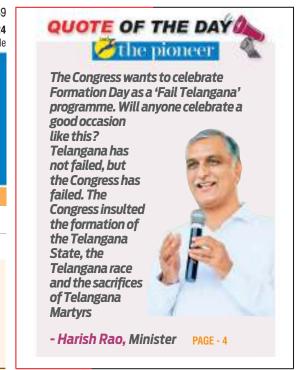
www.dailypioneer.com

Published From: HYDERABAD DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL RAIPUR CHANDIGARH BHUBANESWAR RANCHI DEHRADUN VIJAYAWADA





**Keerthy Suresh starrer** Raghuthatha wraps up its final **SCHEDULE** 



#### **CM skipping NITI** Aayog meeting...

Forum for Good Governance requested the Chief Minister of Telangana to attend the "NITI AAYOG' (National Institution for Transforming India) meeting and mention the grievances of the State and try to get them solved. Padmanabha Reddy in a letter said, "The State government may be having differences with Union Government, one of the forums to address the grievance is the platform of NITI AAYOG. Continuously boycotting the...

#### Spurious seeds are biggest...

"The biggest problem for an average farmer is not bad weather conditions, hailstorms, and droughts, but it is actually fake seeds," said Cyberabad Commissioner of Police Stephen Raveendra. The Cyberabad Police busted an inter-state spurious seed racket in the city and arrested seven individuals on Friday. The operation, carried out in Telangana and Karnataka resulted in the seizure of 2.65 tons of spurious BG-III/HT cotton seeds, along with several other ..

-PAGE: 3

#### Success of G20 meet in Srinagar...

The third G20 Tourism Working Group Meeting held in Srinagar was "very successful" and this wil contribute to boosting of tourism in Jammu and Kashmir and help in "allaying any fears" in the minds of visitors in future, a top official said on Friday.

Addressing reporters here, Union Tourism Secretary Arvind Singh also said that during the TWG meet held from May 22-24, G20 member countries, invited countries, and international organisations gave inputs and

#### **BCCI** could rest all seniors for...

Contrary to reports in some quarters that BCCI is planning to cancel the proposed home series against Afghanistan due to cramped calendar, there is possibility that a second string team might play with all seniors including ODI and Test captain Rohit Sharma along with senior player Virat Kohli rested before West Indies tour.

All Indian players were involved in a gruelling IPL for nearly two months and will be in England for a one-off..

-PAGE: 12

### Future is in Hyd, says Eric Garcetti

★ Entire planet is counting on US-India relationship: US Ambassdor to India



NAVEENA GHANATE HYDERABAD

The US Ambassador to India, Eric Garcetti, said that Hyderabad has captured his imagination.

Addressing a press conference here on Friday at the T-Hub, Eric said, "If you want to see the future, it is right here in Hyderabad. You can see it in the enthusiasm of the people and you can feel it in a space like this (T-Hub). You can feel the growth, construction and momentum of the city."

'We are proud of opening the latest US consulate anywhere on this globe right here in Hyderabad which

is more evidence of how important it is for us. You see how much we price our relationship with the city and how quickly we have grown and the ambitions that have come together in this great city. The US consulate is an investment for our relationship with India, Telangana and our future together as partners," he said.

He termed it a city of belonging. "Driving at night through this city, I could see an India that Indians and certainly Americans have only closed their eyes and dreamt of. But as I said this is right here in Hyderabad."



## Kejriwal to meet KCR today on Delhi services ordinance

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will meet Telangana CM K. Chandrasekhar Rao in Hyderabad on Saturday to seek the support of the BRS in opposing the Centre's ordinance on control of services in the national capital.

Kejriwal, who is also the national convenor of the Aam Aadmi Party, has been reaching out to leaders of non-BJP parties to garner their support against the ordinance so that the Centre's bid to replace it through a Bill is defeated when it is brought in Parliament.

"Meeting the CM of Telangana on Saturday in Hyderabad to seek his support against the unconstitutional and undemocratic ordinance passed by the BJP government against the orders of the Supreme Court," Kejriwal tweeted.

Kejriwal will take off at 11 am from New Delhi and after landing at Begumpet Airport he will meet KCR. Around 3 pm he will return to New Delhi. Education Minister Atish will be accompanying the Delhi CM.



Kejriwal will take off at 11 am from New Delhi and after landing at Begumpet Airport he will meet KCR. Around 3 pm he will return to New Delhi. Education Minister Atish will be accompanying the Delhi CM.

#### **KCR** to open four **Collectorates**

**HYDERABAD:** As part of the Telangana State Formation Day celebrations, Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao will inaugurate four more District Collectorates.

The CM will inaugurate the Nirmal District Collectorate on June 4, the Nagar Kurnool District Collectorate on June 6, the Mancherial District Integrated Collectorate complex on June 9, and the Gadwal District Integrated District Collectorate on June 12.

On June 4, when the CM inaugurates the Nirmal Collectorate, Telangana will celebrate Safety Day. Štate-level and district-level programmes will be organised to explain the efforts of the police to maintain law and order.

#### HMDA issues legal notice to Revanth, Rahul gets court NOC seeks unconditional apology

PNS HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) has issued a legal notice dated May 25, 2023, to Anumula Revanth Reddy, the Lok Sabha MP representing Malkajgiri, regarding his allegations against the Nehru Outer Ring Road (ORR) Toll Operate Transfer (TOT) deal executed by HMDA. The HMDA described the allegations as "false, baseless and unsubstantiated statements."

In the legal notice, the HMDA called upon Revanth to cease making factually incorrect statements against the HMDA including naming its officers discharging official duties and to offer an unconditional apology to the HMDA in public within 48 hours including the issue of public statements withdrawing all allegations made so far in this connection or else the HMDA will take



In its notice, the HMDA said that

required to pay the bid amount/concession fee within 120 days of the date of execution of the Concession Agreement.



the entire TOT process was carried out in a fair, transparent manner and that information pertaining to it is available in the public domain. It has been clarified that as per the terms of the Concession Agreement, the concessionaire is

#### **CVC** accepted my complaint :Judson

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

Congress leader Bakka Judson said that the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has accepted Road (ORR) lease issue.

He said that he had got an intimation from the CVC stating that the CVC had examined his complaint as per the terms of its complaint-handling policy and it has been filed. Judson said that he had complained to the Central Vigilance Commission and had requested it to immediately cancel the private contract on the Outer Ring Road along with tender documents.

## for ordinary passport

A Delhi court on Friday granted a no-objection certificate (NOC) to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for issuance of an 'ordinary passport' for three years instead of 10, the period for which it is normally issued, following an objection raised by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy.

passport upon his disqualification

"I'm partly allowing your application. Not for 10 years but three Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) Vaibhav Mehta told Gandhi's counsel while pronouncing the order in a packed courtroom.

The court noted the National Herald case was pending at the stage of cross examination of the complainant in pre charge evidence and



had surrendered his diplomatic Gandhi has been regularly appearing either in person or through his counsel and has not hampered or delayed the proceedings.

Rahul Gandhi is an accused in the case in which Swamy is the complainant.

"This court has to take into account the public interests involved and also has to keep in view the rights of the applicant to travel



### Rs 15 crore sanctioned

PNS HYDERABAD

government will make all arrangements to celebrate the Ashada Bonala festival grandly as it showcases the culture of Telangana, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Dairy Development and Cinematography Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav said.

A high-level meeting was held under the chairmanship of Talasani regarding arrangements for the Ashada Bonala Utsav which starts on June 22.

### ECI starts moves to hold TS Assembly elections

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has started preparations for holding Assembly elections in Telangana by conducting a one-day state-level First Level Checking (FLC) of EVMs with all the 33 DEOs and Dy. DEOs at the Dr MCRHRD Institute on Friday.

This workshop was conducted by senior ECI officials and EVM nodal officers of Tripura, Andhra Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli in the presence of ECIL engineers.

Earlier, from April 9 to 11, a national-level workshop was conducted by the ECI in Mussorie for CEOs of all states during which instructions were issued to start



Deputy Election Commissioner (Sr. ments to hold elections.

preparations for the Assembly elec- DEC) had visited Telangana on tions in Telangana. The Senior April 14 and had reviewed arrange-

The workshop was intended to familiarise DEOs and Dy. DEOs with the technical and working aspects of EVMs. The training covered a detailed presentation by senior ECI officers on technical and administrative safeguards, the FLC process and the responsibilities of DEOs and Dy. DEOs, demonstration of FLC and the new Symbol Loading Unit (SLU) followed by an evaluation of the participants.

Later, there was a half-day session devoted to the hands-on training on EVMs and VVPATs in the presence of ECIL engineers, during which the DEOs and Dy. DEOs familiarised themselves with the FLC process and other aspects of EVMs/VVPATs.

Businesses refuse to accept Rs 2,000 currency notes

**LEGAL TENDER, BUT...** 

#### K'taka CM, Dy CM to back protests against BRS govt

K VENKATESHWARLU

The Congress has decided to invite the Karnataka-election-winning duo, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Siva Kumar, to participate in protests against the BRS government from June 2 for 20 days organised by the Telangana unit of the Congress with the slogan 'Failure KCR.'

Addressing the media after a meeting of the Telangana Congress Political Affairs Committee (PAC) on Friday at the Gandhi Bhavan, TPCC Campaign Committee Chairman Madhu Yashki Goud said that the

Congress will organise protests on the failures of KCR, from June 2 for 20

He said that party leaders and cadres will perform milk baths on Sonia Gandhi's flexes. He said that they will conduct PAC

meetings in the first week of every month and that they will hoist the Congress flag in every mandal apart from the national flag. He said that they will organise a

'BC Garjana' soon and that the Telangana people would give their verdict on the 30 per cent CM in the next Assembly elections.



**VIVEKANANDA REDDY MURDER CASE** 

#### **SC** stays part of HC order granting bail to accused

The Supreme Court on Friday stayed a part of the Telangana High Court order asking a trial court to enlarge on bail on July 1 a man accused of involvement in the murder of former Andhra Pradesh minister Y S Vivekananda Reddy.

A vacation bench of Justices J K Maheshwari and P S Narasimha, which posted the matter for further hearing on July 14, said it was staying the part of the high court's April 27 order directing the trial court to enlarge accused T Gangi Reddy alias Yerra Gangi Reddy on bail.

JOHN PASAPALA

After the RBI's announcement regarding the withdrawal of Rs 2,000 currency notes from circulation, businesses across Hyderabad city have displayed notices at their counters that they will not accept Rs 2,000 currency notes.

Many shopkeepers cited the lack of clear guidance from banks and the constraints on exchanging the notes for lower denomination notes as the primary reasons for their refusal.



Many citizens said that banks are lic is expected to fill out lengthy not following a uniform procedure forms and wait in long queues. for exchanging the notes. The pub- Some private banks have reported-

each note being deposited. Even though the RBI said that there is no limit on depositing Rs 2,000 notes, there is a limit of Rs 20,000 in banks which has affected many businesses.

This rejection is observed in various establishments ranging from franchise-based restaurants and malls to small grocery stores.

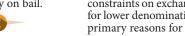
Priyanka Reddy, a student from Hyderabad, shared her frustration stating, "They refused to accept my Rs 2,000 note at a supermarket, a

ly requested the serial numbers of medical store, an RTC bus and a petrol station.

When I visited the bank, it was extremely crowded, especially PSU banks. Some private banks, on the other hand, are demanding the serial numbers of each note. This has become a problem for students like us. Despite being informed of the violation of government orders, shopkeepers remained unresponsive."

Tarun Kumar, an IT professional said, "A supermarket refused the





### Cong can improve tally in TS if it openly embraces BRS

vincing win in the Karnataka Assembly elections, the party unit's leadership in Telangana wasted no time in claiming that the result was a harbinger of change across India. They proclaimed the Karnataka verdict to be a barometer of the changing public mood across India and a resounding rejection by the public of the Bharatiya Janata Party's ideology and Prime Minister Modi's waning popularity among the electorate. The Congress party's leaders and spokespersons, especially from its Telangana unit, in television debates and on public platforms, declared that the victory of the Congress party in the Telangana Assembly elections, which are due in six months, and the General Election early next year, are thus a foregone

cheer among the Telangana Congress leaders on their party's victory in the Karnataka elections are understandable, their extrapolations do not stand the test of either logic or history.

Today, the electorate across India has been unambiguous in differentiating between national and state elections and elections in two states for their Assemblies. The results of the 2018 Assembly electionsin Karnataka and the 2019 Lok Sabha elections clearly show that the electorate treats the state and national polls disjointedly. In the 2018 Assembly elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BIP) won 104 seats and stood as the single largest party (SLP). On the other hand, the Congress party won 80 seats and formed the government along with the Janata Dal (Secular), which won 37 seats.

It is widely acknowledged across the state that there's a huge antiincumbency against the current Bharat Rashtra Samiti government headed by Kalvakuntla Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR), and the voters are looking for a party that can provide an alternative by defeating the BRS.

The results were starkly different in the Lok Sabha elections while the Congress-JD(S) government was in power in the state. The BJP won 25 seats, while the Congress, the JD(S) and an independent won one seat each. One can see a similar pattern repeating across many states all over India in the last election cycle. Prominent examples include Rajasthan, Delhi, and Madhya Pradesh.

Later in 2018, just a few months before the General Election, the Congress

secured clear majorities in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh Assembly elections. Though it fell just two seats short of an absolute majority in Madhya Pradesh, it formed governments in all three states. In the Lok Sabha elections held only a few months after, the Congress won a paltry three out of 65 seats up for grabs in the same three states. On the other hand, the BJP won a landslide 61 seats from these three states, nine more than the 52 seats Congress won from all the 29 states and



seven Union Territories in India.

Coming to the Congress party's argument that their party's victory in Karnataka portends a similar win for it in the Telangana elections due in five months, once again, a look at the last election cycle will be instructive.

Months after the Congress

performed decently well in Karnataka and formed a government along with JD(S), the Congress could only win 19 seats in the 2018 elections in Telangana, compared to the 21 seats it won in the 2014 elections. Moreover, in Andhra Pradesh, the other Telugu state neighbouring Karnataka, Congress lost every seat it contested. But, of course, even the BJP's performance in these two states did not correlate with its performance in Karnataka.

Suppose a victory in one state were to influence the results in another. In that case, BJP must have won the Karnataka election, which followed only a few months after the BJP's spectacular seventh straight victory in Gujarat.

Álso, the recently held Gujarat and Himachal elections and the 2018 Madhya Chhattisgarh, and Telangana elections demonstrate that even in states that go to elections the same day return different verdicts. While BJP won in Gujarat, it lost to the Congress party in Himachal Pradesh. Similarly, the Congress saw a decline in Telangana, while it gained sharply in the other three

By now, it is clear that every state's voters vote with their minds when it comes to state elections, and Telangana's voters are no exception. It is widely acknowledged

across the state that there's a

huge anti-incumbency against

the current Bharat Rashtra Samiti government headed Kalvakuntla Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR), and the voters are looking for a party that can provide an alternative by defeating the

While the Congress party could convince the voters in the last two elections that it is the main opposition to BRS, voters in the state no longer believe the Congress to be fighting the BRS. Most MLAs who won on the Congress ticket in the 2014 and 2018 elections joined the BRS within months of winning.
On the one hand, the BJP

victories in the GHMC and MLC elections, and in the bypolls to the Assembly after 2018, clearly show that the electorate believes that a vote for the Congress eventually leads to another seat for BRS. Indeed, the Congress may have better chances of improving its tally in the state, but only if it stops trying to deceive the voters that it is fighting the BRS and joins it in an open alliance.

> (The author is BJP TS spokesperson)

#### Liquor scam in Telangana too, says Sanjay

conclusion.

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana BJP President Bandi Sanjay Kumar said that a liquor scam had taken in Telangana too. He demanded that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao should find out who is behind the liquor scam.

Sanjay said that cheap liquor is being sold with expensive labels and chal-lenged KCR to order an inquiry into this.

He said that Kavitha must be punished if she had a role in the Delhi liquor scam. He said that KCR and IT Minister KT Ramarao know that Kavitha is involved in the Delhi liquor scam, that's why they are not speaking about

He said that the BJP will not tolerate corruption and there is no scope for corruption under the Modi govern-

#### TS irrigation projects need national tag: KTR

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

Industries Minister KT Rama Rao said that Telangana pro-

In a tweet he said, "A contributing state to the nation's growth needs to be recognised by the Centre. Once a parched area today Telangana is turning into the granary of India. We have requested the Centre in the past and once again reiterate that Telangana irrigation projects should be supported by conferring them National Project Status?

He shared a clipping of 'The Pioneer's report on May 6 which read, 'Telangana seeks national status for two of its irrigation projects.' The 13th meeting of the Standing Committee of Southern Zonal Council was held at Chennai where Telangana raised the issue of conferring National Project status for the Kaleshwaram Project and the Palamuru Rangareddy (LIS) Irrigation Projects.

**TODAY** 

Magha:

Yamagandam:

Amritakalam:

**Temp:** 37°°

Humidity: 39%

Sunrise: 5:42 AM

Sunset: 6 46 PM

Varjyam:

Gulika:

**ALMANAC** 

Month & Paksham:

Sukla Paksha

May 26 05:19 AM to May 27 07:43 AM

May 25 05:53 PM

May 26 08:50 PM

to May 26 08:50 PM

to May 27 11:43 PM

10:36 AM to 12:13 PM

3:27 PM to 5:04 PM

10:16 AM to 12:04 PM

7:22 AM to 8:59 AM

07:02 PM to 08:50 PM

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:47 AM to 12:38 PM

**Updated:** MAY 25, 2023 5:00 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Mostly Cloudy

### No differences with Rajgopal & Eatala: Sanjay Minister

Telangana BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar said that he has no differences with party leaders Eatala Rajender and Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy.

He said that reports about differences in the Telangana BJP unit are a creation of the media and that the media has been trying to play down the BJP. He said that a section of the media has been conspiring to connect the BRS and the Congress.

Speaking to the media at Karimnagar on Friday, Sanjay said that Joining Committee Chairman Eatala Rajender would work as per the directions of the high

"We will discharge our



responsibilities as per the high command's orders," he said. Sanjay said that there is no change in the BNJP's voting percentage in Karnataka.

He said that KCR has been spending Rs 150 crore to now his existence.

why the state is spending so much when it is not in a position to pay salaries on time. He said that KCR had deployed 16 Intelligence officials to keep tabs on him and dismissed allegations that there was a secret under-He asked KCR to reveal standing between him and

Kamalakar.

Making it clear that he did not get any bribes from granite businessmen, Sanjay asked to show evidence if any

regarding that.
Terming KCR as a 'bunking master, Sanjay said that KCR has been avoiding the Prime Minister's programmes, President's Dinner, Republic Day celebrations at the Raj Bhavan and other functions. KCR also did not meet the public, he said.

He asked KCR whether KCR is boycotting the inauguration of Parliament's new building and added that KCR has been behaving insulting the Constitution drafted by Ambedkar and the spirit of

#### **Revanth again** asks BJP leaders to join Congress

PNS HYDERABAD

Declaring that the BJP brass has admitted that BJP is third in Telangana, TPCC President Revanth Reddy said that the BJP's objective now is to prevent the Congress from winning and ensure the victory of the

Addressing the media at Gandhi Bhavan on Friday, Revanth said, "As we have been saying before the BJP and the BRS are one. KCR and Modi are inseparable twins. We need to understand this clearly. The Congress needs to win in



Praveen Shinde, senior Shiv Sena Party (Shinde Group) eader, joined the BRS in the presence of Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao on Friday

#### **Businesses...**

Continued from page 1

They said that they are aware that it is a violation but their management did not give them

They said that they are not accepting Rs 2000 notes until clear guidelines are issued for shops. Only a few banks are accepting Rs 2000 notes and it took us a lot of time to find those banks."

Tiwari Raju, the owner of a medical store in Banjara Hills, expressed his discontent. "It is unacceptable to burden shopkeepers with the responsibility of getting rid of these notes. If the public wants to exchange them, they should go to banks and deposit them. They are trying to unload these notes on us. We will not accept them," he said. An online survey conducted by an independent organization called 'Local Circles' revealed that 91% of respondents faced problems when attempting to use the Rs 2,000 note for transactions.

**ECI starts...** 

Continued from page 1

CEO Vikas Raj empha-

sised on preparedness

for elections and urged DEOs to closely monitor

the preparation of the

Management Plan

(DEMP), identification

of expenditure-sensitive

constituencies and

expenditure-sensitive

pockets, vulnerable and

critical polling stations

and preparation of a

database of manpower

available at the DEO

level. He requested DEOs

to appoint 18 nodal offi-

cers covering all aspects

of elections and to assess

the requirements of

postal ballot, ETPBS and

vote-from-home.

Election

District

#### HMDA issues legal notice to...

Continued from page 1

"However, as the Concession Agreement is yet to be conpayment by the concessionaire has emerged so far as falsely alleged by Revanth Reddy who has made wild allegations without verifying information and facts," the HMDA said.

The HMDA said that the statements made by Revanth Reddy reeks of malice and

Continued from page 1

The bench was hearing two

petitions, including the one

filed by Vivekananda Reddy's

daughter, Suneetha Narreddy,

challenging the high court order granting conditional bail to T Gangi Reddy, while allowing a plea for its cancel-

lation. The other petition was filed by T Gangi Reddy chal-

lenging the high court's order cancelling the bail. "Re-list on

July 14. Till the next date, the

Vijayawada: In an interesting

twist in the Viveka murder

case, the Central Bureau of

Investigation (CBI) has men-

tioned the name of CM YS

Jagan Mohan Reddy in a fresh

additional counter affidavit

filed before the Telangana

High Court vacation bench on

Friday. The CBI claims that YS

Jagan Mohan Reddy was

informed about the death of

his uncle Vivekananda Reddy,

much before the news was

broken to the outside world by

the slain former minister's PA

MV Krishna Reddy.

PNS VIJAYAWADA

#### CVC accepted...

Continued from page 1

He said that he had mentioned in his complaint that the Telangana government will incur a loss of around Rs 15,000 crore.

were made with the intention to gain political mileage and a false, concocted narrative is

following part of the order dated April 27 passed by the

high court shall remain

stayed...," the bench said. In its

April 27 order, the high court

had said, "Accused No.1 (T

Gangi Reddy) is directed to

surrender on or before May

05, 2023. On his surrender, he

shall be remanded to judicial

custody till June 30, 2023.

which is the outer limit fixed

by the Supreme Court for

completion of investigation

While listing out the 'fresh

grounds' for it to oppose the

anticipatory bail to YSRCP MP

YS Avinash Reddy, the CBI, in

its additional affidavit, said: "It

is submitted that further inves-

tigation on the larger conspir-

acy aspect revealed that YS

Jagan Mohan Reddy, the pre-

sent CM of Andhra Pradesh,

had been informed about the

death of YS Vivekananda

Reddy in the early hours of

March 15, 2019, much before

the information about the

death of YS Vivekananda

Reddy broke out through MV

Krishna Reddy at around

06:15 am.

**SC** stays part of **HC**...

Jagan knew about Viveka murder

much before news broke out: CBI

being built by him to destroy public confidence in the state's

executive machinery. "The legal notice clarifies at the TOT process has been strictly carried out in accordance with rules," the HMDA said. The HMDA says that while a political discourse on an issue cannot be prevented, it cannot be maliciously utilised to defame a person or entity without due verification

#### **Future is in Hyd, says Eric Garcetti**

Continued from page 1

He said it is the dream of any ambassador for the President to visit their country and that he has been lucky that as Modi and Biden met thrice.

"Recently the PM met in Japan. Now, it is the third time in history that an Indian Prime and then Biden will be coming to India for G20. This is a pivotal relationship between not iust India and the US, but the entire planet is counting on this relationship. This is not a transaction between two countries but a relationship. We are working towards the 4Ps, prosperi-

Rahul gets court NOC for...

will attend meetings and inter-

Washington DC, New York

and San Francisco. The

Congress leader will likely

address Indian Americans,

meet lawmakers at the US

Capitol, and interact with

members of think tanks, Wall

Street executives and universi-

The magisterial court, in the

forenoon, reserved its order on Gandhi's plea for grant of

ty students during his stav.

He is slated to visit

act with university students.

ty, planet, people and peace." Speaking on cultural ties he said, "It is culture and people ties

which are reflected. It is Tollywood that created the best song of the movie 'Naatu Naatu' and won an Academy Award this year." Speaking about IPL, he said he would be going for the finale and said "Sorry for Hyderabad" He read out a poem of Sri Sri, "maro prapancham pilchindi andariki mundhu podham pai paiki." Reporters were quick to point out that the author was a staunch Communist. Responding Eric said, "Regardless of our philosophies we should have a commu-

nitarian relationship."

Swamy.

NOC after hearing submis-

sions of his lawyers and

Swamy opposed the application, saying it was "devoid of any merit" and insisted the

passport should be issued only

for one vear and renewed

"It is a special case. The pass-

port should not be issued for

10 years. It seems wrong," he

said, and claimed Gandhi's

Indian citizenship was under

every year thereafter.

cancellation PNS HYDERABAD The Congress has appointed a 7-member fact-finding cellation of GO No: 111. Kisan Congress Vice-President M. Kodanda Reddy will head the committee. **TPCC Working President** 

B. Mahesh Kumar Goud said that Rammohan Reddy, Narsimha Reddy, Gnaneshwar, economist Lubna Sharwat, and Dr Jaswin Jairath will be members of the committee. The committee will study the effects of the cancellation of GO No: 111 on the Himayat Sagar and Osman Sagar reservoirs.

**Cong appoints** 

panel to study

. GO No: 111

Kodanda said that the committee will examine the effects at the ground level and prepare a comprehensive report.

On Friday, TPCC President Revanth Reddy said that KCR cancelled the GO after the sale of all lands coming under the limits of GO No: 111 and that there was a big scam behind the cancellation of the GO.

#### question. Bonalu from June 22, Rs 15 crore ...

KCR to...

Continued from page 1

Continued from page 1

Therefore, this court after

going through the submis-

sions of both the sides and after

perusal of the record is of the

view that ends of justice would

suffice if the applicant is grant-

ed NOC for renewal of the

passport of the applicant as per

rules for a period of three years," the judge said.

the United States in the first

week of June during which he

Gandhi is scheduled to visit

The Telangana Police has been number one in the country for the last eight years in completing the passport verification process.

Hyderabad city will witness

patrol cars and a Blue Colts rally on Necklace Road and all those under the jurisdiction of Hyderabad, Kachakonda and Cyberabad Commissionerates will participate. A demonstration with police bands will be held in front of the Ambedkar statue from 4 pm to 7 pm. An exhibition on the theme Know Your Protectors, and various other programmes will be held along with performances by

troupes of police vigilance artists.

K'taka CM...

Continued from page 1

Former TPCC president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said that Congress MPs are not attending the inauguration of the new Parliament building.

He said that Article 79 made it clear how Parliament should be. But Prime Minister Modi has been behaving as if 'Modi means Parliament.'

AICC secretary Manthani MLA D. Sridhar Babu said that people have clarified their decision in the election results of Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka. He said that they will expose the BRS government's failures during the 20day programme.

Continued from page 1

The Minister said that after the formation of Telangana state, Minister Chandrasekhar Rao had declared it a state festival and is being organised grandly.

He said that the government has allocated Rs 15 crore for the Bonala Utsavam which will start on June 22. Bonalu will start in Golconda on June 22, the Secunderabad Mahankali Bonalu on July 9 and the Old City Bonalu on July 16.

He explained that as per the Chief Minister's orders, this year the Bonala festival will be organised in a peaceful man-

ner without any trouble for devotees.

He said the government provides financial assistance to many private temples for organising Bonala festivals grandly, and that no government is providing financial assistance like this anywhere in

the country. Around Rs 200 crore will be spent on arrangements under various government departments on the occasion of Bonalu. During Bonalu festivals lakhs of devotees come not only from the city but also from other states to visit the goddess and offer bonalas and

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

IFB & TFA TO COLLABORATE AND EXCHANGE KNOWLEDGE

## MoU signed for research and training in forestry

The Institute of Forest Biodiversity (IFB), functioning under the Council of Forest Research and Education, Hyderabad, has joined hands with the Telangana Forest Academy (TFA) in an effort to enhance research and training in forest-related matters. The memorandum of under-standing (MoU) was signed between the two organisations, solidifying their com-mitment to collaborate and exchange knowledge in the field, on Friday.

The signing ceremony took place at the Telangana Forest Academy in Dulapally, with AS Rawat, Director General of the Forest Research and Education Council as the chief guest.

During the ceremony, RM Dobrial, Chief Conservation Officer of Forestry (PCCF, HOOF), emphasised the need to focus on Telangana's climate, tree species and forest development as part of



the collaborative agreement. He urged the organisations to conduct research on pest management for neem trees and explore sustainable agro forestry systems as alternative sources of income for farmers.

importance of developing high-quality plant varieties to cater to the growing demand for sandalwood cultivation. The PCCF also requested the state government to study the environmental benefits Furthermore, he stressed the Telangana's ambitious green-

The IFB studies forest conservation practices, soil and moisture conservation, develmoisture conservation, development of forest tree species, and the prevention of plant pests and diseases, and aims to further its efforts through this partnership. The Telangana Forest Academy is known for its training programmes for forest personnel.

Director General AS Rawat said that they are committed to providing skill training to forest department officers and staff, utilising the advanced technology available through the national organisation. He highlighted the significance of modern techniques and tools in enhancing the capabilities of forest personnel.

Among the attendees were PCCF (Compa) Lokesh Jaishwal, PCCF (Vigilance) Alusing Meru, PCCF (FAC) MC Pargain, IFB Director É Venkat Reddy, Forest Academy Director Ash and CCF Ramalingam.

#### Statistics crucial for national development:Guv

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan emphasised the vital role of statistics and data analytics in driving effective policy-making for the development of the nation.

Speaking to the probationers of the Indian Statistical Service (ISS) 2021 and 2022 batches, who are currently undergoing training at the Dr CR Rao Advanced Institute of Statistics, Mathematics, and Computer Science in Hyderabad, she underscored the significance of efficient data analysis and presentation in facilitating informed policy decisions.

During the interaction, the Governor encouraged the young probationers to leverage alumni data and conduct data analysis pertaining to graduates from various universities in the state. She expressed the belief that this data could inspire alumni to contribute to the current generation of students in their respective alma maters, fostering a culture of collaboration and mentorship.

Furthermore, she urged the officers of the Indian Statistical Service to develop a comprehensive database related to the health, nutrition, and socio-economic status of tribal commu-

### State-level CM Cup tourney opens in LB Stadium on May 29

PNS HYDERABAD

The Chief Minister (CM) Cup tournament is set to commence on May 28 and held till May 31 at various sports venues across the state. The opening ceremony of the games will take place on the evening of May 29 at LB Stadium, where Minister KT Rama Rao will be the chief guest. Oscar Winning Singer Rahul Sipliganj is set to participate in the event.

To ensure the success of the tournament, Sandeep Kumar Sultania, Chief Secretary of the State Sports Department, met stadium incharges and officials from various committees at LB Stadium. During the meeting, guidelines were issued regarding the management of sports, including stadium facilities, catering, sanitation, drinking water, medical health and transport.

Dr Anjaneya Goud, Chairman of Sports Authority of Telangana State, emphasised the significance of the CM Cup as it is being organised for the first time after the formation of a separate Telangana state. He urged all officials to take special care in ensuring a smooth and flawless experience for the participat-



Safety, especially for women sportspersons, was highlighted as a top priority. Committees responsible for police, drinking water, sanitation, catering, medical health, and transport were directed to coordinate their efforts and ensure a safe and secure environment throughout the tournament. Officials in charge of the stadiums were instructed to keep their phone numbers accessible at all times, as play-

allocated stadiums should be

well-prepared to accommo-

date them without any short-

Adequate medical supplies and arrangements for emergency situations were also empha

The Chief Secretary conducted an inspection of the Secunderabad Gymkhana Grounds to assess the preparations for the CM Cup Games. The inspection was attended by Tourism MD Manohar and SATS officials.

Sports venues confirmed for the tournament include Basheerbagh LB Stadium, KVBR Stadium, Gachibowli GMCS Sports Complex, Shooting Range, Gachibowli, Secunderabad Gymkhana Grounds, and Saroornagar

### Child trafficker held in Nalgonda district, 20 children rescued

PNS HYDERABAD

The State nodal Anti-human Trafficking Unit of the Women Safety Wing, arrested a child trafficker, and 20 children (13 girls and 7 boys) were rescued from the SVB brick industry in Sreerampuram village, Anneparthy, Nalgonda district.

The operation took place on Friday morning by teams of the Anti-human Trafficking Unit, Labour Department, Women Development and Child Welfare Department, Revenue Department, Child Welfare Committee, along with NGOs, Childline, and the International Justice Mission.

The rescue operation was launched based on information that children between the ages of 10 to 17, hailing from Odisha and Maharashtra states, were Naik (45) of Balangir, Odisha

The rescue operation was launched based on information that children between the ages of 10 to 17, hailing from Odisha and Maharashtra states, were being employed as labourers

being employed as labourers in the SVB brick industry located in Sreerampuram village, Anneparthy, Nalgonda district.

The arrested was identified as Chilla Narsimha (51) of Kandlakoya, Medchal District. Another accused Gandadher

State, is asconding.

The team revealed that the arrested trafficker, Chilla Narsimha, confessed that the children were brought to work as labourers. A case has been registered at the Nalgonda Rural police station, under Section 374 r/w 34 IPC, and further investigation is underway. The rescued children will be presented before the Child Welfare Committee in Nalgonda district, where they will receive shelter and neces-

sary support. Shikha Goel, head of the Women Safety Wing, lauded the efforts of the team involved in the operation. She emphasised that all forms of trafficking are unacceptable, and the Anti-human Trafficking Unit is committed to taking strict action against such activities.

### Gas cylinder filling racket busted; 3 held

The Mangalhat Police conducted a raid on an illegal gas refilling house located at Takkerwadi, Dhoolpet, and arrested three individuals. The police seized several gas cylinders and related equip-

The accused have been identified as Bidaniya Ravi, aged 42, Makadiya Sunil Kumar, aged 52, and Bidaniya Rakesh Singh, aged 39, all residents of Takkerwadi, Dhoolpet, and Mangalhat. The raid, which took place on May 26, resulted in the seizure of various items associated with the illegal gas-refilling operation. They were booked under Crime No. 166/2023, U/s. 336, 285, 286 IPC, Sec.7 of Essential Commodities Act, with the assistance of Mangalhat Police Station.

The seized property includes 15 domestic gas



cylinders, 26 commercial cylinders, 78 mini cylinders, five refillers, and one weighing machine. In total, 119 cylinders were recovered from the premises. The accused were taken into custody and

for their involvement in the illegal gas refilling activity.

The Mangalhat Police emphasised that the refilling

of gas from larger cylinders into smaller ones poses a serious threat to human life will face legal consequences and property. Such activities

are in violation of the Essential Commodities Act. They urged the public to come forward with any information related to similar illegal gas refilling operations in the jurisdiction of the Mangalhat Police Station.

#### CS urges students to enrol in combined 10+2

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Secretary V Sheshadri appealed to the students in Telangana to take advantage of the Staff Selection Commission Combined Higher Secondary Level (10+2) Examination, 2023.

The Staff Selection Commission (SR), is set to conduct the competitive examination to recruit candidates for Group C posts, including Lower Divisional Clerk/Junior Secretariat Assistant and Data Entry Operators. These positions are available in various ministries, departments, offices of the Government of India, constitutional and statutory bodies, tribunals, and more.

Candidates from all regions across the country are eligible to apply for these positions.

#### NHRC seeks action report from GHMC

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has intervened in the case of the tragic death of Mounika, who fell into a nala (drain) on April 29. The NHRC has directed key officials, including the Telangana State Government Secretary, Hyderabad District Collector, GHMC Commissioner and Hyderabad Commissioner of Police, to submit a prompt action report within four

On April 29, the 9-year-old Mounika, from Kalasiguda, stepped out of her house and accidentally fell into an uncovered pit and got washed away into a nala due to heavy rains. The GHMC DRF team conducted a search operation and recovered the girl's body. Renowned lawyer Rama

Rao Immaneni, who filed a complaint with the NHRC regarding the incident, has sought justice for the victim

and her family.

The complaint, registered as Case No. 631/36/2/2023, demanded a compensation of Rs 20 lakh to the family of the deceased girl, as well as her younger mentally challenged brother. Immaneni has further requested the government to provide a government job to the head of the family to ensure their care and support.
The NHRC, after conduct-

ing an inquiry into the matter on May 24, has directed the Chief Secretary and Director General of Police (DGP) of Telangana State to respond to the incident.

#### IITH launches tech innovation centre with Indian Navy

PNS HYDERABAD

Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH) has forged a partnership with the Indian Navy's Weapons and Electronics Systems Engineering Establishment (WESEE) to enhance its focus on national safety and security.

A Co-developmental

Technology Innovation Centre (CTIC) was inaugurated on Friday at the IITH Technology Research Park (IITH-TRP) by Sandeep Vice-Admiral Naithani, Chief of Material, in the presence of esteemed guests from academia, industry, and the Indian Navy.

The collaboration between IITH and WESEE is set to foster a spirit of innovation and contribute to the vision of an Atma Nirbhar Bharat (Selfreliant India) by leveraging the technical expertise and research capabilities of both entities. Through this centre, projects from thrust areas like wireless



networks, AI/ML, Coding, algorithms and many others are identified for technological advancement. Formulation of and participation in joint research programmes will be taken up to pole vault integra-tion of transformational tech-nology into products to be deployed on Indian Navy plat-

During the inauguration ceremony, Professor BS Murty, Director of IITH, highlighted the institute's commitment to nurturing entrepreneurship and generating competent human resources. He said, "In the last five years, we have incubated over 125 startups, creating more than 1,000 jobs and generating revenue of over Rs 800 crore. Our goal is to create an ecosystem where our students become job creators rather than job seekers. Through this collaboration, I am confident that we will achieve great things together with the support of our young and energetic faculty."

Vice-Admiral Sandeep Naithani, Chief of Material, said, "I am happy to see that our collaboration has started delivering results. I urge the young and energetic talents of IITH to take benefit from our state-ofthe-art facility to understand the improvement areas and suggest better solutions.

#### Pfizer India ties up with Apollo to set up CoE

PNS HYDERABAD

Pfizer India has joined forces with Apollo Hospital in Hyderabad to launch the Centre of Excellence (CoE) for adult vaccination. The CoE is set to promote and facilitate adult vaccination by creating a comprehensive ecosystem within the hospital, focusing on protecting patients against vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs).

To mark the inauguration of the CoE, a scientific summit was organised for healthcare professionals, led by Infectious disease champions Dr Suneetha Narreddy and Dr Vishnu Rao, who shared their experience and practical insights on building the adult vaccination ecosystem. Following the summit, an open forum was conducted with key HCPs across various specialties including Pulmonology, Cardiology, Internal Medicine, Preventive Medicine, Nephrology, Endocrinology, Critical Care, and Oncology

#### Four arrested, 14 vehicles seized

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

The Karkhana police apprehended four men involved in a series of vehicle thefts in the city. The accused, identified as P Pavan, Gugloth Harichandra Nayak, Kakkala Chinna, and Kakkala Durgaprasad, were arrested, and a total of 14 stolen two-wheelers were recovered.

According to police, the main accused Pavan is a habitual offender known for his involvement in previous criminal activities. His childhood friends Harichandra Nayak, Chinna, and Durgaprasad, planned and executed a series of vehicle thefts in Hyderabad. The group targeted two-wheelers and had devised a plan to hide the stolen vehicles at their residences in Hyderabad, with the intention of selling them in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh. The police received a com-

plaint on May 21, from a victim named Kontham Hari

Krishna. He reported that his two-wheeler, a blue-coloured DIO with registration number TS10EP3602, was stolen from a parking spot near Cream Stone Ice-cream shop in Karkhana on May 14. The investigation led to the involvement of Pavan and Nayak in this particular theft.

Further investigation revealed that Pavan was previously involved in another case in Banjara Hills, where he had stolen diamonds, gold, and silver worth approximately Rs 15 lakh, along with his accomplices Chapala Anjappa and Mailaram Pavan Kumar. The entire stolen property was recovered intact by the Banjara Hills police.

Two-wheelers were seized from Nayak and Durgaprasad, while seven two-wheelers were recovered from Chinna, which were given to him by Pavan. A total of 14 stolen two-wheelers, with an approximate worth yet to be determined, have been recovered.

#### Two drug peddlers held; synthetic drug seized

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

The city police arrested two drug peddlers, and seized 60 grams of Mephedrone, a synthetic drug, which was found in their possession. The accused were identified as Sohail Ahmed Mohammed Mohammed Hassan Shaikh and Chukwuemeka, a Nigerian national. Along with the arrests, law enforcement officers seized two mobile phones which were confiscated as evi-

Police revealed that Sohail

Ahmed Mohammed Hassan Shaikh is a 40-year-old footwear business owner. He was residing near Nampally railway station. The authorities seized 40 grams of Mephedrone from him while he was attempting to sell the drug to potential customers in Nampally area.

During the investigation, Sohail Ahmed revealed that he had partnered with Chukwuemeka, a Nigerian national residing in Kharghar, New Mumbai, with the intention of establishing a drug

supply business in Hyderabad. Acting on this information, the authorities apprehended Chukwuemeka in the Lakdikapul and seized 20 grams of Mephedrone from him. Police said that Chukwuemeka, 28 years old, disclosed that he came to India on a Business Visa after completing his MBA from OSUN State Polytechnic College in Nigeria. Chukwuemeka procured drugs from his Nigerian friends, who were believed to be the main drug dealers in

#### INTER-STATE RACKET BUSTED, 2.65 TONS OF SEEDS SEIZED

#### Spurious seeds are biggest concern to farmers: CP

PNS HYDERABAD

"The biggest problem for an average farmer is not bad weather conditions, hailstorms, and droughts, but it is actually fake seeds," said Cyberabad Commissioner of Police Stephen Raveendra. The Cyberabad Police busted an inter-state spurious seed racket in the city and arrested seven individuals on Friday. The operation, carried out in Telangana and Karnataka, resulted in the seizure of 2.65 tons of spurious BG-III/HT cotton seeds, along with sever-



al other incriminating items. Speaking on the operation, the CP said, "When there is drought or hailstorm, the farmer loses only 50% of the crop. But this causes 100% loss. From the manufacturer to

the shopkeeper in the villages, fake seeds are a big mafia. Their profit is at the cost of a farmer's life. Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has been warning the police department from time to time to break this chain and cut this problem at the root. Around 30% to 90% of fake seeds have been seized in the state, only a few mafias are left. We are registering PD Act cases against the fake seed mafia."

The arrested individuals were identified as Sada Shiva Reddy, Kummari Tayappa, Buddanodu Ramchandar, Bogudu Suresh, and an absconding suspect identified as Singh. The accused were found to be involved in the procurement and sale of spurious seeds, exploiting the demand for BG-III/HT cotton

seeds in the market. In separate operations, the police seized 23 bags (1400 kg)

of spurious BG-III/HT cotton seeds worth Rs. 45 lakhs in a Bolero truck on May 25, 2023. Additionally, 25 bags of spurious cotton seeds, 15 liters of gooch oil used for chemical coloring, a Renault Duster vehicle, three mobile phones, and a packing machine, all worth Rs 40 lakh, were confiscated. In total, 2,650 kg of spurious BG-III/HT cotton seeds were seized, amounting to an approximate worth of Rs 85 lakh.

'Frustrated oppn parties

#### Govt committed to providing quality healthcare

PNS NALGONDA

The State government has adopted innovative methods to provide quality healthcare to people, according to Minister for Health T Harish Rao on Friday. Harish Rao, along with Minister for Energy G Jagadish Reddy, laid foundation stones for several development activities and also inaugurated projects. The Minister laid the foundation for the new village panchayat building at Vemulapally. The government released Rs 21 lakh for the construction of the building. They also inaugurated the "dedicated paedi-atric care unit." They laid the foundation stone for a building to double the bed strength from 100 to 200 in Area Hospital Miryalaguda. The government earmarked Rs

14.60 crore for the

buildings. They also laid

the foundation stone for

buildings in various mandals to house Palle

Dawkhanas (village dispensaries). The build-

ings would be built at a

cost of Rs 5.60 crore.

Rajya Sabha member Badugu Lingaiah, Miryalaguda MLA N Bhaskar Rao, and Devarakonda MLA

Ravinder Kumar were

also present.

to people

spreading lies against govt'

"Frustrated opposition is spreading lies against the gov-ernment," said Minister for Finance T Harish Rao on Friday and vowed to give a "befitting response to the vicious campaign."

Speaking at Atmeeya Sammelan at Miryalaguda in Nalgonda district, the Minister asked the party cadre to reach out to people and apprise them of the unprecedented develop-ment during the last nine years. "We have a weapon to nail the lies. That is development. By creating awareness among people about the government's welfare schemes and development activities," he observed. Harish Rao pointed out that

Telangana secured awards at the national level because of its remarkable performance. The nation was proud of Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao. Under the Congress regimes, all the nine undivided districts in Telangana regions, except Hyderabad, remained backward in the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh. "If the BJP unleashes vicious campaign, the BRS activists must teach a lesson to the leaders of the saffron party by educating the people," Harish Rao pointed out. The Congress government during its 10 rule had created just 6,000 jobs. The BRS government, however, filled 1.35 lakh vacancies in the State. "There is no unemployment in Telangana. But, there is political unemployment in the Congress



Minister for Finance T Harish Rao speaking at a meeting in Miryalaguda on Friday

party," he said and asserted the people voted for KCR for two consecutive terms and the ruling party would emerge victorious for the third consecutive term, he asserted. The Congress would find it difficult to get candidates in 40 to 50 constituencies, he said.

Minister for Energy G Jagadish Reddy, who participated in the meeting as chief guest, recalled that the farmlands in the Telangana region were left parched for 16 years in the combined Andhra Pradesh. The Ministers from the Telangana region remained

power, he said. "In double engine government, 35 to 40 per cent of people are suffering from starvation. Telangana made rapid strides to development on all fronts," he said.
Under the KCR's rule only,

Krishna water was released 16 times for irrigation to help farmers in the Nalgonda district, he reminded the people. The paddy yield touched 40 lakh tonnes in Nalgonda district from mere 3.5 lakh tonnes in erstwhile Andhra Pradesh. He exuded confidence that the BRS would win all 12 Assembly constituencies in the district. Local MLA N Bhaskar Rao presided over

#### **Cong insulted Telangana Formation, martyrs: Harish**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Formation Day on June 2 is a Festival of four crore people. The Congress wants to celebrate Formation Day as a "fail Telangana programme." "Will anyone celebrate a good occasion like this? Telangana has not failed, Congress has failed." He was speaking at BRS Atmeeya Samnelan at Huzurnagar. "You did not come together during the Telangana movement and even didn't resign for the cause of statehood. The Congress turned its back and fled. They did not come together in the movement then, they are not coming together in development today. They are not coming together to celebrate with the people of Telangana". The Congress insulted the formation of the Telangana State, the Telangana race and the sacrifices of Telangana martyrs. KCR changed the fate of Telangana. If Telangana practised, then the country will follow. Kishan Reddy, who did not resign from Telangana, announced that Telangana Utsav would be held. He questioned the merging of seven

mandals in AP, not giving Bayyaram steel factory, and not funding Mission Bhagiratha, Kakatiya, medical colleges, and tribal universities. "One says that Telangana has failed, the other says that we have done something for Telangana and celebrates. Kishan Reddy, you have no right to celebrate till what is due to Telangana comes". Harish Rao said. "Revanth Reddy has a twisted mind. He speaks a lot of crooked words. He doesn't even know how jobs are filled. Vacancies are not filled by TSPSC alone. As you said, we have filled 37,000 posts through TSPSC alone. I said the same. You don't understand the real thing and you ramble on. TSPSC is not the only one filling jobs. Telangana State Level Police Recruitment Board Junior Panchayat Secretaries, Singareni Coalries Company Limited, By power companies, DCCBs, Through TRT, teacher posts in gurukula. Replacement of doctors by Telangana Medical Recruitment Board. Thousands of jobs have been filled like this". He said In total, the government has filled 1,32,899 jobs so far. Another 80000 posts are being filled

#### Niranjan warns Cong against 'tongue-lashing'

PNS WANAPARTHI

Minister for Agriculture S Niranjan Reddy on Friday went at the Congress leaders hammer and tongs for spewing venom against the State government. "The four-andhalf decade Congress rule was responsible for the ills plaguing the Mahabubnagar district," he pointed out.

Reacting to the criticism by the Congress leaders at Jadcherla public meeting on Thursday, the Minister said, "The Congress governfailed to provide succour to people. It resulted in a large number of people from the district migrating to far-off places in search of livelihood. A large number of farmers, too, committed sui-

cides." He wondered whether Congress leaders had no shame to ask for votes now after committing the sin of depriving the people of their livelihood in the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh. In sharp contrast to the

Congress rule, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) government rolled out more welfare schemes and implemented developmental activities in the district. The migration of people from the district to faroff places in search of liveli-

The people in the undivided Mahabubnagar district voted for BRS candidates in 13 of 14 Assembly constituencies. The Congress leaders cannot atone for their sins even if they served the people throughout their life. The Congress leaders cannot mislead the people in Telangana,

The Congress leaders, Niranjan Reddy said, have been dreaming about coming to power

after the party won the elections in Congress leaders embarked on a people's march and padayatra for the sake of power. The people in the district knew that the

Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation project was stalled by the Congress leaders. In the new State of

Telangana, the BRS government changed the face of Palamuru district. With the government providing irrigation, the people, particularly the farmers, were no long migrating to far-off places in search of livelihood, the Minister said. "Gruel centres were opened during the Congress regime. Now, in the new State of Telangana, we opened paddy procurement centres," he remarked.

**EWS FROM ANDHRA PRADESH** 

#### Revanth is spreading falsehood, says Srinivas Goud

PNS MAHABUBNAGAR

Minster for Prohibition and Excise V Srinivas Goud on Friday came down heavily on Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president A Revanth Reddy for "spreading falsehood."

Speaking at a media conference here, the Minister described the TPCC president's claims as ridiculous. "If the Congress developed the Palamuru district, the need for a movement for the statehood of Telangana would not have arisen.

Telangana Mahabubnagfar district was consistently listed among the most backward and droughtprone in India. The district was synonymous with the migration of the poor to far-off lands in search of livelihood. The people in the district used to get drinking water once in 14 days during the Congress rule. "Now, the BRS government under the leadership of Minister Chandrashekar Rao has been supplying potable water to people daily," he said. The government has also been providing round-the-clock, he

pointed out. Telangana was the only State which was providing input subsidy to farmers under the Rythu Bandhu scheme,



Minister for Excise V Srinivas Goud speaking at a media conference in Mahabubnagar on Friday

Srinivas Goud said and asked why the Congress-ruled States have not implemented the scheme in their States. There were just 30 hostels before 2014 and now the BRS government has set up 140 Gurukula Schools to provide quality education for students from poor families. The Chief Minister said that the Gurukula Schools would be upgraded into degree colleges soon, he said.

The BRS government completed the projects which were left incomplete. The Congress government abandoned several projects after laying foundation stones, he pointed out. While the successive Congress governments constructed projects and provided irrigation for just 2 lakh acres since Independence, the BRS government during the last nine years provided irrigation to 8 acres Mahabubnagar district, he observed.

Srinivas Goud pointed out that the Congress government had failed to complete even the Kalwakurthy lift irrigation project which has just 2 tmc ft capacity. The State government has now been constructing the massive Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation project with 70 tmc ft capacity, he

The youth were attracted to Naxalism because of poverty, he said and added that Congress was responsi-

## KCR criticised for staying away from crucial meeting

The Telangana government should reveal why the Governor was not invited to the inauguration of the Secretariat, Union Tourism Minister G. Kishan Reddy

He said that KCR's refusal to attend meetings convened by the Centre is an act of irresponsibility.

Addressing the media on Friday in Hyderabad, Kishan said that if the BRS does not come should the inauguration of the Parliament building be postponed?

He said that his name, the local MP, was not even on the plaque of the twin towers and that the BJP is not in a position to argue with the BRS.

Kishan said that opposition parties are making unnecessary noise regarding the inauguration of the new Parliament building. It is irresponsible for KCR not to attend meetings convened by the Centre.

Boycotting Saturday's NITI Aayog meeting was a mischievous act, he said and added that due to the attitude of KCR, Telangana state which was achieved through a long struggle, is losing.

He said that it is a shame that the Chief Minister did not attend the Prime Minister's official functions and that the state is losing due to the confrontational attitude of KCR.

Kishan said that KCR has failed to make Telangana's voice heard where there was an opportunity and Telangana will suffer due to this.

KCR has time to go to Maharashtra, but he has no time to go to garland the statues of Ambedkar or Jagjivan

#### CM skipping NITI Aayog meeting does not augur well for TS: FGG

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

for Good Forum Governance requested the Chief Minister of Telangana to attend the "NITI AAYOG' (National Institution for Transforming India) meeting and mention the grievances of the State and try to get them solved.

Padmanabha Reddy in a letter said, "The State government may be having differences with Union Government, one of the forums to address the grievance is the platform of NITI AAYOG. Continuously boycotting the NITI AAYOG will not augur well for the people of Telangana. The

to believe that personal ego is overtaking the interest of the State". The letter was based on

reports in the media that the

Civil Societies have a reason India the states are not independent though they are autonomous in the fields allotted to them, they are still dependent on the union for several purposes".

Chief Minister of Telangana is not attending the meeting being held on 27 May in New Delhi. Since the last couple of years the Chief Minister of Telangana is not attending the NITI AAYOG meetings.

In this regard, Forum for Good Governance - a Civil Society Organization - said, "In a democracy, there will be many political parties with different ideologies but when it comes to governance they all follow the constitution. In

NITI AAYOG' is a body headed by the Prime Minister and all the Chief Ministers, Central Ministers, L.t Governors of UT.s. sa members. Inter-alia, the objectives of 'NITI AAYOG' are: To evolve a shared vision of national development priorities with the active involvement of states. To faster Cooperative federalism recognizing that a strong state

makes a strong nation. To pay

special attention to the uplift-

ment of needy people etc.

#### 'Development is conspicuous by absence under BRS rule'

PNS GADWAL

BJP national vice-president D K Aruna on Friday claimed that the district witnessed development in all sectors when she was the minister. During the last nine years, the development was conspicuous by its absence, she said.

shortly after hoisting party flags at Ryalampadu, Marla Beedu, Bhureddypally, Chennareddypally and Dadoor villages, the district would have turned into a desert but for Nettempadu project.

The State government, she said, has laid cement concrete roads with the funds given by the Centres. The Centre has been funding the mid-day meal programme, Anganwadi and nutritious food provisions. She wondered whether the government building double bedroom houses in urban areas or rural areas.

Aruna said that the BRS was speaking about the schemes only ahead of the elections. They claimed to



BJP national vice-president D K Aruna speaking at a meeting in Gadwal on Friday

have been implementing schemes like double bedroom houses, sheep distribution, etc only ahead of

Under the BRS rule, Telangana was not turned into "Bangaru Telangana," but it benefited the KCR family and party activists, she alleged. She said that the BRS had looted funds in the name of projects. The surface of the road started peeling off, but there were no repairs, she said.

Aruna appealed to people to reject the BRS in the next elections and elect BJP.



PNS HYDERABAD The BJP will organise a

mega job mela on June 3 and 4 in Hyderabad with the cooperation of the Central government.

**BJP** to hold

mega job

mela on

**June 3, 4** 

Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy on Friday said that this mela is the first sort of it in South India. He asked the unemployed youth to register their names for the mela.

He said that the jobs will be for the 8th class to PhD. He suggested that the unemployed youth come along with their certificates, he

#### **Former MLA** joins Cong



SANGAREDDY

Former MLA Patlolla Sashidhar Reddy on Friday joined the Congress party in the presence of TPCC president A Revanth Reddy and AICC in charge of Telangana Manikrao Thakre.

Sashidhar Reddy won from the constituency in 2004 on the Janata party ticket. He continued as a Congress party associate member till 2009. He was defeated in the 2009 Assembly elections. He recently joined the BJP, but he could not continue in the party. He returned to the Congress party fold now.

Sashidhar Reddy's brother Upender Reddy contested on the Congress ticket in 2018 but failed to win.

### Pattas for social justice in Amaravati: CM

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy formally launched the programme of distribution of house site pattas to 50,793 poor women beneficiaries in the R-5 zone spread over Guntur and NTR districts. The Chief Minister also formally launched the programme of handing over to the beneficiaries 5,024 TIDCO houses constructed at a cost of Rs 443.71crore in CRDA region.

Addressing a huge public meeting of beneficiaries here on Friday before distributing the house site pattas, the Chief Minister said construction of houses in all 25 layouts will begin on July 8 coinciding with the Jayanti of his father and former chief minister Dr YS Rajasekhara Reddy. In the next one week, geo-tagging of all beneficiaries would be completed, he said.

Government will spend Rs 2000 cr for the construction of houses and providing infrastructure in 25 layouts benefiting 23,762 poor women who got house site pattas in 11 layouts in Guntur district and 27,031 women who received the pattas in 14 layouts in NTR district.

The day remains special not only



in the State history but also in the history of the country as the TDPbacked farmers fought in vain to stop the distribution of house sites by creating legal hurdles and approaching even the Supreme Court saying demography of the CRDA would be disturbed.

These are not just house site pattas, they are social justice instruments 75,000 poor women across the State. too," he said and described the event out of which 21 lakh women were as historical and unprecedented.

Explaining about the three options under which the houses would be constructed, he said under the first fer Rs 1, 80,000 directly into the bank whole, he said.

accounts of beneficiaries who want to construct the dwelling units on their own. Under the second option, the Government would transfer the labour expenses directly into the bank accounts of beneficiaries after supplying cement, steel and door frames and under the third option, the Government will fully take upon the responsibility of construction.

In all options, sand would be provided free to the beneficiaries while quality steel, cement and door frames would be supplied at subsidized rates as per the policy adopted in all Jagananna colonies across the State, he clarified.

Government would also arrange bank loans up to Rs 35,000 each for all beneficiaries at 25 paise interest for expediting the construction, he said, adding the beneficiaries are free to choose the option. So far, house sites were given to 30,

sanctioned houses each worth Rs. 2. 5 lakh, he said, adding that the worth would go up to Rs 5 or Rs 10 lakh. This amounts to creating propoption, the Government would trans- erty worth Rs 3 lakh crore on the

## Yechury raps Union govt for not extending invite to Prez

PNS VIJAYAWADA

General secretary of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPM), Sitaram Yechury, announced that 19 opposition parties had opposed and boycotted the inaugural programme of the new Parliament building. However, he raised concerns about the absence of the President of India during the inaugural ceremony, despite the President's role as an integral part of Parliament.

Sitaram Yechury, the prominent leader of the CPM, addressed the media at the MBVK in Vijayawada on Friday, accompanied by politburo member MA Baby and State secretary V Srinivasa

He alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's disregard for the President of



Indian Constitution. Referring to Article 79 of the Constitution, Yechury highlighted that the President of India holds the responsibility for the functioning of Parliament and the Rajya Sabha.

Furthermore, Yechury emphasised that Prime Minister Modi should recognise that his role is that of the leader of the ruling party, not the leader of Parliament. He asserted that the leader of the opposition party should have the rank of a cabinet minister. Yechury also stressed that the India was a violation of the President of India's approval is

necessary for the ruling party's proposed bills to gain legality, as all rights ultimately rest with the President.

Addressing the issue of accountability, Yechury stated that the government should be answerable to Parliament, just as Members of Parliament are answerable to the people. He called upon everyone to condemn the discriminatory treatment of the President of India.

In addition, Yechury emphasised the need for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to investigate financial irregularities involving Adani. He criticised what he perceived as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's authoritarian rule, highlighting the potential danger it poses to the country. He also criticized the demonetization and referred to it as an impulsive decision, drawing a parallel to historical actions taken by Tughlaq.

#### Karnataka Cabinet expansion today, portfolios also to be allotted: Min

arnataka Minister K H Muniyappa on Friday said the Cabinet expansion will take Relation of the portfolios would also be allotted by evening. Muniyappa also said barring four or five ministerial posts, rest would be filled up in the same day. According to the Minister, the Cabinet would be a mix of seniors and young people. "Tomorrow, the Cabinet expansion will take place. Time has also been

fixed. It would be tomorrow afternoon. Most of the posts would be filled," Muniyappa told reporters after returning from New Delhi. To a question on how many ministerial posts would be filled, he said, "Barring four or five, rest all would be filled up." When asked whether senior leaders have put up any demand before the party high command regarding ministerial positions, Munivappa said at this juncture it would be difficult to say anything. "However, we need seniors as well as young people.



#### **Below normal monsoon rains** likely in June: IMD

he country is likely to receive below normal rainfall in June, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said while forecasting normal monsoon for the entire season. IMD Environment Monitoring and Research Center (EMRC) chief D Sivananda Pai said, "Below normal monthly (June) rainfall is expected over most parts of the country except some areas of south peninsular India, northwest India, extreme north India and

some isolated pockets of northeast India, where above normal rainfall is expected." The southwest monsoon is expected to be normal this season despite the onset of El Nino, which is caused due to warming of the equatorial Pacific Ocean, he told a press conference. Pai said the seasonal rainfall over the monsoon core zone consisting of most of the rain-fed agriculture areas in the country is most likely to be normal -- 94 to 106 per cent of the long period average



#### Shivaji's 350th coronation anniversary: Maha Guv flags off 'Jal kalash' yatra

aharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais on Friday flagged off the 'Sahastra Jal Kalash Yatra' between Mumbai and Raigad Fort ahead of the 350th coronation anniversary celebrations of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj scheduled for June 2. Bais, accompanied by state Minister of Cultural Affairs Sudhir Mungantiwar, performed

the 'Sahastra Jal Kalash Pujan' and witnessed a demonstration of martial arts presented

by children and youth at Raj Bhavan here. Water collected from various rivers across the country will be used for the ceremony to mark the 350th anniversary of the coronation of the legendary warrior-king. Principal Secretary (Culture) Vikas Kharge, Karyavahak of Raigad Smarak Mandal Sudhir Thorat, Shri Shiv Rajyabhishek Dinotsav Seva Samiti official Sunil Pawar and Mahant



9 YEARS OF MODI GOVT

### **Cong poses 9 questions to PM**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi completing nine years in office, the Congress on Friday asked him nine questions on issues such as rising prices, unemployment and farmers' income, and demanded an apology for the "betrayal" during his tenure.

The Opposition party also said the government should mark this day as 'Maafi Diwas'.

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi had raised critical issues during the Bharat Jodo Yatra and the nine questions are based on that, party general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh told a press conference at the All India Congress Committee headquarters here.

Ramesh, who was flanked by party leaders Pawan Khera and Supriya Shrinate, also released a booklet 'Nau saal, Nau sawaal' and said Modi had become the prime minister on this day nine years ago and therefore, the party wants to ask nine questions of him.

"We want the PM to break income double over the last



tions," Ramesh said

Posing the questions to the prime minister, he asked, "Why is it that inflation and unemployment are skyrocketing in India? Why have the rich become richer and the poor poorer? Why is public property being sold to PM Modi's friends, even as economic disparities are increasing?"

Ramesh also asked why is it that the agreements made with farmers while repealing the three "black" farm laws have not been honoured and why has the minimum support price not been legally guaranteed. Why didn't farmers'

Accusing the government of indulging in corruption and cronyism, Ramesh queried why the prime minister is putting people's hard-earned savings in LIC and SBI at risk

Why are you letting thieves escape? Why are you silent on rampant corruption in BJPruled states, and why are you letting Indians suffer," he asked.

to benefit his "friend" Adani.

On the issue of national security, Ramesh said the Congress wants to ask "why is it that even after your clean chit to China in 2020, they continue to occupy Indian territory".

He also asked why deliber-

ately "politics of hatred" for electoral gains was being used and alleged that an atmos-

being fuelled. 'Why are you silent on the atrocities against women, Dalits, SC, ST, OBCs and minorities? Why are you ignoring the demand for a caste census," Ramesh said in another poser.

phere of fear in society was

He also questioned the government over democracy and federalism, alleging that it has 'weakened" our Constitutional values and democratic institutions in the last nine years.

Khera alleged that the promises made by the government in the last nine years were detached from the real-

"So when we demand answers, don't take us 900 years back. Everyone wants to know what you did in the last nine years ....We would urge you (prime minister) to apologise during the events being held in the next five days for the betrayal of the country in the last nine years," he said.

#### EAM decries Oppn boycott of Parl opening

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday described as "unfortunate" the decision by 20 opposition parties to boycott the inauguration of the new Parliament building and said there should be a limit to doing politics.

Jaishankar, who is on a twoday visit to Gujarat, was speaking to reporters at Raipipla town of Narmada district. He said the inauguration of the new Parliament building should be celebrated as a festival by the entire nation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate the new structure on Sunday. The opposition parties contend that President Droupadi Murmu should do the honours as she is not only the Head of State, but also an integral part of Parliament as she summons, prorogues, and

addresses it. "I believe that the inauguration of the new Parliament building should be taken as a festival of democracy and it should be celebrated in that

#### **NEW PARL BUILDING INAUGURATION**

#### Boycott gang' insulting legacy of their own leaders, tyagis: Puri

Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri Friday hit out at the Congress and those objecting to the inauguration of the new Parliament building by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying the "boycott gang" is insulting the legacy of their own leaders and the freedom fighters.

In a series of tweets, Puri cited an old article of the Time Magazine published in 1947 which he said was a must read for those who wish they had built the magnificent new Parliament instead of Prime Minister Modi.

Citing the article, Puri said, "Vividly describes Hindu (customs and traditions) followed on eve of independence. The #Sengol they insult now was received with Hindu rituals by PM Nehru. Now hypocrisy is on full display- attempts being made to paint it in different colours - motives ascribed, crocodile tears shed!."

In another tweet, the min-



ister said on that momentous day, a havan was performed, the pithambaram made from silk and gold was wrapped around the PM by representative of the Adheenam who escorted the Sengol to Delhi by a special aircraft. Payasam from that morning's pooja at the Nataraja temple was brought as prasad.

This piece should show a mirror to the naysayers, Puri said, adding that the "boycott gang is actually insulting the legacy of their own leaders and the freedom fighters".

The ceremony to inaugurate the new Parliament building will begin with an early morning havan and a multi-

followed by a formal opening in the Lok Sabha chamber by Prime Minister Modi.

As many as 25 parties are expected to attend the inauguration of the new Parliament building on Sunday even as 20 opposition parties have decided to boycott the event.

The Opposition has stepped up its attack on Prime Minister Modi over the inauguration of the new Parliament building, with the Congress saying "one man's ego and desire for self-promotion" has denied the first tribal woman President her constitutional privilege to inaugurate the complex. The BJP has alleged that the opposition parties have decided to boycott the inauguration just because it has been built at the initiative of Prime Minister Modi.

The BJP also appealed to the opposition parties to attend the "historic day" of its inauguration by showing "big

#### **SC grants AAP's Satyendar** Jain six weeks' interim bail

PNS NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday gave jailed former Delhi minister Satvendar Jain six weeks interim bail on medical grounds, the relief coming a day after he collapsed in Tihar due to dizziness and was

ernment hospital. Aam Aadmi Party leader has been in Tihar Jail since his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with a money laundering case in May last year.

A bench of Justices JK Mahe

shwari and PS Narasimha allowed Jain, 58, to undergo treatment in a hospital of his choice and asked him to produce medical records by July 10. It also directed Jain to not talk to the media during his interim bail period that ends on July 11.

Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Jain, said the former minister has lost 35 kg and is suffering from a spine problem. Additional Solicitor General

SV Raju, appearing for the ED, sought Jain's examination by a

PNS JAMMU

officials said.

Amid tight security, nearly

4,500 devotees, including

members of the Kashmiri

Pandit community, on Friday

panel of doctors at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) or Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital here. If medical reports suggest treatment, the probe agency will not oppose it, he said.

He submitted that Jain had admitted to the ICU of a gov- medical grounds in the case earlier as well, but

the pleas were withdrawn as the agency sought his examination by a medical board of AIIMS or RML hospital.

'Ĥe was health minister and jail minister of Delhi. He needs to be examined at a hospital that was not under him," Raju said, claim-

ing earlier médical reports prepared by hospitals were found to be fake. The bench said it is considering enlarging Jain on medical bail but would look into his examination by doctors of either AIIMS or RML hospital on the next

date of hearing.
On Thursday, Jain was first admitted to the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Hospital and later shifted to the Lok Navak Jai Prakash Narayan (LNJP) Hospital due to breathing problems, AAP leaders said.

4,500 devotees leave for annual

Kheer Bhawani mela in Kashmir

#### **2018 ALWAR LYNCHING CASE**

#### No justice, 'main accused' acquitted: Victim's wife

PNS JAIPUR

The wait for justice continues, savs Rakbar Khan's wife after a Raiasthan court convicted four men in the 2018 lynching of her leader she terms the "main accused".

The court in Alwar on Thursday sentenced Dharmendra Yadav, Vijay Kumar, Paramjeet Singh and Naresh Kumar to seven-year imprisonment in the lynching of Khan on the suspicion of cow smuggling. VHP leader Naval Kishore was acquitted due to lack of evidence against him.

"We have not got justice. They had murdered my husband. The main accused was acquitted by the court while the sentence awarded to the others is less. They should have been given strict punishment," Khan's wife Asmina said on Friday.

The court convicted the four under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 304 (1) pertaining to culpable homicide and 341 ongful restraint) but acqui ted them of charges of murder (302) and rioting (147). Special Public Prosecutor

(SPP) Ashok Sharma had said on Thursday that 304 (1) means where there is knowledge but there is no intention to kill. The trial court's order will be

challenged in the Rajasthan High Court, Khan's family members said.

Khan is survived by his wife and seven children. His father Suleman died of a prolonged illness two years after the lynch-

Talking to reporters after the court's verdict, Kishore, howev-



er, said, "... the four others are also innocent". "There was no pressure on the trial court and it has acted according to the law. Even if the case is appealed in the high court, we have full faith in it," he said.

Sharma said Kishore was made an accused based on a telephonic conversation with the other accused. However, the court gave him the benefit of doubt as it did not find any con-

Reacting to the sentencing, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has said, "We will get the decision reviewed. We will see what is written in the decision and ater we will see what can be done.'

Defence lawyer Hemraj Gupta said the court acquitted Dharmendra Yadav, Vijay Kumar, Paramjeet Singh and Naresh Kumar in the case of the charges framed under IPC sections 302 and 147 (rioting), while Kishore was acquitted of

He claimed the court had overlooked the findings of a judicial inquiry in which police had been found at fault. In the statement of Aslam, who was the prime witness in the case, the accused names were not crete evidence against him, he mentioned, Gupta said.

#### **Modi considers new Parliament** building his 'estate'

#### Sena (UBT) asks if Advani has been invited

PNS MUMBAI

The Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena on Friday hit out at the BJP government at the Centre for not inviting been built by me and it is my for the upcoming inauguration have my name. This arroof the new Parliament build-

ing, and alleged Prime Minister Narendra Modi considers the new complex his "estate" as he feels that it has been created by him.

In an editorial in its mouthpiece 'Saamana', the Sena (UBT) also took a dig at the BJP over this issue, and sought to know whether BJP stalwart L K Advani has been invited

for the May 28 event or not.

Twenty opposition parties, including the Congress and the Sena (UBT), have announced that they would boycott the inauguration of the new Parliament building at the hands of PM Modi, contending that it is the President who should do the honours.

In the mouthpiece, the Sena (UBT) said the president is the head of the country and also

the first citizen of India and the position should be not insulted. "Modi's policy is that the

new Parliament building has gance is dangerous for democracy," the party said

> The Parliament does not belong to any party but to the country, it said, adding that BJP leaders talking

about democracy

was a joke. "Has Advani, because of whom the BJP could see 'achhe din', been

invited for the event?" it asked. The Leader of Opposition enjoys equal status as the prime minister. So it would have been more graceful if the invitation letter also had the

name of the LoP, it said. "The government has given a clear message that if you come to our private party you will be insulted. 'Mindhe-Fadnavis' (Eknath Shinde-Devendra Fadnavis) like to attend such parties. Just see if there is space for Advani," it

#### MP forest team beaten up by villagers

PNS SHIVPURI

A Madhya Pradesh forest department squad tracking a cheetah that had sneaked out of Kuno National Park was attacked in the early hours of Friday by some villagers who mistook them for dacoits, an official said.

The incident took place at around 4am near Burakheda village when the team was tracking cheetah Asha, which was flown in from Namibia in September last year and had

sneaked out KNP some days ago, he said. "The villagers fired into the air and then assaulted the team. Three staffers sustained injuries. The villagers thought the squad members were dacoits looking to steal cattle," KNP Divisional

Forests Officer PK Verma said. "A complaint was submitted at Pohri police station, he added. Efforts are on to nab the people involved in the attack on the forest team, Pohri police station inspector Arvind Singh

#### **OLD PARLIAMENT BUILDING**

#### A long journey since its opening in 1927 by Lord Irwin

PNS NEW DELHI

The old Parliament building, an architectural splendour and a historic landmark that guided the destiny of India for nearly a century and whose illustrious legacy will now be consigned to the pages of history, was inaugurated on January 18, 1927 by the then Viceroy Lord

Irwin. On May 28, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the new Parliament building and dedicate it to the nation, the old Sansad Bhavan will also hand over its position as the country's hallowed legislature, a privilege it enjoyed

temple of democracy, the old

Parliament House has for these nine-and-a-half decades witnessed the imperial rule of the British and its chamber has heard the echoes of bombs hurled by revolutionaries Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt in a bid to attain freedom.

The building has seen the dawn of Independence and its halls have reverberated with the historic 'Tryst with Destiny' speech delivered by first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru on August 15, 1947.

An architectural marvel with its charming circular design and an impressive colonnade of 144 creamy sandstone on the first floor, the old building was opened amid much fanfare at a time when the new imperial capital of the British Raj



New Delhi - was being built at a site in Raisina Hill area.

According to archival documents and rare old images, a grand ceremony was held on January 18, 1927 to mark the opening of the majestic building, then called as the Council

Over a century ago, when the nation was still in the

making and Independence 26 years away, Britain's Duke of Connaught had laid the foundation stone of Parliament House on February 12, 1921, and said it would stand "as the symbol of India's rebirth to yet

The building, with a diameter of 560 ft and circumference of one-third of a mile, was

higher destinies".

designed by Sir Herbert Baker, who along with Sir Edwin Lutyens was chosen to design the new imperial capital in Delhi. According to the book "New Delhi - Making of a Capital", Lord Irwin had arrived in his viceregal carriage at a pavilion set up at the Great Place (now Vijay Chowk), and then "proceeded to open the door of the Council House with a golden key, handed to him by Sir Herbert Baker".

The sprawling edifice covering an area of nearly six acres and its creamy sandstone colonnade, is one of the most distinctive parliament buildings anywhere in the world, and one of the most defining and widely-recognised struc-

Tulmuna (C. (Kupwara), Laktipona Aishmuqam (Anantnag), Masa (Kulgam), and Mata Kheerbhawani Manzgam (Kulgam) in the Valley.

The four-day pilgrimage



left from Nagrota area here to attend the annual Kheer commenced today as Bhawani mela in Kashmir, Divisional Commissioner The annual Kheer Bhawani Mela, celebrated on Zeisht Sidha and prominent Kashmiri Pandit leaders jointly flagged off the yatra from Nagrota Ashtami, will take place on May 28 at the shrines of Tulmulla (Ganderbal), Tikker area, ensuring the safety and well-being of the devotees.

(Jammu) Ramesh Kumar, Relief Commissioner K K

"The relief department, administration, and security forces have made comprehensive arrangements to ensure the success of this pilgrimage,' DC Kumar told PTI here.

60,000 to 70,000 migrant Kashmiri Pandits from various parts of India and abroad are expected to visit the five renowned temples in the Valley during the annual fair.

The administration has implemented rigorous security measures, including sniffer dogs, metal detectors, and thorough verification of devotees. A large number of security personnel are escorting the yatra, ensuring the safety of the

President of the Mata Kheer

Bhawani Welfare Society Kiran

security measures.

Watal said, "The LG administration and police have providfor over 96 years. Revered today as India's ed excellent arrangements and

#### www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

-PAPER WITH PASSION-

### **Danger of populism**

The Karnataka election may spur competitive populism among various political parties

he Congress' impressive victory in the Karnataka Assembly election has not just added a new dynamic in national politics but also cast a shadow on the future of economic reforms. In general, reforms are put on the back burner in the period before a general election. PV Narasimha Rao carried out the historic liberalisation in the first three years of his tenure (1991-96). Similarly, in the last year of his tenure, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, another great liberaliser, also did not privatise any public sector undertaking (PSU). Once again, there are news reports that the Narendra Modi Government will not take up any new PSU for sale, though the Government would continue with the ongoing deals involving disinvestment in IDBI Bank, Shipping Corporation, BEML and Container Corporation of India (Concor). An official was quoted in a report, saying. "Even the proposed privatisation of two public-sector banks and a general insurance firm has been postponed." The reasons are not difficult to



find. It is very easy for socialists and vested interests to find fault with any privatization deal. They malign everything and everyone—the idea of privatization, the process, the privatisers, the government that does it, the economists and experts who favour the sale of PSUs. They deploy all tricks and proffer fallacious arguments in their jihad privatization: sale of family silver to pay the grocer's bill, national assets being sold for a song, etc. If they fail to stop a privatisation, they begin harassing the privatisers. Arun Shourie, disinvestment minister in the Vajpayee cabinet, is still facing court cases decades after the transactions were made.

Besides, the political cost of liberalisation is high—or at least politicians believe that. Vajapayee's defeat in 2004, for example, was falsely attributed to his government's liberalising moves. It was not just Leftleaning intellectuals but also many RSS luminaries linked his unexpected loss with the reforms his government carried out. Public discourse at that time—and to some extent even now—was heavily influenced by socialist dogmas. The most prominent dogma sees the economy as a zero-sum game: one gains only at the expense of the other. So, if India was shining, as the BJP claimed, Bharat must be whining. In such a milieu, the Congress shrewdly coined the slogan, 'Aam aadmi ko kya mila.' In such a social, cultural and political milieu, the Modi Government should be lauded for just slowing down and not discarding privatisation. But the danger of populism is real—and it might grow. The grand old party took recourse to populism in Karnataka, and handed over a bill of Rs 50,000-60,000 crore to the State's taxpayer. The GOP and other parties are likely to come up with more freebies and entitlements; the BJP, willy-nilly, may be forced to enter the race of competitive populism. If that happens, economic reforms will suffer a terrible setback.



Deer play inside an enclosure at the Bikaner zoo, on Friday

Decoding the scripts of 'Mann Ki Baat'



The focus areas of 'Mann Ki Baat' have been water and health. These are the two main areas which the Government is taking up on priority

■ India's flagship citizen outreach program, 'Mann ki Baat, represented by the Prime Minister of the country, has completed a century of broadcasts. It's time to take stock of the program's impact and priorities, by analysing the themes and focus areas across the 100 scripts. This analysis backed up by the data mining techniques reveals important insights into the government's communication strategy, the key issues it prioritizes, and the areas where it could focus more. One of the distinctive features of Mann ki Baat is the use of communication as a powerful tool to reach out to millions of people across India.

The program has leveraged social media and other platforms to amplify its outreach, using hashtags like #drugsfreeIndia, #YesWeCan, #IncredibleIndia, #armedforcesflagday, #PositiveIndia, #Jalshakti4India, #CourageinKargil, #Cheer4India and #MyHandloomMyPride among others to engage with the community. While observing it appeared that certain hashtags campaigns had bi-annual frequency, with a gap of around two years between most of them. This approach has been effective in raising awareness about important issues and generating public interest in the program.

A closer look at the 100

scripts reveals the key focus areas of the program. 'Water' and 'Health' are among the most frequently mentioned topics with a mention of 454, and 274 times respectively, indicating the government's focus on addressing these critical issues. During these conversations, there has been obvious discussion on the healthcare sector, doctors, workers and the pandemic era and these keywords have been found to be inadequate frequency.

Digital and online initiatives, such as MyGov, are also prominently featured, highlighting the government's push for digital Assam state could receive sigansformation and innovation and the same can be observed in the nation's journey towards technological developments in the past decade. However, topics such as 'Climate change', 'Food', and 'Poverty' receive comparatively less attention in the scripts,



suggesting the need for greater

country, the importance of Yoga and ancient science were also important topics communicated during these conversations. Another interesting finding of the analysis is the geographical distribution of attention across states and regions. While Kashmir, Gujarat, Delhi, and Tamil Nadu have garnered more attention than others, BIMARU states (Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh) have got comparatively less mention in these talks. The mention of Kashmir is also related to the fact that there were many governance and structural changes here which kept its discussion at a higher frequency.

It is quite interesting that the mentions of Leh-Ladakh and North East states are limited to 20 times or less. Only nificant mention among Nort Eastern Regions (NERs). This distribution highlights the need to focus more on certain regions and communities, especially those that are more marginalized. The use of certain keywords also reveals the

THE ANALYSIS OF MANN KI BAAT'S TOTAL 100 **SCRIPTS** PROVIDES A **VALUABLE PERSPECTIVE** ON THE **GOVERNMENT'S** PRIORITIES AND APPROACH TO CITIZEN

government's priorities and approach. Words like 'Rural', 'Village', 'Youth', 'Farmer', and 'Women' are frequently mentioned, indicating the government's focus on empowering these communities.

This communication series not only engaged in dialogue but also drew wisdom from the legacies of notable figures in our country's history. Among the most frequently referenced were Mahatma Gandhi, Baba Saheb Ambedkar, and Buddha, with 92, 50, and 39 mentions respectively.

The analysis of Mann ki Baat's all 100 scripts highlights the program's strengths and limitations and provides important insights for policymakers and researchers. The program's focus on communication and outreach has been effective in engaging with the community and raising awareness about important issues. The use of hashtags and social media platforms has amplified the program's reach and impact, making it a powerful tool for citizen engagement. At the same time, the analysis highlights the need for greater focus on certain issues and

communities. Topics like climate change, poverty, jobs and marginalized community receive comparatively less attention in the scripts, suggesting the need for greater emphasis on these issues.

Similarly, the geographical distribution of attention highlights the need to focus more on certain regions and communities. The global stand of India and its contribution was also observed to be one of the important highlighters in these talks and words like 'United Nations, 'America,' and 'Europe' were observed to be in the frequency of 32, 50 and 15 respectively.

Finally, the analysis of Mann ki Baat's total 100 scripts provides a valuable perspective on the government's priorities and approach to citizen outreach. By leveraging communication as a powerful tool and focusing on key issues like water, health, and digital transformation, the program has made significant contributions to public awareness and engagement.

(The writer is assistant professor Dr Rajendra Prasad central agricultural university, Pusa, Bihar)

### Who bears the huge cost of freebies?



SHASHANK **SAURAV** 

The concept of a welfare state is always a welcome idea but the cost of welfare should not be such that it crumbles the state itself

പ്രപ്രദ്യ

iddaramaiah has taken Soath as CM for the newly elected Karnataka government and the first googly has come out on the five promises which were hyped by Congress scion Rahul Gandhi. In the election manifesto, the Yuvanidhi scheme was announced to give Rs. 3,000 per month for two years to unemployed graduates and Rs. 1,500 per month for two years to unemployed diploma holders. However, minister Priyank Kharge has clarified that it would be affected for the academic year 2022-2023.

As per the initial estimates, the annual cost of five promises would be Rs, 50,000 crores but the actual numbers might exceed this. Debt levels of Karnataka have more than doubled over five years and the 'Debt: State GDP' ratio has increased from 18.4% in 2018 to 23.4% in 2023. Certain parts of the increase in debt can be attributed to external factors like the Covid-19 pandemic but there is an important factor that we all must understand.

Some of the existing welfare schemes might be withdrawn by the new government to save some money while new schemes get introduced. In this case, people will benefit only from the differential. The fiscal deficit for FY23 was estimated at around Rs. 61,564 crores and it will exceed Rs. 1 lakh crore with the additional expense even if a tax buoyancy of 10% is factored YoY. It's important to highlight that the GST compensation cess is no longer there to fund the extravaganza of politicians. For perspective, the compensation cess in Karnataka budget was Rs.

5,000 crores in FY 2022-23. If we keep politics aside, it can be seen from the state finances that the debt level has gone up for almost all the mandates it to be within the

25,267 crores in FY 2021-22

which came down to Rs.

Odisha, and Uttar Pradesh) lature. The Constituent over the last five years. Political compulsion will never allow the politicians to extend their vision beyond the short-term electoral gains and therefore India needs a law on the freebie culture. Of H. V. Kamath. Existing politcourse, it is going to be a tough exercise because no one board might be shortsighted would like his hands tied by a piece of legislation and its hard to avoid the temptation which brings you close to the power but we need some fiscal prudence if this country does not choose to be walking on the similar path like Sri Lanka and Venezuela. The Finance Commission, which is a constitutional body, has already highlighted the risk of state debts reaching an unsustainable limit.

The concept of a welfare state is always a welcome idea but the cost of welfare should not be such that it crumbles the state itself. Politicians and activists who keep floating their utopian ideas and taking shelter of our constitution for all their stupidity, forget that Article 292 and 293 of the same constitution talks about borrowings and

states (except a few like limits specified by the legis-Assembly of India discussed these articles on 10th August 1949 and thought in a different context but the importance of the purpose of the loan was highlighted by Shri ical leadership across the Ananthasayanam but Ayyangar emphasised the impact of borrowings in the constituent assembly discussion and his words can be referred to in today's context 'So far as borrowing is concerned-they may be short or long-term, imposing heavy obligations upon not only the present generation but future generation also.

We must remember that nothing comes free in this world. If the cost of freebies is curtailing the capital expenses, piling up the debt, and slashing the social sector expenses like education, healthcare etc. then freebies are not free at all and we all will be paying the price one way or the other.

(The writer is a chartered accountant, and policy analyst. Views expressed are personal)

#### **PEOPLE IN POWER MUST BE SENSITIVE** Sir — Top dignitaries of the states have

some privileges thrust upon them. Zero traffic", when they commute, is one such entitlement. It means traffic is cleared during their travel in the state. Generally, the governor and chief minister enjoy zero traffic luxury. The new Karnataka chief minister Siddaramaiah has decried the tendency: he has asked the officials to do away with the zero traffic rule when he crisscrosses the length and breadth of Bengaluru and Karnataka. Siddaramaiah is understandably worried about the traffic standstill and the hardship faced by the commuters during zero traffic.

His predecessor Basavaraj Bommai was content with a "green corridor" with no traffic signals during his movement. In sharp contrast to these two, a former state home minister had refused to part with zero traffic saying it was his "privi-

Be that as it may, it is laudable that at least some people in power can be sensitive to people's sufferings. Many times, it's the officers under the high dignitaries, who want to please their bosses, who wield power. Therefore, dignitaries must ensure that their orders are not flouted. It is heartening that India's VIP culture is slowly on the decline thanks to the courts and the important individuals themselves. Although the 2013 Supreme Court order restricting the use of red beacons on official vehicles was taken with a pinch of salt by the common man, it was surprisingly carried out well with minor hiccups.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

#### **AMERICAN LAW**

Sir — One by one, in 2021, the mother of American democracy, attacking Capitol Hill, is sentencing its destroyers and conspirators to prison, American law. One should hope that most of the thousands of people who have been arrested in this connection will be punished in some way

#### **Grand inauguration**

THE EDITOR



grand inauguration of the new Parliament building, housed by Sansad Marg in the national capital, on ensuing Sunday, is caught in the crossfire between the ruling BJP and as many as 19 non-BJP opposition parties, with the latter taking strong exception to Prime Minister Narendra Modi doing the inauguration

himself instead of letting it done at President Draupadi Murmu's hands who is also President of the Parliament. These parties have not only announced the boycott of the historic event but also initiated a comprehensive signature campaign against the move which the opposition parties largely are signatories of, save the Akali Dal, BJD and some others even as some are accusing the PM of sidelining the President who is conspicuous by her absence among the invitees.

The Opposition leaders' viewpoint stands justified notwithstanding, both camps need to come to terms with each other and find some common ground to stand together on and let this momentous occasion pass peacefully and gracefully sans any brouhaha, in the national interest.

Azhar A Khan I Rampur

ety with the help of their extreme views and hatred. On Thursday, Oath Keepers founder Stewart Rhodes, 57, was sentenced on charges of seditious conspiracy and other crimes. This sentence becomes very important, for two reasons. The first is that he has been sentenced to 18 years in prison, which is the longest sentence ever handed down in this case. Secondly, he turned out to be the culprit who was not present in the crowd at the time of the vandalism. But he was one of the people whose mind and conspiracy were working behind the crowd. Means more than committing the crime, the one who instigates it is the biggest culprit. Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

#### **NOTHING WRONG WITH FREEBIES**

Sir — RJD MP Manoj Jha once had hit the nail hard right on the head of those snob brigade by stressing "This is a welfare state, isn't it? When a poor man buys a bar of soap, he is as much a taxpayer as Adani and Ambani"! Yes, every citizen pays taxes — direct or indirect. So even the richest of rich hold no right to think of themselves as of any "special stock" or the other for dividing American soci- with the indirect taxpayer any lesser to

them in any respect. And so as citizens of the State, all are equally entitled to all sorts of rights and it forms the urgent duty of any Welfare State to look after those citizens on the lower economic scale!

It is high time the snob brigade, always shouting "Stop subsidies and freebies" and mocking the Government for it's "sin" of providing goods and services to the poor at subsidised/concessional rates or paying monetary allowances related to various schemes, should either shut up or do the following things: (1) At first ensure minimum basic rights to the poor through their astronomical salaries and cutting down all sorts of luxuries; (2) And thereafter they should themselves stop receiving various sorts of tax concessions by the Government and ask their employers to immediately stop Leave Travel Concession, free medical facilities(for themselves and their family), free education of their children, Dearness Allowance/House Rent Allowance.

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

www.dailypioneerloneer.com facebook.com/dailypioneerl@TheDailyPioneerlinstagram.com/dailypioneer/

#### **FIRST COLUMN**

#### FAITH AS INTERACTION, **NOT AS KNOWLEDGE**

We must approach God by exercising our free will, which can be done in multiple ways



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

es, it is not a matter of knowledge. With the advent of the internet, who is not aware of God? But how many pursue this knowledge? Very few to say the least. Why? Because faith comes from interaction with God. We approach God and He responds, otherwise this relationship is a non-starter. A simple example will help. I don't have any interaction with a particular resident of my neighbourhood. There will be no progress in my relationship with that person. Yes, we must get in touch with God, who limits himself to instruct us through bonafide scriptures, preachers, who have a wide following, etc. We must approach God by exercising our free will. And we can do so in multiple ways like praying to God, going to a temple, chanting God's name, etc. Every such act is taken notice of by God, who responds appropriately.

To bring clarity to this phenomenon, I will narrate my experience in this connection. The very first thing God notices is our dutifulness. We, human beings, have been given the responsibility of doing our duties according to time, place and circumstances. This is how the creation can go on. Lord Krishna warns that even maintenance of the body will not be possible through inaction. (The Bhagavad-Geeta 3.8) God gets interested in those who are dutiful. The next thing, which impresses God is obeying dharma. After all, dharma is the bedrock on which the creation rests. God even incarnates to re-establish dharma. (4.8) Now such persons are keenly watched because such people become good people. The mode of goodness in them becomes predominant by overpowering the other two modes of passion and darkness. (14.10) If such a person requests help, God is prepared to do so; one just has to sincerely pray for it.



We normally seek help from God in two ways. One is to get out of some trouble and the other is to gain something material like a decent job. What is God's response? Let us understand one simple rule: God is always just; He couldn't be favouring someone at the cost of another, as will be in the case of landing a job. However, God can be more generous in case of helping someone to recover from a major illness. In this case, also, God has to determine if the sick person deserves such a favour and how much. But all said and done, God does respond. How much and when is decided by God, as found appropriate by Him. No request for help is ignored; only the quantum and the quality are to be decided.

In one matter, God is more forthcoming, i.e. to guide. If a person is sincerely seeking guidance to do something noble, God will be very keen to help, because being the owner of everything, He must encourage what suits the creation. Don't we need good people to keep all of us going? God gives the right intelligence, as in the case of medical scientists. If someone is genuinely looking for a medical solution, which can help millions, and the motive is not to encash it to the fullest extent, God will help. What do you think we will do if we were to decide? God gives me spiritual solutions to common problems about which I can write. One may call it realisation as it really helps me personally. What more than any other favour reinforces faith is peace, which we all know is sought by everyone, but only a few

The conclusion is to approach God in ways, which please Him, about which He has given detailed instructions. Swami Ravi Das was a leatherworker. He had no formal education, but he became a great devotee of God. Knowledge is helpful only as a tool, even spiritual; it must be practised. Spiritual activities take us to a higher level. Therefore, let us get going and link with the owner of the creation. He is waiting and He has plenty to give.

Bishnoi is a spiritual writer and can be reached at

## US must undertake a midcourse correction



Even if the US revises its debt ceiling of \$31.4 trillion, its risk-ridden economy may precipitate a global crisis of a larger magnitude



ith the looming debt crisis in the United States with the potential to default, a showdown between Republicans that control the House and the democratic white house may not augur well for the global economy and developing countries like India. Owing unsustainable economic policies over a few decades and irresponsible handling of resources has led the largest global economic powerhouse into a big mess of its own making Even if president ice Biden manages to clinch a last-minute deal with Republican top leadership to push up the debt ceiling beyond us \$ 31.4 trillion, larger questions continue to haunt the Americans. Mobilizing loans through US bonds or debt paper may not be the immediate concern but potential default on June 1 is what may turn catastrophic to not only Americans but the entire world. For Americans, it means that democrats will not be able to fund their fancied social security payments on medical and health insurance, pension or social development projects.

President Biden and his Democratic administration will have to put on hold all fancy projects like waiving student loans or fees to provide personal tax concessions to youngsters and new taxpayers democrats understand the full importance of lifting the already unsustainable debt limit of \$ 31.4 trillion. In fact, this also explains US President Biden's decision to forgo the scheduled quad summit in Australia and head back home after the G-7 leaders meeting in Hiroshima. Eventually, the quad summit had to be called off with heads of the US,



THERE IS EVERY US MOVING INTO ECONOMIC RECESSION, **THEREBY** STYMIEING DEMAND FOR **GOODS AND SERVICES GLOBALLY** 

(The author is the director and chief executive of this nonpartisan think tank based in New Delhi)

Australia, Japan and India meeting briefly at Hiroshima on the sidelines of the G-7 congregation. The larger issue that confronts us and the world is a wee bit different and difficult.

There is every possibility of us moving into economic recession thereby stymieing demand for goods and services globally. This will hit the economic growth sentiment internationally big time. Secondly, the possibility of banks getting stuck with worthless dollar-denominated bonds or debt paper in the medium term cannot be ruled out unless both the federal reserve and political leadership in the US take recourse to the mid-course correction that involves massive spending cuts or improve the country's revenues. Such a policy may be very unattractive for Democratic voters when they have to elect their president in 2024.

Thirdly, containing the contagion effect of the US economy moving into the abyss will be a herculean task. One cannot easily forget the global financial crisis triggered by real estatelinked mortgages that turned worthless in 2007-08. This housing bubble stirred a perfect storm to impact both large developing countries like India as well as least developed countries alike. Excessive risk exposure taken by banks was the biggest element in this crisis of the worst kind after the great depression of 1929.

Fourthly, if the US default finally happens, then countries like India having huge exposure to American greenback will also face the heat.

But, this diversification

should go the whole hog and consciously lead to pursuing the dedollarization of the Indian economy as a state policy. Fifthly, while exports to the US become attractive and import bills get squeezed, a demand slump globally will negate the advantages gained in trade deals. There is no reason why India should not pursue a more independent trade and currency policy keeping herself at a safe distance from the federal reserve and recalibrating her linkages with Washington DC. Sixthly, Democrats and Republicans must work towards mid-course correction on the economic and development front rather than recklessly going for borrowing more from Tom to pay

Limiting the fresh debt limit to us \$ 1.5 trillion till March 31, 2024, and achieving concomitant cuts in spending by us \$ 1.47 trillion would save the perilously placed our economy. Seventhly, precipitating a perfectly cooked crisis is not in anyone's interest and hence reining in the fresh spending to less than one per cent as per the limit, save, grow act of 2023 makes eminent sense. On the parallel, limiting the mop-up of fresh debt and gradual reduction in existing debt stock would augur well for the US economy that's seeking to reposition itself and instil confidence in its trading and investment partners.
The debt-to-GDP ratio was

approximately 97 per cent at the end of FY 2022, and under current policy and based on this report's assumptions is projected to reach 566 per cent in 2097, it pointed out. While pursuing a revised economic policy dispensation, president biden should not easily forget the 2011 crisis that was triggered by our congress. This pushed up the borrowing costs for the treasury by a humongous us \$ 1.3 billion in just one year. Also, we should not provide any leverage to China for encashing its crisis. China is easily the largest holder of us debt paper, notes and long-term bonds with valuations ranging from \$ 859.4 billion to \$ one trillion.

China may like to leverage our debt paper to rebalance its own resources position which again may not be looking too good. China's own debt of us \$ 14.34 trillion as of April 12, 2023, and swelling at a whopping \$ 3.81 trillion annually may not be something to brag about by president xis oligarchs driven communist party. Potential defaults in us, and machinations in China have valuable lessons for India that are overtly conservative on borrowings, especially by the Narendra Modi government.

### The tragedy for workers in today's 'gig' economy

All temporary, freelance and contract workers must be properly defined and identified to ensure minimum wages, maximum working hours and social security

ou see many youths around you, who deliv-L er the goods coming via e-commerce apps and websites. Similarly, millions of drivers all over the world provide app-based taxi services. Ecommerce and technologydriven businesses have become a major part of the economy these days. This section of the economy is known as the 'gig economy' and the people working there are called 'gig' workers. Recently, the delivery workers of an e-commerce company named 'Blinkit' went on a one-day strike, which was also given a lot of importance by the media. The case was that a company called 'Blinkit', which claims to supply consumers with their grocery requirements in 10 minutes to half an hour, had reduced the



ASHWANI MAHAJAN

(The author is Professor,

PGDAV College, University of Delhi)

payment to its delivery agents by half. Significantly, before this change, the company used to pay Rs 25 to the delivery agent for each delivery. Till about a year ago, the delivery agents were given Rs 50 per delivery. Delivery workers' complaint is that fuel costs have skyrocketed during this period, but their wages have shrunk to a quarter.

The reality is that today youth in big and small cities are forced to work as delivery agents in the absence of any decent employment. In the initial phase, these workers also used to earn sufficiently, but due to low payouts, now their economic condition has become very pathetic. The reality is that in the absence of alternative employment, it has become almost a compulsion

for the youth to work as delivery agents.

On the other hand, companies like 'Ola' and 'Uber' providing app-based taxi services have also started charging highly exploitative commissions from taxi drivers. Due to this, the drivers of 'Ola' and 'Uber' have also resorted to agitational means like strikes many times. But the exploitative commission policy of 'Ola' and 'Uber' continues unabated. Despite the strike by Bilinkit's delivery agents, no solution is in sight.

Gig workers like drivers of 'Ola', 'And Uber', delivery agents of 'Blinkit', 'Zomato', 'And Swiggy' etc. or any other type of workers registered with any other app-based service provider, whose employment depends on the mercy of

these app companies, businesses or whose livelihood depends on the delivery of goods or ordering of services based on messages received from these apps, are today suffering from the exploitation by these companies.

Nowadays the word gig is very much in vogue. Till twothree decades ago, the word gig was not much in use. It has become necessary to understand the meaning of the word 'gig' and the terms such as 'gig economy' and 'gig worker' etc. and their effects on society.

A few decades back, there were only two types of workers. One, the salaried employees and the other, the casual workers. Salaried workers are generally employed on a permanent basis with a fixed salary and other facilities. A workers. But these days even

certain procedure has to be followed for the removal of these workers from employment. On the other hand, casual labour means daily wage workers. These labourers are paid wages on a daily basis and have to go in search of employment every day.

In the organized sector, earlier most workers were generally employed on a permanent or regular basis and their employment was also fairly secure. In the unorganized sector like agriculture, construction and sometimes in manufacturing, the practice of daily wage labourers is seen. Generally, educated and trained workers were mostly salaried workers and most of the daily wage laborers used to be uneducated and untrained

organised sector employers have found an easy way to employ gig workers or sometimes on contract or on fixed term; where workers lack job security and social security. Further, there is the absence of regulations like working hours and working conditions, as these workers in order to earn sufficiently have to work for longer hours and under pre-

carious conditions. This new class of labour, namely, gig labour is the outcome of the emerging gig economy, based on new technology. This new category has emerged in the form of online platforms, cloud working, freelancing, e-commerce, supply chain, etc. That is, it can be said that new technology and new business models are the creators of this new labour class.

These workers who are serving based on work/order provided by the apps are clearly working under the instructions of the apps owned by ecommerce companies, but in government definitions, they are not considered workers, they are called 'freelancers'.

All such gig, temporary, and contract workers will have to be properly defined and identified while ensuring minimum wages, maximum working hours and various types of social security for them. If this does not happen, this system will be called nothing more than Jungle Raj, whose rule is 'survival of the fittest'. The Government of India is expected to make policies for the social security of the workers of these online platforms i.e., gig workers.

#### **India's export share in world** trade in pharma, footwear dips

Share of India's exports in the world trade in sectors such as pharma, gems and jewellery, leather, and footwear declined in 2022 as compared to 2015, according to a report by think tank GTRI. However, there is an increase in the share of electronics, machinery, petroleum, auto parts, iron and steel, and aluminium products' exports during the period, "India's global market share in sectors like apparel, leather, shoes, and marine products has been

decreasing, primarily due to concerns over quality rather than pricing issues," Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) Co-founder Ajay Srivastava said. The report said that the key sectors that witnessed a higher share in global trade are electronics, telecom, mobile phones, and electrical equipment, as well as machinery. This is noteworthy as these product groups hold substantial importance in world trade, which exceeds USD 6 trillion. India's historically low share in these sectors is gradually but decisively improving, Srivastava said.



#### **India witnessing 'snowball** effect'; exponential growth

and the country's economy is witnessing the "famous snowball effect" that will lead to more investments and more jobs, according to World Economic Forum (WEF) President Borge Brende, "There have been reforms that have led to less red tape, better climate for investments and also the digital revolution is really happening in India," Brende said and

stressed that he is "very bullish and optimistic" about the country's growth trajectory but not so optimistic about global growth. India. which currently holds the G20 presidency, is one of the fastest growing key economies in the world and WEF has had close collaborations with the country for the past many years. "When the snowhall starts to roll, it gets bigger and bigger, and that is what is happening with the Indian economy



#### **EU's carbon tax won't affect** trade relationship with India

bloc's proposed carbon tax will not have any negative effect on its trade relationship with India and that it would do nothing that is in violation of World Trade Organisation rules. The EU plans to implement a carbon import tax of 25 to

30 per cent on high carbon goods such as steel, cement, aluminum, iron fertilisers, electricity and hydrogen. This has led to concerns about the impact on developing nations heavily reliant on carbon-intensive industries The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CABM), expected to be introduced in its transitional phase from October, is part of the EU's larger climate strategy which focuses on incentivising member countries to reduce their carbon emissions and adopt greener practices.



## **Success of G20 meet in Srinagar will boost tourism**

PNS NEW DELHI

The third G20 Tourism Working Group Meeting held in Srinagar was "very successful" and this will contribute to boosting of tourism in Jammu and Kashmir and help in "allaying any fears" in the minds of visitors in future, a top official said on Friday.

Addressing reporters here, Union Tourism Secretary Arvind Singh also said that during the TWG meet held from May 22-24, G20 member countries, invited countries, and international organisations gave inputs and feedback on the GOA Roadmap for tourism as a vehicle for achieving sustainable development goals and G20 Tourism Ministers' Declaration.

There two documents were the two key deliverables of the tourism track meet in the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, and Singh said, G20 members have broadly reached an agreement on the five interconnected priority areas green



"Some members will give their suggestions in writing by today, and then the final draft

building blocks for accelerating

the transition of the tourism

sector and achieve the targets

for 2030 SDGs.

will be prepared," he said. The final versions of the documents will be placed in the fourth TWG meeting and Ministerial meeting, slated to take place in Goa next month. The GOA Roadmap and a ministerial communique endorsing it will be released after the last meeting of the

G20 tourism working group that will take place from June

"We have had three meetings of the G20 Tourism Working Group so far. The third one being just held in Srinagar, and it was very successful," the Union Tourism Secretary said.

At the media interaction held on the G20 meet in Srinagar, Tourism Ministry officials made a presentation on the host of events held as part of the meeting, which included various events on promotion of films and visit to scenic places such as Nishat Garden and Pari Mahal, shikara ride on the Dal Lake and a meet at Royal Spring Golf Course, on the banks of

Asked if the G20 meeting held in Srinagar will bolster tourism in Jammu and Kashmir, Singh said, tourism in general will get a fillip from it, and film tourism in turn will get promoted which will feed into overall growth of tourism in the region.

He shared that in 2022, Jammu and Kashmir registered a record footfall of 1.88 crore tourists, out of whom 26 lakh had visited the Kashmir valley, adding that the number is expected to cross the two crore-mark for the year 2023.

These are domestic tourism figures, but foreign tourists arrivals is also expected to grow after the devastating impact on the sector by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In fact, a group of tourists from Singapore had arrived in Kashmir in a chartered flight recently, around the time the G20 meet took place, he said.



#### Ambani on advisory committee of COP28

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance Industries Ltd head Mukesh Ambani has been named as a member of the international advisory committee that will provide guidance and counsel to the presidency of the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP28).

Ambani, who is steering Reliance's pivot toward renewable energy and diversifying away from its traditional crude oil refining and petrochemicals, is among 31 international experts named on the panel.

"The COP28 UAE Advisory Committee brings together the climate expertise of thought leaders from countries

#### Move to link tax collected at source with tax deducted at source: CEA

The government is attempting to link tax collected at source for payments made by individuals with tax deducted from their income sources, a move that will help in ensuring cash flows of the individual taxpayers are not impacted, according to a senior official.

The move also comes at a time when the government is set to impose a 20 per cent Tax Collection at Source (TCS) on certain international spends from July 1.

Generally, TCS is the tax collected by a seller at the time of sale of goods or services while Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) is the amount levied as tax by the government.

The government has exempted transactions up to Rs 7 lakh from the TCS, providing relief to small taxpayers. So, bulk of the transactions made by most will not be covered under 20 per cent TCS, Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) V Anantha Nageswaran has said.

Defending the decision, he said, "And it (government) also attempts to link the TCS with your TDS such that if there are TCS payment made



Generally, TCS is the tax collected by a seller at the time of sale of goods or services while Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) is the amount levied as tax by the government

by you it has to reflect a lower TDS. Such that it simply is a matter of making sure that you are not affected from a cash flow perspective."

It will also provide a huge amount of relief for people who are concerned about this annoyance or irritation of seeing this TCS apart from TDS, he said at industry body's CII's event on Thursday.

The 20 per cent TCS levy on

international credit card spends is to come into force from July 1.

Facing backlash, the finance ministry last week, exempted up to Rs 7 lakh spend from the TCS ambit.

"The exemption was done... The pass through of TCS into TDS deduction will also make sure that ordinary taxpayers do not see impact as far as they are

Further, CEA said one point of view is that all that "you needed was to levy 1 per cent or 5 per cent so that you can

But there are people who are happy to stay out of tax net by even paying 1 per cent or 5 per cent. So there has to be a deterrent effect as well, he noted. According to him, data is available with the government

that do point out that this mechanism has been not just abused by a small set of people but the volumes involved are fairly substantial.

Currently, overseas medical treatment and education expenses up to Rs 7 lakh a year is exempt from TCS. A 5 per cent levy is charged on expenses exceeding Rs 7 lakh.

For those who have availed education loans, the rate of TCS is 0.5 per cent.

#### Equity markets rally for 2<sup>nd</sup> day; Sensex jumps 1%

PNS MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices extended their previous day's rally on Friday, with the Sensex climbing 1 per cent, amid buying in index Cement, Tata Steel and fresh foreign fund inflows and a largely positive trend in global markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 629.07 points or 1.02 per cent to settle at 62,501.69. During the day, it rallied 657.21 points or 1.06 per cent to 62,529.83. The NSE Nifty climbed 178.20 points or 0.97 per

cent to end at 18,499.35.

From the Sensex pack, Reliance Industries jumped 2.79 per cent. Sun Pharma, Hindustan Unilever, HCL Technologies, Wipro, Tech Mahindra, UltraTech major gainers.

Bharti Airtel, Power Grid and NTPC were the lag-In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Shanghai ended

in the green. Equity markets in Europe were trading lower. The US market ended mostly with gains on

#### Grasim Industries Q4 profit down 42% to Rs 2,355 cr

Aditya Birla Group firm Grasim Industries on Friday reported 42.12 per cent decline in consolidated net profit at Rs ter 2022-23 on account of tax write-backs and other one-off

In last financial year, Grasim crossed the Rs 1 lakh crore revenue mark, joining a select club of companies in India. Its revenue from operation was at Rs 1.17 lakh crore.

The company had posted a net profit of Rs 4,070.46 crore during January-March 2021-



22, Grasim Industries said in a regulatory filing.

Revenue from operations was up at Rs 33,462.14 crore during the quarter under review from Rs 28,811.39 crore in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal.

"Ĝrasim's consolidated revenue for Q4FY23 stood at its highest levels of Rs 33,462

crore, reflecting a growth of 16 per cent YoY mainly contributed by the strong performance of key subsidiaries," said an earning statement from Grasim Industries.

30,354.70 crore as against Rs 25,786.54 crore a year ago. Total income in the March

quarter was at Rs 33,682.49 crore, up 16.18 per cent. During January-March, revenue from viscose-pulp, viscose staple fibre (VSF) and filament yarn segment was marginally down to Rs 3,764.06 crore from Rs 3,766.49 crore a

#### **ZEE-SONY MERGER**

PNS NEW DELHI

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has set aside the order of NCLT directing bourses NSE and BSE to reconsider their approval for the Zee-Sony

A two-member NCLAT bench has asked NCLT to consider the merger of Zee Entertainment with Culver Max Entertainment (earlier known as Sony Pictures Networks India) afresh, after hearing all the parties.

The appellate tribunal order came on hearing the appeal filed by Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited (ZEEL)



against the order passed by the Mumbai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on May 11, 2023.

The NCLT had directed NSE and BSE to reconsider their prior approvals for the merger of ZEEL and Culver Max Entertainment. It had also asked the bourses to reassess the non-compete fee under the clause of the merger.

#### **Axiscades** Technologies Q4 net profit grows 55% to Rs 16 cr

PNS NEW DELHI

Engineering solutions provider Axiscades Technologies has its consolidated net profit to Rs 16.05 crore in the fourth quarter ended March 2023, backed by higher income.

It had clocked a net profit of Rs 10.64 crore during the January-March quarter of the preceding 2021-22 fiscal, the company said in a regulatory filing on Thursday.

The company's total income rose to Rs 222.07 crore in the March 2023 quarter from Rs 195.55 crore in the year-ago

### Mahindra Q4 PAT at Rs 2,637 cr

Driven by robust performance across business verticals, Mahindra & Mahindra on Friday reported an 18 per cent jump in consolidated profit at Rs 2,637 crore for the March quarter and highestever annual profit of Rs 10,282 crore in FY23. The Mumbai-based compa-

ny had reported a profit after tax (PAT) of Rs 2,237 crore in the January-March quarter of 2021-22 fiscal. Revenue increased to Rs 32,366 crore for the fourth

quarter of FY23, as compared to Rs 25,934 crore in the yearago period. For the year ended March 31, 2023, the company posted

10,282 crore, up 56 per cent, from Rs 6,577 crore in FY22. The company said the FY23 PAT is its highest-ever profit

reported in a fiscal year. Revenue rose to Rs 1,21,269 crore last fiscal, as against Rs 90,171 crore in 2021-22 fiscal, an increase of 34 per cent.

M&M said the automotive



cal with 62 per cent growth, driven by strong execution of launches and an improvement in supply chain related issues.

Besides, Mahindra Accelo grew by 37 per cent; Mahindra Logistics, by 24 per cent; and Club Mahindra by 22 per

"It has been a blockbuster a consolidated PAT of Rs business led the way last fis- year for the group. Auto led 4,65,601 units in FY22.

launches, as we regained the #1 position for SUV revenue market share," M M Managing Director & CEO Anish Shah said. Light commercial vehicles

(LCVs), farm equipment, and electric three-wheelers continue to strengthen the company's leadership position, he added. "We are very well posi-

tioned for the future, based on a strong presence in key industries, leadership in technology and a growth mindset, coupled with fiscal discipline," Shah said. The company reported

highest-ever automotive seg-

ment volumes of 6.98 lakh in FY23, up 50 per cent, from At the interbank foreign

#### **Rupee rises 14 paise to close** at 82.58 against US dollar

The rupee appreciated by 14 paise to 82.58 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, supported by foreign capital inflows and a positive trend in domestic equities.

However, the elevated level of the US dollar against major crosses overseas restricted the upward movement in the domestic unit, forex traders said.

The dollar index is trading above the 104-level on safehaven appeal, as US President Joe Biden and Republican House Speaker Kevin McCarthy are reportedly close to reaching an agreement on the US debt ceil-

exchange market, the local unit

opened at 82.73 against the US dollar and settled at 82.58 (provisional), up 14 paise over its previous close.

During the day, the domestic unit witnessed an intra-day high of 82.56 and a low of 82.73 in the day trade.

On Thursday, the rupee closed at 82.72 against the US currency.

"The Indian rupee erases weekly losses amid a rally in the domestic equities followed by foreign fund inflows and recovery in the Asian currencies," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

Investors are keeping an eye on a potential debt-ceiling deal, which could happen over the weekend ahead of the US Holiday on Monday.

#### @ GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION QUOTATION NOTICE

No. EBHT THRUBECTS 2013-24743. Date: 20,93-2022 Sealed Containing an invited from reputed firms, which should be received to undersigned on or before 27-05-2023. Description of them: Lettering and Painting on GHMC community hall wall at Latina Nagar. Nagale division of higher through Nagar Circle-3 for Name board of size 12th is 5.4th with two creats of approved synthetic enamel paint and lettering as per Each the directions of Departmental Engineer in other productions of a lacal fielding, material, latinar and inodertatic charges etc., complete for final well-time for work. Diy-1, Unit-Each, CONDITIONS: 1. The quotations should be received on or before 21-05-2023. upto 3.00 P.M. and the same will be opened at 4.00 P.M. in the O/s. Executive Engineer, Circle-Hayathnegar, Address of concerned officer: Sri Ramesh Babu K, Executive Engineer Hayathnega Circle-3, GHMC, Hydersbed. Sdi-Executive Engineer R.O.No. 2352-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2023-24, Dt. 26.05.2023

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
Telangana State Yogadhyayana Parishad, Begumpet, Hyderabad-500 016
C.Sc. 362TSYR9022 TENDER NOTTIFICATION
Desc: 25-55-262
Sealed Tenders applications are instead from interested Agencies / Persons for Lawn resinterance in Telongare State Yogachyayana Parishad. Begumpet, Hyderabad and the constituent units. The applications can be obtained on online payment of Rs. 1900. Flagoes One Thesasand only from the office of Sacretary, Yetangares State Yogachyayana Parishad, Desaim Karan Raad, Arnesred, Begumpet Post, Hyderabad 3000%. For Anther details please contact of Yourus, Fromce Office, Philo. 39472TFHA.
Tender Schedulis: ij Sale of Application is from 29-45-2823 from 19-38 AM to 5.00 PM in office working hours. ii) Last Carte of submission of application is 65.66-2823 upto 65.80 PM. ii) Opening of Tender on 68-86-2023 at 1.80 PM is 1.75. Yogadhyayana Parishad, Begumpet, Hyderabad file harber details contact office; e-mait secy./syp@gmail.com.

8.0 No. 2115-PPICLMOVTH/2823-34, 0r. 36-85-2023
Yogadhyayana Parishad, Begumpet, Hyderabad.

vide NIT Nos. 2050/120 to 123 / CE (D&P, LWE, RSW, QC, Admn. & RR)/LWE/EE/ DEE AEE2/2023-24 Dt: 25.05.2023 for Eleven (11) works in Mulugu District, Six (06) Works in Asifabad District, One (1) work in Bhadradri Kothagudem District and One (1) works in Mancherial district. Last date 05-06-2023 up to 4:00 PM. Tenderers can download the tender schedules and further details at https://tender.telangana.gov.in. Sdi- Chief Engineer (R&B)

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
ROADS & BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT

e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Tenders are invited under RCPLWEA scheme for the year 2023-24 for the following works

R.O. No.:187-DP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2023-24

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR EMPOWERMENT OF PWDs, SENIOR CITIZENS AND
TRANSCENDER PERSONS & HYDERABAD-ENFORCEMENT NARCOTICS WING (H-MEW). Notification No.\$1/1038/2023

The Department for the Empowerment of PWIDs, Senior Citizens & Transgender Persons & Hyderabad-Narrotics Enforcement Wing (H-NEW) has been conducting competitions to create swareness against the Drug Demand Reduction On the occasion of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit trafficking i.e., on 26th June, 2023". The Department is inviting entries for the following competitions through Google form.

SUNo. Name of the Competition Age Limit Thems.

1 Design of poster Competition 15 Years Thems: Drugs and its adverse impacts Themses for caption: effects of drugs, mytis

Design of poster Competition 15 Years Song (Lyric writing) & poem writing Competition & above Song (Lyric writing) 6 poem & above Thernes for caption: effects of drays, myths impact on individual, parents and society & consequences and punishments.

The interested applicants can send their posters isongs [Lyte writing) 8 poem writing/ short video making to the Google from https://forms.gleirECCsVdvCbvH822TT on or before 26th June, 2821. The top-entries will be facilitated with the certificates and Prize revent. The secut will be displayed on www.wdsc.talangama.gov.in. For further information and any queries vide www.wdsc.talangama.gov.in and for queries contact Sri M.Abhivarma, Section In-change: 9652394751.

R.O. No.: 218-PPICL-AGENCY/ADVT1/2023-24

Sdi-Sent. B.Shailaja, Director

### 73% women want firms to allow them take menstrual leave

PNS NEW DELHI

Around 73 per cent of women want companies to allow them to take menstrual leaves while 86.6 per cent are in favour of a menstrual-friendly workplace where hygiene methods and support infrastructure are available to women, according to a recent study.

The Menstrual Hygiene Survey 2023, conducted by Everteen, a feminine hygiene brand, also revealed that 71.7 per cent of the participants in

the survey do not want the menstrual leaves to be paid, fearing that it may make companies reluctant to hire female

employees. Nearly 10,000 women in the age group of 18 to 35 years participated in the survey that was conducted in multiple cities, including Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Chennai, Pune, Ahmedabad, Lucknow and

The survey report was released ahead of the global



women want that companies Menstrual Hygiene Day on May 28. should allow them to take "While 73 per cent of menstrual leaves, 71.7 per

these to be paid and fear that it may make companies reluctant to hire female employees. "Also, 86.6 per cent of women are in favour of the

concept of menstrual friendly workplace where females are not hesitant in discussing the subject openly, and menstrual hygiene methods and support infrastructure is made available to women. Besides, 68.9 per cent of women have taken a leave of absence from work during

menstrual periods," the surcent of them do not want vev stated.

Chirag Pan, CEO of PAN Healthcare said, "Corporates need to make it a priority to adopt practices for a menstrual-friendly workplace.

"Our survey shows that only 5.2 per cent of women feel comfortable discussing menstrual periods with their manager while 39.9 per cent of women do not prefer to discuss menstrual periods at the workplace, even with their female colleagues," he said.

## the pioneer uerapad

Follow us on

@TheDailyPioneer

facebook.com/ dailypioneer

Saturday May 27, 2023

THIS WEEK FOR OUR **WEEKLY EDITION OF** HYDERABOND, THE **PIONEER INTERACTS** WITH THE SENIOR PHYSICIAN DR. MAHESH MARDA ON **HIS ASSOCIATION WITH** THE CITY AND MORE.

SHIKHA DUGGAL

uring the pandemic when a lot many doctors were protesting on roads against the violence and insufficient salaries that were given to them, there were many who tried to spin varied narratives on them. But as we speak to Dr. Mahesh Marda who hails from Kurnool, a senior physician for our special weekly column, he describes to us that those doctors from his fraternity were not delegitimising it by adding political violence to it, just wanted the movement to take momentum.

So as we speak to this doctor in our casual style, we begin, "As soon as I completed my studies in Kurnool, I switched to Hyderabad. Also, my father was a really old chief accountant here. I am talking about 1984 and since then I am practicing here. My father was looking after two of the major factories in Hyderabad. If he retired, he did so in Hyderabad, not Kurnool. However, I completed my

## 'The city's unified culture coexists with traditional cultures'



MBBS in my hometown."

Not that Kurnool isn't a reformist town, but the family had their own reasons to be more liable to Hyderabad. "It was just a mere positioning of where my father was getting transferred and we had to fol-

low along. So in the house premises itself, i started a clinic of my own! In the same building, I gradually built my own hospital. As we hit the year 2004, I shifted my base to Kakatiya Nagar. Then in 2010, my son joined me and he's taking it for-

ward now.

Tutored in a Telugu-medium school, "I am more fluent in the Telugu language in comparison with others, though my mother tongue is Rajasthani! We speak Hindi in our house. I am surrounded by

Telugus though. Even after getting my MBBS degree in hand, had to wait for the next two years to be placed. Not to lower the medical colleges in Kurnool, to your wonders, Kurnool medical colleges most have gold medalist professors to teach medicine to us, there. We

have a WhatsApp group of 200 doctors through which we stay connected."

The senior physician who has also practiced as a company medical officer elaborates further, "It's sheer hard work in this fraternity, we multitask too. But what I have noticed in this city is its unified city culture that can coex-

ist with traditional cultures also. And, every neighborhood has its unique injustice, how can a doctor who symbolidentity. The residents here are sophisticated and worldly. I am assuming our city

will now turn out to be the number one city in this country very soon."

Recounting the medical culture over here, he says, "The group of physicians are really good, they are well-versed in academics. But there is no control over the non-degree holders who enter medical! Their involvement

> which is unacceptable to us as seniors. Corporate hospitals have commercialised themselves totally! Defensive pracĥave tices entered too because patients are trying violence against us! That leads to unnecessary investigations in the hospital

is increasing day by day,

premises and it's not that place. Those doctors were suffering from too much ises god or who saves your life can bear violence?"

## Amyra sheds her sweet image with Kya Loge Tum



### Calming down your stressful pups

with life becoming more hectic and fast-paced every day, stress is an inevitability. This holds true not just for us, but for beloved pets as well. Ever our most faithful companions, dogs have acclimated to life alongside us across gener-ations. However, given the strenuous nature of modern urban life, it is important now more than ever for us to give them a hand so that we can continue to flourish together in today's rapidly changing world.

The hectic and overstimulating nature of urban life is quite different from what dogs ave naturally been attuned Having descended from wolves, dogs have ancestrally been accustomed to living in nature on a diet of meat and protein with vast, open spaces to explore and exercise in. The compact, noisy, and urbane environments in cities don't afford such a life anymore and bring further challenges such as noise, pollution, and isolation. These factors combine and leave dogs prone to stress.

Prateek Raj Singh, CEO & Founder of Fabled Pet Food shares, "The most common signs of stress in dogs will show up in their behaviour. A major sign of tension in dogs is excessive shaking. While shaking is a common way for them to dry themselves, if you find your dog trembling then it may well be a sign that they are feeling distressed. Another common indicator of stress is pacing. Dogs may pace restlessly the same way humans tend to pace when faced with anxiety. Excessive or uncommon barking and whining are also ways in which dogs express discomfort and are likely signs that they are anxious. Bodily changes such as shedding, panting, or excessive licking, and shifts in body language such as rapid blinking, excessive urination, and refusal of food are also common markers of stress in dogs. It is essential to know the behaviour patterns and body language cues of your dog. If you find them reacting unnaturally or uncharacteristically, then it may be an indicator that all is not well with them." If you find your dog dis-

playing signs of stress, the first step is to identify what is causing it and if possible, remove it from their vicinity. Creating a safe space in your home can go a long way in helping with this. If your dog has a quiet spot with familiar items and comforting scents, they can use it as a space to regroup from whatever is stressing them. Similar to humans, grounding behaviours can help dogs contend



with stressful situations. Familiar commands such as 'sit' or 'come' can be great grounding mechanisms for dogs as they restore a sense of normalcy and safety. Exercise can also be a great reliever of stress. Taking your ing games such as fetch

dog for a walk or playwith them can occupy their mind and relieve them from stress by producing endorphins. Comforting them by petting, cuddling, and massaging can have a muchneeded soothing effect as well.

In the long term, being mindful of your dog's overall well-being is crucial in helping them adapt to tension. Stress in today's world is inevitable, and the best we can do is prepare them so that they can thrive in the face of it. Make sure your dog is getting adequate exercise and stimulation in their day-to-day life to keep their mind and body active. Exploring, going on walks and tools such as puzzle toys can be very effective ways of ensuring this. Alongside this, make sure to set aside enough quality time to spend just with them. Try

DOGS **MAY PACE RESTLESSLY THE SAME WAY HUMANS TEND TO PACE** WHEN FACED WITH ANXIETY. **EXCESSIVE OR UNCOMMON BARKING AND WHINING ARE ALSO WAYS IN WHICH DOGS EXPRESS DISCOMFORT AND ARE LIKELY SIGNS THAT THEY ARE ANXIOUS** 

> n adventures and engaging fully with playtime to make sure your connection with them

> stays strong.
>
> The most important facet of a dog's well-being is nutri-tion. Dogs need a diet that is conducive to their lifestyle in order to stay healthy, happy and stress free. Urban dogs need a diet that is rich in animal protein from fresh,

wholesome sources. This could include chicken, turkey, duck and tuna. This protein needs to be balanced by the right amount of organic botanicals and nutri-

tional powerpacks such as berries. Finally, it needs to be rounded out by inclu-sions of healthy fats such as chicken oil or coconut oil. Look for foods that check all these boxes without leaning on filler ingredi-

ents and artificial

additives. To thrive in today's ever-changing world, our beloved furry companions need our support. In the same way, they have stood by us and comforted us through endless challenges, we need to lend our support to them so they can adapt to modern-day stresses. The only way to enable this is by being mindful of what causes them stress and adopting a holistic and lifestyle-appropriate approach



## what's brewing?

Major Ram Kumar, director, NIEPID, along with Rajan Sood, MD, Navsys Marine Technologies Pvt Itd, inaugurated the Expressions paintings exhibition, organised by artist Karishma, 4 differently able children and 20 Kerala women artists. The exhibition will end on May 28, 2023.

Aakash BYJU's opened its new classroom centre at Suchitra, to offer direct and hybrid classes to local students. The new classroom centre marks their 9th centre in Hyderabad. The Centre has 21 classrooms and can offer direct classes to 1500+ students.





Delfrez, from the house of Suguna Foods makes its entry into Hyderabad, with the launch of its four standalone outlets in Madhavapuri Hills, Kondapur, Chandanagar, and Manikonda.

#### Asia's leading business coach Rajiv Talreja hosts billionaire Nithin Kamath and 650+ MSMEs

n May 23 and 24, QL One, Asia's largest Business Coaching company hosted an event celebrating MSME business owners. Proficorn 2023 began with 650+ people traveling from all corners of Asia, to Bangalore to attend 2 eventful days. The event hosted 6 iconic speakers and business leaders who spoke to this crowd of enthusiastic business owners. The speakers included-Billionaire Nithin Kamath, founder of Zerodha, India's largest stock broking company,



Prashant Pitti founder of EaseMyTrip, Bhavesh Bhatia, the founder of Sunrise Candles; Rajesh

Dembla, founder of Zoozle who is building India's largest Micro Distributor network for digital commerce; Raghunandan and Siddhant Kamath, founders of Naturals Ice Cream, one of India's most loved ice cream brands. At Proficorn, founder and co-founder of Qlone, Rajiv Talreja and Karan Hasija respectively, also announced the launch of the Qlone App, tailor-made for MSME business owners with a range of features that will help them in business growth.

#### Mango extravaganza!

xperience a Mango Extravaganza brunch like never before. Enjoy a delectable spread of \_\_mango-inspired appetizers, main courses, and desserts that highlight the unique flavours and textures of different types of mangoes. From the sweet Alphonso to the tangy Kesar, indulge in the ultimate mango feast with family and friends. Where: Food Exchange at Novotel Hyderabad Convention Centre, Hyderabad, Telangana. When: May 30, 2023 **Time**: 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm **For Reservations** call: +91 9642326162

#### Elevate your holiday looks with Platinum Evara

t's that time of the year, when beach hats are seen peaking out of travel totes and exciting new summer looks are revealed in style. Jewellery is an essential part of these summer travel looks and the right pieces have the power to elevate the entire look. Contemporary designs from Platinum Evara can be easily worn across different attires and occasions to add a touch of subtle glam and elegance to your personal travel style. With a preference to travel light, versatility has become the mantra for all travel essentials, including jewellery. Crafted from 95% pure platinum, each piece in the Platinum Evara collection can easily be styled to complement and uplift various travel looks. Whether you are seeking the beach boho glam or the effortless yet chic city explorer vibe, minimalistic platinum jewellery with its clean lines and delicate forms, promises to take your desired look to the next level.

#### Toyota Kirloskar Motor flags off the first zonal drive of its 'Great 4X4 X-pedition'

oyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) flagged off its highly anticipated 'Great 4x4 X-pedition', marking the beginning of an extraordinary three-day adventure for motoring enthusiasts across the country. This thrilling drive aims to captivate and engage the 4x4 SUV fans through an unparalleled off-roading experience, encouraging them to go beyond the ordinary, by igniting the spirits of adventure, and create lasting memories through this exciting journey with Toyota. This endeavour is poised to deliver "Mass



Happiness" to all the participating 4x4 community. The Great 4x4 X-pedition by

Toyota commenced this morning from Bangalore with the participation of 4x4 enthusiasts from Southern India. It will traverse through the exhilarating routes of Hassan and Sakleshpur over next two-days with an impressive convoy of 4x4 SUVs, driven by offroading enthusiasts to unleash the true potential of their proudly owned vehicles, including the legendary Hilux, Fortuner 4x4, LC 300, Hyryder AWD, as well as other SUV

#### Celebrate Telangana Formation Day with 'A Taste of Telangana' at Sheraton Hyderabad

iscover the essence of regional flavours at the Sheraton Hyderabad Hotel's 'The Taste of Telangana' food festival, celebrating Telangana Formation Day. The week-long event showcases Telangana's diverse culinary heritage, featuring the signature dishes of home cooks Meera Girija and Kanisetty Sravani. Indulge in an extraordinary culinary experience at Sheraton Hyderabad that will tantalize your taste buds, from heavenly Ragi Mudda, Sangati, Kadak Jawar Roti, Gutti Vankaya, to spicy Natukodi Pulusu/ Miryala Kodi, Talakaya Mamsam, Rohu Chepa Fry, Pachi Mirpa Kodi Pulao this festival guarantees an unforgettable gastronomic journey. The dessert menu is exhilarating with the likes of Bobbatlu, Bellam Garelu and Moong Daal Paayasam.

What: Taste of Telangana Where: The Feast, Sheraton Hyderabad Hotel

When: May 29, 2023 to June 3, 2023 (12.30 pm – 3.30 pm and 7.00

For Reservations: +91 73373 58581

#### ITC launches SunfeastFarmlite super millets cookies

n line with the core purpose of 'Help India Eat Better', ITC Foods launched its first millet cookies as part of SunfeastFarmlite. The launch of SunfeastFarmlite Super Millets Cookies is in conjunction with ITC Mission Millet initiative. Available in two variants - Multi Millet & Choco-chip Multi Millet, the millet cookies are made from a blend of millets, including ragi, jowar (sorghum) and contain no added maida. Both variants of

SunfeastFarmlite Super Millets Cookies come in packs of 75g, and are priced at Rs. 50 per pack. They are available in retail stores across Mumbai, Pune, Ahmedabad, Delhi + NCR, Kolkata, Chennai, Coimbatore, Hyderabad, Bangalore Kerala and ITCStore.in.



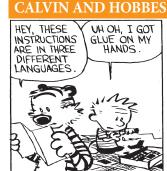
#### **ARCHIE**





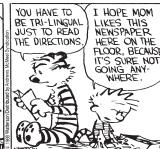












#### **GARFIELD**





YOU MAKE ME

FEEL LIKE I JUST GOT A NOTIFICATION

THAT SOMEBODY LEFT A COMMENT AND SHARED MY POST



I DIDN'T REALIZE HE WAS SO SERIOUS

ABOUT ME

#### REALITY CHECK





#### **SUDOKU**

	4	9		2			1	6
			9		6	5		
								4
			8	5				2
	7						3	
1				9	2			
3								
		5	1		7			
9	1			6		8	4	

2	Yesterday's solution									
9	2	1	6	4	5	7	3	8	9	
	7	8	3	9	2	1	4	5	6	
-	4	9	5	8	3	6	7	2	1	
41	3	6	9	2	4	8	1	7	5	
2	1	2	8	3	7	5	6	9	4	
<	5	4	7	6	1	9	2	3	8	
	9	3	2	1	8	4	5	6	7	
_	8	7	1	5	6	2	9	4	3	
	6	5	4	7	9	3	8	1	2	
	Ru	les								
$\dashv$	(	conf	tain	w a eac onc	h ni				9)	

- The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

#### **CROSSWORD**



#### **ACROSS**

- 1 This small sea creature might sting a swimmer 6 Does a signature on
- 7 Telling untruths
- 11 Day's end 9 Very uncommon 13 Frighten 10 The tiredness you get after 15 A small oval oily fruit a very long plane flight
- 12 A paper hanky
- 14 A hard black fuel
- 17 The opposite of tails

4 Recorded with a movie

18 Train tracks

**DOWN** 2 Very keen 3 Misplaced

camera

- 19 A month

5 Not moving

6 Pull something to

16 A baby's transport

SOLUTION

make it longer or wider

8 A swimmer's glasses

#### THIS IS TAKING I FINISH FOLDING ALL SCHOOL HOLIDAYS ARE GOING TO BE OVER!

GINGER MEGGS

YOU MAKE ME FEEL LIKE I JUST GOT A NOTIFICATION







## tollywood

### #MenToo:

## Haphazardly Mansplained



AMARTYA SMARAN

### Keerthy Suresh starrer Raghuthatha wraps up its final schedule

Tombale Films, the acclaimed production house behind blockbuster hits like KGF Chapter 2 and Kantara, is delighted to announce the successful completion of the shooting for their upcoming Tamil film, Raghuthatha. This highly anticipated movie, directed by the award-winning writer of Family Man, Suman Kumar, promises to captivate audiences with its powerful storytelling and remarkable performances. Starring the immensely talented national award-winning actor Keerthy Suresh in the lead role, Raghuthatha marks Hombale Films' first venture into Tamil cinema. Keerthy

> ered a stellar performance that is sure to leave audiences in awe. Raghuthatha is an empowering tale of a young woman's journey to save the identity of her people and land. Producer Vijay Kiragandur expresses his enthusiasm for the project, stating, "Raghuthatha is the story of a courageous woman who fearlessly fights for the rights of women and more. It portrays the challenges faced by a young girl and her unwavering determination to carve her own path. We believe this film will inspire audiences to question societal norms and empower themselves, initiating positive change."

Suresh, known for her exceptional acting skills and extensive body of work in Malayalam, Tamil, and Telugu films, has once again deliv-

> Hombale Films has established a reputation for delivering exceptional cinematic experiences, evident in their recent successes with KGF Chapter 2 and Kantara.

Having completed the shooting for Raghuthatha, Hombale Films now embarks on the post-production phase, bringing together the creative efforts of a talented crew. The film features a stellar ensemble cast, including veteran actor M S Bhaskar, Devadarshini, Ravindra Vijay, Anandsami and Rajesh Balakrishnan, who have delivered impactful performances in their respective roles.

The production team of *Raghuthatha* consists of accomplished professionals who have contributed their expertise to create a captivating cinematic experience. Ramcharantej Labani serves as the production (art) designer, music director Sean Roldan, known for his work in *Jai Bhim*, has composed the film's score and national award-winning costume designer Poornima has crafted the characters' distinctive looks. Anand has lent his skills as the sound designer, while Yamini Y has skillfully captured the film's visuals as the cinematographer. T Ś Suresh has taken charge of film

editing, ensuring a seamless and engrossing narrative. *Raghuthatha* is set to enthrall audiences when it releases in the third quarter of 2023. Hombale Films has a huge line up for the next 2 years. Salaar starring

Prabhas is slated to release in September 2023, Dhoomam, starring Fahadh Fasil due to release in June 2023. In addition to these, there will be two more regional releases this year from the production

Prabhas has got two big and most-anticipated there is no official announcement regarding the same yet. Prashanth Neel's Salaar and Om Raut's Adipurush. Ever since he starred in the SS Rajamouli's Baahubali, he has become one of the most bankable stars, which turned him into a pan-India star. Now, moviegoers can't wait to know what's in store for them. While *Adipurush* is all set to hit the big screens on June 16, Prabhas fans are eagerly waiting for an update on Salaar.

According to the latest buzz, the much-awaited first teaser of Salaar might be attached with Adipurush. However, waiting for some massive and eye-catching visuals in Adipurush and Salaar's teaser with it, will be a double celebration for Prabhas' fans. The makers of both, Salaar and Adipurush have geared up to bring these cinematic wonders to the cinema halls soon.

Salaar is helmed by Prashanth Neel and produced by Vijay Kiragandur of Hombale Films. The muchawaited Pan-India project also stars Prithviraj Sukumaran, Shruti Haasan, and Jagapathi



#### **Director Atlee and his wife** grace Cannes red carpet

he helmer of block-buster successes like Theri, Mersal, and Bigil, amongst others, director Atlee is currently generating waves not just across the nation but also the globe with the anticipation and excitement for his upcoming film Jawan starring Shah Rukh Khan and Nayanthara.

Adding another feather to the cap, director Atlee and his wife Priya made their debut at the coveted Cannes Film Festival. Atlee was spotted wearing a tux, while Priya chose to keep it ethnic and wore a black saree.

They looked beautiful together at the film festival. Twinning in black for the event, the duo radiated royalty.



#### Mahesh & Namrata overjoyed with Sitara endorsing a jewellery brand

Sitara Ghattamaneni, daughter of Superstar ty for a brand endorsement. She will now appear on television for a major jewellery brand advertisement. Sitara has already appeared in a few Tollywood. She has been very active on the social media platform, Instagram, and steals the hearts of people with her style and elegance. Sitara is the first star kid to endorse a major brand on television.

Recently, Sitara has seized a great opportuni-

tisement. Sitara has already appeared in a few advertisements with her father, Mahesh Babu. There are a few snaps regarding this on social media, in which the star kid is seen working on sets for the shoot. This will be a grand launch for her on the television commercial platform. Mahesh Babu and Namrata are overioved

and proud of Sitara. Sitara Ghattamaneni is a bundle of joy who has nearly 1.2 million followers on Instagram. Superstar Mahesh Babu is currently working on the much awaited film SSMB28, awaited film SSMB28, directed by Trivikram Srinivas. The film is going to release a major update soon. According to the latest update, the actor is going to reveal the title of SSMB28 on his father veteran actor Krishna's birthday on May 31.

# Grey: The Spy Who Loved Me: Stays loyal to its core plot Carl Arvind Krishna, Prathap Pothen, Ali Reza, Urvasi Rai. Director Raj Madiraju Chremotography M.R. Chetan Kumar



At the start of the film, a scientist perishes in a mysterious circumstances. Nuclear physicist Sudarshan Reddy, (played by Pratap Pothen), was shot dead. If this is a murder or a suicide, needs to be determined. The deceased person's wife, Aarushi Sharma (played by Urvashi Rai), who has an age difference of 20 years, is the only one who knows the reason behind it. Aarushi's background is investigated in depth by the officer played by Ali Reza who believes that she may have ordered the murder of her husband.

Nagaraju Talluri

The narrative of the film also involves an intellectual doctor named Raghu (played by Arvind Krishna), international travel, a hard drive valued at \$50 million, and other intriguing elements.

#### Performances:

Pratap Pothen and Urvashi Rai offer the audience some daring experiences. They flirt and talk about having sex in code. Pothen's performance exudes assurance. From the very beginning, Urvashi surprises. She possesses all the characteristics of a femme fatale, a victim, a damsel in distress, and everything in between

Ali Reza, Arvind Krishna, and others

were fine in their respective roles.

The film's concept is sound. This movie analyses one potential or real reason for one of the many unexplained deaths of Indian scientists, turning the second part of the movie into a classic thriller. Both the pre-climax and the climax have been handled really effective-

Kiran Kallakuri

You'll be delighted by a few sporadic twists and excitement components. It was interpreted decently and without any deceptive features. However, the sluggish narration in the first half can make you lose interest. The movie's soundtrack and editing also plays a spoilsport. In the opening moments, cinematographer Chetan Madhuranthakam displays some creativity (observe how the camera moves when Ali Reza's character first appears in the scene).

#### Conclusion:

Grey first seems to be an erotic thriller passing for a criminal novel. However, it really excels when it stays loyal to its source material and fulfills the promise offered by the opening titles.

## GILL'S 129 TAKES GT TO 233-3 VS MI

ensational Shubman Gill's 129 off 60 balls — his 129 off by bans — Inchird hundred plus knock of the season — propelled Gujarat Titans to a daunting 233/3 against Mumbai Indians here in Qualifier 2 of the IPL here on Friday.

Gill began sturdily and turned brutal in the second

half of the innings to smash an overall seven fours and 10 sixes in his breathtaking knock. In the process, Gill added

138 runs for the second wicket with B Sai Sudharsan, who happily played second fiddle with a 31-ball 43 before he was retired out.

Gill's whirlwind knock made him only the second Indian batter after Virat Kohli (2016) and overall fourth in the history, after Jos Buttler (2022) and David Warner (2016), to score more than 800 runs in an

Gill hit three sixes off MI's hero of the last game, Akash Madhwal (1/53), in the 12th over to cross the 800-run mark, continuing his form to single-handedly lead Gujarat

Titans' charge.

He brought up his fifty off 32 balls with two sixes and three fours and unleashed a flurry of sixes against seamers and spinners alike here at the nearly-packed Narendra Modi

Stadium here.
Gill also surpassed Yashasvi Jaiswal's 62-ball 124 to record the highest individual score this season, with



Mumbai Indians being on the receiving end on both the occasions.

In the process, the 23-year-old also surpassed RCB's Faf du Plessis (730 runs) to claim the Orange Cap.
Additionally, Gill's 129

bettered Virender Sehwag's 122 against Chennai Super Kings in the 2014 season as the highest score for a batter in the IPL playoffs.

After a 30-minute delay to the start due to rain, GT had made a sedate start.

A vital moment had come at the end of the sixth over when Tim David at mid-on dropped a catch to provide Gill with a lifeline, with GT finishing the powerplay at 50/0. The first breakthrough for

MI came in the seventh over when Piyush Chawla had Wriddhiman Saha (18) stumped on a delivery down the leg.

Gill certainly had luck on his side as twice in as many balls he managed to survive, off Kumar Kartikeya.

After Ishan Kishan could

not run-out the batter who had gone down the track and had an inside edge deflecting the ball into his pads, Gill hit the next delivery in the air only to find the ball dropping very close to the fielder at deep midwicket.

At the halfway mark, GT reached 91 for one with Gill bringing up his fifth half-century. But courtesy Gill's onslaught, the defending champions managed 142 runs in the second half.

#### Divine to perform at IPL 2023 finale

PTI MUMBAI

Rapper Divine will be performing at the finale of the 2023 Indian Premier

League (IPL) on May 28.

Divine, whose real name is Vivian Fernandes, will perform at the first-ever mid-innings/half-time show during the finale, to be held at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, a press release stated.

The rapper will be joined by long-time collab-orator and Canadian playback singer Jonita Gandhi for a special collaborative showcase of their track 'Naya Sher', which features Indian cricketer Virat

"I am proud to be representing the hip hop movement at the country's largest stadium and bringing together the parallel worlds of cricket and music. I'm looking forward to performing for all my fans all around the world, including all the sports aficionados of the country at the most prominent sporting league

of the country.

"This is my very first performance at the IPL and I'm excited and grateful. From being a big fan of cricket, to playing at the stadium for the finals, is truly a dream come true," Divine said in a statement.

#### Dhoni takes someone else's trash and makes it treasure: Hayden

 $M^{ahendra\ Singh\ Dhoni\ is\ a}_{"magician"}$  who can turn someone else's "trash into treasure" says the great Matthew Hayden, who also reckons that the former India captain's unmatched contribution to the CSK success story makes his playing future with the franchise "almost irrelevant".

Dhoni's tactical genius has played a big part in CSK reach-ing their 10th IPL final. He did not have the best of bowling attacks at his disposal at the start of the tournament but he has been able to bring the best out of it. How he has used Aiinkva Rahane and Shivam Dube in the batting department has also

been praised widely.
Dhoni, who has played with a knee injury throughout the tournament, has given himself 8-9 months to decide on his playing future. Hayden, however, feels the World Cup winning captain will not be around for the next IPL.

"MS is a magician. He takes someone else's trash and makes them treasure. He is a very skilful and positive captain. He said something really interesting which I thought summed up not only his humility and his truth around cricket where he is repNadu Cricket Association," Hay-

"The alignment between that association and the franchise, how strong that is in terms of building that process. To me that is MS. There is a systematic way of going though things and working through them. He did that for India and he is doing it for Chennai Super kings. "Whether he plays or not next year it is almost irrelevant Personally I don't think he will but then he is M S Dhoni," he said at an event organised by University of Technology Sydney (UTS). With the rapid rise of T20 cricket around the world it has become increasingly difficult for the players to play all three formats.

Hayden thinks not only that makes it impossible for players to commit to all formats, it also questions the future of the game, especially the 50-over version. "The time of three-format players is shortly coming to an end. I would challenge the game around whether those formats are even viable anymore.

"It seems to me there is great enthusiasm still to play Test cricket and World Test Championship is a good example of that. Otherwise I see lot of T20 cricket being played.'

#### BCCI could rest all seniors for Afghanistan series **PTI** MUMBAI

Contrary to reports in some quarters that BCCI is planning to cancel the proposed home series against Afghanistan due to cramped calendar, there is possibility that a second string team might play with all seniors including ODI and Test captain Rohit Sharma along with senior player Virat Kohli rested before West Indies tour.

All Indian players were involved in a gruelling IPL for nearly two months and will be in England for a one-off WTC final but after that, most seniors like Kohli and Rohit will need rest before they embark on West Indies tour where all three formats will be played. Kohli and and ODIs and would need ade-

With only window for

shorten the series or may be only convert it into either T20I or ODI series and play the a second

string side led by Hardik Pandya. Mirwais Ashraf, the president of the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) is in India for the final of the IPL and while a meeting between the members of the Asian Cricket Council is slated to take place, India and Afghanistan cricket boards could also finalise the details of their proposed white-ball series.

The Indian team has a packed schedule lined up after the conclusion of the IPL. While the coaching staff and some members of the team have already flown to England to prepare for the final of the World Test Championship against there is also a full tour of the Caribbean lined up ahead.

India will play two Tests, Afghanistan series between June three ODIs and five T20Is 20-30, the BCCI might have against the West Indies from July



12 to August 13, after which the team is expected to play a threematch T20I series in Ireland. The Ireland series will mostly feature IPL performers and even Pandya could rest from that series keeping Asia Cup in

The ACC board members will meet on the sidelines of the IPL final to finalise the future of the Asia Cup 2023, which means that the workload will only increase for the Indian players, given that there is an all-important 50-over World Cup lined up

for October-November.

If finalised, the Asia Cup
2023 is expected to be played in
September, which means that the Indian players will be hard pressed to find time to rest and dar has already witnessed big injuries to key players such as Jasprit Bumrah and Shreyas Iyer with no set timeline of

Additionally, in September, India are also set to play a three-match ODI series against Australia — a second such series this year - to finalise World Cup preparations. According to 'Cricbuzz', the

BCCI is finding it difficult to schedule the Afghanistan series, proposed to be having three ODIs, given the time constraint and also because the broadcast deal with Disney Star has ended and a new tender is yet to be issued.

However, a senior BCCI secretary Jay Shah during an earlier interaction with media in Mumbai had said "BCCI media rights tender will be on schedule this year (June-July) and will depend on the Afghanistan tour, start from the Australia series. The Board will speak to all stakeholders concerned and will come up with an interim deci-

#### WTC winners to get \$1.6 mn prize money

The winners of next month's World Test Championship Final between India and Australia at The Oval will take home USD 1.6 million in prize money, while runners-up will get richer by USD 800,000, the ICC announced here on Friday.

The championship decider will be played at The Oval, London from June 7-11 with June 12 as the reserve day. The tournament prize money is the

same as that for the inaugural World Test Championship Final in 2019-21 — a total purse of USD 3.8 million besides the WTC The Kane Williamson-led New Zealand

side were rewarded with USD 1.6 million besides the glittering Mace in Southampton two years ago, courtesy an eight-wicket win over India in the six-day final. All nine teams will get a share in the USD 3.8 million purse with South Africa

the WTC 2021-23 standings. England, who made a late surge and finished their campaign in fourth spot, will bag

earning USD 450,000 for finishing third in



the top teams in the race for a spot in the decider during the epic finale, finished fifth to earn USD 200,000

The remaining teams New Zealand

and Bangladesh (No.9) will be rewarded with a sum of USD 100,000 each.



#### **Oz include Peirson** as cover for Inglis

PTI ■ SYDNEY

ustralia have selected wick-Australia nave selected

Aetkeeper Jimmy Peirson as cover for back-up gloveman Josh Inglis, who will return home after the opening Ashes Test for the birth of his first child.

Alex Carey is Australia's first-choice keeper for the World Test Championship (WTC) final against India and the five Ashes Tests and Inglis has been select-

ed as his back-up.

But Inglis will return to
Perth after the first Ashes Test starting on June 16 and his place will be taken up before the second Test at Lord's by 30-year-old Queensland gloveman Peirson, who has 65 first-class games to his credit, according to cricket.Com.Au on Friday.

The Australian team management has said Inglis will rejoin the squad later in the

Peirson, who has been impressive at the domestic and Australia 'A' level with both the bat and gloves, trained with the Test squad in Brisbane last week and would be fancying his chances of wearing the iconic

Baggy Green during the Ashes. The right-handed lowerorder batter has improved his man in."

batting drastically over the years, going from an average of less than 30 in his first 35 first-class games to 42.56, including six tons in 30 games since the 2020-21 season.

He also struck an unbeaten 128 for Australia 'A' during their tour of Sri Lanka last year.

Peirson's appearance in the Australian Test squad has partly been delayed because Tim Paine was the first-choice keeper for a long time and then Carey replaced the former captain, who stepped down due to a controversy ahead of the 2021 Ashes series at home.

Peirson said he was driven by the desire to set higher standards for himself.

"These guys (Carey and Inglis among others) are setting their benchmark, and I want to set my benchmark higher, and maybe bring a few other attributes into that as well, through leadership or whatever else, said Peirson. "It's great to have that competition. That's what drives you to be the best you can be. If someone's pipping you, you want to be better than them. That's certainly one of my great driving factors: I want to be the best, I want to be the next

### Roy ends England deal to play T20 cricket in USA

**AP** LONDON

Batting star Jason Roy is ending this England contract to play in the first season of Major League Cricket in the United States.

The aggressive opener, who has just returned from a stint with Kolkata Knight Riders in the Indian Premier League, reportedly has an offer from their affiliated MLC franchise, the Los Angeles Knight

It is understood the 32-year-old has been offered about £300,000 (\$370,000) for the first two seasons of the new American Twenty20 competition, which launches in

Roy was dropped from England's central contract list last

year, downgraded to an incremental deal worth between £60,000 and £70,000.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said in a statement on Thursday that it had agreed for Roy to play in the US "on the proviso that he gives up the remainder of his ECB incremental contract, which both parties have agreed to".

"The ECB wish to clarify that this decision will not affect Jason's selection for England teams going forward," it added. "We have absolute confidence and faith that Jason is committed to England cricket."

The aggressive opener did not feature in England's T20 World Cup triumph in October and November, but has held on to his place in the 50-over side and will



many more years — that remains my priority.'

competitive cricket as possible."

hope to feature in this year's 50-over

statement on Twitter that he would

as a professional cricketer," said Roy,

who has scored nearly 6,000 inter-

national runs in all formats.

never walk away from England.

The Surrey player said in a

"Representing my country continues to be my proudest moment

"I hope to play for England for

World Cup defence in India.

He added: "As a single format player with no central contract I wanted to take the opportunity to play this competition as there are currently no scheduling conflicts with England. It benefits me as an England player to play as much