



# sunday pioneer

[www.dailypioneer.com](http://www.dailypioneer.com)**QUOTE OF THE DAY****The pioneer**

TSPSC has done recruitment transparently and did highest recruitments in the country. In the past, there have been many accusations against APPSC but TSPSC has done recruitment for more than 30000 jobs so far and not a single allegation has been received.

- Minister K T Rama Rao



## Jagananna Vidya Deevena Total Fee Reimbursement..

**Regular quarterly payments  
soon after completion of the quarter...**

**Sri.Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy**, Hon'ble Chief Minister to deposit **Rs. 698.68 Crores**, Today, to **9.86 lakh** students for **October - December 2022** quarter, directly into the bank accounts of mothers' of students with the click of a button in Tiruvuru, NTR District..



**Sri.Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Andhra Pradesh

**'Jagananna Vidya Deevena'**

With an avowed aim of providing higher education to the poor students, Jagananna Government is reimbursing total fee, regularly on quarterly basis soon after completion of the quarter, directly into bank accounts of mothers of students pursuing ITI, Polytechnic, Degree, Engineering, Medicine and other courses, without any limit on number of eligible children in a family..

**'Jagananna Vasathi Deevena'**

Jagananna Government is not only taking care of educational expenses of students but also their boarding & lodging expenses.. Financial assistance of Rs. 20,000 to students pursuing Degree, Engineering and Medicine, Rs. 15,000 to Polytechnic students and Rs. 10,000 to ITI students in two installments every year regularly.. Assistance under the scheme is given to all children in a family, irrespective of their number..

Jagananna Government to deposit second tranche of 'Vasathi Deevena' for this year on 11th April ..

Jagananna Government has so far paid **Rs. 13,311 Crores**, towards 'Jagananna Vidya Deevena' & 'Jagananna Vasathi Deevena' assistances, including the arrears of **Rs. 1,778 Crores** kept pending by the previous Government, since 2017.



## NOTICE THE DIFFERENCE !!

Expenditure on Welfare Schemes alone in Education Sector by Jagananna Government in last 45 Months..			Pathetic condition of Education Sector during the 5 years of previous regime..
Name of the Scheme	Number of beneficiaries	Amount disbursed (Rs. in Crores)	Details of the Scheme
<b>Jagananna Amma Vodi</b> Rs.15,000 financial assistance per year to mothers, who send their wards to school..	44,48,865	19,674.34	<b>NO</b>  Meagre amounts, irregular disbursement with pendency every year.. Jagananna Government paid the fees reimbursement arrears of Rs.1,778 Crores kept pending by Previous Government
<b>Jagananna Vidya Deevena</b> Total Fee Reimbursement..	26,98,728	9,947.84	
<b>Jagananna Vasathi Deevena</b> Towards boarding & lodging expenses..	18,77,863	3,363.05	
<b>Jagananna Vidya Kanuka</b> Jagananna kit with uniforms, bi-lingual textbooks, Oxford dictionary, shoes, socks, belt etc., is given from the day of reopening of schools itself..	47,40,421	2,368.33	
<b>Jagananna Goru Mudda</b> Improvised, quality, tasty, hot cooked meals with daily change in menu..	43,26,782	3,590.00	Poor quality food.. paltry funds.. Even the meagre salaries of Aayas were kept pending for 8 - 9 Months..
<b>"Nadu - Nedu" in schools First Phase</b> Total revamp of 45,975 schools with an expenditure of Rs.17,805 Crores in three phases..	15,715 (Schools)	3,669.00	Schools in Dilapidated State.. Lack of facilities..
<b>Second Phase</b>	22,344 (Schools)	8,000.00	
<b>YSR Sampoorana Poshana</b> Wholesome and improvised nutritious food to children aged between 6 months to 6 years, besides pregnant women and lactating mothers..	35,70,675	6,141.34	Namesake nutritious food, that too limited to a few..
<b>Swechha (Sanitary Napkins)</b> Freedom from restrictions..	10,01,860	32.00	<b>NO</b>
<b>Tabs to class 8th students and Teachers</b> to promote Digital Education..	5,18,740	685.87	
<b>Jagananna Videsi Vidya Deevena</b> (Total reimbursement of tuition fee up to Rs. 1.25 Crores to students, who got admitted in the top 50 QS and Times ranked Foreign Colleges in 21 Faculties..)	1,858	132.41	Meagre financial assistance that too for their own people.. Lack of transparency in selection of Sub-standard colleges.. Huge pendency in payment of fees.. The total dues of Rs. 318 Crores were not paid since 2016-17.. Finally, resulting in winding up of the Scheme..
<b>YSR Kalyanamasthu, YSR Shaadi Tohfa</b> Aiming to encourage education, 10th pass is made mandatory for both bride & groom.	4,536	38.18	Scheme was completely withdrawn from October 2018. Rs. 68.68 Crores were not paid to the beneficiaries..
<b>Total</b>		<b>Rs. 57,642.36 Crores</b>	

Sri. Merugu Nagarjuna, Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare

Sri. Botcha Satyanarayana, Hon'ble Minister for Education

Note: Sri. Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Hon'ble Chief Minister to deposit financial assistance under "Jagananna Vidya Deevena" at 11:00 AM on 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 at Tiruvuru, NTR District. Watch this programme live on all popular news channels..

Issued by: Commissioner, I&amp;PR Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh

**Revitalising the Higher Education System..**

- Ensuring that no student should be deprived of higher education due to poverty, Jagananna Government brought in schemes like 'Jagananna Vidya Deevena', 'Jagananna Vasathi Deevena' providing total fee reimbursement along with boarding and lodging expenses..
- Jagananna Government has revised the Curriculum by including 4-year UG Honors Degree along with job oriented modules and 30% Skill Development Courses to increase the employability of students and to meet the industrial needs..
- As part of the Curriculum, Online Verticals have been introduced, through which the students can pursue skills of their interests in Online mode..
- By introducing a 10-month mandatory internship, Jagananna Government is preparing students to cope up with the requirements of the industries..
- Signed MoU with Microsoft to provide training to 1.62 lakh students in 40 Skill Development Courses, where 1.07 lakh students have already completed their training in Microsoft Technology and 73,000 candidates have pursued training in other advanced technical fields and received certificates.. Andhra Pradesh is the only State in the Country to achieve more than 1.75 lakh certifications in a calendar year..

**Reforms initiated by Jagananna Government yielding results..**

- The number of students who passed Intermediate but could not get enrolled for higher studies in 2018-19 was 81,813 but with the effective implementation of 'Jagananna Vidya Deevena' and 'Jagananna Vasathi Deevena', the number has come down to 22,387 in 2022-23. The drop-out percentage in entry to higher education has dropped significantly to 6.62% in 2022-23 against the national average of 27%..
- The Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) for 2018-19 was recorded as 32.4 which increased to 37.2 in 2020-21.. In coming days, steps will be taken to improve the GER to 70%.. The average number of girls enrolling in colleges per 100 boys has increased from 81 in 2018-19 to 94 in 2020-21 Gender Parity Index (GPI)..
- The Campus Placements have also made a quantum jump from 37,000 in 2018-19 to 85,000 in 2021-22..

**Steps towards Digital Education..**

Jagananna Government has distributed Tabs with Byjus Content to 8th class students and Teachers.. Providing 30,213 Interactive Flat Panels in all the classrooms of 6<sup>th</sup> Class and above in the schools developed under Nadu-Nedu.. Provided Smart TVs in 10,038 Foundation and Foundation Plus Schools.. With the revolutionary reforms in the Education System, Jagananna Government is aiming to reverse the scenario of Government Schools competing with Corporate Schools to Corporate Schools competing with Government Schools..

**Appeal to Mothers..**

Mothers are requested to pay the college fee pertaining to their children within a week or 10 days after the amount is credited into their accounts. In case of failure to do so, the next installment of the fee reimbursement will be paid directly into the accounts of colleges..

If you face any problem regarding fee reimbursement, dial Toll free no. **1902**



# Din in House: 11 TDP MLAs suspended

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Eleven TDP MLAs were suspended from the House for the fourth consecutive day by Speaker Tammineni Sitaram on Saturday for one day. The House proceedings started with question hour. soon after the question hour began, the TDP legislators proposed an adjournment motion to discuss details of Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy's visit to Delhi.

The opposition leaders stated that many times the CM visits Delhi but the purpose of the visit and details were kept confidential. The TDP members demanded what was the actual purpose of the CM's visit to Delhi and surrounded the speaker's podium demanding to reveal the details of CM Jagan's visit to Delhi. They wanted to know whether the visit was for the welfare of the state or for personal benefit. Placards were displayed showing how much funds were brought for the Polavaram project. They also raised slogans about whether Special Status was brought to AP. TDP

members insisted on a discussion on adjournment resolution on CM's Delhi visit.

However, Legislative Affairs Minister Buggana Rajendranath Reddy clarified that giving such an adjournment resolution is against the traditions of the House. Buggana said that the opposition members are wasting the time of the House. He recalled that in the past Chandrababu Naidu had been to Delhi 35 times but no discussion took place on it.

The TDP members raised slogans and barged towards the speaker's podium and raised slogans, tore the copies of the agenda and threw them at the speaker. The Speaker asked the House to take some decision regarding this issue.

Buggana Rajendranath said that the opposition members are intentionally creating trouble and wasting the time of the house. He requested the speaker to keep the house in order and continue the question hour.

Minister Dadishelli Raja requested the speaker to take action against the opposition members.

The TDP members continued to protest and sought to know if the CM's visit to Delhi was for the interests of the State or for self-interest.

Intervening in the matter, Finance Minister Buggana Rajendranath Reddy proposed the resolution to suspend the opposition members.

Speaker Tammineni Sitaram expressed his anger saying the behaviour of TDP members in the House was objectionable and claimed that the opposition is irresponsible. He said that he has been entrusted with great responsibility and he is patient due to those responsibilities. He said that he did not want to be tainted in history. The Speaker suspended the TDP members for one day.

The speaker suspended the TDP members for the day are B Ashok, K Atchannaaidu, Adireddy Bhavani, Nimmakayala Chinarajappa, Ganababu, Velagapudi Ramakrishna Babu, Mantena Ramaraju, Gottipati Ravi Kumar, Yeluru Sambashiva Rao, Dola Bala Veeranjaneva Swamy, and Gadde Rammohan Rao.

## Taking revenge is not on TDP's agenda: Lokesh

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Taking revenge on the Opposition parties is not on the agenda and the party will only teach lessons to the rivals by implementing various welfare programmes thus winning the confidence of the people, said TDP general secretary, Nara Lokesh on Saturday during the ongoing padayatra.

Responding to a series of problems narrated by these STs of Kadiri, Lokesh said that after TDP forms the government, it will declare a war against unemployment to provide jobs to the youth and win the trust of the youth.

Lokesh said that during the TDP regime recognised tandas and gudums with 500 and more population as panchayats, Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) too was set up besides safe drinking water too was supplied to tandas through gravity.

Earlier, the ST representatives told Lokesh that there are no basic facilities in the tandas and the roads are completely damaged.



## Ex-TDP MLA joins YSRCP

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

P Kanaka Sundara Rao, former TDP MLA from Tadepalligudem constituency, along with other leaders joined

YSR Congress Party in the presence of Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy at his chambers in the Legislative Assembly here on Saturday. Deputy Chief Minister and

Endowments Minister K Satyanarayana, Civil Supplies Minister K Venkata Nageswara Rao, AP Assembly Chief Whip M Prasad Raju, and other leaders were also present.



## Newly-elected MLCs call on CM

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Newly-elected MLCs from Local Bodies Constituencies called on Chief Minister YS Jagan

Mohan Reddy at his chamber in the Legislative Assembly here on Saturday. The Chief Minister appreciated the MLCs N Rama Rao, P Chandrasekhar; Reddy, K

Srinivas and V Ravindranath. They thanked the Chief Minister for giving them an opportunity as MLCs. Several ministers, MLAs and MLCs were also present.

## 'Paper leak is individuals' failure'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

"I am Minister for Information Technology but does that mean I am responsible for every computer in the state," he asked. The accused employees of TSPSC had committed theft of question papers from a computer in a confidential section of the Commission and shared the same with the other accused for Rs 10 lakh.

KTR appealed to opposition parties not to play with the lives of the youth by instigating them against the government for their narrow political interests. "The boys are sensitive, and they are upset as they have to write the exams again. I request the opposition not to provoke them," he said. The Minister appealed to the youth to understand the efforts being made by the gov-

ernment to allay any doubts by reconstructing the examinations.

TSPSC had been working in a transparent manner during the last nine years due to various measures taken by the government, he said. Unfortunately, a mistake of two individuals had brought bad name to the entire institution. TSPSC has done recruitment transparently and did highest recruitments in the country. In the past, there have been many accusations against APPSC but TSPSC has done recruitment for more than 30000 jobs so far and not a single allegation has been received. blunders of two individuals in TSPSC have brought the entire system into disrepute.

He assured aggrieved youth that the government would not spare Praveen Kumar and Rajasekhara Reddy or whoever

may be behind them. The Special Investigation Team (SIT) is conducting an impartial probe and stringent action would be taken against those found involved, he said.

The Minister alleged that Rajasekhara Reddy was an active worker of the BJP and had been appealing to people to support the BJP. He displayed photographs of the contract employee of TSPSC with certain BJP leaders.

"If such a person is caught in the case, it raises many doubts. The police will investigate if there is a conspiracy behind this. They will find out if there is a criminal motive to defame the government and provoke youth. Who is behind this, be it from the BJP, Congress or BRS, there is no question of sparing them," he said.

## Jagan is youth icon: Roja

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is a Youth Icon and CM Jagan's fame became universal with Global Investors Summit -2023 in Visakhapatnam said Minister for Sports, Youth Affairs, and Tourism RK Roja. The Minister stated that industrialists have faith in the state government and CM Jagan and industrialists and investors themselves said J stands for Jagan and further Jagan for Josh which shows trust in the CM.

A discussion was held at the Visakhapatnam Global Investors Summit on the occasion of the fifth day of the budget session of the Assembly. In this context, ministers and MLAs made key comments at



the summit.

Minister Roja said that with the success of Global Investors Summit -2023 Vizag, six lakh people will get job opportunities through industries that show the development path of AP State. She claimed that CM Jagan has once again proved that he is a trendsetter with GIS. She said that 129 MoUs were signed for tourism.

### MLC ELECTION RESULTS

## Danger bells for BRS, YSRCP

YSR Congress is aiming to win 175 Assembly seats with the slogan 'why not 175'.

But the MLC election result indicates that it is not easy for both the ruling parties to achieve their targets. Both the BRS and the YSR Congress depend on weaker sections for retaining power. There is some dissatisfaction among the educated and the upper class against the ruling parties of Telangana and AP. In the MLC elections, these sections expressed their bitterness.

In Andhra Pradesh, the YSR Congress is surprised by the results in graduates' constituencies.

Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy is projecting Visakhapatnam

as the administrative capital as per the three capitals formula. But the TDP and other parties are opposing this.

The YSR Congress hopes that its decision on Visakhapatnam will give it an advantage in north coastal districts. But against the expectations of the YSR Congress in the north coastal graduates' MLC constituency the TDP won the seat.

In the same way the Rayalaseema region from where Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy hails supported the YSR Congress. But here also the TDP won one MLC seat from the graduates' constituency.

Voters in these MLC elections belong only to some specific groups.

But if the same situation continues it may spread to other groups also.

Both the BRS and the YSR Congress hope that their welfare schemes for the poor will bring them victory in Assembly elections. But the results of the MLC elections indicate that the ruling parties in both the Telugu states must take corrective measures before the Assembly elections to get the support of the masses.

The BRS and the YSR Congress swept MLC elections in the MLAs' quota and local bodies' quota elections respectively. But the voters in these elections belong to the ruling parties and have nothing to do with the general public.

In the graduates' and teachers' MLCs constituencies all voters do not belong to ruling parties and there they faced defeat.

## ED files caveat on Kavitha's petition in SC

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed a caveat in the Supreme Court regarding the Delhi liquor scam.

In the caveat, the ED said that no unilateral orders should be given in the case filed by MLC Kavitha. The ED asked the court to take a decision only after hearing their arguments. The ED requested the Supreme Court not to issue any orders without hearing their arguments.

A hearing on Kavitha's petition will be held in the Supreme Court on March 24. Along with hearing the arguments of the ED, the court will also hear the arguments of Kavitha's lawyer.

With the caveat petition filed, the Supreme Court will now hear the arguments of both Kavitha and the ED.

Kavitha filed a petition in the Supreme Court challenging the ED summoning her.

**SNCN ACHARYULU**  
■ HYDERABAD

The MLC election results for the graduates' and teachers' constituencies are ringing danger bells for the ruling parties of both Telugu states.

In Telangana, the BJP which is aiming for power in the next Assembly elections has given a shock to the ruling BRS by winning the MLC seat from the teachers' constituency.

In Andhra Pradesh, the main opposition TDP, which has a lot of hopes about reviving its past glory in the Assembly elections has surprised the ruling YSR Congress by winning two MLC seats from graduates' constituencies. These results indicated dissatisfaction among some sections.

In Telangana, the BRS is hoping to win 100 seats out of the 119. At the same time in Andhra Pradesh the

## Bharat Gaurav train from Telugu states hits track

Continued from page 3

The tour involves visiting historical places in Puri, Konark, Gaya, Varanasi, Ayodhya, and Prayagraj over a period of 8 nights and 9 days.

Arun Kumar Jain said the train offers a unique opportunity for pilgrims to visit these culturally prominent places without the hassle of planning individual itinerary items.

He also said Bharat Gaurav trains will give a major fillip to tourism in the country, while also fulfilling the desire of the tourists in the most convenient manner.

Rajni Hasija, CMD, IRCTC stated that the whole tour itinerary has been planned to keep in mind the significance of the places along with tourists' interest, the release added.

## CJI defends system...

Continued from page 3

The CJI also responded to Law Minister Kiren Rijju voicing displeasure over the Supreme Court Collegium revealing the government's reasons for not approving the names recommended by it for appointment as judges of constitutional courts.

"What is wrong about having a difference in perception? But, I have to deal with such differences with a sense of robust constitutional statesmanship. I do

not want to join issues with the law minister, we are bound to have differences of perceptions," the CJI said.

Rijju has been quite vocal against the Collegium system and once even called it 'alien to our Constitution'.

Justice Chandrachud said there is absolutely no pressure from the government on how to decide cases.

"In my 23 years of being a judge, no one has told me how to decide a case. There is

absolutely no pressure from the government. The Election Commission judgment is proof that there is no pressure on the judiciary," CJI said.

The Supreme Court had recently ruled the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and election commissioners will be done by the President on the advice of a committee comprising the Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India.

## Is Jana Sena's 'saffron' honeymoon over?

Continued from page 3

"Pawan Kalyan has understood that the BJP high command is not showing interest in strengthening the BJP in AP. That is why, Pawan Kalyan, addressing the public meeting, lashed out at the BJP saying it neither does anything nor allows him to do anything beneficial for the alliance," a JSP senior leader said.

Pawan's comments reflect how much he was vexed with the BJP leaders' non-cooperation. "What is the use of criticising the Opposition TDP instead of opposing the antipeople's policies of the rul-

ing party? If the BJP leader criticises the opposition TDP that will send a wrong signal to the people. Pawan Kalyan has explained this to the BJP high command but he did not get a due response," a JSP senior leader said.

The BJP is vehemently opposing the wrong policies of the BRS government in the Telangana State, at the same time, the BJP leaders have adopted a soft stand on the YSRCP leaders. Keeping in view the AP BJP leaders' non-cooperation and their soft stand on the YSRCP regime, Pawan Kalyan wants to sever ties with the BJP in AP, a JSP leader felt.

**TODAY**

**ALMANAC**

**Month & Paksham:** Phalguna & Krishna Paksha

**Tithi:** Dwadashi: Mar 18 11:14 AM to Mar 19 08:07 AM

**Trayodash:** Mar 19 08:07 AM to Mar 20 04:55 AM

**Nakshatram:** Dhanishta: Mar 19 12:29 AM to Mar 19 10:04 PM

**Trayodash:** Mar 19 08:07 AM to Mar 20 04:55 AM

**Rahukalam:** 4:53 PM to 6:23 PM

**Yamagandam:** 12:24 PM to 1:53 PM

**Varjyam:** 04:32 AM to 05:59 AM

**Gulika:** 3:23 PM to 4:53 PM

**Amritakalam:** 12:43 PM to 02:09 PM

**VIJAYAWADA WEATHER**

**Forecast:** Scattered Thunderstorms

**Temp:** 24°C

**Humidity:** 93%

**Sunrise:** 6:25 AM

**Sunset:** 6:23 PM

**Updated:** MARCH 18, 2023 5:00 PM

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH**  
**WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

**o-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE** **Date: 15.03.2023**

**No. 37/2022-23**

**Name of work:** Reconstruction of Khazaa, East Kokkileru & Muskepaalem out fall sluices and Maduguthuru Irrigation Sluice in Elamanchili & Narsapuram Mandals of West Godavari Dist. **Value of work: Rs. 880.00 Lakhs.** **Tender document available Date & time: 20.03.2023 @ 11.00 AM to 03.04.2023 @ 11.00 AM.** **For other details: https://tender.approcurement.gov.in, Ph: 0883-2417419.**

**Sd/- Superintending Engineer**  
**Irrigation Circle, Dowaiswaram.**

**R.O.No: 8996/CLAD/WH/1023-22, Dt: 18.03.2023**

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## Superstar Rajinikanth meets Uddhav Thackeray

P:6



## PRECAUTION

H3N2  
IS THE SKY  
P:7

## Emigrants' road to US PAVED with thorns

P:9



## QUOTE OF THE DAY

**TSPSC has done recruitment transparently and did highest recruitments in the country. In the past, there have been many accusations against APPSC but TSPSC has done recruitment for more than 30000 jobs so far and not a single allegation has been received. blunders of two individuals in TSPSC have brought the entire system into disrepute**

**- Minister  
K T Rama Rao**

## DON'T MISS...

### TDP celebrates win in 3 Grad MLC seats

TDP workers celebrated the party's victory in three Graduate MLC constituencies on Saturday. As part of these celebrations, TDP leaders Buddha Venkananna and Nagul Meera participated in the 'Palabhishekam' to the portrait of party chief N Chandrababu Naidu. Speaking on the occasion, former MLC Buddha Venkanna said that TDP chief and former chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu will become the chief minister after the next Assembly elections.

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### Save pregnant women, girls

District Collector V Prasanna Venkatesh has directed the officials concerned to take steps to ensure that pregnant women and girls should not suffer from anemia and asked the officials to create awareness on the issue. The Collector held a meeting with the officials and reviewed various issues including achieving sustainable development, health, and education. Speaking on the occasion, he asked the officials to lay focus on anemia in pregnant women, young girls, and girls below five years of age.

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### Tik Tok fear and risks

TikTok is once again fending off claims that its Chinese parent company, ByteDance, would share user data from its popular video-sharing app with the Chinese government, or push propaganda and misinformation on its behalf. China's Foreign Ministry on Wednesday accused the United States itself of spreading disinformation about TikTok's potential security risks following a report in the Wall Street Journal that the Committee on Foreign Investment in the US

-AGENDA

### How a warrant for Putin puts new

Chinese President Xi Jinping's plans to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow next week highlighted China's aspirations for a greater role on the world stage. But they also revealed the perils of global diplomacy: Hours after Friday's announcement of the trip, an international arrest warrant was issued for Putin on war crimes charges, taking at least some wind out of the sails of China's big reveal. The flurry of developments which followed China's brokering of an agreement between Saudi Arabia and Iran to resume diplomatic relations and its release of what it calls a 'peace plan' for Ukraine came as the Biden administration watches warily Beijing's moves to assert itself

-KELEID SCOPE

# Is Jana Sena's 'saffron' honeymoon over?

MARTHI SUBRAHMANYAM  
■ VIJAYAWADA

Jana Sena chief K Pawan Kalyan's veiled indication that his party will align with the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) in the future put the BJP leaders in a dilemma.

Pawan Kalyan, addressing the Jana Sena Party's 10th Formation Day meeting in Machilipatnam on March 14, announced his party would do exactly what the people wish. A JSP leader dubbed the announcement an indication of ending ties with the BJP and aligning with the TDP.

## BJP's soft corner for YSRCP prodding Pawan to part ways with it

The JSP leaders feel that the AP BJP leaders' proximity with the ruling party forced Pawan Kalyan to decide to part ways with the saffron party. JSP leaders said that Pawan Kalyan has been waiting for a long time to get a route map from the BJP high command on how to proceed in AP but he has not received that to date. JSP leaders recalled that Pawan Kalyan said that had the BJP leaders cooperated with him, the JSP-BJP alliance

would have emerged as a strong force in AP. But the BJP leaders dashed his hopes by maintaining proximity with the YSRCP. The BJP high command assured Pawan Kalyan of opposing the shifting capital city from Amaravati to Visakhapatnam but the AP BJP leaders did not show that much interest. Pawan Kalyan is also angry at four BJP leaders for their closeness to the YSRCP. Moreover, the BJP high command agreed

to the proposal of Pawan Kalyan to take out a long march opposing the shifting of the capital city to Visakhapatnam but later it changed its mind. The BJP high command did not respond on the issue and that irked Pawan Kalyan and forced him to take a firm decision on whether to continue the alliance with the BJP, a senior JSP leader said.

2



# TDP wins 3 Grad MLC seats



PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Starved of electoral success in the past four years, the opposition Telugu Desam Party (TDP) sprang a surprise winning three MLC Graduate constituency seats in the State. The TDP has won East Andhra, North Andhra, and West Rayalaseema graduate constituency seats. The election victory has come as a morale booster to the disheartened TDP cadre.

The officials took 48 hours to announce the results of the West Rayalaseema Graduate constituency results. The lead kept on chang-

ing after every round since the beginning of the counting. Finally, the TDP emerged victorious.

The TDP has tasted rout in the ZPTC, MPTC and municipal elections which were held previously. The buoyant TDP cadre were seen celebrating the election victory. Crackers were fired at the TDP office in Mangalagiri and sweets were distributed. The MLC election victory has infused a lot of enthusiasm and confidence among the TDP cadre, TDP leaders told the media.

2

## MP Magunta skips ED summons

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

YSRCP MP Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy who was asked to appear before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday skipped citing family members' ill health, according to reports. The Ongole MP was to appear before the probe agency in Delhi at 11 am on Saturday. Now the agency will issue a summons to the MP with a fresh date.

MP Srinivasulu Reddy was asked to appear before the agency in Delhi on Saturday as the agency wants to confront him with another accused Arun Ramchandra Pillai, who represented the alleged South Group, and other facts in the case. Earlier on February 11, the MP's son Raghav Magunta was arrested by the ED.

The ED has alleged that Raghav Magunta through his father Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy was instrumental in forming a partnership with other businessmen and politicians, which is now known as an alleged "South Group", to form partnership for entering Delhi's liquor business. As per the statements by various persons, the ED claims that Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy called a meeting with his associates and expressed his interest in the liquor trade in Delhi and Raghav will handle all operations.

## Govt diverting borrowed funds, says Yanamala

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

The Andhra Pradesh government diverting borrowed funds raises questions as to how the state will develop in such a scenario, a Telugu Desam Party (TDP) politburo member said.

TDP leader Yanamala Ramakrishnudu noted that the state stood only 19th in the country in terms of direct benefit transfers (DBT), even as the lion's share of the 2023-24 budget, more than Rs 54,000 crore, was declared to have been dedicated for welfare.

Ramakrishnudu, a former finance minister, observed there were no great budgetary proposals and said there was no comparison between the allocations and actual expenditure on the ground.

"Ultimately, the people have to bear this debt burden and the interest to be paid. The budgetary proposals clearly indicate that the Jagan government did not give any preference for development and welfare even in its last year of tenure," Ramakrishnudu said in a statement late on Friday.

The opposition leader alleged that the Jagan Mohan Reddy government in Andhra did not give priority to welfare and development in the last fiscal as well and predicted that the

## YSRCP cries foul, seeks recounting

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The YSRCP has urged the Election Commission of India (CEI) and Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) to order the recounting of all votes polled in the entire Graduate constituency of Kadapa-Anantapur-Kurnool.

YSRCP State general secretary and MLC Lella Appireddy, in a letter to the Chief Election Commissioner and the Election Commission of India, said that keeping in view certain incidents, the Returning Officer, Kadapa-Anantapur-Kurnool Graduates Constituency & District Collector, Anantapuramu, may be issued instructions to take up recounting of all the votes polled in the entire Graduates constituency in the interest of justice and to bring to light the irregularities by the TDP candidate.

Appireddy said that the YSRCP West Rayalaseema candidate

Vennapusa Ravindra Reddy raised an objection with the Returning Officer, Kadapa-Anantapur-Kurnool Graduates Constituency & District Collector, Anantapuramu on March 17, 2023 when the counting was in the process that some errors crept into the counting process and his agents were roughed up. The candidate requested the recounting of the votes from 3rd round to rectify the defects.

The Collector and the District Election Authority indicated that in the 19th table at the end of the 9th round, it was noticed that six votes have been transferred to the TDP candidate by oversight, and the same were re-transferred to the YSRCP candidate. "This clearly indicates that such irregularities have taken place during several rounds of counting which necessitates recounting for all the rounds in the interest of justice and fair declaration of the correct results," Appireddy said in the letter.

## Graduate MLC poll outcome a referendum on YSRC rule: TDP MP

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

TDP MP K Ram Mohan Naidu said that the massive defeat of YSRCP in the Graduate MLC elections is a clear indication that the people reject the divisive and violent rule of Jagan Mohan Reddy. These elections are a referendum on 4 years of YSRCP rule as these graduate MLC constituencies together represent 108 Assembly Constituencies.

Despite YSRCP's attempts to

manipulate the voter list, create fake voters, and use violence, TDP scored astonishing victories in Uttarandhra & Rayalaseema which is considered the bastion of CM Jagan Mohan Reddy. The message from the people is clear, that they want Chandrababu Naidu back as CM and to bring the State out of the crisis.

The MLC election results also show that Jagan should not have messed with the government

employees or betrayed the youth. Jagan betrayed the youth on his promise of a job calendar & Mega DSC after becoming CM and he harassed government employees, especially teachers who were asking for a timely salary, DA arrears, PRC, and revoking of CPS.

This victory has energized TDP karyakartas to work with an even stronger resolve and sweep all 175 seats in the 2024 elections and rebuild AP for a better future!

2

## CJI defends system of appointing judges

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Not every system is perfect but this is the best system available, Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud said on Saturday while defending the Collegium system of judges appointing judges, a major bone of contention between the government and judiciary.

Speaking at the India Today Conclave, 2023, the CJI said judi-

ciary has to be protected from outside influences if it has to be independent. "Not every system is perfect but this is the best system we have developed. But the object was to protect the independence of the judiciary, which is a cardinal value. We have to insulate the judiciary from outside influences if the judiciary has to be independent," Chandrachud said.

2

## House passes two Bills

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly passed the AP Value Added Tax (amendment) Bill 2023 and AP Para Veterinary and Allied Council Bill 2023 and three other Bills were tabled on Saturday.

The State Assembly passed by voice vote, the Andhra Pradesh Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill 2023, moved by Finance Minister Buggana Rajendranath and the Andhra Pradesh Para Veterinary and Allied Council Bill 2023, tabled by the Minister for Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development & Fisheries.

Three Bills were also introduced in the House.

The Andhra Pradesh Dotted Lands (Update in Re Settlement Register (Amendment) Bill 2023, tabled by Minister for Revenue, Registration and Stamps, Dharmana Prasada Rao, was introduced in the House.

The Andhra Pradesh Right in Land and Pattadar Pass Books (Amendment) Bill 2023 and the Andhra Pradesh (Andhra Area) Inams, (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) (Amendment) Bills 2023, were also tabled by the Revenue Minister.

## OBTUSE ANGLE



## Bharat Gaurav train from Telugu states hits track

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The first Bharat Gaurav tourist train originating from two Telugu states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh commenced its journey from Secunderabad railway station here on Saturday.

Arun Kumar Jain, General Manager, South Central Railways (SCR), handed over the welcome kits to the passengers in the presence of Rajni Hasija, Chairman and Managing Director, IRCTC, and other senior railway officials, an SCR release said.

A festive atmosphere prevailed at the station with the passengers being accorded a traditional welcome and Kuchipudi dancers evoking the



cultural heritage of the two Telugu states. Called "Punya Kshetra Yatra: Puri Kasi Ayodhya", the train is being operated by Indian

Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).

IRCTC provides end-to-end services for pilgrims travelling by train.

It includes all travel facilities (including both rails as well as road transport), accommodation facilities, catering arrangements (Morning Tea, Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner both On-Board and Off-Board), services of professional and friendly tour escorts, Security on the train (including CCTV Cameras installed in all Coaches), Public announcement facility in all coaches, Travel insurance and presence of IRCTC Tour Managers throughout the travel for assistance.

2



# Freak rain, strong winds deal a severe blow to farmers

DASARI SRINIVASA RAO  
■ VIJAYAWADA

Even as the mango growers are affected by low yields this year, strong winds and unseasonal rain in the wee hours of Saturday have made matters worse for them with extensive damage to the existing crop in the erstwhile Krishna district.

Mango is the major horticultural crop in Krishna district, with the area under the crop being 62,270 hectares. Most of the orchards are old and unproductive. Due to the lack of yield, mango harvesting could not be sped up in Krishna district and farmers are ready to harvest mangoes by the end of March.

Meanwhile, the untimely rain with strong winds caused them to fall to the ground. Mango farmers are worried about a huge loss for them and they are worrying about their investments in mango gardens. In some areas of the district, branches of the mango trees were broken and fell and



scores of mangoes fell on the ground.

According to mango farmers, untimely rains accompanied by strong winds, have occurred across the district. A large number of mangoes fell to the ground. Heavy rainfall has been recorded in the combined Krishna district that caused loss for the mango farmers. Unexpected strong

winds caused the fruit to fall at many orchards in Agiripalli, Nuzvid, Mylavaram, Reddigudem, Tiruvuru, Chatrai, Kotturu Tadepalli, Nunna and other areas.

Farmers are ready to harvest mangoes and transport them to the Mango Market at Nunna. However, mango traders have not opened their shops at the Mango Market as

they are gearing up for special pujas on the occasion of the upcoming Ugadi. On that day, traders performed 'Dastram' and started their mango business activities.

"After harvesting the mangoes, farmers are selling their yield to traders at Rs 50,000 per ton.

However, the prices may dip," said a farmer Madu Sivaramaiah. "Buyers are coming from Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, New Delhi, and other states. The mango harvesting will continue up to the end of June," he said.

He said that the mango yield is low this year. If the prices do not increase, farmers may lose heavily, he said.

Another mango farmer D Venkateswara Rao from Nuzvid said that despite the farmers taking quality mangoes to the market, the prices have fallen due to the untimely rain. The situation will continue for more than one week, he said.

## Contractors told to provide ESI, PF for sanitation workers

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (AP CRDA) Commissioner Vivek Yadav has directed the sanitation contractors to implement ESI and PF facilities for the sanitation workers who are working at various villages under Mangalagiri and Tadikonda Assembly constituencies besides Andhra Pradesh Secretariat and High Court.

AP CRDA Commissioner Vivek Yadav issued orders in this regard here on Saturday. He made it clear that stringent action would be taken against those who do not implement health security, ESI, PF, and welfare activities for sanitary workers.

## Implement PMs 15-Point programme, demands Arshad

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

For the welfare of the minority communities across Andhra Pradesh, the PM's 15 Points programme formulated by the Central Minority Welfare Department should be implemented, said M Arshad Ayub Khan, Advisor to National Minorities Commission.

Ayub Khan said that the Committees in the newly formed districts of Andhra Pradesh state and due to non-appointment, many welfare schemes implemented by the central govern-



ment for the minority communities are more likely to be lost.

He said that there is a need for the officials of the Minority Welfare Department of the

state to pay attention to this. He said that the Secretary of the State Minority Welfare Department has already written letters to the Collectors of all the districts to immediately set up committees in the districts. He mentioned that the National Commission for Minorities will hold a review meeting with the officials of the Minority Welfare Department of all the states on this programme soon. He concluded by saying that the priorities of the National

Commission for Minorities are education for all, employment, the welfare of minority communities, and their security.

## Committee to inspect illegal mining in reserve forest area

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

A Joint Action Committee (JAC) comprising the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB) official, and NTR Vijayawada District Collector will visit the illegal mining activities going on in the Kotturu Reserve Forest of Vijayawada Rural mandal on March 20.

On the directions of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), the committee will be inspecting illegal mining activities in Kotturu Tadepalli, Jakkampudi, and P Nainavaram village limits.

Illegal mining activities are taking place at Kotturu Tadepalli, Jakkampudi, and P Nainavaram in the Kotturu Reserve Forest area. With this, a former soldier Pili

Surendrababu has filed.

The trial court National Green Tribunal has constituted a Joint Action Committee to inspect the Kotturu Reserve Forest and illegal mining activity in Kotturu Tadepalli, Jakkampudi and P Nainavaram areas after conducting a hearing. Also, the NGT directed the JAC to visit the illegal mining activities and submit a report.

The Joint Action Committee under the supervision of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and Chennai Region Office will be visiting the Kotturu Reserve Forest on March 20 at 2.30 pm. Also, the NGT has directed the committee to submit a report within two months regarding the factual position and take appropriate remedial action.

## DRM conducts Surprise ticket checking inspection in Vizag



PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Divisional Railway Manager, Waltair Anup Satpathy conducted a surprise ticket inspection on train No 18464 Prashanti Express from Visakhapatnam to Chipurupalle. He held intensive checks in all the classes of coaches on the train and travelled up to Chipurupalle. DRM Anup Satpathy interacted with the passengers and listened to their grievances and needs. He advised the passengers to be more cautious while travelling in trains, to keep their premises clean, travel with proper journey tickets, not to pull the chain in mid-sections without any reason, never board/ alight from speeding trains, etc. He distributed leaflets containing tips on safe travel, Swachhta, and assistance available with Railways. More than 100 cases of passengers with general tickets travelling in the upper

classes were detected and an amount of Rs 30,000/- was collected as a penalty.

During his inspection, DRM focused on creating awareness of the safe travel of passengers, adhering to the precautions while boarding & alighting at the station, and advocated not to board or alight from running trains. He was accompanied by Divisional Commercial Manager Avinash Sharma, Ticket Checking officials, and other officers.

After reaching the Chipurupalle station DRM inspected various developmental activities being carried out at the station. He inspected the site where the newly sanctioned Road Over Bridge works are being carried out. Chief Project Manager (Gati Shakti) TVM Rao, and Deputy Chief Engineer (Gati Shakti) Sairaj explained about the various activities in progress.

## VMC chief inspects airport corridor work

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) Commissioner Swapnil Dinakar Pundkar inspected the laying of the model flooring tiles as part of the ongoing Gannavaram Airport corridor work on the route of the National Highway at Ramavarappadu and Prasadampadu near Vijayawada on Saturday.

He enquired about the work and problems during the laying of tiles for the airport corridor. Also, he has given suggestions to contractors and officers regarding the quality of work.

Commissioner Swapnil Dinakar Pundkar said that quality should be maintained in the airport corridor work. He said that contractors should



clean the tiles and lay them for attraction. Later, he inspected the tile work at various places and ramps before the shops on the National Highway.

Superintending Engineer Rama Mohana Rao, Assistant Engineers Pulla Rao, Purushottam, and others attend.

## Navy cleans up coast

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

As part of the 'Puneet Sagar Abhiyaan', the Eastern Naval Command (ENC) has dedicated one day every month to undertake coastal cleanup activity including rivers/lakes. The Coastal Cleanup activities for March 2023 were undertaken at Yarada beach, RK Beach, Bheemli Beach, and Meghadripeta River Channel Visakhapatnam on March 18.

The aim of these cleanup activities is to create awareness

amongst the local communities regarding the hazards of plastic usage and its impact on the Oceans and Rivers. More than 550 Service and DSC personnel of the Eastern Naval Command, and local residents participated in the cleanup drives at the coastal areas spread across the city.

Approx. 450 Kg of non-biodegradable waste including plastic bottles, wrappers, thermacol, glass pieces, etc, were collected from these sites towards restoring the pristine conditions.



## TTD JEO inspects steps for Vontimitta Brahmotsavams



PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

In connection with the annual Brahmotsavams at V o n t i m i t t a Kodandaramalayam scheduled to commence from March 30 onwards, JEO Veerabrahmam inspected the ongoing works with other officials on Saturday.

As part of it, he also inspected the Kalyana Vedika where the state festival of Sri Sita Rama Kalyanam is set to take place on April 5.

Speaking to the media the JEO said, the works are going at a fast pace in Vontimitta as

per our plan. TTD EO Sri AV Dharma Reddy will hold a review meeting over arrangements with the TTD and district officials on Sunday.

"Prior to it today we inspected the arrangements to be made for Annaprasadam, buttermilk, water distribution, security arrangements at CM camping place, temple, kalyana vedika, engineering works, etc," he added.

CE Sri Nageswara Rao, SVBC CEO Shanmukh Kumar, Catering Special Officer Shastry and other officials were present.

## 4,40,756 houses completed: Min

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Housing Minister Jogi Ramesh stated that 21,25,778 houses were sanctioned under the Navaratnalu-Pedal Andariki Illu programme by the state government. The minister was replying to the question asked by the members of the house namely A Adeep Raj, Jakkampudi Raja, Golla Babu Rao, P Srinivas Rao, A Siva Kumar, and Ch Ramachandra Reddy. and said that construction of 4,40,756 houses was completed under the programme and spend Rs 42,973 crores so

far.

The minister said that houses are sanctioned as per the guidelines of PMAY-Urban BLC communicated by MoHUA, Government of India. He said that the automatic exclusion of members was done under 13 various parameters. The eligible households shall have job cards and Aadhaar card numbers and the priority was given to SC, ST, and others for each Gram Panchayat on the basis of deprivation generated by the system. A minimum 60 per cent of the allocated houses will be sanc-

tioned from out of the allocation to SC/STs and 40 per cent to the non-SC/STs and 5 per cent to the persons with disabilities to the extent possible.

The minister stated that out of 21, 25,778 houses sanctioned 16,84,502 houses are under the PMAY-YSR Urban BLC scheme, 1,79,060 houses are under PMAY-YSR Gramin scheme and 2,62,216 houses are under PMAY-Urban AHP (APTIDCO) scheme across the state.

A total amount of Rs 42,973 crore was spent by the government from June 2019 till date for the programme that includes Rs 12,955.13 crore beneficiary payment, Rs 11,550.45 crore for land acquisition, Rs 1188 crore for land leveling, Rs 2761.09 crore for infrastructure and Rs 13518.33 crore for TIDCO houses.

are under the PMAY-YSR Urban BLC scheme, 36 houses are under the PMAY-YSR Gramin scheme and 1,29,480 houses are under PMAY-Urban AHP (APTIDCO) scheme across the state.

A total amount of Rs 42,973 crore was spent by the government from June 2019 till date for the programme that includes Rs 12,955.13 crore beneficiary payment, Rs 11,550.45 crore for land acquisition, Rs 1188 crore for land leveling, Rs 2761.09 crore for infrastructure and Rs 13518.33 crore for TIDCO houses.

## Couple from AP dies in Karnataka road mishap

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

In a tragic incident, a couple died while returning home after sending off their daughter, in the wee hours on Saturday in the Kolar district of Karnataka. The deceased have been identified as Shafi Ulla (50) and Shama (50), residents of Madanapalle in Andhra Pradesh. The incident took place near Lakshmiapura crossing near Srinivasapura in the Kolar district.

According to police, driver Shafi lost control of the vehicle which swerved off the road on the Bengaluru-

**Driver Shafi lost control of the vehicle which swerved off the road on the Bengaluru-Madanapalle National Highway. The vehicle fell into a big pit and hit a boulder.**

Madanapalle National Highway. The vehicle fell into a big pit and hit a boulder.

## CM to release Rs 698.68 crore today

PNS/VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will release Rs 698.68 crore by pressing the button under the Jagananna Vidya Deevena fee reimbursement scheme at a programme to be conducted at Tiruvuru Agricultural Market Yard on Sunday. The latest installment is for the period October - December 2022.

The CM will credit Rs.698.68 crore directly to the mothers' bank accounts through Direct Beneficiary Transfer (DBT) scheme. Under the scheme, 9.86 lakh students will benefit.

More than Rs 13,311 crore

was helped financially including the dues of Rs 1,778 crore since 2017 under Jagananna Vidya Deevena and Jagananna Vidya Vasathi schemes so far.

According to government officials, about 6.62% of students who passed intermediate do not go to higher studies due to their family's financial status. However, this has drastically come down from 20.37% in 2018-19 to 6.62% in 2022-23. In 2018-19 around 81,813 students have not gone to higher courses after passing intermediate and it reached 22,387 in 2022-23.

The officials concerned said that because of the Jagananna Vidya Deevena and Vidya



Vasathi schemes, students going for higher studies is increasing every year.

Chief Minister YS Jagan will start at 10.10 am from Undavalli for Tiruvuru by helicopter and reach the helipad

arranged at Tiruvuru at 10.35 am. He will reach the meeting venue at 11 am and participate in the public meeting up to 12.30 pm. After releasing the Vidya Deevena funds, the CM will be starting from Tiruvuru

at 1 pm, and reach his camp office at Tadepalli by 1.25 pm.

**SECURITY BEEFED UP**

On Saturday, NTR Vijayawada Police Commissioner Kanti Rana Tata inspected the security arrangements of Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's releasing of funds for the Vidya Deevena scheme to be held at the Tiruvuru Agricultural Market Yard in the district on March 19 (Sunday).

He visited the market yard at Tiruvuru and beefed up the bandobast arrangements along with the Chief Minister's Programmes Coordinator and MLC Talasila Raghuram.

## TDP celebrates party's win in 3 Graduate MLC seats

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

TDP workers celebrated the party's victory in three Graduate MLC constituencies on Saturday. As part of these celebrations, TDP leaders Buddha Venkananna and Nagul Meera participated in the 'Palabhishekam' to the portrait of party chief N Chandrababu Naidu.

Speaking on the occasion, former MLC Buddha Venkananna said that TDP chief and former chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu will become the chief minister after the next Assembly elections. In the Graduate MLC elections, educated people taught a big



lesson to the ruling YSRCP, he said.

He further predicted that the

ruling YSRCP would be defeated in the 2024 Assembly elections.



# Save pregnant women and girls from anaemia: DC

PNS ■ ELURU

District Collector V Prasanna Venkatesh has directed the officials concerned to take steps to ensure that pregnant women and girls should not suffer from anaemia and asked the officials to create awareness on the issue.

The Collector held a meeting with the officials and reviewed various issues including achieving sustainable development, health, and education. Speaking on the occasion, he asked the officials to lay focus on anaemia in pregnant women, young girls, and girls below five years of age. He asked them to organise awareness seminars to educate women and girls on overcoming the anaemia problem. He directed the Anganvadi works to provide complete nutritious food to pregnant



women through, he said.

If the cases of anaemia are not reduced, the mortality rate of the unborn child and mother would increase, he said, and asked the officials to take efficient steps to overcome the anaemia issue in the district. Children's weight and height should be checked once a month and registered in the growth register, the Collector told the officials and directed

them to check the register when they go for inspection.

The Collector ordered that every government school should have a dropout register and the details of the students who have dropped out should be included in it. The MEOs, MPDO, and the school headmaster should examine the reasons for the dropouts, and the parents of the dropout students should be asked to send

back their children to the school.

A report in this regard should be submitted by Monday, the Collector asked the officials. Collector Prasanna Venkatesh instructed the officials to take steps to ensure that toilets in the girls' high school should be maintained well.

The Collector directed the officials to take steps to mitigate the drinking water scarcity. He warned of action against the officials who could not meet the targets of constructing houses in Jagannala layouts and ordered to provide of electricity and water facilities to all the layouts.

The Collector appreciated the officials for purchasing paddy from the farmers. He asked them to take steps to purchase paddy from the farmers during the rabi season.

## 23 kg ganja seized, 8 arrested



PNS ■ ELURU

The police seized 23 KGs of ganja in Narasapuram and Mogaltur in the WG district and arrested 8 drug peddlers.

SP U Ravi Prakash told the media in Bhimavaram on Saturday that on a tip-off the police teams conducted raids and seized 21 KGs of ganja in Narasapuram and 2 KGs of ganja at Mogaltur. The police arrested 8 drug peddlers in this connection including two minors. The SP said that the PD Act would be invoked against old offender Savarapu Bujji.

# Millet food nutritious: Collector

PNS ■ ONGOLE

Prakasam District Collector AS Dinesh Kumar has underlined the need for making millets part of daily food.

A programme 'Eat Right India-Millet Mela' was organised here on Saturday on the occasion of the UN announcing 2023 as the international millet year.

Speaking on the occasion, the Collector called upon all to give importance to nutritious food in the daily meals and advocated making millets part of the daily meals. He said that millets are available to all and they are nutritious. The millets work like medicine to the body, he said, adding that before falling ill and taking medicines, better take millets in the daily meals.

The Collector said that millets were the main food of the previous generations, adding that due to the increase in the production of rice and wheat in the country with the green revolution, the number of people consuming small millets has decreased.



But without the need for any chemicals and pesticides, the nutrients are better in the millets which are cultivated on a seasonal rains basis. Keeping this in view, everyone should take millet snacks.

The Collector expressed happiness that this type of fair was organised for the first time in the state in the Prakasam district to create awareness among the people on the use of millet in daily meals. Collector Dinesh Kumar visited the stalls set up

on the premises and tasted the snacks made of millets.

Earlier, an awareness rally was taken out from the Collectorate to Gandhi Park. Joint Collector M Abhishek Kishore flagged off the rally. Prakriti Vanam Prasad explained the benefits of consuming millets. Assistant Food Controller Prabhakara Rao, Central Government Food Safety Officer Syed Abdul, Ongole Municipal Assistant Commissioner Veeranjanyu and others participated in this programme.

## 4 notorious robbers arrested



PNS ■ ELURU

The police arrested four notorious robbers and recovered gold jewellery worth Rs 30 lakh, a car, and a motorcycle from them at SSL Aqua ice factory at Saripalli village in Ganapavaram mandal.

SP Rahul Dev Sharma told the media here on Saturday that the police arrested notorious offenders Kommina Srinu, Mattaparthi Rajkumar, Kakaraparti Sai Ravi Kanth, Kondapalli, and Arun Kumar.

They were involved in various crimes including robberies and thefts. They were also sent to prison in some cases and were freed on bail. One of the accused Rajkumar asked other three criminals to

commit robbery in the house of Rajkumar's paternal aunt Janakamma who lives at Nidamaru village in Unguturu mandal.

Janakamma's daughter works in a Gulf country and she brings a huge quantity of gold whenever she comes. On March 14th, Srinu, Sai, and Arun Kumar went to Janakamma's house. They inquired about her daughter and son-in-law. Later they barged into her house and tied her hands and legs and damped with gold jewellery. The police recovered 650 grams of gold jewellery worth Rs 30 lakh, a Maruti Alto car, Bajaj Pulsar motorcycle and four mobile phones from them.

## First year Inter student attempts suicide in Bhainsa



PNS ■ NIRMAL

An Intermediate first year student, identified as Srikanth, attempted to commit suicide in Bhainsa town in the Nirmal district on Saturday. His condition is stated to be stable.

According to police, the student attempted to commit suicide by consuming pesticide. He was rushed Bhainsa Area Hospital. The student hailed from Brahmangaon village under Mudhole mandal in the district. Srikanth is pursuing an Intermediate first year vocational course in a junior college in Bhainsa town. He reportedly resorted to the attempt to commit suicide after his parents refused to give him money to attend a marriage function.

# 28 red sanders logs seized, 1 held

PNS ■ NELLORE

The police seized 28 red sanders logs and arrested three persons near the Annapurna rice mill at Kavali.

DSP Muralidhar told the media that on the direction of taskforce SP K Chakradhar, a police team led by RSI Ali conducted a checking of vehicles.

The police spotted three persons moving suspiciously. When the police were approaching them, they tried

to flee but the police apprehended them. The three persons told the police about the 28 red sanders logs which were concealed behind bushes. The police seized red sander logs weighing 816 KGs worth Rs 75 lakh.

The police seized the red sander logs and arrested Galla Udaya Bhaskar, Abbu Bhaskar, and Riaz. The police launched a search for Mani, Sudhakar, and Dasharatha Naidu who were also involved in red sanders smuggling.



## Hyd CP holds meeting with chit organisers

PNS ■ WARANGAL

City Police Commissioner AV Ranganath on Saturday held a meeting with organisers of chit fund companies and asked them to make payments to the subscribers on the scheduled date.

As the police receive a number of complaints from people on omissions and commissions of chit fund companies, the city police chief convened a meeting with chit organisers.

Before the commencement of the meeting, he gathered information about how many chit fund firms are yet to clear their payments to the customers and how many firms paid the amount following lodging a complaint with the police by the subscribers. First, he gathered information about the chit firms that owed huge sums to the subscribers and elicited reasons for the delay from them. He asked Chit Fund firms to furnish a statement of the amount payable to customers and the amount receivable from them to the police authorities.

## MLC election results reflect people's mood: Gottipati

PNS ■ ONGOLE

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) MLC Gottipati Ravikumar has said that the MLC election results were reflecting the mood of the people and asked the YSRCP to withdraw the three capital cities concept.

In a statement here on Saturday, the TDP leader said that the people would revolt if anarchy was created. The MLC elections have come as a slap on the government, he added.

"After seeing the MLC election results, the YSRCP will shiver to go to elections. The YSRCP can not hoodwink the people of the state by the three capitals concept. Development has lacked during the four years of the YSRCP regime," Ravikumar slammed.

The development of the state is possible only with the TDP government. The TDP would provide a bright future to the youths if it came to power, he stated.

"The people of the state were vexed and disenchanted with the YSRCP's misrule.



The people will teach a lesson to the YSRCP in the coming days. The educated and wise people wish that N Chandrababu Naidu would become the Chief Minister of the state again," Gottipati Ravikumar maintained.

Though the YSRCP tried to win the MLC election with bogus voters, the TDP activists fought to prevent the attempts, he claimed. The TDP senior leader called upon the TDP cadre to work hard with the same spirit in the 2014 election and ensure Chandrababu Naidu would become the Chief Minister.

# BRS claims credit for PM Mitra Textile Park

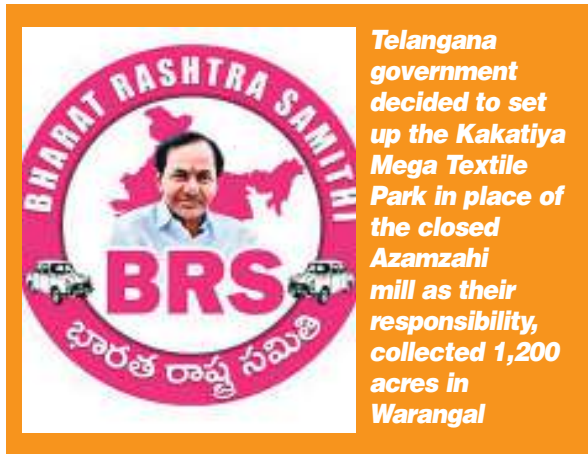
PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BRS said that Minister KT Rama Rao is credited with the achievement of bringing the Mega Textile Park to Telangana.

L. Ramana, a Member of the Legislative Council, said that he is happy to note that the Central Government has approved the demand of the Telangana government and granted funds to the Kakatiya mega textile park which the state government is building.

In a statement on the sanctioning of the Mega Textile Park in Telangana, he said that because the Chief Minister's son, State Industries Minister KTR himself oversees the handloom textile department, the Telangana Textile Apparel (T-TAP) policy has been brought specifically for the textile industry and incentives are being given to aspiring entrepreneurs.

"Kalvakuntla Taraka Rama Rao personally met the Union Ministers of Textile Department and Finance Department from the time of the formation of the state till now and appealed to the



Telangana state for Mega Textile Park several times through letters, but the Central Government did not respond.

Telangana government decided to set up the Kakatiya Mega Textile Park in place of the closed Azamzahi mill as their responsibility, collected 1,200 acres in Warangal district and set up a park and took steps to set up an internationally known textile maker in the state."

Apart from this, he

expressed happiness that many domestic industries are showing interest in setting up industries in Telangana state as part of their business expansion.

He said that due to the welfare schemes implemented in Telangana and the employment opportunities in the textile industry, weavers who migrated earlier are coming back to the state, and there are opportunities for many more to come here.

KTR, who tried many times

to get funds from the Central Government for the mega textile park being set up by the state government, he said that he is happy as the Prime Minister himself has announced that funds for the mega textile park have been finally paid off.

But they demanded immediate cancellation of the 5 per cent GST levied by the central government on handwoven garments. He asked GST to support the development of handloom artisans by sanctioning handloom clusters.

He said that an Indian Institute of Handloom Technology should be granted to Telangana and that the abolished handloom board should be brought back.

"Although the Central Government took steps to stop development, KTR made efforts by setting up mini textile parks at many places in the state and bringing back migrant workers to lead a dignified life through the weaving profession. Those who are in the weaving profession are advised to use the welfare schemes of the state government," Ramana said.

## BJP protests against recruitment scam, demands BRS govt to step down

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Demanding the BRS government to step down for its failure to conduct the TSPSC recruitment tests efficiently, the BJP activists on Saturday consigned an effigy of the government at Subhas Chandra Bose statue in the town.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, District president of BJP Kankanala Sridhar Reddy blamed the BRS government for the loss to the unemployed. He demanded the state government to pay compensation to each and every unemployed person who sustained loss due to the omissions and commissions of the state government. He demanded immediate release of BJP leaders who were taken into custody fighting on behalf of the unemployed and placing Minister KTR under suspension. BJP Kisan Morcha national executive member Goli Madhusudhan Reddy, BJP floor leader in the civic body Bandaru Prasad, BJP district vice president Dasoji Yadagirachary, BJP district general secretary Nimmala Rajasekhara Reddy, BJP Town president M Nageswar Rao and other functionaries of the party took part in the protest programmes.

# Revanth to hold protest demanding KTR's dismissal

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TPCC President Revanth Reddy is going to stage a 'Nirudyoga Nirasana Deeksha' at the Gandhari mandal headquarters in Yellareddy Assembly constituency from 10 am to 5 pm on Sunday demanding that the government should dismiss IT Minister KT Ramarao from the Cabinet and order an inquiry by the CBI or by a sitting HC Judge into the TSPSC question paper leak.

He said that he will meet the Governor on March 21 and explain developments in the TSPSC question paper leak case.

He said that KTR's PA is also facing allegations in connection with TSPSC leak as 100 persons from the Malayala mandal of Karimnagar district scored more than 100 marks.

Addressing the media at Kamareddy on Saturday, Revanth asked KTR to reveal why he attended a review meeting conducted by Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu when he had no connection with the TSPSC.



**"KTR has been speaking like this whenever a leak takes place. In 2015, the Singareni question paper leaked. In 2016, EAMCET question paper leaked. EAMCET candidates wrote the examination thrice that year"**

The BRS is now stating that only two persons were responsible for the TSPSC leak. The BRS has been saying that the second person responsible for the leak is a BJP activist.

"KTR has been speaking like this whenever a leak takes place. In 2015, the Singareni question paper leaked. In 2016, EAMCET question paper leaked. EAMCET candidates wrote the examination

thrice that year. In 2017, the Singareni question paper leaked again. In 2019, the evaluation of Intermediate answer papers got derailed. The evaluation of Intermediate answer papers was entrusted to Globberina, which had no experience in that resulting in 23 students committing suicide. Madhusudhan Reddy, who questioned Globberina, was raided by ACB and jailed," Revanth recalled.

# Kaleswaram waters reach Pedda Vagu

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

The spectacle of Godavari water from the Kaleswaram Project is finding its way into the Ranganayaka Sagar project and from there to Pedda Vagu at Nangunur before it empties itself into Maneru Reservoir after wetting parched lands in several villages en route has been unveiled.

The objective of the Telangana movement is getting fulfilled if the Godavari water is coursing in every village is any indication.

Normally, the Pedda Vagu in Nangunur gets filled only when

it rained heavily. But, Kaleswaram waters filling the Pedda Vagu should be described as a record of sorts.

The farmers are in a jubilant mood to express gratitude to CM K Chandrababu Naidu who brought Godavari waters to their fields. Even in hot summer, Godavari water reached Pedda Vagu in Nangunoor village. The region, which faced difficulties for want of assured irrigation facility, is benefiting from the foresight of CM KCR and Minister T Harish Rao who executed Ghatpur, Akkenapalli check-dams. In Nangunoor mandal, there are

nine check-dams on Pedda Vagu.

The Peddolla Bavi Check-Dam, the fifth in the series of nine, is overflowing its sluices. As the Chouta Cheruvu in Nagarajupalli is overflowing its sluices the excess water is getting deposited at the mouth of the Peddolla Bavi check-dam. Once this fifth check dam gets filled, the surplus water fills four more irrigating at least 5000 acres under their ayacut.

In Nangunoor mandal, 25 tanks and ponds and five check dams receive water supply from the right canal of Ranganayaka Sagar.







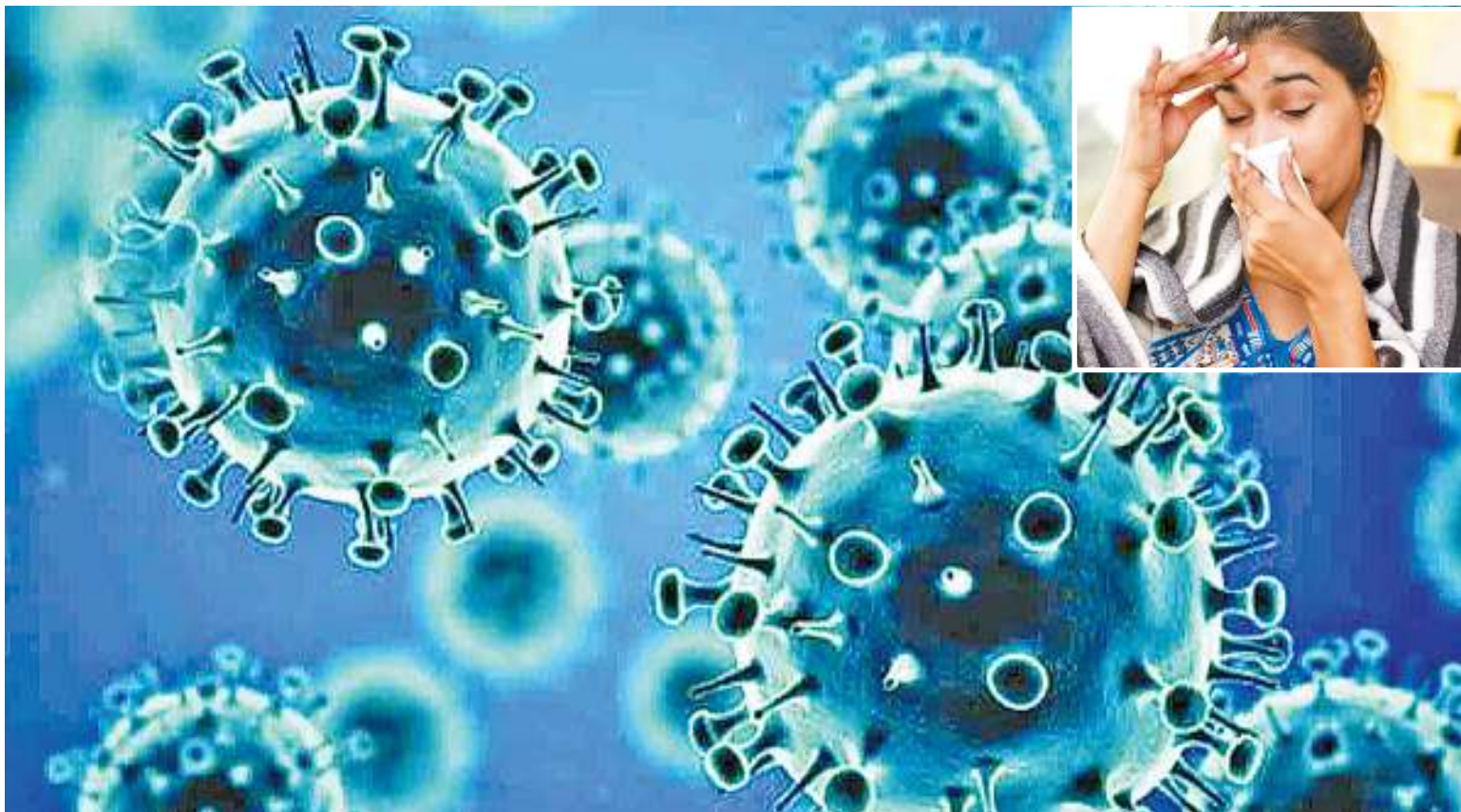
# H3N2: PRECAUTION IS THE KEY

Amid a spurt in cases of the H3N2 virus in the country, one more death has been reported, this time from Gurugram in Haryana. This takes the total number of fatalities to three. Adequate rest, simple home-cooked fresh food, and proper hydration are advised for recuperation at home, doctors tell **THE HEALTH PIONEER**

The health experts said that the first sign of influenza virus is usually a high fever, which begins about four to five days after exposure to the virus and lasts 10 to 15 days. A runny nose, a cough, red and watery eyes, and facial swelling can develop in the initial stage. They added that people at higher risk of developing complications include children younger than 5 years, people 65 years and older, pregnant people, and people with certain long-term health conditions like asthma, diabetes, heart disease, weakened immune systems, and neurological or neuro-developmental problems.

Dr Jugal Kishore Director Professor and Head of Department of Community at Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi said that precaution is a key word. It is crucial to avoid crowded places, travel only if necessary, practice good hand and respiratory hygiene, and seek medical advice if symptoms persist for more than two days.

"There is a surge of H3N2 cases in the region now, but the severity of such cases is less.



Some people with co-morbidities are getting hospitalised as they are in the high-risk zone. People need to wear masks and take precaution," Dr Rajiva Gupta, a consultant at the internal medicine department of CK Birla Hospital said.

The World Health Organisation, too, recommends that the most effective way to prevent infection with any virus is to get vaccinated and follow prevention measures: "Maintaining at least a 1-metre distance from others, wearing a well-fitted mask when keeping your distance is not possible, avoiding crowded and poorly ventilated places and settings, opening windows and doors to keep rooms well ventilated and cleaning your hands frequently." It also advises that people should follow the advice "of your local authorities on getting influenza and Covid-19 vaccines."

Dr. Raman Kumar, physician from Noida said that H3N2 influenza is a respiratory virus which transmits in the same fashion as the Covid virus. The precautions are also the same and should be diligently followed.

## GOING AYURVEDA WAY



DR RP PARASHER  
CMO (Ayurveda), MCD

As per Ayurveda, a state of Aequilibrium of Vata, Kafa and Pitta in the body denotes health. When any of the three increases or decreases, we may fall ill. Kafa is deposited all over the body during the winter season. The warmth of spring melts the kafa which is the cause of diseases like cough, cold, asthma and other ailments of the respiratory tract. That's why the level of immunity is lowered during change of season and people, especially the children & the elders fall ill easily. People, whose lungs have become weak due to corona infection, are more prone to catch the viral infection. Such types of patients are also facing problems like breathlessness and low levels of oxygen. Since it is a droplet infection, it spreads very fast. If a kid suffering from H3N2 infection attends school, he may spread the infection to a large number of students. Similarly if one member of a family gets infected, the whole family is likely to fall ill.

**How to avert the infection:** Keeping a vigil on feeding and living habits will definitely avert the infection. Observing covid appropriate behaviour is necessary which includes wearing of masks, regular cleaning of hands, avoid hands shake, etc. Cold drinks, ice creams and refrigerated items must be avoided. Do not consume items of cool temperament like rice, kadh, curd, cauliflower peanuts, arhar daal, etc.

Never use cold water just after consuming fried foods. In case of viral infection, alum or saline gargles in warm water will help to reduce inflammation of the throat and the respiratory tract. Tulsi, Ginger, clove, pippali, cinnamon bark and kali mirch boiled in water, milk or tea will also give relief. Hot soups of tomato and other seasonal vegetables will increase immunity on one hand and reduce inflammation as well as itching on the other hand. Fruits like Amla, Giloy, Anjir, resins, grapes and oranges will provide immunity and strength to the body.

**Ayurvedic treatment:** Ayurvedic drugs are capable of treating the infection within three to five days. Medicines like Sitopaladi churan, Talishadi churan, Laxmivilas Ras, Kafketu Ras, Sanjeevani Vati, Sudarshan ghan vati, Trilokyachintamani ras, Sameerpannag ras are quite effective to treat the infection. Chyavanprash, Vasa Avleha, Agastya Haritki provide relief in cough and cold within a few days.

If chewed, Aladi Vati, Lavangadi vati and Vyoshadi vati provide instant relief in cough. Ayurvedic cough syrups containing Tulsi, vasa, jufa, pippali, mulethi, somlata, kantkari are quite effective and safe even in children and elders.

**What is the H3N2 virus?** According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), seasonal influenza is an acute respiratory infection caused by influenza viruses. There are 4 types of seasonal influenza viruses, types A, B, C and D. Influenza A and B viruses circulate and cause seasonal epidemics of disease. Influenza A viruses are further classified into subtypes according to the combinations of the hemagglutinin (HA) and the neuraminidase (NA), the proteins on the surface of the virus.

**How Does The Virus Transmit?** H3N2 Influenza virus transmitted mainly through infected droplets created when infected pigs

## WHAT/HOW/CAUSES/SYMPTOMS/MANAGEMENT OF H3N2

cough or sneeze. If these droplets land in your nose or mouth, or you inhale them, you can be infected. After this when an infected person sneezes or coughs, the respiratory droplets can travel in the air and reach the nose, and mouth of another individual, making him/her catch the virus and fall sick.

**Common Symptoms of H3N2 virus:** Cough and runny nose/ Body aches/ Coughing/ Fever/ Vomiting/ Nausea/ Diarrhea and Chills among few others.

**Tips for Patients infected with H3N2:** In

symptomatic cases, patients should wash hands with soap and water, wear masks and avoid crowded places, cover mouth and nose while sneezing and coughing, avoid touching eyes and nose, take plenty of fluids and take paracetamol for fever and bodyache.

**Who is More at Risk?** Following is a list of all the health and age factors that are known to increase a person's risk of getting serious flu complications, according to US body Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

or CDC

■ Although all children younger than 5 years old are considered at higher risk of serious flu complications, the highest risk is for those younger than 2 years old, with the highest hospitalization and death rates among infants younger than 6 months old.

■ Adults 65 years and older/ Asthma/ Neurologic and neurodevelopment conditions/ Blood disorders (such as sickle cell disease)/ Chronic lung disease (such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease [COPD] and

cystic fibrosis)/ Endocrine disorders (such as diabetes mellitus)/ Heart disease (such as congenital heart disease, congestive heart failure and coronary artery disease)/ Kidney diseases/ Liver disorders/ Metabolic disorders (such as inherited metabolic disorders and mitochondrial disorders)/ Obese people with a body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher/ People younger than 19 years old on long-term aspirin- or salicylate-containing medications/ People with a weakened immune system/ People who have had a stroke/ Pregnant women and those up to 2 weeks after the end of pregnancy/ People who live in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities.

## HEALTH BRIEFS



**GURU NANAK EYE CENTRE CELEBRATES FOUNDATION DAY:** Delhi-based Guru Nanak Eye Centre celebrated its 37th Foundation Day on ... On the occasion, it released a souvenir. "The glorious history and journey of Guru Nanak Eye Centre," compiled by the staff of GNEC team. It was released by Lt Gen Dr Daljit Singh, Dir. Gen. Medical Services (Army), Prof Poonam Narang (Dir. Prof. Radiology, Dean.

Dr. Kirti Singh, Director of the hospital said, the surgical expertise and clinical acumen of the doctors meets the best among their peers, a fact that is reflected in the annual footfall of 3-4 lakh patients requiring eye care.

tending engineer Jitendra Saxena. Dr Vikas from telecommunications will be member secretary of the committee and Sunita Cherodath, senior deputy director general, department of telecommunications, will be a special invitee.



**AIIMS, DELHI MOOTS 5G ROUTE:** AIIMS, Delhi is embarking on an installation of a smart fifth-generation cellular network in its premises by June 30, capitalizing on 5G's fast speeds to enhance access to care and improve efficiency.

A five-member panel headed by Prof Vivek Tandon, Department of Neurosurgery has been set up to expedite the process. An office memorandum issued by AIIMS director M Srinivas stated, "To enable maximum utilisation of modern communication technology for patient care, teaching, research, good governance, and for optimal deployment of integrated medical university information system (IMUIS), it is desirable that the entire campus has good strength of 5G mobile network to enable a robust mobile and data connectivity inside the buildings."

He also said that strong 5G connectivity will help the institute stay in touch with its main and outreach campuses like NCI Jhajjar, which will enable senior faculty members to provide their expert advice during off-duty hours.

The other members of committee include Dr Vivek Gupta (computer facility) and superin-

**BOLLYWOOD ACTRESS BHUMI UNDP'S SDGS AMBASSADOR:** United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has announced Bollywood actor Bhumi Pednekar as their first national advocate for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recently.

As a national advocate, Bhumi will support UNDP India's efforts to raise awareness and mobilize support for the SDGs, a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.

Taking on the new role, Bhumi said, "I believe it is our collective responsibility to ensure we leave behind a better world for future generations. The SDGs provide a roadmap for building a more sustainable, equitable, and prosperous future for all."

Shoko Noda, Resident Representative, UNDP India said that Bhumi's talent and dedication to gender equality and sustainability make her an ideal advocate for the SDGs.

# Cancer Prevention Strategies for Women



DR ADITI AGGARWAL  
Senior Consultant,  
Radiation Oncology, Paras  
Hospital, Gurgaon

As per the World Health Organisation (WHO), cancer is the second most common cause of death globally with cases increasing every year in India as in the world.

Looking at cancers occurring in females, globally breast cancer tops the list followed by colorectal and lung cancers whereas in India, breast cancer is the leading and cervical cancer is the second most common cancer followed by ovary, head neck and colorectal cancers.

When it comes to cancer prevention, it is important to understand the risk factors for these diseases. Breast cancer

occurs more commonly in urban population than rural, pointing towards the westernization and changes in lifestyle that is contributory. Also the reproductive habits have changed over decades, amongst women in India. The older a woman is when she has her first full-term pregnancy, the higher her risk of breast cancer, no/fewer children, no breastfeeding. Poor genital hygiene, multiple births, multiple sexual partners are causative for cervical cancers. Consumption of saturated fats, processed foods, red meat, sedentary lifestyle being risk factors for breast and colorectal, as well as ovarian cancers to some extent. Smoking, tobacco chewing, alcohol are leading cause for head, neck and lung cancers. Family history is another important factor in breast, colorectal and ovarian cancers in few cases.

Amongst risk reduction/ cancer prevention strategies that need to be followed, the first and foremost is leading a healthy lifestyle which means, no addictions, healthy diet with adequate



fibers, fruits and vegetables, minimal processed food, low red meat, avoiding constipation. Also moderate amount of exercise in our daily routine for around 30 minutes is recommended to maintain a healthy weight and keep many diseases away, not just cancer. Healthy reproductive habits and good genital hygiene, having children timely, limiting the number of births, avoiding high risk sexual behavior is equally important.

Following a routine of getting yourself tested regularly, termed as screening for breast and cervical cancers should be done by all females. Mammo-

graphy for breast cancer should be undertaken at the age of 45 years, thereafter done once in two years, till the age of 74 years as per USPSTF. Also PAP Smear for cervical cancer should be done for all sexually active females once in 3 years till the age of 65 years. These are simple tests which can detect very early lesions, sometimes even before they become cancerous. Screening for colorectal cancers using a test called colonoscopy is recommended for all those touching 45 to 50 years, done once in 5 to 10 years till the age of 75 years. In case of a positive family history, these tests should start 10 years earlier than the

index case.

Another very effective preventive tool available for cervical cancers is HPV vaccine for all girls, starting at the age of 9 years and given as two doses till the age of 15 years, or three doses till the age of 26 years. We need to educate our daughters to be aware of their bodies and start breast self-examination once a month to understand what is normal for their body and to consult a doctor in case they notice or feel any abnormality. Breast self-examination should be done by all females on a regular basis once a month after their periods start.

Head neck cancers would most of the times present with a non-healing ulcer, pain or difficulty in swallowing. These complaints should be addressed by an expert at the earliest. With increasing pollution and smoking in females, lung cancer in females is also on increase.

To summarise, cancer in women is largely preventable by following a healthy lifestyle, regular screening tests, timely vaccination and self-examination.

# Down Syndrome: Untapped Sky-high Potential



ALOK KUMAR 'BHUWAN'

Down Syndrome (DS) is a condition in which extra genetic material causes delays in the mental and physical development of a child. One of the most common genetic disorders, the condition is characterised by the presence of an extra 21st chromosome. It is not a disease and there is no way to prevent it. In India, around 32,000 cases are observed.

Individuals with Down syndrome demonstrate more similarities than differences compared to other typically developing peers.

Demystifying the myths that such children have a bleak future, each day, many new kids on the block are beating the

odds, showing extraordinary achievements, the ability to possess hopes and dreams for the future, and a solid determination to meet their goals.

Though individuals with Down syndrome experience learning difficulties that give rise to developmental delays, not all areas are impacted with an equivalent effect.

Here, I would like to talk about Nagpur's **Devanshi Joshi**, a recipient of 'Role Model' award which was conferred on her by the then President Ram Nath



Kovind in 2021. She has been breaking many stereotypes and misconceptions around intellectual disability through her path-breaking achievements.

Ditto is the case with 24-year-old **Adya Verma**. An advocate by profession, Adya is with our organization, aiding in the creation of Easy Road Documents as well as taking part in numerous lectures and workshops to communicate her vision.

Similarly, **Rashmi Rekha Sahu** with Down Syndrome is charting her own path under the guidance of her parents, both

school teachers. An Odissi dancer, she leaves everybody in awe with her excellent dance expressions and movements. Recently, she successfully accomplished Sangeet Visharad Pratham Khand (IV year) organized by well-known organization, Pracheen Kala.

These are just among a few examples even for many of us who are pursuing with relentless passion to accomplish their potential as well as passion.

On our part, on World Down Syndrome Day 2023 our organization in collaboration with SNAC & CBSM, organiz-

ing a programme where over 500 participants comprising those diagnosed with disabilities will attempt to exhibit their talents.

Such events are an attempt made at creating awareness related to communication skills, primary sign language and easy-read training for intellectual

and developmental disabilities, guidance on career options after school along with education and skill training opportunities, plus ensuring good oral hygiene and healthcare among others – all coming together to promote inclusive living within our society.

Therefore, let us set sails towards reaching success by enabling each child with Down syndrome to gain access to schooling and college environments which come equipped with platforms that allow for auditory/visual modifications, accommodating physical exercises (occupational/speech therapies). Efforts should be made on giving them the extra time required for classwork - all so that we can better comprehend each individual affected by this condition including his/her abilities & special needs.

After all, it is our responsibility as a society to provide opportunities and nurture diversity at every step going forward.

(The writer is Managing Secretary of Manovikas Charitable Society, Delhi)





“There was not one true thing said in this video”  
— Bella Hadid denies anonymous TikTok claims about drug use



# FEAR AND RISKS

More and more countries are banning TikTok citing data security risks. Should users be worried that the app will be wiped off their phones, writes HALELUYA HADERO

TikTok is once again fending off claims that its Chinese parent company, ByteDance, would share user data from its popular video-sharing app with the Chinese government, or push propaganda and misinformation on its behalf.

China’s Foreign Ministry on Wednesday accused the United States itself of spreading disinformation about TikTok’s potential security risks following a report in the Wall Street Journal that the Committee on Foreign Investment in the US — part of the Treasury Department — was threatening a US ban on the app unless its Chinese owners divest their stake.

So are the data security risks real? And should users be worried that the TikTok app will be wiped off their phones?

**WHAT ARE THE CONCERNS ABOUT TIKTOK?**

Both the FBI and the Federal Communications Commission have warned that ByteDance could share TikTok user data — such as browsing history, location and biometric identifiers — with China’s authoritarian government.

A law implemented by China in 2017 requires companies to give the government any personal data relevant to the country’s national security. There’s no evidence that TikTok has turned over such data, but fears abound due to the vast amount of user data it, like other social media companies, collects.

Concerns around TikTok were heightened in December when ByteDance said it fired four employees who accessed data on two journalists from BuzzFeed News and The Financial Times while attempting to track down the source of a leaked report about the company.

**HOW IS THE US RESPONDING?**

White House National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby declined to comment when asked Thursday to address the Chinese foreign ministry’s comments about

TikTok, citing the review being conducted by the Committee on Foreign Investment.

Kirby also could not confirm that the administration sent TikTok a letter warning that the US government may ban the application if its Chinese owners don’t sell its stake but added, “we have legitimate national security concerns with respect to data integrity that we need to observe.”

In 2020, then-President Donald Trump and his administration sought to force ByteDance to sell off its US assets and ban TikTok from app stores. Courts blocked the effort, and President Joe Biden rescinded Trump’s orders but ordered an in-depth study of the issue. A planned sale of TikTok’s US assets was also shelved as the Biden administration negotiated a deal with TikTok that would address some of the national security concerns.

In Congress, US Sens. Richard Blumenthal and Jerry Moran, a Democrat and a Republican, wrote a letter in February to Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen urging the Committee on Foreign Investment panel, which she chairs, to “swiftly conclude its investigation and impose strict structural restrictions” between TikTok’s American operations and ByteDance, including potentially separating the companies.

At the same time, lawmakers have introduced measures that would expand the Biden administration’s authority to enact a national ban on TikTok. The White House has already backed a Senate proposal that has bipartisan support.

**HOW HAS TIKTOK ALREADY BEEN RESTRICTED?**

On Thursday, British authorities said they are banning TikTok on government-issued phones on security grounds, following similar moves by the European Union’s executive branch, which temporarily banned TikTok from employee phones. Denmark and Canada have also announced efforts to block it on government-issued phones.

Last month, the White House said



THERE’S NO EVIDENCE THAT TIKTOK HAS TURNED OVER SUCH DATA, BUT FEARS ABOUND DUE TO THE VAST AMOUNT OF USER DATA IT, LIKE OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA COMPANIES, COLLECTS.

it would give US federal agencies 30 days to delete TikTok from all government-issued mobile devices. Congress, the US armed forces and more than half of US states had already banned the app.

**WHAT DOES TIKTOK SAY?**

TikTok spokesperson Maureen Shanahan said the company was already answering security concerns through “transparent, US-based protection of US user data and systems, with robust third-party monitoring, vetting, and verification.”

In June, TikTok said it would route all data from US users to servers controlled by Oracle, the Silicon Valley company it chose as its US tech partner in 2020 in an effort to avoid a nationwide ban. But it is storing backups of the data in its own servers in the US and Singapore. The company said it expects to delete US user data from its own servers, but it has not provided a timeline as to when that would occur.

TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew is set to testify next week before the House Energy and Commerce Committee about the company’s privacy and data-security practices, as well as its relationship with the Chinese government.

Meanwhile, TikTok’s parent company ByteDance has been trying to position itself as more of an international company — and less of a Chinese company — that was founded in Beijing in 2012 by its current chief executive Liang Rubo and others.

Theo Bertram, TikTok’s vice president of policy in Europe, said in a Tweet Thursday that ByteDance “is not a Chinese company.” Bertram said its ownership consists of 60% by global investors, 20% employees and 20% founders. Its leaders are based in cities like Singapore, New York, Beijing and other metropolitan areas.

**ARE THE SECURITY RISKS LEGITIMATE?**

It depends on who you ask. Some tech privacy advocates say

while the potential abuse of privacy by the Chinese government is concerning, other tech companies have data-harvesting business practices that also exploit user information.

“If policy makers want to protect Americans from surveillance, they should advocate for a basic privacy law that bans all companies from collecting so much sensitive data about us in the first place, rather than engaging in what amounts to xenophobic showboating that does exactly nothing to protect anyone,” said Evan Greer, director of the nonprofit advocacy group Fight for the Future.

Karim Farhat, a researcher with the Internet Governance Project at Georgia Tech, said a TikTok sale would be “completely irrelevant to any of the alleged ‘national security’ threats” and go against “every free market principle and norm” of the state department’s internet freedom principles.

Others say there is legitimate reason for concern.

People who use TikTok might think they’re not doing anything that would be of interest to a foreign government, but that’s not always the case, said Anton Dahbura, executive director of the Johns Hopkins University Information Security Institute. Important information about the United States is not strictly limited to nuclear power plants or military facilities; it extends to other sectors, such as food processing, the finance industry and universities, Dahbura said.

**IS THERE PRECEDENCE FOR BANNING TECH COMPANIES?**

Last year, the US banned the sale of communications equipment made by Chinese companies Huawei and ZTE, citing risks to national security. But banning the sale of items could be more easily done than banning an app, which is accessed through the web.

Such a move might also go to the courts on grounds that it might violate the First Amendment as some civil liberties groups have argued.

Associated Press

**China appeals for fair treatment**

China appealed Friday to other governments to treat its companies fairly after Britain and New Zealand joined the United States in restricting use of TikTok due to fears the Chinese-owned short video service might be a security risk.

Governments are worried TikTok’s owner, ByteDance, might give browsing history or other data about users to China’s government or promote propaganda and disinformation.

“We call on the countries concerned to recognize the objective facts, effectively respect the market economy” and provide “a non-discriminatory environment” for all companies, said foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin.

TikTok is one focus of conflicts between China and other governments over technology and security that are disrupting processor chip, smartphone and other industries.

Legislators and employees in New Zealand’s Parliament will be prohibited from having TikTok’s app on phones, the government said Friday. Britain announced a ban Thursday on TikTok on all government phones.

India has banned TikTok and dozens of other Chinese apps, including the WeChat message service, on security and privacy grounds.

The United States also has imposed restrictions on access by Chinese companies to processor chip and other technology on security and human rights grounds.

The Chinese government accused Washington of spreading false information about TikTok following a report by The Wall Street Journal that US authorities were considering a ban if ByteDance doesn’t sell the company.

The ruling Communist Party blocks most internet users in China from seeing TikTok and thousands of social media and other websites. ByteDance operates a sister short-video service, Douyin, that can be seen in China.



Emigrants from South America, particularly from Venezuela and Central America, who want to cross over to America are falling into the infamous and dangerous jungle track of Darien Gap while travelling to their destined nation. Besides, emigrants from Asia and Africa too try to travel through the Darien Gap to reach the US.

## What is Darien Gap?

## Why is it so dangerous to take Darien Gap?

First of all, it is a long mountainous tract. Therefore, for many, it becomes really difficult to survive while journeying. The emigrants die in the Darien Gap and their remains are neither recovered nor reported by anyone.

A group of people, including men, women, and children, are crossing a shallow river with many rocks. They are carrying bags and belongings, suggesting they are migrants or refugees. The scene is surrounded by dense green trees and foliage.

Emigrants cross a stream in Darien Gap to reach the US

AP file photo

compels people to leave their Central American homes. The World Food Programme (WFP) launched by the UN in the year 1961 to alleviate poverty finds that almost 6.4 million people suffered from food insecurity in Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala in 2021, up from 2.2 million in 2019. This rightly underlines that more and more people are considering migration as the only option to find a better life.

It has been reported that messages and social media outlets like Facebook, WhatsApp, etc, have become the main sources for the emigrants when they plan their “Hope Trip” towards the north i.e. the US. Many of them also upload videos in TikTok to inspire fellow emigrants and also to warn them about the possible risks en route to the US.

Ironically, these voyages are difficult for both the emigrants and the refugees as the bordering nations have tightened their controls on the check posts. And this has forced them to take the help of informal and dangerous routes through criminal agents by paying huge sums of money. Emigrants risk death on their long and arduous journey to the blessed land of the US.

Today, the Darien Gap is popularly known as the deadly extension of the US border. The US Government is putting all its efforts to fortify it so as to stop the migrants from crossing into its mainland. But now the question is where these poor and helpless people will go? They see no future in their lands. Only hope for them lies in reaching the US.

It is time to address the vulnerabilities in the Darien Gap. The governments concerned and human rights groups need to encourage emigrants and the refugees to take the formal route to save the precious human lives.

(The writer is the Head of the Department of Arts and Humanities at Geeta University, Panipat)



MAKHAN SAIKIA

Along the Tigris River, young Iraqi men and women in jeans and sneakers danced with joyous abandon on a recent evening to a local rapper as the sun set behind them. It's a world away from the terror that followed the US invasion 20 years ago.

President George W Bush called the US-led invasion launched March 20, 2003, mission to free the Iraqi people. It threw out a dictator whose rule kept 20 million people in fear for a quarter-century. But it also broke a unified state in the heart of the Arab world. About 300,000 Iraqis were killed between 2003 and 2023, along with more than 8,000 US military, contractors and civilians.

Half of today's population are not old enough to remember life under Saddam Hussein. In interviews from Baghdad to Fallujah, young Iraqis deplored the chaos that followed Saddam's ouster, but many were hopeful about nascent freedoms and opportunities.

In a chandeliered reception room, President Abdul Latif Rashid, who assumed office in October, spoke glowingly of Iraq's prospects. Perception of Iraq as a war-torn country is frozen in time, he told *The Associated Press*: "Iraq is rich; peace has returned."

bullish. Conversations start with bitterness about how the US left Iraq in tatters. But speaking to younger Iraqis, one senses a generation ready to turn a page.

Safaa Rashid, 26, is a writer who talks politics with friends at a coffee shop in Baghdad's Karada district. After the invasion, Iraq lay broken, violence reigning, he said. Today is different; he and like-minded peers freely talk about solutions. "I think the young people will try to fix this situation."

Noor Alhuda Saad, 26, a PhD candidate and political activist, says her generation has been leading protests decrying corruption, demanding services and seeking inclusive elections — and they won't stop until they've built a better Iraq.

Blast walls have given way to billboards, restaurants, cafes, shopping centres. With 7 million inhabitants, Baghdad is the Middle East's second-largest city; streets teem with commerce.

In northern and western Iraq, there are occasional clashes with remnants of the Islamic State group. It is but one of Iraq's lingering problems. Another is corruption; a 2022 audit found a network of former officials and businessmen stole \$2.5 billion.

In 2019-20, young people protested against corruption and lack of services. After 600 were killed by government forces and militias, parliament

Youths gather along the Tigris River for a concert by rap artist OG Khalifa in Baghdad on February 25, 2023. One of the songs he performs mocks 'sheikhs', those who wield power in the new Iraq through wealth or political connections

agreed to election changes to allow more groups to share power.

Fallujah — the main city of

the Anbar region — once a hotbed of activity for al-Qaida of Iraq and, later, the Islamic State group — gleams with

apartments, hospitals, amusement parks, a promenade. But officials were wary of letting Western reporters wander

unescorted, a sign of lingering uncertainty.

"We lost a lot — whole families," said Dr Huthifa

Alissawi, a mosque leader recalling the war years.

These days, he enjoys the security. "If it stays like now, it is perfect." Sadr City, a working-class suburb in eastern Baghdad, is home to more than 1.5 million people. On a pollution-choked avenue, two friends have side-by-side shops. Haider al-Saady, 28, fixes tires. Ali al-Mummadwi, 22, sells lumber.

They scoff when told of the Iraqi president's promises that life will be better.

"It is all talk," al-Saady said. His companion agrees: "Saddam was a dictator, but the people were living better, peacefully."

Khalifa OG raps about difficulties of life and satirizes authority, but isn't blatantly political.

A song he performed next to the Tigris mocks "sheikhs" wielding power in the new Iraq through wealth or connec-

Abdullah Rubaie, 24, could barely contain his excitement. "Peace for sure makes it easier" for parties like this, he said. His stepbrother Ahmed Rubaie, 30, agreed.

"We had a lot of pain ... it had to stop," Ahmed Rubaie said. These young people say sectarian hatred is a thing of the past. They're unafraid to make their voices heard.

Mohammed Zuad Khaman, 18, toils in his family's café in a poor Baghdad

neighborhood. He resents the militias' hold on power as an obstacle to his sports career. Khaman's a footballer, but says he can't play in Baghdad's amateur clubs — he has no "in" with militia-related gangs.

"If only I could get to London, I would have a different life."

The new Iraq offers more promise for educated young Iraqis like Muammal Sharba, 38. A lecturer at Middle Technical University in once violence-torn Baquba, Sharba left Iraq for Hungary to earn a PhD on an Iraqi scholarship. He returned last year, planning to fulfil obligations to his university and then move back to Hungary.

Sharba became an biker in Hungary but never imagined he could pursue his passion at home. Now, he's found a cycling community. He notices better technology and less bureaucracy, too.

"I don't think European countries were always as they are now," he said. "I believe that we need to go through these steps, too."

(The author is AP's vice president for standards and editor at large. Jerome Delay is chief photographer in Johannesburg, South Africa. AP reporter Qassim Abdul-Zahra and Abby Sewell, AP's Syria, Lebanon and Iraq news director, contributed from Baghdad)



# How a warrant for Putin puts new spin on Xi visit to Russia

PNS ■ WASHINGTON

Chinese President Xi Jinping's plans to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow next week highlighted China's aspirations for a greater role on the world stage.

But they also revealed the perils of global diplomacy: Hours after Friday's announcement of the trip, an international arrest warrant was issued for Putin on war crimes charges, taking at least some wind out of the sails of China's big reveal.

The flurry of developments which followed China's brokering of an agreement between Saudi Arabia and Iran to resume diplomatic relations and its release of what it calls a "peace plan" for Ukraine came as the Biden administration watches warily Beijing's moves to assert itself more forcefully in international affairs.

US President Joe Biden said on Friday he believes the decision by the International Criminal Court in The Hague to charge Putin was "justified."

Speaking to reporters as he left the White House for his Delaware home, he said Putin "clearly committed war crimes."

While the US does not recognise the court, Biden said it "makes a very strong point" to call out the Russian leader for his actions in ordering the invasion of Ukraine.

Other US officials privately expressed satisfaction that an international body had agreed with Washington's assessment that Russia has committed war crimes and crimes against humanity in Ukraine.

Asked about the Xi-Putin meeting, Biden said, "Well, we'll see when that meeting takes place."

The Biden administration believes China's desire to be seen as a broker for peace between Russia and Ukraine may be viewed more critically now that Putin is officially a war crime suspect, according to two U.S. officials. The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the matter pub-



licly, said the administration hopes the warrants will help mobilize heretofore neutral countries to weigh in on the conflict.

A look at the Xi-Putin meeting and how it may be affected by the warrant.

## WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF XI MEETING WITH PUTIN?

The visit to Russia will be Xi's first foreign trip since being elected to an unprecedented third term as China's president.

It comes as Beijing and Moscow have intensified ties in steps that began shortly before Russia's invasion of Ukraine with a meeting between the two leaders in Beijing during last year's Winter Olympics at which they declared a "no limits" partnership.

Since then, China has repeatedly sided with Russia in blocking interna-

tional action against Moscow for the Ukraine conflict and, US officials say, is considering supplying Russia with weapons to support the war.

But it has also tried to cast itself in a more neutral role, offering a peace plan that was essentially ignored.

The meeting in Moscow is likely to see the two sides recommit to their partnership, which both see as critical to countering what they consider undue and undeserved influence exerted by the US and its Western allies.

In the immediate term, the ICC's warrant for Putin and one of his aides is unlikely to have a major impact on the meeting or China's position toward Russia. Neither China nor Russia nor the United States or Ukraine has ratified the ICC's founding treaty.

The US, beginning with the Clinton

administration, has refused to join the court, fearing that its broad mandate could result in the prosecution of American troops or officials.

That means that none of the four countries formally recognises the court's jurisdiction or is bound by its orders, although Ukraine has consented to allowing some ICC probes of crimes on its territory and the US has cooperated with ICC investigations.

In addition, it is highly unlikely that Putin would travel to a country that would be bound by obligations to the ICC.

If he did, it is questionable whether that country would actually arrest him. There is precedent for those previously indicted, notably former Sudanese President Omar Bashir, to have visited ICC members without being detained.



## Sea level rise could sink significant parts of deltas

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Relative sea level rise, caused by local drivers, together with global sea level rise, could cause significant parts of the world's largest deltas to fall below the rising sea before the turn of the century, according to a new study.

Relative sea level rise also takes into account sinking lands which amplify the effect of rising seas.

Local drivers such as groundwater pumping and extraction of hydrocarbons creates subsidence, and coastal vegetation, which can provide some protection, is lost to make space for farmland and tourism.

Scientists of the Stanford University-led study have found overwhelming evidence that it is not sea level rise, rather sinking land, that puts global deltas most at risk.

While climate change is increasingly recognized as a risk to coastal livelihoods and global wealth and security, this is only one part of the story.

This is of great importance for managing river deltas, according to Rafael Schmitt, lead author of the study, a lead scientist with the Stanford

Natural Capital Project.

"It is often not rising seas, but sinking land due to human activities that puts coastal populations most at risk," said Schmitt.

"Our research highlights that this relevant global risk is grossly understudied for all but very few coastal regions," said Schmitt. Little is known about local and regional drivers of relative sea level rise.

So, Schmitt's study set out to identify key drivers of land loss and vulnerability across the world's major deltas, and the knowledge gaps impeding more sustainable delta management, for specific deltas and on a global scale.

Under natural conditions, deltas are subject to a number of factors that together create dynamic but stable systems.

For instance, sediment supplied from upstream river basins builds new land even when sea levels are rising. Sediment supply is also critical to offset the effect that the recent, unconsolidated delta land compacts continuously under its own weight.

Today, all of these processes are out of balance.

River deltas are cut off from

their natural sediment supply by dams and reservoirs, and the little sediment still reaching deltas cannot spread because of artificial levees and dikes.

The livelihoods of millions of people who live in river deltas, among the world's most productive lands, are at risk.

Created where large rivers meet the ocean and deposit their natural sediment load, river deltas are often just a few meters above sea level.

While they make up less than 0.5 per cent of the world's land area, river deltas contribute more than 4 per cent of the global GDP, 3 per cent of global crop production, and are home to 5.5 per cent of the world's population.

All of these values are highly vulnerable to imminent global environmental change, the study said.

Of course, climate mitigation is important to curb global sea level rise.

However, fighting overuse of local natural resources in river deltas and their contributing basins would have much greater and more immediate effects, posing both an opportunity and a responsibility for coastal nations, the study said.

## Odour molecule could help decipher sense of smell

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Scientists have created the first molecular-level, 3D picture of how an odour molecule activates a human odorant receptor, a crucial step towards deciphering the sense of smell.

The scientists help break a longstanding impasse in our understanding of olfaction and the 3D picture created has implications for fragrances, food science, and beyond.

The model, created by scientists at University of California San Francisco (UCSF), US, is poised to reignite interest in the science of smell.

The findings have been published in the journal Nature.

Odorant receptors, proteins that bind odour molecules on the surface of olfactory cells, make up half of the largest, most diverse family of receptors in our bodies. A deeper understanding of them paves the way for new insights about a range of biological processes.

Smell involves about 400 unique receptors.

Each of the hundreds of thousands of scents we can detect is made of a mixture of different odour molecules. Each type of molecule may be detected by an array of receptors, creating a puzzle for the brain to solve each time the nose catches a whiff of something new.

"It's like hitting keys on a piano to produce a chord," said Hiroaki Matsunami, professor at Duke University and a



close collaborator of Aashish Manglik, associate professor, UCSF.

Matsunami's work over the past two decades has focused on decoding the sense of smell.

"Seeing how an odorant receptor binds an odorant explains how this works at a fundamental level," said Matsunami.

We haven't been able to map olfaction, because without a picture, said Manglik, we didn't know how odour molecules would react with their corresponding odour receptors.

To create the 3D picture, the study said, Manglik's lab used a type of imaging called cryo-electron microscopy (cryo-EM), that allows researchers to see atomic structure and study the molecular shapes of proteins.

But before Manglik's team could visualize the odorant receptor binding an odorant, they first needed to purify a sufficient quantity of the receptor protein.

Odorant receptors are noto-

riously challenging, some say impossible, to make in the lab for such purposes.

The Manglik and Matsunami teams looked for an odorant receptor that was abundant in both the body and the nose, thinking it might be easier to make artificially, and one that also could detect water-soluble odorants, according to the study.

They settled on a receptor called OR51E2, which is known to respond to propionate - a molecule that contributes to the pungent smell of Swiss cheese.

But even OR51E2 proved hard to make in the lab, the study said.

Typical cryo-EM experiments require a milligram of protein to produce atomic-level images.

However, co-first author Christian Billesbolle, a senior scientist in the Manglik Lab, developed approaches to use only 1/100th of a milligram of OR51E2, putting the snapshot of receptor and odorant within reach, the study said.

## British Muslim analyst found guilty of terror charges

PNS ■ LONDON

A British Muslim financial analyst influenced by extremist Islamist ideology has been found guilty of multiple terrorism related offences by a UK court after his laptop led police to dangerous bomb-making plans.

Asad Bhatti, from Redhill in Surrey, south-east England, was arrested and charged in January 2021, following which a search was carried out at an address in the area which revealed a makeshift bomb-making facility.

Surrey Police said the 49-year-old, of South Asian origin, was found guilty of two counts of possessing an article for the purpose of terrorism, contrary to Section 57 of the UK's Terrorism Act 2000. He was also found guilty of three counts of making or possessing an



explosive substance under suspicious circumstances contrary to Section 4 of the UK's Explosive Substance Act at the Old Bailey court in London on Friday. Bhatti remains in custody and will

be sentenced for the crimes at the same court on April 25.

"The case against Bhatti was strong. I am glad the jury found him guilty today," said Detective Chief

Superintendent Olly Wright, Head of Counter Terrorism Policing South East (CTPSE) in Surrey.

"There was clear evidence of his extreme Islamist ideology and the danger he posed. He clearly hated those whom he considers do not follow his version of Islam, and he made a range of derogatory comments towards those he considers to be unbelievers," he said.

Bhatti was investigated by officers from the CTPSE after he had taken his laptop into a shop to be fixed and a member of staff found some concerning file titles, which he reported.

Upon further investigation by CTPSE, some documents were discovered suggesting whoever was using the device had an interest in explosives and making explosive devices.

## Washington turns to Wall Street for help to rescue dying bank

PNS ■ WASHINGTON

The scene was reminiscent of the last financial crisis, nearly 15 years ago: Faced with a blossoming emergency in the banking sector, worried regulators and policymakers in Washington turned to Wall Street for help.

The anxiety this week centred on First Republic Bank in San Francisco, which was once the envy of the banking sector, with its wealthy and well-travelled clientele. Now the bank was reeling after some of those customers withdrew billions of dollars.

As early as Tuesday, it became clear to policymakers that the First Republic needed to be rescued or it could fail, two people

briefed on the matter told The Associated Press, speaking anonymously because they were not authorized to discuss details.

The result was a swift agreement among the nation's leading banks to lay aside competitive instincts to come to First Republic's aid. With Washington greasing the wheels, a coalition of lenders put USD 30 billion in uninsured deposits into the California-based bank as a show of support.

The money gives First Republic a lifeline while it reportedly seeks a buyer. Regulators hope it also bolsters confidence in the health of the broader banking system.

The recent turmoil in the banking industry isn't on par



with the crisis that sparked the Great Recession from 2007 to 2009. But after Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank failed and were seized by the federal government, the industry's over-

seers worried about more dominoes falling.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen discussed the idea of supporting First Republic with other bank regulators the Federal Reserve,

the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. and the Comptroller of the Currency. Together they concluded that some sort of private rescue package was needed to prevent the crisis from worsening. Among the first calls made by Yellen and other policymakers was to Jamie Dimon, the chairman and CEO of JPMorgan Chase & Co. There may have been a sense of d j vu: Back in 2008, Dimon was the go-to banker for Washington to find private solutions for that banking crisis.

We have our marching orders," Dimon reportedly said after the call with Yellen. He then proceeded to build a coalition of banks willing to place deposits with First Republic.

## Distant exoplanets could harbour life in 'terminator zones': Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

"Terminator zones" on distant exoplanets, or zones where the "day" side of the planet meets the "night" side, could potentially harbour extraterrestrial life, according to a new study.

Astronomers from University of California, Irvine (UCI), US, describe "terminator" as the dividing line between the day and night sides of the planet, which have one side that always faces its star and one side that is always dark.

Terminator zones could exist in that "just right" temperature zone between too hot and too cold, they said in the study.



"These planets have a permanent day side and a permanent night side," said Ana Lobo, a postdoctor-

al researcher in the UCI Department of Physics & Astronomy who led the new work

published in The Astrophysical Journal.

Lobo added that such planets are particularly common because they exist around stars that make up about 70 per cent of the stars seen in the night sky - so-called M-dwarf stars, which are relatively dimmer than our Sun.

"You want a planet that's in the sweet spot of just the right temperature for having liquid water," said Lobo, because liquid water, as far as scientists know, is an essential ingredient for life.

"This is a planet where the day side can be scorching hot, well beyond habitability, and the night side is going to be freezing, poten-

tially covered in ice. You could have large glaciers on the night side," Lobo said.

According to the study, Lobo alongside Aomawa Shields, UCI associate professor of physics & astronomy, modelled the climate of terminator planets using software typically used to model our own planet's climate, but with a few adjustments, including slowing down planetary rotation.

One key to the finding, Lobo added, was pinpointing exactly what kind of terminator zone planet can retain liquid water.

If the planet is mostly covered in water, then the water facing the star, the team found, would likely evap-

orate and cover the entire planet in a thick layer of vapour.

But if there's land, this effect shouldn't occur.

"Ana has shown if there's a lot of land on the planet, the scenario we call 'terminator habitability' can exist a lot more easily," said Shields.

"These new and exotic habitability states our team is uncovering are no longer the stuff of science fiction - Ana has done the work to show that such states can be climatically stable," said Shields.

The study believes it is the first time astronomers have been able to show that such planets can sustain habitable climates confined to this terminator region.

Historically, researchers have mostly studied ocean-covered exoplanets in their search for candidates for habitability.

However, this study could increase the options life-hunting astronomers have to choose from. "We are trying to draw attention to more water-limited planets, which despite not having widespread oceans, could have lakes or other smaller bodies of liquid water, and these climates could actually be very promising," Lobo said.

"By exploring these exotic climate states, we increase our chances of finding and properly identifying a habitable planet in the near future," said Lobo.