separate state inside India.

Behind the passionate Behind the passionate struggle for a separate state were the hopes of the people of Telangana. These hopes, in a nutshell, revolved around two primary things: firstly, ownership and control of resources like water (Neellu), finances (Nidhulu) and jobs (Niyamakaalu), and secondly, social justice for all sections (Saamajika Telangana).

Although the Kalvakuntla Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR)led BRS government in

water over these dreams and has taken the state backwards in many things in the last nine years, today will be a day to remember and thank all those who contributed to realising the Telangana state.

To begin with, I want to congratulate and share my best wishes with the people of Telangana on the ninth anniversary of Telangana Formation Day.

Starting today, Telangana enters the tenth year of state-hood, and I wish Telangana and all Telanganaites suc-

I pay homage to the Telangana Martyrs who sacrificed their lives for a Telangana state. Without their sacrifices, Telangana would not have become a reality today. Not just this generation

Behind the passionate struggle for a separate state were the hopes of the people of Telangana. These hopes, in a nutshell, revolved around two primary things: firstly, ownership and control of resources like water (Neellu), finances (Nidhulu) and jobs (Niyamakaalu), and secondly, social justice for all sections.

Telanganaites will be heavily indebted to them. It becomes the duty of every Telanganaite to strive sincerely towards the kind of Telangana they dreamt of to repay at least in part the debt we owe them.

I pay tributes to the late Atal Behari Vajpayee, whose steadfast belief that smaller states would benefit the country by improving administration and speeding up development provided the ideological support for the creation of smaller states in general and Telangana in particular. Another national leader to

whom Telangana is indebted is the late Sushma Swaraj. The affable leader, fondly called Telangana Chinnamma (mother's sister), made a case for Telangana's statehood in Parliament like no other leader. No Telanganaite can forget the passionate pleas she made to the ruling party and its leaders to bring a Bill granting statehood to



KISHORE POREDDY

Telangana, assuring them they would get hundred per cent support from the BJP for passing the Bill. Moreover, her motherly appeal to the youth of Telangana not to commit suicide but to live for Telangana showed her affecthis occasion, I take the opportunity to remember her and pay my respects.

I also thank the BJP, the first national party to support Telangana statehood by passing an official resolution in 1997, long before the second stage of the struggle for Telangana gained traction. This support by a national party laid the foundation for the second stage of the TS movement that would soon start in earnest. At the same time, I would

like to thank all intellectuals, poets, artists, activists and leaders of the BJP, the then Telangana Rashtra Samithi, the Congress and the Communist Party of India, who put aside politics to project the singular will of the Telangana people for a sepa-

Although the present government, led by KCR, has been callous and even became antagonistic towards them after the state's formation, the students, especially those of the Osmania and Kakatiya Universities, and government employees who spearheaded the Sakala Janula Samme (All People's Strike), deserve our thanks and respect for their

steadfast and untiring partic-

ipation in the movement for

statehood.

I also thank all those TS leaders who were ignored and on some of whom even the police were unleashed by our very own Telangana government after the state's formation. Although the KCR government had mistreated you, Telangana is grateful for your contributions.

I also wish a happy Telangana Formation Day to

participated, supported and helped, but also to those who opposed a Telangana state and became dearest to our Chief Minister KCR like Asaduddin Owaisi of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul-Muslimeen (AIMIM), and the leaders of the CPM.

And finally, I wish our Education Minister, who as the then Home Minister unleashed the police and filed numberless criminal cases, and the leaders of all politi-cal parties who disparaged, ridiculed and even personally attacked those fighting for a Telangana state, but are today ministers and MLAs in the BRS, a delightful Telangana Formation Day.

Jai Telangana.

(The author is BJP

BJP leaders are not home guards

Sanjay blasts Revanth

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana BJP president Bandi Sanjay lashed out at TPCC President Revanth Reddy for commenting that Sanjay is unable to run the Telangana BJP unit.

"I cannot change parties like Revanth does or bribe the leaders of other parties like he had done in the note-for-vote case. One should ask senior Congress leaders like K. Jana Reddy, N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy and T. Jagga Reddy on how Revanth is running the Congress," he said.

"Everyone knows in whose hands the Congress is. We have to wonder why the party did not even get deposits in Huzurabad, Dubbaka, GHMC and MLC elections. Our senior leaders are real bosses. In Congress, even seniors are home guards. Why can't the Congress find candidates? I cannot criticize my own party leaders on social media,"

Sanjay said. Ón BRS Working President the BJP has no address, Sanjay said KTR's father knew very

well where the BJP was. 'We have proved our strength in the GHMC elections. Ours is not a party where son and daughter become leaders basking in the glory of their father," he

Sanjay said the BJP has Kishan," he said.



been winning elections, while the Congress was losing deposits everywhere. So, people know very well who has the capability to run parties.

"We don't have leaders who make comments against their own party on social media. The Congress is unable to find candidates to contest elections," he said.

Ours is not a family party. We are not a party where a daughter or son can become CMs using the name of their fathers. We are not a masked party. A person who did not hoist the flag during the for-mation of Telangana is not eligible to contest in Telangana. Darussalam should be locked for not hoisting the national months, when we come to power, we will seize Darussalam and give it to poor Muslims. We celebrated September 17 as TS Liberation Day. We also officially organised the Formation Day of Telangana. That credit goes to Union Minister Kishan Reddy. The Centre was convinced by

'TS is now a family's slave'

K VENKATESHWARLU

Telangana has become the slave of a family and that the people of Telangana want a government free of interfer-ence by the family, Union Tourism Minister G. Kishan Reddy said.

Addressing the gathering after hoisting the national flag on Friday at the Golconda Fort marking Telangana Formation Day, Kishan said that corruption has increased all over the state.

The land mafia, the Dharani mafia, the liquor mafia, the sand mafia, the job mafia, the TSPSC leakage mafia, the Dalit Bandhu looting mafia, the contractors' mafia, the sheep distribution



mafia, the double bedroom

house mafia, the coal mine mafia, the house construction permission mafia and the lake encroachment mafia are run-

ning Telangana," he said. Reminding that the late BJP leader Sushma Swaraj strived hard to create a Telangana state, Kishan said that the credit for creating Telangana state does not belong to any family or party. He said the BRS government

has been engaging in corruption involving thousands of crores instead of spending money on development and social welfare.

Kishan said that tribal people will get reservations only if reservations on the basis of religion are ended. The farmhouses of leaders are increasing but there are no doublebedroom houses for the poor, he said.

The BRS government is giving top priority to Telangana betrayers while giving posts. The BRS leaders' families have become golden families but not Telangana. The BRS government has been filing false cases against journalists, opposition parties and social activists for questioning the BRS government. The BRS government ment. The BRS government has been mocking democracy by encouraging anarchy, he

Kishan asked whether the State needs a Secretariat and a Pragati Bhavan which do not allow people inside.

He hoped that the rule of the people will be established in Telangana and that family rule

Launch another movement to attain TS goals: Sharmila

PNS HYDERABAD

YSRTP President YS Sharmila said that another movement must be launched if the objectives of the Telangana movement failed to materialise.

She said in her tweet that there is a need for YSR's welfare rule in Telangana if people want agriculture to be profitable and to fulfil the dream of having their own house and development. Sharmila said the YSRTP

questioned the government when Telangana's assets went into the hands of the KCR

She said that YSRTP raised its voice on KCR's assurances like interest-free loans, KG to PG free education, unemploy-



She said that Telangana became a reality when the three crore people of Telangana fought for water, funds and jobs. But the dreams of the Telangana movement are disappearing in Telangana state, she added. Sharmila recalled the long

struggles and sacrifices that enabled the attainment of a

Schemes must reach villages in TS: Guv

PNS HYDERABAD

Wishing all the people of Telangana Happy Statehood Day, Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan said that the development schemes of the to Hyderabad, must reach the remote villages. They should uplift the underprivileged and downtrodden. Sakala Janula Sarvatho Mukhabhivriddhi (comprehensive development for all sections) should be the aim of Telangana's development, she

They deserve access to

employment opportunities, water and funds, which they have fought for over six decades during the Telangana movement, she said.

Acknowledging the historic significance of the Tamilisai said that Hyderabad has got a name for innovation, agriculture, national railways and life sciences. On asked whether she was

invited to the State's Decennial celebrations she said, "Following the instructions of the Centre, formation days of all states are being celebrated in Raj Bhavans.

50 dead, over 350 hurt in Odisha ... Continued from page 1

Several people were trapped under the derailed coaches, and locals were assisting emergency services person-nel to rescue them, but darkness was hindering the oper-

Railway Minister Ashwini ing to the accident site."Rushing to the site in Odisha. My prayers for the speedy recovery of the injured and condolences to the bereaved families.

Rescue teams mobilised from Bhubaneswar and Kolkata. NDRF, State govt. teams and Airforce also mobilised. Will take all hands required for the rescue ops," he tweeted.He also announced ex-gratia of Rs 10 lakh for the deceased, Rs 2 lakh for those grievously injured and Rs 50,000 for those who got minor injuries.Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik

situation, and will be travelling to the accident site early Saturday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was distressed by the accident, and spoke with Vaishnaw to take stock of the situation."Distressed by the train accident in my thoughts are with the bereaved families. May the injured recover soon. Spoke to Railway Minister @AshwiniVaishnaw and took stock of the situation. Rescue ops are underway at the site of the mishap and all possible assistance is being given to those affected," he

Four units of the Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF), three units of NDRF and 60 ambulances were working to rescue the injured, officials said.

The Odisha government has issued helpline 06782-262286. The railway

(Howrah), 8972073925 (Kharagpur), 8249591559 (Balasore) and 044-25330952 (Chennai).

Expressing concern over the accident, in which a large number of people from West Bengal were involved, Chief Minister Mamata itoring the situation along with the chief secretary and other officials.

'We are coordinating with Odisha government and South Eastern Railways for our people's sake. Our emergency control room has been activated at once with numbers 033- 22143526/ 22535185. All out efforts for rescue, retrieval, aid and assistance initiated," she

Bengal Chief Secretary HK Dwivedi said the state was sending a team led by minister Manas Bhunia and MP Dola Sen to the spot.

KCR asks Centre to support victims

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Chandrashekhar train mishap of Coromandel Express near Bahanaga railway station in Baleshwar dis-

trict of Odisha state. The Chief Minister expressed regret that it is a most unfortunate incident. He expressed his grief over the death of several people and seriously injured in the ghastly train accident. CM KCR expressed his deepest condolences to the bereaved families and requested the State and Union Governments to take steps to provide better treatment to the injured and extend adequate support to the families of those who lost

TS poised to conquer...

Sukla Paksha

8:59 AM to 10:36 AM

1:51 PM to 3:29 PM

10:16 AM to 11:45 AM

Amritakalam: 07:11 PM to 08:42 PM Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:48 AM to 12:40 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Mostly Sunny

5:44 AM to 7:22 AM

Continued from page 1

TODAY

ALMANAC

Tithi:Dwadashi

Trayodashi:

Nakshatram: Anuradha:

Rahukalam:

Varjyam:

Temp: 39[∞]

Humidity: 32%

Sunrise: 5:41 AM

Sunset: 6.48 PM

Yamagandam:

Month & Paksham:

On that day, I assured people that I would shape Telangana in such a way that the nation would learn from Telangana and that it would be a benchmark for India. Within nine years, Telangana has become

an inspiring state in many fields," KCR said.

We took a step forward with the slogan "Telangana should be rediscovered, Telangana should be rebuilt," he said. Assuring all-round development, he said his government will distribute titles for 4 lakh

Continued from page 1

The Chief Minister spoke

about the appreciation given

by the Centre on various mat-

ters and compared

Telangana's schemes with the

The only reference to

"Telangana State ranks first

Prime Minister Narendra

Modi was about the Har

in the country in providing

potable drinking water to every household. While West

Bengal is at the bottom of the

country's largest states, Prime

Minister Narendra Modi's

home state Gujarat is third.

The Centre is implementing a scheme called "Har Ghar Jal

Yojana" emulating Mission

Bhagiratha," KCR said on

Centre's schemes.

Ghar Jal Campaign.

KCR tones down criticism...

acres of 'Podu' lands to 1.5 lakh tribals from June 24. The Chief Minister said that 1.50 lakh families will be given 'Dalit Bandhu' benefits in the scheme's second phase. Under the scheme, Rs 10 lakh will be given to a Dalit family for setting up a business of choice.

Centre refused to buy paddy.

"With 7,000 grain buying

centres, the government is

going to the doorstep of all

farmers and collecting grain

at a support price. So far the

government has purchased

6,76,00,000 tonnes of grain.

refused, the Telangana gov-

ernment bought all harvest-

ed grain at the support price

and handed over the money

to the farmer on time," KCR

Minister's home state, a

power holiday is announced

in each district daily, but in

Telangana there are no crop

holidays or power holidays.

That is why the Telangana

Model has become a topic of

discussion across the country

"In Gujarat, the Prime

Even though the Centre

Uttam may...

Continued from page 1

It seems that some elders from the Congress have spoken to her, he said.

He said that the BJP's momentum is decreasing and that a 'Insiders versus Outsiders' battle is going on running in the party.

He said that politics has turned commercial after 2018 and that it would be an honour to leave commercial politics. Uttam said that since he has spent 30 years in politics it would be better to quit politics in next October or November.

It may be recalled that Uttam has been saying that politics have become commercial after his wife Padmavathi Reddy lost in the Huzur Nagar by-poll in 2019 to BRS candidate Sanampudi Saidi Reddy.

Continued from page 1

Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik

and Bajrang Punia, who have been demanding the arrest of

Wrestling Federation of India

(WFI) chief Birj Bhushan

Sharan Singh for alleged sex-

No change in TS...

The Congress aim is to move forward inclusively. Whenever you call me I will come to Telangana with one objective. Congress government should be elected to power in

Participating in the Telangana Formation Day celebrations at Gandhi Bhavan on Friday, Meira Kumar thanked Sonia Gandhi for understand $ing \ the \ sufferings \ of \ Telangana.$

wrestlers, took their protest to

Haridwar on May 30 but did

not carry out the threat of

had detained the wrestlers for

violation of law and order

holy river Ganga.

immersing their medals into

Ón May 28, the Delhi Police

lems. Only Sonia Gandhi understood the problems of

the constitutional framework. It is ridiculous to say that Telangana was created against constitutional norms, she said. Earlier, former Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar paid floral tributes to Telangana Martyrs at the Gun Park and to the statue of her father Babu Jagjivan Ram at Lal Bahadur Stadium. Later, she flagged off a rally of the

Continued from page 1

Telangana," she said.

Everyone has cheated the

people of Telangana. No one has heard Telangana's probTelangana," she said Meira Kumar said that Telangana was created within

Congress to Gandhi Bhavan.

without permission. The Police also cleared the protest site and made it clear that the wrestlers will not be allowed back at Jantar Mantar.

the new Parliament building

The police action against the wrestlers had invited criticism from different quarters.

BJP plans...

Continued from page 1

Similar programmes would be held on various issues like the crisis in the industrial sector on June 6, corruption in the irrigation sector on June 7, encroachment of lakes on June 8, the lack of welfare schemes for SCs, STs and BCs on June 9, against the massive corruption in all sectors on June 10 and injustice to artistes and poets on June 11.

The BJP is planning a reverse run under the Yuva Morcha and Mahila Morcha banner on June 12 to counter the "Telangana Run" being organised by the government. The protests would contin-

ue and on June 13 a programme will be held to expose the injustice being done to women and lack of proper healthcare facilities, the derailment of local bodies on June 15 and 16, tribal issues on June 17, lack of drinking water supply on June 18, misuse of Central funds for afforestation.

Damacherla...

their lives in the accident.

Continued from page 1

We will have a delayed monsoon onset in Telangana between June 14 and 16 and it will be a weak onset unlike in the last few years. So I request farmers to postpone sowing to June 14.

From June 3 mixed weather is expected with strong heat and scattered premonsoon storms. Complete respite from heat is expected only after June 13," weather expert T.

Balaji said. "Dry weather is expected till Saturday. Thereafter, isolated light to moderate rain/thundershowers are expected in the remaining days of the week. Maximum temperatures are expected to be range from 39oC to 44oC, while minimum temperatures are expected to range from 26oC to 29oC from June 3

Updated: June 2, 2023 5:00 PM Friday. He recalled that the today," the CM said. to June 9," he added. when they marched towards ual exploitation of women Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisem of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

CRICKET LEGENDS SUPPORT...

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GOVT OFFICIALS HOIST FLAGS ACROSS THE CITY

Hyd offices abuzz with **Formation Day spirit**

The city was filled with a celebratory spirit on Friday as Telangana Formation Day on June 2 was commemorated with great enthusiasm. Officials and government bodies joined in the festivities by hoisting the Indian flag, marking the 10th year of Telangana formation. The government had called for grand celebrations known as "Telangana Dashabdi Utsavalu" (Decennial Celebrations) to honour this milestone.

The High Court for the State of Telangana took part in the Formation Day celebrations. Justice P Naveen Rao, Senior Judge of the High Court, unfurled the national flag on this significant occasion. The event featured cultural activities closely tied to the heritage of Telangana.



RM Dobriyal, Chief Forest in Telangana's journey over the Conservation Officer, stated, The achievements of the forest department in the 10 years of Telangana development are memorable." He raised the national flag in the presence of officers, employees, and staff at Aranya Bhavan, the Forest Department's headquarters, as part of the celebrations.

Dobriyal highlighted the significance of Haritha Haram

Cyber Crimes DCP Ritiraj, who served as the chief guest for the 10th anniversary celebrations of Telangana State, unfurled the national flag at the Police Commissionerate in Cyberabad. Tributes were paid to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives during the Telangana movement, followed by a salute from the police security personnel.
DCP Ritiraj acknowledged

that Telangana state came into existence on June 2, 2014, through the sacrifice of Telangana martyrs and the efforts of activists. She praised Telangana police for their exemplary work in all departments, serving as a role model for the country. The police force in Telangana tirelessly maintains peace and order, making the state one of the safest places in the country.

Initiative to protect tigers at Kawal Tiger Reserve

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

As part of its environment and wildlife conservation efforts, Hyderabad-based Gland Pharma is working closely with Wildlife Conservation Society (India) for tiger conservation at Telangana's Kawal Tiger Reserve.

Tigers face a number of threats, including habitat loss, poaching, and conflict with humans. In accordance with the Wildlife Protection Act (1972), Gland Pharma is undertaking greening the Kawal reserve's area, restoring the degraded forest land and promoting agro-forestry. These efforts are aimed at establishing a healthy prey base for the tigers in the reserve. A food abundant area also induces tigers to reproduce and helps establish viable ecosystem in the region. Gland Pharma is also creating bio-fence hedges for farmlands protecting the farmers' standing crop from wild species and reducing human-animal conflicts.

RTC staff role crucial in TS movement: Sajjanar Sajjanar highlighted

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

VC Sajjanar, Managing Director of Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC), stated that the RTC played a pivotal role in the Telangana movement, with its employees leading the strike that united the people. He said that the RTC employees were fearless and committed to the cause of a separate Telangana, even at the risk of

their lives and jobs.
The TSRTC officials organised Telangana Formation
Day celebrations at Bus
Bhavan on Friday. VC Sajjanar, who was the chief guest at the event, unfurled the national flag. A tribute was paid to the martyrs who made the ultimate sacrifice during the Telangana movement, followed by a salute from TSRTC security person-

During the event, Sajjanar highlighted the significant contribution of RTC employees to the Telangana movement. He mentioned the 29the significant contribution of RTC employees to the Telangana movement

day strike from September 19 to October 17, 2011, in which 56,604 employees participated. Their dedication and efforts played a crucial role in achieving the goals of the movement. By bringing the wheels of the buses to a halt, RTC employees effectively rallied the people and ensured the success of the strike. Their role in the Telangana movement has

Sajjanar also acknowledged the sacrifices made by numerous individuals during the first and third phases of the Telangana movement.

been etched into the annals of

He further mentioned that

TSRTC has introduced numerous programmes over the past nine years, all inspired by the spirit of the Telangana movement.

With the support and goodwill of the people, as well as the assistance of the state government, TSRTC is progressing by providing better and quality services. Sajjanar expressed confidence in the bright future of TSRTC, with the cooperation of the people and the dedicated efforts of its employees.

He assured that the organisation will continue to introduce more programmes for the convenience of passen-

New court hall opened to cover Keesara jurisdiction

PNS HYDERABAD

Malkajgiri Bar Association District Court Complex in Medchal-Malkajgiri district inaugurated its new court hall at the DIET land on Friday. The new court hall, known as the III AJCJ-cum-III MM Court, will handle matters pertainwill handle matters pertaining to the Keesara PS Jurisdiction.

Principal District Judge BR Madhusudhan Rao was the chief guest for the inauguration ceremony. The dignitaries, including MLA Mynampally Hanmanth Rao, were welcomed by the members of the Bar Association.

With the new court hall officially inaugurated, it will now be fully functional, starting from June 2. This facility is expected to enhance the efficiency of legal proceedings and contribute to the effective administration of justice within the Keesara PS iurisdiction.

Furthermore, in celebration of the State Formation Day, the Malkajgiri Bar Association organised a flag ing court complex. The event, held at 9:30 am, was a patriotic tribute to the state's formation and was attended by many members of the Bar Association.

'TS is fastest growing state with 13.95 growth rate'

past decade, emphasising that

the support of the govern-

ment and society has led to

tangible green outcomes.

Telangana has achieved envi-

ronmental protection mile-

stones that surpass those of any

other state in the country. He

called upon every forest officer

and staff member to continue

their hard work and make

Telangana the most livable

PNS HYDERABAD

Dr MCR HRD Institute, Director General, Benhur Mahesh Dutt Ekka, said that Telangana state, with a growth rate of 13.9%, during the last five years, has emerged as the fastest growing state in India. The officers, faculty and staff at institute celebrated the 10th year of the Telangana Formation

During his address, Benhur Ekka, said, "The government conceptualised and launched a number of innovative schemes, including Mission Kakatiya, Mission Bhagiratha, Rythu Bandhu, Rythu Bhima, Ease of Doing Business, Innovative IT Initiatives, Haritha Haram, Aasara Pension, etc. On account of this, the state has emerged as



a model one, committed to the twin goals of development and welfare, and is being emulated by other states, across the country. All these initiatives resulted in the overall development of the state, especially the weaker sections." "The state government is setting up the Hyderabad Pharma City over an area of 19,000 acres, which will be first

of its kind in India with new international benchmarks", added Benhur Ekka.

He called upon the officers, faculty and staff of the institute to impart high quality training to the employees, at different rungs of administrative hierarchy, in order to empower them to achieve the cherished goals of

Govt hospitals set an example in healthcare

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

City-based doctors said that the growing number of gov-ernment hospitals and the advanced equipment is putting them at par with private hospitals. Reminiscing the progress made by Telangana Government on the occasion of Formation Day, doctors said that the private hospitals in the city are witnessing a decrease in the inflow of patients from other districts as the government is setting up several hospitals in each district making healthcare more accessible to the rural population. Since its formation in 2014, the Telangana government has made significant strides in improving the health indicators of the state. The doctors highlighted the noteworthy decline in maternal mortality rate, infant mortality rate, and under-5 mortali-



Dr Satish Reddy, a Senior Neurologist in Jubilee hills said, "Previously, there were a lot of patients visiting private hospitals to access healthcare from across Telangana. But over the last few years, we are noticing a shift in those numbers. The number has certainly decreased and it is because of new hospitals coming up in the districts. Patients are also gaining trust over the govern-

ment healthcare. It seems that almost 70 per cent of the births were in government hospitals last month.

There are currently 868 Primary Health Centres equipped with 3,908 beds. Basti Dawakhanas and 4,745 sub-centres have further strengthened the primary healthcare infrastructure across the state.

Dr Latha, a Gynecologist at Sowmya MS Hospital said,

"Women with minor issues in Uterus would come all the way over to Hyderabad from a remote village for a checkup because local government hos-pitals did not have the equip-ment to diagnose. Sometimes, this causes minor issues to become worrisome like cancers. But women now have access to basic care through Basti Dhawakhanas. We keep in touch with our patients and now ask them to visit their local hospitals for follow up. They may not be as sophisticated as the multi-specialty centres but they are able to ensure that a minor issue does not become a problem that requires advanced healthtech.

While government hospitals are gaining recognition for their quality healthcare services, the doctors stressed the importance of transparency in the state's healthcare system.

RPF rescues eight children in AHTU operation

PNS HYDERABAD

The Railway Protection Force RPF's Cyber Cell. has rescued eight child trafficking victims and detained four traffickers. The operation was conducted in collaboration with the NGO Bachpan Bachao Andolan and was based on

tinuous data analysis by the

Telangana Express from its starting point of jurisdiction into Secunderabad Division, Ballarshah, and conducted targeted raids from Ballarshah to Hyderabad. The operation was

Trafficking Unit (AHTU) of RPF Secunderabad Division and Uttar Pradesh state. Upon reachinvolved in keeping a close ing Hyderabad railway station, National Commission for The RPF appealed to the passeninvolved in keeping a close watch on suspected coaches to identify and pinpoint the seat and coach numbers of the traf-

The operation was successful and eight child trafficking vic-

intelligence generated from concarried out by the Anti-Human tims were rescued along with year, RPF Secunderabad human trafficking and plans to RPF Inspector of Hyderabad coordinated with GRP, along with Venkateshwarlu, BBA, State Coordinator and Railway childline, attended and forwarded to GRP for further legal action. This

Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) is conducting a campaign from June 1 to 30, focusing on prevalence of child labour at railway stations and RPF is committed to its efforts to end

gers and public to report any suspicious activity and to support its efforts to protect the most vulnerable members of society from

the cruel and inhumane prac-

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
Tribal Welfare Engineering Department NIT. No. SE/TWHYD/170 to 175/2023-24, <u>Dated: 31.05.2023</u>

Name of the Works: Construction of Sub Centres and GCC DR Depots. No of works - 6 package works. Total Cost of 6 package works Rs.168.00 Lakhs, Bid Submission Starting Date: 05.06.2023 at 5.00 PM and Closing Date: 20.06.2023 at 3.00 PM.

Further details https://tender.telangana.gov.in//. Ph: 9492770365.

Superintending Engineer Tribal Welfare, Hyderabac

Anewa group to sponsor 26 students' graduation

PNS HYDERABAD

Anewa, an engineering services provider with multi-disciplinary capabilities in plant design, detailed engineering, along with JNTU officials identified 26 meritorious students for the scholarship programme for the year 2023.

Anewa proposed to sponsor these students till the completion of their graduation based on their current financial status. In the year 2022 also, 26 meritorious engineering students who were in need of financial assistance were provided with scholarships. As advised by



committee, apart from supporting VMF, Anewa porting VMF, Anewa needs financial support for explored the possibility to their higher education.

the Anewa Board to CSR sponsor the students of an engineering Institution which Members present were Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary, IT Índustries, Commercial Director, Sabibullah, Dr A Jayalaxmi Principal, JNTUH, UCESTH, Dr V Padmavathi, Training and Placement Officer and Sudheer, representative for CSR activities.

Anewa is a group company of NPCC, Abu Dhabi. It has a strength of around 600 engineering staff to service upstream, midstream and downstream oil and gas companies by providing engineering design and detailing services in process

Home Minister extols state's achievements

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Home Minister Mohammed Mahmood Ali said that this is the time to be celebrating the progress made by the state of Telangana under the leadership of Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao. On the occasion of Telangana state's birth anniversary, the Minister took the opportunity to extend his greetings to the freedom-fighters, Telangana activists, families of the martyrs, public representatives, and the general public who took part in the Telangana movement.

The Minister hoisted the flag at Sangareddy district Headquarters on Friday. During the occasion, Minister Mahmood Ali said Telangana is a role model for the entire country, stating that the state had become a progressive force in just nine years of its existence.

tices of human trafficking. TELANGANA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD REGIONAL OFFICE: HYDERABAD 4th Floor, PODUPU BHAVAN, Hyderabad Collectorate Complex, Nampally Station Road Hyderabad - 500 001, Ph.No. 040-23205367, E-mail: ee-hyd-tspcb@telangana.gov.in **ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION**

n Accordance with the Notification No.S.0 1533 D1, 14th September, 2006 and its subsequent circulars date 3.10.2006 & 26.10.2006 of Ministry of Environment, Forests and climate Change (MoEF&CC), Govt of India, Ne Delhi, we hereby notify the Environmental Public hearing for the Proposed M/s. Sri Vinayaka Minerals, proposes mini n an area of 12.1406 Ha to extract Quartz and Feldspar. In grant of LOI for quarry lease area notice was issued by the Director of Mines and Geology, Hyderabad Government of Telangana vide notice no 2087/R2-3/2018-7 date 28.04.2018. Terms of reference for preparing the EIA report as part of obtaining prior environmental clearance for Production capacity of 2,28,642 m³/Annum of Quartz & 1,37,185.20 m³/Annum of Feldspar, was obtained vide letter No SEIAA/TS/OL/MBNR-69/2021 Dated 26.10.2022 at Sy.No. 171 of Gundumal Village, Kosgi Mandal, Narayanpi District (Formerly Mahabubnagar District), Telangana State. As per the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climat Change (MoEFCC), Government of India (GOI) issued notifications No: S.D No 1533, dated 14th September 2006 Under Environmental (Protection) Act 1986 public hearing required. The details of the project activities given by the

M/s. Sri Vinayaka Minerals, Sy.No. 171 of Gundumal Village, Kosgi Mandal, Narayanpu District (Formerly Mahabubnagar District), Telangana State. Name & Address of the Name of the Project M/s. Sri Vinayaka Minerals: - QL area: 12.1406 Ha - Quartz and Feldspar mine Sy.No. 171 of Gundumal Village, Kosgi Mandal, Narayanpet District (Forme Location of the Proposed Project with Survey Nos. Mahabubnagar District), Telangana State. Name of the authorized Sri. T. Narasimha Reddy 18/3, Raji Reddy Nagar, Champapet, Hyderabad. person to be contacted with address & Phone Numbers Ph: 9704491111 M/s. Ampl Environ Pvt.Ltd., 2-22-144/A, Novodaya colony, Usha Mullapudi roac Kukatpally, Hyderabad -500072. PH: 9885253445.

Capital Cost of Project (Total) INR Rs. 120.0 Lakhs Opencast semi mechanized mining for 2,28,642 m³/Annum of Quartz & 1,37,185.2 ine of activity and Capacity m³/Annum of Feldspar in an area of 12.1406 Ha Date/Time/Venue of

03.07.2023 at 11:00 AM in the proposed Quarry Lease area in Sy.No. 171 of Gundum: Village, Kosgi Mandal, Narayanpet Dist. (Formerly Mahabubnagar Dist.), Telangana State. Place of availability of executive summary (Telugu & English) & draft EIA report of the proposed project.

Office of the Collector & District Magistrate, Narayanpet District.

Office of the Revenue Divisional Office, Narayanpet, Narayanpet District Office of the General Manager, District Industries Centre, Narayanpet District

Office of the Chief Executive officer, Zilla Parishad, Narayanpet District. Office of the Member Secretary, Telangana State Pollution Control Board, Paryavaran Bhavan, A-3, Industria Sanathnagar, Hyderabad-500018.

Office of the Central Pollution Control Board Office, Nisarga Bhavan, Thimmaiah Road, 7th D Main Ro Shivanagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560079.

Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, Ministry of Environment Forests & Climate Change, 3rd Floor

Aranya Bhavan, Saifabad, Hyderabad, Telangana - 500004 Office of the Department of Environment, Forests Science & Technology, Govt. of Telangana, 4th floor, Aran

Office of the Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Zonal Office, 6-3-1219, Block- C Ward No.91, Uma Naga Near Country Club, Begumpet, Hyderabad-500016.

0. Office of the Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, TSPCB, 4th Floor, Collectorate Complex. Nampally

. Office of Thahsildar, Kosgi Mandal, Narayanpet District.

R.O. No: 248-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2023-24

Office of the Gram Panchayath, in Gundumal Village, Kosgi Mandal, Narayanpet District.

3. The Executive Summary (Telugu & English) are available in the following Grampanchayat Offices. Office of the Gram Panchayath, in Mudireddipalli, Appayapalli, Amilkuntla, Kommuru, Pagidyala & Govindaplli Village Kosgi Mandal, Narayanpet District.

Suggestions; Views, comments and Objections of the Public, if any, are invited within 30 days from the date of Publication of notification from all Persons including Bonafied residents, environmental groups and others located a Project site/sites likely to be affected by the proposed expansion project. All the above Person can also submi vritten suggestions/objections to the under signed officer of the T.S. Pollution Control Board and can also Participate n the public hearing on the ate, time and venue specified above. lace: Hyderabad

Sd/- Environmental Enginee T.S. Pollution Control Board Regional Office, Hyderabad

Removal of scientific learning a boon or bane?

HYDERABAD

The term coined as rationalism meant to reduce burden on students by removing chapters from textbooks has reached the next level, all thanks to the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

The group of council members decided to remove Periodic Table and Democracy from Class X text-

The removal of these concepts has received concerns from teachers, parents and education experts who question how children learn scientific basis of universe, if they are questioned on lithium discoveries in Kashmir after Class X. What can they write and on the other hand there are opinions that this chapters removal might be a refresher taking today's context and



Senior Professor Nageshwar said, "It is an absolute lack of commitment towards democratic values. Recently, a sceptre was installed instead of the national flag which talks about monarchy rule. Earlier, we knew that chapters of evolution were cut off. So, they don't want children to learn the scientific basis of the universe. Science can-

not be learnt with religion. The concepts elementary in nature cannot be missed with rationalisation in English and Mathematics. Will they remove grammar from English and addition, subtraction from Mathematics? Rationalising must be appropriate.

Ritej, a parent of child entering Class X said, "Periodic table talks

about building blocks of elements. For instance, if a child is not taught on lithium, what they will understand on general knowledge when they read about lithium discoveries in Kashmir.'

Ritej, a parent of child

entering Class X said, "Periodic table talks

about building blocks

instance, if a child is

not taught on lithium,

understand when they

read about lithium

discoveries in J&K"

of elements. For

what they will

A group of teachers commented that the syllabus is continuous from Class I to X, in every class, the topic under each concept is made

ing relevance and weed out a few sections. I am sure a focused group of NCERT and experts would have done required due diligence while selecting the sections which are dropped. It is true that what was relevant to engineering students a few vears back like AI or ML and Analytics is today getting introduced at the school level. This only indicates that our school curriculum and courses need to be refreshed on the basis of today's context and relevance.

are taught in the beginning. So,

rationalising these chapters will be

less impactful considering stu-

dents must have been taught ear-

Dr Priti Nigam, PhD in

Philosophy, said there has been an

observation by academicians as

well as parents associations that post

pandemic there is need to make the

courses more relevant as per chang-



TS farmers are emerging as richest in the country

NAVEENA GHANATE

■ HYDERABAD

Telangana farmers are emerging as the richest farmers in the country. As per the Telangana government, agriculture has become a profitable sector today with new farming methods and farmer welfare schemes in the state.

The Telangana government has given a lot of attention to agriculture in the State. More than one crore acres have been irrigated since 2014. The area under cultivation in Telangana has been increased to 2.1 crore acres. Modern tillage techniques, quality seeds and the availability of timely fertilisers have increased crop production and productivity manifold. As part of farmer welfare, 27 lakĥ agricultural motors are being supplied with quality free electricity 24 hours a day.

The government spends Rs 10,000 crore annually for this. The government has spent Rs 36,179 crore to strengthen the power supply system. Rythu Bandu scheme has been introduced in the country with an



innovative approach to help farmers under the crop investment scheme. Investment assistance is being provided to 65 lakh farmers at the rate of Rs 10,000 per acre every year. From the 2018 monsoon season till now in 10 seasons together Rs 65,192 crore were directly deposited in farmers'

Today the Kaleshwaram project has made the Godavari a permanent source of life for 250 km. About 20 lakh acres of new ayacut have been developed. Telangana, once starving for a drop of water, is now brimming with water in more than 20 reservoirs. Free water is supplied through projects for agriculture in the State. With

price (MSP) and deposited the money into the farmers' While crops were grown in one crore acres in 2013-14 in the State, by 2022-23 the area under cultivation has increased the production of 2.18 crore tonnes of paddy, Telangana State has become the rice bowl

of the country. The capacity of

warehouses in the State has

increased from 9.9 lakh tonnes

to 31.9 lakh tonnes. Dividing

every five thousand acres of

land into a cluster across the

state, in total 2601 clusters

across the State Rs. 572 crores

and 88 lakhs have been spent

on the construction of Rythu

With seven thousand grain

purchase centres, the govern-

ment is going to the farmers'

doorsteps and collecting grain

at a support price. Thus so far

the government has purchased

six crore seventy six lakh tonnes of grain worth 1.21

to 2 crore 20 lakh acres. Telangana, once ranked 15th in grain production, is now competing for the top spot in the country. In 2014-15, the paddy crop was cultivated only in 34 lakh 97 thousand acres, but by 2022-23, it has increased to one crore 21 lakh acres. That is an increase of 247 per cent. In 2014-15, the cotton crop was cultivated on 41 lakh 83 thousand acres, and in 2022-23, it was cultivated on 50 lakh acres. That is a 20 per cent increase. When it comes to crop yield,

crore. Even though the centre

refused, the Telangana govern-ment bought all the harvested

crops at the minimum support

the yield of paddy in the state was 68 lakh tonnes in 2014-15 and Telangana has achieved a yield of over 3 crore tonnes in 2022-23. That is a 341 per cent increase. Also, cotton yield increased by 66 per cent.

Rs 108 crore deposited into farmers' accounts

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

District Collector A Sarath said, in a statement on Friday, that Rs 108 crore had been deposited into the accounts of farmers towards payment of paddy procured

by the State government. He said that so far 1,09752 metric tonnes of paddy was purchased from the farmers in the district. He said that Rs 58 crore

was paid to farmers who sold their produce and another Rs 50 crore was deposited into the accounts of the farmers on Friday. He said that a total of Rs

108 crore was deposited into the accounts of the He said that 5,000 metric tonnes of paddy was pur-

chased from the IKP communities and they would make quick purchases and move it to the rice mills. The Collector said that the

money would be deposited into their accounts quickly to the farmers who have sold

Telangana emerges as most progressive State: KTR

PNS RAJANNA SIRCIALLA

Minister for Information Technology K T Rama Rao on Friday asserted that "Telangana emerged as the most progressive State in just nine years under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Chandrashekar Rao."

He was speaking at the Telangana State Formation Day Celebration at the District Collectorate here.

The transparent governance under the leadership of the Chief Minister propelled the State towards progress. The Telangana model, he said, has been receiving project at the been receiving praise at the national level. The State has come a strong force economically despite the coronavirus pandemic and recession.

Despite several hurdles, the Telangana government continued to implement welfare schemes. It meant that the government was able to tackle the crisis with a vision. The State government is committed to the welfare of all sections of

Rajanna-Sircilla district made rapid strides towards progress on all fronts. The State government gave top priority

Minister for Information Technology K T Rama Rao hoisting the flag on the occasion of State Formation Day in

Sircilla on Friday

to agriculture and allied sectors because they would play a pivotal role in propelling the growth of other sectors. The farmers in other States have been exerting pressure on their respective State governments to implement the Telangana government's schemes. He recalled that the State governments in the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh used to allot a meagre budget for agriculture and allied sectors. In the new State of Telangana, the government accorded top priority to agriculture, he said.

The government policies brought smiles to the faces of the farmers as they emerged much stronger. The farmers plucked up the courage to push ahead and increase the food grain production. A new benchmark was set in agriculture cultivation. He said the government was providing uninterrupted free power sup-ply to farmers. Apart from it, Rythu Bandhu, Rythu Bheenma and other measures were taken for the protection of farmers. Irrigation projects helped transform parched lands into fertile fields. The State government has been procuring every grain grown

in the State, he said. The State Gross State Domestic Produce (GSDP) rate was the highest. In the Rajanna-Sircilla district, KTR said that 2.52 lakh acres was brought under irrigation with the completion of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation

Kajanna-Sircilla District Collector Anurag Jayanth, Zilla Parishad Chairperson Nelakonda Aruna and officials

Jagadish dares Kishan for an open debate on development in TS

PNS NALGONDA

Minister for Energy G Jagadish Reddy on Friday tore into Union Minister for Tourism G Kishan Reddy and dared him for an open debate on development in Telangana State. "Gujarat, the home State of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is lagging behind Telangana in development," the Minister pointed out.

Speaking at a media conference at Suryapet, Jagadish Reddy challenged Kishan Reddy to come for an open debate to discuss the development that took place in Telangana in comparison with that of progress in doubleengine States like Gujarat. The BJP has been bragging about the "double engine govern-ments," but in fact that the saffron-ruled States did not achieve as much development as Telangana made under the leadership of Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao.

Telangana State was far BIP-ruled State in the creation of employment, too. The Congress won in Karnataka because of a lack of an alternative to the saffron party. The regional parties, which can pose a strong alternative to the Congress and BJP, would win, he said and added that the BJP-led Centre had reneged on its promise to create employment for youth on

a large scale. The BJP, the Minister said,



Minister for Energy G Jagadish Reddy speaking at a media conference in Suryapet on Friday

political existence in the State. Kishan Reddy, who failed to fight for the rights of the Telangana State, has no moral right to criticise the State government. If the Union Minister is really interested in the development of State, he should bring funds from the

has been struggling for its State," he said and added that then only Kishan Reddy can enhance his credibility. He warned the BJP leaders of "backlash" if they continued to make wild allegations against the State government. The people, he said, would teach a bitter lesson to the BJP in the next elections.

RS 34.000 CR SPENT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SURYAPET DIST

The State government has spent Rs 34,000 crore for the comprehensive development of the Suryapet district during the last nine years, according to Minister for Energy G Jagadish Reddy on Friday. The government gave priority to agriculture and the allied sectors. Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao brought about revolutionary changes in the education sector. Telangana State set an example on all fronts for other States to follow, he asserted. Participating in Telangana State Formation Day celebrations on police parade grounds here, the Minister pointed out that there were no power cuts in the State. The government has been supplying uninterrupted power to all sectors. Jagadish Reddy hoisted the national flag on the occasion. He paid tributes at Martyrs' stupa. District Collector S Venkata Rao, Zilla Parishad Chairperson Gujju Deepika Yugandar, MLAs Gadari Kishore Kumar, Bollam Malliah Yadav and Sanampudi Saidareddy, Municipal Chairman Perumadla Annapurna, Zilla Grandalya Samsta chairman Nimmala Srinivas Goud and others were present. The Telangana State achieved progress on all fronts. The State was about extricate itself from crisis after crisis due to the coronavirus pandemic and

State govt fails to transform people's lives, says Bhatti

PNS NAGARKARNOOL

Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Friday claimed that the State government failed to realise the objective for which the Telangana State was formed. It also failed to transform the people's lives, he said. The CLP leader, while

addressing a media conference at Balmuru under Achampet constituency in the district as the people's march entered its 78th day, Bhatti exuded confidence that the people made up their mind to vote for the Congress and the party would win 100 seats. The biggest land scam unfolded in the State and it was made possible through



Congress Legislature Party leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka addressing a media conference at Balmuru in Nagarkurnool district on Friday

the Dharani portal, he alleged.

"It was high time that journalists, intellectuals, artistes and people with progressive thoughts pondered over the future of Telangana State. On the occasion of Telangana State

Formation Day, the people should ponder over the future of the State," he said. He called for a debate on the goals set for the State and how far they were achieved. "As the Deputy Speaker, I played my part in the

State Reorganisation Bill and for sending the Bill to Delhi," Bhatti recalled.

Assembly and introduced the

"Though we achieved geo-graphical Telangana, objectives for which State was formed, i.e. irrigation, funds, recruitments were not realised, but people had lost their self-respect, freedom to express their views under the BRS government," he said. He accused the State government of withdrawing schemes like the Indiramma Houses and Amma Hastham. The Amma Hastham was meant to distribute nine essential commodities to people through the public distribution system. The Congress government in the past brought SC, ST

Sub Plan for the development of Dalits and Tribal people, but the BRS government diverted the funds allocated under the SC ST sub-plans, he said. Though Rs.17,700 crore was allocated for Dalit Bandhu in the budget, the government did not release the funds even after the financial year was over, he observed.

While the poor were given rights over their land under several legislations by the previous governments, the BRS government brought the Dharani portal and removed the rights of the poor over the lands. The BRS government unveiled the biggest land scam in the country through the Dharani portal,

GHMC ward office system on par to solve grievances

In the year 2023 Greater Hyderabad Muncipal Corporation work model has been highlighted with its recent Rama Rao, Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development. His initiative was the establishment of ward offices to provide administration for the quick res-

olution of people's problems.

At present, the GHMC is administered through a three-tier system Head Office, Zonal and Circle. Ward offices as 4th administrative unit will be inaugurated on Good Governance Day on June 10 on the occasion of provide more satisfactory services. Ward administration officer will ious busy junctions in the city. Out of

administer the ward with 10 staff, which will be established in GHMC. Along with him, the staff of Engineering, Entomology, Sanit Urban

and Water Board will work and solve the complaints received through various media according to the citizen chart, said the officials of the GHMC.

SRDP with 35 different types of works, has been completed till now at Telangana decennial celebrations to a cost of Rs 33,248.53 crore to improve 812 km road, which has been taken up

Community, Bioversity, Electricity the remaining 13 works, 10 works will

works have been completed. Out of be completed within the stipulated

CRMP: The 9013 km long road across GHMC has been recognised as an all-weather road. BT Road is a high traffic congested road with a length of

the signal-free transport system at var-

them, 19 flyovers,

seven ROBs or

RUBs, five under-

bridge, Panjagutta Bridge, ORR to Medak rehabilitation

by comprehensive road maintenance programme and with improved transport facility, motorists are traveling smoothly without any problem. So far 775.86 km-long road has been re-car-

HRDCL: In order to overcome the problem of increasing traffic congestion in the main roads by taking missing and Link roads as alternative ways and making a better transport system available within Hyderabad Urban Group (HUA), till now 38 works have been carried out at a cost of Rs 535.59 crore and proposed to develop 47.13 km of roads out of which 25 of 27.30 km is proposed. The rest of the works are in various stages of

Origin Dairy director attempts suicide

PNS NIRMAL

Origin Dairy director Shejal attempted to commit suicide by consuming pesticide at Telangana Bhavan in Delhi on Friday, according to reports reaching here.

She has been agitating in Delhi for the last four days. She has been demanding action against Bellampally MLA Durgam Chinnaiah, alleging that he had subjected her to sexual harassment. The police had foisted false cases on her at the instance of

Shejal staged a sit-in at Jantar Manta in Delhi. She also complained with the National Commission for Women.



Telangana State made rapid strides in all sectors: Ministers



Minister for Agriculture S Niranjan Reddy speaking at the State Formation Day

Taking part in the 10th anniversary celebrations of Telangana state formation held at Wanaparthi, Agriculture Minister S Niranjan Reddy, who inspected a guard of honour, paid tributes to martyrs and hoisted the national tricolour, on Friday said that the Telangana during the past nine years made rapid strides in all

spheres of activity. He dwelt on greater decentralisation of the administration. There is agricultural prosperity in the district following the availability of irri-

gation facilities, he said. With the help of Mission Bhagiratha, drinking water is provided at the people's doorstep. The state emerged as a progressive state in a short time under KCR's leadership,

he added. The state disbursed Rs 1,602.02 crore among 1,64,479 farmers under Rytu Bandhu, lies of farmers by paying a sum assured total of Rs 137.15 crore under Rytu Bima, established 71 Rytu Vedikas spending Rs

15.62 crore. In all, 1027 farmers raised oil pam in 1822.3 hectares. A crop subsidy of Rs 168.58,000 has been disbursed to farmers. Mission Kakatiya helped develop over 911 MI tanks in phas-

Under the Palamuru-Rangareddy LI Scheme, the 40,000-acre ayacut has been stabilised. Out of the 10 proposed check dams (under GO no.40), eight have been executed and two others are in various stages of execution at a cost of Rs 9.89 crore.

Home Minister hoists the national flag in Sangareddy



Home Minister Mohammed Mahmood Al participating in Telangana decennial celebrations in Sangareddy on Friday

Home Minister Mohammed Mahmood Ali on Friday inaugurated the 20-day 10th anniversary celebrations of Telangana Formation Day held on a grand scale in Sangareddy.

He paid tributes to the martyrs, sounding the bugle, hoisting the national flag and releasing balloons into the air. Later, he inspected the guard of honour

presented by the police.

He traced the district's progress during the past decade. He felicitated the Telangana martyr Bhargava's father- Nomula Satyanarayana of Malkapur village. He presented ISO 9001-

2015 certificates awarded to Rameshwaram Banda, Yeddumylaram, Chitkul, Kardanur village panchayats and district panchayat office to the District Panchayat Officer Suresh Mohan.

MP BB Patil, ZP chairperson Manjusri Jaipal Reddy, MLA Kranti Kiran, District Collector A Sarat and others took part in the celebrations.

Telangana role model for nation: Minister



the State Formation Day celebrations in Celebrating the event at the District Collector's Camp

Office in Jagtial, Welfare

Minister Koppula Eswar hoist-

ed the national flag along with

Minister for Excise V Srinivas Goud hoisting the flag on the occasion of the STate Formation Day

district collector Yasmin Basha

and paid rich tributes to mar-

said that the state emerged as a role model for the whole nation under the leadership of

CM K Chandrashekhar Rao.

With the help of the people, the

Jagityal district is ahead of

others in all sectors of develop-

ment, he added. He read out

the development of the district

TS Per capita income highest

in country: Srinivas Goud

all these years.

Addressing the gathering, he

Excise Minister V Srinivas Goud, taking part as the chief guest in the 10th anniversary celebrations held at Integrated District Offices' Complex in Mahabubnagar on Friday, said that the State achieved stable economic growth in the shortest period of nine years and emerged as a wealthy state. The per capita income in Telangana is higher compared to the per capita income at the national

NEWS FROM ANDHRA PRADESH

Margadarsi MD ready to be quizzed on June 6

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Crime Investigation Department (CID) of Andhra Pradesh police is reportedly making prepara-tions to arrest Ch Sailaja Kiran, the managing director of Margadarsi Chit Funds Private Ltd and daughter-in-law of media baron and Eenadu group

chairman Ch Ramoji Rao. Recently, the CID authorities had attached movable assets worth Rs 793 crore belonging to Margadarsi. In addition to this, lookout notices were issued for Sailaja Kiran, who is accused of absconding and evading questioning in relation to the alleged irregularities associated with Margadarsi.



10th TS Formation Day celebrated held at Raj Bhavan



Andhra Pradesh Governor S Abdul Nazeer speaking at 10th TS Formation Day celebrations at Raj Bhavan in Vijayawada on Friday

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Governor S Abdul Nazeer has participated as chief guest at the 10th Telangana Formation Day celebrations held at Darbar Hall in Raj Bhavan here on

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor said that Telangana State has been for a long time, a meeting place of diverse languages and cul-tures and the best example of India's composite culture, pluralism and inclusiveness and that the region is wellknown for its Ganga-Jamuna

Tehzeeb. Celebration of occasions like the Telangana Formation Day, brings people of different States together and gives us an opportunity to know spective, said the Governor. on the occasion..

He said that 'Ek Bharat Shresth Bharat' programme aimed to forge a strong relationship and bonding among all the people of the country, and promote mutual understanding between different States and Union Territories, through the concept of oneness and enrich the spirit of national integra-

N Chandana, S Bhanu Santoshi,. K Bhagya Suseela and Ch Sravya enthralled the audience with their Bathukamma dance performance. Nitva rendered Annamacharya Keertana, while P Aparna, Anantha Sriya, Preran, P Bhavya, Megha Lara, students from Telangana studying in various educational institutions in and each other in a better per- around Vijayawada spoke

Al sends out questionnaires to assess customer satisfaction levels

s it works on improving services, Air India on Friday said it is sending out Aquestionnaires to customers to every day and has received good response through its digitalised customer feedback mechanism. Air India, which was taken over by Tata Group in January last year, started sending questionnaires to travellers to identify areas for improvement to meet customer expectations in March. The Net Promoter Score (NPS)based customer feedback mechanism has received more than 1,40,000 responses in three

months, the airline said in a release. In his message to staff on Friday, Air India CEO and Managing Director Campbell Wilson said that over the last three months, the airline has expanded NPS to cover the entire physical customer journey, from check-in, through to lounges, in-flight experience and the arrival process, and will be extended to the online and call centre experiences. "Questionnaires are sent every single day, and so far we've had more than 1,40,000 responses.



Gokulraj murder case: Madras HC upholds conviction by trial court

he Madras High Court on Friday upheld the conviction and life sentence awarded to eight people in connection with the murder of a Scheduled Caste engineering student Gokulraj in 2015 in Tamil Nadu's Tiruchengode (Namakkal district), on suspicion that he was in a relationship with an upper caste woman. The court altered the charges against two others accused in the crime to imprisonment for five years.

imprisonment till death without remission sentence in March 2022, appealed against the judgment. A division bench comprising justices M S Ramesh and N Anand Venkatesh dismissed their appeals today and confirmed the earlier verdict in the case. The bench said it found no perversity in the trial court's judgment convicting the accused. "We remained conscious of the fact that moral conviction has no place in criminal jurisprudence," the bench said.



India presses Germany to send back Baby Ariha as soon as possible

ndia on Friday urged Germany to send back at the earliest an Indian baby girl who has been living in foster care in Berlin for over 20 months, asserting it is important for the child to be in her linguistic, religious, cultural and social environment. The German authorities had taken custody of Ariha Shah on September 23, 2021, when she was seven months old, alleging that the parents harassed her. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said Ariha's continued stay in the German foster care and "infringement" of

her social, cultural and linguistic rights is of deep concern to the government of India and the parents. On Thursday, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde wrote a letter to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar seeking his assistance in bringing Ariha back home.

"We would like to reiterate that Ariha Shah is an Indian national and her nationality and socio-cultural background is the most important determinant of where her foster care is to be provided," Bagchi said.



LAW COMMISSION ON SEDITION CASES

Increase jail term to 7 years

PNS NEW DELHI

The Law Commission of India has recommended enhancing the jail term in sedition cases from a minimum of three years to seven years, contending that it would allow courts greater room to award punishment in accordance with the scale and gravity of the act committed.

In a report on the 'Usage of the Law of Sedition', the Commission said its earlier report had termed the punishment for Section 124A (law of sedition) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) "very odd" as it has provisions for either life imprisonment or a three-year jail term, but nothing in between.

The minimum punishment under the sedition law is pay-

A comparison of the sentences as provided for offences in Chapter VI of the IPC suggests that there is a glaring disparity in the punishment prescribed for 124A,"

Commission said.



with offences against the state. "It is, therefore, suggested that the provision be revised to bring it in consonance with the scheme of punishment provided for other offences under Chapter VI. This would allow the courts greater room to award punishment for a case of sedition in accordance with the scale and gravity of the act committed," the report said.

The Commission also suggested changes to the phrasing of Section 124A and added words "a tendency to incite violence or cause public disorder'

The current Section 124A of IPC reads as follows: "Sedition-Whoever by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible repre-Chapter VI of the IPC deals sentation, or otherwise,

Will take 'informed and reasoned' decision

The government will take an "informed and reasoned" decision on the Law Commission report on sedition after holding consultations with all stakeholders, Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said on Friday and noted that recommendations in the document were "persuasive" but not "binding". Meghwal's remarks came in the wake of the recommendation by the law commission to increase the minimum iail term in sedition cases from the present three years to seven years. "The law commission report on Sedition is one of the steps in the extensive consultative process. The recommendations made in the report are persuasive and not binding," Meghwal said on Twitter. He said the final decision on the matter will be taken only after

brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards, the Government established by law in India, shall be pun-

"Now that we have received the report, we will also hold consultations with all the other stakeholders so that we take an informed and reasoned decision in the public interest," Meghwal said. In its report, the Law Commission has recommended enhancing the jail term in sedition cases from a minimum of three vears to seven years, contending that it would allow courts greater room to award punishment in accordance with the scale and gravity of the act committed. The view evoked a strong reaction from the Congress, which accused the BJP government of planning to make it more "draconian" and giving a message ahead of the general elections that it will be used against opposition

consulting all the stakeholders.

ished with imprisonment for life, to which fine may be added, or with imprisonment which may extend to three years, to which fine may be added, or with fine.

Sisodia allowed to meet ailing wife in custody

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court Friday permitted AAP leader Manish Sisodia, under arrest in cases related to alleged irregularities in the city government's excise policy, to meet his ailing wife at his residence on Saturday.

Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma directed the Tihar Jail Superintendent to take Sisodia, the former deputy chief minister, to his residence where he has been allowed to meet his wife from 10 AM to 5 PM.

Sisodia was first arrested by the CBI on February 26 for his alleged role in the scam and has been in custody since then. The high court has already denied him bail in the CBI case on May 30.

He was arrested on March 9 in the case lodged by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and is currently in judicial custody.

The high court made it clear that Sisodia shall not interact with media or any other person except his family members, and also not access phone or internet.

UPA-era lost decade, shortcut politics will harm nation: Ashwini

PNS NEW DELHI

Senior BJP leader Ashwini Vaishnaw described the Congress-led UPA rule between 2004-14 as a "lost decade" for India and also targeted Opposition parties for their politics of "shortcuts" which, he said, harms the country

Speaking to reporters, the minister in-charge of key portfolios such as railways, communications, electronics and information technology gave a snapshot of various developments in these sectors under the Narendra Modi-led government.

"Unprecedented change has happened in the country in the last nine years," he said in his remarks as the BJP marks the government's ninth anniversary by fielding its senior leaders across the country to underscore its various achieve-

Noting that the Indian economy has risen from 10th in global size in 2014 to fifth now, he added it was the 10th largest economy in 2004 as well when the UPA government came to



"It was a lost decade," the Union minister said.

In an apparent reference to freebies being offered by different parties, he said their shortcuts will harm the nation and asked people to give a clear mandate to the BJP under Modi's leadership in 2024 as they had in 2014 and 2019.

It is people's decisive and clear verdict which led to good results from the government, Vaishnaw said.

The BJP has often spoken against what it slams as 'revdis' (doles) offered by Opposition parties such as the Congress and the AAP. The Opposition has claimed that the ruling party is no different, a charge

The minister said, "Recently, the Morgan Stanley Report also stated the transformation India has embraced in less than a decade. We are projected to be the fourth largest economy by 2026 and among the top three economies by 2027-28.

Trains have begun running on time, cleanliness inside them and on platforms has vastly improved, he said, adding that 37,000-km of tracks were electrified in nine years against 21,000 km in over six decades till 2014.

The average length of new track being laid daily has risen to 14 km from 3.5 to 4 km earlier, Vaishnaw said, adding that a bigger role for the railways in cargo movement will help control price rise as well because freight charges are much less in the sector than road transport.

Calling made-in-India Vande Bharat trains world class, he said only eight countries have the design and manufacturing know-how for building trains which can run at 180 kmph. These trains will connect 200 cities by the middle of next year.

World-class roads necessary

to achieve US\$ 5 trillion

economy target: Gadkari

MP with heinous allegations safe under PM's protective shield: Rahul Gandhi

PNS NEW DELHI

Centre on Friday over "inac- medals -- pleading for justice Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, with Rahul Gandhi saying while daughters who won international medals are pleading for justice on the streets, a member of Parliament who has "heinous

allegations" against him is safe under the prime minister's "protective shield". Congress general

secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the issue and asked why no action has been taken against Singh, a

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP, so far. The two FIRs registered by the Delhi Police against the outgoing WFI chief on the basis of complaints from six women wrestlers and the father of a minor narrate sev-

eral alleged instances of sexu-

al harassment, inappropriate

touching, groping, stalking and intimidation by Singh at

different times and places, including in foreign countries, over a decade. In a tweet in Hindi, Rahul

Gandhi said, "Daughters who The Congress slammed the brought 25 international on the s heinous allegations of sexual abuse in two FIRs -- safe in prime minister's 'suraksha avach'!

The Modi government is responsible for the plight of the wrestlers, he said. Tagging the details of the

FIRs against Singh, Priyanka Gandhi said, "Read these serious allegations and tell the country why no action has been taken against the accused till now?'

Congress MP Deepender Hooda also tagged a media report detailing the FIRs, saying, "Speechless! What else is left after this? How will someone's blood not boil after reading this?"

"BIP trolls today, before writing against me, must think that if your sister and daughter were in place of these girls, would you have been able to tolerate this? If the accused is a BJP MP/minister, will the FIR also be registered when the Supreme Court orders?" Hooda, who has been vocal on the issue and attacking the government over it, said.

K'taka decides to implement all five poll promises

PNS BENGALURU

The ruling Congress's Cabinet on Friday decided to implement within this financial vear the five guarantees that the party had promised ahead of tion, without any discrimination based on caste or religion, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah

The Cabinet held a detailed discussion regarding the five guarantees and its implementation, and has arrived at decisions, Siddaramaiah who headed the meeting told reporters.

The Congress had promised to implement the guarantees' -200 units of free power to all

households (Gruha Jyoti), Rs 2,000 monthly assistance to the woman head of every family (Gruha Lakshmi), 10 kg of rice free to every member of a BPL household (Anna Bhagya), Rs 3,000 every month for unemployed graduate youth and Rs 1,500 for unemployed diploma holders (both in the age group of 18-25) (YuvaNidhi), and free travel for women in public transport buses (Shakti) on coming to power.

The Gruha Jyothi scheme to provide 200 units free electricity per month to every household will be implemented from July 1, Siddaramaiah said. However, the arrears have to be paid by the customers.



Speaking about the Gruha Lakshmi scheme that provides Rs 2,000 per month to women heads of the family, also known as 'kartha', the CM said it will be implemented from August

He said the application can

be submitted for this, even online, from June 15 to July 15, and the applicants who want to be beneficiaries under the scheme will have to submit their Aadhaar and bank account details along with

The scheme will be applicable to both BPL and APL card holders, he said, adding that the beneficiaries of social security schemes will also get the

Siddaramaiahannounced that under 'Anna Bhagya', 10 kg of food grains will be given to every member of a BPL household and Antyodaya card holders from

Addressing a gathering in Dumad near Vadodara city, the Union Minister for Road Transport

PNS VADODARA

Modi.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari

standards are needed for India

to become a USD 5 trillion

economy as envisaged by

Prime Minister Narendra

Highways assured that all highways in India will be of "world standards" You will find good

quality national highways anywhere you go in the country. Our country is changing. It is our PM's dream to make India a developed and self-reliant nation which takes care of its poor and needy cit-

"To make India a USD 5 trillion economy as envisaged by PM Narendra Modi, it is necessary to have world class road infrastructure in the country. And that is what we are trying to achieve," said Gadkari.

Stressing on the need to have better roads, the minister informed the audience that former US president John F Kennedy had once said

American roads are not good because America is rich but America is rich because American roads are

"In Gujarat, highway projects of Rs 2 lakh crore are currently underway. I want to assure you that before the end of 2024, all the highways across the country will be of world standards, as good as

American roads," the Union minister asserted.

Gadkari also said the 'Signature Bridge' connecting Okha with Beyt Dwarka island in Devbhumi

Dwarka district of Gujarat was nearing completion and it would be inaugurated by the PM ahead of Janmashtami, which will be observed in September.

The Union minister was here to inaugurate a flyover, an underpass and a service road built at Dumad junction on Surat-Ahmedabad National Highway 48 at a cost

of Rs 48 crore. According to Gadkari, the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, being built at a cost of Rs 1 lakh crore, has been completed till the Rajasthan border, while the remaining stretch till Mumbai will be finished in the next six months.

Shivaji's life a source of inspiration: PM among people that establishing 'swarajya' (self-rule) was possible, 'he said.

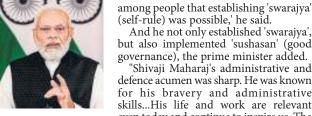
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the life of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is a source of inspiration, and the work done by him continues to be relevant even today as welfare of people was the basic principle of his administration.

In his video message that was played at the state-level function being held atop the Raigad fort in Maharashtra to celebrate the 350th anniversary of the coronation of the Maratha warrior king, the PM also said that Shivaji Maharaj epitomised courage and he possessed sharp administrative

"Welfare of the state and its people was

the basic princi-ple of Chhatr apati Shivaji Maharaj's rulé. 350th The anniversary of the coronation of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

is a source of energy and inspiration. His coronation is an important chapter of India's history,' PM Modi said. "A leader should keep his people motivated and confident. Shivaji Maharaj removed the mindset of slavery from people. He not only fought against the invaders, but also instilled confidence



defence acumen was sharp. He was known for his bravery and administrative skills...His life and work are relevant even today and continue to inspire us. The vision of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' encompasses the ideals of Shivaji Maharaj, he said. The manner in which he expanded his navy and built sea forts is inspiring, the PM said, adding, "We changed the navy ensign and freed the navy from the

'SCO summit in virtual mode based on various factors'

PNS NEW DELHI

India on Friday said its decision to hold the annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in the virtual format was taken considering

a number of factors. Replying to a question on the issue during his weekly media briefing, External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi noted that India did not make any announcement in the past it would be an in-person

summit. The MEA on Tuesday announced that India will host the annual summit of the SCO in the virtual format on July 4. While making the announcement, it did not cite any reason

behind the decision.

India is hosting the summit in its capacity as the current chair of the SCO.

Bagchi said many international summits in recent years have taken place in the virtual format and it was decided to hold the SCO summit in that mode taking into consideration various factors.

He, however, did not mention

the factors. He said the decision was not driven by a single factor.

'We have now communicated to the SCO partners about this event being held in virtual format on July 4 and our expectation is that everybody would be able to

join," Bagchi said. India hosted the foreign min-



the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, isters of the SCO at a two-day Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. conclave in Goa earlier this month. The SCO is an influential economic and security bloc permanent members in 2017. and has emerged as one of the international and regional organlargest transregional interna-

tional organisations. isations have also been invited to The SCO was founded at a the summit. summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the ASEAN (Association of the presidents of Russia, China,

Security Treaty Organization), EAEU (Eurasian Economic Union) and CICA (Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia). India was made an observer at

India and Pakistan became its

The MEA said heads of six

The organisations are the UN.

the SCO in 2005 and has generally participated in the ministerial-level meetings of the grouping, which focus mainly on security and economic cooperation in the Eurasian region.

Southeast Asian Nations), CIS

(Commonwealth of Independent

States), CSTO (Collective

India has shown a keen interest in deepening its security-related cooperation with the SCO and its Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS), which specifically deals with issues relating to security and defence.

1984 ANTI-SIKH RIOTS CASE

Court takes notice of CBI charge-sheet against Tytler

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A court here on Friday took notice of the CBI's charge sheet against Congress leader Jagdish Tytler in the Pul Bangash case of killing of three people and torching of a gurudwara during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.
Chief Metropolitan

Magistrate Mahima Rai Singh took notice of the charge sheet and referred the matter Additional Chief



Metropolitan Magistrate Vidhi Gupta, as the case pertained to a former MP.

ACMM Gupta is likely to take cognisance of the charge sheet on June 8 and issue summons to Tytler. Tytler "incited, instigated

and provoked" the mob that had assembled at Pul Bangash Gurudwara in Azad Market on November 1, 1984 that resulted in burning down of the gurudwara and killing of three Sikhs -- Thakur Singh, Badal Singh and Gurcharan Singh -- the CBI alleged in its charge sheet filed on May 20.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Green Day

We must realise that we can afford to ignore environmental issues only at our own peril

he World Environment Day, celebrated annually on June 5, is unlike any other for, if nothing else, the sheer importance it holds for our survival and that of our future generations. It's quite understandable to scoff at yet another 'World This Day' or 'World That Day', especially since it doesn't hold any personal or intimate meaning in our lives such as our birthday or Mother's Day or Father's Day but what lends it gravitas is that it's much more than an individual's celebration: It calls for joint efforts by the global communities - in fact all of humanity - to protect, safeguard and conserve nature, lest we all shall perish before too long. With the increasing urgency of environmental issues, this day serves as a powerful reminder that we cannot afford to overlook the state of our environment. Unfortunately, and as a result of mankind's own doing, the world today faces unprecedented environmental challenges, including climate change, deforestation, loss of biodiversity, pollution and water scarcity, among others. These



issues not only impact ecosystems and wildlife but also pose severe threats to human health, livelihood and future generations. The day aims to unite diverse stakeholders, including individuals, organisations, Governments and communities around the world, in fostering global collaboration and solidarity. It also serves as a platform for sharing ideas, best practices and innovative approaches to tackle environmental challenges effectively.

In this light, we must train ourselves to make sincere efforts in becoming more aware of the causes that have led to, and are still leading to, issues like global warming, water scarcity and deforestation. On a very basic scale, it's also high time to plant and nur-

ture trees as well as to reduce mankind's carbon footprint by cutting down on the greenhouse gas emissions by adapting to greener and healthier technologies rather than shamelessly using air-conditioners and fossil fuel-guzzling vehicles. In this time and age, when we have technologies such as electric vehicles available to us for use, what stops us from holding out that little bit of extra down payment initially and go for an electric vehicle which would stand us and the environment in good stead in the years to come? From minimising waste, recycling material and conserving energy to promoting ecofriendly transportation and embracing renewable resources, the global citizen must vow individual action in mitigating environmental degradation. Though the Governments have already woken up to this existential threat, what with a host of groupings like COP 27 working overtime to tackle the menace, it also helps promote policy changes and advocacy efforts. The day reminds Governments to enact and enforce environmental regulations, supports the development of sustainable policies and encourages lawmakers to prioritise environmental protection. So let's not stand in the way of a green Earth; in fact, let's help lay a new path that rejuvenates our tiring planet.



A view of the Raigad Fort on the 350th anniversary of the coronation of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

US baton of values passes seamlessly



BHOPINDER SINGH

Its military leadership is today poised for an unprecedented normalcy of top two positions to be held by the citizens of African-American ethnicity

olin Powell was the most decorated and highest-ranking black man in United States military history, ascending to National Security Adviser, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS), and later Secretary of State (first black on all three accounts). The soldier and diplomat were even speculated to run for Presidentship as a Republican, which he ultimately declined (though in later years, he did call fellow Republican, Donald Trump, a 'national disgrace'). The dignified Soldier-Statesman would have been conscious of his black or African-American identity in 1958 as a newly commissioned officer, but as the wise soldier late reflected, "Let it (racism) be a problem to someone else...Let it drag them down. Don't use it as an excuse for your shortcomings". America was to evolve for the better on the inclusivity front, and soon had the likes of Barack Obama and Kamala Harris, at even more enior leadership positions.

Today, American Military leadership is poised for an unprecedented normalcy of two top positions to be held by Americans of African-American ethnicity i.e., Secretary of Defence, Lloyd Austin (retired Four-Star General) and the newly nominated Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS), General Charles Brown Jr. As nominated CJCS, Charles Brown would replace General Mark Milley and would serve at the pleasure of the President of USA for a four-year term. Amongst his many professional accomplishments, Milley of course would be remembered for standing up to retain and burnish the apolitical credentials of the 'Uniform' - he had rebuffed attempts to use his image in the election campaign by then President Donald Trump and had also famously apologised for his presence at an event that created a perception of military nvolvement in domestic politics. He bluntly reiterated that the Armed Forces did not serve a King or Dictator, "We take an oath to the Constitution, not an individual". The unflinchingly apolitical stance of the American Military leadership was pivotal in

denying the recklessly divisive attempt of Donald Trump to overcome the shock of the 6th January 2021, insurrection moment. Amongst the few US Presidents with virtually no Military connection, yet with an unearned urge to appropriate the institution of the Armed Forces to build his political muscularity, Trump was denied the same by the ramrod straight and constitutional posture of the US Armed Forces leadership, who

simply refused to bend.

Not only did the likes of Mark Milley stand up for constitutional propriety but also for widening opportunity and intake for societal 'minorities' e.g., blacks, who remained vastly underrepresented at top leadership levels. A couple of years back, Milley pointed out that while Gen Charles Brown was amongst the 2% Air Force pilots of African-American ethnicity when he joined the Air Force in 1984, the ratio of Blacks as Air Force pilots was still an abysmal 2%, over 35 years later! Incidentally, Mark Milley himself is a 'White' and was serving under arguably the 'Whitest of White' President i.e., Donald Trump, who may not have perceived Milley's concern as a pressing issue, given his penchant and politics of majoritarianism. But then, such is the cloth from which the 'Uniform' ought to be sewn.



THE LIKES OF MARK MILLEY STAND UP FOR CONSTITUTIONAL **PROPRIETY BUT ALSO FOR** WIDENING **OPPORTUNITY** AND INTAKE FOR SOCIETAL 'MINORITIES', EG BLACKS, WHO REMAINED VASTLY UNDER-REPRESENTED AT TOP LEADERSHIP

when questioned on the aftermath of George Floyd's murder had released a video of his own experiences (in a nonpartisan way) where he accepted that as a black man in America his own experiences, "didn't always sing of liberty and equality" – such a powerful comment from him, was not held against him in his subsequent career trajectory. His commentary was fully compliant with the Constitution and apolitical, even if it riled the dispensa-

Now, the Pentagon will see yet another product of a fine American culture i.e., 'Military Families, in the form of Gen Charles Brown Jr. As Biden alluded, "General Brown is a warrior, descended from a proud line of warriors" – his father had served for 30 years and retired as Colonel, while his grandfather was drafted in World War 2. Soldering is a proud and immensely respected tradition in the American consciousness, and President Joe Biden remains justifiably proud of his late son, Major eau Biden (Judge Advocate General's Corps), who served lessly from one to the other. in Iraq (including a 7-month deployment in a combat zone).

From an Indian perspective, General Brown is supposed to be an authority on the challenges posed by

Even General Brown Chinese expansionism, especially given his experience as Air Component Commander for the United States Indo-Pacific Command. He has also visited India during the successful completion of a joint Indo-US Air Force exercise, Cope India, focused on enhancing capabilities, aircrew tactics and force employment. He had noted then, "Cope India is just one part of an ongoing effort to strengthen the relationship between the US Air Force and the Indian Air Force". General Brown's familiarity along with that of Secretary of Defense as a former Commander of US Central Command (responsible for military operations in the Middle East & Afghanistan theatre), ensures that the top two in the US Security apparatus are well-versed with India's dual chal-

lenges of China and Pakistan. Finally, as Lloyd Austin iled Gen Brown, hailed "Throughout his career, he has insisted on doing right by his teammates and their families", this rings true for the 'Uniformed' fraternity universally, as the baton moves seam

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal)

The multiple benefits of community-driven learning



Learners band together in a supportive environment, pooling knowledge and focusing on growing personally as well as professionally

Remember the days when getting a job meant you were pretty much set for life, and learning one skill meant you could get through your entire career until retirement? Well, those days are long gone! We're living in an age where tech is the real boss, and it's changing faster than you can say 'artificial intelligence'.

So, what's the secret to staying employable in this rapidly changing world? It's simple: never stop learning, folks. That's where upskilling comes in. And as more of us realise the importance of keeping up with the times, community-driven learning is starting to make waves.

Community-driven learning is a whole new approach where learners band together in a supportive environment, pooling their knowledge and focusing on growing personally, as well as professionally. It's all about learning together and getting better together.

Collective knowledge and experience – The thing about community learning is that you've got people from all walks of life coming together. That's a treasure trove of

insights and perspectives to tap into! Active discussions, project collaborations, and sharing of experiences can enable learners to tap into this extensive pool and gain a much broader understanding of the subject. Further, the peer-to-peer learning opportunities enrich the experience and provide real-world opinions that classic educational

settings don't usually offer. Enhanced motivation and engagement – Let's face it, learning on your own can get lonely. But when you part of a community, there's a sense of belonging and accountability. You're not just learning buddies; you're each other's cheerleaders. It's that sense of camaraderie that makes the learning experience a whole lot more enrich-

ing and fun. Networking opportuni-ties – Since the premise of viduals who all have the same

is based on collaborative learning and engagement, it fosters networking among learners. Also, learners might find their future business partner, their next job, or just offered by digital platforms some cool people to help them stay updated on the latest industry trends. It's precisely connections like these that we turn to in times of professional hardships, and what's a better way to forge these meaningful connections than by learning and struggling on projects togeth-

Continuous learning and lifelong engagement -Community-driven learning is not only helpful in better understanding different industries and functions but also fosters a lifelong learning and development mindset. As the skills, tools, and technologies keep changing every few years, it has become crucial for the modern workforce to regularly upskill, relearn, and engage with others to remain up to date on trends technologies. Community-driven

upskilling initiatives bring just getting started. together like-minded indi-

community-driven upskilling drive for continuous learning

and growth. Flexibility - Communitybased learning offers great flexibility in terms of upskilling. The courses are of short durations such as one to four weeks, and sessions are held on weekends or in the evenings to accommodate learners with full-time jobs. The courses are affordable and what's not to love about learning real-world skills from industry experts, all from the comfort of your wn home?

IN CONCLUSION

So, here's the bottom line: community-driven upskilling is revolutionizing professional development. It's not just about climbing the ladder; it's about fostering rapid growth. For those new to the corporate world, it's your pathway to better job satisfaction and stronger compensation. And this isn't fleeting trend. It's about long-term resilience in your career. So get ready, because this journey into upskilling is

(The author is Founder & CEO, of Growth School)

HOODWINKING VOTERS WITH FREEBIES

Sir — Buoyed by landslide victory in the Karnataka Assembly election, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has announced 100 units free electricity. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has laid strong foundation of freebies culture and it has not gone unrewarded. In the case of Karnataka, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar have acted in haste and are now repenting at leisure without showing that they are repenting. They are putting up a brave face saying that they would never go back on their promise. It is the wont for all the political parties to make announcements of welfare schemes or freebies without any condition before election. Conditions start trickling out soon after the election is over and the party is voted to power with people believing that the announcements made are implemented in extending the benefits. Politicians are hoodwinking the voters without giving any inkling of the possible conditions to be stipulated after the election. It is obligatory on the part of the government to give benefits without conditions whenever no condi-

tions are stipulated before the election. If the conditions are attached after the election, the courts have to direct the government to extend the benefits to all irrespective of the economic status of the people. If it is done so, the political parties clearly outline the conditions before election for availing benefits. It will enable the voters to or to not vote for a particular party. The political parties will eschew the practice of announcement of freebies without conditions before election and with conditions after election. Chaotic condition has prevailed in Karnataka after the freebies of high magnitude have been announced. The 200 units free electricity will exclude a large number of consumers if the contemplated idea of extending the benefit only to those consuming 200 units or less is implement-

IPL earnings show the way

E EDITO

LEVELS

rhis IPL- 2023 has earned about ₹49,000 crore for the BCCI via split media rights over five years (to the two companies Disney Star and Mukesh Ambani's JioCinema). As a bonus, almost every IPL T20 match is selling Housefull at almost every stadium. The Indian government must take inspiration from IPL's pooling type method to earn big revenue via rather than periodically increasing taxes on essential goods.

Taking a leaf out of this, the Government should ask every citizen to contribute ₹1 or ₹10 or ₹100 ... depending on its funds needed. This way the government can coolly earn ₹140 crore / ₹1400 crore / ₹14,000 crore without burdening the citizens. Since the financial burden is equally shared, big pain will not be felt. Even one day's salary of all employees can be cut periodically. Better limit contribution from the poor to at the most ₹10. Another way is, the Government should nationalise the IPL T-20 tournaments to earn big money (instead of a periodical tax increase).

Ganapathi Bhat I Akola

200 units of electricity are free, it unambiguously means that the first 200 units are free and the consumption in excess of 200 units is chargeable. Freebies are nothing but bribery.

KV Seetharamaiah | Bengaluru

OVERCOMING WATER SCARCITY Sir — Water scarcity is a pressing issue today that demands immediate attention. By adopting efficient water conservation practices, we can make a significant difference. Emphasising the importance of responsible water usage, promoting rainwater harvesting and implementing modern irrigation techniques can conserve this vital resource.

Public awareness campaigns and educational initiatives should highlight the significance of water conservation, encouraging citizens to adopt simple yet impactful habits like fixing leakages and reducing excessive water usage.

Jubel D'Cruz |Mumbai

POLITICS IS HURTING MANIPUR

Sir — So far more than 75 people have died in Manipur violence. Countless properties and houses have been burnt. Both Imphal

ed. When it has been announced that and New Delhi have governments of the same ideology. Which is nowadays called double engine government. Despite this, instead of decreasing, the violence is increasing day by day. The central government kept spending lip-service for the first 20 days as all of Karnataka was busy campaigning. At last Home Minister Shri Amit Shah visits Manipur but he does not do what he should have done. His silence on the order of the Imphal High Court which was later refused to be overturned by the Supreme Court i.e. the order granting Scheduled Tribe status to the majority Meitai community is surprising.

Imphal valley is dominated by Meitei. People of Meitai caste belong to the Hindu community. The hill districts are dominated by the Naga and Kuki tribes. The recent violence was seen more in Churachandpur hill districts. The game of keeping silence on the real issue of both the governments is actually a game of religious polarization, thus the political line of division between the minorities and the

majority is drawn behind the violence. Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

> Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

KARNATAKA GOVT TO CREATE A MILLION JOBS

Its mass entrepreneurship programme will create 10 lakh jobs in the first 100 days



LAKSHMI VENKATARAMAN VENKATESAN

ith expectations running high, the newly minted Karnataka Government of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has both an obligation and an opportunity to redress the unemployment concerns raised by 28% of Karnataka's youth and fulfil their aspirations. Rahul Gandhi, taking full cognisance of this issue, has promised 10 lakh jobs in the next five years. The Congress Government led by Siddaramaiah can get a head start on fulfilling these promises, in its first 100 days, by laying the foundation for sustainable job creation and by instituting programs and policies for mass skilling and entrepreneurship.

The challenges for Karnataka are manifold. As per an analysis of Karnataka PLFS data, overall youth unemployment is at nearly 16% but of that subset, educated young people are the most vulnerable. Nearly 35% of educated young people are unemployed and only 14% of women are gainfully employed.

To give immediate relief to the unemployed, Rahul Gandhi has proposed the Yuva Nidhi scheme of providing Rs. 3000 per month to unemployed graduates and Rs. 1500 every month to unemployed diploma holders. This, however, needs to be augmented by bold, new long-term solutions that address the root cause of unemployment rather than symptom management. While doing so the new government needs to avoid the pitfalls of past misguided interventions - mismatches between types of skilling and industry needs and mandating the private sector to hire a fixed number of workers - to name a few. Mass entrepreneurship in Karnataka has the potential to empower a significant number of young people to set up their own enterprises spread across a wide range of geographies – especially in Northern Karnataka and in rural areas.

An imaginative collaboration between government, private sector, civil society, and youth could be a game changer in democratising enterprise creation, setting up innovation funds, and building industry-specific programmes and partnerships with incubators, accelerators and youth-centric NGOs. To make entrepreneurial opportunities widely accessible, awareness generation campaigns can be launched through Rural Business Idea Contests, and Entrepreneurial Hackathons in educational institutions. Entrepreneurship needs to be made an integral part of education in schools and colleges in Karnataka similar to what the Delhi Government has done.



Banks must lend more to micro-enterprises rather than dole out small loans (the average Mudra loan is Rs. 27,000) to create viable businesses that build assets and generate jobs. Additional efforts should be made to support women as 85% of them face challenges in availing bank loans.

Karnataka can also launch state-wide mentor programmes, particularly for the educated unemployed as mentoring greatly improves chances of entrepreneurs' success, according to a study conducted across 17 countries by Sage. Rural and sector-specific entrepreneurship can be encouraged by providing rural-specific infrastructure, connectivity, grants, subsidies, low-interest loans, and tax breaks. Special schemes, grants, and mentorship programs should be instated to address gender disparities and promote gender equity. Digital entrepreneurship can be encouraged through digital literacy training, support for digital platforms and marketplaces, and digital innovation.

Key gaps in the policy landscape need to be filled by providing an enabling ecosystem with infrastructure and connectivity, simplifying regulations and expanding incentives to non-technology and non-Bengaluru-based startups. These steps, planned and executed synergistically, can help Karnataka realise the vision of creating 10 lakh jobs in five years for its youth and women, through a grassroots mass entrepreneurship movement spanning every town, taluka and village. (The writer is the Founding and Managing Trustee

India's stake in Awami League's Victory

Bangladesh will again become a centre of anti-India activities, should a BNP-Jama'at-led coalition return to power in Dhaka in coming elections



ndia must do everything possible, within four corners of international law and with absolute respect for Bangladesh's sovereignty, to help Sheikh Hasina-led Bangladesh Awami League win the parliamentary elections scheduled in that country in January 2024. Begum Khaleda Zia-led Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), the main opposition party, which is allied to the Bangladesh Jama'at-e-Islami (Jama'at) and other fundamentalist Islamist organisations, is pathologically anti-India. Bangladesh will again become a centre of anti-India activity and promoter of north-eastern India's secessionist insurgent groups, should a BNP-Jama'at-led coalition return to power in Dhaka.

A look at the record of the BNP-Jama'at-led coalition government when it was in power from 2001 to 2006, makes this clear. The issuance of threats to India, the active promotion of secessionist insurgent violence in northeastern India, and attempts to create a climate of hostility toward India in Bangladesh were the three main features of Dhaka's policy towards Delhi. An important example of the threats was one by its foreign minister, M. Morshed Khan, at a seminar in Dhaka on September 7, 2004. Referring to what he said were restrictions imposed by India on the import of goods from his country, he said, "Dhaka could end India's three billion-dollar trade here by issuing an SRO (Statutory Rogatory Order) on all Indian goods entering Bangladesh.'

Striking an even more minatory note, he said, "Bangladesh is Indialocked. Delhi should also remember that the seven north-eastern Indian states are Bangladesh-locked." While an attempt to expressed are personal)



INDIA, THE ACTIVE PROMOTION OF INSURGENTS, **VIOLENCE IN** NORTH-EASTERN INDIA, AND ATTEMPTS TO CREATE A **CLIMATE OF HOSTILITY** TOWARD INDIA WERE MAIN FEATURES OF DHAKA'S POLICY TOWARDS DELHI

(The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer. The views

intimidate India was implicit in his reference to the vulnerability of India's north-eastern states vis-à-vis Bangladesh, an attempt to sow discord between these states and the rest of India was scripted into his blasting of the "Central Bank of India" (Reserve Bank of India?) for acting unilaterally against the interests of the common people of India (by imposing non-tariff barriers) such as not allowing individual states to open letters of credit without permission from Delhi.

The policy of providing sanctuary and support to north-eastern India's rebel groups, began when Bangladesh was East Pakistan, but halted after liberation in 1971 when Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was in power and resumed after his assassination. Begum Khaleda Zia's government pursued it with vigour. In fact, when she was the leader of the opposition in Bangladesh's national parliament, she had referred to rebels of the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) and other insurgent groups of north-eastern India as "freedom fighters." Not surprisingly, her government ridiculed India's protests supported by information. Referring to the list of insurgent camps in Bangladesh provided by India's Border Security Force (BSF), Major-General Mohammad Jahangir Alam Khan of the Bangladesh Rifles, visiting India for talks with BSF's director-general, Ajay Raj Sharma, said in Delhi on September 28, 2004, "There is not a single camp in Bangladesh. We looked for the prits had launched the attack in camps' locations given in the BSF list. Some of the addresses were of our cantonment area and of our headquarters....some of the addresses even pertained to the Bay of Bengal." In sharp contrast, the present government under Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has not only shut these camps down but handed over to India some of the key insurgent leaders it could

As a part of its attempt to cree an anti-India temper in Bangladesh, Begum Khaleda Zia's government even insinuated that India was behind the dastardly grenade attack on the Awami League's rally in Dhaka on August 21, 2004. Sheikh Hasina survived—albeit with injuries—the attack, which was aimed at killing her and eliminating the Awami League's top leadership. Twentyfour (including 22 on the spot) died and 300 were injured. Among those who succumbed to their injuries was Ivy Rahman, secretary of the Awami League's women's affairs wing and wife of Zillur Rahman, then the party's general secretary and subsequently the country's president.

Justice Joynul Abedin, a senior judge of the High Court Division of Bangladesh's Supreme Court, appointed on August 22 as a single-person commission to inquire into the attack, submitted his report on October 2, 2004. He said at a press briefing before submitting his report that local and important BNP leaders.

prits had launched the attack in pre-planned way to destroy Bangladesh's democracy, independence and sovereignty. A report in the Independent of Bangladesh on October 3, 2004, which cited dispatch by the Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha, the country's government-con-trolled national news agency as stating this, further said that, according to the commission, the attackers were foreign agents. Justice Abedin, who had once been a BNP functionary, did not identify the foreigners. Asked to elaborate on what he meant by saying that the grenade attack was the work of foreign agents, he said during a telephone conversation with Golam Mohiuddin of Bangladesh's daily, Prothom Alo on October 3, that he had taken into special consideration Bangladesh's geographical location and the politics of the subcontinent. He further said, "it becomes foreign the moment one crosses the geographical boundary of the country." Asked whether the commission's report mentioned the foreign country which was the closest (obviously India) he did not deny it but said, "I cannot answer this question of yours."

This clearly implied that India could have been the country, Significantly, among those sentenced by a special tribunal on October 10, 2018, for complicity in the grenade attack, were

Flawed ICMR paper on vaping continues to cause harm

Another year records over 13 lakh tobacco deaths in India alone because regular combustible cigarettes and tobacco remain widely available to all ages

While other countries reconsider their tobacco control options and embrace tobacco harm reduction, with some even reversing previous bans on nicotine vaping, we in India seem obsessed with the "implementation" of an illconceived ban on ENDS/Ecigarettes. People have even filed PILs against e-cigarettes

and become instant celebrities. In all this noise, no one appears to care that regular combustible cigarettes and tobacco remain widely available to all ages - with the last GYTS (Global Youth Tobacco Survey - 4) even showing 8.5% of current underage tobacco users with an average age of initiation at 9-11 years (Total population of 0-16-year-olds: ~ 38-40 crores or



(The author is the director

of Bharatiya Yuva Shakti Trust)

25% of our population) there are multiple tobacco sellers in plain sight of schools yet we hardly bat an eyelid. Why is this not worrying anyone enough to file PILs against this? Why no one is calling for the "implementation" of the cigarette and tobacco laws banning sales to minors?

Yet, if we are fixated on ecigarettes or rather nicotine vapes (or I'll start calling nicotine gum cigarette gum), it's time we take a long hard look at the infamous ICMR white paper on ENDS released 4 years ago that led to the ban on the manufacture, transport, sale etc. of nicotine vapes. The paper called for a complete ban on vaping but the law

of the Association of Harm does allow personal use. This paper was roundly Reduction Education and Research)

renowned global experts as well as by senior doctors at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi.

The claim of harm reduction was incorrectly assessed by the ICMR paper. The contrast should have been between risks posed by nicotine vapes versus risks posed by cigarettes and bidis. Instead, the contrast was between uncertain long-term health effects versus widespread nicotine addiction in youth. So what harm exactly does "nicotine addiction" cause? Especially if the nicotine is separate from tobacco.

Looking at the various proven carcinogens and toxic chemicals in tobacco and the clear absence of these in nicotine vapes, there is no criticized at the time by magical process by which found to be the culprit. programme where 1 million

vaping becomes nearly as dangerous as smoking. The relative risks have been estimated as 95% to 99% safer than cigarettes and even if these figures are overstated, the fact remains that nicotine vapes are far, far safer than cigarettes or bidis. There is no combustion in nicotine vapes (apart from poorly designed lab studies where vaping coils are overheated and burned to failure and the smoke is inhaled by poor trapped rats). In the real world, a vaper getting a "burnt taste" from a dried coil would immediately stop and get a new coil or

cartridge. Every single time. Nicotine vapes were also implicated in the EVALI outbreak where illegal THC cut with Vitamin E acetate was

Despite the wide availability of nicotine vapes, there has not been a corresponding rise in EVALI. Papers with an unsound methodology that claimed vaping caused heart disease have also been retracted.

The ICMR paper also called into question "tobacco cessation claims" of nicotine vapes saying they were unproven. On the contrary, nicotine vapes are now the most popular means to quit smoking worldwide. A recent Cochrane review in Nov 2022 (78 studies, 40 RCTs, total of 22052 subjects) showed "high-certainty evidence that ECs with nicotine increase quit rates compared to NRT". The UK government has even launched the "swap to stop"

nicotine vapes to reach a smoke-free society by 2030. A statement by 15 past presidents of SRNT (Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco) calls for considering the use of nicotine vaping as a means to double the quit rate. The preponderance of evidence globally is in favour of nicotine vaping as prefer-

able to smoking. A prominent concern also raised by the ICMR paper was about vaping being a "gateway" into tobacco use and ending up in a "nicotine addiction" even after cessation of smoking or as some folks have put it: exchanging one addiction for another. We need to consider two things here. First, nicotine is not carcinogenic and is not associat-

smokers will receive free ed with the detrimental effects of tobacco. There are no studies that have established any detrimental effects of longterm nicotine replacements.

Second, the "gateway" theory has been comprehensively debunked in the real world. The same youth who smoke tend to also vape. It's not vaping that has suddenly led to young people picking up a smoking habit.

The ban on nicotine vaping has not served the cause of tobacco control. It has instead boosted cigarette sales and led to the current situation where youth awareness of vaping has increased to nearly 25%. A situation where tobacco control people think nicotine vapes are more dangerous than cigarettes or bidis and have largely ignored the latter.

the pioneer Lyderabad

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> Saturday June 3, 2023

Conquering her grief and abuse to aid more like her

Neehaari Mandali, who has helped many burn survivors to lead a proud life, is on a mission to spread awareness about burns. This week, *The* Pioneer rang a call to this good samaritan for our weekly edition of Hyderabond, as she discusses her association with Hyderabad, but also her cause.

TEJAL SINHA

The pain that a burn injury causes in a victim's life not only has a psychological impact but also leaves physical scars that lasts for a lifetime. Well, that's how it's been for Neehaari Mandali too. When her fairytale marriage turned out to be too. When her fairytale marriage turned out to be mental and physical torture, she doused herself with kerosene, which left her with 90 percent burns on her body. She was also two months pregnant. Doesn't that sound horrifying? She had to survive and go through it all by herself—several surgeries, months of hospitalization, and a lot of courage.

A native of Pulliguda village in Andhra Pradesh, Neehaari shifted to Hyderabad in 2012, after the terrifying incident that took place. While she was still recovering, it was then that she started the Burn Survivor Mission Trust (BSMS). Today, she's become a 'messiah' for many such burn survivors through this organisation. During the initial days when she'd

this organisation. During the initial days when she'd shifted here, she did feel a little uncomfortable: "It

shifted here, she did feel a little uncomfortable: "It was difficult for me to interact or meet people. At times, I used to get positive responses, while sometimes I got negative responses in a couple of areas. It's been 10 years—a decade—since I came here.

According to Neehaari, Hyderabad teaches people what life is and makes them live a pleasant life. She goes on further, "Here you just don't have one particular sector to work. Even people who've not got a proper education get good job opportunities. The city makes you learn life values."

Though her trust's registration was officially start-

Though her trust's registration was officially started in Andhra Pradesh, they work from Hyderabad (Gachibowli) as their base. The lady bountiful felt that there was much more opportunity for her in

Hyderabad. She believes that the culture that's here, and that people from different corners of the country have settled here—different international countries, this in a way has led to spreading more awareness about burns. "I've got about burns. "I've got enough opportunities to expand my wings here. Even if any incident had happened in any nearby areas or states, they would come here to Hyderabad. And so this has been a big platform," shares Neehaari, who to date has handled 156 burn recon date has handled 156 burn recon-

date has handled 156 burn reconstructive surgeries, 900+ counselling sessions, and 10+ suicide cases. She feels that with the ease of reachability here in Hyderabad, it's easy to grab the attention of people, especially through word of mouth.

According to several reports, the estimated annual burn incidence in India is approximately 6-7 million per year. And it's been a challenge for the philanthropists too, in order to raise awareness. Why? Because unfortunately it's still a taboo in the society. Every time one looks at these burn survivors, they just act uncanny. "While we have awareness on cancer, saving soil, or menstrual hygiene, why don't we have awareness on burns?" questions Neehaari. "According to WHO, over 6 to 7 million people have been a victim of burns. And out of this, 1.4

have been a victim of burns. And out of this, 1.4 lakh people are disabled in our country. It's a very

very big challenge for us. Being a victim myself it's been a very big challenge. Out of a hundred people around 10 people will react, and out of those 10 people how many people would come forward and help is again a big question. People do know about burns but not post-burn deformities. There is no awareness regarding that. We cannot stop what has happened or is happening but whatever incidents had taken place to date, all we can do is to find out the victims, which is again not an easy task."

Mercifully, she says that now people have been approaching her ever since they started the organisation. While in a conversation, she also revealed that she to date faces challenges.

As we talk about post-burn surgeries, it also affects the victim mentally. And according to her, counselling has been a

her, counselling has been a big challenge. Like any of us, even they give importance to their appearance. "After the surgery is done, we counsel them, and maybe for the next week or even a year, they might feel better. However, later when However, later when they go for jobs, they might encounter people commenting on them and then they would again go back to the shell. It's very important to create awareness of

important to create awareness of that in society," shares Neehaari, who was recently awarded the NTR Legendary National Awards 2023. Apart from all the awards that she's bagged, she also has her autobiography which was published in Malayalam in 2017, titled 'Maattathinte Kuthipp'. And so for her, every time that she receives recognition, she feels that a new and much more responsibility has come on her, and she tries to become more responsible and do proper justice to not just the recognition, and people but also the organisation and victims.

iust the awards and interviews that have brought people to know about her cause. Now, she's going to star in writer-director Ram Alladi's Panne, which explores how the indities, she still manages to work hard. So now the post-production work is going on, and it is going to be released soon."

Neehaari says she feels very much connected to her character. much connected to her character. Just like how her character doesn't tolerate any sort of negativity or anything that troubles her, she's the same in her real life too. So, does she feel the film that this film is going to help her bring more awareness to the cause? film is going to help her bring more awareness to the cause? "100 percent," she says. "Not just the film. Even the interview that I'm giving today and that you're taking. Even if it reaches one person and if it creates awareness, that's what I wish for. It's kind of a selfish thing. If I have done some work it has to reach at least one person and that's what I keep thinking about the burn survivors. And now as we talk about the film, it's on-screen it will it's on-screen it will raise awareness to



Deepti Sadhwani: Asit Kumar Modi never troubled me on the sets of TMKOC

SHIKHA DUGGAL

eepti Sadhwani has undertaken different jobs to stay afloat before becoming a celebrity —she worked in finance as an investment banker. Now she's rich and famous! We assume investment bankers have a thing for show business. Many of the film industry's favourites belong to the finance background; likewise, Deepti.
Let's get to know her a little bit more. "My journey has

had a lot of variety and diversity, with some ups and downs. My career started as Miss Lucknow! From there, I participated in the Miss India pageant as well. So, I started doing ramp walks, some cameos in films, and continuing my education background—all simultaneously. With the help of an MBA in finance, I turned into an investment banker too! I started to specialise in marketing abroad, but then one fine day I quit my job and returned to India. Because I had this knack for doing things on my own, I started making my own music albums! From there on, my career took off. I

started to be a part of live events, and I started my own marketing agency and music record label too."

Recalling a few more interesting urban myths with us, she goes on, "When I quit my job, I had no savings of my own I wasn't so keep on taking any bale from your your I wasn't so keep on taking any bale from your your your your your your yo own. I wasn't so keen on taking any help from my parents because they knew I was an independent girl. Without any financial backing, I went on to do other ventures. At least I was trying to imagine them! There was a time when I felt like leaving everything and, just going back to my parents in my hometown."

But she didn't give up, and instead, "I ran my finance back-ground into the subconscious and started investing in multiple businesses. I was getting offers for films, but I didn't want to totally rely on them either. I wanted to make use of my educational background anyway! The trend of being an entrepreneur was on the rise, so I hopped on board too. When I opened this music label, I had already decided not to do anything with A-listers. They have enough opportunities! My role was to turn the coin for the betterment of independent singers. There are a lot of sob stories we hear on reality television shows —it was time for me to take action on it, and I am."

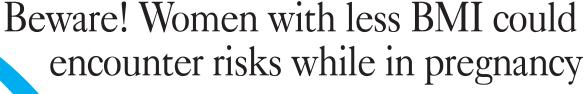
The fact that her parents were extremely supportive and trusted her decision made the transition easier for her. Her father was a banker himself, but to be a heroine apart from an investment banker was seriously like breaking a stereotype for Deepti.

And now comes the controversial turn—a little-known fact that our interviewee was also a part of *Taarak Mehta ka Ooltah Chashmah* run by the alleged perpetrator Asit Modi—all the dispute that's going on around sexual harassment allegations against him, to which his former talent quipped, "I had shot with him. The set atmosphere was very similar to your own family. Back then, all of us were

well treated. At least that's what I observed! There wasn't even a sense of competing with each other for screen space in such a big show. My interaction with Asit Kumar Modi was very cordial. I have no comments on the allegations against him; the law will decide that now, but he never troubled me on the sets of Taarak Mehta ka Ooltah Chashmah. He was instead taking care of me as his artist!'

An investment banker turned actress has had her own share of hassle to become who she is today. In an exclusive chat with The Pioneer, the actress not only takes us through her journey but also speaks of being a part of *Taarak Mehta ka Ooltah* Chashmah, which has now been the talk of the town, for

a while now.



Pregnancy is a transformative period in a woman's life that brings joy and excitement. However, it also comes with its share of risks and challenges, especially for women with a lower body mass index (BMI). BMI is a measure of body fat based on an individual's height and weight and is an impor-tant indicator of overall health. Women with a lower BMI, typically classified as underweight and may face unique risk factors during pregnancy that require special attention and care.

One of the primary concerns for pregnant women with a lower BMI is inadequate weight gain. Weight gain is crucial during pregnancy to support the growth and development of the fetus. However, women with a lower BMI may have difficulty gaining the recommended amount of weight, which can lead to complications such as low birth weight and preterm birth. It is essential for healthcare experts to closely monitor the weight

gain of these women and provide appropriate guidance and support to ensure a healthy pregnancy outcome. Another risk fac-

tor associated with a lower BMI in pregnancy is nutritional deficiencies. Women with a lower BMI may have a limited reserve of essential nutrients. which can affect both their own health and the development of the fetus. Adequate intake of vital nutrients like folic acid, iron, and calcium is crucial during pregnancy to prevent birth defects, anemia, and ensure proper bone development. Women with a lower BMI may also be at a higher risk of developing gestational diabetes during pregnancy. Gestational diabetes is a condition characterized by high blood sugar levels that occur for the first time during pregnancy. It can lead to complications for both the mother and the baby, such as preeclampsia, preterm birth, and increased birth weight.

In addition to these physical risks, women

with a lower BMI may also experience psy-chological and emotional challenges during pregnancy. Society often emphasizes the idea that pregnancy is synonymous with weight gain, and women with a lower BMI may face criticism or judgment for not conforming to these expectations. This can lead to feelings of self-

doubt, body image issues, and increased stress levels. It is essential for doctors to provide emotional support and create a non-judgmental environment for these women to address their concerns and promote a positive pregnancy experience.

Dr. Tejashri Shrotri, senior consultant (obesterics and gynecology), Apollo Cradle and Children's Hospital-Chirag Enclave in New Delhi shares some tips that can help women with a lower BMI have a healthy and successful pregnancy. **Consult a Doctor:** It is crucial for women with a lower

BMI to seek regular prenatal care and consult with an experienced doctor in managing pregnancies with lower BMI. Doctor can closely monitor the progress of the pregnancy, provide guidance on appropriate weight gain, and address any specific concerns or risks associated with

Focus on nutrition: A well-balanced diet is particularly important for women with a lower BMI during pregnancy. Ensure that your diet includes a variety of nutrient-

rich foods such as fruits, vegeta-bles, whole grains, lean proteins, and dairy products. Consider working with a registered dietitian or nutritionist who can help create a customized meal plan to meet your

specific nutritional needs.

Prenatal supplements: Prenatal vitamins and supplements are essential for all pregnant women, but they are particularly important for those with a lower BMI. These supplements help ensure that you and your baby receive adequate amounts of essential nutrients such as folic acid, iron, calcium, and omega-3 fatty acids. Discuss with your doctor about the appropriate prenatal supple-

ments to support your pregnancy.

Stay active and exercise: Regular physical activity during pregnancy can help improve overall health and wellbeing. Consult with your health coach about suitable exercises for your individual needs. Low-impact activities such as walking, swimming, or prenatal yoga can be beneficial and help maintain muscle tone and flexibility. However, always prioritize safety and listen to your body, avoiding any exercises that cause discomfort or

Monitor blood sugar levels: Pregnant women with a lower BMI may have a higher risk of developing gestational diabetes. Regular monitoring of blood sugar levels can help detect and manage this condition early on. Follow the recommended testing schedule and dietary guidelines provided by your doctor. In some cases, medication or insulin therapy may be necessary to maintain blood sugar levels within a healthy range.



















what's brewing?

Mahindra University and University of Agder, collaborate to launch M.Tech programme in robotics

ahindra University announced the launch of Master of Technology (M.Tech) programme in Robotics. This pioneering programme is being introduced in programme in Robotics. This proneening programme is boding and partnership with the University of Agder, Norway, a prestigious institution with a strong focus on robotics and technology. The programme aims to foster interdisciplinary learning, combining engineering principles with computer science and cognitive sciences. The curriculum combines theoretical foundations with hands-on practical training, ensuring that students develop a deep understanding of robotics principles, algorithms, and technologies. Candidates should hold a fulltime degree from any recognised University or Institute, with a minimum aggregate of 60% or equivalent grade in B.E./B.Tech in Mechanical Engineering, Mechatronics or Electronics Engineering. Even those candidates currently in their final semester are eligible to apply. For GATE qualified students, those with a valid GATE score and a percentile score of 80 and above will be invited to undergo an interview for admission. Non-GATE qualified students or those with a percentile score below 80 will be required to take a written test conducted by ECSE-MU, followed by an interview for the shortlisted candidates. The academic fees for the program are 1 lakh per annum, and eligible candidates will also have the opportunity to receive a stipend of Rs 18,000 per month as a teaching assistantship from the university.

Creativeland Asia Network launched its Creativeland Studios

LAN announced Creativeland Studio's acquisition of London-based Creators Inc - in a total deal value exceeding UK £3 million (three million pounds) to solidify its entry into international long and short content production and the expansion of CLAN's global footprint aligned to its vision of building a global creative super ecosystem. Further, Creativeland Asia Network (CLAN) has launched Creativeland Studios to focus on the growth of its long and short-format cinema and tv content offering - focussing on creating, producing and distributing high-end films, documentaries, television series and audio content. With this acquisition, Creativeland Studios has consolidated ten active slates, including two titles in production and now will have over 50 titles in its pipeline. Creators Inc. is a unique long and short format production house with a roster of directors that includes Oscar, Emmy & BAFTA-winning directors such as Guy Ritchie, Cary Joji Fukunaga, Sarah Gavron, Philip Barantini, Colin Tilley, Mark Osborne and many others.

ITC Nimyle celebrates the joy of clean floors Let floor is a child's first playground. From crawling to taking their

first steps, to creating memories as they grow, floors have been a comfort zone for all kids. While parents take steps to create a safe environment for kids, ITC Nimyle celebrates the joy and satisfaction of clean floors that can be a happy safe space for kids, with their newly launched campaign film with 'Nimyle Farsh hai, Khushiyon Ka Farsh.' Conceptualised by Ogilvy and directed by Afshan Hussain Shaikh, the endearing film highlights the fact that children spend an ample amount of time indulging in activities on floors. Produced by Good Morning Films, the film builds an instant emotional connect that transcends languages and boundaries. It will be aired in different languages across select states in India.

Chamakura Malla Reddy, minister of labour and employment, Telangana inaugurated the Montra Electrics showroom and workshop, at GreenHub Automotives in Bowenpally.

Samsung launches Made-in-India OLED TV

amsung announced the launch of its OLED TV range with Neural Quantum Processor 4K in India that
Mith Neural Quantum Processor 4K in India that
All models of Samsung OLED TV range will be
manufactured in India. Samsung OLED TV range consists
manufactured in India. Samsung OLED TV range consists
of the Series SOSC and SOOC. Both series come in three of two series S95C and S90C. Both series come in three sizes 77-inch, 65-inch and 55-inch starting from INR 169,990. The OLED TV range is available at leading retail stores across India, and online on Samsung.com. Samsung OLED TVs come with Neural Quantum Processor 4K for an ultimate entertainment experience that delivers incredible detail and unbelievable screen brightness. These TVs also come with the intelligent eye comfort mode that adjusts the brightness level depending on the surrounding light. Consumers can get up to 20% cashback on leading bank credit cards and can

Myntra's EORS-18 goes live

yntra said that it is on track to welcome 15 million new users from non-metros on the app as the 18th edition of Myntra's biannual End of Reason (CODS) is all set to optional millions in the country. A lath edition of Myntra's biannual End of Reason Sale (EORS) is all set to enthrall millions in the country, starting June 1, with more than 20 lakh fashion, beauty and lifestyle products from over 6,000 leading international, domestic and D2C brands. The company is geared to handle 9 lakh concurrent users at peak. Myntra's over 17,000 MENSA network of Kirana seamless delivery of orders across the country. EORS 18 will present more than 1.2 lakh styles from over 1,000 ethnic wear brands with a focus on driving ethnic 1,000 ethnic wear brands with a focus on driving ethnic fashion for all through differentiated on-app experiences such as Runway loons and FWD and offer never seen before the value to customers.

Nippon Paint introduces Walltron Hydroshield Damproof Paint

ippon Paint India (Decorative Division) introduced its innovative product, Walltron Hydroshield Damproof, which helps to reduce the Vindoor temperature of buildings. The product aims to support Telangana State Cool Roof Policy to ensure good quality of life by mitigating the effect of heat islands. Walltron Hydroshield Damproof, a state-of-the-art product from Nippon Paint, guarantees consumers a temperature reduction of 7 to 10 degrees along with a 10-year waterproofing warranty. People in Telangana who are looking for creative ways to improve their houses while supporting a sustainable future are likely to find this product appealing.



ARCHIE











REALITY CHECK

CAN YOU POINT OUT THE PERSON WHO OPENED YOUR BOX CAUSING

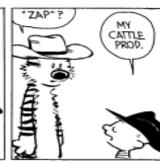
YOU TO DEPRECIATE?

CALVIN AND HOBBES



SPEED BUMP





GARFIELD

NANCY



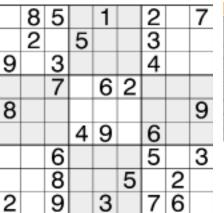








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3	8	6	9	1	5	7	2	4
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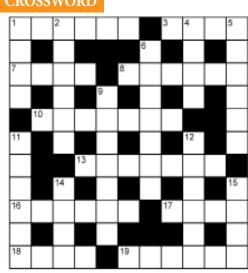
YOUR CURRENT LOCATION

DON'T PLLOW ALLOW

Rules

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

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 A clasp on a belt 3 Hint
- 7 A foot covering
- 8 Small glass ball

Finest

2 A prickly plant

4 Part of the ear

5 Cricket team number

- 10 Very angry 13 Borrow books here
- 16 A large shed for an
- aeroplane 17 Leg joint

18 Decays 19 Dislike very strongly DOWN



6 A month

11 A writer of books

14 Rope tangle

15 Departed

12 Medal for third place

9 Alike

GINGER MEGGS



Hyderabad | Saturday June 3, 2023

tollywood



Doing Sarvam Shakthi Mayam was Priyamani's divine calling

Priyamani Raj is one of the most prominent and talented actresses down south. She has significantly boosted the box office with her acting. The actress is now all set to star with Sameer Soni and others in Sarvam Shakthi Mayam. Spanning across ten episodes on Zee 5, the series follows the personal journey of an athe-ist writer and a dysfunctional family as they embark on a pilgrimage to visit all the Maha Shakthi Peeths. But

> Because she re-educates us, "Firstly, I would like to begin with that I am really happy with the choices of projects that I have embarked upon regardless of whether they have been a blockbuster hits or not. Because there was a certain kind of a personal investment that I let into every film or series that I choose! More

than a documentary, this is some sort of a travelogue that we are taking you on. Puri Jagannadh. Today, he is counted as one of the most popular screenwriters in a travelogue that we are taking you on. All of us realised our self-worth by shooting. Now where the spirituality part comes in, the interpretations are open to the audiences. But we would still like the

audiences to believe in divine power!"
So is it mythological, is it devotional or what is it in every way? We were strangely analytical about it, "The title of the series was decided after everything was shot. The series is not preachy at all! The little it is going to do is provoke a sense of spirituality and divinity inside you. I can see today's generation is not very devotional, they are like whatever sorts about it. The world has changed so much with the advent of technology that we hardly have any time to explore divinity. So from a show like this we would like

ity. So from a show like this we would like to persuade the new generation, especially to not forget about the divine nature."

As an experienced actress, even she knows that none of her roles are going to be a hundred percent justified character! But telling us a little bit about the way BVS Ravi writes and envisions, she said, "My character is written in a way that it is not forceful in somebody else's face. But I am sure whoever will watch face. But I am sure whoever will watch the show would want to take a trip down the lane just to explore what are these Maha Shakti Peeths in India. So I have known Ravi all my life. He is always been a well wisher of mine. I met him during the filming of Golimaar in Telugu, and

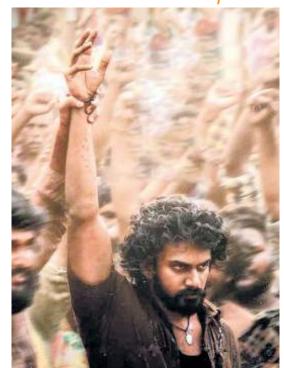
the Tollywood industry. In fact, to spill the beans, he has become so busy that we actors have to wait for him to come on the sets first. From the time we have known each other, we always have this fun banter between us that we will never let go off. He's always been appreciative of my craft but due to various reacative of my craft but due to various reasons we could never work together and this is going to be the first time we are working together, and after so many years it is happening! He is one of those writers for me who funnily perturbs me about why didn't he write a role for me until now. The vibe of the show was so positive that I honded with the creative con tive that I bonded with the creative consultant of the series also so well. It was only the producer's brain to make it happen that the whole cast and crew could travel to all the eighteen places without disturbing my dates.

Priyamani Raj calls BVS Ravi a very knowledgeable man, and writer. That's why because she never knew about the Maha Shakti Peeth, but as a writer, she could see how well informed has he come and equipped Priyamani also with all the adequate knowledge. She never knew about this existence before! Page by page, he took her to the very relevant turning points of history in anticipation of the show they were making about. So as a fan of history and the way BVS Ravi explained the narration to her, it some-I got to know that he is an avid writer for how piqued Priyamani's interest in the including me."

show. Further ahead, she said, "The discussions on the set used to be very heavy. But he ensured that all the characters were given equal importance, even if it is for one scene. Now anything in everything can stir up a debate! I would like to repeat myself, that we are not forcing anybody to believe in God. I am not much of a believer myself. But you can always be open to interpretation. We can always go back to history and know the importance at least."

Sharing some personal anecdotes while travelling for the show, she discussed, "To whichever temple we were going to, there was always a priest over there telling us the whole importance of how the temple was built and what is the how the temple was built and what is the importance of the body part that had fallen there was. Through this show, I was fully energised and felt like I was destined to be a part of it. Maybe I wouldn't have travelled to all the eighteen places, but this show made us do it. In fact, my aunt told me that this was your divine calling, any actress could have been a part of *Sarvam Shakthi Mayam*, but I was supposed to do it. What does this mean? We started our travel from Orissa, because of this show, we literal-Orissa, because of this show, we literally covered half of India. But travelling wise this was the most difficult shoot of my life. Like when we were travelling from Patna to Bodhgaya, it became hectic. And we were travelling in a convoy because there were only five women,

Virat Karna to play a mass character in *Peda Kapu-1*



Sensible director Srikanth Addala joined forces with Miryala Ravinder Reddy of Dwaraka Creations who delivered the blockbuster Akhanda for a new age film to introduce Virat Karrna as a hero. The makers announced the title and also the first look of the

Director Srikanth Addala locked a powerful and mass-appealing title Peda Kapu-1 for the movie and presented Virat Karrna in an intense and rugged in the first look poster. The young hero is seen alongside a huge crowd, and someone raises his hand as a mark of victory. Virat Karrna who has good looks is a perfect material. He sports messy hair and a thick beard to play a mass character. A Common Man's Signature is the tagline of the movie and the first look is highly impres-

Miryala Sathyanarayana Reddy s the movie that has some to technicians handling different crafts. Chota K Naidu cranks the camera, Mickey J Meyer composes music and Marthand K Venkatesh is the editor. India's leading action director Peter Heins supervises fights and Raju Sundaram is the choreograph-

The shooting of *Peda Kapu-1* is presently underway.

Kamal Haasan calls Mani Ratnam 'doyen of Indian cinema'

ndian film director Mani Ratnam, who is currently enjoying the success and love for his magnum opus *Ponniyn Selvan* franchise, celebrat-

Actor-politician Kamal Haasan penned a note for the filmmaker, whom he called "doyen of Indian cinema who has touched the hearts of millions."

Kamal, who lent his vocal prowess to Ratnam's *Ponniyin Selvan 2*, took to Twitter to pen the note: "If one were to count life by the happiness that they create around them and if age is calculated by the friends around you, my dear #ManiRatnam you are going to be a much older man today! A doyen of Indian Cinema who has touched the hearts of millions through his art and one who transformed

dialogues into a lovely visual experience."
Haasan added: "You have constantly push boundaries of cinema unmindful of the scale of challenge by constantly learning. Today you are a master inspiring the next generation of filmmakers through whom your legacy shall reverberate perpetually."
"From Nayakan to #KH234, our journey togeth-

er has been personally rewarding and enriching for me. Many more happy returns of the day and more to come my friend! #HappyBirthdayManiRatnam."



Nikhil Siddhartha turns into a ferocious warrior in Swayambhu

fter teasing with a pre-look poster, the makers of Telugu star Nikhil saen as a ferocious warrior on the battlefield. Sporting long hair and a grimace, he is seen released its first look on the actor's birthday

on Thursday, and its motion poster was unveiled on Friday.

Directed by Bharat Krishnamachari and produced by Bhuvan and Sreekar under the Pixel Studios banner, with Tagore Madhu presenting it, shooting for the lavishly mount-ed pan-India historical drama will start in August this year.

Swayambhu means self-born or 'the one

riding a horse with a spear in one hand and a shield in the other.

It is said to be the most expensive movie in Nikhil's career, with cinematography by Manoj Paramahamsa, music from Ravi Basrur and dialogues by Vasudev

Muneppagari. Nikhil's upcoming new release will be *Spy*, centred around the disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.





Rajnikanth-starrer Jailer wraps up its shoot

Superstar Rajinikanth and Tamannaah Bhatia have wrapped up shooting for their next film titled Jailer.

The film's maker Sun Pictures took to Twitter, where they shared a bunch of pictures from the celebrations of the wrap up. In the images, Rajinikanth along with Tamannah and director Nelson Dillipkumar are seen cutting a cake. Sun Pictures took to their official Twitter page and wrote: "It's a wrap for #Jailer! Theatre la sandhippom"

#JailerFromAug10."

The film, which will be releasing on August 10, will have Rajinikanth play a prison jailer. The film has been shot inside a prison. Apart from Rajinikanth and Tamannaah, it also stars Shivrajkumar, Mohanlal, Jackie Shroff and Ramya Krishnan. This will be seen working with Jackie. The two have previously worked in Uttar Dakshin in 1987.

Rainbow Chivarey, an energetic dance number from Takkar out now

Siddharth, known for films like Bommarillu and Nuvvostanante Nenoddantana, is set to woo crowds in a refreshing avatar for his upcoming Tamil-Telugu action romance *Takkar*. Written and directed by Karthik G Krish, the film features Divyansha Kaushik

as the female lead. Produced by TG Vishwa Prasad and Abhishek Agarwal, in collaboration with People Media Factory, Abhishek Agarwal Arts, and Passion Studios, Takkar releases in theatres on June 9. After wooing film buffs with the superb trailer, teaser and three songs Kayyale, Pedhavulu Veedi Maunam,

Oopirey, the fourth song from the film titled Rainbow Chivarey was unveiled on Friday.

Nivas K Prasanna composes the music for the film while Krishna Kanth is the lyricist. Benny Dayal, Vrusha Babu have crooned for the spirited, energetic number Rainbow Chivarey. True to the lyrics and the film's theme, the highly-addictive song is full of lively visuals and has a flashy, vibrant tone. One of the major highlights of Rainbow Chivarey is Siddharth's superb dance moves, while on the technical front, the costumes, cinematography make an impression too.



India shouldn't pick WTC XI with pre-determined mindset: Prasad

India should not pick the playing XI for the World Test Championship final with a pre-determined mindset like they did two years ago, says former chief selector MSK Prasad, who feels it would be very tough to fill the injured Rishabh Pant's shoes as his overseas feats are unparal-

India's move to pick two spinners — Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja — in the 2021 WTC final against New Zealand backfired as pacers dominated the game in overcast conditions at

Spin could play a role in the final against Australia at The Oval in London from June 7 but Prasad advised the team to take the final call depending on the conditions at that time.

"We went with two spinners and three fast bowlers in the mind but subsequently there was rain, we should have changed our plans, somehow we stuck to the same playing eleven. But that is in

the past.
"It all depends on conditions at The Oval. The is the actual story of the movie, the pitch and conditions. We don't know how they will be over five days, so we should not pre fix our mind and understand the conditions and back your instincts," the former India wicketkeeper told PTI.

Pant, who has scored cen-



turies in England, Australia and South Africa, won't be available to counter attack if the top-order fails. Prasad feels KS Bharat is the automatic choice in Pant's absence but the latter's ability as a batter is rare.

"It is a pretty straightforward call to pick Bharat (over Ishan Kishan). It is really tough to fill the shoes of Rishabh especially in an away series. In the history of entire India cricket, no other wicketkeeper batter has hundreds in England, South Africa and Australia, so it's

very difficult to replace him. "You need to have a wick-

etkepeer who is fit and fine for 100 overs. This is a Test match and we need to think from that aspect. "But if you are thinking you can have Ishan Kishan, Bharat has been tried and tested and has played India A in England, so they might end up going with him," said Prasad, who was the chief

selector between 2016 and 2020. India's star studded top four comprising Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara and Virat Kohli are expected to deliver against the likes of Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Pat

Cummins. Ajinkya Rahane at five also adds to the experience of the batting unit.

"That is going to decide the fate of the game. How our top order is going to face their fast bowling. "With Gill in the form of his life, Rohit already has a hundred in England, Kohli has been in great form and Pujara has got lot of runs in county cricket and Ajinkya with his experience, it is the best we can have, they have to fight and win the game," Prasad

Gill has recorded centuries

across formats in the last six months and was the standout batter in the IPL.

"It is all about the mindset and Gill has adapted to different formats now. In IPL he did say about technical changes he made in his batting to improve strike rate. So, if a player can change his mindset as per format he is going to do well in any format.

"That is what he has done across formats. I hope he will replicate that form in England," said the 48-year-old who played six Tests and 17 ODIs between 1998-99.

If India does go with four pacers, then choosing between Ashwin and Jadeja becomes very difficult considering what they bring to the table, said Prasad.

Jadeja has been so good of late that he can play as a specialist batter. It is a tricky call considering what both can bring to the table, it is hard to ignore. Ashwin with his 400 plus wickets and he is someone who is who can bowl on any surface. If it comes to that, it will be a very tough call," he said.

Another tough call will be to choose between Umesh Yadav and all-rounder Shardul Thakur.

That is the trickiest part. If you see the statistics, Umesh is more successful in home conditions compared to away conditions, so picking Shardul gives you that batting advantage. You need to have long batting depth also against a quality attack like Australia," Prasad added.



Australia unsure about India's bowling line-up

PTI LONDON

Australia are expecting Ravindra Jadeja to feature in India's playing XI in the World Test Championship final but are unsure about Ravichandran Ashwin's participation in the marque contest to be played at The Oval starting June 7.

India utilised three spinners during the recent Border-Gavaskar Trophy series with both Ashwin (25 wickets) and Jadeja (22) shinning bright to help their side claim a 2-1 series win. Talking to local media prior to Australia's training session at the Kent County Cricket Ground in Beckenham on Thursday, assistant coach Daniel Vettori said the team management had a lot of discussion about India's probable

bowling attack. "We have been debating that," Vettori said.

because of the batting he brings to the table and how successful he has been at that No.6

"Then the question will be around that fourth seamer and the all-rounder in (Shardul) Thakur and Ashwin, but they are (both) pretty good choices.

Vettori, however, feels Ashwin might just lose out on a spot in the playing XI because of team combination despite enjoying a decent record in England.

The experienced off-spinner has a total of 18 wickets at an average of 28.11 from seven matches in England but has played just one Test at The

"Ashwin is an incredible bowler and he will be first choice in most teams, and just with their combinations it may lead to that (him missing selec-Vettori said.

behave how it always behaves. "It is a good wicket, but it

can offer a lot to the spinners as the game goes on." Vettori also expects Cameron Green to play a big part in the WTC final, especially after

his superb showing in the justconcluded IPL. "Any cricket is preparation now. He is doing work in the background to make sure his bowling loads are up and he is

actually ready for Test cricket,"

Vettori said of Green. "We look at it like if you are involved in high-intensity, high-class cricket, we are happy with that as it means you are

playing cricket. The hardest thing for guys is coming out of nothing and that might be a challenge for a couple of guys who have had an extended break and how they get up to speed as quickly as

It's a grand final for us: Lyon

PTI MELBOURNE

Off-spinner Nathan Lyon doesn't believe Australia's preparations for the World Test Championship final will be affected by the talk around the Ashes, terming the upcoming contest against India as "grand final".

India and Australia will square off in the WTC final at The Oval from June 7.

The five-Test Ashes against England beginning June 16 has dominated the headlines over the past few months as Australia seek to win the marque series away from home for the first time in 22

"Yes, we are playing the Ashes but we've got a big game that we're up for. This (WTC final) is our grand final, and then our season basically starts again," Lyon was quoted as saying by

Australian Associated Press. "That's probably where we're quite happy with where we're at with our planning. We are able to understand what we've got around the corner, and be OK. It's exciting to be part of the final and the fanfare and stuff around it, it's bloody special.

"I know every Australian fan is looking forward to the Ashes, and so they should be. But they should also be excited about



this match," he added.

Australia will head into the Ashes without any warm-up game with the WTC final being the lone match before the contest against England.

series in India earlier this year won't have any bearing on the upcoming contest.

"You can wipe off anything that happened in India," Lyon

"Both teams are really well rounded in their squads. It is going to be a really good chal-

"India obviously have some class batters but they have some class fast bowlers as well. It's going to be a good challenge. Both squads going at it and competing for one game, it's going to be a really good challenge," he said. "It's a fresh start. I'm looking

forward to it.

ECB CEO supports India getting 38% earnings share

PTI DUBAI

India make immense contribution in driving revenues and fuelling the growth of cricket globally and deserve to earn USD 230 million per vear from 2024 to 2027 under ICC's proposed financial model, feels ECB chief executive officer Richard Gould.

According to the new proposed distribution model, the Indian cricket board (BCCI) could earn 38.5 per cent of the USD 600 million earnings over the next fouryear commercial cycle with the

The PCB is likely to take home USD 34.51 million (5.75 per cent), while the rest will be shared by the remaining eight full members.

In total, the 12 full members will get USD 532.84 million (88.81 per cent) with the remaining USD 67.16 million (11.19 per cent) going to the associate members out of the USD 600 million projected

The proposals, which are due to be ratified by the ICC, were criticised as it will only further increase the financial disparity in the game.

However, Gould defended ICC's new allocation

"When you see where that value is created, I think it's understandable," Gould said on the latest episode of The Final Word podcast.

"There may be tweaks in the margins here or there, but the dominant position India is in is based



on India's ability to drive revenues and drive the sport forward. One point four billion people, one sport, ten (IPL) teams, one international team."

"What I'm also fascinated by is India's determination also to assist the world game. You look at the percentages and go 'Well, that's not fair it should be split equally. But we've got to look at the size of the market. "India play as many inter-

national fixtures as any other team in the world. And they do that because they know when they tour as an interna-ECB (USD 41.33 million) and Cricket Australia tional team, they bring interest and revenue to that

round, in that regard," he added. Gould acknowleded the disparity, but he took

a holistic view of the situation.

"I get it (the financial inequality). But I also understand how important India is, because without them we wouldn't have the kind of revenues that are coming into the game," he said. "And I do think India make huge efforts to be

responsible partners in this when I see the amount they travel around the world, taking India everywhere. I do think it is a balance. "I think there is collective decision-making, both

in India and within the ICC, and I think there is a real determination and understanding we need (for) cricket to be expanding and we need it to be healthy around the world."

Gould feels instead of the host nation retaining all revenue, boards need to pay touring sides during bilateral series.

Sehrawat to lead India 'A' in **Emerging Women's** Asia Cup



PTI NEW DELHI

Batting all-rounder Shweta Sehrawat will lead a 14-member Indian 'A' squad in the upcoming ACC Emerging Women's Asia Cup beginning in Hong Kong on June 12. India 'A' will begin their hosts Hong Kong at the Tin

Kwong Road Recreation Ground. The All India Women's Selection Committee on Friday announced the India 'A' (Emerging) squad for the upcoming ACC Emerging Women's Asia Cup 2023," BCCI said in a release. The tournament will feature eight teams which are divided into two

Índia 'A' (Emerging) is a part of Group A which also features hosts Hong Kong, Thailand 'A' and Pakistan 'A', while Bangladesh 'A', Sri Lanka 'A', Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates are in Group B.

The final will be played on

SOUAD: Shweta Sehrawat (Captain), Soumya Tiwari (vicecaptain), Trisha Gongadi, Muskan Malik, Shreyanka Patil, Kanika Ahuja, Uma Chetry (wicketkeeper), Mamatha Madiwala (wicketkeeper), Titas Sadhu, Yashasri S, Kashvee Gautam, Parshavi Chopra, Mannat Kashyap, B Anusha.

Head Coach: Nooshin A Khadeer

SCHEDULE: June 13 - India 'A' vs Hong Kong; June 15 - India 'A' vs Thailand 'A'; June 17 - India 'A'



AP HAMBANTOTA

• ahead of its World Cup qualifiers in two weeks' time after suffering a heavy six-wickets defeat against Afghanistan on Friday.

Set a target of 269, Afghanistan got there with 19 deliveries to spare to take the opener of the three-match one-day international series.

Ibrahim Zadran was the hero for the visitors, top scoring with 98 runs. The opening batter took the Sri Lankan quicks to task during the Power Play as he raced to his half-century in just 35 balls.

Zadran, a 21-vear-old righthanded batter, settled down after the field restrictions as he added 146 runs with Rahmat Shah for the second wicket as the Afghans proved Sri Lanka's total of 268 was way below par.

Kasun Rajitha broke the stand when he had Zadran caught at deep mid-wicket, just two runs short of his fourth ODI hundred. Zadran's 98 runs came off 98 balls with 11 hits to the ropes and two over it.

Sri Lanka also dismissed Rahmat Shah for 55 when Matheesha Pathirana claimed his first ODI wicket. But Hashmathullah Shahidi's 38 sealed the game for his side.

The Afghan captain shared 42 runs for the fourth wicket with remained 27 not out.

Sri Lanka brought in the experienced Dimuth Karunaratne and Angelo Mathews to the ODI squad to address the team's

But it was back to square one as they slumped to 84-4 with Mathews (12) and Karunaratne (4) not able to make big contri-

Charith Asalanka held the Sri Lankan innings together with his seventh half-century and went on to score 91 off 95 balls with 12 fours. He was well backed up by Dhananiava de Silva (51) as they shared a 99-run partnership for the fifth wicket. But Sri Lanka needed much more than

Asalanka's knock was some consolation for the Sri Lankans. but the former world champions needed the senior players to put their hands up as there were too

many soft dismissals. Afghanistan, which has already qualified for the World Cup in India later this year, was without star bowler Rashid Khan, who sat out with a lower back strain. But their bowlers responded well keeping Sri Lanka to a below-par total cutting down the

Tongue's debut makes family friend richer

PTI ■ LONDON

▲ family friend of Josh Tongue, **A**who made his England Test debut against Ireland, has hit the jackpot for a wager he had placed 14 years back on the pace bowler that he would one day go on to represent the country.

Josh, a 25-year-old right-arm quick, received his England cap from pace bowling stalwart James Anderson on Thursday in the one-off Test against Ireland on Thursday, and though he did not take a wicket, the Worcester Academy product bowled 13 overs, conceding just 40 runs.

A pub landlord, Tim Piper
— a family friend — had taken a 500-1 odds that Josh would eventually play for his country when the boy was just 11 years

When Josh, who was included in the squad as injury cover ahead of the Ashes, was announced in the playing XI against Ireland, Piper became richer by 50,000 pounds.

"It's been amazing, absolutewonderful," Piper told Sen Radio on Friday.

"I never dreamt it would be this popular and people in the



pub can see me talking to people in America, India, Australia, they've got friends messaging them saying, 'what the hell hap-pened in Redditch (a town south of Birmingham where Piper

Piper, who watched Josh from a young age and played backyard cricket with him, added he was happy to see the youngster get his Test cap from one of the all-time great bowlers

"This (father Phil Tongue) is a friend of mine for 35 years, this (Josh) is his son and I see the work him and his wife have put in to chase this boy around England for the last 25 years. It's wonderful for the family and they were on the pitch today (Thursday) when he got his cap presented by Jimmy Anderson. "It's just a fairytale," added

Josh, originally started off as a leg spinner and played Under-11s when he was six, and Piper had the belief that the youngster would one day play for the

"On Tuesday night someone phoned me up and said he's (Josh) playing. I was like, 'you what'?" Piper said.

"I look at Sky Sport, BBC Sport, I saw that he was starting (against Ireland) so obviously ran upstairs, got the betting slip out of the cupboard, it's been next to my passport for the last 14 years. I thought I bet to check this slip but I wrote it and read

it correctly. "It's there and I thought oh my god. He knew I bet on him from a young age... it was known in Worcestershire cricket club a bet had been put on him." Piper is the landlord of the

Cricketers Arms pub in

Redditch and played with Phil

Tongue in local tournaments in

the 1990s. "Even though it's 50,000 pounds to me, a lovely amount, but I'm so happy for the fami-

Medal-less second day for India in Bishkek

PTI BISHKEK

Sajan Bhanwal made a spirit-ed comeback after trailing 0-7 but lost steam in the second period of his bronze medal playoff after three Indian women wresters made early exit as India endured a medal-less day at the UWW Ranking Series event here on Friday.

Bhanwal, who was passive initially, lost points in a jiffy from par terre' position against China's Rui Liu but logged five straight points to reduce the deficit. The Chinese wrester was tired but Bhanwal too did not have much left in the tank and shook hands for a 5-7 defeat in the 77kg bout.

Vikas lost the 72kg bronze play-off to Georgia's Otar Abuladze. The Indian Greco-Roman team thus will return with just one medal — a bronze that came through Manjeet in the 55kg category.

"We could have won at least 4-5 medals in this tournament. The competition was not much high, mostly the Asian wrestlers were competing. It was much tougher in the Croatian Ranking Series event. Sajan could have won today but since there was no national camp, our Greco-Roman wrestlers were not wellprepared," national coach Hargobind Singh told PTI.

"Usually they have better stamina but not having good practice has affected their fitness," he added. The national camps for sen-

ior wrestlers were put on hold due to the ongoing agitation of top grapplers and the Indian Olympic Association's ad-hoc committee taking charge of the functioning of the Wrestling Federation of India. In the women's competition,

and Nisha Dahiya suffered firstround defeats while Priya lost her quarterfinal bout. Sonam, the silver medallist at the 2022 junior world championships, lost 3-5 to China's Jia

young Sonam Malik, who is

returning from an elbow injury,

ong in the qualification round. The Asian championship silver medallist Nisha had a disappointing result in the 68kg competition as she lost by technical superiority to Uzbekistan's Firuza Esenbaeva. The Uzbeki later lost her quarterfinal to Turkey's Nesir Bas, thus closing

the repechage door on Nisha. In the 76kg, Priya began with a 6-0 win over Ukraine's Anastasiia Osniach but lost the quarterfinal 1-10 to China's Qiandegenchagan.

Banarse reaches surfing final

Sugar Banarse, the 17-year-old from Goa, came up with an impressive performance in the Women's Open category to reach the final of the 4th Indian

Open of Surfing here on Friday. Banarse, who collected the highest number of points (10.17), will look to defend her title on Saturday against tough competitors like Tamil Nadu's Kamali Moorthy (8.50) and Shrishti Selvam (4.74) and Karnataka's Sinchana Gowda

In the Men's Open category, Sanjaikumar S, Srikanth D, Raghul Paneerselvam, Sathhish Sarvanan, Manikandan M, Kishore Kumar, Santhosh M and Surya P advanced to the semifinals, scheduled to be



held on Saturday.

Srikanth D, who scored the highest number of points, said, The waves were comparatively smaller than the previous day and but I am happy to do well today. I want to continue with

the tempo and win the title." The Groms Boys (U16) category semifinals saw Tamil boys dominate as three out of four surfers from the state made it to the final. Teenage

surfer Kishore Kumar emerged as the highest scorer in the category for the second consecutive day (11.67) as he stunned everyone with his stellar performance.

Tayin Arun, with 9.17 points, and Harish P, with 6.33 Nadu to book final berths. Karnataka's only hope Pradeep

were other boys from Tamil Pujar earned 4.30 points to