sunday pioneer

QUOTE OF THE DAY

the pioneer

a lot due to the Centre's negligence. It is imperative to bring a farmeroriented government in the country. The people of Telangana are fortunate that

the Jagadgurus came to bless

- Bandi Sanjay, TS BJP chief

www.dailypioneer.com

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World leaders extend support condole loss of lives





Oppn leaders flag questions...

Expressing shock and grief at the tragic train accident in Odisha, opposition leaders on Saturday stressed the importance of prioritising the safety of passengers by railways, while there were also demands to fix accountability and for the resignation of Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

The accident involving three trains in Odisha's Balasore district killed at least 261 people and injured more than 900, in one of the worst railway tragedies...

Hyderabad experiences...

Hyderabad has recorded warmest night on Friday night this year with minimum temparature dropped below 30□C in a few parts. Areas such as Karwan, Uppal Khairatabad, Kapra and Yousufguda experienced such temperatures. Similar situation was witnessed in parts of Telangana too. Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad city recorded a whooping 42.40C, which is the highest maximum temparature in the month of June since 2019 and second highest maximum

SC stays Allahabad HC order to...

The Supreme Court Saturday stayed an unusual order of the Allahabad High Court asking the head of the department of astrology of Lucknow University to decide whether a woman, an alleged rape victim, is 'manglik'

The apex court, which held a special sitting on Saturday, took suo motu cognisance of the matter and observed it doesn't understand why the "astrology report is called for" while hearing a bail application The high court..

Intelligence associated...

People with higher intelligence were found to take more time to solve difficult problems than those with lower intelligence, in a new study that wanted to understand how the brain's decision-making processes work. Those with lower intelligence, or those with reduced synchrony between brain areas, were found to "jump to conclusions" when making decisions, rather than waiting until their other brain regions could complete the processing steps needed to solve

the problem. Researchers in the study from Berlin Institute of Health at Charite (BIH) and Charite Universitatsmedizin Berlin. Germany, performed brain simulations of 650 participants "personalised brain models", created using.

OBTUSE ANGL



No one would be spared

PM assures strong action against guilty

PNS BALASORE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said strong action would be taken against anyone found guilty in the train crash in Odisha that killed 288 people.

Speaking to reporters after visiting the accident site and meeting the injured persons at a hospital in

The BRS has asked about Anti-

Collision Devices that could

have prevented the Odisha train

Industries Minister KT Rama

Rao said in a tweet, "Aghast at

the horrific train accident that

PNS HYDERABAD

Balasore district, Modi said he was unable to find words to express his pain. "The government has taken the incident very seriously. No one would be spared and strong action would be taken against those found guilty in this mishap,"

What happened to Anti Collision Devices, asks KTR

killed 233 passengers and

left many wounded. What

happened to the Anti-

Collision Devices? This is

indeed a tragedy of

unheard proportions that

should have never hap-



What went wrong?

★ Odisha train crash: Preliminary probe suggests Coromandel Express entered loop line instead of main line, hit goods train

PNS NEW DELHI

Preliminary investigations have revealed that the Coromandel Express train involved in the rail tragedy in Odisha on Friday entered the loop line and crashed into a goods train parked there instead of the main line just ahead of the Bahanagar Bazar station, a source said. The coaches of Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express capsized after crashing into the coaches of Coromandel Express that had scattered on the adjacent track.

While Coromandel Express was at a speed of 128 kmph, Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express was running at a speed of 116 kmph. The report has been submitted to the Railway Board, sources said.



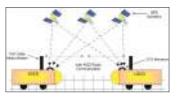
Death toll climbs to 288, high-level probe ordered

PNS ■ BALASORE/BHUBANESWAR

The death toll in Friday's triple train accident at Bahanaga Bazar in Odisha's Balasor rose to 288 even as work to remove mangled coaches and repair tracks at the site started in full swing, a railway offi-

Three trains -- 12841 Shalimar-Chennai Central Coromandel Superfast Express and a goods train -- were involved in the accident, one of the worst railway

tragedies in the country.
Citing reports available till late afternoon Saturday, the official said 288 people were killed in the accident. The official said, "803 people were injured in the accident, including 56 who suffered griev-



Anti-train collision system wasn't available on route

PNS NEW DELHI

The railways has initiated a highlevel probe into the train crash in Odisĥa, which will be headed by the commissioner of railway safety, South Eastern Circle, officials said on Saturday.

The commissioner of railway safety works under the Ministry of Civil Aviation and investigates all such accidents.

"A M Chowdhary, CRS, SE Circle, will inquire into the accident," a spokesperson of the Indian Railways said.

The national transporter has also said anti-train collision system "Kavach" was not available on the

At least 238 people have been killed and more than 900 injured in the crash on Friday involving the Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express, the Shalimar-Chennai Central Coromandel Express and a goods train.

While it is not clear what caused the crash, sources indicated a possible signalling failure.



TS offers rescue, relief ops over train accident

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana government on Saturday offerred support to the Railway authorities in rescue and relief operations relating to the ghastly train accident that took place in Balasore district in Odisha.

As per the directions of Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, the government contacted the Odisha Government and the Railway authorities and conveyed its readiness to extend all support, an official release said.

According to General Manager, Central Railways Secunderabad, as of now, there are no passengers from Telangana among the injured or among casualties. However, State officials are in constant touch with Railways, the release added.

Meanwhile, Rao expressed shock and grief over the death of several people in the tragic train accident in Odisha. He regretted that it was a most unfortunate incident and expressed his deepest condolences to the bereaved families. The Chief Minister 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 their lives in the accident, an official release said. Telangana IT Minister K T Rama Rao today expressed deep sorrow over the tragic train accident and conveyed condolence to the families who have lost their loved ones in the incident and asked "What happened to the Anti Collision Devices?"

BRS faces trouble as Left & AIMIM likely to dump it

Ahead of the crucial Telangana Assembly elections, the disgruntled friends of the likely to dump it due to the attitude of its leadership. The political friends of the BRS like the AIMIM and the Left have given indications of this.

BRS President Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao had openly said several times that the AIMIM is their friend. During the Munugode Assembly by-election, the Left had supported the BRS and later they had said that their alliance will continue during the Assembly elections too. But now the AIMIM and Left parties are sore

AIMIM and Left parties are sore with the BRS leadership. After the Karnataka Assembly elections, there was a change in the Left's attitude.

with the BRS leadership.

After the Karnataka Assembly elections, there was a change in the Left's attitude. CPI Secretary K. Narayana recently said that they now have a new alliance option in Telangana after the resounding victory of the Congress in Karnataka. Narayana said that although Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao is silent on working with their party they would wait a few more days for alternative.

The Left thinks that even though they came out openly to support the BRS its leadership is not taking any steps in this direction.

Āfter the Munugode by-election, the BRS leadership did not hold any meetings with Left leaders. The Left thinks that the BRS leadership is ignoring them.At the national level Left parties are ready to support the opposition front led by the Congress.



19 Tehsildars promoted as Deputy Collectors

The Telangana government promoted 19 Tehsildars as Deputy Collectors.

reported by the Chief Secretary and the Chief Commissioner of Land Administration, the TS Government after careful consideration of the matter and in the interests of administration has decided to promote to the cadre of Deputy Collectors eligible Tehsildars/Section Officers in the Secretariat and Superintendents of CCLA, on a purely ad-hoc basis by relaxing rules and subject to the outcome of pending court cases," the

The promoted Tehsildars are K.



Maheshwar, M. Surya Prakash, Murali Krishna, K. Madhavi, P. Nagaraju, L. Alivelu, B. Shakuntala, K. Šatyapal Reddy, P. Madhavi Devi, V. Suhasini, Bhukya Bansilal, B. Jayasree, M. Srinivas Rao, D. Devuja, D. Prem Raj, V. Bhaskar Kumar, Vuppala Lavanya, D. Chandrakala and RV Radha Bai.

EC to train election officials

The Election Commission is preparing to conduct Telangana Assembly elections and has decided to train its officers. Training will be given to state-level officials on election management. The EC's Master Trainers will be

given training from June 5 to 10. Training will be provided on the election process from voter registration to polling and vote counting. The state government has already

given instructions on the transfer of officers who have been working at the same place for three years. The transfers of election-related



Collectors, Additional Collectors, RDOs, Tehsildars, Deputy Tehsildars and lower level staff will be completed by July 31. It seems that the TS Election

Schedule is likely to come in November. There are about 2.99 crore voters across the state.

Sanjay to KCR: Release white paper on BRS govt's achievements

Telangana under BRS rule on the schemes for farmers, he asked. occasion of decennial celebrations, Telangana BJP President Bandi reveal whether he had kept the word Sanjay Kumar said. He sent a letter on Saturday to

paper on development projects exe-free of cost.

is responsible for the deaths of Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar farmers on piles of paddy. Is it not Rao should release a white paper regarding the progress achieved in Rythu Bandhu sops after cancelling

Sanjay, in his letter, asked KCR to given to farmers that the government will waive loans up to Rs 1 KCR asking him to release a white lakh, and distribute urea and seeds



Govt bans 14 fixed dose combination drugs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government has banned 14 fixed dose combination drugs including Nimesulide and Paracetamol dispersible tablets and Chlopheniramine Maleate and Codeine syrup citing there is "no therapeutic justification" for these medicines and that they may involve "risk" to people.

The Union Health Ministry issued

a notification on Friday in this

The banned drugs included those used for treating common infections, cough and fever -- combinations such as Nimesulide + Paracetamol dispersible tablets, Chlopheniramine Maleate + Codeine Syrup, Pholcodine +Promethazine,

Cites the drugs may involve risk to people



Amoxicillin + Bromhexine and Bromhexine + Dextromethorphan + Ammonium Chloride + Menthol, Bromhexine. Paracetamol + Bromhexine+

Phenylephrine + Chlorpheniramine + Guaiphenesin and Salbutamol +

The move comes following recom-

there is "no therapeutic justification for this FDC (fixed dose combination) and the FDC may involve risk to human beings. Hence, in the larger public interest, it is necessary to prohibit the manufacture, sale or distribution of this FDC under section 26 A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. In view of the above, any kind of regulation or restriction to

mendations by an expert committee.

The expert committee said that

'And whereas, on the basis of the recommendations of the Expert Committee and the Drugs Technical the manufacturers in court.

justifiable.

allow for any use in patients is not

Government is satisfied that it is necessary and expedient in public interest to regulate by way of prohibition the manufacture for sale, sale and distribution for human use of the said drug in the country," the notification stated.

FDC drugs are those which contain a combination of two or more active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) in a fixed ratio.

In 2016, the government had announced the ban on the manufacture, sale and distribution of 344 drug combinations after an expert panel set up at the behest of the Supreme Court had stated they were being sold to patients without scientific data and the order was challenged by



CM KCR seeks blessings of seers for Naya Bharat

Jagadguru Panchacharya Swamijis said that Telangana State is a role model for the country in all fields including agriculture and that the state is flourishing with people engaged in different professions including farmers living happily under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister K.

Chandrasekhar Rao.
The Chief Minister invited Panditaradhya Sivacharya
Mahaswami (Srisailam) the Jagadgurus of Kashi, Ujjain and Srisaila Peethas of Veerashaiva Panchapeeth for Decennial Telangana State Formation Day celebrations.

Chandrasekhara Sivacharya Mahaswami (Kashi), Sivacharya Siddalinga Mahaswamiji (Ujjaini) and



Mahaswami (Srisailam) reached Pragati Bhavan on Saturday morning.

Along with them, Sivacharya Mahaswamys of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Telanagana also attended. KCR and wife Shobhamma attended the meeting held on the occasion. The Jagadgurus recited

many verses and appreciated the development and welfare programmes of the Telangana vernment.

"The service rendered by the TS government to farmers in the last 10 years is indeed great. Providing irrigation to the farmer is commendable. KCR's government is a guiding force in strengthening agriculing community," the seers said.

Jagadguru said that KCR's determination to support the welfare state of farmers with the slogan of "Ab ki baar kisan sarkar" is significant. They assured cooperation for the construction of a 'Naya Bharat' (New India) aimed at the development of India by KCR.

The Jagadgurus appreciated KCR for according the utmost respect to Sanathana respect to Sampradayam (ancient traditions) and for patronizing Sadhus (saints). It was Janakamaharaj who

invited thousands of sadhus and honoured them at one go. Today, KCR made it possible in Telangana. They praised KCR as "Kaliyuga Janakudu" when it comes to taking care of saints.

PNS HYDERABAD

'KCR did nothing for TS'

KCR is first CM to file non-bailable cases against farmers: VH

PNS HYDERABAD

Senior Congress leader V. Hanumantha Rao said the BRS is running around Maharashtra and its leaders are saying that their government is one of peasants.

VH said that farmers were handcuffed when they staged a dharna in KCR's Khammam and KCR is the first CM to file non-bailable cases against

Addressing the media at the Gandhi Bhavan on Saturday, VH said that instead of giving compensation to the farmers of Telangana, KCR compensated the farmers of Punjab and Bihar. VH said that when the Congress government took over in Karnataka, it implemented election

promises immediately.

The Congress fulfils promises given to the people whenever Congress govern-

OPPN LEADERS FLAG QUESTIONS OVER PASSENGER SAFETY Demands Railway Minister's resignation

Expressing shock and grief at the tragic train accident in Odisha, opposition leaders on Saturday stressed the importance of prioritising the safety of passengers by railways, while there were also demands to fix accountability and for the resignation of Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

The accident involving three trains in Odisha's Balasore district killed at least 261 people and injured more than 900, in one of the worst railway tragedies in the country.

The Congress said the "hor-rendous" train accident in Odisha reinforces why safety should always be the foremost priority in the functioning of the rail network and asserted that there are many questions to ask of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Railway Minister Vaishnaw but those can wait as the immediate task was of rescue and relief.

In a statement, Kharge said, "At this moment of a grave national



This is the biggest train

accident of this century

must be conducted

· Mamata

and a proper investigation

tragedy on account of the terrible train disaster in Odisha, I have

instructed the entire Congress

party organisation to extend all possible help." A number of

Congress leaders from different

states have either already reached

or will soon be reaching Balasore,

he said and extended heartfelt

condolences to the bereaved

'We have many questions to ask of the prime minister and the railway minister but those can wait since the immediate task is of rescue and relief," Kharge

We have many questions

minister and the railway

wait since the immediate

minister but those can

task is of rescue and

relief -Kharge

to ask of the prime

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said the train accident in Odisha is truly horrendous and is a matter of the greatest anguish.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who is a former railway minister twice and flew to the accident site on Saturday afternoon, demanded a

KCR family corrupted Telangana politics: Revanth

PNS HYDERABAD

The KCR family corrupted politics by ruling the state for 10 years and engaging in indiscriminate corruption and illegal acts, TPCC President Revanth Reddy said.

Attending Telangana Formation Day celebrations in New Jersey, Revanth asked the participants to reveal how long people should bear KCR's loot and appealed to NRIs to take part in the development of Telangana.

Stating that the hopes of the people would be fulfilled if the Congress wins, Revanth said that all sections of people fought for a Telangana state. But the KCR family has been



engaging in corruption and illegal acts and is ruling the state as they liked, he said.

Expressing happiness over attending Telangana Formation Day celebrations in the US, Revanth said that KCR contracted debts amounting to Rs 5,000 billion in the last nine years. KCR intro-

duced budgets worth Rs 17,000 billion in the last nine years but there is no change in the lives of the people of Telangana even after spending Rs 22,000 billion (Rs 5000 billion + Rs

Revanth said that KCR did not implement a single assurance given during the elections. The people gave a chance to the BRS twice as it claimed that it fought for Telangana, but KCR did not rule the state as per the hopes of the people, Revanth said.

17,000 billion), he said.

He urged the people of Telangana to support the Congress, which gave the Telangana state and added that it would fulfil the hopes of

seeing KCR's kickbacks and land grabs," she said. Sharmila said that KCR did not deliver on his promises given to the people twice. "If the per capita income of the state has increased to Rs 3.17 lakh, why is every individual

is having an average debt of Rs

No one would be...

of tools for votes, Sharmila

achievements are taking loans,

increasing suicides and kick-

backs in the last 10 years.

KCR's speech on Telangana

"I don't know whether the

nation is wondering or not at

seeing Telangana but the

nation is laughing at Telangana

Formation Day was full of lies

She said that KCR's main



1.50 lakhs? In 2014, the state had a surplus budget of Rs 16,000 crore. Why has debt touched Rs 5,000 billion in 2023?" she asked

She said that KCR must be ashamed to claim Jalayagnam projects as his own.

KCR is deceiving the public through the Kaleshwaram Project which is not giving water to even one lakh acres although he changed the design and enhanced its outlay by more than Rs 1,000 bil-

She said that Telangana cannot become self-sufficient as long as KCR is on the sad-



Banga takes over as World **Bank President**

PNS WASHINGTON

Indian American Ajay Banga on Friday took over as the President of the World Bank, making him the first person of colour to head either of the two global financial institutions, the World Bank and the International Monetary

On May 3, the Executive Directors of the World Bank selected Banga, 63, as the 14th President of the World Bank for a five-year term.

In February, President Joe Biden announced that the US would nominate Banga to lead the World Bank.

"Join us in welcoming Ajay Banga as the new President of the World Bank

Sanjay to KCR... Continued from page 1

He asked whether friendly policing means killing people in lockups and jailing people if they protest against the government.

The KCR government has hiked electricity charges three times compared to previous governments and has burdened people with ACD and 'True Up' charges and asked whether this is the progress the government had achieved in the power sector. in the power sector.

"Is it not correct that the BRS government mortgaged the state and pushed the Discoms into a crisis in the name of free power?" he

Sanjay asked whether the government has the guts to release a white paper on how many industrial units it had opened and closed and how many new jobs it had created.

He asked the KCR government to reveal how many acres are being irrigated through the Kaleshwaram Project after constructing it for Rs 1,000 billion.

"What has the state gained through irrigation projects except looting public funds?"

He said the BRS government had converted Mission Kakatiya into Commission Kakatiya and asked the government to reveal how many acres it had irrigated through Mission Kakatiya. Sanjay asked why the BRS

government is not uploading the 50,000 GOs in the public domain if it is providing good governance. Will the BRS government

celebrate 'Literature Day' by protecting artistes who sing facts or give preference to the sycophant artistes," he asked. Will the BRS government

celebrate 'Suraksha Diwas' by suppressing voices that question the government using the police, he asked. Will the BRS government

celebrate Women's Day by allowing the sexual exploitation of women by BRS leaders? He said that Telangana is now number one in rapes in South India.

Will the BRS government celebrate Medical Health Day by ignoring pregnant women who are dying in government hospitals? Will the BRS government celebrate Education Day in government schools which have no facilities, Sanjay asked.

Bhavanam **Shakila Reddy** to head TS TDP women's wing

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) has announced the women's wing with 36 members. TTDP President Kasani Gnaneshwar said that Bhavanam Shakila Reddy will head the TTDP women's wing.He also appointed seven vice presidents, eight general secretaries, six official spokespersons along with the president of the TTDP women's wing.

The vice-presidents are Kanuri Jayasri, Potru Saraswathi, Suryadevara Jhansi, Chalasani Jhansi, Poothi Krishna Veni Reddy, Anasuya Naik, Gullapally Lavanya.

The General secretaries are Dasari Malyavathi, Thallikota Asha Bindu, Nandimalla Sharada, Doodala Nirmala Goud, Sharifa, Arem Varalaxmi, Noojitti Vani, and Manku Indira.

TODAY ALMANAC Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha Tithi:Purnima: Jun 03 11:17 AM to Jun 04 09:11 AM Nakshatram: Jyeshta: Moola: Rahukalam: 12:14 PM to 1:51 PM 11:55 PM to 01:23 AM Varivam: 3:29 PM to 5:06 PM 07:12 PM to 08:41 PM Amritakalam: Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:48 AM to 12:40 PM **HYDERABAD WEATHER** Forecast: Mostly Sunny **Temp:** 38°° Humidity: 40% Sunrise: 5:41 AM Sunset: 6:48 PM **Updated:** June 3, 2023 5:00 PM

Death toll climbs...

Continued from page 1

The two express trains were carrying more than 2,200 passengers with reserved tickets, he added.

The railways said that the 12841 Coromandel express while passing through the Up main line met with an accident goods train in a loop line at Bahanaga Bazar station, situated about 280 kms from Howrah and 171 kms from Bhubaneswar.

A loop line is a railway track connected at either end to a main line, to which trains can be diverted to allow others to

The impact was such that 21 coaches of the train, which was travelling at full speed since it was not supposed to stop at the station, were derailed, with three coaches falling on a neighbouring track, through

which the 12864 Bengaluru-Howrah express was simultaneously passing in the oppo-site direction, the railways

The Bengaluru-Howrah train collided with the fallen coaches of Coromandel express on the down track and its rearmost two coaches

"There were around 1,257 passengers with reserved tickets onboard Coromandel express, while 1039 people with reservation were travelling in the Bengaluru-Howrah superfast express," officials said. There were many others who were travelling in unreserved coaches of the two

The railways announced an ex-gratia relief of Rs 10 lakh to the next of kin of those who died, Rs two lakh to the grievously injured and Rs 50,000 for passengers with simple injury.

BRS faces...

Continued from page 1

In Telangana, also if the Left opts for an alliance with the Congress it will boost the prospects

of the Congress.

Meanwhile, the BRS leadership is concentrating on Maharashtra to expand the party's footprint and public meetings were held at Nanded Sambajinagar

(Aurangabad). There are speculations that in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections the BRS may contest from Nanded and Sambajinagar.

At present, the AIMIM is representing Sambajinagar in the Lok Sabha. Reacting to this, AIMIM President Asaduddin Owaisi commented, "Let the BRS contest from anywhere they want. We will contest from wherever we want."

TS offers...

Continued from page 1

"Aghast at the horrific train collision that killed 233 passengers and left many more wounded. My heartfelt condolences & prayers to all the families of the passengers who lost their loved ones and those affected. What happened to the Anti Collision Devices? This is indeed a tragedy of unheard proportions that should have never happened," Rama Rao tweeted.

Rama Rao, who was to release a report of the Telangana ITE&C department's performance for last year today, deferred the event to Monday.

"In light of the Tragic train accident, event has been deferred to Monday," he tweeted.

Union Minister for Culture and Tourism G Kishan Reddy, tweeted "Saddened by the news of the loss of lives in the tragic train accident in Odisha. My thoughts are with the bereaved families and prayers for the early recovery of the injured."

Continued from page 1

"Instructions have been given to ensure proper and speedy investigation of the tragedy,

The prime minister said that it was not possible to bring back those killed in the incident, but the government stands solidly behind their families. "No stone will be left unturned to provide all possible medical help to those injured," he said.

Noting that this train accident will be a lesson for the country, he said the government will further stress on the safety of the passengers. He lauded the efforts of the

Odisha government in the rescue and relief operations, and commended the locals

Continued from page 1

Senior BRS leader Dr Dasoju

Sravan held Prime Minister

Modi responsible for the

Balasore train accident which

claimed the lives of around

300 people and injured 1,000,

saying that Modi's mishan-

dling of the Railways has put

passenger safety in serious

Balasore train accident, Dr

Dasoju stressed that Union

Railways Minister Ashwini

Vaishnaw should resign

immediately by taking respon-

sibility for the accident, which

will go down as one of the

in which three trains collided

exposes the gross negligence

and utter lack of concern for

passenger safety in the

"The Balasore train accident

most tragic train accidents.

Expressing grief over the

What happened to Anti...

who turned up in large numbers for blood donation, and to help those injured.

After arriving here in an Air Force helicopter, Modi visited the accident site at Bahanaga and took stock of relief and restoration operations. He was accompanied by

Vaishnaw, and Union Minister Education Dharmendra Pradhan, an MP from the state. The prime minister was briefed on the situation by

Railway Minister Ashwini

Vaishnaw and officers of the disaster management teams that worked overnight to rescue people.

He also interacted with state Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Pramila Mallik and officers of

It is unfortunate that Prime

Minister Modi who takes plea-

sure in inaugurating Vande

Bharat trains has no interest in

ensuring the safety of rail pas-

The Train Collision

Avoidance System was devel-

oped by Indian Railways in

2011-12 during the tenure of

Mamata Banerjee. But the

Modi Government failed to

deploy it," said Dr Daosju

expressing shock at the heart-

weakened under Modi's lead-

ership. Downgrading the sig-

nificance of Railways, Modi

has merged the Railway

Budget with the General

Budget. He is also taking steps

to privatise the Railways and

is sabotaging the Railways," said Dr Dasoju.

"Indian Railways has been

wrenching train accident.

the local police.

From the accident site, he spoke to Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba and Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, directing them to ensure all needed help to the injured and their families.

must be taken to ensure that the bereaved families do not face any inconvenience and that those affected keep getting assistance.

Modi said that special care

He also enquired about the progress of the restoration work at the site, which is a part of the Howrah-Chennai Main Line that connects east India to the south.

Took stock of the situation at the site of the tragedy in Odisha. Words can't capture my deep sorrow.

Anti-train...

Continued from page 1

"The rescue operation has

been completed. Now, we are

starting the restoration work.

Kavach was not available on

this route," Indian Railways

Spokesperson Amitabh

The railways is in the

process of installing

'Kavach", an anti-train colli-

sion system, across its net-

Kavach alerts when a loco pilot jumps a signal (Signal Passed at Danger -- SPAD),

which is the leading cause of

The system can alert the

loco pilot, take control of the

brakes and bring the train to

a halt automatically when it

notices another train on the

same line within a prescribed

Sharma said.

train collisions.

distance.

What went wrong?

Continued from page 1

The loop lines of the Indian Railways are constructed in a station area -- in this case, the Bahanagar Bazar station -- to accommodate more trains to ease out the operations. The loop lines are generally 750 metres in length to accommodate full-length goods train with multiple engines.

The two trains were carrying around 2,000 passengers. At least 261 people have been killed in the accident and nearly 1,000 injured.

An eyewitness to the incident, Anubhav Das, also told PTI that local authorities and railway officials had initially indicated that the train he was travelling on -- Coromandel Express -- had rammed into the goods train.

However, none of these accounts was officially confirmed by the railways.

While a thorough probe is underway, none of the authorities has so far talked about any possibility of a sabotage.

The national transporter has initiated a high-level probe into the train crash in Odisha's Balasore, which will

be headed by the commissioner of railway safety, South Eastern Circle, officials said. The commissioner of rail-

way safety works under the Ministry of Civil Aviation and investigates all such acci-"A M Chowdhary, CRS, SE Circle, will inquire into the

accident," a spokesperson of the Indian Railways said. The national transporter has also said anti-train collision system "Kavach" was not

available on the route. The crash involved Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express, Shalimar-Chennai Central Coromandel Express and a goods train. "The rescue operation has been completed. Now, we are starting the restoration work. Kavach was not available on this route," Indian Railways Spokesperson

Amitabh Sharma said. The railways is in the process of installing "Kavach", an anti-train collision system, across its network.

Kavach alerts when a loco pilot jumps a signal (Signal Passed at Danger -- SPAD), which is the leading cause of train collisions.

No passengers from TS in Balasore accident

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana Government contacted the Odisha Government and Railway authorities and conveyed its readiness to support rescue and relief operations at the railway accident site near Balasore in Odisha where a mishap occurred on Friday

night. The General Manager of SC Railways in Secunderabad said that there were no passengers from Telangana among the injured or the dead.

However, TS Government officers are in constant touch with Railway officials, as per the government's official press

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GENOME VALLEY'S POTENTIAL TO BE SHOWCASED AT G20 PRESIDENCY

3rd G20 Health Working Group meet from today in city

Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry Additional Secretary Lav Ágarwal said that Telangana and India will lead the world as pharma-ceutical capital through Genome Valley. He said, "Genome Valley produces 33% of the world's vaccine production. The G20 presidency is a platform to display the Telangana Government's efforts in driving life sci-

The official spoke as the Union Ministry of Health gears up for the 3rd G20 Health Working Group Meeting, which is set to start from June 4 to 6, at Novotel, Hyderabad. The meeting is set to voice the challenges of the Global South in the health sector and focus on research, development and innovation on the sidelines.

Lav Agarwal said that the delegates who are set to attend the high-level meeting from across the world will also be



taken to Genome Valley on a co-branded event to showcase India's prowess in research and development and pharmaceutical manufacturing.
"India's G20 Presidency will

focus on three priorities, including health emergencies prevention, preparedness and response with a focus on antimicrobial resistance and One Health framework, strengthening cooperation in the pharmaceutical sector with a focus on access and

delivery," he said. He stated that it should be inclusive, ambitious, actionoriented, and decisive. "Infections know no boundary, and our G20 presidency aligns with this. We have a 50-

availability of safe, effective,

quality, and affordable med-

ical counter measures (vac-

cines, therapeutics and diag-

nostics), digital health inno-

vations and solutions to aid

universal health coverage and

improve healthcare service

city collaboration which has wide coverage. We internationally collaborate and share aggregate data and create a technology database through this presidency."

He highlighted the trans-formative role of technology

in enhancing healthcare accessibility. Through telemedicine, the Co-Win platform, and improved iden-tification and access to blood banks, these integrated initiatives bridge the gap in health coverage. He stressed the importance of seamless integration among global initiatives to effectively manage any future health emergen-

Working Group Meeting, Lav Agarwal stated that 180 members, 10 invited countries, and 22 international organisations will be participating in this upcoming meeting. Dr Manisha Verma, ADG, PIB, Delhi, and Balakrishna, Joint Director, PIB, Hyderabad, also attended the meeting.

Speaking about the Health

Hyderabad experiences warmest night at 30°C

Hyderabad has recorded warmest night on Friday night this year with minimum temparature dropped below 30°C in a few parts.

Areas such as Karwan, Uppal, Khairatabad, Kapra and Yousufguda experienced such temperatures. Similar situation was witnessed in parts of Telangana too. Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad city recorded a whooping 42.4°C, which is the highest maximum temparature in the month of June since 2019 and second highest maximum temparature since 2015.

According to weather expert T Balaji, "Coincidentally, June 3, 2019 temparature was 42.7°C, which was the highest in that year and again it's June 3, 2023 with 42.4°C, highest this year. Its June 3, 2023 also exactly same. At 47°C in Rural Telangana and 42-43°C in Hyderabad.

He said that coming days, we will have scattered storms, but it's a double-edged sword kind of situation as it can bring some rains, but also



According to weather expert T Balaji, "Coincidentally, June 3, 2019 temparature was 42.7 °C, which was the highest in that year and again it's June 3, 2023 with 42.4 °C, highest this year. Its June 3, 2023 also exactly same

increase the highly irritating humid heat which is worse

than current the heat wave. Summer has been weird with massive unseasonal rains, record cold in March, April and massive May and June

As per TSDPS, "Maximum temperatures are expected to be in the range of 390 to 450C, while the minimum temperatures will be in the range of 260 to 290C in Telangana.

Economic offences wing inaugurated

PNS HYDERABAD

Cyberabad Commissioner of Police M Stephen Raveendra on Saturday inaugurated the new office of the Economic offences wing.
Raveendra said, "Economic

Offences Wing (EOW) was started in Cyberabad Police Commissionerate in July 2018 to investigate serious economic crimes, chain crimes, unidentified chit fund frauds and organised financial crimes.

This EOW centre will be under the supervision of an officer equivalent to the

"The investigation of organised financial crimes should be completed quickly and the criminals should be punished and justice should be given to the victims," he added.

The Commissioner also released posters and voiceovers which will be used at traffic signals in Cyberabad.

World Bicycle Day observed

PNS HYDERABAD

The English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU) on Saturday observed World Bicycle Day. A bicycle rally was organised as part of the cele-

The rally was led by Professor E Suresh Kumar, the Vice-Chancellor of EFLU, along with students, faculty, and non-teaching staff. The objective of the rally was to The rally went around the campus in order to create awareness among students.

Stressing on a healthy lifestyle, Kumar said, "EFLU has made bicycles available on the campus for the students, staff, and faculty to commute between different facilities. It is important to adopt healthy lifestyle practices to reduce the growing incidence of lifestyle-related diseases and

promote a healthy lifestyle. promote increased physical activities among the youth."

"Increased use of bicycles

and avoiding motor vehicles will also contribute to the sustainable environment by reducing pollution," he added. The rally was also taken outp as part of the initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, to promote physical fitness across



EFLU Vice Chancellor Professor E Suresh Kumar leads the Bicycle rally on the campus

Leopard spotted at Gol Bangla watch tower

PNS HYDERABAD

A leopard was spotted at the Gol Bangla watch tower in KCR Eco Urban Park, Appanapalli, Mahabubnagar, at 4:27 pm on Saturday. The solar trail camera provided a glimpse into the natural habitat of the region.

is also the founder of the Green India Challenge, shared the images of the leopard on Twitter and said, "The Haritha Haram programme, a brainchild initiative of CM KCR Sir, is producing incredible results!

, Today, a leopard was spotted near Gol Bungalow watch tower at KCR Urban Park in Appanapalli village, Mahbubnagar district. Kudos to our CM's determination to increase green cover throughout

The Gol Bangla watch tower, located within the KCR Eco Urban Parkserves as a vantage point for visitors to observe and appreciate the diverse flora and fauna.

Can't jeopardise the future and lose youth to drugs: Experts

PNS HYDERABAD

Academics and legal experts on Saturday opined that students must be protected against narcotic drugs as they are the future of the nation.

The Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University-Hyderabad (JNTU-H), in collaboration with Telangana State Council of Higher Education (TSCHE), conducted an antinarcotics workshop on the JNTU-H campus.

Telangana High Court Judge B Vijaysen Reddy was the chief guest of the event. "We can't jeopardise the future of this nation and lose youth to drugs," he said.

"The number of convictions under the NDPS Act is high. However, as per the crimes in India report-2021, by the NCRB reveals that 3,25,841 people are under trial for drug abuse. Surprisingly despite the conviction rate being 77 %, teenagers

Reddy further said, "Earlier, family issues and peer pressure were the factors leading to substance abuse. Today, mental health crisis is the largest factors contributing to drug abuse. It is

vith telephone number



Telangana High Court Judge, Justice B Vijaysen Reddy lights the lamp during the Anti-narcotics conference at JNTU-H

essential to ensure that young adults are counselled before they turn to such means." The judge went on to say, "It is necessary to prevent consumption of drugs in the educational institutes and to keep a check on methods being used by peddlers to connect with the students."

Reddy then shared signs to identify a drug addict. "Once, the Kamareddy SP said, "It is not difficult to identify the drug addicts. Once the early stage is past, the body is dependent on

drug, which could be fatal."
TSCHE Chairman, Limbadri said, "All of us must have a purpose in life, just like fitness is necessary for physical well-being. Telangana also needs its youth to step up. For this purpose, I, along with JMTU-H

Vice-Chamcellor Narsimha met the Chief Minister Commissioner of Police to discuss subjects which could be added to the syllabus to help the students understand the adverse impact of drugs and cyber secu-

He further said, the Chief Minister also ordered the creation of a directorate to check the drug menace which is being headed by Hyderabad Commissioner CV Anand.

In order to tackle the drug enace Dharam Seva Nishamth Reddy also launched the Dheera app. This app helps drug addicts to rehabilitate through various exercises including Yoga and Martial

7,000 pilgrims from TS to perform Haj this year

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Minister for Animal Husbandry Talasani Srinivas Yadav on Saturday said the state has made arrangements for Haj. In all, 7,000 people are expected to travel for the pilgrimage this year.

A meeting regarding the preparation for the holy month was held at Haj house in Nampally. Yadav assured the pilgrims that the Telangana gov-ernment would provide all facilities to the pilgrims. Following the meeting, Nampally MLA Zafar Hussain urged the people to fully participate in the ritual. The first batch of pilgrims will leave for Saudi Arabia on June 7. The rituals are tentatively

supposed to begin on June 25. Haj is one of the five pillars of Islam, observed during Zill Hajja, the last month of the Islamic cal endar. The pilgrims simultaneously converge on Mecca for the week of the Haj, and perform a series of pre-Islamic rituals; pilgrims wear a single piece of unstitched white clothing known as the Ihram, walk counterclockwise seven times around the Kaaba; kiss the black stone mounted on the corner wall of Kaaba, walk briskly back and forth between the hills of Safa and Marwah seven times, drink from the Zamzam Well, then visit the plains of Mount Arafat to stand in vigil, spend a night in the plain of Muzdalifa, and perform symbolic stoning of the devil by throwing stones at three pillars. Following the sacrifice of a cattle, the male pilgrims either shave or trim their heads while females trim the ends of their

City gears up for Suraksha Day

PNS HYDERABAD

The city is gearing up for Suraksha Day on June 4, The three Commissionerates will patrol the Necklace Road as part of the initiative.

The patrolling exercise will be conducted from 10:30 to 11:30 am. Blue Colts, patrol cars and interceptors will demonstrate their functioning during the rally. The Rachakonda commissionerate will conduct a canine show and demonstrate response to Dial 100 or emer-

gency calls. A mega rally led by the Commissioner of Police DS Chauhan, LB Nagar MLA D Sudheer Reddy and Uppal MLA B Subhash Reddy will be held from LB Nagar camp office to DSL Virtue Mall,

'I NEVER HAD CANCER'

Chiranjeevi clarifies concerns about cancer diagnosis

PNS HYDERABAD

Renowned Telugu Actor Chiranjeevi, took to social media to address the recent rumours regarding his health. Fans had been worried after reports circulated suggesting that Chiranjeevi was battling cancer. However, the actor him-

self set the record straight, stating that he was not diagnosed with cancer but had detected non-cancerous polyps through regular tests.

In a public interaction on Saturday, Chiranjeevi candidly shared his experience, saying, "I never revealed it so far, but I am not hesitating to reveal it now. I was diagnosed with polyps back then. But luckily, I could get it treated in the early stages itself." He emphasised that the timely diagnosis allowed him to overcome the

condition successfully. "I wasn't afraid of revealing my story. If identified in the early stages, then cancer is not a fatal disease. It can be treated with great effectiveness," he added.

While the news of Chiranjeevi's health scare came as a shock, his disclosure brings relief to his fans and well-wishers. It appears that the confusion arose due to misinterpretation of his words during a speech at the inauguration of a cancer centre. Subsequently,

several media organisations reported that he had cancer and had survived the treatment. Chiranjeevi clarified on Twitter, stating, "I only said, 'If I hadn't done the test first, it would have turned out to be cancer'. That's why everyone should take precautions and undergo medical tests/screening.

TELANGANA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD REGIONAL OFFICE, WARANGAL H.No. 1-8-269, Balasamudram, Hanumakonda District - 506 001

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION

M's Telangana State Vineral Development Corporation Ltd (TSVDC), #6-2-915, MNWSS

accordance with the Notification No. S.O.1533(E), Dated 14th September 2006 of Ministry of Environment, Forest Climate Change, Govt. of India, It is to notify that "MIS. TELANGANA STATE MINERAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED" has proposed for Ordinary sand mining of Cherukuru sand reach on Godavari River bed Cherukuru (V), Wazaedu (M), Mulugu District with Capacity of 3,55,436 m3 /annum over an extent of 17.80 Hectares and to have an Environmental Public Hearing to Obtain Environmental Clearance (EC)from State Level Environment Impac Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Telangana, MoEF & CC, Gol. The details of the proposed project activities as given by the rononent are as follows:

Name of the Company and address Phenisea, 3rd Floor, Rear Block, Khairlabad, Hyderabad, 500004.

M/s. Telangana State Mineral Development Corporation Limited, Ordinary sand mining Name of the Project of Chenakaru sand reach on Godovan River bed, Chenakaru (V), Wazeeda (M), Mulagi District over an extent of 17.80 Hectares Location of the Proposed Project Cherukuru sand reach on Godavari River bed, Cherukuru (V), Wazeedu (M), Mulugi with Survey Nos. M/s Sri Sai Manasa Nature Tech Private Limited, Plot No.74/A, Flat No.102, Central Ban Name of Environmental Consultant Building, Kalyan Nagar, Hyderabad – 500036, Phone: 040-23816333, Mobile: 996906148: Smt. B.V. Prashenthi, General Manager (S&M), M/s. Telangana State Mineral Developmer Corporation Limited, Email: temdotto@gmail.com, Ph.No. 040-23323150, Cell No. 8977911003. Name of the authorized person to be contexted Capital Cost ine of activity and Mining Capacity | Mining of ordinary sand - 3,55,436 m3 lannum (in an area of 17,80 Ha.) Date: 07.07.2023, Time: 12:30 PM, Venue: In the premises of Grama Panchayathi, besid DeterTime/ Venue of Public

Mandal Parishad High School, Chenukuru (V), Wazeedu (M), Mulugu District Place of availability of Executive Summary (Telugu & English) & Draft EIA report in English and also in CD form of the proposed project

Office of the Collector & District Magistrate, Mulugu District, Telangana.

Office of the Revenue Divisional Office, Mulugu, Mulugu District, Telangana Office of the General Manager, District Industries Centre, Mulugu District, Telangens

Office of the Chief Executive Officer, ZillaParished, Mulugu District, Telangana. Office of the Member Secretary, Telangona State Pollution Control Board, Paryaveran Bhavon, A-3, Industrial Sanathnaga.

Hyderabad, Telangana. The Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, Ministry of Environment Forests & Climate Change, 3rd Floo

AranyaBhavan, Salfabad, Hyderabad, Telangana. Office of the Department of Environment, Forests Science & Technology, Govt. of Telangano, 4th floor, AranyaBhaxon

Office of the Joint Chief Environmental Engineer, Zonal Office, Telongana State Pollution Control Board, H. No. 6-3-1215

Block-C Ward No.91, Uma Nagar, Near Country Club, Begumpet, Hyderabad, Telangana.

Office of the Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Telangana State Pollution Control Board, 1-8-269, Balasamudram

Hanumakonda District, Telangana.

Office of Thehsilder, Wazeedu (M), Mulugu District, Telengana.

Office of MPDO, Wazaedu (M), Mulugu District, Telangana.

Office of the Gram Panchayath, Cherukuru (V), Wazzeedu (M), Mulugu District, Telangana.

luggestions, views, comments and objections of the public, if any, are invited within 30 days from the date of publication of the notification from all persons including bonafide, residents, Environmental groups & others located at project staristies of isplacement/sites likely to be affected. All the above persons can also submit written suggestions to the undersigned of the T.S.Pollution Control Board or send to e-mail lid: ee-wglu-tapcb@telangana.gov.in. The interested persons can take part in the proceedings of the public hearing on the date and wonue specified above. The draft EIA (In English) & Executive Summar (In English & Telugu) will be uploaded in TSPCS Website

This notice of public hearing is issued as per the Appendix IV of EIA Notification 2006 and its cost is borne by the projec Sdi- Environmental Enginee

Place: Hanumakonda T.S. Pollution Control Board Date: 02.06.2023 Regional Office, Waranga R.O. No: 254-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2023-24

KISHAN REDDY OPENS TWO-DAY KAUSHAL MAHOTSAV

Centre will develop skilling for job-seekers

PNS HYDERABAD

Union Minister for Tourism G Kishan Reddy said that the Centre is on a mission to impart right skilling among job-seekers in the country, as he inaugurated the two-day Kaushal Mahotsav, a Job Mela organised by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship at the National Skill Training Institute in Vidyanagar, on Saturday.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister Kishan Reddy highlighted the significance of the mega job fair 'Kaushal Mahotsav'

as a unique example of a publicprivate partnership that offers employability and job opportunities to unemployed youth. He emphasised that the Central Government has taken various measures to enhance the skills of job-seekers in numerous disciplines, and the purpose of this initiative is to provide employment opportunities to the youth. The Minister further stated that efforts will continue to be made to increase people's skills and provide employment across all sectors in

The students who successfully



clear the recruitment drive will receive offer letters on Sunday from the Union Minister.

Pangkhuri Borgohain, General Manager of Industry Collaboration at NSDC, expressed

India's younger generation. The overwhelming response received at Kaushal Mahotsav reaffirms the commitment to make India a global hub for skills. With over 13,000 registrations received so far, the aim is to fulfill Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of promoting regional employment and empowering the youth. This collaborative effort will accelerate economic growth and development in the state, Borgohain

immense pride in organising this

extensive recruitment drive and

witnessing the enthusiasm of

companies offering jobs across 450 job roles in 24 sectors, including automotive, logistics, production, electronics, apparel, and tourism. Prominent organisations such as Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd Auto Division, Parle Agro, ICICI Bank Services Limited, Johnson Lifts and Sodexo were present at the event. Multiple Sector Skill Councils (SSCs), staffing organisations, and employers also participated. The job fair attracted more than 150 employers and over 3,500 job-seekers.

The mega job fair witnessed the

participation of more than 100



Murders declined in TS

The Telangana government is giving priority to ensuring public safety. After the creation of Telangana state, the government led by Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao gave utmost priority to women's safety.

The TS government is at the top in the country in maintaining peace and security. After the formation of the state, crimes have declined significantly. For eg, murders due to personal reasons have decreased by 32.94 per cent. There is a 19.42 per cent decrease in murders in the state and up to 40 per cent reduction in crimes against women, espe-

cially dowry murders.
Telangana built the first police command and control centre in the country as per international standards in Hyderabad. This TS Police Command Control Centre in Hyderabad's Banjara Hills has equipment that can check the footage of one lakh

cameras within a minute. Telangana has become the first state to take strong action against the adulteration of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides under the PD Act. Telangana is also the first state to integrate the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS) with the Interoperable Criminal Justice



has been done without any prob-

Telangana state, that is, from

2004 to 2014, Rs 30,348 crore was

allocated to the Home Department in the budget. In the

nine years after the formation of

Telangana state, the government has allocated Rs 59,200 crore

indicating the government's

stress on maintaining law and

Telangana State, 31,970 posts of

various ranks were created to

The Telangana Police

Recruitment Board issued three

notifications for filling 48,096

posts and 28,277 posts were

filled. The remaining posts are in

the process of being filled up.

Advanced training has been

given to 1,32,492 police person-

nel in the police department.

strengthen the police force.

After the formation of

order and ensuring safety.

Before the formation of

System (ICJS).

A total of 10,66,792 CCTV

cameras have been installed so far with the help of the public and this plays a vital role in maintaining peace. By providing 30 CCTV cameras for every thousand people, Hyderabad has taken the top place in the country in CCTV cameras and is ranked 16th in the world.

In order to ensure security 11 police districts, 7 commissionerates, 175 police stations, 38 circles, 24 sub-divisions, 4 IR Battalions, 2 Multi Zones and 7 zones have been formed. In addition to this the TS Cyber Security Bureau, the TS Narcotics Bureau and TS Command Control Centres have also been set up to check cybercrimes and the narcotics trade.

According to the Presidential Order-2018, the allotment of officers to Multi Zones 1 and 2 Telangana state, 551 new police station buildings were constructed at a cost of Rs 775 crore. The construction of 111 buildings is progressing. 16,154 vehicles have been purchased since 2014 to strengthen the Telangana Police

The two 3-tier data centres, the state-level integrated command and control centre and the district-level command control centres, district cyber labs and the centre of excellence provide modern technology to the police department.

A total of 66,374 CUG SIMs have been issued to all police personnel. Body cameras, breath analyzers, computer tabs, high end computers, BDDS devices, ANPR, video analytics (VMS) and CCTVs have also been provided. Rs 709 crore was spent on installing CCTVs in 774 police stations in Telangana state.

The Telangana State Forensic Science Laboratory is the first laboratory in India to explore this approach and import reference material for psychotropic sub-

The latest equipment has been procured for all the 11 labs of TSFSL along with Warangal and Karimnagar RFSLs. This has led to quick accurate analysis and fast resolution of cases.

Nano-tech fertilisers will boost farm economy

PNS HYDERABAD

Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilisers, Secretary of the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Arun Baroka said that nano-tech fertilisers will boost farm economy as he unveiled a new innovation called Nano DAP by Coromandel International Limited, an Agri solutions provider, at Hyderabad on Friday. Developed by the company's R&D centre at IIT, Bombay, Nano DAP is a nanotechnology-based fertiliser aimed at promoting sustainable farm practices and integrated

nutrient management. During the launch event, which was attended by farmers and government officials, samples of Nano DAP were distributed to progressive farmers for testing and eval-

Secretary Arun Baroka said, "Nano DAP marks a significant step in India's push towards achieving the Atma Nirbhar vision in fertilisers. We are working closely with the industry to promote its usage and positioning it as an alternate fertiliser to conventional nutri-

BJP to stick to its guns

Party high command rules out change of leadership in Telangana State

K VENKATESHWARLU

The BJP high command is determined to stick to its ideology in Telangana. As such, the party high command may not make any changes in Telangana, it is learnt. The party leadership made this clear in the face of a section of party leaders in Telangana stating that some changes will take place in Telangana BJP leadership within one week.

According to sources, a section of leaders tried to persuade the party high command to change the party leadership in State. The leaders explained to the party high command that the change of leadership may help the party come to power by winning more seats. They also told the high command that the present leadership cannot attract other sections of the people. The present leadership has succeeded in attracting only those who like Hindutva's argument. They also argued with the party's high command that the Hindutva plank would not succeed in South India like North India.

However, the party's high command decided to stick to

it after serious deliberations within the party. It is learnt that the party high command expressed the opinion that the USP is Hindutva and it would continue its line irrespective of the outcome of the elections.

line accepting the argument of a section of leaders." One of the Telangana BJP leaders told The Pioneer that there is no guarantee whether other sections of the people would be attracted to the BJP if they changed the present leadership. Moreover, there is a probability that the party may lose its base if it succumbed to the arguments of a section of

leaders. He said that it is true

The high command also told

the leaders, who argued with

the high command, that "the

party may lose the Hindutva

base if it goes against the party

that the party in Telangana is now in a different mode.

"I don't know what to name the present different mode. However, it is true that there is a gap between the leaders as of now. But the party may not change its ideology with the threats of leaders that they quit the party. Leaders may come and go, but the party will not

change ideology," he said. While speaking to The Pioneer, Telangana BJP official spokesperson NV Subhash said, "Party high command has full information and it will take a decision. However, the party high command will utilise the services of all the leaders whether they are old or new. The party has not given any position to former Chief Minister N Kiran Kumar Reddy yet", he said.

TS decennial fete: Farmers' Day celebrated in Suryapet

PNS NALGONDA

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi government during the last nine years spent Rs 4.50 lakh crore in Suryvapet district alone on agriculture and allied sectors. The area under cultivation went up from a metre 3 lakh acres to 6.18 lakh acres in the district, according to Minister for Energy G Jagadish Reddy on Saturday.

Participating as chief guest in Farmers' Day celebrations as part of Telangana State decennial fete, the Minister made it clear that Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, who is pro-farmer, allotted a huge budget to rejuvenate agriculture. With the irrigation projects coming up in the State, large tracts of land were receiving Godavari waters. The food grain production in the district increased to a little over 12.27 lakh tonnes from mere



Minister for Energy G Jagadish Reddy participating in Farmers' Day celebrations in Suryapet on Saturday

4,43,876 tonnes, he said.

Jagadish Reddy pointed out that the Chief Minster as part of pro-farmer policies has been providing input subsidy at the rate of Rs 10,000 per acre to farmers. The government has been crediting the input subsidy into the accounts of the

farmers promptly. The government has so far provided Rs 2,723.92 lakh crore to farmers under the Rythu Bandhu scheme in Survapet district alone, he said and added that the Rythu Bheema was also introduced by the government for the protection of farmers.

Advancement of crop season suggested

PNS NAGARKARNOOL

District Collector P Uday Kumar on Saturday advised farmers to consider advancing crop season to maximise their

While participating in Farmers' Day celebrations as part of Telangana State Decennial fete here, the Collector told the farmers, who came in large numbers to participate in the function, that the State government proposed the advancement of sowing of paddy in Yasangi season by a month. It would help protect farmers from unseasonal rains in May.

Kollapur MLA Harshvardhan Reddy participated in the programme. Farmers reached the venue of the function on oxendrawn carts. The organisers read the message of Minister for

Agriculture S Niranjan Reddy. The Minister said that the State government is committed to the welfare of farmers. He recalled that there was widespread agrarian distress before Telangana State was formed. After Telangana gained statehood, Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao took several measures to bail out distressed farmers.



Notebooks distributed to students preparing for competitive exams

PNS NALGONDA

Additional Collector A Bhaskar Rao on Saturday called upon the students to work hard and achieve their career goals and make their parents happy.
He quoted his own exam-

ple of how he went on to become an additional collector by sheer dint of hard work. He said that he also came from a poor family background. He distributed books to

students preparing for various competitive examinations at a programme held on Saturday at MVN Vignana Kendra Grandhalayam.

During his student days, he was a hosteller and said that he worked very hard. He advised the students to pay and everyone will be settled others we special attention instead of at one place or the other. occasion.



Nalgonda Additional Collector A Bhaskar Rao speaking at a meeting in Nalgonda on Saturday

learning the subjects by rote. Everyone should realise their intelligence and study continuously. The MVN Vigyana Kendram provided all facilities for students to concentrate on their studies. Moreover, it would give books free of cost to the students. He praised the organisers of the Vigyana Kendram. He said that no one will be defeated in life

Everyone should work towards getting an honourable job. The students give preference to listening over studying. He wanted the students to study hard and prepare notes. He wanted them to make it a habit to read newspapers. members

Trust Mudireddy Sudhakar Reddy, secretary P Narsi Reddy, convener A Meenaiah and others were present on the

Telangana tribal welfare department commences **21-Day Girijan Utsav**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Tribal Welfare Department of Telangana kickstarted the 21-day Girijan Utsav as part of the State formation Decade celebrations. The event, held at Banjara Bhavan in Hyderabad, began on Friday and featured a range of cultural performances, exhibitions, and workshops showcasing the vibrant traditions and crafts of various tribal communities.

Director of Tribal Welfare Department V Sarveshwar Reddy was the chief guest and highlighted the commitment of the department towards promoting and preserving the cultural heritage of tribal communities in Telangana.

The inaugural day of Girijan Utsav witnessed dance performances, including the Banjara craftsmanship.

Bindela dance and Erukala Pudi, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the tribes. Spectators were enthralled by the traditional tribal dances that reflected the unique rhythms and movements passed down through genera-

In addition to the dance performances, the event showcased a diverse range of tribal arts and crafts. Visitors had the opportunity to explore and purchase exquisite Banjara and Erukala paintings, Erukala Thatta-Butta artefacts, Banjara embroidered items, fashion jewellery, tribal medicines, tribal photography, and fashion wear. These displays will continue throughout the event, allowing visitors to appreciate and support the indigenous

KCR rejuvenated farm sector, says Niranjan Reddy

PNS WANAPARTHI

Minister for Agriculture S Niranjan Reddy has said that Telangana soils are suitable for wide-ranging crops.

Participating as the chief guest at 'Rytu Sambaralu' held at Nagavaram Rytu Vedika on Saturday, he said that Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao revolutionised the State's agriculture by spending Rs 4 lakh crore in nine years. Completion of irrigation

projects, and undertaking repairs to tanks under the Mission Kakatiya programme helped the turnaround of the farm sector. As a result, the farmers migrated to other places in search of greener pastures and started returning to the state.

The farmers of Telangana were feeding the nation now,



he said. The bio-diversity in the State has increased and the population of cattle is doubling annually. All types of crops that the world grows are

grown in Telangana, he said. Mahabubnagar district once earned the nickname of the district of migration of people. Agriculture is flourishing in the undivided district.

Earlier, District Collector

Tejas Nandlal Pawar, State warehousing corporation chairman Sai Chandu and ZP Chairman Loknath Reddy Education is a tool of social empowerment'

Farmers intensify protests over delay in paddy procurement

PNS ■ JAYASHANKAR BHUPALAPALLY

Farmers are preparing for a showdown with the officials over the delay in procurement of paddy. Farmers have been staging protests to highlight the delay in the procurement of paddy. They have been meeting the people's representatives to pour out their griev-

Even as the State celebrates Rytu Sambaralu on the second day of the 10th-anniversary celebrations, the farmers in Malhar Rao mandal took to the streets and staged a protest on Kataram-Manthani Road to highlight the delay in pro-

curement of paddy. The farmers claimed that they have been facing hardship in paddy procurement process. The farmers questioned Additional Collector K Swarna Latha as to why the district administration did not ensure that the officials at the procurements centres speed up the process of pro-curement. The Addition Collector assured the farmers that the district administra-



Farmers staging a protest on Kataram-Manthani Road in Jayashnkar Bhupalapally district on Saturday

of paddy. Sub-inspector Naresh and Civil Supplies Officer Anil pacified the farmers.

At the paddy procurement centre in Regulagudem, there was a shortage of gunny bags. Therefore, the officials stopped weighing the paddy. The farmers protested in Regulagudem as there are enough transport facilities to transport the procured paddy.

The farmers allege that they would be forced to bribe personnel at the procurement centres to get the gunny bags, to get their paddy weighed

alleged irregularities taking place at the procurement cen-

If the irregularities are questioned, the organisers of the paddy procurement centre are harassing the farmers, they alleged. More or less the same method is adopted at the procurement centres.

In all, 40,000 quintals are required to be procured from Regulagudem Kondampeta procurement centres, but the procurement is rather slow. The farmers alleged that the organisers of the procurement are looking down upon the farmers

ULATION Addressing the gathering, D.Gunasekaran, Registrar protion would take steps to speed and to get their paddy trans-GITAM's president MSri posed a vote of thanks. up the process of procurement ported to rice mills. They

PNS PATANCHERU

"Lessons outside the classroom are more important than lessons inside the classroom. I request you all to make mental notes of your graduation day. Your efforts to get to GITAM and graduate from here must be celebrated," said Prof Pramath Raj Sinha, founding dean of the Indian School of Business (ISB) Hyderabad. He was participating as chief guest at the 14th graduation ceremony of GITAM Deemed

to be University on Saturday Sharing how education was a tool for social empowerment, he shared his own example to say how if he had not received a scholarship, he may have ended up elsewhere in life. He congratulated students and

added on a kind note that they must celebrate their alma mater, GITAM.

Bharath advised the graduates to update their knowledge in order to march forward in their careers.

As part of the convocation ceremony, an honorary doctorate (DLitt) was presented to Gorati Venkanna, member of the Legislative Council, Telangana and Sahitya Akademi Awardee for his outstanding contributions to Telugu Literature and lan-

guage.
GITAM-Hyderabad Vice-Chancellor Prof DS Rao, in his annual report, said that GITAM Hyderabad currently has over 7,500 regular stu-



ISB founding dean Pramath Raj Sinha being felicitated at the GITAM graduation ceremony in Hyderabad on Saturday

dents, including 55 international students. The career guidance centre was assisting students in exploring their career choices; 180+ companies from various sectors visited the campus and offered placements to 700+ students, with the highest package of 18 lakhs and a median salary of 5.1 Lakhs. MBA graduates have received an average salary of Rs. 8.00

The graduates took a pledge for the advancement of society and to be committed towards without compromising on morals and ethics. Dr. GITAM Secretary M

Bharadwaj; Vice-Chancellor Prof Dayananda Siddavattam; Vice-Chancellors-Gitanjali Batmanabane, Medical Sciences, Gouthama Rao Yejju, Campus Life; Deans- Prof. Kolluru Sree Krishna (Science); Prof. Vijaysekhar C, (Engineering); Vibhuti Sachdev (Architecture); Akbaruddin (Kautilya School of Public Policy); Amit Bhadra (Management); Resident Director DVVSR Varma; Heads of the various Institutes and others participated in the

Farmer dumps paddy in front of Minister's camp office end to sell their produce. The farmer said that though

PNS JAGTIAL

In a novel protest, a farmer, upset at the inordinate delay in paddy procurement, dumped a tractor load of paddy in front of the camp office of Minister for Welfare Koppula

Eshwar here on Saturday. He expressed his anguish over the farmers being to forced to wait at the paddy procurement centres for days on

The farmer, Sattamsetty Rajanna of Kamalapur village under Dharmapuri mandal in the district, on Saturday, brought a tractor load of paddy

Minister's camp office. The Minister visited the procurement centres braving heavy rain and assured the farmers that the officials would procure paddy speedily.

and dumped it in front of the

he waited at the procurement centre for over a month, the officials did not procure the produce. The officials claimed that the moisture in the paddy was high and that was why they could not procure the paddy. He said that he had dumped the paddy in front of the camp office to draw the attention of the Minister to the hardships being faced by farmers.

ODISHA TRAIN TRAGEDY

World leaders extend support to India, condole loss of lives

PNS LONDON/MOSCOW

World leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, expressed their condolences to the families and

the Government of India on Saturday over one of the country's worst train accidents that killed at least 261 people.

The accident, involving three trains, is one of the worst in the country and took place in Odisha's Balasore district on Friday night. The

than 900 people. Russian President Putin expressed his condolences in a telegram to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

accident also injured more

"Please accept our deep condolences over the tragic aftermath of the train collision in Odisha. We share the grief of those who lost their relatives and close ones in this catastrophe and we hope for a speedy recovery to everyone injured," says the telegram, published

on the Kremlin's website. UK Prime Minister Sunak extended his heartfelt support and admiration to the survivors and those working

"My thoughts and prayers are with @narendramodi and

tirelessly in the rescue opera-

with all affected by the tragic events in Odisha. My deepest condolences to the family and friends of those killed, and my heartfelt support and admiration to the

survivors and those working tirelessly to respond," Sunak tweeted.

Japan's Prime Minister Kishida sent a condolence message to Prime Minister Modi following the train accident. "I am deeply saddened by the news of the loss of many precious lives and the injuries in the train accident in the State of Odisha. On behalf of the Government of Japan and its people, I would like to express our heartfelt condolences to those who lost their lives and their bereaved fam-

'Loud thud... everything went in all directions'

PNS KOLKATA

Returning home to their families after several months of working in south India, passengers aboard the 12864 Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express suddenly heard a loud thud, following which they fell off their berths and lights went off.

They were just five hours away from their destination in Howrah when the train they were travelling got involved in a triple train accident at Bahanaga Bazar station in Odisha's Balasore district.

The train, which was running a little over three hours late from its schedule, was moving towards its next stop Balasore, some 20 km away, when the accident took place around 7 pm on Friday.

Mizan Ul Haq, a resident of Bardhaman, was in one of the coaches at the rear of the train.

The train was running at a high speed. Around 7 pm, a loud sound was heard and everything started moving in



all directions and I fell down on the floor from the upper berth as the lights went off inside the compartment," Haq, who was returning home from work in

Karnataka on a holiday, said. He said that somehow, he managed to come out of the damaged coach and then to

"It was ghastly, many people with grave injuries were lying around beside mangled coaches," Haq, who was lucky to have escaped with minor injuries, told PTI at Howrah station, where medical aid, food and other assistance were provided

by the railway authorities to the

surviving passengers.

The unaffected 17 coaches of the 12864 Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express reached Howrah at 1 pm on Saturday with 635 passengers, of whom 40 to 50 people were administered medical treatment on arrival, North Deputy Howrah Commissioner of Police Anupam Singh said.

Engine drivers, guards of 2 trains injured in Odisha accident

and are being treated in different hospitals, a railway official said on Saturday. The engine driver and the guard of the goods trains, however, escaped unhurt, the official added. Coromandel Express's loco pilot and his assistant as

Express's guard were on the injured list. "The loco pilot, assistant loco pilot and the guard of Coromandel Express Howrah Express are being treated in different hospitals, senior divisional commercial manager of South Eastern Railway's Kharagpur division,

he engine drivers and guards Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast

of two trains were injured in the Odisha triple train accident well as the guard and

and the guard of the Bengaluru-

Was under 'pressure' not to deliver judgement

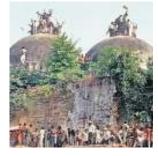
Former Allahabad HC judge on Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid case

PNS ■ MEERUT (UP)

Justice (retired) Sudhir Agarwal, who was part of an Allahabad High Court bench which delivered a key judgment in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid title suit in 2010, said he was under "pressure" not to give the ruling and added that had they not done so, there would not have been any verdict in the matter for the next 200

Justice Agarwal retired from the high court on April 23,

Talking to reporters after an event in Meerut in Uttar Pradesh, he said, "After delivering the judgment..., I felt blessed.... There was pressure on me to postpone the judgment in the case. There was



pressure from within home and also from outside.'

"Family members and relatives used to suggest to somehow pass time and not deliver the judgment," he added.

"Had the judgment not been delivered on September 30, in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid case, there would not have been any judgement in this matter for the next 200 years,"

On September 30, 2010, the Allahabad High Court pronounced its judgement with majority decision of 2:1 and held that the 2.77 acres land located in Ayodhya would be divided equally among three parties -- Sunni Waqf Board, Nirmohi Akhara and Ram Lalla' or infant Ram represented by the Hindu Mahasabha.

The bench comprised Justices S U Khan, Sudhir Agarwal and D V Sharma.

In a landmark judgment in November 2019, the Supreme Court said a temple would be built at the disputed land in Ayodhya and ordered the government to give Muslim parties an alternative five-acre

Himachal docs end strike after Sukhu says allowance will continue

PNS SHIMI A

Doctors here on Saturday agreed to end their strike after they were assured by Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu that they would keep getting the Non-Practising allowance.

A number of medical and veterinary associations had announced a strike after a decision to abolish NPA of doctors recruited by the state During a meeting Saturday,

Sukhu said that the government had not abolished NPA for medical officers already in the job, a statement issued here said. He also accepted the demands of delegating drawing and disbursing officer powers to principals of medical Colleges, giving repre-sentation to the doctors in Himachal Pradesh Medical Corporation, and time-bound promotion of doctors.

India matching up to infra capabilities of China on LAC: DG BRO

PNS PAHALGAM

India is matching up its infrastructure to China's projects at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and there is no need for concern, Border Roads Organisation (BRO) chief Lieutenant General Rajiv Chaudhry said on Saturday.

Chaudhry was here to review works on the routes of the Amarnath Yatra. The annual pilgrimage to the cave shrine, located at a height of 3,880 metres in the south Kashmir Himalayas, will begin on July 1 and end on August

"We are competing much better than what you think China is making. So, there is no need of any concern or overly concern that we are somewhere behind. We are matching up to the capabilities of infrastructure development on the borders," Lt Gen Chaudhry said here.

He said the government has already announced 662 "Vibrant Village" packages for areas near the border. "Union Home Minister

Amit Shah himself went to Kibithoo village in Arunachal Pradesh which is the eastern most post and what we call the first village of Arunachal Pradesh. Of the total, 441 villages are

in Arunachal Pradesh itself. So, on the northern borders, the government is paying a lot of attention and development is taking place in a very accelerated manner," the BRO's director general said.

Lt Gen Chaudhry said in the last two years, 205 projects have been completed on the LAC. These were dedicated to the nation by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and this year, "we are attempting to complete 176 projects worth Rs 6,200 crore", he

"The Centre has increased our budget this year by about 100 per cent. The government has a lot of faith in us, and we build roads for five ministries

No info shared on any Indian foster willing to care of Ariha

PNS NEW DELHI

Reports defending the action of a German agency that had taken away an Indian baby girl from her parents in 2021 are inaccurate and appear to be an attempt to obfuscate the issue, government sources said on Saturday.

Ariha Shah was placed in the custody of Germany's Youth Welfare Office (Jugendamt) on September 23, 2021 after the baby, who was seven months old then, suffered an accidental injury. She has been in foster care since then.

The sources also said that at "no timely stage" did the German agency share information about any Indian foster family willing to care for the child.

The main issue remains that an Indian child is not being allowed to return to India, they said.

the complainant, told the

bench the high court passed

the order with the consent of

context. What's this got to do

with the subject matter," the

bench observed, adding, "apart

from it, it involves so many

other features... right to priva-

cy has been disturbed, and we

don't want to spell out, there

"But this was totally out of

the parties.

Odisha train crash one of deadliest in Indian Railways' history

PNS NEW DELHI

The train crash in Odisha on Friday, involving the Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express, the Shalimar-Chennai Central Coromandel Express and a goods train in which at least 288 people have been killed and 803 injured, is one of the deadliest such accidents since independence, data shows. Here is a look at other such deadliest train

* June 6, 1981: India recorded its worst train accident that occurred in Bihar. A train fell into the Bagmati river while crossing a bridge, killing more than 750 people. *August 20, 1995:

Purushottam Express collided with the stationary Kalindi Express near Firozabad in Uttar Pradesh. The official death toll was around 305.

* August 2, 1999: The Gaisal train disaster occurred when Brahmaputra Mail crashed into the stationary Avadh Assam Express at Gaisal station in North Frontier Railway's Katihar division,

killing more than 285 people and injuring over 300. Many of the victims were Army, BSF or CRPF personnel.

November 26, 1998: Jammu Tawi-Sealdah Express collided with three derailed coaches of Frontier Golden Temple Mail in Punjab's Khanna, killing 212 people.

* November 20, 2016: The Pukhrayan train derailment occurred when 14 coaches of Indore-Rajendra Nagar Express derailed at Pukhrayan, approximately 60 km from Kanpur in Úttar Pradesh, killing 152 people and injuring 260. * May 28, 2010: Jnaneswari

Express derailment -- the Mumbai-bound train derailed near Jhargram in West Bengal and was then hit by an oncoming goods train, killing 148 passengers.

* September 9, 2002: The Rafiganj train wreck occurred when Howrah Rajdhani Express derailed over a bridge on the Dhave river in Bihar's Rafiganj, killing more than 140 people. Terrorist sabotage was blamed for the incident.

INDIA CORNER

Jewellery shop employee held for faking Rs 34 lakh robbery

37-year-old employee of a jewellery shop was arrested along with a relative of his for allegedly faking a robbery of Rs 34 lakh in southwest Delhi's Kishangarh area, police said on Saturday. According to police, a man was reportedly robbed at gunpoint on Thursday



around 11.15 pm of Rs 34.48 lakh in Kishangarh. Chander Sekhar Chaudhary in his complaint to police said he worked at a jewellery shop in Malviya Nagar, a senior police officer said. The robbery later turned out to be staged and police arrested Chaudhary, a resident of Chirag Dilli and a 20-year-old Manish from nv J.I Indra Camp for orchestrat Police found that around 3.15 pm Thursday the owner of the shop

had asked Chaudhary to collect Rs 30 lakh cash from a person and Rs 4.48 lakh from another ornament maker in Karol Bagh. Chaudhary collected the money, kept it in his scooter, and left for Malviya Nagar around 9.30 pm, the officer said. The money was recovered from Manish's house, police added

Mahakal Lok corridor idols damaged: Probe begins

Madhya Pradesh Lokayukta on Saturday started its probe into the collapse of six of seven 'saptarishi' idols of the 'Mahakal Lok' corridor on the premises of the Mahakaleshwar Tempe i Ujjain following gusty

winds on May 28, an



official said. The Lokayukta had taken suo motu cognisance two days ago of the incident and started a probe under a technical team led by MS Johri, the official said. Incidentally, the opposition Congress and other parties have alleged corruption in the construction of the Mahakal Lok corridor, the first phase of which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in October last vear. The entire cost of the corridor is Rs 856 crore, including Rs 351 crore for the first phase. An India Meteorological Department official, on condition of anonymity, said it did not have wind speed measuring devices in Ujjain but the speed was clocked at 30 kilometre per hour at Indore airport, which is at a distance of 30 kilometres from the site, on May 28

23 foreign nationals arrested in UP for staying illegally

nationals, including eight women from Nigeria, were arrested from Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Buddh Nagar district for allegedly staying illegally in India, police said on Saturday. The arrests were made on Friday night, they said. Station House Officer,



Surajpur, Inspector Awadhesh Pratap Singh said, "Last night, the police received information that some foreign nationals are living illegally in a society in the police station limits. Following this, a police team along with officials of the Regional Notification Department raided the society." During the raid, 23 foreign nationals, including eight women from Nigeria, were arrested. While visas of most of them had expired, some of them could not even produce passports and visas, he said. A case has been registered in connection with the matter, he added. Singh said the Gautam Buddh Nagar police started a special drive for the verification of foreign nationals after 13 foreigners were arrested recently for selling drugs in India and abroad.

MALFUNCTIONING OF MIKE

Rajasthan CM throws it at Barmer district collector

PNS ■ JAIPUR Rajasthan Chief Minister

Ashok Gehlot threw a microphone at the Barmer district collector, apparently enraged after the public address system malfunctioned

during a public event. A purported video of the incident surfaced on social media.

feedback on various government schemes meant for As the chief minister tried

A portrait of Nepal Prime

Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal

Prachanda' made from discard-

ed cloth pieces was gifted to him

by Madhya Pradesh Chief

Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan

on Saturday as the dignitary

wrapped up his MP visit that he had started by relishing "Indori

PNS INDORE

poha".

The incident happened at

the Barmer Circuit House on

Friday night when the chief

minister was interacting with

a group of women to collect

AS SEND-OFF GIFT

Nepal PM gets his portrait made

from discarded cloth pieces

mike malfunctioned and, apparently angry, he threw it at the Barmer district collector. The collector then picked

up the mike. The chief minister again lost his composure when he saw some people standing behind the group of women, and asked them to

go away. "Where is SP (superintendent of police)? Both SP and collector seem to be similar," he said.

Gehlot was on a two-day tour of Barmer. During the event, the women told the chief minister about various benefits of the schemes and thanked him for increasing the honorarium of anganwaaddressing the group, the di workers.

Reuse, Recycle (RRR) centre run

by the Indore Municipal

Corporation. These (cloth) pieces

were gathered by a tailor," she said.

said, she tried to convey Indore's

cleanliness culture.

Through the portrait, the artist

Chouhan along with a few cab-

inet colleagues gave a warm send-off to the PM of the

Himalayan nation by garlanding

him at Devi Ahilyabai Holkar

'SPITTING' ROW

Sanjay Raut and NCP leader Ajit Pawar lock horns

A war of words erupted on Saturday between Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut and Nationalist Congress Party's Ajit Pawar with both leaders attacking each other indirectly amid a "spitting" row.

The Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena faction, NCP, and Congress are constituents of Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) preparing to contest the 2024 elections in alliance.

The trigger was Raut spitting on the ground in front of cameras during a press conference on Friday when reporters sought his reaction to Shiv Sena MP Shrikant' Shinde's jibe

targetting Uddhav Thackeray. Under flak, Raut on Saturday claimed spitting was accidental and not intentional as he was having a problem with his teeth.

Earlier in the day, Ajit Pawar said such a "spitting" act is not Maharashtra's culture and one should be careful while speak-

Hitting back, Raut said, "Spitting is better than urinating", apparently alluding to Ajit Pawar's controversial remarks he had made in 2013 when he was deputy chief minister of Maharashtra.

"Show me where I spit. It's their thinking, their mindset. They think that people spit on them and it's true. I told you yesterday that I had some problem with my teeth and it resulted in the act. My tongue came under my teeth when the name of the person who cheated Maharashtra, Shiv Sena, and Balasaheb Thackeray was mentioned and I spit. I didn't spit when the name of any politician was taken but I did

so when the names of traitors were taken," Raut said in Trimbakeshwar.

He claimed when (late Hindutva ideologue) V D Savarkar was produced in a court regarding a case, "he had spit on seeing the person (traitor) who had spilled beans about him".

Spitting on traitors is the Hindu culture. It is Hindutva, not a crime, he added.

"Spitting is better than urinating. Those who suffer know the pain. We are suffering and despite that, we are standing on the ground. I am still with my party. I do not think of aligning with parties like Bharativa Janata Party (BJP) to avoid problems," he added.

Ajit Pawar had stirred up a row in 2013 with his comments ridiculing the acute water scarcity in the state.

SC stays Allahabad HC order to

The Supreme Court Saturday stayed an unusual order of the Allahabad High Court asking the head of the department of astrology of Lucknow University to decide whether a woman, an alleged rape victim,

The apex court, which held a special sitting on Saturday, took suo motu cognisance of the matter and observed it doesn't understand why the "astrology report is called for" while hearing a bail applica-

The high court had passed the order on May 23 while hearing the bail plea of the man accused of raping the woman on the false promise of mar-

The counsel for the man had argued before the high court that since the woman was a 'manglik', marriage between the two could not be solemnised and has been refused.

However, the counsel appearing for the woman had insisted before the high court she was not a 'manglik'. According to Hindu astrolinfluence of the planet Mars (mangal) is believed to have mangal dosha" (affliction) and is called 'manglik'. Many superstitious Hindus believe marriage between a Manglik and a non-Manglik is inauspicious and can be disastrous.

"Mr Mehta, you have seen this?" a bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Pankaj Mithal asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who appeared in the matter. "I have seen this. It is disturbing. I would request your lordships to kindly stay this order," Mehta said.

An advocate, appearing for

are so many other aspects." Arguing that astrology is a science, Mehta said, "The question is, while entertaining an

The portrait was made by Airport here before he and his artist Anita Pal of Indore, which delegation headed for New Delhi. has been adjudged as India's On Friday, Prachanda visited the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) of cleanest city for six consecutive years. "I made Prachanda's image IT giant TCS on the city's Super Corridor, Additional District in just one day from pieces of clothes collected at a Reduce, Magistrate RS Mandloi said.

ascertain 'rape' victim's horoscope'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

is 'manglik' or not.

ogy, a person born under the

application by a judicial forum can this be a consideration.'

'Only transfer of policyholder assets, liabilities of Sahara Life'

SBI Life, a subsidiary of country's biggest lender State Bank of India (SBI), has said it is not a merger between the two companies but only a transfer of the policyholder related assets and liabilities of Sahara Life Insurance.

On Friday regulator Irdai directed SBI Life Insurance to takeover the policy liabilities of around two lakh policies along with assets of stressed Sahara India Life Insurance Co Ltd (SILIC).

The decision was taken at the meeting of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) in view of deteriorating financial health of the SILIC.

Following the Irdai order, SBI Life assured two lakh policyholders of "high levels" of ments.

service and commitment as is accorded to our customers.

"We have started and we are expeditiously working on the process of integrating all these policyholders in our systems. While the full integration may take some time, we request these policyholders to reach out to us on our helpline number 1800 267 9090 or email us at saharalife@sbilife.co.in," it said
SBI Life will shortly reach

out to these policyholders and intimate them about various touch points and manner of servicing for a smooth transition, it said.

Sahara Life Insurance was also not allowed to underwrite new business. Thereafter, further directions were issued to the insurer to meet the regulatory require-



Work on BRICS expansion still in progress: EAM

Expansion of the BRICS bloc is still a work in progress and members of the five-nation grouping are approaching the idea with a positive intent and an open mind, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said.

Speaking after a meeting of the foreign ministers of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) nations in Cape Town , Jaishankar said the leaders of the countries had asked them last year to formulate the guiding principles, standards, criteria and the procedures for such admissions.

"This is still a work in progress. We are approaching this with positive intent with an open mind," he said.

There are many aspects to it. One part of it is to consolidate how the existing BRICS members are working with each other. The second part of it is how the BRICS engages non-BRICS countries, he said.

"And the third part is how we look at possible BRICS expansion - what will be the appropriate format for that is also something we need to work on," Jaishankar said.

tries in the 15 years (since BRIC's inception)," Vieira "Bottom line is we are still working on it; the Sherpas (representing the BRICS memadded.

China's Vice Minister Ma Zhaoxu said the model of BRICS+ which China proposed when it was the chair of the bloc in 2022 was developing "very fast".

"That was very well recognised by BRICS countries as well as the international community and actually provided one platform for the solidarity and cooperation between the developing countries and the emerging market economies,"

He said China was "very happy" to see this model developing with more and more

countries expressing their willingness to join the BRICS fam-

"For China, we welcome the intention of those countries to join the BRICS, and we expect more countries to join our BRICS family," he said. The BRICS countries are

inclusive, and pursue the road of opening up and win-win cooperation, Ma said.

South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Naledi Pandor, who hosted the meeting, sai the meeting had concluded that there was not yet a "useful document" on the matter which they could submit to their principals.

"Once we have a document that offers clear guidance, we will then take that to the BRICS Summit (of heads of state in Pretoria) in August," Pandor said.

The BRICS+ meeting that will be part of the summit would be quite large, as the various African countries and chairs of various regional community bodies in different regions of the world would also be invited to attend, Pandor

MONEY MATTERS

Share of flex space in corporates' real estate portfolio rises to 10-12%



ndian corporates are fast embracing flexible workspace which now accounts for 10-12 per cent of their real estate portfolio compared to 5-8 per cent pre-COVID pandemic, according to Colliers. Real estate consultant Colliers has recently released a report 'Global Occupier Outlook 2023' that revealed that many corporates in Asia Pacific are deferring decisions on taking office space on lease as they are grappling with the complexities of the hybrid work model. "The lack of clarity and macroeconomic uncertainty are posing challenges for businesses in projecting their space requirements," it added. According to Colliers' experts, companies are facing the dilemma of striking a halance between providing complexes with desired. striking a balance between providing employees with desired flexibility and realigning their portfolios for the next evolution of the workplace. However, Colliers said that Indian office space occupiers have been quick to adopt flex spaces, attracted by the flexibility, have been quick to adopt flex spaces, attracted by the flexibility, agility, and cost-effectiveness. "Flex spaces are becoming an integral part of occupiers' portfolio, with its share in occupiers' total portfolio rising to 10-12 per cent in 2023, from 5-8 per cent before the pandemic in 2019, as per interactions with industry experts," the consultant said. Going forward, Colliers said that flex spaces will continue to see strong growth. Flexible workspace continue to support occupiers in realigning their portfolios and space considerations to suit a hybrid working style. Peush Jain, Managing Director, Office Services, India, said, "Flex spaces have emerged as a core strategy for occupiers to adopt a decentralised workspace model, serving as a promising alternative to the traditional paradigm." As serving as a promising alternative to the traditional paradigm." As compared to shorter lease tenures of 1-2 years pre-pandemic, occupiers are now going for longer commitments of 3-5 years with flex space operators as they look to integrate flex space as a long-term solution. During 2022, leasing of office space by flex space operators touched record 7 million square feet across top 6 cities. Across the APAC region, Colliers said that occupiers are keen on realigning their office portfolios to meet business needs while providing the flexibility employees desire. The right real estate portfolio is key to keeping culture intact, attracting and retaining best talent, and controlling operational costs, it added. WeWork India, Smartworks, Simpliwork Offices, Awfis, Skootr, The Executive Centre, Urban Vault, IndiQube, 91Springboard, 315Work Avenue, Akasa Coworking, The Office Pass, Avanta India, and BHIVE Workspace are major players that provide co-working/managed office space

Vidarbha Urban Credit Society president arrested for duping' investors

PNS ■ NAGPUR

The Economic Offences Wing of Nagpur police has arrested the president of a credit society here for allegedly duping investors to the tune of Rs 1.19 crore.

The president of the Vidarbha Urban Credit Society Limited was arrested and other officebearers have been named as coaccused in the First Information Report, an official said on

The FIR was registered on the basis of a complaint filed by Anita Nagdeote (35), the police



Nadeote, who worked as a clerk at the society's office, told police that she was promised commission if she acted as an agent and collected deposits.

As many as 39 persons invested more than Rs 1.19 crore with the society between July 2015 and January 2019 through agents like her. Nagdeote herself invested some money in the society's

schemes, she told police.
But the accused eventually closed the office, thus cheating

the investors, the complaint said. They paid no commission to the agents either.

bers) have been tasked with it

and we will have to see what

they come up with," he added.

Brazilian Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira said he con-

curred with Jaishankar's view.

asset, so we have to take care

of it because it means and rep-

resents a lot," Vieira said.

important asset.

"BRICS is a brand and an

He said BRICS represented

We are working and maybe

40 per cent of the world's pop-

ulation which makes it an

(it is) because of this big suc-

cess that it has attracted the

attention of many other coun-

A case under Indian Penal Code sections 406 (criminal breach of trust) and 420 (cheating) besides relevant sections of the Maharashtra Protection of Interest of Depositors (in Financial Establishments) Act was registered at Yashodhara Nagar police station and further investigation was underway, the

LIC eases claim process norms for Odisha train accident victims

PNS MUMBAI

National insurer LIC on Saturday announced many relaxations for the claim settlement process for the victims of the Balasore train tragedy.

The accident involving two passenger trains and a stationary goods train has led to the loss of life of at least 288 people so far and left over 1,100 injured.

In a late evening statement, LIC chairman Siddhartha Mohanty announced a slew of relaxations to the claim settlement process for the kin of the

the tragic train accident in Balasore, Odisha on Friday. LIC is committed to supporting those affected and will expedite claim settlements to provide financial relief", Mohanty was quoted as saying in the statement.

The Corporation also announced many concessions to mitigate the hardships of the claimants of LIC policies and also of the Pradĥan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana. It said in lieu of registered death certificates, a list of casualties published by the Railways, police or any state or Central authorities will be accepted as proof of

"We are deeply saddened by

Maha: Bajaj Finserv to invest Rs 5k cr in Pune; will create 40k jobs, says Fadnavis



Understanding with Bajaj Finserv under which the non-banking finance company will invest Rs 5,000 crore in Pune that is expected to create 40,000 jobs, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said on Saturday. After signing the MoU, Fadnavis said Pune was gradually becoming a hub for financial services and the latest development involving Bajaj Finserve would boost the sector. "I think it is the largest investment in recent times taking place in the

Sri Lanka President urges party unity to handle economic crisis

PNS COLOMBO

President Ranil Wickremesinghe has called for joint action by all parties for Śri Lanka to emerge from the unprecedented economic

Wickremesinghe, who made the remarks while addressing a legal conference held at the Central Resort of Nuwara Eliya on Friday, said that none of the political parties in Parliament currently possess a 50 per cent voter base.

The economic challenges faced by the country ten months ago as an "unprecedented situation in history," Wickre mesinghe, also the debtridden island nation's finance island nation. minister said.

"It has been 10-11 months since our country faced a state of failure. However, we have managed to establish law and order, political stability, and economic stability in our nation. Yet, we are aware that this stability is only temporary, and we still have a long road ahead to overcome the challenges we face," the president

"Therefore the need is for

unity among the parties, not solely for the purpose of elections, but to steer the country towards recovery from the ongoing economic crisis," he

Wickremesinghe stressed that while the re-establishment of law and order and political and economic stability is crucial, it does not imply that Sri Lanka has wholly overcome the crisis. Sri Lanka was hit by an

unprecedented financial crisis in 2022, the worst since its independence from Britain in 1948, due to a severe paucity of foreign exchange reserves, sparking a major political and human-

itarian crisis in the

The debt-ridden country was marred with protests leading to the ouster of the powerful Rajapaksa family from politics. Wickremesinghe took charge as the country's president following the resignation of Gotabaya Rajapaksa on July 9 last year.

Wickremesinghe has spearheaded the economic recovery since then obtaining an IMF bailout while implementing

Facebook took action on 41% individual grievances, Instagram on 54%

PNS NEW DELHI

Social media giant Meta's Facebook took action against 41 per cent of complaints it received from users and Instagram against over 54 per cent of grievances raised by users in April 2023, according to the company's latest India Monthly Report.

As per the category-wise information disclosed by Meta, Facebook "actioned on" less than one-fourth grievances of users where they claimed that the content is showing them in partial nudity or in a sexual platform actioned on less than one-third of users' reports it received for violation of its policy on "content showing me in nudity/partial nudity or in a sexual act". Meta transparency report

shows the other categories of report, on which Facebook action rate was less than a quarter of percentage, included grievances raised by users for "bullying or harassment" (over 17 per cent), "inappropriate or abusive content" (around 18 per cent) and fake profiles



Facebook received a total 8,470 grievances from users

and provided tools for users to

resolve their issues in 2,225

"Of the other 6,245 reports where specialized review was needed, we reviewed content as per our policies, and we took action on 1,244 reports in total," Meta said in the report for Facebook.

The category-wise details of action taken on 1,244 additional reports was not disclosed by Facebook.

Facebook on its own acted on over 27.7 million content which it found were violating its community guidelines

Pak would not default on any sovereign commitments: Fin Min

Debt-ridden Pakistan's Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Saturday said that his country would not default on any sovereign commitments and overcome the current economic problems through longterm reforms.

Speaking to a delegation of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), which called on him here ahead of the finalisation of budget 2023-24, Dar also said that there is not a single day's delay in Pakistan's sovereign commit-

"Pakistan would not default and overcome the current economic

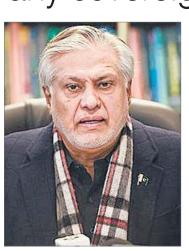
problems through long-term reforms. The government's top priority was to ensure that there is not a single day's delay in Pakistan's sovereign commitments," said the min-

Dar warned people against speaking ill of the nation's economy.

"Some people like to give dates

that Pakistan will default on so and so date. They should be ashamed. They should be well-wishers and be loyal to their soil," he said.

Dar said that Pakistan was a sovereign country with assets worth trillions of dollars while its external debts wee USD 100 billion, adding that only one asset relating to gas infrastructure was about 50 per



The minister assured that the country would come out of the current challenges and would also create a sovereign wealth fund.

God-willing, we will be coming up with new ideas in the weeks to come We will bring an agricultural revolution in Pakistan, [and] a sovereign wealth fund will be created," he said.

He said the government would present the budget and would continue after that for the long-term betterment of Pakistan.

Recently, global lender International Monetary Fund delayed the signing of a staff-level lender agreement to pave the way for USD

1.1 billion in financing for the cash strapped nation.

It is believed that Pakistan would default if the IMF refused to provide funds but Dar has been pushing back such dire predictions and with some success till now.

In his interaction with the KCCI officials, the minister said that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) faced similar circumstances when it came to power in 2014 and within a year turned around the economy.

"One year was difficult but then everything was normal once things had settled down," he said and added Pakistan had become the "best economy in South Asia".

Call to develop digital platform for customers' consent

PNS NEW DELHI

In order to curb the menace of pesky calls and sms, telecom regulator Trai has directed service providers to develop a unified digital platform in two months to seek, maintain and revoke customers' consent for promotional calls and mes-

In the first phase, only subscribers will be able to initiate the process to register their consent for receiving promotional calls and sms, and later, business entities will be able to

reach out to customers to seek their consent to receive promotional messages, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) said in a statement on Saturday.

"Trai has now issued a direction to all the access providers to develop and deploy the Digital Consent Acquisition (DCA) facility for creating a unified platform and process to register customers' consent digitally across all service providers and principal entities," Trai said

At present, there is no uni-



fied system to show consent of customers for getting promotional messages

"Considering the volume of work involved, Trai has allocat-

ed two months time to develop such facilities by all Access Providers and thereafter implement it in a phased manner. This direction has been issued

by Trai under its Telecom Commercial Communication Preference Customer Regulations, 2018," Trai said.

Under the prevalent system, consent is obtained and maintained by the various principal entities such as banks, other financial institutions, insurance companies, trading companies, business entities, real estate companies etc.

The absence of a unified digital platform makes it impossible for the telecom operators to check veracity of consents. "The DCA process shall have

facility to seek, maintain and revoke the consent of customers, as per the processes envisaged under TCCCP Regulation 2018. The consent data collected will be shared on the Digital Ledger Platform (DLT) for scrubbing by all access providers," Trai said.

Access providers, which include telecom players like Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea, have been further directed to use a common short code starting with 127 for sending consent seeking mes-

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION TENDER NOTICE EOI No. 01/EE/Cir-11/CRZ/GHMC/2023-24 Scope of work: Maintenance of Public Toilets in different locations of Circle-11 (Rajendmagar), CRZ, GHMC for the period from 01-04-2023 to 31-03-2024- Recall. Further

details can be seen at @ http://www.ghme.gov.in tender notifications, Release of EOI 05-05-2023 from 11.00 AM onwards. Bid Submission last date: 05-06-2023 upto 1.00 PM nunication.: O/o. the Executive Engineer, Rajendi Address for communications: Cro. by GHMC, Ph No. 9989900606, Email lid: eco11.ghmc2@gmail.com. Sdi-Executive Engineer Cro. by GHMC, Ph No. 9989900606, Email lid: eco11.ghmc2@gmail.com. Sdi-Executive Engineer Cro. by GHMC, Ph No. 9989900606, Email lid: eco11.ghmc2@gmail.com.

Tenders are invited from eligible contractors on E-Procurement platform for Specification

No. 16B/2023-24 - Erection of new 33/11KV SS with lines along with Civil works a Chandravancha Village in Tandur Division of Vikarabad Circle of CGM/OP/RR Zone. For further details regarding detailed notification, specification and digital certificate plea

R.O. No.: 257-PPICL-AGENCY/ADVTH/2923-24 Date: 63-86-2623

The pioneer of the pi

"I love having every right to be as outspoken as I am, as any man would be"

— Chrissy Teigen





Sheetal, born without hands, is being feted as the world's first para female archer who shoots using her feet. She has been labelled as a perfect role model for youngsters as she displayed raw courage and faced all her challenges in life with a determined resolve to succeed, writes MOHIT KANDHARI

t first sight it is very difficult to spot Sheetal Devi in a gathering of fellow players assembled at an archery range for regular practice sessions. A girl with less than five feet, Sheetal may come across as a small town girl, but in reality, she is not an ordinary athlete.

Hailing from a remote village of Lohi Dhar in Mughal Maidan area of Kishtwar district in Jammu & Kashmir, this 16-year-old girl has come a long way and is already making waves in the sporting world. At present she is being looked upon as India's next big medal hope in the upcoming para-archery world championships and 2024 Paralympics in Paris.

Born without hands (phocomelia), a condition where both her hands were underdeveloped, Sheetal is being feted as the world's first para female archer who shoots using her feet. Before winning her place of honour in the world of sports, Sheetal had left everyone spell bound with her ace performances and firm resolve to succeed.

Last week, when I visited the Archery range located in the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine board sports complex in Katra, several players greeted me with a big cheer.

While I acknowledged their greetings one by one, I shook hands with one of the seniors and paralympian Rakesh Kumar. Before meeting others, I asked him whether Sheetal was also around. It was then she also greeted me from an adjacent bench in a feeble voice.

After registering her presence, I too heaved a sigh of relief as I had travelled all the way from Jammu to meet her. I congratulated her for winning three medals --- one Gold, Silver and Bronze in the Para Archery World Ranking Tournament held in the Czech Republic between May 13 and May 21. She acknowledged with her sparkling eyes and mesmerising smile.

The Indian team secured nine medals out of which five medals were contributed by the archers from the Shrine board training academy.

Rakesh, a paralympian, and Sheetal won gold in Compound open mixed team and Compound men open doubles. Besides, Sheetal and Jyoti clinched silver in compound women open and bronze in compound women doubles. The Shrine archers contributed five medals for India in the total tally by which the country secured 2nd position in the event.

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, who is also the Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, congratulated both the sports persons for their performances. He tweeted that "the entire nation is proud of their achievement and their feat will inspire millions of our youth."

Chief Executive Officer of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board Anshul Garg said the archers being trained at the Shrine Board's Sports Complex will also win medals in the forthcoming events of the archery at the international levels, thereby bringing laurels to the country, the UT of Jammu & Kashmir and the Shrine Board.

TRAINING HARD FOR 2024 PARA-LYMPICS BERTH

A day after returning from the Czech Republic, Sheetal was back in the training academy without taking a single day break. Speaking to The Sunday Pioneer, Sheetal said, "I feel very happy after winning three medals in a recent event. I am upbeat and very optimistic. My josh is very high. My coaching and hardwork is showing positive results and now I am determined to secure my berth in the 2024 Paralympics and win a medal for my country."

Referring to her training schedule, Sheetal said, "Each day we come to the academy and practice for about four hours between 8 and 12 pm before breaking for a two hour lunch break."

During the training session Sheetal is assisted by her fellow players as and when required. The players also crack jokes and play mischief with each other. The second session starts at 2pm and the players call it a day after attending an hour long physical training session between 5pm and 6 pm."

Her coach Kuldeep Vedwan told The Sunday Pioneer we have already started training for the next big event lined up in the month of July and September 2023.

Sheetal, along with other players, are focusing her energies on World Archery Para Championship scheduled in Pilsen, Czech Republic in the month of July and Para Asian Games in China between September 23 and October 8 to reserve their berth for the 2024 Paralympics scheduled to take place in Paris

scheduled to take place in Paris. Talking about Sheetal's journey, Kuldeep Vedwan told The Sunday Pioneer, "11 months ago Sheetal first arrived here at the Archery range. She was introduced to me by one of the volunteers working for a famous NGO. Before inducting her in the academy I interacted with her and tried my best to motivate her over a ZOOM meeting. Initially, I spent two long months carefully trying to understand her needs and how I could make her play archery and hit a bull's eye. Before starting her training schedule, I again counselled her. Since then, she has not looked back," Vedwan said, feeling elated over her recent per-

Vedwan said it's amazing that in such a short span of time she has really proved her mettle. By winning three medals in the recently concluded Para Archery World Ranking Tournament she has already secured her place in the upcoming Para Archery world championship scheduled to be organised in Pilsen, Czech Republic and para Asian Games. I am hopeful Sheetal will secure her berth in the Paralympics and win us a medal in the 2024 Paralympics in Paris.







SHEETAL'S JOURNEY

A native of Lohi Dhar village of Mughal Maidan area in Kishtwar, Sheetal's initial phase of life was full of struggle. She was born without hands and it is with great difficulty that her parents, Man Singh, a farmer by profession and mother Shakti Devi, a home maker looked after her basic needs.

Tucked in the hills she received no other medical help in her formative years. As she grew up, she started using her feet to feed herself. As Sheetal was keen on pursuing her normal school studies so she gradually started using her feet for writing as well. She has passed her class 10th examination and is studying in class XI.

No one in the family discouraged her. Remembering her school days, Sheetal said, "I used to attend regular classes with other children in my village. I was never discouraged by any one. My teachers and my friends helped me a lot and supported me. I used to play with them like a normal child."

Life took a sudden turn when she was spotted by a senior army officer at a local fair in Kishtwar district. The local army authorities approached her family and volunteered to support her. At that time Sheetal was nurturing her childhood dream of becoming a school teacher.

Fulfilling her desire Sheetal has been adopted by the Indian Army for her education since September 2019. Later with the help of reputed NGOs, the Indian Army had facilitated her travel and arranged other

logistics to explore the possibility of pro-

viding her with a prosthetic arm.

Sheetal's parents accompanied her to Bangalore where she was first treated and later provided with the prosthetic arm. At present she is not using the same while undergoing training. After she won three medals she received lots of good wishes and blessings from netizens who rallied behind her and wished her luck for all her future championships.

She was labeled as a perfect role model for youngsters as she displayed raw courage and faced all her challenges in life with a determined resolve to succeed.

A BIG MOTIVATION

Practicing in the company of other players Sheetal feels motivated. To attend her regular practice sessions Sheetal reaches archery academy, wearing sleepers. During her day long training she prefers staying barefoot in the archery

range in order to hit a bull's eye.

On an average she is spending 6-7 hours under the guidance of her coach Kuldeep Vedwan at the archery range.

Before focusing on her target, she gently picks an arrow and adjusts it on the bow string. Using her feet, she adjusts the arrow against her shoulder and then triggers the shot with jaw and back muscles before hitting a bullseye.

"During training we interact with each other and discuss our performances. Fellow players in the academy are very helpful. They walk with me in the archery range and pull out the arrows after checking my score".

"Our coach sir also evaluates our performance and wherever we need his guidance he chips in and does course cor-

In Katra, Sheetal is staying with her mother and younger sister Shivani. Her mother Shakti sometimes visits the academy and spends time with her. Sheetal says, "When she was home her sister Shivani used to look after her basic needs. She is my dear friend."

Commenting on the quality of training facilities Sheetal said we have been provided with excellent training facilities by

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board authorities to ensure better performance

Apart from routine training sessions we attend physical training modules, perform yoga and meditation to maintain our calm and enhance our abilities to focus on our goals.

A former Olympian from Katra Rakesh Kumar, who participated in the Tokyo Olympics, said Sheetal is a very promising athlete and is training hard in the academy to realise her goal of winning a gold medal in the world championships and paralympics.

Rakesh Kumar is the senior most player in the academy. He is also working hard and setting high benchmarks for younger players to achieve their goals.

Rakesh told The Sunday Pioneer, "I started my journey six years ago after coming in contact with the coach Kuldeep Vedwan in 2017. He said, I met with a deadly accident in 2009. I was in a very bad condition but then I decided to keep myself busy and opened a mobile recharge shop in Katra. In 2017 I met my coach Kuldeep

"When I met Rakesh, I motivated him and asked him to try archery at the academy." He made a sincere effort and went on to become a para-Olympian

Kuldeep Vedwan also highlighted the role of Sports Authority of India, and the Archery Association of Indian for their support, and stressed the importance of psychologists and dietitians in sports.

Para Archer Rakesh said, "Archery is a mind-game. When we are participating in a championship we are bound to feel pressure. Our training gives us an edge. So, just like the coach is essential for us, psychologists are equally important."

Highlighting another important aspect Rakesh said para-athletes face difficulties while moving from one place to another. "They spend maximum time in a wheelchair, we may not eat much, but digestion becomes a problem and so a good dietitian is very important."

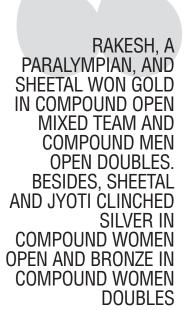
At present over two dozen budding archers from Tamil Nadu, Haryana, New Delhi and from different districts of Jammu & Kashmir are receiving training at the academy.

Manisha Bhadana, from Faridabad in Haryana has recently joined the training academy and is witnessing improvement in her game. She told The Sunday Pioneer that the atmosphere at the academy is very very competitive. "I feel motivated while receiving training in the presence of International players such as Para-Olympian Rakesh

Kumar and young archer Sheetal."

Pravin, an upcoming archer from Tamil Nadu said, he is training at the academy for more than six years and aiming to perform better in the coming championships. Amit Thakur from Reasi said, "We are focusing on Khelo India games and National Championships to perform bet-

ter and earn medals."
(The writer is Senior Correspondent of The Pioneer)



THAT SWELLING IN YOUR LIMBS COULD BE SERIOUS

Lymphedema, a chronic and debilitating condition, is becoming a major health issue in India where it primarily stems from two major causes: A parasitic infection known as filariasis and cancer-related surgeries. Another reasons can be genetic and poor lifestyle. A team of doctors from AIIMS Delhi's Dept of Surgical Disciplines led by DR SUNIL CHUMBER shares with ARCHANA JYOTI, the panorama of the disease and bats for its integration into the healthcare system for better management, given spike in the cancer cases in India.



DR PIYUSH RANJAN



Additionally, the rising incidence of cancer-related surgeries, including breast cancer treatment, often involves the removal of lymph nodes increasing the right of

nodes, increasing the risk of developing lymphedema.

phedema in India is alarming.

According to recent studies,

approximately 15-20% of

breast cancer survivors devel-

Furthermore, in filariasis-

endemic areas, the preva-lence of lymphedema is esti-

mated to be as high as 5-15%.

Lymphedema in India is often

underdiagnosed and under-

treated due to limited health-

care knowledge, resources,

prehensive awareness cam-

paigns, education for health-

care professionals and the

public, improved access to

specialized care, and integration of lymphedema man-agement into the healthcare

To tackle this issue, com-

and societal stigma.

system are crucial.

lymphedema.

The incidence of lym-

DR PRASSANA

What is Lymphedema and is it a problem in India?



ymphedema is collection of the fluid in the tissue ⊿that is usually carried back by the lymphatics. It can cause severe swelling, discomfort, and a heightened risk of infections, significantly impacting the quality of life for those affected. In India, lymphedema primarily stems from two major causes: filariasis and cancer-related surgeries. Filariasis, a parasitic infection transmitted through mosquito bites, affects an estimated 120 million people in the country. It damages the lymphatic system and is a leading cause of lymphedema in India.

Surgery as an option

While conservative treat-ments like compression ring healthy lymph nodes from one part of the body to therapy and physical therapy play a crucial role in managing the symptoms, surgical interventions have emerged as a ray of hope for those with severe cases of lymphedema in recent years. Surgical options for lymphedema primarily focus on restoring lymphatic flow and reducing swelling. One such procedure is lymphaticovenous anastomosis (LVA), which involves creating connections between lymphatic vessels and nearby veins. This allows the rerouting of lymphatic fluid and reduces swelling. LVA has shown promising results in improving symptoms and quality of life for patients. Another surgical technique, known as vascularized lymph node transfer (VLNŤ), involves transfer-

VAST EXPERIENCE OF MASS

ndia has had vast experi-

ence of running mass vac-

Lination campaigns in the

past. Apart from the eradica-

tion of smallpox and polio

through mass vaccination dri-

administered 390 million vac-

ves under its UIP, India has

cines annually to pregnant

VACCINATION

the affected area. These transplanted lymph nodes restore the lymphatic function, aiding in fluid drainage and reducing swelling. Procedures like silastic tube insertion in the edematous tissue are being tried and may offer some relief. Debulking surgeries may be considered in grossly enlarged lymphedema cases however they can have high morbidity post procedure. While surgical interventions offer potential benefits, it is essential to note that they are not suitable for all cases of lymphedema.

Patients considering surgical interventions should consult with experienced lymphedema specialists who can assess their suitability and provide comprehensive





Understanding the triggers



To better understand lym-**▲** phedema, it's important to explore its underlying causes. Various factors can contribute to the development of this condition, and recognizing these causes is crucial for its prevention and management.

Primary lymphedema is

of developing lymphedema.

There is no guaranteed way to prevent

lymphedema, there are steps you can

take to minimize the risk and manage the

condition effectively. By adopting a few

healthy habits, you can help support your lymphatic system and reduce the likelihood

■ Maintain a Healthy Weight: Maintaining

ing the strain on your lymphatic system.

Excess weight can impede lymph flow,

increasing the risk of developing lym-

phedema. Follow a balanced diet rich in

fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean

proteins. Consult a healthcare profes-

sional for personalized guidance.

genetic. It happens when there are faults in the genes responsible for the development of the lymphatic system, meaning that it cannot drain fluid as it should. The main risk factor for primary lymphedema is having close family members with the con-

medical conditions. These factors can impair the flow of lymph fluid, leading to the development of lymphedema. Certain infections, such as filariasis, a parasitic infection transmitted through mosquito bites, can cause lymphedema. These infections can damage the lymphatic system, hindering its ability to properly drain fluid from the affected area. Obesity and a sedentary lifestyle can increase the risk of developing. I wmph adoma developing lymphedema. Excess weight puts additional pressure on the lymphatic system, making it harder for it to function properly. **Symptoms:** Recognizing the symptoms of lymphedema

occurs when damage or disrup-

tion to the lymphatic system is

caused by external factors.

Common causes include

surgery, radiation therapy, can-

cer, infection, trauma, or other

medical conditions. These fac-

is important for early detection and effective management of the condition. One of the primary symptoms of lymphedema is swelling in a specific body part, such as an arm or leg. The swelling may be persistent and can range from

Secondary lymphedema mild to severe. It may also cause a feeling of heaviness or tightness in the affected area. Lymphedema can cause stiffness and limited movement in the affected limb or body part. You may find it challenging to perform certain activities or experience difficulty bending or straightening the affected joint. The skin over the swollen area may appear tight, thick-ened, or hardened. It may feel warmer to the touch and become more prone to infec-tions. This discomfort may worsen with prolonged periods of standing or physical activity. Due to the compromised lymphatic system, individuals with lymphedema are at a higher risk of developing infections in the affected area. These tions in the affected area. These infections may include cellulitis, which can cause redness,

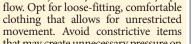
warmth, swelling, and pain.

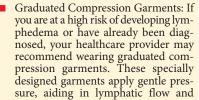
Treatment: It often involves a combination of therapies, including compression garments, exercise, skincare, and manual lymphatic drainage. Remember, seeking medical advice and support is essential for effective manageyour daily life.

and durability, to provide a spement and minimizing the cific level of ankle pressure and impact of lymphedema on graduation of compression Antiembolism stockings

designed for bedridden patients Avoid Constrictive Clothing: Wearing tight clothing or accessories, such as tight bands or jewellery, can restrict lymph flow. Opt for loose-fitting, comfortable that may create unnecessary pressure on

the affected areas. ■ Graduated Compression Garments: If phedema or have already been diagnosed, your healthcare provider may recommend wearing graduated compression garments. These specially designed garments apply gentle pressure, aiding in lymphatic flow and reducing swelling.







Elastic stockings

in treatment and

 $T^{\text{he stockings work by exert-}}_{\text{ing the greatest degree of compression at the ankle, with}}$

the level of compression grad-

ually decreasing up the gar-ment. The pressure gradient ensures that blood flows

upward toward the heart

instead of refluxing downward

to the foot or laterally into the

superficial veins. The applica-

tion of adequate graduated compression reduces the diam-

eter of major veins, which

increases the velocity and vol-

ume of blood flow and improve

Types of compression stockings:
• Graduated or medical

compression stockings-

ambulatory patients and are

manufactured under strict

medical and technical specifi-

cations, including consistency

Used to reduce the risk of

deep vein thrombosis and

They are designed for

lymphatic drainage.

prevention of

lymphedema

DR VIKRAM SAINI

The restriction of lymphatic I flow results in lymphedema. The condition can be improved with massage therapy. This ailment benefits from massage therapy that directs excess lymphatic fluid from the swollen area to functioning regions of the body where it can be effectively managed by the circulatory system. External compression plays a vital role in this condition. For mild swelling, a simple compression dressing can help whereas the use of multi-layered compression dressing is advised for moderate to severe swelling. The entire area is covered by the compression dressing, which is neither too tight nor too loose.



DR BRAHMA KUMAR RATH

levels of compression.

hosiery

scription

and do not meet the technical

specifications for use by ambulatory patients, have different

Nonmedical support

The compression is less

Accurate measurement of

uniform and not graduated.

They can often be bought over

the counter without a pre-

the limb diameter that con-

forms to the stocking manu-

facturer's guidelines should be

performed by a trained health

care professional. The stock-

ings are contraindicated in the following cases i.e.

Suspected or proven peripheral arterial disease, Severe peripheral neuropathy,

Allergy to stocking material,

Limb gangrene, oozing der-

matitis and severe cellulitis,

Extreme deformity of limb

preventing correct fit.

Every 4 to 6 months, the dressing needs to be changed as it gets loosen with time. Patients are usually advised to wear the compression garments during the day and remove it off at night, unless indicated. One can wear as early as

possible in the morning and continue while doing any form of work or mild exercises. Patients are advised to apply coconut oil on skin and to take care of limbs for any external injury. Skin care is recommended to prevent skin infections. Recent advances like automatic pneumatic compression devices can serve as viable self-management options for severe lymphedema patients.

Lymphedema after treatment for cancer

exposure to extreme temperatures.

Tips to keep lymphedema at bay

Exercise Regularly: Engaging in regular

physical activity helps promote lymphat-

ic flow and overall circulation.

Incorporate exercises that involve rhyth-

mic movements, such as walking, swim-

ming, or cycling. Start gradually and listen to your body, avoiding activities that

strain or excessively stress the affected

exacerbate lymphedema symptoms, so it's essential to take precautions. Practice

good hygiene, keep the skin clean and

moisturized, and avoid cuts, burns, or

insect bites. Use sunscreen to protect

against sunburns and avoid prolonged

Against Infections: Infections car

Aincreasing, lymphedema is likely to become common in the coming years.

Lymphedema after cancer occurs due to the treatment offered for the cancer rather than the cancer itself. This is particularly seen among individuals, who have had lymph node surgery or received radiation therapy as part of their cancer management.

It is due to the disruption or damage caused to the lymphatic system during cancer

↑ s the incidence of cancer is treatment, which impairs the normal flow of lymphatic fluid and leads to the accumulation of lymph in the affected tissues. Common examples include upper limb lymphedema after treatment for breast cancer and lower limb lymphedema after treatment for ovarian can-

Protect

The impact of cancer-associated lymphedema extends beyond the physical symptoms. The functional impairments resulting from reduced mobility and range of motion



DR GOPAL PURI

can interfere with daily activities, occupational tasks, and overall independence.

Managing cancer-associated lymphedema requires a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach. Lymphedema therapists, healthcare providers with expertise in lymphedema management, play a critical role in developing individualized treatment plans.

These plans often include a combination of strategies such as manual lymphatic drainage, compression therapy, exercise and rehabilitation, skin care, and patient education.

the policy guidance, coordination and oversight functions. A state-level task force was made responsible for planning and mapping vaccination sessions, strengthening cold chain infra-

(The book has been published in English by Penguin Random

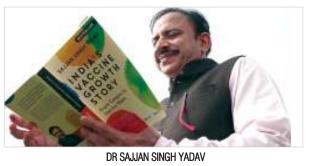
A tale of India's Vaccine Growth

Dr Sajjan Singh Yadav, Additional Secretary, Department of Expenditure in the Union Finance Ministry in his book 'India's Vaccine Growth Story - From Cowpox to Vaccine Maitri' traces India's ancient history of inoculation and vaccination--which happened much before British physician and scientist Edward Jenner developed the first jab against smallpox ---to current status of being frontrunner in vaccine production and supply for the world. Excerpts from the book:

women and children. India also had a trained workforce of District Magistrate of Delhi's 2.5 million health workersand North-West district, admitted 50,000 cold chain technicians that 'the scale of Covid vacci-(CCTs) to handle its UIP. An nation was huge in contrast to extensive countrywide coldthe target population for rouchain network was available for tine immunization'. While the routine immunization as well. UIP was confined mostly to However, could India's success government health facilities, the scale of Covid-19 vaccinain routine immunization guarantee the same victory in its tions required vaccination cenmassive Covid-19 vaccination tres to operate in other public and private spaces as well, she told me. In addition, the campaign necessitated large-scale adult immunization, hitherto India's COVID-19 vaccinanot usual in India. Another daunting challenge was the tion campaign was unique in rapid pace of vaccination to terms of its scale of operations, cover 1.4 billion people within the span of months needed to see the back of the pandemic. Apart from availability of

cold chain and other logistics, mobilization of human resources and their training were critical. Transporting vaccines at the right temperature was a gigantic task. 'This was especially daunting in the remote and hilly areas of the country,' said Dr Devansh Yadav, Deputy Commissioner, Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh during interactions. The hilly district, with a dense forest cover, a tiger reserve, and numerous rivers and streams, is spread over 4,500 square kilometres.

Prioritization of target groups, dealing with vaccine hesitancy and eagerness, preventing misinformation, building community ownership and



cines are other challenges that needed to be tackled. Dr A Muthamma, Health Secretary of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Ďiu, rated 'the apprehensions of citizens regarding the safety and efficacy of the vaccine' as the most formidable challenge. 'Uploading data about

healthcare workers on the CoWIN portal in the initial phase was a huge challenge in a large part of Arunachal Pradesh due to the lack of a stable internet connection, Dr P Parthiban, Health Secretary of the State told me. This was reiterated by Akhil Arora, Principle Secretary,

Health, Government of Rajasthan. 'People in rural areas understanding of the portal, he

SO HOW DID INDIA OVER-COME THESE CHALLENGES? Effective Coordination And **Fast-Tracking Decisions**

According to India's Health Secretary, Rajesh Bhushan, 'excellent cooperation and coordination with all stakeholders, including various ministries of the union government, state governments, development partners, non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations, was a critical factor'. To make the drive a success, the Government of India adopted a whole-governmentand whole-society approach for the vaccination drive, he told me. A robust governance mechanism was designed for effective coordination and swift decisionmaking.

At the national level, theNational Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for Covid-19 (NEGVAC) provided regulatory guidance on vac-cine trials, planning of vaccine administration, inter-sectoral coordination, financing, procurement and distribution, prioritization of population groups, supply chain infrastructure, vaccine safety surveillance, community engagement and awareess generation.

In the states, a state-level steering committee headed by the Chief Secretary was assigned

structure, identifying manpower, training and managing biomedical waste, developing a media plan to allay fears and misinformation, attracting people to vaccination centres and monitoring their progress. A District Task Force functions under the District Magistrate in every district. Similar task forces were also set up at the block and municipal levels. 'Island-level Monitoring Committees were constituted under the chairmanship of the Deputy Collector, Amit Satija, Health Secretary of Lakshadweep, informed. Lakshadweep is a federally administered territory of India comprising 36 small islands, many of which are uninhabited.

House. Now it is all set to be published in 20 Indian Languages to help spread the story of India's global vaccine supremacy acrosss the country.)



A MISSION FRAUGHT WITH

FORMIDABLE CHALLENGES



China creating another Xinjiang

 $P^{\text{resident Xi Jinping is all out}}_{\text{to prevent the Islamic radicals across China.}} \text{ The first was}$ the western-most province of Xinjiang wherein he has been undertaking full-scale measures to shield the Uyghur Muslims to stay away from Muslim extremists. Even global governance institutions like the UN had complained against the Xi regime that the ethnic Uyghurs and other minorities are being targeted simply in the name of preventing Islamic terror in the country.

A report published by the UN accused China of serious violations of human rights against the Uyghur Muslims that may be termed as "crime against humanity". The reality is that as per various international media sources and leaked videos from Uyghur detainees, Beijing is creating large concentration camps in the guise of training camps. And Chinese authorities are calling these camps as "Re-education Camps" or "vocational training centres". The Human Rights Watch and other global rights agencies say that China is committing genocide in Xinjiang which the Communists completely deny.

Currently, the Hui Muslims in Yunnan are under threat from Beijing. To them, China is trying to create "Another Xinjiang" in Yunnan which they say they won't allow it to happen. It's a province that borders Burma, Laos and Vietnam. It's again clamping down on religious freedoms of the Muslims and demolition of the mosques in these areas by the local authorities.

This month, thousands of ethnic Muslims came out in this Southwestern Province defying public orders to stop police from removing its dome and minarets. It took place in Najiaying Village of the province where the locals fought with the authorities in a last-ditch attempt to save

their sanctum sanctorum. It is widely believed that all these measures are an integral part of what President Xi calls

They are a group of nearly 11 northwest part of the country. million strong Muslim com-



munity living in scattered pockets from northwest to coastal belts of China. But Ningxia is an officially designated Autonomous Region for the Hui ethnic minority where they live.

Unlike the other ethnic minorities in China, they are widely assimilated with the majority Han community and their rich cultural traditions. Most of them speak Mandarin and live side by side with the powerful Hans. In recent years, they also have acquired more freedoms to practise their religious ceremonies than any other ethnic groups in China.

This is not the first time Beijing is trying to restrict Huis in Yunnan. Five years back, in 2018, the Hui comas an attempt to "sinicize" relimunity engaged in a tense standoff with the authorities when the latter came to demoltorical background. History ish a newly constructed says they are distant descen- mosque. Thousands of Huis dants of Arab and Persian came out to stop government traders who had come to officials to safeguard the Imperial China in the past. mosque in Ningxia, in the town of Nagu wherein the most powerful CPC. But this

But later, the Government

had replaced the domes and minarets of the mosque with indigenous Chinese style pagodas. So, the Hui Muslims are now quite familiar with the evil designs of the Communists of Beijing who have been making sustained efforts to pushing their long held religious and cultural traditions and symbols

all these years. Interestingly, a court order in 2020 ruled that recent additions to the mosque that includes a domed roof and minaret are not legal. So these could be removed or demolished as per law. It is believed that the administration is rightly acting under the directions of the court. Last week, the local security agencies warned the protesters to maintain law

and order. Sadly, the mosque that the al officials wanted to dismantle belonged to 14th century. It's an ancient place of worship and largely revered by at times criticise the the Hui Muslims. Indeed, the Government and even the incident sparked violence this

home and a rich cultural hub of the Hui people in Yunnan Province.

The "sinicization policy" aims to purge external or foreign religious beliefs. It strongly urges the ethnic minorities to align more closely with Chinese culture and more specifically with the standard codes of the official and the most powerful Communist Party of China (CPC), which follows an atheist line of thinking. So, the problem originates from here itself for the largely devoted and faithful Hui Muslims in this part of China.

Now, how have the Chinese people and officials reacted to this saga of violence against the ethnic Hui Muslims? Normally, officials stay tight-lipped in China. Whereas China has a huge social media called Weibo lik the Twitter through which people express their views and time, the government quickly week is considered as a historic removed all the anti-govern-

ment comments and views in regard to the mosque demolition in Nagu.

And in fact, one message supporting the Govt said national policy to handle such unrest is fine. The State should not allow any "wolfish extremists" to impact the law-and-

order situation in the country. It's loud and clear that the majority of the Chinese people are either forced to live under the diktats of the Communists. especially under its authoritarian rule and rulers or they long for stability rather than unrest of any kind.

Xi's new China is typicalwhat he wants to be. The President forever is highly ambitious. With the falling western liberal order and rising global clout of China, Xi is fast mobilising the CPC, the Army, diplomacy economy and fina ly his people into one central point that China will rise and rise. Xi is a combination of both power and paranoia. His is a regime conspiring to cre-resourceful and powerful in the ate imbalance in global governance, as many believe. For Xi,

he is working hard and fast to

spread the message to his peo-

ple, making China strong

demands uniting under the

precisely a gateway into the vanguard of the Chinese elite

forever. For him, the Party is

the only future. And thus, once

he echoed: "The Party-

Government, the Armed

Forces, society and academia:

east, west, south, north and

centre; the Party leads every-

thing." If this is what he fore-

sees and expects compatriots to

do, he will not allow Hui

Muslims to preserve their age-

old traditions and unique

lifestyle strongly imbued with

West is abetting, but in China

it is on the rise. But punching

Uyghurs will not offer any

readymade solution to the

Communists. When the coun-

try is aspiring to be rich,

global stage, it needs to be

patient with cultural, regional,

down the ethnic Ĥuis an

Today, Islamophobia in the

And joining the Party is

but this is the beginning of a new trend of religious persecution of minorities with Chinese characteristics under the leadership of President Xi. It must be stopped, and the

world leaders should voice their concerns in global governance institutions. China must behave responsibly and like a law-abiding nation. Before venturing out to capture the global stage and records, Beijing must set its own house in order. Huis and Uyghurs have the same basic rights the way it is enjoyed by the majority Hans in China.

Denying the freedom to practice and enjoy ethnic religious rights goes against all basic universal tenets of human rights It's completely unfair to keep the Hui Muslims under a state of constant fear.

(The writer is currently the Head of the School of Humanities & Social Sciences, Geeta University, Panipat)

ethnic and especially, religious differences. The Party must accept

assimilation of various cultural and religious strands as the world is fast encircled by multiple waves of globalisation and post-globalisation. But then continued atrocities and persecution of Hui and Uyghurs will certainly damage China's reputation on the global stage. Xi is completely an anti-thesis of Mao as the latter desired for continuous revolution. Whereas Xi called for peaceful China meaning total stability? And for managing this stability, he will not mind "re-educating" the Hui's the same way he and the Chinese statecraft has been doing for the Uyghurs so far in Xinjiang.

Finally, the liberal democracies and their leaders must be serious about China's massive "sinicisation" of Uyghurs and now a fresh attempt at Hui Muslims. Truly, this "sinicisation" is nothing but the curtailment of one of the edifices of basic freedoms that is the right to freedom of religion available in most of the modern nations.

Innocuous as it may seem,

By targeting the ethnic Muslims, China is simply inviting the wrath of the global jehadists. It would be prudent on China's part to stop atrocities on the Hui Muslims. Making Yunnan another Xinjiang would be fatal for China's stability in the long run.

Beijing must set its own house in order. Huis and **Uyghurs** have the same basic rights as those enjoyed by the majority Hans in China. By targeting the ethnic Muslims, China is simply inviting the wrath of the global jihadists. It would be prudent on China's part to stop atrocities on the Hui Muslims. **Making Yunnan** another Xinjiang would be fatal for China's stability



in the long run

MAKHAN SAIKIA

PERSPECTIVE

Climate change not a myth

The saddest part of the climate menace is that the poorest countries and island communities are the worst sufferers of climate change. Whereas they have not played any role in altering the environment



CHITRANGADA

Climate change is real. Not WMO indicates the continued rise of greenhouse gas emiselements are central to environmental disturbances. The fear is that humanity is in today is escalating. We are advancing towards a catastro-Climate change is one of

predators to such things. Now the question arises: how are we going to stop it? We may have many motives and initiatives in our mind but are we able to implement them in a useful way? We can't just see that we are the ones who have brought such destruction for the past 200 years. Fossil fuels and greenhouse gases are the uprising problems. The most astonishing part is that the earth is a system where everything is connected. If an area is affected, then the change is seen everywhere.

Ín 2021, the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres unveiled the UN Report on Climate Change called 'State of the Global Climate 2020'. It is a report prepared by the World (WMO), a key agency of the UN. The State of the Global Climate 2022 released by the

sions in the last year. It focuses on primary climate indicators like greenhouse gases, great danger. The situation temperatures, sea level rise, ocean heat and acidification, sea ice and glaciers. The report seriously highlights climate change and extreme weather the most emerging problems and we humans are the main conditions. The Report states that drought, floods, and heatthat drought, floods, and heatwaves are major parts of the globe, and the costs are rising for all. It is also reported that global mean temperature for the last 8 years has been recorded as the highest. Further, sea levels and ocean heat are at their record high. It is predicted that this trend will continue for centuries. The Report also says that sea ice in Antarctica falls to the lowest level. The continent of Europe has witnessed the breaking of glacier melts.

The Climate Change Synthesis Report 2023 released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) highlights the state of the knowledge of climate change, its widespread impact, and risks. It says that human activities prin-Meteorological Organization cipally through emission of greenhouse gases, have unequivocally caused global warming, with global surface



temperature reaching 1.1 degree Celsius above 1850-1900 in 2011-2020. It's alarming.

Another UN Report in the year 2021 highlighted that time is running out to tackle the climate crisis now. It was clearly said that even the deadly Covid-19 has failed to put a brake on relentless environmental change. Again, this WMO Report mentioned that because of the severe Covid-19 restrictions, the rich and advanced nations barely could help in assisting the climateaffected nations of the world. This pandemic has seriously delayed the delivery of climate finance and other protective

measures to extremely vulnerable nations, especially the small island developing countries like Tuvalu, Madagascar, Sevchelles, Maldives, Fiji, Haiti, etc. The UN stressed that the year 2021 is the year of action for the protection of the people from the disastrous effects of climate disasters.

Besides other negative impacts of climate change, it is also preventing people from enjoying basic rights or human rights in many parts of the world. Last year, a group of young people filed a petition at the European Court of Human Rights. They complained to the Court that climate inaction is

a human rights violation. They all highlight a 1990s era treaty named 'Energy Charter Treaty' according to which governments are required to compensate energy companies and investors if public policies cut into their profits. And this refers to public policies that are made to fight environmental change.

We all must know that the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 2021 for the first time tried to connect human rights and climate change to the table of the Conference of the Parties (COP). The aim of this move was to promote rights-based

climate actions and the integration of human rights in the historic Paris Agreement. Since then, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has expanded its work on human rights and climate change all around the globe.

Under the existing international human rights law and the UN Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) of 1948, all the states have the responsibility to protect its people from any foreseeable danger. These laws and conventions have the mandate to protect, respect and create conditions for fulfilling our human rights. The dangers heralded by climate disasters are ever present in our life today. It's largely hampering us from enjoying the basic rights of the people. Under the existing international human rights law, the states and the world bodies have the responsibility to take immediate steps to mitigate the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions. And it must ensure that all of us have the necessary means to adapt

to rapid climate changes. The saddest part of the climate menace is that the poorest countries and island communities are the worst sufferers of climate change. Whereas

they have not played any role in altering the environment. But it is also true that these countries are directly or indirectly enjoying the benefits of the massive industrialization and post industrialization era. The products of all polluting and extractive industries produced by advanced nations are used by all of us including the poor and vulnerable nations. In that way, we all are part of the damages done to the Planet Earth today. So we need to refrain from all such practices that may harm or destroy this planet not only today but also in future also.

I, being a youngster, am still confused about what will happen to Planet Earth. Like me, millions are in a state of shock. But no one has the right to steal our future. No one has the divine will to bring back our planet to the pre-industrial level. What we can do is to prevent further disasters. We can plan for active mitigation efforts. It's our home. Let's preserve it together. But do remember that 'Climate Abyss' is one of the starkest realities of the 21st century.

(The writer is a young climate thinker based in

Development.

week's talks.

the talks.

pants said.

Over 2,000 participants

from nearly 200 countries,

including governments and

observers, took part in this

Waste pickers and some advocacy groups said they were initially denied access to

Then debates about rules

of procedure including whether decisions would

require consensus or just

two-thirds approval dragged

out the proceedings, partici-

But they ultimately agreed

to produce a draft treaty by

November, which keeps

things on track to produce a

final version by the target

This week's talks were the

second of five rounds of

meetings due to take place to

it is clear from this week's

negotiations that oil-produc-

ing countries and the fossil

fuel industry will do every-

thing in their power to weak-

en the treaty and delay the

process," said Graham Forbes

of Greenpeace USA global

"Time is running out and

complete the negotiations.

deadline of late 2024.



UK PM Rishi Sunak planning global Al watchdog: Report

British Prime Minister
Rishi Sunak is considering a London-based global artificial intelligence (AI) watchdog to oversee any threats posed by the fastgrowing technology, according to a UK media report on Saturday.

Sunak will discuss ways to cooperate on monitoring AI when he meets US President Joe Biden at the White House next week, according to The

Among the ideas under consideration in Downing Street is setting up a global AI authority in London, modelled on the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The IAEA, founded in 1957

with 176 countries including India as members, monitors the use of nuclear energy, promotes safe standards, and checks that it is not used for military purposes.

A British minister told the newspaper that the UK would be "the best place" in the world for any new body because many leading companies already have a strong presence here.

Though plans are at an early stage, if Sunak pushes ahead, the UK government could seek to recruit rapidly to get the authority up and



alive to the need for international alignment on the approach to AI as the technology evolves to ensure we can benefit from the opportunities but manage the risks," a government source was quoted as saying by The Times'. The possibility of Sunak creating a regulator comes as the European Union (EU) is refining its Artificial Intelligence Act, which is expected to take a hard line on oversight of the sector. The US is also considering how to regulate but is expected to be less severe, as the world grapples with concerns about the safety of AI technology.

INSIDE THE PENAL COLONIES

A glimpse at life for political prisoners swept up in Russia's crackdowns

When Alexei Navalny turns 47 on Sunday, he'll wake up in a bare concrete cell with hardly any natural light.

He won't be able to see or talk to any of his loved ones. Phone calls and visits are banned for those in "punishment isolation" cells, a 2-by-3-metre (6 1/2-by-10-foot) space. Guards usually blast patriotic songs and speeches by President Vladimir Putin at him.

'Guess who is the champion of listening to Putin's speeches? Who listens to them for hours and falls asleep to them?" Navalny said recently in a typically sardonic social media post via his attorneys from Penal Colony No. 6 in the Vladimir region

He is serving a nine-year term due to end in 2030 on charges widely seen as trumped up, and is facing another trial on new charges that could keep him locked up for another two decades. Rallies have been called for

Sunday in Russia to support him. Navalny has become Russia's most famous political prisoner and not just because of his prominence as Putin's fiercest political foe, his poisoning that he blames on the Kremlin, and his being the subject of an Oscar-winning documentary.

placement in isolation, where he has spent almost six months. He's on a meagre prison diet, restricted on how much time he can spend writing letters and forced at times to live with a cellmate with poor personal hygiene, making life even more miserable.

Most of the attention goes to Navalny and other high-profile figures like Vladimir Kara-Murza, who was sentenced last month to 25 years on treason charges. But there's a growing number of less-famous prisoners who are serving time in similarly harsh

Memorial, Russia's oldest and most prominent human rights organization and a 2022 Nobel Peace Prize laureate, counted 558 political prisoners in the country as of April more than three times the figure than in 2018, when it listed 183.

The Soviet Union's far-flung gulag system of prison camps provided inmate labour to develop industries such as mining and logging. While conditions vary among modern-day penal colonies, Russian law still permits prisoners to work on jobs like sewing uniforms for soldiers.

In a 2021 report, the US State Department said conditions in Russian prisons and detention centres were often harsh and life threatening. Overcrowding, abuse by guards and inmates, limited access to health care, food shortages and inadequate sanitation were common in prisons, penal colonies, and other detention facili-

Andrei Pivovarov, an opposition figure sentenced last year to four years in prison, has been in isolation at Penal



Colony No. 7 in northern Russia's Karelia region since January and is likelv to stay there the rest of this year, said his partner. Tatyana institution is notorious for its harsh conditions and reports of tor-

The 41-year-old former head of the pro-democracy group Open Russia spends his days alone in a small cell in a "strict detention" unit, and is not allowed any calls or visits from anyone but his lawyers, Usmanova told The Associated Press. He can get one book from the prison library, can write letters for several hours a day and is permitted 90 minutes outdoors, she

Other inmates are prohibited from making eye contact with Pivovarov in the corridors, contributing to his "maximum isolation", she said.

"It wasn't enough to sentence him to a real prison term. They are also trying to ruin his life there," Usmanova

Pivovarov was pulled off a Warsaw-bound flight just before takeoff from St. Petersburg in May 2021 and taken to the southern city of Krasnodar. Authorities accused him of engaging with an "undesirable" organisation - a crime since 2015.

Several days before his arrest, Open Russia had disbanded after getting the "undesirable" label.

After his trial in Krasnodar, the St. Petersburg native was convicted and sentenced in July, when Russia's war in Ukraine and Putin's sweeping crackdown on dissent were in full

He told AP in a letter from Krasnodar in December that authorities moved him there "to hide me farther away" from his hometown and they can have food from personal sup-

But Gorinov said prison officials still carry out "enhanced control" of the unit, and he and two other inmates get special checks every two hours, since they've been labelled "prone to escape". There is little medical help, he

"Right now, I'm not feeling all that well, as I can't recover from bronchitis," he said, adding that he needed treatment for pneumonia last winter at another prison's hospital ward, because at Penal Colony No. 2, the most they can do is "break a fever".

Also suffering health problems is artist and musician Sasha Škochilenko, who is detained amid her ongoing trial following her April 2022 arrest in St. Petersburg, also on charges of spreading false information about the army. Her crime was replacing supermarket price tags with antiwar slogans in protest. Skochilenko has a congenital heart defect and celiac disease, requiring a gluten-free diet. She gets food parcels weekly, but there is a weight limit, and the 32-year-old can't eat "half the things they give her there,' said her partner, Sophia Subbotina.

interview was

one of the

Pivovarov

was able to

give,

describing

prison life

there as

boring and

depressing", with his only

an hour-long walk

in a small yard. "Lucky" inmates with

cash in their accounts can shop

at a prison store once a week for 10

minutes but otherwise must stay in

Letters from supporters lift his

spirits, he said. Many people wrote that

they used to be uninterested in

Russian politics, according to

Pivovarov, and "only now are starting

Now, any letters take weeks to

Conditions are easier for some

less-famous political prisoners like

Alexei Gorinov, a former member of

a Moscow municipal council. He was

was convicted of "spreading false

information" about the army in July

over antiwar remarks he made at a

Criticism of the invasion was crim-

inalised a few months earlier, and

Gorinov, 61, became the first Russian

sent to prison for it, receiving seven

He is housed in barracks with

about 50 others in his unit at Penal

Colony No. 2 in the Vladimir region,

Gorinov said in written answers

The long sentence for a low-profile

activist shocked many, and Gorinov

said "authorities needed an example

they could showcase to others (of) an

ordinary person, rather than a public

and play chess, backgammon or table

tennis. There's a small kitchen to brew

tea or coffee between meals, and

Inmates in his unit can watch TV,

passed to AP in March.

their cells, he wrote.

to see clearly".

council session.

arrive, Usmanova said.

There's a stark difference between detention facilities for women and men, and Skochilenko has it easier in Subbotina said.

"Oddly enough, the staff are mostly nice. Mostly they are women, they are quite friendly, they will give helpful tips and they have a very good attitude toward Sasha," Subbotina told AP

Often they support Sasha, they tell her: You will definitely get out of here soon, this is so unfair here.' They know about our relationship and they are fine with it. They're very humane," she

There's no political propaganda in the jail and dance music blares from a radio. Cooking shows play on TV. Skochilenko "wouldn't watch them in normal life, but in jail, it's a distraction", Subbotina said.

She recently arranged for an outside cardiologist to examine Skochilneko and since March has been allowed to

visit her twice a month. Subbotina gets emotional when

she recalled their first visit. "It is a complex and weird feeling when you've been living with a person. Sasha and I have been together for over six years waking up with them, falling asleep with them then not being able to see them for a year,' she said. "I was nervous when I went to visit her. I didn't know what I would say to Sasha, but in the end, it went

really well." Still, Subbotina said a year behind bars has been hard on Skochilenko. The trial is moving slowly, unlike usually swift proceedings for high-profile political activists, with guilty verdicts almost a certainty.

Skochilenko faces up to 10 years if

PLASTIC POLLUTION

Key step toward landmark treaty to end plastic waste

agreed to craft an initial draft treaty to end plastic pollution, a preliminary but crucial step toward tackling one of the most lasting sources of human waste.

Environmental advocates cautiously welcomed the outcome of five days of UN talks in Paris on plastic pollution, but expressed concern that the petroleum industry and some governments would water down the eventual treaty. Most plastic is made from fossil fuels.

Delegates at Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for Plastics agreed on Friday evening to produce an initial draft before their next meeting in Kenya in November, participants said.

The committee is charged with developing the first international, legally binding treaty on plastic pollution, on land and at sea.

A coalition of "high-ambition" governments led by Norway and Rwanda, along with environmental groups, want to end plastic pollution altogether by 2040 by slashing production and limiting some chemicals used in making plastics.

"Projections suggest that a child born today will see plastic production double by the time they turn 18, but we know that the consequences of increasing plastic production will be disastrous for our health, the planet, and the climate," said Dr

led the International Pollutants Elimination Network's delegation at the talks.

"The stakes are high, but we are optimistic by the growing awareness among delegates of the need for global controls.' Countries with big petro-

leum industries like the US, China and Saudi Arabia are focusing instead on plastic recycling, and want countryby-country rules instead of across-the-board limits. Stew Harris, senior direc-

tor for global plastics policy at the American Chemistry Council, argued for allowing each government to "use the right tools based on their unique circumstances."

In a statement to The Associated Press as the talks wrapped up, he said that circularity or reusing plastics was "at the forefront of the negotiations as a means to tackle pollution and be more sustainable in producing and consuming plastics. We agree that's the best path."

Humanity produces more than 430 million tons of plastic annually, two-thirds of which are short-lived products that soon become waste. filling the ocean and, often, working their way into the human food chain, the UN.

plastics campaign.
"While some substantive discussions have taken place, there is still a huge amount Environment Program said of work ahead of us." in an April report. Plastic



Intelligence associated with taking more time to solve complex problems

People with higher intelligence were found to form an unfathomable network. MRI scans showed slower solver lems than those with lower intelligence, in a new study that wanted to understand how the brain's decision-making processes work.

Those with lower intelligence, or those with reduced synchrony between brain areas, were found to "jump to conclusions" when making decisions, rather than waiting until their other brain regions could complete the processing steps needed to solve the problem.

Researchers in the study from Berlin Institute of Health at Charite (BIH) and Charite

Universitatsmedizin Berlin, Germany, performed brain simulations of 650 participants' "personalised brain models", created using data from these people to refine a 'general" human brain model. The "general" model

was initially constructed using digital data from MRI brain scans as well as mathematical models based on biological processes.

Publishing their findings in the journal Nature Communications, the researchers also found that while the higher intelligent models also needed more time to solve challenging tasks, they made fewer errors. The human brain's amazing range of capa-

bilities is made possible by the 100 billion or so neurons, each of which connects with an estimated 1,000 neighbouring or distant neurons

MRI scans showed slower solvers to have a higher average functional connectivity, or temporal synchrony, between their brain regions, something further corroborated by in silico brain models used in the study.

The models revealed this greater synchrony to allow neural circuits in the frontal lobe to hold off on decisions longer.

On the other hand, reduced synchrony was found to result in the information required for decision-making neither being available when needed nor being stored in working

memory. "Synchronisation, i.e., the formation of functional networks in the brain, alters the properties of working memory and thus the ability to 'endure' prolonged periods without a decision," explained Michael Schirner,

lead author of the study. In everyday terms, an easy task would consist of quickly braking at a red light, while a hard task would require methodically working out the best route on a road map. In the study, participants were asked to identify logical rules in a series of patterns, the complexity of the rules increasing with each task. In the brain model, a so-called winnertake-all competition was observed to occur between different neural groups involved in a decision, with those neural group(s) prevailing for which there is stronger evidence.



Young adulthood window best to treat schizophrenia, autism for lasting effects

≺argeting and stimulating underperforming neurons in the dopamine system and increasing its activity in young adulthood could help treat neuropsychiatric disorders like schizophrenia and autism with long-lasting effects, according to a new

study. In mice, researchers from the University of Rochester, US, found that stimulating the neuron cells providing dopamine to the frontal cortex strengthened the circuit

and rescued structural deficiencies in the brain that cause long-term symptoms.

In previous studies, the research team had found this specific arm of the dopamine system to be flexible in adolescents but not in adults.

In this study, published in the journal eLife, they exploited this window for plasticity in the system as an opportunity for therapeutic intervention, effects of which could affect the brain circuitry into adult-

Essential in higher cognitive processing and decision-making, dysfunction of the dopamine system has been found to often begin in young adulthood.

"Brain development is a lengthy process, and many neuronal systems have critical windows - key times when brain areas are malleable and undergoing final maturation steps," said Rianne Stowell, a postdoctoral fellow in the Wang Lab at the University of Rochester Medical Center and

co-first author on the research. "By identifying these win-

dows, we can target interventions to these time periods and possibly change the course of a disease by rescuing the structural and behavioral deficits caused by these disorders," said Stowell.

"If we can target the right windows in development and understand the signals at play, we can develop treatments that change the course of these brain disorders," said Stowell.