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With a firm commitment to increase farmers' income by reducing the cost of cultivation through mechanization and to set up at least one CHC at RBK level, Jagananna Government is providing farm machinery to farmers' groups on payment of **10% of the cost of machinery.. 40% to be given as subsidy** by Jagananna Government and facilitate the remaining **50% as loan**, so that they can avail farm machinery services at affordable prices and other farmers in RBK will also get benefitted by low hiring charges..



Sri. Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Andhra Pradesh

YSR YANTRA SEVA PATHAKAM..

Mega Distribution of Tractors and Combine Harvesters..

Sri. Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Hon'ble Chief Minister to distribute **2,562 Tractors, 100 Combine Harvesters** and **13,573** other farm machinery worth of **Rs.361.29 Crores** and to deposit subsidy amount of **Rs.125.48 Crores** directly into the accounts of farmers' groups in Chuttugunta Circle, Guntur, **Today**, as part of Second State level Mega Distribution Programme..

YSR YANTRA SEVA PATHAKAM

- Community Hiring Centres maintained by your very own farmer groups in your village itself..
- Choice of selecting farm machinery, depending on the crop pattern of the village and local demand for hiring is with farmer groups only..
- Display of availability of Machinery, affordable hiring charges and contact details at RBKs in a transparent manner to benefit the local farmers..
- Jagananna Government released 'YSR Yantra Seva App' to ease the process of hiring the machinery.. The App enables the farmers to book their required farm equipment 15 days in advance..
- Kisan Drone Services with the latest technology.. Jagananna Government is working to provide Drone services at every RBK.. Measures to provide sprayers and tarpaulins to marginal farmers with a 50% subsidy..

In the first mega distribution programme, a total of **3,800 tractors, 391 combine harvesters** and **22,580** other farm machinery worth **Rs.690.87 Crores**, with a subsidy of **Rs. 240.67 Crores**, were distributed and are providing services in **6,525** RBK level and **391** Cluster level Custom Hiring Centres..

Including the farm machinery worth **Rs. 361.29 Crores** that are being distributed Today, so far Jagananna Government has distributed **6,362 tractors, 491 combine harvesters** and **36,153** other farm machinery worth **Rs.1,052.16 Crores** to serve **10,444** RBK level Custom Hiring Centres and **491** Cluster level Custom Hiring Centres and a subsidy of **Rs. 366.15 Crores** is provided to farmer groups..

Jagananna Government has established **10,444** RBK level Custom Hiring Centres with **Rs.15 lakh** worth of machinery at each RBK and **491** Cluster level Custom Hiring Centres with **Rs.25 lakh** worth of machinery at every cluster..

From now on, **"YSR YANTRA SEVA PATHAKAM"** services in every RBK..



To reduce the burden on farmers' groups, Jagananna Government is providing farm machinery on payment of **just 10% of the cost.. 40% of the cost** will be provided as subsidy and the remaining **50%** will be facilitated as loans through APCOB & DCCB..

Choice of purchase of tractors, tools and other farm equipment is with farmer groups.. Free servicing for one year to Harvester and free training to the

Jagananna Government to provide more than **7 lakh** farm equipment, sprayers and tarpaulins to the farmers at the individual level in coming October..

For complaints regarding "YSR Yantra Seva Pathakam" call Toll free no. **155251**

Reduction in farm machinery hiring rates.. Reduction in cost of cultivation to Farmers...

Sri. Kakani Govardhan Reddy
Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture & Co-operative, Marketing and Food Processing

Note: Sri. Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Hon'ble Chief Minister will distribute the farm machinery in 'State Level Mega Distribution Programme' at Chuttugunta Circle, Guntur at 9-30 AM on 2nd June, 2023 as part of 'YSR Yantra Seva Pathakam'. Do watch the programme live on all popular news channels...

Issued by: Communication, Information & Public Relations Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh

Is Lokesh trying to create a rift in Reddy community?

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

In a surprising turn of events, Lokesh, the youth leader of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), who has been labelled as a novice in the political arena, has successfully made his mark. Is Lokesh orchestrating a strategy to undermine Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and create dissatisfaction among the Reddy community? Does Lokesh truly understand the needs of the Reddys, or is he merely playing politics to gain support from the general public? Lokesh's padayatra in the Rayalaseema region seems to provide a solution to these questions.

Andhra Pradesh's political landscape has always witnessed differences between the Reddy and Kamma communities. Prior to the emergence of the TDP, the Kamma community predominantly leaned towards the Communist parties and was also part of the Congress. However, after the formation of the TDP, the Kamma community distanced itself from the Congress and aligned with the TDP. In the Krishna and Prakasam districts, some Kammass switched allegiance from the Congress to the TDP. In Krishna district, a section of the Kamma commu-



nity has even aligned with the Communist Party.

However, it is important not to forget the significant Reddy families who joined the TDP after its formation. The animosity between the Reddys and the TDP should not be overlooked. In the districts of Rayalaseema, Nellore, Guntur, and East Godavari, Reddys are currently moving towards the TDP. The situation where

Andhra Pradesh's political landscape has always witnessed differences between the Reddy and Kamma communities. Prior to the emergence of the TDP, the Kamma community predominantly leaned towards the Communist parties and was also part of the Congress. However, after the formation of the TDP, the Kamma community distanced itself from the Congress and aligned with the TDP. In the Krishna and Prakasam districts, some Kammass switched allegiance from the Congress to the TDP.

Kamma leaders within the TDP are now becoming ordinary members after gaining power is evident both in the past and present.

The coastal regions have witnessed political dominance and clashes between the Kamma and Reddy communities. However, the Reddy community's cultural influence has not expanded to Rayalaseema. The reason for the decline in the Kamma population in Chittoor and Anantapur districts is mainly due to intermarriage. In the coastal districts of Guntur and Krishna, Kammass support the Congress, while Godavari and North Andhra regions favour the TDP.

Over the past decade, as the Kamma

community has solidified its position in business, the Reddys have expanded their political influence.

A high-level meeting held at the YSRCP office recently, the party sought to address the growing frustration among Reddy chiefs regarding delayed payments for completed projects and the perceived lack of attention given to their districts. These grievances were raised during the gathering, where party members expressed their disappointment at the tarnished reputation and deteriorating conditions in their respective villages.

One of the major issues raised by the attending MLAs was the delay in clearing outstanding bills for completed pro-

jects, which had resulted in mounting debts. The Reddy chiefs expressed their anger over the unpaid bills and emphasised that they had undertaken these works in good faith, with the expectation of receiving timely compensation. The MLAs further highlighted that the failure to honour these commitments had not only affected their personal reputation but also undermined their ability to effectively represent and serve their constituencies. Moreover, some attendees shared their anguish, going as far as to express thoughts of suicide if the bills were not settled promptly. They questioned how they could convince voters to support the party in future elections when the YSRCP government had neglected its own responsibilities. Notably, a significant number of these disgruntled chiefs were Reddy sarpanchs, adding weight to their grievances.

During the meeting, Government Advisor (Public Affairs) Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy was unable to provide a satisfactory response to the concerns raised. This left the attendees dissatisfied and frustrated, as they sought clarity and resolution to the pressing issues at hand.

Meanwhile, Reddy leaders involved in

contract work across districts such as Nellore, Prakasam, Kurnool, and Narsaraopet expressed similar sentiments of dissatisfaction towards the Jagan government. These leaders, who have been operating in a challenging environment due to the political atmosphere in these districts, cited unpaid bills and unaddressed grievances as major sources of discontent.

Of particular concern was the predicament faced by YSRCP MLAs who had secured their electoral victories by relying on subscriptions. The pressure from contractors, coupled with the failure to pay outstanding bills, had created a difficult situation for these MLAs. The situation became even more tense during the DRC meetings in Prakasam-Nellore district, where incidents of MLAs suspending in-charge ministers of the district were widely discussed in the media.

The dissatisfaction among Reddy chiefs and leaders underscores the growing disillusionment within the YSRCP government. With grievances ranging from unpaid bills to neglected responsibilities, it remains to be seen how the Jagan government will address these concerns and restore faith among its party members and supporters.

Vijayasai appointed as incharge of YSRCP frontal bodies

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

V Vijayasai Reddy, general secretary of the ruling YSRCP and leader of the YSRC Parliamentary Party (YSR-CPP), has resumed his active involvement in the party and has been appointed as the in-charge of the party's frontal organisations.

On June 6, he is scheduled to convene a meeting of the presidents of the party's frontal organisations at the party Central Office in Tadepalli. This meeting is going to be the first of its kind since the party's historic victory in the 2019 general elec-

tions, where it secured a significant majority.

Undoubtedly, this initiative aims to bolster the party's strength and enhance its electoral prospects leading up to the 2024 general elections. The party leadership is leaving no stone unturned in connecting with its members and revitalizing them with the resounding slogan "Why Not 175."

Vijayasai Reddy's role in instilling election fervor among the party's rank and file is crucial and much needed at this juncture. He has also become actively engaged on various social media plat-



forms. He has strongly criticised the Opposition, particularly the TDP, for its manifesto.

He pointed out that the TDP had approached the Supreme Court against the government's decision to provide house site pattas to the poor in Amaravati and questioned their ability to uplift the poor.

"Those who criticised CM Jagan Mohan Reddy when he offered house sites to the poor are now promising to make the same poor people wealthy. Is such a promise ever achievable?" he wondered.

WIP GUEST



Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy attended the wedding reception of Pernali Shyam Prasad Reddy's brother Ramalinga Reddy's son at CK Convention Centre here on Thursday. The Chief Minister blessed the couple Kausik and Manaswini.

A mishmash of

Continued from Page 3

According to the Chief Minister, Naidu was following in the footsteps of these demons, attempting to deceive the people with his false manifesto, which he had no intention of implementing. He condemned the act of Naidu garlanding the portrait of his late father-in-law NTR, reminding the audience that Naidu had betrayed and caused the demise of NTR 27 years ago, all in the pursuit of power. Asserting that Naidu was capable of betraying anyone, the Chief Minister highlighted his lack of values, disregard for righteousness, credibility, character, and commitment. He also pointed out that the TDP did not have candidates to contest in all 175 constituencies, alleging that Naidu's sole philosophy was to present an appealing manifesto before the elections and discard it afterward, deceiving the people. The Chief Minister described Naidu as an elderly individual with no notable accomplishments, someone who had deceived every section of society and had

done nothing for the welfare of the people during his previous terms. He warned that Naidu was now seeking another chance to mislead them by forging convenient alliances. He further claimed that Naidu was eager to resume his policy of exploiting, accumulating wealth, and devouring resources, with the support of his friendly media and foster son. "The upcoming elections are a battleground between social justice and social injustice, a war between the DBT policy and the DPT (Dochuko, Panchuko, and Tinuko) policy, a clash between a government for the people and a Naidu-backed capitalist regime, and a confrontation between welfare schemes and the mischievous and malicious propaganda orchestrated by the yellow media," the Chief Minister asserted, urging the people to support the YSRCP and become his allies in the next elections to secure victory if they believed they had benefited from his governance. Addressing the people, he concluded by stating, "You are my strength, courage, and confidence, and I rely on you."

CM releases 'Rythu Bharosa' ..

Continued from Page 3

He observed that the government paid Rs 30,985 crore under YSR Rythu Bharosa-PM Kisan' alone in the last four years, benefiting each farmer to the tune of Rs 61, 500 while 22.74 lakh farmers received Rs 1965 crore towards input subsidy.

The government has so far spent Rs 60,000 crore on procurement of 3.09crore tons of foodgrains as against Rs 40,000 crore incurred on procurement of 2.65 crore tons of food grains during TDP rule, said the Chief Minister, adding that the procurement arrears of Rs 960 crore of the TDP rule were also cleared.

With the revolutionary changes introduced by the government in the agricultural sector in the last four years and 10,778 Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBKs) extending services from sowing seeds to harvesting crops to marketing their agricultural produce, paddy and horticultural production went up to 165 lakh tons and 332 lakh tonnes per year from 153 lakh



tons and 228 lakh tons respectively in TDP rule, he said.

While 1623 mandals were declared drought-hit in TDP rule, not even a single Mandal was declared drought-hit so far in the last four years, he said, adding that the amount of loans sanctioned under zero-interest rate went up to Rs 6680 crore benefitting 44 lakh farmers from Rs 3411 crore that benefitted only 30,85,000 farmers in TDP rule. Last year's Kharif insurance amount would be credited on July 8, YSR Jayanti, he said.

The Chief Minister said that the rural landscape has been changing fast with RBKs handholding farmers at every step and extending e-cropping, soil testing, social audit and other services. While under Jagananna

Saswatha Bhu Hakku Bhu Raksha', the government has taken up resurvey of lands after 100 years to permanently solve land disputes, it is also trying to ensure that land registrations take place at the village secretariats by establishing sub-registrar offices there itself and expedite farm mechanisation by providing subsidy and loans to farmers.

In response to the appeal of local MLA K. Srividevi, the Chief Minister sanctioned Rs 85 crore for a lift irrigation project, Rs 10 crore for establishing tomato processing unit, Rs 1.70 crore for BC girls building, Rs 7.5 crore for constructing a high level bridge and agreed to help establish onion-powder making units in the constituency.

India registered 7.2% growth rate in 2022-23: BJP leader

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

BJP leader Lanka Dinakar has said that the facts and figures of GDP pertaining to the pre and post-lockdown of Covid-19 is quite essential to compare the economic activity of global performance with Bharat.

In a statement here on Thursday, he said that the fact is that the GDP of the nation for the year 2022-23 had registered a remarkable growth at 7.20% as the best in the world. But those who wear Intellectual masks like Arundhati Roy had made it 6.10% as the growth rate for the year 2022 -23 in her tweet erroneously to divert the public attention to the negative side by the false propaganda.

"Whereas our economy had recovered even though GDP had registered in the last quarter (4Q) of the previous year 2022-23 (From 1st January 2023 to 31st March 2023) with 6.10% from 4.50% of third quarter (3Q) (From 1st October 2022 to 31st December 2022) of the same period," he stated.



"Author Arundhati Roy doesn't know 2021-22 is the first year after Covid-19 lockdown. She may be still in Physical Distance with the world. It is clear that during the Lockdown period 2020-21 almost "NIL" Economic Activity in the entire world, India is part of the World and we also suffered. If anyone intends to compare the growth rate of India's GDP for the years 2021-22 and 2022-23," Lanka Dinakar said.

He said that why they intentionally miss 2020-21 & 2019-20 figures to take into account to evaluate the pre and post Covid 19 impact on our economy vis a vis world economy.

"If we examine the facts, almost all these years our nation's performance is the best with the Rest of the World. We can say proudly we are the Best in GDP growth for the current year 2023-24 as per the International Agencies' estimations," Dinakar said.

"How can Arundhati Roy get the figure 6.10% for the whole year 2022-23 and where did it come from when the actual figure was 7.20% as per the RBI Governor's statement ? Doesn't she know the difference between Quarter in a year vs. Full year and vice versa?" he questioned.

Stating that these are all so-called Intellectuals spits the venom on the progress of the country, he said that apart from this, Manufacturing Purchasing Manager Index (PMI) has been raising positively to 58.70% in the month of May 2023 from 57.20% in the month of April 2023, it is the significant boost in the manufacturing activity of the country showcasing the favourable economic environment in the country.

Admissions to 5 new govt medical colleges...

Continued from Page 3

Minister Rajini stated that after the YSRCP government led by CM Jagan Mohan Reddy came to power, 462 medical PG seats were made available. She said that, the first medical college was started in Visakhapatnam and till now 11 government medical colleges are being established in a hundred years period. "But after the YSRCP government came to power, we are setting up 17 government medical colleges in the last four years of coming to power. We are spending Rs 500 crores on each new government medical college.

This is a history in the history of the medical and health

department," said Minister Rajini.

The minister said that the aim of the YSRCP government was to provide better healthcare to all the people across the state and launched the concept of family doctor like nowhere else in the country. CM Jagan Mohan Reddy brought many revolutionary

changes in the medical and health department. Since independence, no government has filled all the vacancies filled by the ruling YSRCP government in the medical and health department.

"We have filled 49,000 posts in the medical and health department in four years," said minister Rajini.



GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
PANCHAYATI RAJ ENGG. DEPARTMENT

6- PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

NIT No.133 to 172/T0/2023-24
Online tenders are invited for 40 works of Land Levelling in YSR Housing Colonies with an Estimated Cost of Rs.14,69,00,000/- under Non OTS Critical Infrastructure in Krishna District. Bid download starting date: 05.06.2023 onwards. Further details visit: www.tender.apecprocurement.gov.in. Ph.No.986602101.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PRI Division, Machilipatnam

Date: 31-05-2023

R.O.No: 9867CLADVT/TH/2021-22, Dt. 01.06.2023

TDP's estranged MP Kesineni Nani back in spotlight

The LS member from Vijayawada says he does not care if his party offers him a ticket or not

C PRADEEP KUMAR
VIJAYAWADA

The controversial statement made by TDP MP Kesineni Srinivas (Nani) has once again thrust him into the spotlight. Speaking to the media in Mylavaram town of NTR district, the outspoken Vijayawada MP expressed his indifference towards the TDP's potential candidates for the Vijayawada Lok Sabha seat in the upcoming 2024 general election.

"I don't care if the TDP nominates any Tom, Dick, and Harry," Nani declared, hinting at his growing discontent with the party's top leadership. He further announced his willingness to contest the next election as an independent candidate or join any political party that shares his vision for the development of Vijayawada city. Nani's statement unequivocally indicates that the TDP's high command has closed its doors on him and is contemplating replacing him with his own brother, Kesineni Sivanadh (Chinni).

For some time now, Nani has distanced himself from party activities, as the TDP's top brass has shown a preference for his brother Chinni. Notably, the MP did not attend the party's two-day Mahanadu, opting instead to garland the statue of NTR in Parliament on May 28. It appears that Nani is disillusioned with the leadership's disregard and support for his rivals in the constituency.



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Last week, Nani shared the stage with YSRCP MLA Dr. M Jaganmohan Rao from Nandigama in the NTR district. During the event, he expressed his willingness to collaborate with anyone who supports his efforts to develop the seven Assembly constituencies that fall within his Vijayawada Lok Sabha constituency.

Interestingly, YSRCP MP Alla Ayodhyarami Reddy has extended a warm welcome to

Kesineni Nani, urging him to join the party. "We embrace leaders like Kesineni, who consistently work towards the development of the constituency," Ayodhyarami Reddy stated.

The decision regarding Kesineni Nani's next political move remains uncertain, as it seems that the TDP has shut its doors on him. The coming days will reveal the path he chooses amidst the turmoil within the TDP.

Ex-Prez Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy remembered

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA



Former President of India Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy's death anniversary was observed at the Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) office at Andhra Ratna Bhavan in Vijayawada on Thursday.

Congress leaders paid rich tributes to Sanjeeva Reddy by garlanding his portrait. They also praised Sanjeeva Reddy's services to the country.

Party Vijayawada city president Naraharasetti Narasimha Rao, AICC members Meda Suresh, PY Kiran, B Nageswara Rao, Ansar, Youth Congress district president Joseph, Shaik Nagur and others attended the programme.



Rs 95.96 crore credited to 1.27 lakh farmers' accounts

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

For the fifth year in a row, as many as 1, 27,954 farmers have been given financial assistance under the Rythu Bharosa-PM Kisan scheme in NTR district. The government credited a total of Rs.95.96 crore into the accounts of farmers on Thursday.

NTR District Collector S Dilli Rao handed over the specimen cheque to the farmers in the presence of MLA V Srinivasa Rao and various corporate directors at the Collectorate. Speaking on the

occasion, the Collector said that the government had been depositing Rs. 13,500 to every farmer's account for the past five years.

He said that this year, the first tranche of assistance was being credited to the bank accounts directly. The government distributes Rs.7,500 under Rythu Bharosa and Rs.6,000 under PM Kisan to the farmers. The government has credited Rs 748.43 crore to the accounts of 1,34,338 farmers of the district, so far.

Vijayawada West MLA and former minister Velampalli

Srinivasa Rao said that besides providing financial assistance, the government was also supplying seeds to the farmers through the Rythu Bharosa Kendras.

Viswa Brahmin Corporation Chairman T Srikanth, AP Gowda Corporation Chairman M Sivarama Krishna, Vijayawada Rural Agricultural Advisory Board Chairman Yarkareddy Nagi Reddy, Agricultural Department Joint Director S Naga Manemma, Horticulture Officer K Balaji Kumar and others were present.

CM announces Rs 5L ex gratia

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Thursday announced an ex gratia of Rs 5 lakh each to kin of the deceased in the cracker godown blast at Yellakatava village in Varadaiah Palem Mandal of Tirupati district.

The Chief Minister directed the officials to take steps to pay the ex gratia immediately to the kin of the three deceased persons as all of them are daily labourers belonging to SC community.

Traffic curbs for CM's visit to Guntur today

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

In view of Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy programme of 'Dr YSR Yantra Seva Padhakam' and meeting from 6 am to 3 pm, the Guntur police imposed restrictions on vehicular movement and diverting traffic on Friday in Guntur city. Guntur District SP Arif Hafiz said that traffic diversion will be done in Guntur city from 6 am to 3 pm and appealed to the public to cooperate with the police department.

The APSRTC vehicles entered Guntur city from Chilakaluripet side via Ponnuru road from Budampadu junction to RTC bus stand. The vehicles going from Guntur city to



Chilakaluripet should go through Market Pereracharla bus stand and take the bypass junction road.

The vehicles coming from Narasaraopet and Sattenapalli to Guntur city, RTC buses, goods vehicles, large vehicles going to distant areas should go towards National Highway

from Nallapadu Junction towards Ankireddy Palem. The APSRTC buses go from Budampadu Junction Road to Guntur RTC Bus Stand via Ponnuru Road.

The vehicles going from APSRTC Bus Stand to Sattenapalli and Narasaraopet should go via Hindu College

Centre, Collector Office Road, Pattabhipuram and then go to Pericherla Junction via Palakaluru Road.

Similarly, cars and motorcycles entering Guntur city from the side of Pericherla should come to the surrounding Rythu Bazar and then proceed towards the collectorate road via AT Agraharam main road.

District SP Arif Hafiz said that no vehicles are allowed from Guntur Zilla Parishad Road, Guntur Convention Hall to Chuttugunta, Lalupuram Junction to Chuttugunta, Chilakaluripet Y Junction to Chuttugunta. He added that people should note the above instructions regarding traffic diversions and continue their journey accordingly cooperating with the police department.



City girl Dodla Chinni in State rugby team

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Dodla Chinni, an Intermediate student of SRR & CVR Government College, Vijayawada, has been selected for the Andhra Pradesh State rugby team that will be taking part in the Junior National Rugby Championship to be held at the Chhatrapati Sports Complex in Pune from June 5 to 6.

The Indian Rugby Union will be conducting the Junior National Championship, in which all State teams will participate.

Dodla Chinni represented the Krishna district girls' team in the Andhra Pradesh State Rugby Championship that was held in Kurnool district recently.

Krishna District Rugby Association president Koragnaji Jagan, secretary Nagalla Chandra Kala, treasurer Tulasi Rao and others congratulated Dodla Chinni.

Russian devotee donates Rs 7.74L to TTD



PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Achuta Madhava Das, a devotee from Russia on Thursday donated Rs 7.64 lakh to various trusts of TTD.

Krishnaiah Das, devotees friend presented the DD to TTD EO AV Dharma Reddy at TTD administrative building. The donation comprised of contribution to the SVBC trust (Rs 1.64 lakhs) and Rs 1 lakh each to SV Anna Prasadam trust, Gosamrakshana, Pranadana, Vidhya Dana, Vedaparany Trust, and Sri Balaji Arogya Varaprasadini schemes.



Krishna river front beautification works in progress at Krishnalanka in Vijayawada on Tuesday. Pic by CH.VIJAYA BHASKAR

Assault on TDP leaders: Protest staged in Machilipatnam

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Tension prevailed in Machilipatnam as the TDP staged a protest demanding the arrest of those who assaulted TDP minority leaders in English Palem the other day.

TDP politburo Member and former minister Kollu Ravindra staged a dharna near his house and demanded that the police arrest the accused. In view of this, a large number of TDP activists rushed to Kollu Ravindra's house and participated in the protest.

The police also reached Kollu Ravindra's house and beefed up security in the Machilipatnam city limits. Later, they assured Kollu Ravindra of necessary action.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that the YSRCP goons mercilessly attacked two persons with a hammer. They, Sayyad Baji and Chota Babu, are undergoing treatment and their condition is critical.

He complained that the police had been unable to arrest the accused despite registering an FIR. The cops are not showing interest in arresting the accused. It seems they are deliberately waiting so that the accused can get anticipatory bail.

He said that even after 90 hours of registering the FIR, the police didn't produce the culprits before the court. Kollu Ravindra said that they would continue the protest till the accused were arrested.



Dismissal of WFI chief Brij Bhushan demanded

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh Rythu Sanghala Samanvaya Samiti has demanded that the Central government remove Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president and Parliament member Brij Bhushan Saran Singh from all posts on the basis of the sexual harassment allegations against him. They urged the government to ensure protection of the women wrestlers, who are staging an agitation against Brij Bhushan Singh.

Responding to the call given by the Samyuktha Kisan Morcha, AP Rythu Sanghala Samanvaya Samiti leaders



Farmer leaders staging a dharna in support of women wrestlers in Vijayawada on Thursday. Pic by CH.VIJAYA BHASKAR

staged a protest at Dharna Chowk in Vijayawada on Thursday. They raised slogans

against Brij Bhushan Saran Singh and demanded his dismissal. Several other organisa-

tions extended support for the agitation.

Later, led by former minister and Samiti convener Vadde Shobhandreeswara Rao, they submitted a representation to NTR District Collector Dr S Dilli Rao.

Vadde Shobhandreeswara Rao said that BJP MP Brij Bhushan Singh sexually harassed women wrestlers. It was shameful that international medal winners were harassed by the MP. However, the police resorted to baton-charge on the women wrestlers, he added.

Further, he demanded that the government conduct a probe headed by a retired Supreme Court Judge or High

Court advocate. He commented that the ruling YSRCP and Opposition parties TDP and Jana Sena have not responded to the women wrestlers' agitation.

CPM State secretariat member Ch Babu Rao, CPI secretariat member Akkineni Vanaja, Congress Vijayawada city president Naraharasetti Narasimha Rao, Forward Block secretary Sundara Rama Raju, CITU vice-president V Uma Maheswara Rao, AITUC State president R Ravindranadh, leaders P Jamalaiah, Y Kesava Rao, D Harinath, M Prasad, P Durga Bhavani, Kolanukonda Sivaji and others were present.

KCR surpasses Chandrababu

Creates record as the longest serving Telugu CM

SNCH ACHARYULU
HYDERABAD

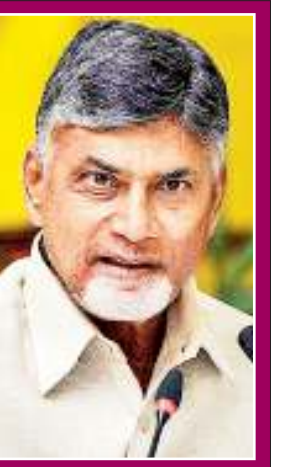
Just one day is left for Telangana Chief Minister Kalvakuntla Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR) to achieve the remarkable feat of becoming the longest-serving Telugu Chief Minister continuously for nine years.

While Telangana State commemorates its 10th Formation Day on June 2, 2023, (Friday) the CM is going to surpass the record of TDP supremo Nara Chandrababu Naidu.

Chandrababu holds the record of being the longest-serving Chief Minister as he served for 13 years and 247 days in three terms. But Chandrababu served as a Chief Minister in the combined Andhra Pradesh state continuously only for eight years and 256 days.

But now KCR is creating a record as the longest-serving Chief Minister who continuously served for nine years. Telangana state came into existence on June 2, 2014, and on the same day, KCR became the Chief Minister.

KCR became the Chief Minister for the second time in 2018 continuously after the TRS won Assembly elections. If the BRS wins the next Telangana Assembly elections and if KCR again becomes the Chief Minister for the third time continuously and completes the full term then he will surpass the record of longest Chandrababu Naidu.



KCR founded the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) in 2001 to gain statehood for Telangana. Later, in 2023 KCR renamed the TRS as BRS to enter national politics.

The TRS started with one MLA with KCR winning the Siddipet by-election. After facing several challenges finally, KCR achieved his goal and a Telangana state was formed on June 2, 2014.

In the first Assembly elections itself, the TRS came to power in 2014 and KCR became the first Chief Minister of Telangana State.

In the last nine years of KCR rule Telangana has achieved tremendous progress in agriculture, irrigation and in industrial development.

Under KCR Telangana created history by providing 24x7

power supply and nine hours of free power supply to farmers. In addition to this, KCR constructed the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project in record time no one expected.

The renovation of the famous Yadadri temple on the lines of the Tirumala Balaji Temple and the construction of a new secretariat building are some other achievements of KCR.

KCR introduced many welfare schemes like Rythu Bandhu, Dalit Bandhu and others which were copied by some other states.

KCR has emerged as the undisputed leader in the BRS and if the BRS achieves a hat-trick victory in the next Telangana Assembly elections he may become an undisputed leader in Telangana politics also.

Govt committed to farmers' welfare: MA & UD Minister

PNS ■ ONGOLE

Minister for Municipal Administration Audimulapu Suresh reiterated that the government is committed to protect the interests of farmers and it always stands by the farmers. The Minister participated in a programme here on Thursday organised on the occasion of disbursement of benefits to the farmers under the 'YSR Rythu Bharosa'.

Speaking on the occasion he said that for the fifth time in a row, the government for the first quarter of 2023-24 released benefits under the scheme. The input subsidy of farmers who suffered crop loss due to untimely rains was also disbursed by the Chief Minister, the minister said.

The minister said that the state government is giving high priority to the development of agriculture and the welfare of farmers and the government is implementing the Rythu Bharosa scheme effectively benefiting lakhs of farmers. He said that the gov-



ernment is providing financial assistance in instalments to benefit the farmers at various stages including from ploughing the fields till harvest is completed.

He said that seeds and fertilizers are supplied to the farmers through RBKs and quality electricity is continuously supplied to agriculture during the day. He said that the state government is always ready to provide whatever help the farmers need, stating that Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy is working with the aim of making the state achieve progress in all fields.

Minister Suresh said that the

Veligonda project, which is very important for the western part of the district, would be completed this year itself, adding that the government is also paying the pending bills to the contractors in a bid to expedite the works.

Collector Dinesh Kumar said that for the first year 2023-24, 2,84,113 farmers were paid Rs 213.08 crore, adding that each farmer was paid Rs 7,500 under the Rythu Bharosa scheme in Prakasam district. He said that under the landowners quota 2,81,850 farmers and 2,263 farmers under the ROFR quota got the benefits under the scheme.

The Collector explained that the untimely rains damaged crops in 196.08, adding that Rs 28.65 lakhs was disbursed to 218 farmers who lost crops in 196.08 hectares due to untimely rains in March this year, Rs 6.12 lakhs to 123 farmers whose crops were damaged in 46.53 hectares due to untimely rains in April and May this year.

JP chairperson Venkayamma said that if the farmers were prosperous the state would be prosperous. The government is giving seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and agricultural equipment to the farmers.

Ex-minister and MLA Balineni Srinivasulu Reddy said that the dotted land disputes were resolved as results 34,000 acres of land were freed from disputes in the district. Mayor Gantada Sujata and former MLA Janke Venkata Reddy also spoke. Agriculture officer Srinivasa Rao, animal husbandry joint director Baby Rani, APMP PD Ravindra Babu and horticulture officer Gopichand were among those who were present.

MLA falls down while performing 'silambam'

PNS ■ KADAPPA

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) MLA Rachamalla Shiva Prasad Reddy fell down while performing 'silambam' on Thursday as part of the celebrations on the occasion of granting anticipatory bail to MP YS Avinash Reddy in Vivekananda murder case.

A large number of YSRCP activists, holding party flags and placards, took out a rally from Market yard to Shiva temple. In Proddatur.

Participating in the rally, the

enthusiastic MLA Rachamalla Shiva Prasad Reddy did 'karasamu' in the programme. However, suddenly he lost balance and fell down. The alert YSRCP activists helped him to get up.

The activists inquired whether he suffered any injury and the MLA told them that he did not suffer any injury. Later the MLA went to the Shiva temple and worshipped God Shiva. Interestingly, the MLA performing silambam feat and falling down in the programme went viral on social media.



Spurious cotton seeds racket busted

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Inter-state spurious cotton seeds racket was busted by SOT LB Nagar Zone and Choutuppal police. The police seized 2.2 tons of spurious seeds all worth about Rs 70 lakh. The accused Gaddam Ravindra Babu and Ravi Prasanna Kumar were nabbed near Divis water plant, under the limits of Choutuppal police station while they were transporting the spurious cotton seeds from Nagpur to sell the same to gullible farmers. The police filed Cr no 285/2023 U/S Sec 420 R/W IPC, clause 3(1) of seeds (Control) order-1983, sec 7 of EC act 1955, Sec 7 and 19 of Seeds act 1966, sec

15(1) of environmental protection act -1986 of Choutuppal PS. The accused Ravi Prasanna Kumar is a native of Mylavaram, Krishna district and since last 10 years he is a running a fertiliser shop in the name of Navatha Agro Division Seeds and Fertilisers shop at Choutuppal. He came in contact with Ravindrababu who was into illegal trade of spurious seed. Then he wanted to earn easy money and decided to procure the banned BT-III cotton seeds from one Gaddam Ravindra Babu and sell the same to needy farmers with a promise of high yield.

Ravindra Babu migrated from Palnadu district to Kuhu village near Nagpur about

8 years back and doing agriculture by taking 60 acres of land on lease, with an intention to earn huge easy money within a short span. He indulged in procuring and sale of spurious BT-III/ HT cotton seed. He has good knowledge that sale of BT-III/HT cotton seeds are banned by the Government of Telangana.

He used to procure the spurious seeds from one Narasimhulu, resident of Madanapalle in Chittoor district and transporting it to Kuhu near Nagpur, Maharashtra, and from there he was selling the same to seed traders of Telangana, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh states illegally.



Prakasam girl complimented for qualifying Civils

PNS ■ ONGOLE

Minister for Municipal Administration Audimulapu Suresh congratulated B Binutna upon being selected to the Civil Services recently.

B Vinutna called on the Minister in his camp office here on Thursday. The Minister wished and congratulated her for being selected for civil services from Prakasam district.

Complete 'Srinivasa Setu' works by June-end: EO

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

TTD EO AV Dharma Reddy has said the Srinivasa Setu works are on the verge of completion and directed the officials concerned to bring the bridge into public utility from July onwards.

A review meeting with TTD and TMC officials was held in the EO Chambers in the TTD administrative building on Thursday.

Speaking at the meeting, the EO said 92 percent of the work had been completed. He instructed the officials to complete the remaining works by June 30.



He also examined the medi-ans, drainage, beautification of streets, lighting, painting etc. The EO said the pending works from Ramanuja Circle to MS Subbulakshmi Circle would be completed at a fast pace. The TMC officials explained

the completed works through PowerPoint presentations. JEO Veerabrahmam, TMC Commissioner Harita, CE Sri Nageswara Rao, TMC SE Mohan, Smart City Special Officer Chandramouli and others were present.

3 killed as car collides with bus

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

Three persons including a couple were killed and two others were injured when the car in which they were travelling collided with an APSRTC bus at Merlapaka Cheruvu in Yerpedu mandal on the Tirupati-Kalahasti highway mandal in the wee hours on Thursday.

Police said that Five members of a family went to Tirumala on pilgrimage. When they were going back to their native village Dantalapalle in Mahabubabad district in Telangana state



their car collided with an RTC bus killing the couple and a girl instantaneously. The deceased are yet to be identified.

The injured were admitted to the Ruia hospital here. Yerpedu CI Srihari visited the scene of the accident and registered a case.

Man strangles wife to death for refusing sex

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A man strangled his wife to death in a fit of rage after she refused to engage in sexual activity with him. The details of the crime emerged when the autopsy report confirmed the cause of death. The police managed to solve the case 10 days after the crime occurred. The accused, Jatavat Tarun (24), admitted to the police that he had strangled his wife, Jhansi (20), following her refusal.

Originally from Nagarkurnool district, the couple had entered into a love marriage in 2021. Tarun worked as an auto-rickshaw driver and had moved to Hyderabad with his wife and their family resided in Khaja Bagh in the IS Sadan division. The couple have a two-year-old son, and Jhansi had given birth to a daughter on April 16.

According to Tarun's statement to the police, on the night of May 20, he expressed his desire to engage in sexual activity. However, Jhansi informed

him that she was too tired. Despite her refusal, Tarun persisted and began to force himself upon her. When Jhansi started shouting, Tarun covered her mouth with his hand. This act resulted in a lack of oxygen, causing her to lose consciousness and foam at the mouth. Panicked by the situation, Tarun alerted his relatives, who rushed Jhansi to Owaisi Hospital. However, the doctors pronounced her dead upon arrival.

The police transferred the body to the Osmania General Hospital for an autopsy. Initially, Tarun remained silent about the cause of his wife's death. However, based on a complaint filed by Jhansi's father, Nenavath Rekiya, a case was registered at Saidabad police station. It was only during further questioning by the police that Tarun confessed to the crime. Consequently, the police arrested him, and he was subsequently remanded to judicial custody.

Three shepherds drowned in well

PNS ■ NARASARAOPET

Three persons, including a man and his son, were drowned in an agricultural well at Morjampadu village in Machavaram mandal on Thursday.

Police said that three deceased were shepherds and took their sheep into the agricultural well to provide them water. One of the deceased Vemula Nagarajuna (16) slipped and fell into the well. His father Vemula Nagulu (42) went to the rescue of his son but he too drowned. Their rel-



ative Anjaneyulu (50) tried to save the lives of the two but he was also drowned in the well. The bodies were fished out of the well. A pall of gloom

descended on the village with the death of three persons. The police registered a case and shifted the bodies to the GGH for postmortem.

A wrong dial relationship drives lovers to suicide

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A wrong dial led to building an extramarital relationship between a Millennial and an adult. The duo - a graduate and government teacher committed suicide thinking that their relationship will not sustain due to families. The police registered cases under Cr No. 632/2023 U/sec 302, 201-IPC at PS Hayathnagar.

Allavula Rajesh (25), a native of Mulugu mandal had completed B-Tech from Sri Indu College, Ibrahimpatnam in 2021 and came to Hyderabad for further studies. He was residing in a hostel room at Chaitanyapuri. A year ago he dialed a missed call to Bathula

Sujatha, a government teacher residing at Siddi Vinayakanagar Colony of Hayathnagar.

He sent a text message to that phone number to know the identity of the caller. When she replied, both started chatting and it turned into a close relationship between them. Since then they spoke over phone and it led to an extramarital affair between them.

On May 24 night, all of a sudden Sujatha consumed poison. Immediately she was shifted to Srinivasa Hospital, Hayathnagar and later to Aware Global Hospital, LB Nagar for treatment.

As she was not responding to Rajesh's phone calls, the next day he went to Sujatha's house



and enquired with her daughter Shivani of Sujatha's whereabouts.

The daughter suspected the behavior of Rajesh and informed her brother Jaichandra. He went to the nearby tea stall and asked

Rajesh why he was moving near his house and later found that Rajesh was the person who was talking with his mother.

The same evening, Rajesh consumed fertiliser and was found dead in an open place in Kuntloor village.

He sent a text message to that phone number to know the identity of the caller. When she replied, both started chatting and it turned into a close relationship between them

The CCTV footage has helped the police in the investigation.

It is clearly established that both the deceased fell in love. Due to this illicit relationship both suffered mentally and ended their lives.

SCR gains Rs 500 cr on passenger trains in May

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The South Central Railway (SCR) on Thursday announced that it gained Rs 513 crore on passenger trains during May.

The previous best was Rs 467.82 crore, which was earned in April 2023. Similarly, the zone has transported 12.517 million tonnes of originating freight during May, which is the highest ever and the previous best was 12.370 MTs in March, 2023.

A total of 26.11 million passengers travelled through SCR last month, which is a 24% increase from the same time last year. Apart from the regular trains, the zone has operated 538 trips of special trains in the month of May to meet the additional rush during the summer season. This has helped in transportation additionally 4.65 lakh passengers, while generating Rs 36.52 crore of revenue.

On the freight segment, the zone has transported 12.517 MTs of freight loading in May, which is the best-ever freight loading achieved for any month in any financial year. This is nearly 7% more than the corresponding loading recorded last year. Simultaneously, freight revenue has grown by 14% dur-



ing this year growing to Rs 1213.36 crore in May, compared to Rs 1065.15 crore in May, 2022.

Coal continued to lead the growth in the overall freight loading of the zone by registering 7% growth and contributing 6.484 MTs of loading. Other significant commodities which have contributed towards overall freight loading of SCR includes: Cement (3.106 MTs), food grains (0.444 MTs), fertilizers (0.740 MTs), iron ore (0.363 MTs) and containers (0.211 MTs) among others. The zone has been giving special thrust towards strengthening its freight traffic by implementing a wide variety of initiatives and

special measures.

The SCR has been moving in a proactive manner to attract the new streams of traffic and also retain the existing traffic.

Arun Kumar Jain, General Manager, SCR, congratulated both the operating and commercial teams over the achievement.

He expressed satisfaction for the way in which the zone is registering the best performance month by month. The General Manager also appreciated the staff of all departments for maintaining the excellent coordination which has led to the improvement towards the overall performance of the zone.

Too bullish to be true

Morgan Stanley has painted a rosy picture of the economy, but it omits some key indicators

Government and Bharatiya Janata Party supporters must be happy over the recent report by Morgan Stanley, the global financial services firm. "This India is different from what it was in 2013. In a short span of 10 years, India has gained positions in the world order with significant positive consequences for the macro and market outlook," it said. "India has transformed in less than a decade." This is surely a vote of confidence for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his economic policies. The report has highlighted 10 big changes that have taken place since 2014. Bringing down the corporate tax rate at par with the same in other major economies and heavy infrastructure investment are among the top supply-side policy reforms, Morgan Stanley said. The soaring collection of goods and services tax (GST) and the growing share of digital transactions as a percentage of GDP indicate the formalisation of the economy, it added. Other pluses, according to Morgan Stanley, are direct transfer of subsidies to accounts of beneficiaries, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, flexible inflation targeting, focus on foreign direct investment (FDI), Government support for corporate profits, a new law for the realty sector, and MNC sentiment at multi-year high. Manufacturing and capital spending as a percentage of GDP has continuously risen, Morgan Stanley said, adding export market share is projected to more than double to 4.5 per cent by 2031.



Much of what Morgan Stanley has said is correct, but at places optimism seems a bit excessive. It seems to have overlooked a few facts. For instance, FDI inflows into the country fell by 16 per cent to \$71 billion on a gross basis in the last fiscal, though the decline has been attributed to weak global factors. Similarly, manufacturing remains a laggard; its share continues to languish at 16-17 per cent of the country's GDP. The Government has made big claims about the potential of industrial growth; it launched ambitious programmes like Make in India and the production-linked incentive or PLI scheme for several sectors. And yet, manufacturing's share in GDP is no different than it was in 2011, the year in which the National Manufacturing Policy was announced with the target to make the share go up by 2022. Then there is the issue of jobs; the economy is not able to generate quality employment. This reflects in consumption patterns. The sales of luxury products are zooming, whereas the items used by common people like kitchen appliances are not doing as well. Growth accelerated to 6.1 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2022-23, and for the entire fiscal it was upwardly revised to 7.2 per cent. For 2023-24 too, India is likely to grow by over 6 per cent, and will be the fastest growing big economy. The Government must persist with reforms and ensure the more supply-side bottlenecks are removed so that the fruits of growth and development are equitably distributed.



Burqa-clad students play cricket in the J J Hospital premises at Byculla in Mumbai PTI

The nuisance that is convocation ceremony

Ceremonies get value only if they are conducted appropriately. Mimicking an auspicious ceremony only demeans its value

Does education have any value in life? Does a degree guarantee a job? These questions always rhyme in our society. Of course, these questions need detailed discussion. But the root cause of these questions is the declining value of education in today's society, due to the mockeries shown by education institutions. Even from kindergarten onwards, many private educational institutions conduct graduation ceremonies, making a mockery of our education system. We are demeaning the value of actual degree certificates through these ceremonies. According to UGC, "Convocation" means a ceremonial assembly of a university, normally held for conferring Degrees and other awards to its eligible candidates. Usually, it is the universities that conduct convocation ceremonies in India. But in recent times, many colleges conduct convocation ceremonies or graduation ceremonies. The programme is conducted in a grand manner inviting eminent personalities; in some cases, even the vice-chancellor



cellors of universities attend the function. The funny thing is that even students who failed university examinations also get a certificate at these graduation ceremonies. Some college authorities make poor students and parents believe that these certificates have more value than the ones issued by the universities. The ceremony itself is a huge business involving many event managers. A photo in graduation attire can convince the public that the particular person is a degree holder. This can fetch them status and demand in the marriage market. It's like what we see in the movie 'Three Idiots'. After attending the graduation ceremony conducted by their colleges, students post on social media stating that they have officially become graduates. During earlier times,

the convocation ceremonies are performed only by universities where the university authority hand over graduation certificates. Every student dreams of wearing the ceremonial convocation dress and taking a photo with the degree certificate. There was a time, before the 1990s, when every household used to hang pictures of their graduating family members. During that time, students from every stream and every level, undergraduate to higher degrees, had the privilege to attend convocation ceremonies conducted at universities. Society viewed a university graduate with awe and much respect. With the increase in the number of graduates passing out from our universities, the convocation ceremonies are limited to professional courses and higher degrees like PhD. The value given to original degree certificates issued by good universities is slowly diminishing because of ceremonies conducted by these private institutions. The students and society at large are finding it challenging to understand which is genuine and which is fake. There



BIJU DHARMAPALAN

are many people with "Dr." affiliation in our community, whose degree is awarded by private institutions. These institutions, which are mostly registered societies, provide honorary doctoral degrees by charging hefty fees. They even give professional awards after taking huge fees from the nominees. Ceremonies get value only if it is conducted appropriately by the appropriate agency concerned. Mimicking an auspicious ceremony will demean its value. Can we mimic our marriage ceremony to show it to someone? All educational institutions should respect the value associated with various ceremonies and show the correct path to the students and society. Otherwise, our students shall carry certificates that have only a paper's value and have value only on social media platforms. We need to build quality graduates in every domain of knowledge in nation-building. For this, educational institutions should stay away from such gimmicks that make a mockery of our education system and should show the true path to our youngsters. (The writer is

(The writer is

Syncretism: A vision for India's future

As India moves forward, it must consciously embrace its rich diversity, essential for nurturing a harmonious society that grows together

The inauguration of the New Parliament Building has heralded a new history of India in its 75th year of Independence. Leaving apart the controversies wrangling in different corridors, we must realize that the value of democracy lies in upholding the essence and spirit of this new development and with it the whole idea of multiculturalism and the syncretic tradition that binds this nation of 140 crore Indians together. 'Sarva Dharma Prarthana' or Inter-Faith Prayer is one of the great steps in this direction which happened at the inaugural programme on May 28.

India, known for its rich cultural tapestry and religious diversity, has long embraced the idea of syncretism and multiculturalism. This inherent acceptance of diverse beliefs and traditions is exemplified through inter-faith prayers, which hold great significance in various ceremonies across the country. These prayers serve as a unifying force, promoting harmony, tolerance, and cultural integration. Inter-faith prayers at the inaugural ceremony, symbolize the nation's commitment to embracing and maintaining its cultural syncretism. By incorporating inter-faith prayers into the ceremony, the diversity that India stands for was celebrated. This inclusive approach not only strengthens the social fabric but also sends a strong message to the world about India's commitment to secularism and pluralism. Inter-faith prayers hold immense significance in India, as they bring together people from different religious backgrounds/faith, fostering a sense of unity and shared purpose. India's cultural tapestry is intricately woven with the threads of various religions, each contributing to the vibrant fabric of society. From Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism to Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, the Baha'i, Judaism, Zoroastrianism and others, India has been a melting pot of diverse religious beliefs, rituals, and practices. 'Sarva Dharma Prarthana' acts as the glue that holds this mosaic together, fostering an environment of mutual respect and peaceful coexistence. These prayers serve as a powerful



reminder of our shared humanity and transcend religious boundaries, emphasizing the common values and aspirations that bind us as a nation. As the seat or Temple of democracy, the Parliament represents the voice of the people and their diverse aspirations, symbolizing the inclusive spirit of India, for India's syncretic traditions are deeply embedded in its cultural fabric. The country's history is replete with instances where different religious beliefs and practices have intermingled and influenced each other. This syncretism is evident in various aspects of Indian life, including festivals, rituals, and philosophical ideologies. Festivals such as Diwali, Eid, Christmas, and Guru Nanak Jayanti to name a few, are celebrated with equal enthusiasm by people of different faiths. These celebrations not only showcase cultural diversity but also provide an opportunity for individuals to learn about and appreciate different religious traditions.

It is undeniable that India's artistic heritage spans millennia, with influences from various cultures and civilizations. The intricate carvings of the ancient temples in Khajuraho, the Mughal architecture of the Taj Mahal, and the vibrant frescoes of Rajasthan are just a few examples of how differ-

ent artistic styles have merged to create a distinct Indian aesthetic. By appreciating and preserving these art forms, India not only showcases its multicultural heritage but also encourages dialogue and understanding among diverse communities. India's rich spiritual heritage and its embrace of diverse philosophies have given rise to a syncretic tapestry, interwoven with the teachings of renowned saints and philosophers throughout history. Kabir, the 15th-century poet and mystic, whose teachings emphasized the unity of all religions, says, "Dheere dheere re mana, dheere sab kuch hoi. Mali seenche sau ghada, ritu aaye phal hoye", embodies the essence of cultural syncretism by emphasizing the gradual evolution of spiritual growth and the universality of divine wisdom. Swami Vivekananda also stressed the importance of embracing diversity and unity among religions. He famously said, "I am proud to belong to a religion which has taught the world both tolerance and universal acceptance. We believe not only in universal toleration but we accept all religions as true." Conceptualized by Swami Vivekananda himself and designed and developed by his engineer brother-monk Swami Vijnanananda, the Ramakrishna Mission in

Belur Math is a clear example of an architectural marvel that beautifully embodies syncretic traditions, blending elements from various Indian architectural styles, with its ornate carvings, domes, and spires, along with Islamic arches and intricate floral motifs and further incorporating elements reminiscent of Gothic architecture, such as stained-glass windows. Mahatma Gandhi too emphasized the importance of embracing diverse cultures and traditions without losing one's own identity. He envisioned a society where different cultures coexist and enrich one another, fostering understanding and unity. As India embarked on a new chapter with the inauguration of its New Parliament Building, it is essential for all of us to value such wisdom and teachings that have inspired individuals and Nations alike. By promoting interfaith dialogue, preserving linguistic diversity, celebrating artistic expressions, and embracing such vast and versatile traditions, India can continue to be a shining example of unity in diversity in her global endeavour to become a global power under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. (The writer is Programme Executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'DRESS CODE' FOR TEMPLES

Sir — As per the report, the temple worshippers from across Maharashtra's villages have pushed back against the imposition of a 'dress code' for visiting temples for both male and female devotees. A "vastra samhita" or dress code was imposed mid-May at four temples of Nagpur, these include the Gopalkrishna temple in Dhantoli (a middle-class settlement within the city), Sankatmochan Panchmukhi Hanuman temple in Saoner (a farmers town near Nagpur), the Brihaspati temple, in Hingna (an industrial township bordering the Wardha district), and the Durgamata temple at Koradi (the thermal power township located north of Nagpur). Religious bodies should refrain from issuing such diktats that would create new problems within society. "Parents in rural areas do not buy full pants for young boys until they go to junior college. When we were in school, we did not get to wear full pants until Class 10. We had to wear shorts to school. Our parents used to tell us that they would give us full pants only after we entered Class 11. This is prevalent in rural areas across Maharashtra. Then why are little boys being stopped from entering temples? Has any God said, 'Don't allow kids wearing shorts to come for my darshan'?" While several other popular shrines in the state are exercising caution and not rushing to impose the dress code, the issue has the potential of blowing up into a full-scale political confrontation

N Mateeni | Mumbai

MANIPUR UNREST

Sir — Amid the ongoing tensi in Manipur, Olympic medalist Mirabai Chanu and weightlifter kunjarani devi signed a memorandum to Home Minister Amit Shah, along with 11 other athletes demanding to restore peace in Manipur and sought rigid action against the extremist groups behind the violence as soon as possible that if peace

Telangana suicides



Recently, eight students committed suicide in Telangana after the announcement of the intermediate examination results as they failed or fared poorly. Perhaps, this was one of those cases where exam-related suicide was reported in a newspaper. There are many instances where these deaths go unreported. Society is by and large mum to the increasing number of suicides by students close on the heels of the declaration of results of important examinations that decide entry into professional courses because taking one's own life after the dec-

laration of exam results is not considered a social evil by most stakeholders in India even though every year history repeats.

Plenty of them eye careers that suit them but are forced to look elsewhere due to parental pressure. It is indisputable that parental pressure is the biggest contributor to augmented anxiety and depression among students paving the way for suicides. For a long time, it is not what the child wants but it is almost like what the "father and mother want" that has pushed children to the brink. Of course, obtaining excellent marks is a sure shot highway to a reasonable job in later life. But it's doubtful as to whether an individual, having painstakingly defeated a mind-boggling rat race at a young age against his/her wishes and aspirations, would live with peace and harmony rest of his/her life despite bagging ranks and marks. Self-employment is never considered a great option in the country, and the results are there to see.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

is not restored, they will return their medals. It is concerning that Manipur BJP rules the state but the BJP doesn't bother those who lost their loved ones rather busy conducting expensive election campaigns for Prime minister in states across the country due to which the government is still unable to normalize the unrest and restore the peace. Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

BATTLE OF NARRATIVES

Sir — The battle of narratives between the Congress and the BJP is once again at a peak. PM Modi and Rahul Gandhi are attacking each other. Whenever the election is about to come, the ruling and the opposition start taking voters under their guise by opening their bags of populist promises. If we look at the election manifestos of the last decade, it is known that all the parties have run the same agenda of distributing freebies. After getting the power, even if the election promises

become a jumla, the leaders will not mind. The poor people would have sold their vote by getting trapped in the promises of freebies, while the upper class has no worries about voting and inflation. The middle class has to bear the brunt. Unfortunately the voters are too gullible and fall for such gimmicks election after election. The politicians know that public memory is short and there are a number of ways to distract them and harness their votes. But this is not what the maker of the constitution Baba Saheb Ambedkar had contemplated. Over the period of 75 years the standards of public life have gone down drastically and speaking lies and even spreading hate has become a new normal. This is not what makes India great it only is a surefire recipe to take the country down. Hope politicians are listening. Jahangir Ali | Maharashtra

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

IMPORTANCE OF PM MODI'S US STATE VISIT

Domestic politics aside, there is much at stake for PM Modi's upcoming state visit to the US



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi would be on a high-profile visit to the United States later this month. The state visit would be the first for the PM, and for the president of the USA and the second during his current tenure, as a host. This visit is happening against the backdrop of many high-profile visits by Indian and American diplomats, secretaries and ministers setting the ground, plank by plank, in what could be one of the most significant milestones in the India US bilateral relationship. The last such fillip to the relationship came in the period from 2005 to 2009 when India went nuclear and, US keeping aside its domestic political reservations and ally concerns (read Pakistan), eased India into the nuclear club, finally culminating in, then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's state visit to the US. A state visit is the highest level of honour and prestige accorded bilaterally, and is considered to be the top-notch level in diplomatic relationships.

Prime Minister Modi's scheduled state visit was supposed to have been preceded, by his meeting with US President Joe Biden, at least thrice in less than a month. These included bilateral meetings during G7, to which India was invited, a meeting in Papua New Guinea and a QUAD leaders' summit before culminating in a state visit. However, President Biden had to cut short his trip to the Pacific Ocean Island nation and Australia, due to domestic issues, leading to a few hurried meetings on the sidelines of the G7 in Japan.

The domestic environment for both India and the US is just warming up, to what would be an extremely hot and noisy space for the world's oldest and largest democracy. India and the US face general elections next year and the domestic political climate, if not decibels, are already exceeding tolerable limits. Moving forward it would be unbearable and rough. This casts the dice for these leaders, both of whom are seeking re-election (PM Modi for the third term and President Biden second term), to make it worthwhile for their respective constituencies, which will send them back to the top posts. The US president would have to ensure that his voters, if not the congress and some of his colleagues, see the value of upgrading the India-US bilateral relationship, despite, India's conspicuous silence on Ukraine (except for It is not a time for War statement), close relations and dependencies on Russia and some uncomfortable questions regarding human rights, religious freedom etc.

Indian Prime Minister on his part would like to take the spectacle quotient a tad higher than the Howdy Modi, grand concerts event, when



PM Mod and then President Donald Trump, jointly addressed thousands of Indian Americans in Houston. The PM would expect a significant outcome from the state visit, albeit the cheering crowds, public events would definitely be a part of the package. The PM who was recently on a visit to Australia and Pacific island countries, where he got a rock stars welcome, addressed large cheering crowds in packed arenas and was even called "the boss" by the Australian PM. The Indian American groups are also prepping up for PM Modi's visit, as many of them are expected to participate in some key official ceremonies at the white house, including witnessing the 21-gun salute and perhaps yoga sessions led by Indian PM on International World yoga day on June 21st.

It would be worth remembering that PM Modi's visit would also follow opposition leader Rahul Gandhi's ten days trip to the US, where he interacted with a wide array of stakeholders, civil society, think tanks etc on questions surrounding Indian democracy. The larger questions regarding shrinking space for democratic manoeuvre and political opposition in India, which have been brought out by the opposition leader during his earlier visits to UK etc and which have led to some influencer groups doubting Indian democratic credentials, could have been contained, by the time PM Modi lands in the US. Domestic politics aside there is much at stake for PM Modis' upcoming state visit to the US.

(The writer is a policy analyst. The views expressed are persoal)

Judgement, education and effective action



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

Whether one is the top man or the so-called bottom man, there is always an element of decision-making vested in the role



One of the critical components of decision-making is the ability to decipher decision spaces. Consider the example of a doorkeeper. By any standards, it is a lowly rank and humble in many ways. Yet, in times of knocking at the door, that position becomes more important than that of the Chairman himself. It is the doorkeeper's decision to let somebody in or keep him out. It is a power loaded with security concerns and at times with grave implications of time, life and death. Consider a situation where somebody is ill, and a doctor has been summoned in the late hours of the evening to the building to take care of the ailing person.

The doctor does not get a security clearance, but his entry into the building is critical. Like anything else, there is a risk involved, and somebody may be impersonating the doctor; there may be a rogue doctor or the doctor himself may be very impatient—the possibilities are several. The judgement of the gatekeeper and the judgement to be exercised on the spot make him the kingpin, not only for the moment of the act but indeed for much else, besides.

The derivation is obvious: everyone needs to have effective decision-making skills. The story goes that King Shivaji approached his Rajgad Fort near Pune, in the early hours of the morning after



THE PRIME MINISTER HAS TO NOT ONLY LEAD BUT ALSO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KEY DECISIONS. HIS ABILITY TO JUDGE AND DECIDE WHO TO CONSENT TO, AND TO WHAT EXTENT IS CRUCIAL.

(The writer is a policy analyst)

a long long ride and wanted to enter the Rajgad Fort. He had enemies at his heels. The head of security of the fort had it from the king (Maharaj) himself (in this case, Shivaji Maharaj) that no exceptions would be allowed for entry into the fort before dawn.

Shivaji Maharaj had some enemies in his hot pursuit, which he had evaded. The Head of Security took the call that the order of the Maharaj was sacred and Shivaji would not be let into the fort. Shivaji tried to explain to him that his life may be at risk and that he had been exercising his supreme powers by ordering a gate to be opened. The Head of Security refused to comply. When Shivaji asked him who would be responsible for his security, the Head of Security responded, "I am the head of security, and I shall be responsible. We shall make preparations for your comfort outside the fort, and you will be absolutely safe. Our full force will protect you and protect you successfully." The story concludes that Shivaji was finally allowed entry into the fort only at dawn. One of his first acts after his entry was to elevate the rank to the Head of Security.

The narrative, as it is, needs no comment. The larger part of the story is that it makes a point. In the ultimate analysis of the making of the human being: health and judgement are the two most important things. Judgement cannot be taught; it cannot be 'given.' It has to grow from within. It is a judgement that makes a person.

Judgement is both subtle and growing. In a parliamentary system, the Prime Minister is the head of the Executive. He has to not only lead but also be responsible for the key decisions. His ability to judge and decide who to consent to, and to what extent is crucial. He has also to assess to what extent amalgamate the various strands of advice received.

This brings us to the essence of training of the mind and education. The current rollout of the National Education Policy raises these questions in many ways. With increasing frequency, it is being asked many, how so many people, who do not even finish their school education become such original thinkers and make such brilliant contributions. Rabindra Nath Thakur is a common reference.

Indeed, many formally educated people do not get very far and flounder in the race of life in a worse-than-mediocre pattern. This appears as an enigma when it is actually it is not so. The truth is that creativity and judgement propelled even those who had not completed their formal education to higher levels of achievement. Higher levels of achievement do not necessarily follow high degrees. In the case of the educated, the natural achievements which would have followed creativity were sharpened and results were better than if they had not been educated at all.

It is soulful to remember this and use it as a compass to navigate one's own career and those dependent on one. The meaning, the content, the delivery, and the keeping alive of the educational processes are important phenomena. The whys and wherefores of this process need to be understood and developed more fruitfully as a part of any project related to the educational process. Hopefully, as the National Education Policy makes its rollout, these questions will not only surface but get addressed.

Caribbean medical degree can lead to a career in the West

Pursuing medical education in a Caribbean university is a viable route to a career in medicine in the West, although it is not without its challenges

In recent years, there has been a significant surge in the demand for doctors and the aspirations to pursue a medical career. However, the available resources and facilities have struggled to match the pace of this demand, resulting in a considerable gap. Consequently, numerous students have opted to relocate to different countries in search of admission to medical courses, as the distribution of requirements and available facilities remains imbalanced.

To pursue a medical career in the USA or Canada, students typically follow a structured path. Upon finishing their undergraduate degree, students are required to clear the MCAT exam as a prerequisite for admission to medical school. Once a student enters



MAMTA PURBEY

(The writer is Associate Vice President, Student Acquisition - International, Antigua College of Medicine)

medical school, they spend another 4-5 years in a medical school which would include their pre-clinical and clinical. Once the student is done with clinical rotations and graduates from medical school, s/he applies for residency. Students submit applications through the National Residency Matching Program (NRMP). Depending on the specialisation they opt for, many doctors complete their residency programs in 3 to 7 years.

To become a doctor in the US/Canada, students have the option to pursue a Caribbean medical college route. This involves selecting a reputable and accredited medical school in the Caribbean and completing a 2-year pre-med program, followed by 2 years of pre-clinical studies. The stu-

dents then continue their clinical rotations in the USA/Canada. Studying medicine in the Caribbean region offers a multitude of benefits for aspiring medical students aiming to become practising doctors in the USA, UK, and Canada.

These advantages make Caribbean medical schools an appealing choice for those seeking a top-tier education, practical exposure, and a unique cultural experience. Additionally, these medical schools hold recognition from esteemed international organizations like the World Health Organization and the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates, ensuring that graduates can practice medicine across all 50 states in the US or in the UK,

and Canada, among other various countries worldwide.

Lower Financial Burden: Studying MBBS at leading Caribbean medical colleges generally comes at a lower cost compared to US medical colleges, including both public and private institutions. While certain Caribbean colleges may have costs that approach those of US medical colleges, the overall expenses remain significantly more affordable.

Hassle-free Admission: Unlike other foreign medical universities, getting admission to top Caribbean medical colleges is less complex. Apart from decent credentials at the school level, you need to clear the country-specific medical entrance exam such as NEET in India. Most Caribbean colleges have rolling admissions

with three intakes- January, May and September.

Diverse Learning: Caribbean medical universities attract a diverse student population from various countries and cultural backgrounds. This multicultural environment fosters a rich learning experience, promoting cross-cultural understanding and collaboration.

Gateway to the US: The Caribbean region is globally recognized for its esteemed medical schools. These institutions hold accreditation from prominent international organizations including the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions (CAAM-HP), World Health Organization (WHO), and the Educational

Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG). Such recognition empowers graduates to pursue medical practice in diverse countries across the globe. International medical graduates (IMGs) have a vital role in the American healthcare system, making up 25 per cent of the existing U.S. physician workforce. Among these IMGs, 18 per cent are graduates of Caribbean medical schools, indicating that approximately 4.5 per cent of licensed doctors in the U.S. obtained their MD degrees from Caribbean institutions.

Accredited Medical Schools: While choosing a Caribbean medical school, it's very important to check the recognitions and accreditations to ensure quality edu-

cation. Only schools that are recognized by CAAM-HP and accredited by the US Dept of Education, New York State Education Department and other US & Canadian medical education-related departments/bodies should be chosen to ensure a smooth transition into USA / Canada.

Pursuing a medical education at a Caribbean medical school offers a viable route to a rewarding career in medicine, although it is not without its challenges. While the entry requirements may be less stringent compared to those in the US, achieving exceptional grades and excelling in USMLE exams are still essential for securing a position in an American residency program.

MONEY MATTERS

Air India to reinstate three more weekly flights to US this month

With the crew shortage situation easing progressively, Air India is set to reinstate three more weekly flights to the US this month. Earlier this year, the Tata Group-owned airline temporarily suspended six weekly flights to the US and three of them have already been reinstated. Air India CEO and Managing Director Campbell Wilson said the crew shortage situation is progressively easing. "We had suspended 6 of the 47 weekly flights to the US. We have reinstated 3 of those and the other 3 will be reinstated by the end of June," he told PTI in an interview this week. Six weekly flights — three each to Newark and San Francisco — were suspended due to shortage of crew. In recent months, there have been instances of some long haul flights getting impacted due to crew shortage issues. Currently, Air India, on a weekly basis, operates 44 flights to the US and 14 to Canada. The airline flies to San Francisco, New York, Newark, Washington and Chicago in the US and to the cities of Vancouver and Toronto in Canada.



Rupee rises 33 paise to close at 82.42 against US dollar

The rupee appreciated by 33 paise to close at 82.42 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, as positive macroeconomic data strengthened investor sentiments. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 82.54 against the US dollar and settled at 82.42 (provisional), up 33 paise over its previous close amid sustained foreign fund inflows. During the day, the domestic unit witnessed an intra-day high of 82.36 and a low of 82.54. On Wednesday, the rupee closed at 82.75 against the US currency. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.20 per cent to 104.12. Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures advanced 0.17 per cent to USD 72.72 per barrel. The Indian rupee strengthened amid stellar economic data and foreign fund inflows.



Indel Money to raise Rs 100 cr via NCDs

Indel Money Limited, a non-bank lender focussed on gold loan, on Thursday said it will raise Rs 100 crore through secured non-convertible debentures (NCDs). The NCD issue of face value of Rs 1,000 each will open on June 6 and close on June 19, the lender said in a release. "The issue includes a base issue size for an amount of up to Rs 50 crore with an option to retain oversubscription up to Rs 50 crore aggregating up to Rs 100 crore," it said. The debentures will be issued for a tenure ranging from 400 days to 72 months with coupon yielding up to 12.25 per cent per annum, the company said, adding that the issue is rated as BBB+/Stable by Crisil Ratings Ltd. "Increased revenue, profitability and visibility are the factors that drive the branch network. With this issue, we aim to expand our sources of funds," said Umesh Mohanan, Executive Director and CEO, Indel Money. Indel Money earlier raised Rs 100 crore through NCDs in May 2022.



TVS, Ather, Ola hike prices of EVs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Electric two-wheeler makers TVS Motor Company, Ather Energy and Ola Electric have increased prices of their products as curtailed subsidy structure comes into effect from June 1.

In a statement, TVS Motor Company stated that in order to propel the electrification journey further in a sustainable manner after FAME II scheme revision, it has increased iQube's price between Rs 17,000 and Rs 22,000 depending on the variant.

The iQube base and S trims were earlier priced at Rs 1,06,384 and Rs 1,16,886, respectively in Delhi.

"FAME II will gradually reduce over the next few quarters. The company will continue to deliver delightful product options and great value proposition to propel the electrification and green energy penetration in two-wheelers in the country," TVS Motor Company Director and CEO K N Radhakrishnan said.

The company will offer a loyalty benefit programme for the customers of iQube, who have made bookings till May 20, 2023, for a limited period to ease the cost burden post the revision in FAME II subsidy, he added. Ather Energy said that following the FAME II subsidy revision applicable from today, it has also revised the prices of its scooters with 450X now starting at Rs 1,45,000 (ex-showroom Bengaluru).



Rising risk appetite may hit banks' credit profiles

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A rise in risk appetite among Indian banks highlights the importance of assessing individual banks' ability to withstand expected and unexpected balance-sheet stress as part of the analysis of their intrinsic creditworthiness, said Fitch Ratings in a report.

Banks' loan growth over the financial year ended March 2023 (FY23) reached 15.4 per cent, the highest since FY12.

"We believe, this partly reflected pent-up credit demand following the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as strong nominal GDP growth, and we expect some normalisation in FY24," the global rating agency said on Thursday.

However, rapid loan growth and higher exposure to certain asset classes are also likely to indicate greater risk appetite and could affect risk profiles, it said, adding increasing risk appetite reflects in part banks' efforts to boost returns after funding costs rose over 2022, even as they manage asset



growth relative to capital.

Notably, credit card lending and personal loans exposure rose to 10.2 per cent of system loans by FY23, from 7.5 per cent in FY18, it said.

"We view such unsecured categories as most vulnerable to potential stress, though exposures among our rated entities remain manageable, and improvements in risk controls and loan-book granularity should help to reduce risks associated with any future

asset-quality deterioration relative to previous cycles. We also expect tighter regulatory supervision to slow unsecured lending in the year ahead," it said.

Exposure to non-bank financial corporations (NBFCs) within the services sector has also risen, from 6.5 per cent of total system loans in FY18 to 10.5 per cent in FY23.

Funding pressures and asset-quality risks among NBFCs

have receded since that sector underwent a stress period in 2019. These loans are also typically to well-established private and state-owned entities, so carry less risk than unsecured lending.

However, NBFCs, like banks, are also increasing their risk appetite. It expects banks to continue to lend to the sector, but at a slightly slower pace as more banks run up against regulatory sectoral concentration caps.

GOVT EXERCISES GREEN SHOE OPTION

Coal India shares attract bids worth Rs 6,500 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Institutional investors lapped up Coal India shares in this fiscal's maiden government stake-sale, with Rs 6,500 crore bids pouring in on the first day of the offer-for-sale.

The government had offered over 8.31 crore shares to institutional investors on Thursday under the offer-for-sale (OFS), but received bids for 28.76 crore shares or 3.46 times.

At the indicative price of Rs 226.12 a share, the bids of insti-



tutional buyers are worth Rs 6,500 crore.

"Offer for Sale in CIL received enthusiastic response from non-retail investors today. The issue was sub-

scribed 3.46 times of the base size. The government has decided to exercise the green shoe option. Retail investors get to bid tomorrow," Department of Investment and Public Asset Management Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey tweeted.

The government currently holds 66.13 per cent in CIL.

The stake sale in Coal India will help the government inch towards the Rs 51,000-crore disinvestment target set for the current fiscal.

EV makers require 13 mn sq ft space by 2030

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Electric vehicle manufacturers will need around 13 million square feet of real estate space by 2030 to make targeted 23 million units of two-wheelers and 4 million units of four-wheelers, according to CBRE.

Real estate consultant CBRE South Asia released a report, 'Electric Vehicles in India - New Wheels on the Roads', on Thursday that focuses on the trends, growth, and influence of electric vehicles (EVs) on the real estate sector in India.

"Real estate requirements of manufacturing facilities of 4-wheeler and 2-wheeler (4W and 2W) electric vehicles is



estimated to be around 13 million square feet by 2030 as a result of the government's EV adoption targets," it said.

Moreover, EV battery manufacturing facilities would require 2,400 acre of land to accommodate the

production of 200 GWh of batteries by 2030.

By 2030, this real estate requirement will allow a production capacity of about 4 million units of 4Ws and 23 million units of 2Ws.

The Indian EV market is

expected to grow at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 49 per cent between 2021-2030 and cross annual sales of 17 million units by 2030.

The consultant noted Built-to-Suit (BTS) and leased facilities are largely preferred by EV manufacturers at present due to ease of capital deployment, flexibility in lease terms, speed to market and location advantages.

However, an owned facility provides more scope for customisation, save monthly rental outgoings and has better prospects for land price appreciation, it added.

Markets extend losses for 2nd day in highly volatile trade

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended lower in highly volatile trade on Thursday due to selling in banking, metal and energy counters amid a mixed trend in the global markets.

Falling for the second day in a row, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 193.70 points or 0.31 per cent to settle at 62,428.54 even after a positive beginning. During the day, it fell 263.1 points or 0.42 per cent to 62,359.14.

The NSE Nifty fell 46.65 points or 0.25 per cent to finish at 18,487.75.



"Despite challenges in the global economies, the domestic market displayed better than estimated Q4 earnings growth, along with 7.2 per cent GDP growth in FY23, adding buoyancy to the market during the week.

"However, today the market closed with a marginal negative bias in which banks witnessed

heavy profit-booking. Investors turned cautious in anticipation of inflationary pressure in the US after raising the US debt ceiling," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

From the Sensex pack, Bharti Airtel fell 3.42 and Kotak Mahindra Bank declined 3.31 per cent. ICICI Bank, ITC, HDFC Bank, UltraTech Cement, HCL Technologies and Maruti were the other major laggards.

Tata Motors, Hindustan Unilever, Asian Paints, Sun Pharma, Nestle, Tata Consultancy Services, Wipro, Bajaj Finance, Axis Bank and IndusInd Bank were among the gainers.

TCS, Reliance, Jio top best Indian brands 2023 ranking

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Technology giant TCS and India's most valuable company Reliance Industries have topped the list of the country's most valuable brands, according to Interbrand, the renowned global brand consultancy.

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) topped the 2023 50 Most Valuable Indian Brands list with a brand value of Rs 1.09 lakh crore.

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd is at No.2 spot with a brand value of Rs 65,320 crore. His group's telecom and digital unit Jio is also in the top 5 with

a brand value of Rs 49,027 crore.

"Celebrating its 10th year, the Best Indian Brands report has become a definitive guide to the nation's brand landscape since its inaugural publication in 2014," Interbrand said.

This year's edition showcases remarkable growth, with a total list value of Rs 8.3 lakh crore (USD 100 billion), marking a significant 167 per cent increase over the past decade. This is the first time the total value of the table has surpassed the USD 100 billion mark.

IT company Infosys is at No.3 with a brand value of Rs 53,323 crore.

Sebi to auction properties of seven business groups

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi on Thursday said it will auction 17 properties belonging to seven business groups including MPS Group, Tower Infotech, and Vibgyor Group on June 28, with a total reserve price of Rs 51 crore, in a bid to recover investors' money.

Apart from these, the regulator has put on block properties of Prayag Group, Multipurpose BIOS India Group, Waris Finance International Group and Pailan Group of companies, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a notice.



The 17 properties being auctioned include land parcels, storied buildings, flats, and a commercial space situated across West Bengal.

Inviting bids, Sebi said auction of the properties will be conducted through online mode between 11 am and 1 pm. Further, total

reserve price has been pegged at Rs 51 crore for the assets and Quirk Realty has been engaged by Sebi to assist in the sale of these properties.

Of the total properties to be auctioned, five belong to MPS Group, four relate to Vibgyor, three pertain to Pailan Group of companies, two belong to Tower Infotech and one each to Multipurpose BIOS India Group, Prayag Group and Waris Finance.

The regulator said the bidders should make their own independent enquiries regarding encumbrances, title of properties put on action and claims, among others prior to submitting their bids.

Members of 22 milk producer firms pledge to boost output

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Lakhs of dairy farming members of 22 milk producer companies on Thursday pledged to boost milk production for increasing India's share in the global output, NDDB Dairy Services said.

On the World Milk Day being celebrated on Thursday across various states, lakhs of dairy farmers and their families committed themselves towards making India the 'Dairy of the World', NDDB Dairy Services (NDS) said in a

statement.

Out of 22 Milk Producer Companies (MPCs) supported by NDS, 15 have all-women members and all the producer directors on their boards too are women.

These 22 MPCs spread across 130 districts in 9 states, have 8.7 lakh members and 71 per cent of them are women.

Members of these 22 MPCs pledged to 'Make India Dairy of the World by increasing India's share to the total world production', provide quality milk and milk products to



consumers by sourcing milk even from the remotest part of

the country, and provide a competitive price to farmer

members through a transparent process of milk collection and payments.

They also committed to increase milk productivity through breed improvement programmes and better animal management practices.

Meenesh Shah, Chairman of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and its subsidiary NDS, said, "Our Prime Minister has envisioned that India should become the dairy for the world. We are part of this proud community of milk producers and are working on

numerous initiatives for enhancing production and productivity in India towards making the dream of the Prime Minister a reality."

According to an official data, total milk production in the country during 2021-22 stood at 221.06 million tonnes.

Top five major milk producing states are Rajasthan (15.05 per cent), Uttar Pradesh (14.93 per cent), Madhya Pradesh (8.06 per cent), Gujarat (7.56 per cent), and Andhra Pradesh (6.97 per cent).

India's economy likely to grow in 6.5-6.7% range in FY'24: CII

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Industry body CII on Thursday said India's economy is expected to grow in the range of 6.5-6.7 per cent in the current financial year supported by strong domestic drivers and robust capex momentum of the government.

India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 6.1 per cent in the March quarter of 2022-23, pushing the annual growth rate to 7.2 per

cent.

The growth has propelled the country's economy to USD 3.3 trillion, setting the stage for achieving the USD 5 trillion target in the next few years.

Addressing the media, newly elected President of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) R Dinesh said India's GDP growth is expected to leapfrog to 7.8 per cent in the next decade (FY22-31) from 6.6 per cent previously recorded.

‘Acting is the one time I feel meditative,’ says Anupriya Goenka of *Asur 2*

Actress Anupriya Goenka is all set to reprise the role of Naina Nair in the second season of *Asur: Welcome To The Dark Side*. She reflected on her own journey in the film industry as well as her personal experience working in this thriller show.

Reminiscing on what inspired her to transition from the corporate world to acting, Anupriya spoke about her immense love for the art and the zen effect it has on her.

“I am an overthinker and my mind goes on constantly talking. I feel acting is the one time when I feel meditative. Between action and cut, no matter what is happening in my life, I’m just there in the present moment.”

“That is the most fulfilling feeling. It’s almost as if you breathe through it (acting) and everything in life is justified for the purpose of acting – the emotions, the good, the bad. I have started searching for new experiences because I want to be a better performer and push myself.”

Coming to her role as



Naina, Anupriya also spoke about how closely she relates to the character.

“There is a lot of similarity between me and Naina. I relate to her in the sense that I’m also very strong-headed, I’m very opinionated, I don’t shy away from my opinions but at the same time I’m extremely vulnerable sometimes, and I show my vulnerability too.”

“I have my own struggles with right and wrong, my value systems. But through Naina, I was able to touch upon that part, that one can cross a line for what they believe in.”

Asur 2 is now streaming exclusively on JioCinema.

GAL GADOT OPENS UP

on her insecurities as actress; says ‘I have imposter syndrome’

Actress Gal Gadot shared that every time she acts, she doubts herself and worries no one will like what she’s doing.

“It’s funny, I always feel like I have this imposter syndrome, because I feel so lucky and I’m so happy that I get to do what I really, really, really love. I always feel like, ‘I hope they’re gonna like it. There’s never a moment when I’m like, ‘They’re gonna love this,’” she said in a cover interview with *L’Officiel* magazine, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.

The 38-year-old actress also shared the one piece of advice that has helped her with the psychological disorder that makes people feel a fraud.

Recalling a conversation with Hollywood director Francis Ford Coppola, 84, the actress said: “Francis said, ‘You know, something? I’m always

filled with doubts. I’m always afraid they’re not going to like it. I just follow my heart and I come into it humble.”

In an interview, the *Fast X* actress spoke about working with her husband Jaron Varsano on her film *Heart of Stone*, which she stars in and co-produced with her spouse.

She said: “Jaron has the business mind, and who else can take care of my interests better than my life partner.”

The *Death on the Nile* star - who has three children with Jaron - said that she loved getting to play the villainous Evil Queen in the upcoming *Snow White* movie.

She said: “It was a great shift. I can’t believe I got to play the Evil Queen, the first evil villain in the history of Disney. I get to sing and explore my theatrical, evil dark side.”



GULSHAN DEVAIAH aims to support artists monetarily for their work in the age of AI and ML

Gulshan Devaiah has always been vocal about lending support to different artists and he practices it in his real life as well. When a Bengaluru based caricature artist Prasad Bhat, reached out to him to pay a tribute to him as an actor, by caricaturing some of his iconic characters, Gulshan could not accept it for free. Touched by the gesture, Gulshan commissioned the work from the artist.

The artist has picked Gulshan’s looks from his movies, like *Commando 3*, *Dahaad*, *Goliyon Ki Raasleela Ram-Leela*, *Mard Ko Dard Nahi Hota*, *Ghost Stories*, *Durangaa*, *Badhaai Do*, *Hunterrr*, *Death in the Gunj* and *That Girl in Yellow Boots*.

Gulshan says, “If I really like something then I’m willing to pay for it. I’m very grateful and privileged to receive offers by artists to make me some-

thing for free but it’s their livelihood too and in this age of Machine learning and AI, the least I can do is support artists by offering to pay them their rates. Prasad offered to make me something, I liked his idea and decided I wanted to commission him to kinda summarise my career until now with his art. I’m very happy with Prasad’s caricatures and each one of them has wonderful memories attached to them.”

Gulshan was last seen in the movie *8 A.M. Metro*, opposite Saiyami Kher. He was also part of the crime thriller *Dahaad*, where he plays a cop named Devilal Singh, for which he got rave reviews. He will soon begin filming his upcoming action thriller movie *Ulajh* with Janhvi Kapoor and Malayalam movie star Roshan Mathew.



The *Flash* director would love to have Ezra Miller back for sequel despite scandals

The *Flash* director Andy Muschietti would welcome Ezra Miller back in the titular role if there is ever a sequel. Insisting that no one can play the DC superhero better than Miller, the filmmaker would have the 30-year-old star back in a flash despite the fact they were arrested multiple times last year, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.

“If (a sequel) happens, yes. I don’t think there’s anyone that can play that character as well as they did. The other depictions of the character are great, but this particular vision of the character, they just excelled in doing it. And, as you said, the two Barrys - it feels like a character that was made for them,” Muschietti said when appearing on *The Discourse*.

Producer Barbara Muschietti added: “In principal photography, Ezra was brilliant and the most committed and the most professional (actor). Ezra gave everything for this role - physically, creatively, emotionally. They were absolutely supreme.”

Their comments come after Miller’s co-star Michael Shannon admitted he “feels for” the troubled star. The 48-year-old actor plays DC’s villainous General Zod in *The Flash*.

And when asked about the controversy surrounding the movie, Shannon told *Vanity Fair*, “If you’re talking about Ezra



(Miller), I thought Ezra was lovely - very kind to me when I was there. It’s difficult to talk about, but I always give people a lot of slack in this business, because there’s a lot of people in

this business that have issues.”

“And some people have more privacy than others. Any time somebody is out in the spotlight getting picked on, I feel for them. Even if it’s warranted, it’s still a horrible situation.”

Miller - who goes by they/them pronouns - has previously been hit with allegations of grooming after the parents of Native American activist Tokota Iron Eyes, 18, filed a protection order against the actor.

Miller was also arrested twice in Hawaii in March last year and charged with disorderly conduct and second-degree assault. They were accused of shouting and swearing at customers as they sang karaoke at a bar, as well as grabbing a microphone from a 23-year-old woman.

Miller pleaded no contest to one count of disorderly conduct and paid a \$500 fine over the incident.

A married couple also took out a restraining order against them after Miller burst into their bedroom and threatened to kill them then left, stealing her passport and his wallet.

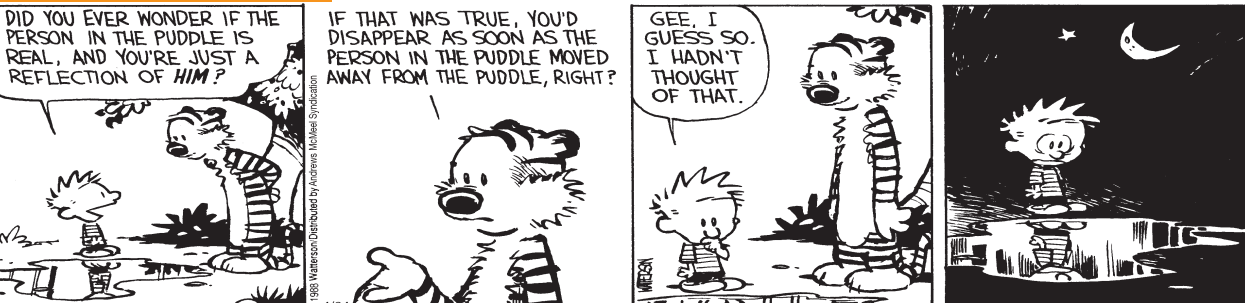
And in April 2022, the star was accused of throwing a chair at a 26-year-old woman and hitting her at a private party. A video of Miller appearing to choke a woman at a bar in Reykjavik, Iceland, also surfaced in April 2020, but did not result in any charges.

FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



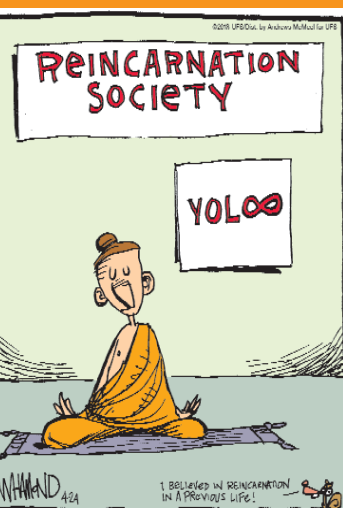
NANCY



GINGER MEGGS



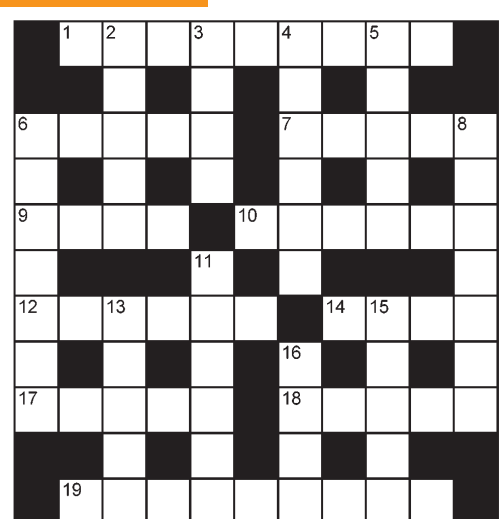
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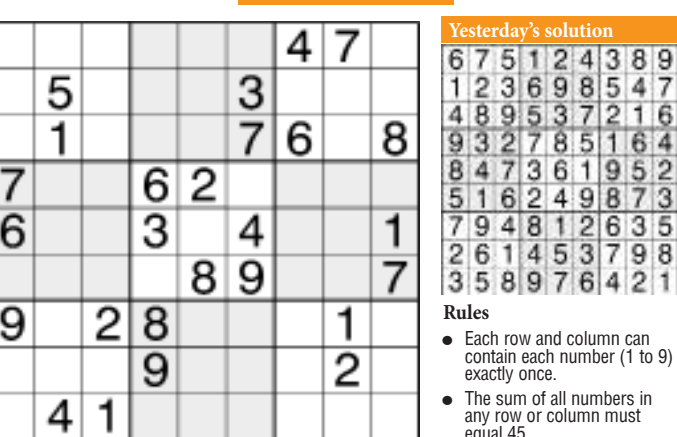
SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



ACROSS

- 1 A person who lives next door
- 2 Two times two, times two
- 3 Speed competitions
- 4 Have a lie down
- 5 Sick
- 6 A bed for a small baby
- 7 The start of the day
- 8 Rub out
- 9 A large bird of prey
- 10 An exciting experience
- 11 So dull it makes you feel sleepy
- 12 The opposite of aunt
- 13 Pain in your ear
- 14 No sound at all
- 15 The arm of a coat
- 16 A special prize
- 17 A feeling of rage
- 18 A compass direction

DOWN

- 1 The parts along the sides of something
- 2 Obtains



Isha Talwar was back in Kerala to experience ‘Navarasa Sadhana’

ACTRESS ISHA TALWAR, WHO WAS RECENTLY IN KERALA SPEAKS TO *THE PIONEER* ABOUT HER TRIP, AND HER AESTHETIC EXPERIENCE WHILE IN THE GOD’S OWN COUNTRY FOR OUR WEEKLY SEGMENT OF TRAVEL TALES.

SHIKHA DUGGAL

Very recently, the *Saas, Bahu Aur Flamingo* fame Isha Talwar was in the middle of dawn breaks and blaring birds in Kerala — she was enjoying the green palms and tropical waters so peacefully.

“The stillness missing in cities is so endearing here,” she confesses. So for our weekly travel tales segment: actress Isha who brutally celebrates the success of her last blockbuster hit series expressed her sagas of experiencing Navarasa Sadhana in god’s own country. “I was back in Kerala for phase three of Navarasa Sadhna by Guru Venu G — never knew an Indian acting programme exists and had its roots in Natya shastra.”

She was submerged in an aesthetic experience, and realised creative work of art. She was able to strengthen her capacities in acting! Besides, touched her senses deeply. With an awakening enlightenment in her tone, she expressed further,

“Discovering this “vidya” has been a revelation to me. Initially, when I arrived there — gradually was getting to know that these studies are undertaken at an acting laboratory of a royal family from the same state, coming from the eighteenth century. Many practitioners and scholars were produced, thereafter.”

She’s one of those blessed actors who was getting to experience the enrichment of acting dimensions by getting to the core of acting training. She goes on, “I even got to stay in a houseboat, highly recommend it. Especially, on a full moon night. I was cruising down the tranquil backwaters so beautifully. And, the moonlight was very romantic.” With modernisation, the barges began to lose their importance and utility. But locals soon realised that these boats, which are strong enough to last generations, can be re-modelled into houseboats for travellers and we all can see now, how even celebrities love an overnight stay at a houseboat.

“Kerala to me is so culturally rich. I had seen some performances that you can’t expect to happen in a city like Bombay. I

have experienced the “panchakarma” treatment as well at Kottakal and it helped me detoxify so enormously. Once in a year, I have made it mandatory to take this treatment anywhere that’s possible. At Jindal Nature Cure, that’s in Bengaluru is my alternative to it.

Now I know how to attribute good health with the combination of traditional treatments because of Kerala.”

Now we understand why Ayurveda has the distinction of being the oldest medical system known to man and the most comprehensive spiritual teachings in Kerala with a distinction. What’s more, “The institute she visited named Natanakairali is actually a conventional home with basic ashrama-like infrastructure. I wasn’t able to adjust at first, was a tad bit strenuous for me to keep my background in mind because we as actors are always so spoilt in this industry. However, it provoked something inside of me to come back to my fundamentals.” In addition, “Thirteen years ago, I turned a pure vegetarian. It was when I started pursuing yoga! But when you go to

Kerala, it’s more about the meat. But I tried Puttu Kadala, Appam, some vegetarian stew, Rasam, Pulliseri and Onam Sadhya. When you put them together on a table, a colourful cuisine will emerge even if there’s an absence of meat there.” The distinct flavours of local delicacies of the state transported Isha Talwar to a whole new world altogether. Also, “She even loves visiting Thailand — all for the massages, the watersports and beaches. Koh Chang and Rawai are at the top of her list! It’s not bustling at all. These places make it ideal for me to avoid the crowd.”

To boot, “The last trip to Bangkok came as a bombshell to me: my friend and I were sleeping outside the Bangkok airport! Usually, all my bookings are done by me for any foreign trip but just this one time I asked my nieces to plan it for me. To choose a hotel! And I am never going back there, such a terrible experience. It was stinking throughout! Whereas, my nieces were nowhere to be found because they were partying all night and we were sleeping outside the airport.

Healing planet & ourselves by combatting the effects of medical waste



Have you ever thought of the silent threat lurking within our healthcare system? Medical waste, generated by healthcare activities, is not only impacting the environment but also posing risks to our health. The consequences are far-reaching, and it’s time we take action to address this pressing issue.

Healthcare activities produce a staggering amount of waste, with 15% of it being hazardous and infectious. Beyond the immediate dangers posed by microorganisms and chemicals, medical waste exacerbates the effects of air pollution, further burdening our environment. As we envision a sustainable future, it is essential to confront the challenges posed by this waste.

In the Indian context, the situation is particularly alarming. According to a report by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the country generates approximately 550 tons of biomedical waste every day. Improper management and inadequate infrastructure result in the release of toxic substances and the spread of infectious diseases, jeopardising both our environment and our well-being.

So, what can we do to mitigate these threats? It begins with adopting proper medical waste management techniques. By improving waste segregation, implementing effective collection systems, and utilizing environmentally friendly disposal methods, we can minimize the adverse impact on our surroundings.

Yashraj Garg and Hrishit Panthry, co-



founders of Envirocare Foundation share a few examples of actions that we can take:

Raise awareness: Educate yourself and others about the environmental and health impacts of medical waste. Share information through relatable examples on social media, community groups, and educational institutions. For instance, you can highlight the story of a community affected by improper medical waste disposal and emphasize the importance of responsible waste management in preventing such incidents.

Support proper waste management practices: Advocate for improved waste segregation and disposal systems in healthcare facilities.

Encourage the adoption of environmentally friendly techniques through practical examples. For instance, you can promote the success story of a hospital that has implemented efficient recycling programs, showcasing how it reduces waste, conserves resources, and protects the environment.

Additionally, emphasize the benefits of waste-to-energy conversion, citing an instance where a healthcare facility has implemented this approach and successfully generated renewable energy from medical waste.

Promote responsible consumer behavior: Encourage individuals to choose healthcare facilities that prioritise sustainable waste management practices. Provide relatable examples of what responsible consumer behavior looks like. For instance, share the experience of someone who actively researched and selected a hospital with proper waste management certifications and practices. Emphasize the importance of asking questions about waste disposal methods during healthcare visits and engaging in conversations with healthcare providers to raise awareness and encourage responsible practices.

Elevate your daily grooming routine with fragrance

In our quest for a well-groomed appearance and enhanced confidence, we often pay careful attention to various aspects of personal grooming. We meticulously style our hair, carefully select our outfits, and ensure our skin looks radiant and healthy. However, among all the aspects of grooming, one crucial element that often goes unnoticed is fragrance. Fragrance not only enhances our overall grooming experience but also leaves a lasting impression on others. In this article, we will explore the significance of fragrance in our grooming regimen and how it enhances our lives in more ways than we may realise.

Confidence booster

Fragrance can play a significant role in boosting confidence. Studies have shown that certain scents can trigger positive emotions and memories, which can in turn boost self-esteem and confidence. The sense of smell is closely linked to our emotions and can evoke strong reactions. A well-chosen fragrance has the power to uplift our spirits, reduce stress, and increase self-assurance. When we feel confident, we exude a positive aura that can significantly impact our personal and professional interactions. Incorporating fragrances are a perfect addition to the morning grooming regimen. The grand fusion of aromatic lavender and rich earthy woody notes helps create a sense of empowerment and ensures we start our day on a positive note.

Enhances personal identity

The fragrance is a powerful tool that allows individuals to express their unique identity and personality. Just like fashion choices and hairstyles, the fragrance we choose can say a lot about our personality and individuality. Whether it’s a bold and confident fragrance, the choice of scent can speak volumes about who we are as individuals. The fragrance has the ability to create a lasting memory and association with a person, making it an essential part of our daily grooming routine.

Creates a lasting impression

Imagine walking into a room and leaving behind a trail of captivating fragrance. The sense of smell is closely tied to memory, and a pleasant scent can create a lasting impression on others. Whether it’s a romantic encounter, a business meeting, or a social gathering, a carefully chosen fragrance can enhance the way others perceive us. Using a classic day fragrance before an important meeting would surely give another person a fragrance to remind you of. The addictive musk and nutmeg notes infused with sandalwood make it playful and fresh. A good fragrance can leave a lasting impression, making it an invaluable asset in our daily grooming arsenal.

Enhances Social Interactions

The fragrance has the ability to influence the way people perceive and react to us in social situations. A pleasing scent can act as an icebreaker, initiating conversations and creating a comfortable atmosphere. It can evoke positive emotions in others and contribute to a pleasant environment. When we smell good, we feel good, and this positivity extends to those around us. The fragrance becomes a silent communicator, influencing social dynamics and leaving a positive impact on our interactions.



WE ARE USED TO DUKES BALL: AXAR



PTI ■ PORTSMOUTH

Switching from playing T20s to the longest format of the game is difficult but practising with the red ball through the IPL will help in the tough transition at the World Test Championship final against Australia, feels India all-rounder Axar Patel.

Most members of the Indian team head to the marquee event after playing T20 cricket in the IPL for over two months.

Additionally, while the SG balls are used to play the red-ball format in India, the Dukes ball will be used for the WTC final.

However, India are well-prepared for the twin challenges. To familiarise themselves with the Dukes ball, which is used in English conditions, the 'Men in Blue' have been working with it. "We knew about this before the start of the IPL. So even dur-

ing the IPL, it was discussed that we will bowl with the red ball," Axar told ICC.

"We had red balls, so we were using them. You know when and how to play, how much time you have. This mental switch from white ball to red ball is obviously tough, but we have enough time," Axar added.

The left-arm spinner, however, said that the focus is on hitting the right spot irrespective of the ball used.

"We switch from white ball to red ball. It is a similar switch to go from SG to Dukes, you have to use your talent and skill. You have to execute your plan, your bowling rhythm. Irrespective of the ball, if you bowl a good ball at a good spot, it works.

"So, that's what we're doing. Since the match is in England, which is different from India, we are planning what lines and

lengths will work here. The same thing in practice, we are good to go."

The first batch of Indian players, including the likes of Virat Kohli and Axar, landed in London early last week and have been preparing for the final, scheduled to be held at The Oval from June 7 to 11.

"Those who did not qualify (for IPL Playoffs) got more time. So I don't think there will be many problems because we have had a good time to prepare." "The difference is the Dukes ball remains shinier for longer. But during the IPL, we had ordered the ball, so were practising with it and have gotten used to it," Axar said.

The Indian team will also have to quickly adapt to the relatively cooler conditions in England, having played the IPL in sweltering heat.

"We came after playing IPL,

where it was 40-45 degrees in India. After that it feels great here. We have taken out our winter clothes and are roaming around wearing jumpers. It's also a bit windy. Whenever we come to the UK, we enjoy the weather. It remains a little cool, there is no heat."

In stark contrast to India's spin-friendly pitches, the conditions in England are more suited to swing bowling.

"Obviously, the conditions in India and England are different. The fast bowlers have more of a role here. In India, spinners play a more important role," Axar said. "The conditions are the same for both teams. In England, the wind assists swing bowling and offers good bounce if you bowl at the right spots.

"The team is getting together slowly, so the planning will go on. We'll leave the planning to our bowling coach."

Oz need to be wary of Pujara, Kohli: Ponting

PTI ■ LONDON

Australia will have to guard against the "thorn in their side" Cheteshwar Pujara and a "back at his best" Virat Kohli if they are to counter India in the World Test Championship final at The Oval next week, feels legendary cricketer Ricky Ponting.

India's Test batting mainstay Pujara could provide valuable insights to his teammates, having played extensively at Sussex in the English County Championship, while Kohli is at his absolute best having cracked two centuries and six half-tons for Royal Challengers Bangalore in the recently-concluded Indian Premier League.

"The Australian team will be talking about Virat, no doubt about it, and they'll be talking about Pujara. They're the two," Ponting said on "The ICC Review."

Pujara is known to relish the challenges thrown at him by Australian bowlers, having scored more Test runs and centuries against them than any other side, and his contribution would be crucial to India's chances of lifting the WTC trophy in their second attempt.

"Pujara has been a thorn in their side a lot in the past, and in Australia, and this wicket will potentially be a lot more like an Australian pitch. They know that they'll have to get him early," opined the former Australian captain.

Pujara, who bats at No. 3, has 2,033 runs and five centuries in 24 Tests against Australia, and skipper Rohit Sharma will hope he makes a couple of more vital contributions for the side in the



WTC final.

Kohli, apart from his sparkling form in the IPL, had smashed 186 in the fourth Test against Australia in March during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy and would be itching to have a go at the Pat Cummins-led side.

"They also know that Virat over the last few weeks is probably just about back to his absolute best, albeit in T20 cricket. He told me that the feeling he's getting right now is that he's almost back to his best, and that's an ominous warning for the Australians going into a one-off game," said Ponting.

Ponting is also mightily impressed with young Shubman Gill's performance in the IPL and the 23-year-old's exploits in the last two Tests of the Border-Gavaskar series.

Gill hit three centuries for Gujarat Titans in IPL. "He looks like a terrific young guy. He's got that bit of attitude about him as

well. He's got a bit of swagger. He has some serious class. That sort of front-foot pull shot that he plays against the fast bowlers will be a shot that he'll probably need against this Australian attack," said Ponting.

With the pace bowlers likely to do a lot of heavy lifting during the one-off Test, Ponting believes veteran Mohammed Shami will have to be at his absolute best against the strong Australian batting lineup, given that Jasprit Bumrah is not in the frame owing to injury.

"I think he has to step up or try and take his game to another level if India are going to win this game. When you talk to the Australian batters as well, they understand how good Shami is whether it's new ball or old ball, whether it's in Australia or India.

"They know the skillset he's got and how dangerous he can be. It's going to have to be him," added Ponting.



Australia head into the WTC final against India wary of their dismal Oval record

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

As Australia begin preparations for the World Test Championship final against India, the men from Down Under would be eager to put their past struggles at The Oval behind them.

In over 140 years of Test cricket in England, Australia have had one of the worst records at The Oval, which will host the final from June 7 to 11 between the top two Test sides.

Australia, who played at The Oval in 1880 in what was the first-ever Test in England, have managed a mere seven wins from 38 Tests at the famous South London venue, putting their success rate at the venue at 18.42 per cent, their poorest across England.

Australia have won just twice in the past 50 years at The Oval. On the other hand, they have 17 wins from 29 matches at The Lord's at a success rate of 43.59 per cent, which is better than hosts England's 39.72 per cent from 141 games and South Africa's 33.33 per cent at the same venue.

Australia have a success rate of 34.62 per cent at Headingley, 30.43 per cent at Trent Bridge, and 29.03 per cent and 26.67 per cent at Old Trafford and Edgbaston respectively.

India, on the other hand, haven't fared too well at the venue either having won two, drawn seven and lost five games. But the Rohit Sharma-led side will be boosted by the 157-run win over England here in 2021, which was its first victory at the venue in a Test match in 40 years.

According to cricket.com.au, Australia will have their first full training session in the UK on Thursday in Beckenham, which is 20km from central London.

Pat Cummins and his men will train at Kent's out-ground across the weekend as both sides will be granted access to facilities at The Oval only two days prior to the fixture.

And while The Oval is likely to favour the pacers, Beckenham is known to have a batter-friendly track.

Australia finished the 2021-23 WTC cycle on top of the table, their only loss being the 2-1 away defeat to India earlier this year.

They haven't beaten the Men in Blue, both home and away, in eight years — four successive series defeats.



Key for both teams will be to dismiss Smith and Kohli early: Finch

PTI ■ LONDON

Former captain Aaron Finch believes that he will put his money on Steve Smith even though Australia will also need to get rid of star India batter Virat Kohli as early as possible in what promises to be an enticing World Test Championship final, starting June 7 at the Oval here.

"Both (Kohli and Smith) will be batting at number four, so the key is to try and get them as early as possible. Early wickets to expose them to the brand new ball will be absolutely key. I will always side with Steve Smith, I think his record is outstanding, but it will be a very good contest," Finch told Star Sports.

India vs Australia rivalry brings out the best in both teams, he said.

"I think the rivalry is held in such high regard in both countries, that I think it brings out the best in both teams," he added.

"Obviously, India has had the better of Australia in the last three series I think, so both teams will rise to the occasion no matter where it's played, at home or away or this time at neutral territory. It's just a must watch thing."



'Conway has caught Williamson bug to keep learning'

PTI ■ AUCKLAND

Former New Zealand spinner John Bracewell believes charismatic batter Devon Conway has caught the "Kane Williamson bug" to "keep learning from past mistakes and making rapid improvements in his batting technique."

Conway, a late entrant into the New Zealand setup at 29, took the cricketing world by storm by smashing a double hundred on Test debut against England in 2021 to become only the seventh batter to do so in the longest format.

Conway, now 31, also played a vital role for Chennai Super Kings in only his second IPL season, scoring six half-centuries and aggregating 672 runs with a highest of an unbeaten 92 and an average touching 52.

His opening partnerships with Ruturaj Gaikwad formed the cornerstone of CSK's record-equalling fifth title. The all-format New Zealand cricketer was third on the IPL's Orange Cap list behind Shubman Gill and RCB's South African skipper Faf du Plessis.

"I think he's been an absolute magician in terms of his adaptability to all three formats, his skillset and his (growth)," Bracewell, who played 41 Tests garnering 102 wickets and 1000-plus runs, told Sen Radio.

"I like the way he's becom-

ing a better cricketer all the time, so he's obviously caught the Kane Williamson bug of being a learner, not a guy that actually just sits there and relies on being talented," said the 65-year-old. Conway has so far amassed 1212 Test, 508 ODI and 632 T20I runs, and Bracewell believes the cricketer can rival the best in the business.

"His game is just continuing to progress and that's something that Kane Williamson had introduced into the New Zealand side along with (former wicketkeeper) BJ Watling.

"That's something that Devon Conway's picked up and moved forward with him taking it to another dimension."

Bracewell believes Conway will play a huge role during the ODI World Cup, scheduled to be held in India in October-November this year, given that Williamson would unlikely have recovered completely from an ACL injury he suffered in the IPL.

"He's one of a series of components, but he's certainly an important one," said Bracewell.

"One, that he knows those (Indian) conditions (and) two, that he's extremely adaptable in terms of now he's opening the batting in T20. So he has that adaptability to be able to move up and down the order and fit in, so that makes him a good replacement for somebody like Kane."

Dhoni undergoes knee surgery: CSK CEO

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni successfully underwent a left knee surgery in a Mumbai hospital on Thursday, raising hopes of playing in the 17th edition of Indian Premier League next year.

Dhoni, who led Chennai Super Kings to their fifth IPL title, had flown to Mumbai from Ahmedabad after the final on Monday and consulted renowned sports orthopaedic surgeon Dr Dinshaw Pardiwala, who is also on the BCCI medical panel and had performed surgeries on a number of top Indian cricketers, including Rishabh Pant.

"Yes, Dhoni has had a successful knee surgery at the Kokilaben Hospital in Mumbai on Thursday. He is doing fine and the surgery happened in the morning. I don't have details. I am yet to get all the details about



the nature of surgery and other things." CSK CEO Kasi Viswanathan confirmed to PTI.

"He will be discharged in a day or two. He would be resting for a few days before his extensive rehabilitation starts. It is now expected that he would have enough time to get fit to play in the next IPL," another source close to CSK management told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

Ronaldo absent with injury as Saudi soccer season ends

AP ■ RIYADH

Cristiano Ronaldo's first season in Saudi Arabia came to an end, although the star forward was absent as Al-Nassr beat Al-Fateh 3-0 to finish in second place in the league.

Ronaldo, who signed for the Riyadh club in December before scoring 14 goals in 16 league games, picked up a muscle injury four days previously and was rested ahead of Portugal's European Championship qualifiers against Bosnia-Herzegovina and Iceland in June.

In the 38-year-old Ronaldo's absence on Wednesday, Anderson Talisca took center stage to score twice. He also assisted Mohammed Marwan for a third. Al-Ittihad, which had already secured the league championship in the penultimate round, celebrated a first title since 2009 with a 2-0 win against Al-Tai.



Abderazzak Hamdallah of Morocco opened the scoring with a second-half penalty that also secured the golden boot with his 21st goal of the season. Former Leeds United and Wolverhampton winger Helder Costa added the second in injury time. It's the first league title won by coach Nuno Santo, just 18 months after the Portuguese tactician was dismissed by Tottenham Hotspur in the English Premier League.

Al-Hilal, champions last season, finished in third spot with a 3-2 win over Al-Raed.

The league will expand from 16 to 18 teams next season.

Pathirana set to make ODI debut ahead of WC qualifiers



AP ■ HAMBANTOTA

Sri Lanka has unleashed some special bowling talents ahead of big events over the years.

In the case of Lasith Malinga, he was thrown into the deep end during a so-called Top End tour of Australia in 2004. In the case of Ajantha Mendis, he was introduced just before the Asia Cup and he starred with six wickets against India in the final as Sri Lanka clinched the trophy in 2008.

The same blueprint is to be followed with 20-year-old Maheesha Pathirana, who will make his ODI debut in the three-match series against Afghanistan that gets underway on Friday.

Although Pathirana has played just one Twenty20 International, he is already a star after performing a key role for Chennai in the Super Kings' run to a record fifth Indian Premier League title.

Pathirana bowls with a unique round-arm action and Sri Lankans hope that he'll be quite a handful for batters during the World Cup qualifiers later this month in Zimbabwe. Sri Lanka, which won the 1996 World Cup title and has twice been runner-up, needs to go through qualifying because of its slide down the International Cricket Council rankings in the one-day format.

Afghanistan has no such issues after qualifying automatically for the showpiece event later this year in India.

Bowling is Afghanistan's strength, with three Afghan players featuring in the list of top 10 bowlers in official ICC rankings. Leg-spinner Rashid Khan will miss the first two games because

of a lower-back injury, but off-spinners Mujeeb ur Rahman and Mohammad Nabi will find the conditions in Hambantota to their liking.

Afghanistan also has left-arm wrist spinner Noor Ahmed, who was quite a handful for Gujarat Titans during the IPL.

Although bowling is the team's strong point, Afghanistan also some solid batting.

Ibrahim Zadran showcased that he is a star in the making during the ICC Under-19 World Cup and since graduating to the senior side, he has smashed three centuries in just eight one-dayers. That includes a career-best 162, the highest score by an Afghan in ODIs.

Friday's series-opener will be the first international to be staged at Hambantota in more than three years.

The series was hastily arranged after Sri Lanka failed to automatically qualify for the World Cup, and will provide an opportunity for the selectors to take a final look at some of the players before they submit the squad to the ICC before the June 10 deadline.

Sri Lanka has recalled test captain Dimuth Karunaratne to the squad. Karunaratne was fired as ODI captain and dropped from the squad in 2021. However, with the batting unit not able to utilize the full quota of 50 overs often enough, the need for Karunaratne's stable presence has been felt.

The hosts also have recalled fast bowler Dushmantha Chameera, who is returning after seven months following ankle surgery.

SQUADS:

SRI LANKA: Dasun Shanaka (captain), Kusal Mendis (vice-captain) Pathum Nissanka, Dimuth Karunaratne, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Angelo Mathews, Dhananjaya de Silva, Charith Asalanka, Wanindu Hasaranga, Maheesh Theekshana, Dushan Hemantha, Chamika Karunaratne, Dushmantha Chameera, Maheesha Pathirana, Lahiru Kumara, Kasun Rajitha.

AFGHANISTAN: Hashmatullah Shahidi (captain), Rahmat Shah (vice-captain), Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Ibrahim Zadran, Riaz Hassan, Najibullah Zadran, Mohammad Nabi, Ikram Alikhail, Azmatullah Omarzai, Rashid Khan, Mujib ur Rahman, Noor Ahmad, Abdul Rahman, Fazal Haq Farooqi, Farid Ahmad Malik.

You had a lot of selfish characters playing for England: Harmison

PTI ■ LONDON

Former England pacer Steve Harmison has hinted that quite a few senior players in the side did not contribute to the team spirit in the late 90s and early 2000s, but all that changed during the 2005 Ashes series, which the hosts won 2-1.

Responding to former Australian quick Jason Gillespie's assessment that he had noticed a big change in the England side during the 2005 Ashes, Harmison, who was part of the 2005 side, said that, "The difference between that and 2003,

2001 and 1999, 1997, was in 2005 we were a team."

Gillespie had suggested that he had never seen such camaraderie in the England team during previous series between the two sides.

"I noticed a big difference in the England side in the '05 Ashes... we'd never felt that as an Australian side before," Gillespie told 'Sen Radio' on Thursday.

"England would normally go out in dribs or drabs going onto the field... (but this time) it was really noticeable that as soon as the umpires walked out there,



(England skipper) Michael Vaughan was straight out there, everyone was straight out there, quick chat and then they would literally run to their fielding positions, the bowler would run

and hand his cap to the umpire and before our batters were halfway onto the ground, the whole England team was set up ready to play, ready to rock," added Gillespie.

Harmison, 44, who played 63 Tests taking 226 wickets, said quite a few "selfish" players contributed to the poor culture in the England side.

"We'd grown up as a team, we played as a team and we behaved off the field like a team (in 2005). In 1997, 2001, 2003/04, you had a lot of selfish characters playing for England," said Harmison.

"Some great cricketers, don't get me wrong... but when you look at — and I've got no problem saying this — the likes of Nasser (Hussain), Athers (Michael Atherton), Thorpey (Graham Thorpe), Corkey (Dominic Cork), Darren Gough, Andy Caddock, there was a group of individuals playing all together as a team where you look at 2005, we were a team," added Harmison.

Harmison added that even though Australian cricketers might have had differences, they were swept aside for the common good of the side.

Siddhi Idnani: We cannot underestimate the positive impact inside showbiz anymore

SHIKHA DUGGAL

Siddhi Idnani's character Gitanjali in the recent controversial yet box-office success *The Kerala Story*, was very integral to the plot of the film, and managed to pull off the character and the different shades with ease. That's just one of the pre-eminent actresses from Telugu industry, and Siddhi's upcoming release *Kathar Basha Endra Muthuramalingam* is on its way — is so ready to deal with the themes of politics and power, once again.

It wasn't necessary for her to be bold in this industry, instead the actress brought in her own pinch of fearless ideas and moved ahead in this showbiz without crippling on any dogmas.

In an exclusive interview with us, right from the shooting sets of her next Tamil movie, *Jamba Lakidi Pamba* fame speaks, "We are starting this interview with a bang — so when my last movie was banned in a few states, I was really upset. I was very casual about the reasons behind the ban. Now that the courts have given the permission for screening everywhere, wanted a few people from a section of society want to understand the real inception of this movie and that we are not coming with any political agenda. It did create an uproar! But, it was upsetting. I was helpless."

As we further speak to the actress, we get to understand that she is also one of those who is more interested in the longevity of her films than the grosses. She describes, "My mother is a very popular television actor, predominantly in Gujarati serials. So the set life was always very parallel to mine! From there, my fascination began to grow. Now I wanted to see what a movie set looks like. Now when I look back, because my parents had a love marriage and my mother is a proper Gujarati while my father is a proper Sindhi: I never had cultural issues. So for me to work in multiple industries in multiple regional languages was a swift ride. I think this was destined to be, I am inherited. Now, when we look at cinema, the shares of women protagonists are also fluctuating. So these were never my concerns at least from the time I debuted in the industry because I already started to see the changes inside. I know it for a fact that somebody sitting in South Korea also will be wanting to see our Indian movie. As we do with the k-pop dramas! We cannot underestimate the positive impact inside the entertainment fraternity anymore. It's happening."

She is a person who never believes in planning life ever—neither her act of becoming an actress was pre-decided! She clarifies that if she had to preplan anything in this industry, while making a Hindi debut, she would have chosen a romantic film over a controversial one. But she decided to go for *The Kerala Story* first! Over and above that, "I had never noticed before and how the review headlines are being published. But now that I am being made to learn about it, I probably could have given the other three actresses equal space in the headlines. Having said that, Adah Sharma has been around in the industry for the longest time. Her filmography is much more than what the other three actresses have done, that of course includes me. And technically speaking, the longevity of her character is from beginning to the end. So maybe she deserve that space in the headlines! Could be a creative call also, right? My name not being there in the review headings doesn't bother me so much."

So she wants originality, she wants creativity, and she wants a pacing plot for her to lead the film. As soon as the film was released, the immediate near and dear ones approached her, bothered about whether she was affected by what she did on-screen or not because she was able to convince them so very well. Into the bargain, "I was only receiving hateful comments online. A very harsh comment was posted online by one of the users saying that I did this movie just for the sake of money! I was laughing at his/her mindset. What was even more upsetting as I mentioned before was my



Actress Siddhi Idnani, who had recently given a remarkable performance in *The Kerala Story*, speaks to *The Pioneer* about working in multiple industries, her upcoming Tamil film *Basha Endra Muthuramalingam*, and more.

film getting banned in those states where I had actually done movies for them. I was receiving phone calls and text messages from the people who I know from those states asking me why have I done this without even watching the film. They just got affected by the word ban! On the contrary, I had those kinds of people too who actually travelled to another state just to watch my film. And to tell you the truth, my Muslim friends were thankful that we were able to pull a movie like this that was showcasing how their community was being used for misdeeds. They understood the context very well! Jihadists are turning islamists into terrorists and no muslim wants that. Who told their religion allows terrorism? No, they don't."

She deserves to be at the heart of storytelling! "I can proudly say that I am a Gautam Vasudev Menon heroine too. Because when you look at the history of heroines he has worked with, be it Trisha Krishnan or Sameera Reddy — I wanted to be a part of this gang. So in my career I have done both kinds of films, one where I am the leading lady and two of them with an ensemble cast. But when you are doing a leading role, your character becomes even more meatier! That will make a lot of difference in my career. No matter how many actors I am working with, I'm still very secure in my place. There will be no cat-fights on the sets you'll see me working on! And frankly speaking, whenever I am doing a single heroine film my pressure doubles because of the male actors that I am working with because most of them are my seniors. For me, even the background artists also matter!"

Commenting on the sudden global recognition of southern films, she speaks heartily, "If I specifically speak of Tamil films, while shooting I have been to most of the interior areas of Tamil Nadu, and it's a fact that they are very culturally rooted and that is visible in their films. My generation wouldn't know their traditions at all, so films like these help! And stressing about the fact that culture is extremely different from religion! Our main upcoming film with Aarya is a pakka village film. We were shooting in a village only. No matter how modernise we become, we are traditionally rooted in our subconscious, and that's why films like *Baahubali*, *RRR* or *Kantara* do maximum business!"



Rana Daggubati to produce Dulquer Salmaan Telugu-Tamil bilingual

Rana Daggubati is not only a popular actor but also owns a production house Spirit Media Banner where he backs small films. He has now presented a new film titled *Pareshan* that will hit the screens today in Telugu.

Rana is busy promoting the film on an aggressive note and on the same day, his brother, Abhiram Daggubati's *Ahimsa* is all set for a release. Well, Rana has made headlines once again as news has come out that he is all set to act and produce a film

that will also star Malayalam superstar Dulquer Salmaan.

According to reports, Rana has approached Dulquer with a two hero script and the latter has shown full interest in the project. The word in the film circles is that Dulquer liked his role so much that he gave a green signal right away. As Rana is producing the project, Dulquer is even more happy to come on board says one of unit members. The director who will helm this film has been kept a secret as of now.



Vimanam promises an emotional roller coaster ride

Vimanam, the film that highlights the bond and the love of a father-son, impressed the audience with its trailer.

The trailer reveals that, in addition to the father-son story, and focuses on enchantress Sumathi and Cobbler Koti. The trailer of *Vimanam* showcases a slum area beside an airport where the lives of many with full of dreams intertwined together. While the son who watches the aeroplanes flying over his head all day long is yearning to onboard a flight, the disabled father working hard doing all kind of odd jobs to fulfill the dream of his son. This displays a strong emotion between father-son duo. On

the other hand the story of Sumathi played by Anasuya Bharadwaj and Rahul Ramakrishna played as Cobbler Koti has another emotion that will tug our heart strings. *Vimanam* is a film that depicts many heartfelt feelings in the lives of various people.

Vimanam promises an emotional rollercoaster ride. Directed by Siva Prasad Yanala, it was co-produced by Zee Studios and Kiran Korrapati. On Thursday, actress Anupama Parameswaran unveiled the film's trailer and wished the team all the luck.

Vimanam stars Samuthirakani as Veerayya, a disabled father, and Master Dhruvan as his son. Anasuya Bharadwaj plays Sumathi.



Sreenivas Bellamkonda's BSS10 shoot to commence this month

Promising young hero Sreenivas Bellamkonda, who created a niche for himself by enthralling audiences with his mass and action entertainers, will be joining forces with director Saagar Chandra who previously directed Power Star Pawan Kalyan in the blockbuster *Bheemla Nayak*. It's an action entertainer with a unique subject and the director will be presenting Bellamkonda in a new look and character.

#*BSS10* will be mounted on a high budget with rich production values under the popular production house 14 Reels Plus. Ram Achanta and Gopi Achanta will be producing the movie. Harish Katta is the executive producer.

#*BSS10* was launched on Thursday with a simple Pooja at

office with special guests gracing the occasion. Director Harish Shankar sounded the clashboard for the muhurtham shot, while he also handed over the script to the makers, along with director Parasuram. The camera was switched on by Director Parasuram. The event was also attended by Anil Ravipudi.

The movie will feature some popular actors playing crucial roles, while well-known technicians will handle different departments. The sensational composer Bheems Ceciroleo will score the music, while Jimshi Khalid will crank the camera. Kotagiri Venkateswara Rao will edit the movie and Mallikarjun Chenchu is the art director.

The regular shoot of the movie will commence from June 2nd week.

First single from Bhola Shankar will be out on June 4

The makers of Chiranjeevi's upcoming family entertainer, *Bhola Shankar* had recently announced that the film will have its world theatrical release on August 11 as an Independence Day special treat for fans. And now comes in an exciting update on the film's first single.

Bhola Shankar's first single's lyrical video will be released on June 4. A small song promo will be out on June 2nd to announce the same.

The announcement poster features Chiru in an ultra cool avatar. Dressed in a green shirt adorned with stars, Chiru also sports shades and he is seen rotating a chain with a Trishool shape.

Veteran music composer Mani Sharma's son Mahathi Swara Sagar has composed the soundtrack for *Bhola Shankar*. Needless to say, the hype and excitement on the film's audio album are quite high among fans. The film's entire shoot will be wrapped up by June end, and the post-production works are underway in full swing simultaneously.

Bhola Shankar has Tamannaah playing Chiru's love interest, while Keerthy Suresh will be seen as the Megastar's sister.

Hero Sushanth plays a key role in the movie. Being directed by Meher Ramesh, the film is produced by Anil Sunkara on a grand scale with a lavish budget.



Nani-Mrunal starrer Nani 30 wraps up its Mumbai schedule



Natural Star Nani's landmark 30th movie under the direction of debutant Shouryuv is being made at a fast pace. After the lengthy schedule in Goa, the makers have now completed the Mumbai schedule as well. They are all geared up for the next schedule of the movie in Coonoor.

A small video released by the makers shows a sea walk of Nani with his face covered with a hoodie. Then, we get to see a scenic location in Coonoor.

Mrunal Thakur of *Sita Ramam* fame is the leading lady in the movie. Mohan Cherukuri (CVM) and Dr Vijender Reddy Teegala are producing the movie being made on a massive

scale under the banner of Vyra Entertainments, while Koti Paruchuri is the COO.

The movie will have some young and talented technicians taking care of different crafts. Sanu John Varughese ISC will be cranking the camera, while popular Malayalam composer Hesham Abdul Wahab of Hridayam fame scores the music. Praveen Anthony is the editor and Avinash Kolla is the production designer, and Satish EVV is the executive producer.

The movie tipped to be a wholesome entertainer with a unique storyline will hit the screens on December 21st, this year.