

Monday Mirchi

THE MAN FOR THE JOB ANYWHERE ACROSS THE GLOBE

Like in any field, in babudom there are some who develop such consummate skills in executing their jobs that they become irreplaceable and stand out as the man for the job anywhere across the globe. Not one but three countries - that's what Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary, has covered in one go. It started with the UK trip, then to US, and later to Canada. The corridors of power are abuzz with jealous comments about this globetrotter bureaucrat who gets to go on foreign trips more than anyone else. There are many bureaucrats who long to visit other countries, but somehow Jayesh alone gets the approval from the Chief Minister. Back this time with 40,000 jobs in his kitty, Jayesh exults: "I have been to multiple domestic and international roadshows accompanying Minister KT Rama Rao, but the outcomes of our most recent trips are unprecedented. The respect and recognition Telangana enjoys today makes our hard work all so rewarding."

OPPN TO FIGHT BIAS AGAINST BABUS

Opposition parties in Telangana, taking up cudgels in an unusual area, are likely to target the BRS government over its 'bias' against bureaucrats who are Dalits or hail from religious minority groups. Several such officers have been awaiting posting for long and some of them are not sure of getting posting even before the government goes for elections. Armed with this vital bit of information, opposition parties have started digging into the composition of bureaucrats awaiting posting in terms of their caste, religion, and gender. For newbies, Eatala Rajender had criticised that there were no Dalits in the Chief Minister's Office and immediately Rahul Bojja was inducted. Opposition parties that have been critical of bureaucrats of late intend to magnify this issue for scoring brownie points.

TRIGGER FOR TROLL TRAFFIC OVER TWEET

"One man's meat is another man's poison", goes a maxim. Chief Minister's Secretary Smita Sabharwal must have realized this the hard way. She had posted a tweet on the success of Mission Bhagiratha in contradistinction to media reports on how Nashik's women risk entering deep wells to collect drinking water. This tweet was

amplified by BRS social media handles, including those of convenors. To counter it, opposition parties' followers started their attack. In the ensuing social media bombardment, the troll traffic on Smita's handle increased. Smita responded by exclaiming: what offends them -- development and progress?! It looked like BJP was attacking them more as she concluded her tweet, saying: "It is between you and your God anyways".

GAG ORDER AND LICENCE TO SPEAK

It is an open secret that bureaucrats in TS have been conditioned to stay clear of newshounds. Babus have been following the order, issued a few years ago, in letter and spirit. That is, they never talk to media persons unless advised. A little bird told us that recently officials had to be cautioned in no uncertain terms that the gag order was very much in vogue. For, the powers that be sensed increased interaction of some babus with the media. So, all babus were nudged to strictly stay away from scribes. However, when a top minister was pointedly asked about media persons being denied entry into the Secretariat, the Minister said: "Media persons can meet officials outside the Secretariat". Well now, the larger question is: Will officials follow the standing gag order or go by the licence to speak issued orally by the Minister?

5:00 PM IS NO LONGER CLOSING TIME

The newly constructed Telangana Secretariat has complicated matters for babus and their staff at all levels. Previously, when Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao used to function from Pragathi Bhavan, be it departmental reviews or cabinet meetings, most of the officials and staff in other departments were not stretched to their limits. For, only bureaucrats of the departments concerned went to Pragathi Bhavan, while those of other departments were relatively free. However, these days the Chief Minister has been coming to the Secretariat and holding meetings. There is no way officials and their staff can go home at or after 5:00 PM. For, KCR usually comes to the Secretariat in the evenings. Bureaucrats and their staff can afford to leave office only after KCR calls it a day. Right from top level babus to attenders, they all have the same feeling: We are no longer free to go home at the stroke of 5:00.

-Yours truly

WTITC Sky Soarer arrives in Canada

Marks another significant milestone on its international journey

PNS ■ TORONTO

The World Telugu Information Technology Conference (WTITC) Sky Soarer has made its grand entrance into Canada, further enhancing the excitement surrounding this global IT event. Following its successful launch in Washington DC by Telangana IT Minister KT Rama Rao, the Sky Soarer's arrival in Canada marks another significant milestone on its international journey.

The Canadian leg of the WTITC Sky Soarer was unveiled in a momentous event at Toronto by IT Principal Secretary Jayesh Ranjan and WTITC Chairman Sundee Kumar Makthala, alongside the presence of Telangana State Industries Director Dr Vishnu Reddy. The occasion was attended by distinguished guests and Telugu technocrats who share a deep passion for technology and innovation. Canada is renowned for its



thriving information technology industry, making it an ideal destination for the WTITC Sky Soarer. The Sky Soarer serves as a symbol of the Telugu community's limitless potential and unwavering commitment to technological advancement.

During the unveiling ceremony, Jayesh Ranjan extended a heartfelt invitation to the vibrant Telugu community in Canada, urging them to participate actively in the upcoming World Telugu Information Technology Conference. He emphasised the tremendous value of their contributions

and encouraged NRIs in Canada to join hands in shaping the future of the Telugu IT landscape.

Ranjan also expressed appreciation for WTITC Chairman Sundee Kumar Makthala's exceptional contributions to Telangana through TITA and to the Telugu states through WTITC.

Makthala's visionary leadership and unwavering dedication have played a pivotal role in fostering innovation, collaboration, and growth within the Telugu community, said Ranjan.

No guarantee of fair polls in TS: Sharmila

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Declaring that there is no guarantee that elections would be held properly under the dictatorial 'Dora' rule in Telangana, YSRTP President YS Sharmila said that there is nobody to check the atrocities of the 'Dora' in Telangana.

Dora made his police file false cases and arrest and torture anyone who question the government, Sharmila said. There is no rule of law in Telangana as murders are taking place in broad daylight. BRS leaders are not allowing people to live in peace and are not allowing the opposition to function.

In a statement issued on Sunday, Sharmila said that an emergency must be imposed on Telangana.

She said that there is no democracy in the State and that the rule of the BRS is like that of the Taliban. She added that there is a need to impose President's Rule in Telangana.

Criticising KCR for stating that he will fight against the Centre for the rights of States, Sharmila asked KCR to reveal whether he had spoken about



the Bayyaram Steel Factory, the Kazipet Railway Coach factory and the Tribal University any day.

"Did KCR question the Centre about the promised two crore jobs? Did BRS MPs protest in Parliament demanding that the Centre should accord national project status to TS irrigation projects? Did KCR meet anyone like Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal to pressure the Centre?" she asked.

Sharmila said that KCR is playing politics with money collected from TS and is roaming around the country in the name of the Third Front and Federal Front, but has not done anything to protect the State's interests.

One more...

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Among the recent arrests is Ravi Kishore, a junior assistant in the electricity department, who has been apprehended in connection with the case.

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) found evidence that question papers were sold to at least 20 individuals. A Divisional Engineer (DE) working in a coaching centre located on RTC Cross Road has also been detained. Police said the DE had established connections with candidates who had visited the coaching centre.

SIT officials are now focusing on candidates who scored top marks in the exam, as they suspect their involvement in the question paper leak.

A dawn of self-reliant...

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He equated the 25-year period - from now till the centenary of India's independence in 2047 - to the similar time gap between Mahatma Gandhi's non-cooperation movement which had ended in 1922 and the country's freedom.

Gandhi's movement led to a 'new consciousness' among the masses and filled them with confidence as they devoted themselves to freedom, he said, adding that every citizen should work similarly for a developed India in the next 25 years. "The new Parliament is a reflection of aspirations and dreams of 140 crore Indians.

This is a temple of our democracy that gives a message of India's resolve to the world. There are a few

moments in every nation's history that are immortalised. Some dates become the indelible signature on the face of time. May 28, 2023 is one such day," he asserted.

Modi's address came after he inaugurated the new building this morning at a grand ceremony which included a havan, a multi-faith prayer ceremony and the installation of the Sengol in a special enclosure in the Lok Sabha chamber.

The prime minister said the nine years of his government mark a period of reconstruction and work for the poor's welfare.

He expressed his satisfaction over this hour of pride, noting that four crore houses and 11 crore toilets for the poor were built during the period.

'Modi treated Parl...

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"The right to inaugurate the new Parliament was snatched from the President. Women players were beaten up on the streets with dictatorial force," he said in a tweet in Hindi. "The three lies of the BJP-RSS rulers now stand exposed before the country -- democracy, nationalism and Beti Bachao." "Remember Modi ji, democracy does not run from the buildings but functions through the voice of the public," Kharge said.

The Rashtriya Janata Dal was most stinging in its criticism of the project as it likened the new Parliament building's triangular shape to a coffin, drawing a sharp response from the BJP.

6 'Saptarishi' idols collapse at Ujjain's Mahakal Lok

PNS ■ UJJAIN

Six out of the seven idols of 'Saptarishis' installed at the Mahakal Lok corridor, developed on the premises of Mahakaleshwar temple in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain, collapsed and suffered damages due to gusty winds on Sunday, but nobody was injured in the incident despite the presence of a large number of visitors, officials said.

The facility was shut for a few hours following the incident that occurred around 4 pm, they said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had inaugurated the first phase of the Mahakal Lok corridor project in October last year.

Fresh clashes in Manipur 2 killed, 12 hurt in firing

40 militants killed since operations began



PNS ■ IMPHAL

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Sunday said nearly 40 armed militants involved in torching houses and firing at civilians have been killed by security forces since they began an operation to bring peace to the north eastern state beset by ethnic rioting.

Separately, police officials said on Sunday said at least two persons were killed and 12 injured in different instances of firing upon civilians and clashes between militants and security forces since the early hours of the day.

At Phayeng in Imphal West district, one person died and

another sustained bullet injuries after being fired at by suspected Kuki militants, police officials said.

The latest clashes began after the army and para-military forces commenced combing operations to de-arm communities in order to bring peace, officials said.

The Chief Minister who was interacting with the media persons at the state secretariat, claimed the latest round of "conflict is not between communities but between militants and security forces".

Singh also said that there had been cases of armed militants firing at civilians with AK-47s, M-16 and sniper rifles.

In fighting BJP...

Continued from page 1

After this, the Centre started harassing BRS leaders and KCR's family, particularly KCR's daughter Kavitha.

After the ED issued a summons in the Delhi liquor scam Kavitha appeared thrice before ED officials. Once there were strong speculations that the ED is going to arrest Kavitha in the Delhi liquor scam. But KCR did not compromise with the Centre to save his daughter from the liquor scam. Instead, KCR intensified his moves against the BJP. Kavitha also thinks that she is now safe in the Delhi liquor scam. BRS circles also strongly feel that Kavitha's role in the Delhi liquor scam is a closed chapter.

Even though Central agencies were harassing BRS leaders and KCR's family, KCR stood like a rock against the BJP without any compromise, unlike some other opposition leaders. This has boosted KCR's image across the nation.

Some opposition leaders think that the opposition's leader should be a person like KCR who will fight the BJP without any compromise.

BJP, Cong trade charges of being hand in glove with BRS

Continued from page 1

This is enough to prove that the BJP and the BRS are two sides of the same coin.

He said that even recently a Delhi BJP leader said almost the same thing during a chit-chat.

Ayodhya Reddy said that both the BJP and the BRS are one and so the BRS is not opposing the BJP in Parliament seriously. Not only the BRS, the AIMIM is also hand-in-glove with the BJP, Ayodhya Reddy said.

He said the BJP always says that the Kaleshwaram Project is an ATM of the BRS but it

never asks Central investigating agencies to probe it. This is another proof that they are one, he added.

He said that the BJP and the BRS are trying secretly to see that the Congress does not gain strength in Telangana. In fact, the BJP and the BRS will join hands after the elections, Ayodhya Reddy said.

In fact, the ruling BRS has said that they are neither on the BJP's side nor the Congress's side. The BRS made it clear that they are on the side of the Telangana people.

On Sunday, Harish Rao slammed both the BJP and the Congress saying that both of

them are more dangerous than even natural calamities.

The people are confused regarding this and they ask which party (the BJP or the Congress) is hand-in-glove with the BRS. Elections are just five months away but their confusion has been cleared.

Ram Reddy, a member of the public, said that there is no doubt that both the BJP and the Congress are confusing people.

"This confusion is a sin against the people of Telangana. I think there is no such confusing politics anywhere else. These parties are deceiving the people of

Telangana. They have an obligation to clear the confusion in public minds," Ram Reddy said.

Meanwhile, senior BRS leader Dasoju Sravan said that the BJP and the Revanth Reddy-led Telangana unit of the Congress are hand-in-glove with each other.

He said that during the Dubbaka by-election, the Congress got the lowest number of votes in places Revanth where had campaigned.

He asked how the Congress can get just 3,000 votes in the Huzurabad by-poll and added that deliberate attempts are being made to transfer

Congress votes to the BJP.

Dasoju said that wherever Revanth had campaigned the trend became favourable for the BJP.

He said that during GHMC elections, Revanth campaigned and in the Malkajigiri Lok Sabha seat everybody knows how many Congressmen became corporators finally. Even in the recent Teachers MLC elections, BJP candidate AVN Reddy won, he added.

He said that from all this it is evident that the Congress is hand-in-glove with the BJP and that the BRS has no deals with either the BJP or the Congress.

Naidu in poll mode, unveils manifesto

Continued from page 1

The first phase of the election manifesto comprises the following schemes: 'Mahasakthi,' 'Yuvalgalam,' 'Annadata,' 'Intintiki Neeru,' 'Rakshana Chhattam,' and 'Poor to Rich,' all targeting different segments of society.

Naidu vowed, "If voted to power, the TDP will provide free bus rides for all women in the State, offering Rs 1,500 per person to two women from each family, aged between 18 and 59 years, totalling Rs 90,000 per year.

Additionally, each family will receive three free domestic gas cylinders annually. Under the 'Talli Ki Vandanam' scheme, Rs 15,000 will be granted to each child, with no limit on the number."

To empower the youth, the 'Yuvalgalam' scheme aims to create 20 lakh jobs within five years, accompanied by a monthly unemployment allowance of Rs 3,000 for unemployed youths until they secure employment.



Under the 'Annadata' scheme, farmers will receive Rs 20,000 per year. The 'Intintiki Neeru' scheme guarantees time-bound direct piped water supply to every household in the state, as promised by Naidu.

Further emphasising the protection of backward classes, Naidu announced the introduction of a special protection law known as 'Rakshana Chhattam.' The TDP also plans to implement the 'Poor to Rich' program, striving to uplift every citizen economically.

Naidu assured that all eligi-

ble individuals would benefit from these schemes, which he plans to launch with the objective of improving their financial well-being.

During his extensive speech, Naidu proudly highlighted his expertise in wealth creation. He reminded the audience that the TDP had successfully implemented a farmer's loan waiver, even with a deficit budget upon assuming power in 2014. He also claimed that the party had created 6 lakh jobs and facilitated MoUs worth Rs 16 lakh crore for the establishment of industries during its tenure.

Rahul gets new...

Continued from page 1

The Congress leader is likely to address Indian Americans, meet lawmakers and interact with members of think tanks, Wall Street executives and university students during his week-long tour of the USA. He is slated to conclude his trip with a large public gathering in New York on June 4. The interaction would take place at the Javits Center in New York.

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

An ordinary passport that is generally issued to adults is valid for 10 years.

On March 24, the Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency in Kerala was declared vacant after Rahul Gandhi, who represented it in the Lok Sabha, was disqualified following his conviction in a defamation case in which he was sentenced to a two-year jail term.

Hyd runners celebrate 10th annual awards night

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The 10th Annual Awards Night of Hyderabad Runners, a prominent city-based running group, took place on Saturday at Hotel Daspalla in Jubilee Hills. The event recognised outstanding achievements in running and volunteerism within the running community.

During the event, the Hall of Fame Award was conferred on Devyani Haldar, a scientist at the Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics, and Soma Jagan Mohan Reddy, a physiotherapist and fitness expert.

Devyani discovered her passion for running in college and has been actively participating in races since 2021. Soma Jagan Mohan Reddy, known for his incredible running accomplishments, has an impressive record, including completing 10 marathons in 10 consecutive days.

Among the other awardees were Vishwa Sanghavi, recognised as the Best Runner of the



Year in the female category, and Aswaini Acharya in the male category. BHEL Ace Runners and ECIL Runners were honoured as the Best Running Groups of the Year, while Alwal Runners, Hill Park Runners, and Hitec City Runners were acknowledged as the Best Upcoming Running Groups of the Year.

The Awards Night also featured a cultural programme where runners showcased their talent in dancing, stand-up comedy and singing, demonstrating their diverse skills beyond running.

In addition to the awards ceremony, the event marked the

launch of the fitness and wellness book titled "Breathe Better. Live Better," authored by Sunil Menon, an accomplished runner who has participated in the renowned Boston Marathon and completed the challenging Iron Man competition. The book delves into the significance of proper breathing techniques and their impact on overall well-being.

During the gathering, the newly appointed office-bearers for the year 2023-2025 were introduced, including Abhijit Madnurkar as President, Muralidhar Nannapaneni as

Vice-President and Arun Kaliappan as Secretary.

Addressing the audience, President Abhijit emphasised that Hyderabad Runners hold the distinction of being the first running group in India to institutionalise the sport. Founded in May 2007, the organisation's primary objective is to promote an active lifestyle by encouraging running as a preferred form of fitness activity. He outlined various initiatives undertaken by the society and expressed the vision of creating a fit, athletic, and active Hyderabad by expanding their reach throughout the city.

Arts students offered direct admission to dual degree BTech

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Hyderabad has introduced a unique opportunity for liberal arts students to pursue dual degree BTech programme through direct admissions for the academic year 2023. This initiative aims to encourage students with a humanities and social sciences background to explore the field of Computer Science.

The Institute is offering two five-year dual degree programmes which are BTech in Computer Science and Master of Science by research in Computational Natural Sciences, and BTech in Computer Science and Master of Science by research in Computing and Human Sciences.

Traditionally, admissions into these pro-



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grammes required clearing the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE). However, in an effort to attract talented individuals from diverse educational backgrounds, IIIT Hyderabad has established a special admission process for students who have studied humanities and social sciences in Class 12, while also displaying proficiency in Mathematics.

To be eligible for the Computational Natural Sciences programme, candidates must have obtained a minimum of 90 per cent in Mathematics, Physics, and Chemistry in their Class 12 exams. For the Computing and Human Sciences programme, a minimum eligibility criterion of 85 per cent in Mathematics and any one of the following subjects - History,

Political Science, Geography, Economics, English Elective, or Sociology - is mandatory.

The admission process allows students who have achieved high scores in Class 12 exams conducted by any Central or State Board to bypass the JEE and secure direct admission into the dual degree programmes.

By offering this opportunity, IIIT

Hyderabad aims to bridge the gap between the humanities and social sciences disciplines and the field of Computer Science, enabling students to pursue their passion for both areas of study simultaneously. This move reflects the institute's commitment to nurturing interdisciplinary education and encouraging students to explore diverse academic paths.

Actor Sharwanand allays anxiety of fans after minor mishap

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The news of Tollywood actor Sharwanand's involvement in a car accident near the Filmnagar junction created a stir among his fans. However, the actor took immediate action to reassure everyone about his safety by taking to social media.

On Sunday, Sharwanand's vehicle lost control and overturned near the Filmnagar junction, causing concern among his fans and well-wishers. To address the situation, the actor turned to his Twitter account, expressing gratitude for the support and clarifying the incident. He emphasised that the accident was minor and assured everyone that he was safe at home.

In his tweet, Sharwanand

stated, "There have been reports of a minor car accident this morning. I want to assure you all that I am safe and sound at home, surrounded by your love and blessings. There is no need to worry. Thank you all for your concern. Have a wonderful Sunday."

By promptly acknowledging the accident and directly communicating with his fans, Sharwanand dispelled any confusion and alleviated concerns arising from the accident reports. Fans took a breath of sigh after hearing his update. As he continues to recover, netizens said that they can look forward to further updates on his upcoming projects while enjoying the peace of mind that their favorite actor is safe and sound now.

Demand to include Banjaras under Scheduled Tribes list

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Banjara community on Sunday demanded recognition as a tribal community and be placed under the Scheduled Tribe.

The community further demanded its language be added to the eighth schedule of the Constitution. Leaders from the community called for a Banjara Bhavan be set up on the premises of the new Parliament building, named after Baba Lakhisha Banjara.

These demands were made during the national Banjara Meet 2023 held at the Visvesvarayya Bhavan in Hyderabad. The community also demanded the establishment of the statue of Baba Lakhisha Banjara on the premises of Parliament; immediate appointment to the national Schedule Tribe Commission; protection from harassment by revenue and police officials; establishment



of a ST Commission at the state headquarters and free education for students from the Banjara community at all levels.

Addressing the meeting, Telangana Minister for Tribal Welfare Satyawati Rathore assured the Banjaras that the government is working to construct roads worth Rs 2,000 crore across thandas (villages) and setting up 3,144 Gram Panchayats for tribals in the state. She backed the tribals' demand for including Lambadi language in the eighth schedule of the Constitution.

Sports essential for mental health: Sports Secretary

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Ahead of the CM Cup, Telangana Sports Secretary Sandeep Sultania on Sunday said sports is necessary for a sound mental health.

The tournament has been organised by the Telangana Sports Authority and will comprise 18 different sports. Participants from across the state arrived at the Gachchibowli Stadium. Sultania garlanded the statue of Major Dhyan Chand, who is India's greatest hockey player.

The Sports Secretary interacted with the participants and welcomed them for the tournament. The TSA has formed various committees to ensure the smooth conduct of the tournament. It is to be noted that Telangana IT Minister KT Rama Rao will inaugurate the tournament on Monday at the LB stadium. The tournament will be held from May 28 to 31.

Protest against not naming new Parl after Ambedkar

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a show of dissent, Telangana people's associations and tribal associations organised a protest in front of the statue of Dr BR Ambedkar to express their dissatisfaction with the decision not to name the new Indian Parliament after the renowned leader Dr BR Ambedkar.

Gajjala Kantham, the chairman of Telangana JAC, criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for not inaugurating the new Parliament building in the presence of President Draupadi Murmu, who hails from a tribal background. Kantham accused Modi of behaving like a stubborn dictator who disregards both the Constitution and the President. In a symbolic gesture, an effigy representing

Modi was burnt during the protest, accompanied by the display of black flags.

The protestors alleged that the Central government displayed a hypocritical affection towards individuals from outside the tribal community while neglecting the rights and representation of tribal children. They argued that Draupadi Murmu is only treated as a ceremonial figurehead and not given the respect she deserves.

Gajjala Kantham emphasised that the days of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ruling the country are drawing near. He issued a warning that the struggle for naming the new Parliament after Ambedkar will persist until their demand is fulfilled.

MARTYRS MEMORIAL



Martyrs Memorial will be inaugurated by Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao on June 22. As the preparations are underway, this twilight picture of the majestic structure, shot by Kavali Chandrakanth and posted on Twitter, has caught the eye of netizens

KCR remembers Suravaram

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao remembered the services of Suravaram Prathap Reddy on his birth anniversary. KCR hailed Suravaram as a multi-talented torch-bearer of Telangana.

The Chief Minister said that the government is organising the birth anniversary of Suravaram Prathap Reddy every year. He made it clear that the government will continue to work in the spirit of Suravaram.

Chief Minister Chandrasekhar Rao also attended the 10-day ceremony of Ibrahimpatnam MLA Manchireddy Kishan Reddy's mother Padamma, (92), and paid floral tributes to her portrait.

WORLD MENSTRUAL HYGIENE DAY

FLO donates sanitary pads to village women

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Chapter of FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) celebrated World Menstrual Hygiene Day on Saturday with 800 women of Puttapaka village, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri.

FLO organised a free health camp on the occasion, which was utilised by more than 800 women and donated 4,800 sanitary pads. Pamela Satpathy, District Collector of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district participated.

World Menstrual Hygiene Day is observed annually on May 28 to raise awareness about the significance of proper menstrual hygiene management. FLO organised the pro-

gramme under its initiative 'Sustain Her Health'.

During the occasion, Ritu Shah announced that FLO had officially adopted Puttapaka village. FLO donated 4,800 sanitary pads, 2 mobile toilets, a sanitary pad vending machine, and an incinerator (sanitary pad burning machine) to the villagers of Puttapaka. The donations were handed over to the villagers by Collector Pamela Satpathy.

Dr Sweta Agarwal of FLO, urged everyone to break the taboo around discussing periods and menstrual health, promoting open conversations and awareness. She said, "Three rules for menstrual hygiene: maintaining utmost hygiene, using sanitary pads,



and disposing of used pads hygienically. It is important for couples undergoing a checkup if they are unable to have children, and stop solely blaming

women. It is better to have children before the age of 30 and encourage middle-aged women to undergo breast examinations for cancer at

least once a year."

Pamela Satpathy, the District Collector, emphasised the importance of good menstrual health and hygiene. She

highlighted that good practices prevent infections, reduce odors, and contribute to comfort during menstruation. The Telangana Government places great importance on women's health and organizes day-long health camps every Tuesday in the district at two locations, she added, urging women to take advantage of these opportunities.

Seetha Reddy, a member of FLO, addressed the gathering, highlighted the importance of safe disposal of sanitary pads. She informed the mostly illiterate women who disposed sanitary pads take approximately 500 years to decompose in landfills, emphasising the need for proper disposal in incinerators.

Car catches fire on PVNR Expressway

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In another incident of cars catching fire, on Sunday, a car travelling from Hyderabad airport to Mehdiapatnam caught fire.

The five passengers vacated the car after noticing smoke emitting from the vehicle. The cause of the incident is yet to be determined. A major accident was averted as the fire fighters reached the spot in time and doused the fire.

Man held for harassing pregnant woman; demanding Rs 25 lakh

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Jubilee Hills police on Sunday arrested a man for holding a pregnant woman at knife-point and demanding Rs 25 lakh from her family. The incident occurred on May 12.

The accused identified as Motiram Rajesh Yadav (27) broke into a businessman's house and entered the victim's room. He held the woman at knife-point and threatened to kill her. He also tried to harm the woman's mother. The victim managed to arrange Rs 8 lakh, while her husband arranged another Rs 2 lakh.

Despite taking the money, the accused demanded Rs 25 lakh from the victim. He then fled from the house and lay low to avoid being tracked by the police. The man then took a cab from Secunderabad to Shadnagar where he visited a showroom. The accused spent Rs 2.5 lakh from the stolen money to buy a Royal Enfield.

Based on a tip off, the police arrested Yadav from a farmhouse where he hosted his friends for dinner.

Four of a family died in bus-car collision

PNS ■ MEDAK

Four persons of a family died, including a child, in a gory accident on the outskirts of Kolcharam village in Medak district on Friday. While two persons died on the spot, two more died while undergoing treatment on Sunday.

The accident happened when Durga Goud, his brother Nagarjuna Goud and Lavanya and Harshitha were returning in a car to their native place Yellapur village under Papanapet. Two persons, Nagaraj Goud and Harshitha died on the spot in a head-on collision between an RTC bus and a car. Duga Goud died on Saturday and Lavanya on Sunday while undergoing treatment.



Bhatti demands compensation

The CLP leader slammed the government for failing to get TS equal share in Krishna water

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka has addressed a letter to Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao demanding compensation, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) package and provision of employment opportunities to oustees of the Vattam project as per Land Acquisition Act 2013.

In his letter to the Chief Minister on Sunday, Bhatti said that 4,500 acres of land in four thanadas and a village and 463 houses were drowning totally due to the Vattam project. It is atrocious on the part of the BRS government that it is not showing any humanity towards Dalits and Girijans, who were victims of the Vattam project. He alleged that the government is not even acting as per the law. It is atrocious that the BRS government has been making decisions with a business attitude.

He demanded that the government provide land in place of the land and houses in place of houses the oustees lost



CLP leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka addressing a media conference in Nagarkurnool on Sunday

as per Land Acquisition Act-2013 and provide employment opportunities. He demanded that the government provide all facilities under R&R Package as per Land Acquisition Act-2013.

Pointing out that the BRS government has not shown any responsibility towards people if one sees that the BRS government is giving compensation as per the G.O.No.123 while keeping Land Acquisition Act-2013 aside.

Bhatti alleged that the Chief

Minister has been deceiving the innocent Dalit, Girijans by not implementing the assurances given by him.

In a media conference in Nagarkurnool, the CLP leader down heavily on the BRS government, saying that it failed to secure an equal share in Krishna water.

After inspecting the Vattam dam works at Bijinepalli mandal, Bhatti severely criticised the State government for failing to fight for an equal share in Krishna water. He sought to

know what prevented the Chief Minister to fight for national status for the irrigation project as per the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act. He wondered whether the Chief Minister lacked the courage to raise the issue with the Centre.

He felt that the Medigadda, Annaram, and Sundilla projects are necessary. He dismissed the claim by the BRS government that the irrigation projects provided irrigation facility to one crore acres as "a lie."

Komatireddy slams BRS govt for decennial fete amid people's woes

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Former minister and Congress Lok Sabha member Komatireddy Venkata Reddy on Sunday wondered whether spending several crores of rupees in the name of decennial celebrations is necessary at a time when people, farmers and the unemployed are facing hardships.

alking to media here on Sunday, he said, in a rather sarcastic tone, the farmers are forced to stay at paddy procurement centres for days on end come rain or shine for the government to lift their produce. "If you ask the farmers, they will tell you whether the



decennial celebrations are necessary?", he said.

In a tragic incident, a farmer, who was sleeping at his paddy heap at a procurement centre

in Karimnagar, was crushed under the wheels of a tractor.

Over 30 lakh unemployed are in a state of confusion due to the question paper leak. There was no recruitment of teachers for the past nine years, he regretted.

Since the elections are approaching, the State government resorted to unwanted fanfare in the name of decennial celebrations, he alleged.

Even if the BRS employed all the resources, defeat is inevitable for it in the next elections, he predicted, and exuded confidence that the Congress would win from all 12 Assembly seats in Nalgonda district.

Minister inaugurates CT scan machine at GGH



Minister for Roads and Buildings Vemula Prashan Reddy inaugurating a CT scan at the Government Hospital in Nizamabad on Sunday

PNS ■ NIZAMABAD

Roads and Buildings Minister Vemula Prashant Reddy has said that the Medical and Health Department has focussed on providing quality healthcare to all sections of people.

He inaugurated the CT scan machine set up in the government hospital at Nizamabad at a cost of Rs 2.14 crore, the eye phaco machine at a cost of Rs 30 lakh, 500 MA x-ray units set up at a cost of Rs 7 lakh on Sunday. He also inaugurated a rehabilitation centre for mental health disorders.

He said that he was happy that the government hospital has now been equipped with a CT scan. The CT scan cost is very expensive. The hospital will perform CT scan free of cost, he said.

The government has been spending funds on a large scale to upgrade government hospitals to achieve the goal of a healthy Telangana. The Government General Hospital conducts CT-scan tests free of cost.

The Minister inaugurated the health equipment along with Nizamabad urban MLA Ganesh Gupta, District Collector Rajiv Gandhi Hanumanthu, and city mayor Neetu Kiran.

NUDA chairman Prabhakar Reddy, Telangana State Women's Cooperative Development Corporation chairperson Akula Lalita, DMHO Dr Sudarsanam, GGH superintendent Dr Pratima Raj, medical college principal Dr Indira, psychiatrist Dr Vishal and others were present.

BJP is finished: Harish

The Minister for Finance ridiculed the 'double engine governments' for being unable to replace diesel engines to lift water for irrigation in the BJP-rules States

PNS ■ KAMAREDDY

Minister for Finance T Harish Rao has expressed the opinion that the BJP's game is over and the Congress party is facing a shortage of candidates.

Participating in Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Atmeeya Sammelan on Sunday at Lingampet under the Yellareddy Assembly constituency, the Minister came down heavily on the BJP and the Congress parties. He was confident that the BRS would retain power for the third consecutive term. The Congress would be content itself with fighting for opposition status in the State.

"There are several staunch leaders in the Yellareddy Assembly constituency and they contributed to the success of the Telangana movement. We fought unitedly and achieved statehood for Telangana. Ask any village, it will tell you what we achieved after the formation of Telangana," he observed.

The "double engine governments" (BJP-ruled States) were still facing scarcity of drinking water. Drinking water was



Minister for Finance T Harish Rao addressing BRS Atmeeya Sammelanam at Lingampet in Kamareddy district on Sunday

being supplied in some parts of these States once in 10 days. In Gujarat, the BJP-led government was offering a mere Rs 12,000 financial help to brides, whereas the Telangana government has been extending Rs 1,000,116 financial help to brides, he said. The Maharashtra government constituted a committee to implement the schemes of the Telangana State government and it showed how the welfare schemes in the State helped the poor.

Harish Rao ridiculed the BJP-led State governments in

Maharashtra and Gujarat for being unable to replace "diesel engines" to lift water for irrigation. In Telangana, the "diesel engines" were conspicuous by their absence, he said.

The Minister made it clear that the BRS government under the leadership of Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao gave priority to agriculture and irrigation. During the Congress regime, there was only migration of people to other places in search of livelihood, he pointed out. The Congress has no candidates to contest on its behalf in 40 to 50 seats. Harish Rao said that a section of BJP leaders were looking towards the BRS and some others towards the Congress.

Telangana State has emerged as the third best State in NITI Aayog's Health Index in terms of overall health performance among larger States, he said. The Minister laid the foundation stone for a 100-bed hospital in the Yellareddy constituency.

Zaheerabad MP B B Patil, Yellareddy MLA Jajala Surrender and others were present.

Decennial fete: Officials told to give no room for laxity

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

Minister for Finance T Harish Rao has directed the District Collectors and the District Superintendents of Police to organise Telangana State decennial celebration on a grand scale. He asked the officials to spread the message of the government's achievements to the grassroots level. The celebrations are scheduled to be held for 21 days from June 2,

He wanted them to give no room for laxity.

Addressing elected people's representatives, District Collectors and District Superintendents of Police in the undivided Medak district through videoconference on Sunday, the Minister said that the State faced many hardships over the past nine years. The State, however, made rapid progress on all fronts and it brought laurels to the State, he said.

The celebrations will begin on June 2 and con-

clude on June 22 when martyrs' day would be observed.

The 20-day celebrations should be conducted in a festival atmosphere in all towns and villages and the progress of the State should be given wide publicity, he said. He underlined the need for explaining the progress achieved in Telangana after the formation of the State.

They should explain the funds received for each village under Rythu Bandhu, Rythu Bima, various pensions, Shaadi Mubarak and Kalyana Lakshmi, the MLA said. Works taken up under Pale Pragati and Pattna Pragati should be explained, he said.

The government would offer Rs 1 lakh to motivate those people whose livelihood has been affected by modernity. Similarly, the pattas would be given to the Podu farmers, he added. He directed the officials to distribute house pattas too.

Ponguleti's office attacked in Madhira

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

A gang of unidentified miscreants attacked the office of former MP and suspended BRS leader Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy in Madhira on Sunday. Tension prevailed as the miscreants attacked the office.

They tore the flexi in front of the office and

smashed the flower pots. None of the followers of Srinivas Reddy was present when the office was attacked.

In a separate incident, a follower of Srinivas Reddy was beaten and roughed up allegedly by the ruling party activists. The attack was said to be a sequel to "bad comments" on the Minister.



Dayakar interacts with pushcart vendor

PNS ■ TORRURU

Minister for Panchayat Raj Errabelli Dayakar Rao on Sunday made a halt to enquire about the state of the business of pushcart vendor. It surprised the fruit vendor at Thorur village under the Palakurthi Assembly constituency.

The Minister enquired whether she owned the pushcart and how the business is



Minister for Panchayat Raj Errabelli Dayakar Rao interacting with a vendor at Thorur village under Palakurthi constituency on Sunday

going.

The woman expressed her gratitude and told him that she can do business thanks to the minister. "Because of the opportunity provided by you," she said, "her family can make both ends meet. She thanked the Minister for boosting the business of pushcart vendors.

The Minister told her, "It is my duty to ensure that everyone leads a dignified life. Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao

is committed to helping the poor. KCR sanctioned loans to vendors."

"What fruits do you offer to customers? Do you have lassi? Give me a glass of lassi," he asked. He drank lassi and also paid for it even as the vendor refused to accept money from the Minister.

The happiness of the vendor knew no bounds at the thought of the Minister becoming her customer.

'Naidu's betrayal haunted NTR till his end'

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The city witnessed an outpouring of emotions and admiration as the birth centenary celebrations of legendary actor and former chief minister late N T Rama on Sunday. The event, organised by the NTR Vigyan Trust and Devineni Nehru Charitable Trust, saw the presence of prominent personalities, including YSRCP leaders, who paid their respects to the legendary leader at his statue. Dr. NTR's wife, Nandamuri Lakshmi Parvathi, expressed her joy and gratitude for the grand occasion.

Lakshmi Parvathi, speaking passionately during the event, reflected on her relentless fight against the injustices faced by Dr. NTR. She



expressed disappointment over the lack of support from NTR's own family members during her distressing times. Addressing the gathering, she said that the true heirs of NTR are not those merely born into his family but those who stood steadfastly by his side until the end. She praised the unwavering loyalty of Devineni Nehru, who she regarded as the sole rightful heir of NTR.

In a scathing attack,

Lakshmi Parvathi denounced Nara Lokesh, highlighting his inability to articulate and questioning his claim as the heir. She vehemently questioned how those who betrayed NTR could lay claim to his legacy. Chandrababu Naidu, in particular, faced her wrath, as she accused him of repeatedly insulting and backstabbing NTR for personal gain, a betrayal that haunted NTR until his last breath.

Lakshmi Parvathi firmly

ly stated that Chandrababu Naidu had no right to associate himself with NTR or exploit his name and image for political mileage, as NTR's ambitions were left unfulfilled by Chandrababu's actions.

Lakshmi Parvathi expressed her deep gratitude to Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy for the decision to name a district after NTR, acknowledging his immense contribution in honouring her husband's legacy. She credited director Ram Gopal Varma for his unwavering support during challenging times and commended Posani Krishna Murali for standing by her like a brother, ensuring her character was portrayed accurately in the film based on NTR's life.

Man killed by nephew



PNS ■ MANCHERIAL

A 50-year-old man was allegedly murdered by his nephew at Narlapadu under Mandamarru police station limits on Saturday night.

The deceased was identified as Mujampalli Posham alias Bujii.

According to police, a manhunt was launched to arrest the accused, identified as Mujjampalli Suresh.

The police said that Suresh under the influence of alcohol beat Posham to death. A family dispute was suspected to have led to the murder. A case was registered and an investigation is on.

Free education sought for BC students in corporate schools



Backward Classes Students' Association district unit president Aitangoni Janardhan Goud speaking to the media in Nalgonda on Sunday

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Backward Classes Students' Association district president i Janardhan Goud has demanded that the state government provide corporate school education to BC students on the lines of the similar education being provided to SCs and STs under the Best Available Scheme.

Addressing media here on Sunday, he said that children of several BC communities did not even enter the portal of educational institutions and are dependent on their caste-based vocations for livelihood.

Pursuing education in corporate schools remained as a distant dream for many children from poor families, he said demanding free education for the children of BCs in corporate schools. He demanded on behalf of the BC Students' Association to implement a scheme to provide free education for children of BCs in corporate schools.

BC Youth Association district vice-president Karingu Naresh Goud, Munugode constituency president Mandala Yadagiri Yadav, district leader Ramanna Goud and others were present.

Villagers' protest against pharma company enters 33rd day

PNS ■ KAMAREDDY

Residents of Kachapur of the district have been agitating for the past 33 days demanding the authorities to close down the MSN Pharma Company as the effluents being released from the unit have been polluting the village tank.

As a result, the effluents have become a health hazard for the aquatic species as well as humans, they said even as their protest entered 33rd day on Saturday.

Several have been supporting their agitation. They raised slogans against the MSN Pharma company.

Village Development Committee president Marri Mahipal demanded immediate closure of the company otherwise threatened to step up the agitation.

The BJP and Youth Congress leaders, village BRS Youth vice president and others expressed their solidarity with the protesting villagers.

INDIA CORNER

Twitterati rave about ‘Akhand Bharat’ mural in new Parliament

A mural in the new Parliament building depicting the influence of ancient Indian thought in its immediate neighbourhood went viral on social media on Sunday with many claiming it represents the resolve for an Akhand Bharat, described as a "cultural concept" by the RSS. The mural in the new Parliament building, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday, marks important kingdoms and cities of the past, and shows the influence of ancient India in the then Taxila, in present-day Pakistan. "The resolve is clear Akhand Bharat," Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said on Twitter. The BJP's Karnataka unit shared photographs of the artworks inside the new Parliament House, including the murals of ancient India, Chanakya, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and B R Ambedkar and the cultural diversity of the country. "It is a symbol of the vitality of our proud great civilisation," the Karnataka BJP said on its Twitter handle.



Bengal: Mango exports this season to start from early June

Mango exports from West Bengal are expected to begin from early June with shipments to Middle East countries, an official said on Sunday. There have also been inquiries for export orders from Europe, which are currently being finalised, the official said. "Exports are expected to commence from early June, as we are finalising the last shipments from some orchards. Orders have already been received from the Middle East," said Ujjal Saha, president of the Malda Mango Association, in an interview said. Saha also mentioned that despite the economic challenges faced by Europe, there is a growing interest in Bengal mangoes, and exporters are actively engaging in negotiations. In the previous year, Malda exported 10 metric tonne of mangoes to Europe and 24 metric tonne to Middle East countries. Officials from both the Union and State governments are working collaboratively to promote mango exports from West Bengal, as stated by the horticulture department.



Punjab govt's anti-graft helpline receives 8,000 calls

The Punjab government's 'anti-corruption action line' has received close to 8,000 complaints since March 2022, an official statement said on Sunday. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann launched the helpline number in March 2022 that allows people to upload video/audio proof of officials asking for bribes or indulging in malpractices. The Punjab Vigilance Bureau (VB), in its relentless pursuit of eradicating corruption, has made remarkable progress in its recent anti-corruption campaign, said an official statement. "From March 23, 2022, to the present date, the chief minister's anti-corruption action line (ACAL) has received a staggering 7,939 complaints accompanied by necessary evidence, signifying the unwavering commitment of the Punjab government to promote transparency and accountability in public administration," said the statement issued here.



Census unlikely before LS polls

○ Citizens to be asked about smartphones, Internet, cereals

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The decadal Census, which was postponed for an indefinite period due to the pandemic, is unlikely to be held before the next Lok Sabha elections that are due in April-May 2024, officials said. Access to smartphones, Internet, laptops, computers, cars, two-wheelers, main cereal consumed are some of the 31 questions to be asked in the Census, whenever it is held.

The house listing phase of the Census and the exercise to update the National Population Register (NPR) were scheduled to be carried out across the country from April 1 to September 30, 2020, but was postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

The Census operation continues to be on hold and the government has not yet announced a new schedule.

In January, the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India conveyed that the date of freezing of administrative boundaries -- creation of new districts or sub-districts -- has been extended to



June 30, the officials said. According to the norms, the Census can be conducted only three months after (post September 30) freezing of boundary limits of administrative units such as districts, sub-districts, tehsils, taluks and police stations.

Two to three months will also be required to train the entire 30 lakh government employees/teachers across India who will be engaged as enumerators for the Census.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission will kick start the process for the next general elections such as revision of

voter lists, etc.

From October, there is little room to hold the Census exercise as the same set of people are supposed to be engaged both by the Election Commission and the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, the officials said. As the priority will be changed, in most likelihood, the Census operation will be carried out only after the Lok Sabha elections, they said.

This exercise, whenever it happens, will be the first digital Census, giving citizens an opportunity to self-enumerate. The NPR has been made

compulsory for citizens who want to exercise the right to fill the Census form on their own rather than through government enumerators. For this, the Census authority has designed a yet-to-be-launched self-enumeration portal. During the self-enumeration process, Aadhaar or mobile number will be mandatorily collected.

According to the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, 31 questions to be asked to the citizens have been set.

These questions include whether a family has a telephone line, Internet connection, mobile or smartphone, bicycle, scooter or motorcycle or moped, whether it owns a car, jeep or a van.

The citizens will also be asked what cereal they consume in the household, main source of drinking water and lighting, access to toilet and its type, wastewater outlet, availability of bathing facility, availability of kitchen and LPG/PNG connection, main fuel used for cooking, availability of radio, transistor, television, among others.



Deer shot dead by poachers in Jharkhand

PNS ■ MEDININAGAR (JHARKHAND)

A three-year-old male deer was shot at by poachers while it was quenching its thirst at a water body amid extreme hot weather conditions in Jharkhand's Palamu district, a forest official said on Sunday.

The animal was rescued by the local forest protection committee and handed over to the forest department but it succumbed to its injuries during treatment, he said.

The incident took place in Saridih forest in Tarhasi block. Manatu range forester Rakesh Pandey said the post-mortem was conducted and two bullet injuries were found on the carcass.

An investigation has been initiated and the poachers will be nabbed, he added.

Wrestlers detained after scuffle as Delhi Police thwarts protest

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Protesting wrestlers, including Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia, were detained on Sunday after a scuffle with security personnel who tried to stop them from marching to the new Parliament building as it was being inaugurated. Soon after, the Delhi Police cleared the site of their over-month-long sit-in at Jantar Mantar and said they will not be allowed to return there.

While women detainees were released later in the evening, opposition parties slammed the central government over the alleged "manhandling" of wrestlers. Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi said that the "arrogant king is crushing the voice of the people" on the streets as the "coronation" is over and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said it is "shameful our champions are treated in this manner".

The wrestlers, who had resumed their agitation against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh on April 23 demanding his arrest for alleged

sexual harassment of several women grapplers, had called for a women 'Mahapanchayat' on Sunday for which they did not have permission.

Chaotic scenes were witnessed at the dharna site at Jantar Mantar, barely three kilo-

metres from where the new Parliament building was inaugurated by the prime minister, as protesters and police personnel shoved and pushed each other when the Phogat sisters, Sakshi Malik and others tried to breach the barricades.

Politicians and sportspersons condemn police action

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The dramatic detention of protesting wrestlers by Delhi Police on Sunday was condemned by several politicians and former sportspersons who termed the act as "shame on the government".

Top wrestlers, including the likes of Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia, were detained for violation of law and order after they breached the security cordon while trying to move towards the new Parliament building for a planned women's 'Mahapanchayat'.

"Strongly condemn the way Delhi Police manhandled Sakshi Malik, Vinesh Phogat and other wrestlers. It's shameful our champions are treated in this manner," West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee tweeted. "Democracy lies in tolerance but autocratic forces thrive on intolerance and quelling of dissent. I demand they be immediately released by police. I stand by our wrestlers."

Communist Party of India (Marxist) termed the police action as "shame on this Govt."

NCR youth embarks on foot journey to Mount Kailash

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Inspired by Shihab Chottur, a Keralite who travelled a distance of more than 8,000 kilometres on foot to perform Hajj at Mecca, a young man has embarked on a similar journey to Mount Kailash in the Tibet region from Uttar Pradesh.

Shivam Yadav, a 23-year-old resident of Surajpur in Greater Noida in the National Capital Region (NCR), who began his journey on May 11, is heading towards Bagraich from Ayodhya via Gonda on Sunday from where he will enter Nepal through the Rupediha border.

When asked whether he has taken permission from the Indian and Chinese governments before setting out on this journey, he said, "No. But I am confident that my faith will take me to the abode of Lord Shankar."

To enter China and travel to the Mount Kailash region, a Chinese visa along with a Tibet Travel Permit is mandatory as the mountain is located in the farthest corner of Tibet, which is a restricted area.

Hundreds of Indian pilgrims undertake Kailash Mansarovar yatra in the Tibetan Autonomous Region of China every year negotiating the mountainous terrain.

PARLIAMENT BUILDING INAUGURATION

Focus on VP Enclave, new PMO, Common Central Secretariat

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the new Parliament building inaugurated, the focus now shifts to the construction of the Vice President Enclave, Common Central Secretariat buildings, Defence Enclave, MPs' chambers, and prime minister's new residence and office.

The new parliament building is the second project that has been completed. The first was the redevelopment of Central Vista avenue stretching from Vijay Chowk to India Gate. The stretch which was earlier known as Rajpath has been renamed Kartavya Path.

The plan for the redevelopment of the Central Vista -- the nation's power corridor -- includes the new Parliament building that was inaugurated on Sunday. The Central Public Works Department (CPWD) under the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has been executing projects under the redevelopment plan.

The tender to construct the new Parliament building was awarded to Tata Projects in September 2020 at an estimated cost of Rs 861 crore. Later,



the cost rose marginally due to certain changes.

Infrastructure firm Larsen & Toubro Limited is constructing the Executive Enclave housing the PMO, cabinet secretariat, India House and the National Security Council Secretariat at an estimated cost of Rs 1,189 crore. The company was awarded the tender in November last year and the project is slated to be completed in 24 months.

The Executive Enclave will come up on the south side of the South Block. India House will be used as a conference facility like the Hyderabad House where high-level talks, especially with top visiting leaders of various countries, are currently held.

Larsen & Toubro is also constructing the first three buildings of the Common Central Secretariat.

New Parliament building highlights rich democratic traditions with modern touch

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Artworks on display in the new Parliament building, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday, narrate the stories of India's democratic traditions from the Vedic period to the present day.

The growth of democracy in the country is depicted through a series of exhibits in the Constitution Hall on the new Parliament building,



which itself is inspired by the Sri Yantra, used for worship in the Hindu traditions and considered a source of pure energy. The Constitution

Hall, which has a digitised copy of the Indian Constitution, has a touch of modernity as it also houses a Foucault's Pendulum to demonstrate the rotation of the earth.

"Democracy is not just a system that is practiced in India but it is a culture, thought and tradition. Our vedas teach us about the democratic ideals of Sabha and Samiti. We find a description of the republic in

Mahabharata," Modi said. The Foucault's Pendulum hangs from a large skylight from the triangular roof of the Constitution Hall and signifies the idea of India with that of the universe.

The Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha chambers boast of a digitised voting system, well-engineered acoustics, and state-of-the-art audio-visual systems to ensure effective legislative proceedings.

Delhi HC sentences to jail two PWD officials for contempt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi High Court has sentenced two PWD officials to simple imprisonment for contempt in view of their "recalcitrance" to follow the law and court orders in relation to conservation of trees in the Chittaranjan Park area.

The judge opined that there was a consistent disregard in compliance of these orders, which merited a sentence under contempt law and sentenced the executive engineer and the engineer-in-chief of the Public Works department (PWD).

K'taka CM Siddaramaiah gives ministers target of winning 20 seats in LS elections

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who has formed a full-fledged government, has fixed targets for all his Cabinet colleagues, saying they should all strive to win at least 20 of the total 28 seats in the Lok Sabha elections.

The Chief Minister on Saturday filled all 34 seats in his Cabinet by inducting 24 new ministers. Noting that the Lok Sabha elections are coming in a year, Siddaramaiah said, "We should win at least 20 Lok Sabha constituencies as a gift to party



national president Mallikarjun Kharge and seniors Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi."

The chief Minister has instructed the ministers to carry out their responsibilities by keeping this goal in mind and

with commitment, honesty and agility, a statement from the chief minister's office said. "We should strive sincerely to ensure that the guarantees assured by us reach the people. The mistakes of the past should not be repeated this time," he was quoted as saying in the statement.

Siddaramaiah assured the ministers that portfolio allocation will be completed shortly, and told them, "All of you must work actively. As a result of our struggle in the opposition, people have rejected the misuse of the BJP and held our hands."

Will meet FM Sitharaman to claim refund of Rs 9242.60 cr

PNS ■ DHARAMSHALA

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu on Sunday said he will meet Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the national capital to claim a refund of Rs 9242.60 crore deposited in the New Pension Scheme by the state government.

During the eighth meeting of the governing council of NITI Aayog held in New Delhi on Saturday, Sukhu urged the Centre to issue directions to the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority to return the amount.

Addressing a 'Purani Pension Aabhar Rally' organised by the state's government employees here, Sukhu asserted that the Congress government will fulfil its pre-poll promise of restoring the old pension scheme in the state.

We are determined to reclaim Rs 9242.60 crore deposited in NPS. It is our right to get the money back and we will fight for it. I will visit Delhi to discuss the matter with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Sukhu said at the rally.

ISRO begins countdown for launch of navigation satellite

PNS ■ SRIHARIKOTA (AP)

Scientists at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Sunday at 7.12 am commenced the 27.5 hour countdown for the launch of a navigation satellite on board a GSVL rocket here on May 29.

The Bengaluru-headquartered space agency is all geared up to launch the second-generation navigation satellite series, a significant launch which would ensure the continuity of NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation) services -- an Indian regional satellite navigation system, similar to GPS, providing accurate and real-time navigation in India and a region extending to 1,500 km around the mainland.

NavIC signals are designed to provide user position accurate to better than 20-metres and timing accuracy better than 50 nanoseconds.

The 51.7 metre tall Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle, on its 15th flight, would carry the navigation satellite NVS-01 weighing 2,232 kg on Monday at 10.42 am from the second launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SHAR) here, about 130 km from Chennai.

Nearly 20 minutes after the flight, the rocket is scheduled to deploy the satellite in a geosynchronous transfer orbit (GTO) at an altitude of about 251 km, ISRO said.

The NVS-01 carries navigation payloads L1, L5 and S bands and in comparison with



the previous one, the second-generation satellite would also carry an indigenously developed rubidium atomic clock.

It is for the first time that an indigenously developed rubidium atomic clock would

be used in Monday's launch, ISRO said. According to the space agency, scientists earlier used imported rubidium atomic clocks to determine date and location. Now, the rubidium atomic clock developed by

Ahmedabad-based Space Applications Centre will be on board. It is an important technology that only a handful of countries possess, it said. ISRO developed the Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) system to meet the positioning, navigation and timing requirements of the country, particularly with regard to civil aviation and military requirements. NavIC was earlier known as the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS).

"The L1 navigation band is popular for providing position, navigation and timing services for civilian users and for interoperability with other GNSS (global navigation satellite system) signals," ISRO said. Some of the applications

of NavIC include terrestrial, aerial and maritime navigation, precision agriculture, location-based services in mobile devices and marine fisheries, among many others.

NavIC is designed with a constellation of seven satellites and a network of ground stations that operate 24x7. NavIC offers two services -- Standard Position Service (SPS) for civilian users and Restricted Service for strategic users.

NavIC SPS signals are interoperable with the US global navigation satellite system signals, GPS, Glonass from Russia, Galileo (European Union) and BeiDou, China.

Monday's mission is the sixth operational flight of the GSVL with indigenous cryogenic stage.

DRAFT RULES TO REGULATE E-PHARMACIES

Centre told to inform HC outcome of consultations

PNS ■ BENGALURU

The Delhi High Court has granted six weeks' time to the Centre to inform it about the outcome of consultations and deliberations with stakeholders on draft rules to regulate e-pharmacies.

The court was hearing pleas seeking a ban on "illegal" sale of drugs online and challenging the draft rules published by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to further amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules.

A bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and

Justice Subramonium Prasad made it clear that pendency of these matters will not come in way of the Central government in taking action against persons who are violating the court's December 12, 2018 interim order putting a stay on the sale of drugs without licence by online pharmacies.

On perusing the latest status report filed by the Centre, the court noted it has been categorically stated that the Union of India has not yet finalised the draft notification of August 2018 and it is pending for consultation and deliberations.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Respect the temple

Leaders say Parliament is the temple of democracy, so they should not desecrate it with pandemonium

The inauguration of the new parliament building and installation of a historic sceptre 'Sengol' near the Lok Sabha Speaker's chair by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with other related activities on Sunday, will continue to be debated for some time. Supporters and members of the Government and Bharatiya Janata Party will reiterate grandiloquent statements, lauding the very idea of getting a new Parliament, its symbolism-heavy architecture and furnishing, and so on. The Opposition, on the other hand, will continue to make barbed remarks about the entire affair, as it has been in the last few days. Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor had earlier quoted Articles 60 and 111 of the Constitution, claiming that as head of Parliament, the President should have inaugurated the building. The TMC's reaction was a mix of condemnation and ridicule: the Prime Minister inaugurating the new Parliament building was akin to "I only love myself day," party MP Derek O'Brien said on Sunday. It is indubitable, however, that the country needed a new Parliament. The need was felt not just by this Government but also earlier. In 2012, Lok Sabha speaker Meira Kumar had constituted a high-powered committee to recommend an alternate complex to the old Parliament building. But the need was just on the grounds of functionality, though these were sufficient enough for the alternate building. The old structure, made a century ago, could not cope with the requirements that have arisen in this period. The Prime Minister rightly said that the new Parliament is not just a building but a reflection of the aspirations and dreams of 140 crore Indians.



"This is a temple of our democracy that gives a message of India's resolution to the world," he said. "This new Parliament building connects planning to reality, policy to realisation, willpower to execution, and sankalp to siddhi," he added. He went on to say, "India is not only a democratic nation but also the mother of democracy." For, he asserted, democracy is not just a system that is practiced in India but it is a culture, thought and tradition. The roots of democracy in our country, he correctly said, go back to the Vedas and Vaishali in modern Bihar. Parliament has been called the temple of democracy by many people, both from the Government and the Opposition. So, it is the duty of all political parties and leaders to ensure that the sanctity of this temple is upheld by everyone in every circumstance all the time. This temple should not suffer any desecration. It means that business is conducted in both Houses in the best traditions of democracy. Senior leaders should ensure that when an opponent is speaking, he or she is allowed to say whatever they want to, that they are not shouted down. Also, all parliamentarians should respect the chair, speak within the timeframe that is provided to them, and so on. This will strengthen our democracy.



Kashmiri Pandit devotees light earthen lamps during the Kheer Bhawani Mela, at Tulmala in Ganderbal district. PTI

Battling cultural taboos in Uttarakhand

The need for comprehensive menstrual education, access to hygienic sanitary products, and an end to discriminatory practices is paramount

Although menstruation is a natural process for women and girls, it continues to be associated with deep-rooted stigma, imposing daily challenges, and hindering their growth. Lack of scientific menstrual awareness and management pushes adolescent girls in most parts of India to seclusion and torment within their own homes, making it a harrowing experience. In villages that are tucked away in the hilly states, the situation is quite shocking.

Disha (name changed), a 16-year-old from Pothing village in Bageshwar district, Uttarakhand, shares her distressing experience, "At times, I hide from my parents while I menstruate because it's a torture to stay in a cowshed. Often, I go through severe cramps, but as I don't inform my parents about getting periods, I refrain from sharing my pain. But I cannot put up this act every month because my mother ends up suspecting pregnancy."

Culturally in India, women and girls still face discrimination and inhumane treatment during menstruation, and Uttarakhand is no



exception. The practices around menstruation differ in each village but there are certain rules across the region that menstruating girls and women have to follow.

In Pothing village, for instance, when a girl gets her period for the first time, she is banished to a cowshed outside the house for 21 days. Consequently, these girls spend a total of 60 days each year eating, sleeping, and studying with cattle. During this time, they not only stay away from their homes but are also forbidden from using the household toilet. "The most dreaded times are the bitterly cold months of December and January when we have to go to the river at 4-5 AM in the morning to take a bath. We try to use fewer blankets during winter

nights as washing them every day is quite laborious," reveals Nisha Gadiya, another adolescent girl from the village.

Aside from the unsanitary conditions, the girls lack essential support during their periods. "During this time, we do not even receive timely meals, which leaves us feeling weak. Because of this, we can't study properly. Moreover, sanitary pads are not readily available even at the chemist shops located quite far away from our village, and affording them is another challenge. We resort to using clothes during our periods," adds Nisha.

These practices have turned the menstrual cycle into a traumatic experience for adolescent girls as they fear staying alone outside their homes. "Younger girls are usually afraid to sleep alone away from home in the cowshed at night. When we were young, we dreaded being imprisoned for a few days each month, as if we had committed a crime. We would cry alone at night, thinking how good it would have been if our period had never come at all," expresses 17-year-old Maya.

The villagers firmly believe that menstruating women are impure, and any physical contact during this period will make the other person fall sick. Purification rituals involving cow urine are performed to counter such perceived impurities. While highlighting the deep-rooted nature of these superstitions, Chandra Gadia, a teacher from the village, shares, "There is an urgent need to challenge these 'man'-made laws. It is imperative to put an end to any form of violence inflicted upon women and adolescent girls in the name of customs and rituals," emphasizes Chandra. The need for comprehensive menstrual education, access to hygienic sanitary products, and an end to discriminatory practices is paramount. Advocacy and awareness programs should be implemented, not only in Pothing Village but throughout the region, to combat these deep-seated taboos and foster a society that embraces menstrual health and dignity.

(The writer is a recipient of the Sanjoy Ghose Media Awards 2022) Charkha Features



DOLLY GADIYA

Workforce must have employable skills

The world of work is changing faster than the workforce. To survive technological developments and automation, workers must upgrade their skills

India surpasses China as the world's most populous country in demographic composition, with a staggering 65 per cent working-age population having an average age of 28 years old. This population has the potential to propel the nation towards remarkable socio-economic progress and has the ability for transformative global impact. To reap the benefit of demographic advantage, it is imperative to equip our working population with employable skills and knowledge that meet the requirements of the globalized labour market. Skill development in educational institutions is the critical enabler for improving employment outcomes and higher productivity leading to faster and more sustainable economic growth.

There is a significant gap between the skills imparted in educational institutions in India and the skills required for jobs. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has projected that India will face a 29 million skill deficit by 2030. Still, India's education system is unable to provide the necessary skills to its growing workforce. Many young people lack the required qualifications and vocational training to find suitable jobs.

India Skills Report 2023 reveals a rise in employability of 52.8% with women and men at 47.2%. Women surpassed men in employability because, in the post-covid era, nursing, beauty and wellness and other soft skills showed the highest employability rates among the women. Not only for women but for men also the beauty and wellness sector has unlimited potential in terms of domestic and global markets. The beauty and wellness market in India was valued at Rs 901.07 billion in 2018 and is forecast to reach Rs 2,463.49 billion by 2024, expanding at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of around 18.40 per cent during 2019-2024.

FIRST COLUMN

'SENGOL' GETS ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE

The 'Sengol' has been installed next to the Speaker's chair by the PM in new Parliament



THIRUVANNATHAPURAM S RAMAKRISHNAN

'Sengol' has been quoted in Tamil literature very extensively for the various attributes it presents. The essential meaning of righteousness for SENGOL refers to a ruler's dispensation of justice to his citizens, even if it is detrimental to the King or the King's family. If the King fails in his duty either due to failure to cross-verify the facts, deliver justice in haste, overlook the facts before him, or due to circumstantial evidence or sheer human error, he is bound to fall from the grace of people, and he is also expected to face the punishment for failing to give justice, which must be imposed on him by himself.

This is where the King is expected to have the grace of the Almighty in acquitting himself well while delivering justice in extremely complicated cases. There were times when to know the truth, the King prayed to the Almighty to give a clue of what went on at the crime scene, and when he got the clue, he gave the right judgement. A lady was pierced with an arrow and died when she was under the tree with her husband.

The husband noticed a hunter with a bow and arrow in the surroundings, and he accused the hunter of killing his wife with his arrow. But the hunter firmly denied that he did not shoot the arrow. The King came to know the truth with the Divine Grace: the arrow had been pierced in one of the leaves of the tree earlier, and when the couple was resting under the tree, it fell on the lady, and thereby the lady lost her life.




When the King delivers a wrong judgement, even an ordinary citizen may reach out to him in his assembly and raise the wrongdoing of the King with evidence. When Kannaki's husband was wrongly executed by the then Pandya King for stealing the anklet of the Queen, she proved before him that her anklets were made of rubies, whereas the Queen's anklets were made of pearls. The Pandya King realised his mistake of delivering wrong justice, fell from his seat, and expired instantly after uttering, "I am not the King, and I am the thief". The SENGOL also gave dutiful power to the King to punish those who disturb the peace in society and those who resort to heinous crimes of theft, robbery, and murder.

The lyrics written by SANGAM lady poet Avvaiyar indicate the prosperity angle of Sengol'. In her lyrics, she said, "When the paddy field embankment height increases, the water level in the field raises, thereby the paddy crop grows well, resulting in a high yield, and that will raise the economic condition of the citizens (farmers in particular), and as a result, the Senkol' will raise, and ultimately it will result in the increase in the status of the King himself. In a democratic setup, we rule ourselves; the king refers to the citizenry, and hence, as the paddy field embankment rises, the SENGOL rises, and the country and its citizenry will prosper.

The Sengol' embodied the good governance, prosperity, justice and fairness, unity, safety, security, and well-being of the citizens, as well as the authority, might, legitimacy, unity, integrity, and sovereignty of a nation. It is befitting on the part of the Indian government to bring back the Indian pride from Prayagraj Nehru Museum and install it as Sengol' next to the Lok Sabha speaker in the new Parliament Hall.

(The author is a Public Policy Analyst)

Ever increasing threat of transnational terrorism



DR SUDHIR HINDWAN

The purpose of terrorism is to create an state of extreme fear among target groups to alter their behaviour and bring about a radical change



The recent attacks by terrorists in Rajouri that killed 4 soldiers and a few days earlier ambushed an Army vehicle in the Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir in which 5 Army Soldiers have been martyred ahead of G 20 meeting have confirmed that terrorists were down but not wiped out. The purpose of these attacks is to destabilize security and create a vulnerable atmosphere in the region. This is not an isolated incident but just an addition to the long saga of terrorist violence in the region. Earlier the series of terrorist attacks in Sopore, Budgam, Chadoora, Noorbagh and Dooru Shahabad raised serious concerns for security agencies.

Both the Central and State Governments have done an excellent job to resolve the issues but terrorists are deliberately creating problems as they work to the tune of outsiders. Besides, to a large extent, clinging to terrorism provides livelihood to terrorists who have nothing to lose except their lives for some money and self-generated fake popularity among their masters as a bonus. Be it the case of Ajmal Kasab and a few others who were misled and driven to commit a most heinous crime in Mumbai. Although the central government has made efforts to find a solution to the problem plaguing the region by initiating talks with Pakistan and addressing the grievances of the separatists yet insurgent activities against the government and clashes between terrorists and the Army have continued unabated.

The region provides an excellent base for the rebels to carry out guerrilla activities. Several security officials have died in controlling the terrorist onslaught for many years. World over, the new breed of terrorists seems to be reasonably confident of their access to vantage points.

Moreover, their strategies have become more sophisticated and they are successful in acquiring more lethal weapons from across the border. The rapid international transportation and use of sophisticated weapons like assault rifles and plastic explosives (RDX) have helped to facilitate the expansion of terrorist networks around the world. Besides, the new suicide squads of terrorists have left the entire security apparatus of the affected states in a state of shock.

The recent incidents in Europe and Asia and Africa need to be understood properly. History bears testimony to various such tragic events.

Mr. Alison Jamieson, a British analyst on organized crime and political violence commented that the distinction between terrorism and organized crime has become very blurred recently. Italian organised crime expert Professor Ernesto says "The goal is different. The terrorist's goal is an ideological one, while organized crime's goal is financial, but the instrument is the same. They both need money and arms". In Sri Lanka, the Tamil Tigers engage in drug trafficking to finance their struggle, in north-eastern India guerrillas kidnap tea planters and hold them to ransom to help fund their fight for independence. In Chechnya, the secessionists were heavily involved in drug distribution. These days terrorists are more confident than ever before of their access to vulnerable points before carrying out any of their attacks and they plan their attack in a heroic manner for the

justification and fulfilment of a cause that they think is just.

Thus, they attempt, by their acts, to inspire and manipulate fear to achieve a variety of purposes. William Henry once explained the problem of international terrorism and commented that "some politically motivated acts are rooted so deeply in dedication to a cause that no sanction can deter them, other acts of terrorism spring from frustration of legitimate means, caused in turn by acts of government repression and terrorism." It is basically a self-created perception of misled people to give an ideological fervour to their misdeeds. Terrorist groups are generally too small and weak to operate successfully against governments.

Therefore, violence is not their immediate goal and that's why they insist upon psychological rather than practical results.

The purpose of terrorism, therefore, is to create an emotional state of extreme fear among specific groups, and thereby, ultimately alter their behavior and bring about general or particular changes in the structure of society and government. Therefore, scholars working on strategic affairs in the international arena need to examine and analyze the genesis and changing nature of the problem of international terrorism and its causes. It is true that present anti-terrorism laws such as extradition treaties, etc are sufficient enough in handling the problem provided they are implemented promptly and effectively. Besides, Intelligence, Interception and close surveillance are the

most effective ways of combating modern terrorism. In this regard the following suggestions may be worth considering:

- (a) Carefully examining important incidents and preparing detailed action-oriented reports on terrorist-affected areas.
- (b) Building a sophisticated communication network as part of a wider modernization drive that gives access to the latest technology.
- (c) Better management of local contacts and sources of assistance. #developing new techniques of security and maintenance of secrecy.
- (d) Developing the capability to anticipate security needs. This is possible by conducting specialized courses for monitoring security situations

Although individual counter-measures have been taken against terrorism, the world is not yet in a position to completely eliminate this curse of human civilization. The important task is to find out the emerging new cause of terrorism or analyze the psychology.

The efforts of the state to maintain security in the face of terrorist threats should go hand in hand with a new international mechanism bolstered by a multi-dimensional and multilayered approach based on coordination and intelligence sharing. The world has got tremendous opportunities and excellent platforms such as G 20 and Quad wherein a lot of sharing and learning can generate a solid combating mechanism.

VIOLENCE IS NOT THEIR IMMEDIATE GOAL, AND THAT'S WHY THEY INSIST UPON PSYCHOLOGICAL RATHER THAN PRACTICAL RESULTS

(The writer is the recipient of the Bharat Gaurav Award. He is a Professor and an Expert on Strategic Affairs. Views expressed are personal)

Transition from road to rail is an opportunity worth exploiting

Chugging along the sustainability track, the railway holds tremendous potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and an opportunity for logistic providers





NIKHIL AGARWAL

Transition from Road to rail', a topic of great traction from all quarters, is finally gaining heat with the concerted efforts from all the stakeholders – government, logistics players and the user fraternity. But why is this shift necessary? According to some research estimates, Rail produces 75% fewer CO2 emissions per tonne-kilometre than that of road freight transport. This wake-up call is for the industries to switch to alternative modes of transport.

As per the Boston Consulting Group, "No form of mass transport has more potential to aid in the fight against global warming than rail. It is one of the most energy-efficient transport modes, responsible for 9% of global

motorized passenger movement and 7% of freight shipping—but only 3% of transport energy use, according to the International Energy Agency.

In fact, a Niti Ayog study found that the transition would help encourage cleaner fuels, India can save 10 Giga tonnes of CO2, 500-kilo tonnes of particulate matter (PM) and 15 million tonnes of nitrogen oxide (NOx) caused by freight transport by 2050.

Despite having the fourth largest network of railways globally, about 71% of inland cargo transportation in the country happens via road, and just about 17% of cargo is moved via rail. Road transportation is not just time-consuming; it also results in

massive greenhouse gas emissions while Rail emits about one-fifth of trucks' GHG emissions.

THE PROMISING LANDSCAPE

As per the Ministry of Railways, the Government

has set a target of 33% emissions intensity reduction, with the transport sector being one of the key sectors with substantial emission mitigation potential. One of the most vital transportation emissions mitigation strategies agreed to by the

Government of India was increasing the share of Indian Railways in the movement of freight from the current ~35-36% to 45% by 2030." To achieve this, Indian Railways has prepared a National Rail Plan (NRP) for India – 2030.

There has been a massive investment lined up towards the development of Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFCs), which is touted as the most important step towards increasing the efficiency of this sector. The first phase of the DFCs project alone is estimated to reduce emissions by about 457-million-ton CO2 over a 30-year period. Looking at the promising potential this project holds, in this year's Union Budget, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman allocated

Rs27,482 crore to the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India (DFCC) for the financial year 2023-24 (FY24). As a result, the regular operation of freight trains has been started on the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC), the country's largest railway line for freight and almost 60% of the freight trains operations on the main New Delhi-Howrah (up to Chunar) have switched on to EDFC.

Additionally, modal integration across, rail, road, and sea freight and the investments for better train-port-road integration are also important factors that will reinforce the Indian rail freight industry. To top it all, robust private sector investments and the public-private partnership for project financing are only accentuating this shift. Railways are also working to improve energy efficiency for both diesel and electric traction to further reduce GHG emissions.

Though capturing a smaller share compared to road transportation as of date, a swift switch from road to rail would mean lesser emissions, lesser congestion on roads, effective utilization of all transportation modes and a highly efficient end-to-end logistical network. With policymakers fast acting to advance the rail infrastructure, a golden opportunity awaits the logistics players to capture major market share by acing their rail freight proposition.

MONEY MATTERS

PFC Q4 net profit rises 42 % to Rs 6,128.63 crore

State-owned non-bank lender Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has posted a 42.66 per cent jump in its consolidated net profit at Rs 6,128.63 crore during March FY23 quarter, helped by higher income. It had clocked Rs 4,295.90 crore net profit from "continuing and discontinued operations" in January-March quarter of preceding financial year (FY) 2021-22, the company said in a regulatory filing on Saturday. Total income increased to Rs 20,074.11 crore from Rs 18,873.55 crore in the year-ago quarter, registering a year-on-year (y-o-y) rise of 6 per cent. In a separate statement, the company said "PFC Group clocked the highest PAT (profit after tax) with a 13 per nt increase from Rs 18,768 crore in FY22 to Rs 21,179 crore in FY'23." As on March 31, 2023, the consolidated net worth of company increased to Rs 1,11,981 crore from Rs 96,275 crore as on March 31, 2022. Consolidated loan asset book grew by 13 per cent to Rs 8,57,500 crore in FY23 over Rs 7,58,496 crore in FY22.



Kaveri Seed looking at new frontiers for exports

Kaveri Seed Company Limited is looking to expand its export market by entering into new frontiers as well as strengthening its presence in the existing countries. Presently, the Secunderabad-based company is exporting its seed to Vietnam, Bangladesh, Nepal and few countries of Middle East and Africa. We want to expand our footprint in South East Asian countries and other African nations like Egypt and Ghana as part of our focus on growing the export market," Kaveri Seed executive director C Mithun Chand said. Exports continue to be strong, export volume has increased by 35 per cent and revenue by 42.44 per cent as compared to last year, he said. Currently exports contribute 2 per cent to overall revenue while the remaining comes from the domestic arket. "We are planning to set up a subsidiary in Bangladesh as this market has been providing good business and we see a great potential for expansion in the country," he said.



FPIs invest Rs 37,316 crore in May on strong fundamentals

Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have pumped Rs 37,316 crore in Indian equities in May so far, primarily due to strong macroeconomic fundamentals and reasonable valuation of stocks. This is the highest investment by FPIs in the last six months. Before this, they made a net investment of Rs 36,239 crore in equities in November 2022, data available with the depositories showed. Going forward, a resolution on the US debt ceiling and good domestic macro-economic data could prove to be positive for the markets and may lead to fresh flows of assets from foreign investors, Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director - Manager Research, Morningstar India, said. The outlook for FPI flows has significantly improved, primarily due to the completion of the quantitative tightening cycle in the US and India's recent outperformance in comparison to global equities, Shrey Jain, founder and CEO of SAS Online, said.



Recession in Germany may impact export sectors from India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Economic recession in Germany is likely to impact India's exports from various sectors like chemicals, machinery, apparel and electronics to the European nation, Chairman of the CII Committee on EXIM Sanjay Budhia has said.

He, however, said that it is too early to see the impact of the economic recession in Germany on India's exports.

Germany, the world's fourth-largest economy, is facing recession as its GDP fell 0.3 per cent in the first quarter of 2023, following a decline of 0.5 per cent in the fourth quarter of the last year.

"In 2022, 4.4 per cent of India's total exports went to Germany, concentrated mainly in sectors like organic chemicals, machinery, electronics, apparel, footwear, articles of iron and steel and leather goods.

"Even though it's too early to see the impact of Germany's recession on India's exports, the sectors mentioned above will likely be the ones most affected," he told PTI.

He said the entire European



He said the entire European Union is dealing with the rising energy prices that have led to recession in Germany for two consecutive quarters

Union is dealing with the rising energy prices that have led to recession in Germany for two consecutive quarters.

"With its largest economy entering into a recession, the EU as a whole is bound to feel contractionary pressures as well. Around 14 per cent of India's total exports is to the EU, with Germany being the top destination of Indian exports, followed by Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, and France," he added.

Citing a report, he said the

think-tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) has estimated that the recession will impact India's exports of value USD 2 billion, including products like smartphones, apparel, footwear and leather goods.

On investments from Germany, he said that a recession in the European nation might have an impact on its investments in India. However, it is likely that German companies may seek cheaper alternatives during

recessionary conditions.

"This can lead to minimal effects on German investments in India," Budhia added.

Looking at India's FDI from 2000 to 2022, Germany ranks 9th in the total FDI inflow, and it has cumulatively invested over USD 13.6 billion in areas like transportation, electrical equipment, metallurgical industries, services sector (particularly insurance), chemicals, construction activity, trading and automobiles.



384 infra projects showed cost overruns of Rs 4.66 lakh cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 384 infrastructure projects, each entailing an investment of Rs 150 crore or more, have been hit by cost overruns of more than Rs 4.66 lakh crore in January-March quarter, as per an official report.

According to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, which monitors infrastructure projects worth Rs 150 crore and above, out of 1,566 projects, 384 reported cost overruns and as many as 931 projects were delayed.

"Out of 1,566 projects, 384 projects were having the cost overruns of Rs 4,66,874.46 crore which is 21.59 per cent of their sanctioned cost," a quarterly report for January-March 2023 prepared by the ministry.

However, it stated that with regard to the latest approved cost, 285 projects had reported cost overruns of Rs 1,97,069.19 crore. Further, it is noted that 259 projects are having both time and cost overruns.

The anticipated completion cost of these 1,566 projects is reported to be Rs 26,29,193.77 crore.

The total expenditure as on 31st March 2023 was Rs 14,71,873.95 crore which works out to 55.98 per cent of the total anticipated completion cost and 68.06 per cent of the original cost.

For these 1,566 projects, a total outlay of Rs 2,81,251.99 crore has been allocated for 2022-23.

The Quarterly Project Implementation Status Report (QPISR) on Central Sector Projects (costing Rs 150 crore and above) for the 4th quarter of 2022-23 (January-March 2023), contains detailed information on 1,566 projects covering 443 mega projects (each costing Rs 1,000 crore and above) and 1,123 major projects (each costing Rs 150 crore and above but below Rs 1,000 crore).

WEF president pitches for 'win-win thinking'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Calling for "win-win thinking" amid increased polarisation and fragmentation globally, World Economic Forum (WEF) President Borge Brende has said that hopefully, India's G20 Presidency will help get leaders to discuss collaborating on fighting climate change and rules around new technologies.

WEF, headquartered in Geneva, is an international organisation for public-private cooperation and has collaborations with India.

In an interview in the national capital, Brende sounded "cautiously optimistic" about finding and developing a floor when it comes to an agreement between the big countries and the world on traffic rules and collaboration.

"We will have some derisking, friend shoring, and nearshoring not just in time but also when it comes to global value chains. I hope that 90 per cent of the trade we have today will also continue in the future," he said.

India is holding the G20 Presidency this year and also at a time when geopolitical ten-



sions, including the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and economic uncertainties are on the rise.

To a query on India's role, especially with the G20 Presidency, on the geopolitical front, Brende said there will be a new order with multiple drivers and a multi-polar world.

"We are between orders. We had an order after the Cold War and there will be a new order with multiple drivers and a multi-polar world. It will not be just Beijing and Washington... hopefully, it will be an order where cooperation is at the core of it, win-win thinking, trade, also using comparative advantages that will again lead to exceptional and inclusive growth in the

years to come.

"What we are seeing today is increased polarisation, increased fragmentation and this is an area where hopefully the G20 presidency of India gets leaders to sit down and agree on the areas to disagree but also the areas where we have to collaborate on fighting climate change, creating rules around new technologies," he noted.

G20 economies account for more than 80 per cent of the global GDP and about 75 per cent of the world trade.

Mentioning Artificial Intelligence (AI), Brende pointed out that while it represents huge opportunities, there are some dangerous areas as well.

Bank of Maharashtra top performer in NPA management during FY23

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has emerged as the best bank as far as management of bad loans is concerned with its net non-performing assets (NPAs) falling as low as 0.25 per cent during the financial year ended March 2023.

This is the lowest ratio among all banks having total business above Rs 3 lakh crore and not just public sector banks (PSBs), according to published yearly numbers of banks.

The Pune-based state-owned lender was followed by HDFC Bank with net NPA falling to 0.27 per cent and Kotak Mahindra Bank clinching the third spot with 0.37 per cent of net advances.



On the PSB side, BoM was followed by the country's biggest lender State Bank of India (SBI) with net NPAs falling to 0.67 per cent and Bank of Baroda at 0.89 per cent at the end of March 2023.

BoM has provided almost completely for the NPAs and has the highest Provision Coverage Ratio at 98.28 per cent followed by UCO Bank at 94.50 per

cent and Indian Bank at 93.82 per cent.

With regard to Capital Adequacy Ratio, BoM has the highest CAR of 18.14 per cent among PSBs followed by Punjab & Sind Bank at 17.10 per cent and Canara Bank at 16.68 per cent as on March 31, 2023.

In terms of loan growth, BoM retained the top spot among the scheduled commercial banks by recording a 29.49 per cent increase on an annual basis, as per the published data of banks.

Indian Overseas Bank stood at second spot with a rise of 21.28 per cent followed by Indusind Bank 21 per cent. The country's largest lender State Bank of India has shown 15.38 per cent rise in loans during FY'23.

India sees 31% surge in malware attacks in 2022: SonicWall report

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India experienced a 31 per cent surge in malware attacks in 2022, which should prompt companies to intensify their efforts in safeguarding themselves against cyberattacks, said a SonicWall report.

The report also highlighted a 10 per cent increase in "intrusion attempts" and a staggering 53 per cent rise in "ransomware attacks" compared to the previous year.

Furthermore, the '2023 SonicWall Cyber Threat Report' revealed a noteworthy

surge of 116 per cent in "crypto-jacking attacks" and an 84 per cent increase in "IoT attacks".

SonicWall is a cybersecurity solutions provider based in the United States. According to Debashish Mukherjee, Vice President -- APJ at SonicWall, although malware attacks have decreased in other regions, they remain alarmingly high in India.

He said that in countries like India, threat actors are expanding their scope of attack, employing different methods and targeting various areas.

Negotiations on supply chain pact under IPEF almost over

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Members of the 14-nation bloc IPEF have 'substantially' concluded the negotiations on the supply chains agreement, including improving logistics and connectivity; promoting investments in critical sectors and cooperation for mitigation of disruptions to ensure business continuity, the commerce ministry said on Sunday.



The IPEF was launched jointly by the US and other partner countries of the Indo-Pacific region on May

23 in Tokyo. The framework is structured around four pillars relating to trade, supply chains, clean economy and fair economy (issues like tax and anti-corruption).

India has joined all the pillars except the trade one.

The talks on supply chains, clean economy and fair economy were held on May 27 in Detroit, US. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal virtually participated in the ministerial meeting.

Five candidates to be interviewed for RBI deputy governor's post

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Secretary-headed panel is scheduled to interview shortlisted candidates on June 1 for the post of RBI deputy governor, which falls vacant on June 21 after M K Jain completes his extended tenure.

This vacancy for the RBI deputy governor's post has been reserved for a commercial banker.

According to sources, five candidates have been shortlisted, including a non-executive chairman of a public sector bank.

The Financial Sector Regulatory Appointment Search Committee (FSRASC) headed by Cabinet Secretary would interview candidates in Delhi, the sources said.

The selected name from the interview will be sent to the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, headed by the Prime Minister, for final approval.

Besides the Cabinet Secretary, other members of FSRASC include the RBI governor, the financial services secretary and two independent members.



ONGC puts a date to start of KG gas

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's top oil and gas producer ONGC has finally put a date for the much-awaited start of production from its KG basin gas field as it sought USD 12 price for the fuel it plans to deliver from June 15.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) will produce 0.4 million standard cubic metres per day - a fraction of the planned output from the block that sits next to Reliance Industries' prolific KG-D6 area in the Bay of Bengal, from June 15 and will ramp it up to 1.4 mmscmd by February 5, 2024, according to tender document the firm floated, seeking bids for gas sales.

ONGC's director for production Pankaj Kumar had in March told PTI that the firm will start production of oil from KG-DWN-98/2 or KG-D5 block in the Krishna Godavari basin by May or June this year. A small amount of gas will also flow with the oil that comes out of the reservoir lying several hundred metres below the seabed.

UPI to account for 90% of retail digital payments by 2026-27

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Growing at a steady pace, UPI transactions are likely to reach 1 billion per day by 2026-27, accounting for 90 per cent of the retail digital payments in the country, said a PwC India report.

Unified Payments Interface (UPI), which is driving the digital payments revolution, accounted for about 75 per cent of the total transaction volume in the retail segment during 2022-23, said the PwC report titled "The Indian Payments Handbook 2022-27".

UPI is projected to account for 90 per cent of the total transaction volume in retail digital payments over the next five years, the report said.

The Indian digital payments market saw steady growth at a CAGR of 50 per cent (volume-wise) and is expected to reach 411 billion transactions in FY 2026-27 from 103 billion in FY 2022-23, the report said.

"It is estimated that UPI will record 1 billion transactions per day by FY2026 2027, going from 83.71 billion transactions in 2022-23 to 379 billion transactions by 2026-27," it added.



It further said the credit card segment continues to grow at a healthy rate, as card (both debit and credit) pay-

ment is one of the most used instruments for retail digital payments after UPI. The volume of transactions in credit

cards is expected to surpass debit cards by FY 2024 2025.

While credit card issuance is expected to grow at a healthy CAGR of 21 per cent in the next five years, debit card issuance is expected to have a stagnant growth with a CAGR of 3 per cent in the same period, the report said.

"The decline in debit card usage is because the major use case of debit card transactions is cash withdrawal, which can now be replaced by an easier way of withdrawing cash using UPI," it added.

Mihir Gandhi, Partner and

Payments Transformation Leader, PwC India, said that in the next five years, the payments industry is expected to focus on ecosystem expansion and new use cases for existing payment platforms.

"Areas like embedded and ecosystem finance, digital lending based on payment transactions and offline payments will drive the next phase of growth for the payments industry. In the ever-evolving Indian payments landscape, innovation and inclusion are paving the way for a seamless digital economy," Gandhi said.

Global trends, macroeconomic data to drive equity markets

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Stock markets would be largely driven by macroeconomic data, auto sales numbers, FII inflows and global trends this week, analysts said.

The US debt ceiling negotiations and institutional flows will also be watched by investors.

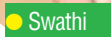
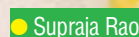
"This week, market participants will closely monitor institutional flows, as there is a historical obser-

vation that when both FIIs and DII become net buyers simultaneously, there is a likelihood of some profit-taking in the market," said Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investmart Ltd.

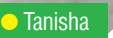
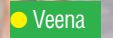
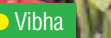
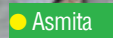
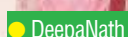
On the global front, the US debt ceiling issue holds significant importance, alongside US macroeconomic indicators, movement of the US bond yields, the dollar index and crude oil prices, Meena added.



what's brewing?



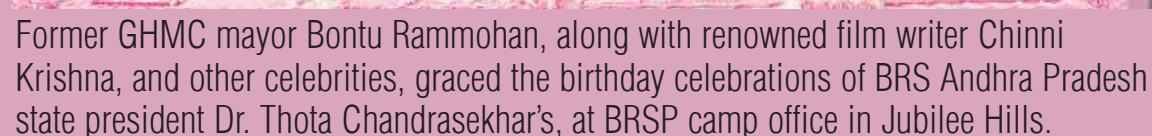
Renowned writer and Member of Parliament Shashi Tharoor, graced the preview of the art show 'The Intersection of Art, Ceramics, and Spirituality' by Deepa Nath, in collaboration with Manpreeth Nishter, at Kadari Art Gallery in Jubilee Hills Road no: 14. The show was organised by Supraja Rao.



Minister of state animal husbandry, and cinematography Talasani Srinivas Yadav, and MLC Takallapalli Ravinder Rao, flagged off the 5km and 10km marathon held at Necklace road, organised by the emergency doctors from the Society for Emergency Medicine India (SEMI), Telangana state chapter to commemorate World Emergency Medicine Day.



Telangana BJP President, and Karimnagar MP Bandi Sanjay, along with central council members Mupalla Sridar, and Dayanivas Sharma, among the rest graced the convocation ceremony held by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India at Shilpakala Vedika, Madhapur, Hyderabad.



FUN

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SNAP

THIS PLANE IS IN FOR SOME ROUGH LANDINGS.

DARN IT!

COVERLY

SHARING MY FEELINGS MAKES ME ANXIOUS...

CAAAAREFUL

© 1999 by Andrew Robinson Syndicate
 11 JAN 04/05 4:12

A cartoon by Dave Coverly. A doctor in a white coat stands on the left, holding a smartphone. A patient sits on an examination table on the right. A speech bubble from the doctor says: "I'M WAITING TO GO HOW MANY 'LIKES' MY DIAGNOSIS GETS BEFORE I SHARE IT WITH YOU." The cartoon is signed "© 2014 DAVE COVERLY" in the bottom right corner.

NO, FOR THE CARTOONIST

© 2006 by Z-Comics.com

WELL, I WASN'T GOING TO... BUT NOW YOU'RE GIVIN' ME IDEAS!

gingermeigs.com

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

- 1 To go back and forth in a crooked line
- 3 Exchange for another
- 7 Wet weather
- 8 A member of a ship's crew
- 10 Another name for pudding
- 13 Opposite of sister
- 16 A large country just south of the USA
- 17 Dotted cubes used when playing board games
- 18 Animals like large mice
- 19 Animals with humps

- 1 The number nothing
- 2 This type of aeroplane has no engine

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Vishwak Sen's rugged look from VS11 pays tribute to NTR

Vishwak Sen has joined hands with Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas for a film that depicts the journey of a grey man in a moral-less society. The film has been produced by Sithara Entertainments, looking forward to encourage talented filmmakers to come up with a variety of entertainers that engage and entertain every person in a family. The film is also produced by Fortune Four Cinemas & Co-Produced by Venkat Upputuri and Gopi Chand Innamuri. The upcoming film tentatively titled *VS11* is going to add another feather to their cap, at least that's what the makers believe.

VS11 narrates the story of a determined and motivated man who grows from rags to riches in a dark and unapologetically cruel world.



Actor Sharwanand escapes unhurt after an unfortunate car accident

Actor Sharwanand escaped unhurt after his car lost control and collided with a divider. The incident took place on Sunday morning at Hyderabad's Filmnagar Junction.

According to initial reports, the incident occurred when Sharwanand's driver swerved to avoid colliding with a two-wheeler. The car lost its balance and reportedly hit the divider. Fortunately, the actor managed to emerge from the accident with only minor injuries. Local residents who had witnessed the incident acted swiftly and rushed him to the nearest hospital. As per the latest reports, the actors condition is reported to be stable, alleviating concerns about his well-being.

Taking to Twitter, the actor later expressed his gratitude for the concern shown by his fans, and clarified that the accident was a minor one. His tweet read, "There has been news that my car met with an accident this morning. It was a very minor incident. I am absolutely safe and sound at home with all your love and blessings. there is nothing to worry about. Thankyou for all your concern. Have a great Sunday everyone."

Sharwanand is currently working on an untitled film (his 30th as an actor). On the personal front, he is going to get married to Rakshita Reddy in Rajasthan in the coming month.

The wedding preparations are going on in full swing.



Rishab Shetty urges to make a film city in Bengaluru

The way actor-director-writer-producer, Rishab Shetty gave the nation a gem of a film with *Kantara* was truly noteworthy. Having made his distinct place in the industry with the success of the film, Rishab was invited as a panellist for the 9th Seva, Sushasan Garib Kalyan National Conclave hosted by the Ministry of Broadcasting and Information to cast light on how Yuva Shakti, the powerful force of India's youth, is igniting a transformative wave across the nation. Grabbing the opportunity Rishab spoke about how they are getting support from the government and also put forward the request to have a Film City in Bengaluru.

Following the theme of this year's conclave 'Yuva Shakti: Galvanizing India' was addressed by 6 esteemed panelists and Rishab Shetty was the only representative from the field of entertainment and cinema. While addressing his request, Rishab said, "Reaching the audience is one challenge and we are getting support from the government. There are some requests like, to have a Film City in Bengaluru."

At the conclave, Shetty was joined by founder and CEO Oyo Rooms, musician Amaan Ali Bangash, former Indian field hockey player and captain of the Indian National Team, Viren Rasquinha, co-founder CAXpert Yashodhara Bajoria, and Indian boxer Akhil Kumar.

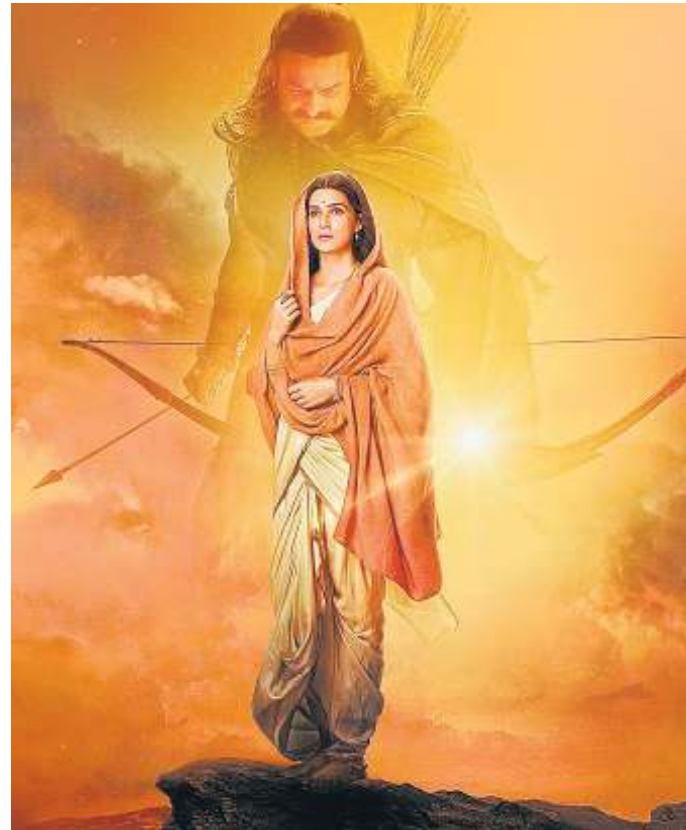
With the phenomenal success of *Kantara*, Rishab Shetty put India on the global map. The film emerged as the second highest-grossing Kannada film of all time and was also 2022's third highest-grossing film in India.



Whopping amount spent on Adipurush's theatrical rights?

Pan-Indian star actor Prabhas will next be seen in the much-anticipated *Adipurush*, a mythological drama directed by Om Raut. The biggie has Kriti Sanon as the female lead and Saif Ali Khan as the antagonist.

A strong buzz is doing rounds on social media that the film's Telugu version theatrical rights are acquired by the noted banner People Media Factory. If the



Kamal Haasan honoured with Outstanding Achievement in Indian Cinema award at IIFA 2023

The 23rd edition of the International Film Academy Awards (IIFA) took place at the Etihad Arena in Yas Island, Abu Dhabi. The award show was graced by several celebrities, including Hrithik Roshan, Anil Kapoor, Salman Khan, Madhavan, Mouni Roy, Dia Mirza, and Rahman, who made it a memorable one.

At the award ceremony, actor Kamal Haasan was conferred with the IIFA Award for Outstanding Achievement in Indian Cinema. Kamal attended the



Director Teja reveals the title of his film with Rana

Rana Daggubati and director Teja's Nene Raju Nene Mantri was a commercial success. Recently it was revealed that the actor-director would unite once again. This will be an action entertainer. During the pre-release event of Ahimsa in Chirala, Teja revealed some interesting things about his film with Rana.

He said that the tentative title of the film is Rakshasha Raju. He further added that he is planning to introduce 45 new artists with this flick. Teja further said that interested people could approach him through Instagram for the same. Teja said that he wants at least 10 people from Chirala, which is the native place of the legendary Ramanaidu.

Gopinath Achanta will bankroll this project. A famous Malayalam hero will play a crucial role. Teja is said to have designed a powerful character for Rana. The shoot will commence very soon. Other details about the cast and crew will be out in the coming days.



Spy team heads to Araku for shooting key scenes

Actor Nikhil Siddhartha's upcoming pan-Indian movie *Spy* is in the news once again. The film is helmed by the editor-turned-director Garry BH, which has Ishwarya Menon and Sanya Thakur as the leading ladies.

According to the latest reports, the shoot of the movie is currently happening at Araku in Andhra Pradesh. The key scenes involving



Ram Charan and Vikram Reddy announced their pan-India project The India House

Global star Ram Charan has taken a significant step in his career by launching his production banner, 'V Mega Pictures'. Partnering with his friend Vikram Reddy of UV Creations, the aim is to create groundbreaking films and promote new talent in the film industry while providing a peculiar storytelling experience. Abhishek Agarwal Arts is a production house that stands for true and real content such as *The Kashmir Files* and *Karthikeya 2*.

Excitingly, 'V Mega Pictures' and 'Abhishek Agarwal Arts' have announced their first project - *The India House*. The maiden venture of this association guarantees a stellar ensemble of talented actors and a skilled crew. Marking the ethos of the film, the film is directed by debutant director, Ram Vamsi Krishna, and star line-up of dynamic hero Nikhil Siddhartha and veteran actor Anupam Kher.

The announcement which was made earlier on Sunday, on the occasion of the acclaimed freedom fighter Vir

Sarvakar's birthday, with a power-packed video which was released via social media accounts of global star Ram Charan, V Mega Pictures, and Abhishek Agarwal Arts.

The India House is set to take audiences back to an era and immerse them in a tale that will touch their hearts. Set in the pre-independence era in London, the team dropped a teaser which hints the film unfolds a love story during a time of political turmoil around *The India House*. The teaser culminates with the dramatic imagery of a burning India House, suggesting the drama that lies ahead.

The partnership between V Mega Pictures and Abhishek Agarwal Arts marks the beginning of a powerful alliance in the Indian film industry.

Ram Charan who is known as a global force and has made the nation proud whilst Abhishek Agarwal has lauded as one of the finest producers with a vision to produce content driven cinema that leaves a long lasting impact.



