

Political parties not bothered about Andhra Pradesh’s fiscal health!

What is happening in the debt-ridden state of Andhra Pradesh is a game of one-upmanship among principal political players engaged in handing out freebies to voters. With elections fast-approaching, these parties have set a single-point programme of wooing voters with competitively attractive offers to be able to rule the state, regardless of the deteriorating fiscal health of the state. The state is already neck deep in financial problems due to the implementation of a plethora of welfare schemes. Yet, the two main political parties in Andhra Pradesh are competing to hoodwink people in the name of bringing welfare schemes for people, though the beneficiaries of government's programmes comprise mostly the working class.

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) founder NT Rama Rao

brought a novel scheme of giving one kilogram of rice for two rupees to poor people in 1983. NTR's predecessor and Congress chief minister Kotla Vijayabhaskara Reddy was constrained to take a step in this regard after observing the tremendous response from people when NTR mentioned this scheme at public meetings during his 35,000-km yatra on his 'Chaitanya Ratham'. Everybody, cutting across party lines, welcomed the proposal to distribute subsidised rice through nearly 37,800 fair price shops (then) across the state. Sensing the political fallout of the public response to the subsidised rice scheme proposal of NTR, Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy introduced the same at Rs.1.90 in the state, thinking that it would take the wind out of the sails of NTR. But NTR reacted positively to the then gov-

Presently, with almost everything available at their doorstep in the name welfare schemes, the working class is kicking its habit of working to earn money for at least two square meals a day.

ernment's move and expressed his confidence that TDP would end the 35-year rule of the Congress and thereafter effectively implement the subsidised rice scheme for the poor. NTR stormed to power, emerging as the first non-Congress chief minister of AP. NTR came to be identified with the popular scheme so much so that the credit went to him, though the Congress government continued the scheme during its rule in the later years.

Supplying subsidised rice to people in need is understandable. But introducing less pro-

ductive schemes requiring huge outgo is questionable, especially if they are going to impair the state's fiscal health. Scholarships have been paid to students in schools and colleges annually since the regime of the first chief minister of combined Andhra Pradesh Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy. Yesteryear chief ministers did not insist on linking their names with those schemes for sheer publicity. These days chief ministers inscribe their names as prefixes to every welfare scheme. The term 'Chandranna' could be found in almost every



M D RATNA KUMAR
Senior Journalist

scheme implemented in the state during the rule of TDP president N. Chandrababu Naidu. Now, the term has made way for 'Jagananna', reflecting the name of YSRCP president YS Jaganmohan Reddy.

Presently, with almost everything available at their doorstep in the name welfare schemes, the working class is kicking its habit of working to

earn money for at least two square meals a day. Hence, there is avoidable scarcity of farm labour in rural areas across the state. Even small and marginal farmers are being forced to engage farm equipment and machinery at various stages of cultivation. Some farmers have started engaging groups of farm labourers from distant places like West Bengal and Bihar. In these circumstances, it is irresponsible on the part of major political parties to continue to promise welfare schemes, ignoring the looming fiscal disaster.

Residual AP started its journey with a deficit of Rs. 16,000 crore in the annual budget. So, the state ought to have adopted a careful approach towards financial management. Instead, the successive rulers made visits to World Economic Forum summits at huge costs to the exchequer – at least Rs. 15 crore each – but returned almost empty-handed.

Nobody knows whether any industrial unit of significance has been grounded in the state following MoUs signed at the WEF summits.

The YSRCP government has spent Rs. 2.10 crore on welfare schemes, using mostly borrowed funds. The AP government gets loans at huge interest rates. Such loans are not supposed to exceed 30% of its annual income. Yet, AP has willingly crossed this limit. Amidst this fiscal indiscipline, the state government has no qualms telling people that Rs. 2.10 crore had been distributed among lakhs of beneficiaries, suggesting that the borrowings were made only for them!

The TDP, at its recent Mahanadu in Rajahmundry, brought out its manifesto full of freebies with a view to return to power. The promised schemes have striking similarities with those launched by YSRCP: offers of paying Rs.15,000 to every schoolgo-

ing child in the family, monthly cash allowance of Rs. 1,500 to women; and unemployment allowance of Rs. 3,000 to youth, among others.

As they say, "a statesman thinks about the next generation, while a politician thinks only about the next election". Going by the skewed approaches of YSRCP and TDP, where would the state go with its mounting debts tomorrow? What path is left for the person who would be ruling the state tomorrow? As things stand, the financial position of AP is so bad that the government can't easily pay salaries to its employees on the first of every month. There is nearly Rs.2 lakh debt burden on the head of every citizen in the state.

It is high time major political parties in the state understood the implications of going to voters with freebies and welfare schemes just to be in power with least regard for fiscal discipline.

ED issues notice to ex Cong MP Anjan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) served a notice on TPCC Working President Anjan Kumar Yadav asking him to appear before it at 11 am on Wednesday (May 31). The ED served the notice in connection with the 'National Herald' fund raising case.

It may be recalled that Anjan Kumar Yadav appeared before the ED on November 22, 2022. Many Telangana Congress leaders had also appeared before the ED along with Anjan Kumar Yadav last year. Former Ministers Dr J. Geetha Reddy, Shabbir Ali, Gali Anil Kumar and others appeared before the ED.



The ED is investigating the 'National Herald' case based on a complaint by BJP leader Subramanya Swamy, who said that irregularities took place regarding the assets of 'National Herald' newspaper worth Rs 2,000 crore and equity transactions.

TS spends Rs 50k crore annually for social welfare

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Government has unveiled a golden era in the social welfare sector by implementing numerous welfare schemes. On the occasion of decennial celebrations of Telangana formation, the Chief Minister's PRO released a compilation 'Telangana Implements – India Emulates.'

The report says that the Telangana government is implementing public welfare schemes by allocating Rs 50,000 crore every year. These welfare schemes have provided minimum security for the poor.

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao had decided that there must not be any hunger deaths and that minimum life security should be provided to everyone.

For pensions in the period between 2004-14, previous governments allocated only Rs 5,558 crore in united Andhra Pradesh. The Telangana government allocated Rs 58,696 crore.

While child marriages were 56 per cent in 2011-2014 they

have been reduced substantially in 2014-2023 after Kalyana Lakshmi scheme was introduced in the state. An aid of Rs 1,00,116 is provided for the marriage expenses of a daughter.

In eight years, Rs 11,130 crore was spent under the Kalyana Lakshmi scheme for 12,71,839 poor families.

For Scheduled Castes, from 2014-15, Rs 92,640.41 crore has been spent. In 2014-15, the expenditure for Scheduled Castes was Rs 2936 crore which went up to Rs 20,264 crore.

Under the ST sub plan, the TS government spent Rs 43,936.32 crore.

As per the report, today many states are formulating schemes based on Telanganas schemes. Schemes being implemented by the Centre and many state governments are inspired by Telangana schemes like the Prime Minister's Kisan Samman Fund which is a replica of Rythu Bandhu, Har Ghar Jal which is like Mission Bhagiratha, Amrit Sarovar, which is a copy of Mission Kakatiya.

SANJAY TO KCR Order probe into ORR deal

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar demanded that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao should order a comprehensive inquiry into the irregularities in the ORR tender process. He sent a letter to the Chief Minister on Tuesday regarding this.

He said in the letter that there are allegations of gross corruption by the government in awarding Outer Ring Road (ORR) toll tender. "As the Chief Minister, it is your responsibility to respond on those allegations and clear suspicions," he said. He said that already every year the ORR is generating Rs 415 crore. Even if it increases by just 5% every seven years, the government will get Rs 30,000 crore in 30 years.



"What is the reason behind the government not exploiting this? Why was the tender awarded to a private company by forsaking revenue that should have come to the state? Why is the government secretive about this?" he asked.

Sanjay said that IRB Infrastructure Developers



Limited, which got the ORR lease is responsible for maintaining the Mumbai-Pune Expressway and for collecting toll. Its range is 1,014 lane km, contract period 10 years and income Rs 8,875 crore.

When the Maharashtra government awarded the tender for a short period, the people of

Telangana should ask why a tender was awarded for a longer period at a low price, he said.

Sanjay said the BRS government is known to be corrupt in deals connected with liquor and contracts. Now KCR's silence strengthens suspicions that there is a huge scam in the ORR tender. Everything from the notification of the tenders to finalisation of guidelines on the ORR tender has been kept secret. The government is also threatening the media against publishing news about ORR and they are being intimidated by sending legal notices, he said.

Sanjay said that suspicions that something has happened in awarding the ORR tender are getting stronger. Facts regarding the ORR toll tender should be brought before the public immediately, he said.

BRS is an opportunistic party, says Kodanda

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Kisan Congress Vice-President M. Kodanda Reddy said that the BRS is an opportunistic political party and its government is also opportunistic.

He said that there was lot of opposition to the Dharani portal and that the TPCC has set up a committee on the illegalities that the government is doing in the name of Dharani.

Addressing the media on Tuesday, Kodanda said that the BRS spread lies to silence farmers who were against the government.

The farmers of Telangana suffered heavy losses due to unseasonal rains, he said and added that so far no compensation has been given to the farmers.

Kodanda said that Telangana is the only state which has not implemented crop insurance. The government is not giving agricultural equipment to farmers on subsidy.

He said that Dharani dandas are running in Collector's



offices. Around 52 farmers committed have suicide due to Dharani problems. He said that a Tahsildar was burnt alive due to Dharani. So far records about the lands of 15 lakh farmers have not been uploaded online, he said.

He said that Dharani has become a big scandal and that BRS leaders made billions through Dharani.

"Why hasn't Minister Harish Rao corrected Dharani's mistakes? Former Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar was the main person behind Dharani. KCR hired Somesh to generate income for the government and the BRS.

LS DELIMITATION BASED ON POPULATION South should oppose Centre's move: KTR

NAVEENA GHANATE
■ HYDERABAD

Industri Minister KT Rama Rao urged South Indian states to unite against LS delimitation based on population in 2026. "The people of southern states need to raise their voices cutting across political affiliations against this injustice," KTR said.

"The irony of the situation is that states that have not accepted the Centre's population control measures will now have the last laugh. Tamil Nadu, Kerala, AP, Karnataka and Telangana which have done well in population control will now be penalised! Not only population control and HDIs, the southern states which have 18% of the population contribute 35% to India's GDP," he said. KTR said that the contributors to the national economy and growth should not be punished. "This is indeed a tragedy if it comes true. The southern states have been best performers on all

fronts after Independence," KTR said.

"The Centre is planning to redistribute Lok Sabha constituencies on the basis of population. If this is done, the Lok Sabha seats for northern states with the highest population like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar will increase massively," he said. In 2026 after delimitation, UP and Bihar will have 222 LS seats, West Bengal 60,

else can you expect from uncultured morons??? Come out of your slave mentality of thinking low of our own culture. (sic)"

Responding to it KTR said, "Uncultured morons are those who celebrate rapists, those that welcome murderers, those that insult Mahatma Gandhi, those that leak exam papers and toy with the lives of youth and those that insult our sports champions."

TS will soon...

Continued from page 1

After the formation of the state, to provide quality electricity supply Rs 97,500 crore was invested in power generation, distribution and transmission," he said.

TS is now able to provide quality electricity as it spend Rs 40,000 crore to upgrade its transmission and distribution network, Prabhakar said.

He said that the Bhupalappalli Second Stage 600 MW project was taken up and completed within a year and that the generating capacity of the state which was 7,778 MW has increased to 18,565 MW now.

He said that we are in a position to provide the electricity required for the Kaleshwaram Project. In addition to this 6,500 MW is required for the Palamuru and Ranga Reddy lift irrigation schemes. The Transco Chairman said that the Miryala Guda Damaracharla project which will generate 4,000 MW is being executed at a cost of Rs 34,000 crore and that it will start functioning soon.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha

Titthi:Ekadashi: May 30 01:08 PM to May 31 01:46 PM

Dwadashi: May 31 01:46 PM to Jun 01 01:39 PM

Nakshatram: Hasta: May 30 04:29 AM to May 31 06:00 AM

Chitra: May 31 06:00 AM to Jun 01 06:48 AM

Rahukalam: 12:13 PM to 1:51 PM

Yamagandam: 7:22 AM to 8:59 AM

Variyam: 02:16 PM to 03:55 PM

Gulika: 10:36 AM to 12:13 PM

Amritakalam: 12:11 AM to 01:51 AM

Abhijit Muhurtham: Nil

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Partly Cloudy

Temp: 38°

Humidity: 44%

Sunrise: 5:41 AM

Sunset: 6:46 PM

Updated: MAY 30, 2023 5:00 PM

TS-IPass...

Continued from page 1

Under T-PRIDE (Telangana State Programme for Rapid Incubation of Dalit Entrepreneurs) from 02-06-2014 to 31-03-2023, incentives worth Rs 1381.8 crore were sanctioned to 28,184 units promoted by SC Entrepreneurs.

Incentives worth Rs 1,448.33 crore were sanctioned to 31,057 units promoted by ST entrepreneurs and incentives worth Rs 114.64 crore were sanctioned to 2104 units promoted by PHC entrepreneurs.

75ASIs promoted as SIs: DGP Anjani Kumar

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The state's different wings are on the task to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Telangana's formation day. The Police Department has announced that after acknowledging the hard work of Telangana police, 75 Assistant Sub-Inspectors have been promoted to the rank of Sub-Inspectors.

Director General of Police Anjani Kumar said, "To commemorate the 10th anniversary of Telangana's statehood formation day, the Telangana Government has acknowl-



edged the commendable hard work and unwavering dedication of the Telangana police. As a gesture of appreciation, 75 ASIs have been promoted to the rank of SIs."

The details of promotions will be out soon.

ED mentions...

Continued from page 1

The Judge suggested that arguments should be presented in written form. The hearing was adjourned to June 2. On Tuesday, the ED submitted a fourth supplementary charge sheet to the court. The ED mentioned Sisodia's role in the Delhi liquor scam and Kavitha's name several times in its charge sheet. The ED said in its charge sheet that there is an agreement between South Group and AAP leaders. Sisodia indulged in irregularities in the Delhi liquor policy. They prepared a liquor policy to benefit the south group and AAP leaders took bribes from it.

TS Cong apprehensive...

Continued from page 1

Meanwhile, Telangana Congress leaders are apprehensive of an alliance with Sharmila. The Telangana sentiment prevents TS Congress leaders from opting for an alliance with Sharmila.

Congress leaders think that the people of Telangana consider Sharmila as an AP leader. A senior Congress leader said that in the last Assembly elections, the prospects of the party were damaged due to the alliance with TDP's Chandrababu Naidu.

If the Congress opts for an alliance with Sharmila in the coming Assembly elections the same outcome may get repeated. During the last Assembly elections, the BRS exploited the Telangana sentiment due to the Congress alliance with Chandrababu Naidu.

The BRS stamped Chandrababu as anti-Telangana. This also helped the BRS to come to power. Now, if the Congress forges an alliance with Sharmila, Congress leaders think that the BRS will exploit the Telangana sentiment again.

After the victory in the Karnataka Assembly elections, Congress leaders think that their party's prospects have improved in Telangana. So they think that if they have an alliance with Sharmila it may result in losing ground to the BRS.

Telangana Congress leaders have decided to tell their high command about this if Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister Shiv Kumar proposes an alliance with Sharmila.

Sources said that Sharmila is exerting pressure on Shiv Kumar for an alliance with the Congress in Telangana.

Sajjanar lauds RTC staff for their laurels in S Korea

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) Managing Director VC Sajjanar on Tuesday congratulated TSRTC employees for their performance at the International Asia-Pacific Masters Games.

The archers from Telangana bagged two medals in the tournament. Jedimetla depot conductor M Anjali won the gold medal in the 18-meter category, while Karimnagar Zonal Workshop mechanic K Kishan won the silver medal in the 30-meter category.

The two archers were selected for the tournament based on their performances at the All India Masters Games held in Hyderabad in February.

Congratulating the winners, Sajjanar said, "It is a matter of pride for the organisation to excel in international sports and win two medals. TSRTC will provide all possible support to the employees participating in international and national sports."

He said that best results can be achieved in sports only with continuous hard work and practice.

Tank Bund is a gem, we have to keep it clean: KTR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister of State Urban Development and Municipalities KT Rama Rao called Tank Bund a gem and asked to look after the cleanliness of the tourist spot.

Under the leadership of Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, the government machinery is working tirelessly to make Hyderabad a cosmopolitan city. The tourist areas of Hyderabad are being beautified to attract world tourists.

As a part of that, the Tank Bund, which has become a tourist spot of the metropolis, has been beautifully designed. Due to this, tourists are flocking to the Tank Bund in the evening and on holidays.

However, when the matter of the being unhygienic for tourists was taken to the notice of the Minister, he released a video on his Twitter account and gave a message.

Tank Bund is a symbol of centuries of history. The Telangana government has taken the beautification of Tank Bund with pride and added more touches to this unique structure. He pointed out that it is our responsibility to ensure that the environment of Tank Bund is clean,



providing pleasure and happiness to the city people and tourists and enhancing the brand image of Hyderabad.

"I appeal to all the people to maintain cleanliness in the tourist places which are a source of pride for us like the house where we live," he said.

The netizens also commented on the issue of birthday celebrations and cake smashes. One of the netizens Ravinder said, "There is a craze among the youth to celebrate birthdays on the Tank Bund. About 50 individuals celebrate their birthdays every

night at the Tank Bund and litter the place.

Action must be taken against any celebration where people avoid dustbins."

The police officials said monitoring is 24/7, but people will protect the Tank Bund only when the government announces rules and regulations on its maintenance.

"We have no authority to stop them from celebrating though we instruct them against yelling and performing crazy stunts," the police said.

Sexual offenders under watch in Cyberabad

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Cyberabad police on May 25 conducted a surveillance programme to monitor 143 sexual offenders in its jurisdiction.

The list of offenders under scanner includes those convicted for crimes against women and children, those who have done heinous crimes of rape and murder as well as offenders involved in sexual offences against innocent minors.

The exercise was carried in all five zones - Madhapur, Rajendra Nagar, Balanagar, Medchal and Shamshabad. The programme comprised checking current whereabouts of all offenders, their activities in their residential areas plus in their neighbourhood areas, whether offender is involved in any other crime in any other area and the updated residential details of the offenders were recorded.

For protection, safety and security of the public, a careful watch on activities of sex offenders is warranted. The surveillance on activities of offenders through an extensive network of ground intelligence and beat policing was undertaken for prevention of crimes by the habitual offenders.

RS 5,56,556 GIVEN TO EACH DWCRCA COMMUNITY ON AN AVERAGE

‘TS DWCRAs’ growth story a role model for country’

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

State Rural Development Minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao said that Telangana's DWRCAs women's associations are setting a remarkable example for the rest of the country with their outstanding achievements. He said that their savings and loan value have surpassed the national average, making them a source of inspiration for women across the nation.

During an event held on Tuesday, Minister Dayakar Rao unveiled the annual plan for bank linkage for the year 2023-24. The target for bank linkage by Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) was set at Rs 15,037.40 crore.

A book featuring success stories of women who established small industries with bank loans was released. Awards were presented to women and officers who demonstrated exceptional talent in various categories.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Dayakar Rao emphasised the importance of women's progression from small to large-scale entrepreneurs. He urged banks to pro-



vide sufficient funds to women and relax loan terms as much as possible. He also called for uniform interest rates across all banks and encouraged them to minimise service charges. Minister Errabelli highlighted the loan recovery rate of 98 per cent achieved by women in the country. While 57 per cent of women receive loans nationwide, Telangana provides loans to 76 per cent of women. On an average, each Dwrcra community receives loans of Rs 5,56,556, the Minister explained.

In all 32 districts of the state, 98 per cent of women are actively involved in Dwakra Sanghas. The 553 Mandal Samakhyaas and 4,30,358 Self-Help groups have a combined membership of 46,46,120 women. As on March 31, the

outstanding debt balance of these self-help groups is Rs 3,924.50 crore.

Sandeep Kumar Sultania, Principal Secretary of the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department, expressed surprise at the numerous success stories shared by women. He emphasised that there are still many more stories waiting to be heard. Within just four years, women have achieved a business turnover of Rs 100 crore, and Sultania explained that if women continue to develop as entrepreneurs, it will not only benefit their families but also contribute to the betterment of the state and the country.

Various women's associations across the state shared their experiences and success stories.

‘E-store India’ dupes investors

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In yet another case of financial deceit, E-store India (Axis E Corp Pvt. Ltd and Ayurcare Health Products Pvt Ltd) has come under scrutiny for its fraudulent supermarket scheme.

The Central Crime Station registered a case, numbered 141/2023, against nine individuals involved in perpetrating deceptive investment schemes. The police also arrested Maneesh Katti and Syed Ajmal Mehdi Sajjad, who served as marketing in-charges for the company, actively promoting two schemes that ensnared unsuspecting victims.

According to police, under the individual distributor scheme, victims were lured into investing Rs 8,991, with the promise of receiving Ayur Care health products valued at Rs 9,000. In addition, they were provided with an E-Store India company board for advertisement purposes. The victims were assured a monthly payment of Rs 1,100 for a

period of 36 months, contingent upon them displaying the company board and submitting a photograph as proof.

In the more elaborate E-Store supermarket scheme, victims were encouraged to invest a minimum of Rs 25 lakh to establish their own supermarket. E-store India made grand promises of providing the necessary infrastructure, managing rental expenses, hiring staff, and ensuring monthly profits. Police said that the victims received profits for only a short period before experiencing sudden defaults, plunging them into significant losses.

The city police identified 44 individuals from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana who were enticed into investing Rs 25 lakh each in the supermarket business. Over 300 individuals collectively lost crores of rupees due to the deceptive practices employed in the individual distributor scheme. Authorities have frozen five bank accounts linked to the accused individuals, which hold a total of Rs 6.5 crore.

ROBBERS TAKE LEAF FROM MOVIE PLOT

Gang that posed as IT men to loot shop busted

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a heist that seemed straight out of a movie, a gang from Khanapur, Maharashtra, drew inspiration from films like "Special 26" (2016) starring Akshay Kumar and "Gang" (2018) featuring Suriya. Their meticulously planned robbery left the victim oblivious to the crime until the gang had made their escape.

However, the police managed to apprehend four of the accused, one of whom is an employee of the targeted gold shop.

The police have identified the accused as Rahman Gafoor Athar (30), Zakir Ghani Athar (35), Praveen Yadav (32) and Akash Arun Hovil (31). However, several others involved in the crime are still absconding. The police managed to seize 7 gold biscuits while a total of 17 gold biscuits went missing.



The police said that the phase II of this operation is still ongoing.

According to the police, the gang involved collaboration between the accused from Maharashtra and Goa. Zakir Ghani Athar, one of the arrested individuals, had been working at Harshad Gold Melting Shop, located at

Pot Market, Secunderabad, for the past one month. The gang planned to steal gold bars from Siddi Vinayaka Gold Shop, where Zakir had insider knowledge. The offenders arrived in Hyderabad on May 24 on a bus and train, and checked into Delhi Lodge at Patny Centre, Secunderabad.

Zakir acquainted them with the plan, showcasing the targeted gold shop to his accomplices, Babu and Lala, on the fourth floor of Navketan Complex. On May 27, all the accused entered the shop posing as IT officials, brandishing fake ID cards.

Within a matter of 10 to 15 minutes, they swiftly confiscated all cellphones and looted the gold biscuits weighing 1,700 grams, valued at Rs 60 lakh. The gang escaped, leaving the confined workers behind.

The incident was brought to light when Vikas Khedekar, the 23-year-old manager of Siddi Vinayaka Shop located in Pot Market, Secunderabad, filed a written complaint on May 27. The assailants reportedly then confined the workers in a room by locking the door from outside before fleeing the scene.

84% crack TSLPRB SI exams

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana State Level Police Recruitment Board (TSLPRB) on Tuesday released the results for Sub-Inspector exams held in March-April 2023.

A total of 1,79,459 candidates appeared for the exams out of whom 1,50,852 candidates cleared it, recording an 84 % qualification. Various posts including SCT PCs civil and / or equivalent posts, transport constables, prohibition & excise constables; SCT SIs civil; SCT PC IT&CO , SCT SI IT&CO, SCT PC driver, operator, SCT ASI FPB, SCT SI PTO and SCT PC Mechanic.

Attendance and performance details of the candidates in each of the eight exams mentioned are being hosted in the respective login areas of the candidates from May 30 onwards.



Final Keys of all the OMR based (Objective Type) tests of the exams will be available on TSLPRB website: www.tslprb.in. Simultaneously, scanned copies of individual OMR sheets of all the pertinent OMR based (Objective Type) tests taken by each candidate will be made available in the respective login areas. Candidates can

access the scanned copies of OMRs by logging into their respective user accounts on the TSLPRB website.

Those facing inconvenience in finding the key may send an e-mail or contact 93937 11110 or 93910 05006. Candidates from the SC, ST categories who wish to submit their answers for re-evaluation are required to pay a fee of Rs 2,000. Candidates from the general category must pay Rs 3,000 for the same.

The TSLPRB website will allow candidates to submit their answers for revaluation from 8 am on June 1 to 8 pm on June 3. Separate requests must be made for revaluation of each of the papers.

"Candidates will be given an opportunity to correct any erroneous entries earlier made by them in their application, at the time of certificate verification."



Rs 60 lakh library to come up in Shaikpet

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Minister for Animal Husbandry Talasani Srinivas Yadav announced that a new library worth Rs 60 lakh will be constructed in Shaikpet. He laid the foundation stone for the library on Tuesday.

He further stated that Rs 9.40 crore will be spent to construct new buildings for 14 libraries which are currently located in rented buildings or lie in a dilapidated state. He

stressed on the restoration of these libraries claiming that they were neglected by the previous governments. The Minister also alleged that funds weren't allocated for repairing these libraries.

Yadav went on to say, "A large number of candidates appearing for competitive exams visit these libraries for preparation. The Telangana government has been providing all facilities, including study material for such exams."

Cyber Security alert 5S for online scam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana State Cyber Security Bureau has alerted the public on 5S for safe Internet banking. Following the rise in the number of cases, the Cyber Bureau said each S stands for protecting from online scam or fraud. These are S- for suspicious link alerts, S- for strong and unique passwords, S- for software updates, S-

for secure websites and applications and S- for secure network.

The suspicious link has been among the top issue of most complaints, they also ignore to come out and spread awareness that they lost money by clicking a message link. They follow a random number's sending link for a lottery or quick payments and transact money but get nothing at the end, said the police.

Strong and unique passwords; There are already instructions from the banks concerned that passwords must be protected and changed from time to time, so this helps to stay safe.

The police also said that software updates also indirectly get viruses into the system and frauds can be reduced by following the links that are being clicked.

Hyd activists stand in solidarity with women wrestlers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Social activists from Hyderabad stood in solidarity with women wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Sakshi Malik who are fighting for justice on harassment they are going through and how they were detained in Delhi recently. The activists also demanded the arrest of the Wrestling Federation of India chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh as the situation worsened and wrestlers planned to immerse their medals in the Ganga. The Hyderabad group

stood near Hussain Sagar and also protested in front of new Ambedkar statue.

Tejaswini, one among them, said, "We were disgusted on how our Olympians were treated by the government and how sexual assault accused was being protected. When wrestlers took the extremely painful decision to throw their hard-earned medals in Ganga, we thought the least we could do is to stand near Hussain Sagar in solidarity. We stood in front of Ambedkar statue for an hour."



PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of Andhra Pensioners Party. The office of the party is located at H.No.8-6-666, Sri Balaji Nagar, Near B.N. Reddy Nagar, Vanasthalipuram, Ranga Reddy District, Hyderabad, Telangana State – 500070. This party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under Section 29 A of the Representation of People Act, 1951 – Names / address of the office bearers of the party are as follows:

President : P. Subba Rayan, H.No.8-6-666, Sri Balaji Nagar, Vanasthalipuram, Hyderabad, R.R. District – 500 070.

Secretary General : P.S.N. Murthy H.No.4-12-197, Bhagyalatha Colony, Vanasthalipuram – 500 070, Hyderabad

Treasurer : T. Nagabhushanam H.No.2-111, Santhi Nagar, Vanasthalipuram, Hyderabad If anyone has any objection to the registration of Andhra Pensioners Party they may send their objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party) Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi – 110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

Bhatti dares CM, BRS MLAs to shed police escort

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka has challenged Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao and MLAs if they have the courage to meet the people without police escort. He dared the Chief Minister and MLAs to venture out without police escort to understand the ground reality.

Speaking to the media persons at Chandrakal village under Peddakothpalle mandal in the district on Tuesday, the CLP leader condemned the arrest of leaders belonging to the Congress and other opposition parties ahead of the visit of Minister for Finance T Harish Rao to the district.

"What is the purpose of inaugurations without meeting people or inviting them for such events," he asked. He expressed the opinion that the Ministers must mingle with people and listen to their griev-



Congress Legislature Party leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka addressing a media conference at Chandrakal village in Nagarkurnool on Tuesday

ances in an effort to redress them. Instead, the police were told to resort to midnight arrests of people who questioned the government and highlighted the "irregularities in schemes," he said.

Vikramarka wondered whether the leaders belonging to the Congress and opposition parties were "banned under the

law." He demanded that the government explain why it resorted to the midnight arrest of leaders who raised their voices against it. He lashed out at the government for "trampling on the right of the people." He exhorted the police to follow the manual and not to obey the diktats of the rulers. He threatened to take action

against the police personnel who were violating the rules after the Congress party came to power.

A number of sarpanches were planning to highlight the pending bills for the works executed. The sarpanches, in fact, wanted to bring the issue to the notice of Minister for Finance T Harish Rao, during the latter's visit to the district. But the sarpanches were arrested ahead of the Minister's visit, he said.

Vikramarka further said that former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi ushered in the Gram Swaraj scheme. He introduced the scheme to release funds directly from the Centre to gram panchayats. He took several steps to strengthen the Panchayat Raj, he said.

He pointed out that it would not be enough to name the new Secretariat after B R Ambedkar. The government should respect the Constitution which was drafted by Ambedkar.

Home Minister inaugurates SP's office

PNS ■ WANAPARTHI

Home Minister Mohammed Mahmood Ali on Tuesday inaugurated the newly-built district police office, along with Minister for Agriculture S Niranjan Reddy and Director General of Police Anjani Kumar.

The Home Minister praised the police for their excellent performance. He said that Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao pioneered several innovative schemes and the State made rapid strides towards development under his leaders.

The MPs in Delhi used to describe Telangana State as a power-deficit State. Now, the State topped the list of States in having CCTV cameras. In fact, 64% of the State was covered by CCTV cameras. The SHE teams are constituted to provide security to women. The credibility of police among the people has enhanced, he said.

The police are given a free hand and budgetary allocations were increased, he said. Niranjan Reddy and others also spoke

Harish takes a dig at Eatala



Minister for Finance T Harish Rao speaking at a meeting at Achampet in Nagarkurnool on Tuesday

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Addressing political opponents, he asserted, "The Chairman of the Joining Committee, Eatala Rajender, recently claimed that the BJP's work is done at Khammam with no scope to gain further support. He himself has given up that nobody is joining BJP. The disparity between their words and actions is glaring."

Minister for Finance T Harish Rao concluded by highlighting Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao's unparalleled understanding of Telangana's issues and the needs of its people. He dismissed claims made by other political parties, stating, "Narendra Modi and Rahul Gandhi cannot match KCR's knowledge about the Palamuru lift irrigation schemes."

He reminded the audience of the challenges faced during the Congress rule, including power outages, lack of drinking water, inadequate pensions, and the absence of initiatives like Rythu Bandhu and Rythu Bima. He reiterated the commitment of the BRS party to

serve the interests of the poor and marginalised sections of society.

In conclusion, Harish Rao emphasised, "The BRS party creates fear in both the BJP and the Congress. Let us not forget the days of lathi charges on farmers for fertilisers and the struggles of enduring power shortages during the Congress rule."

The Minister urged the public to recognise the positive changes brought about by the BRS government, stating, "Gone are the times when we had to endure burning motors and exploding transformers. Under the BRS government, we have witnessed significant improvements in various aspects of governance."

Highlighting the importance of the Rythu Bandhu scheme, he asserted, "To ensure the continued success of the Rythu Bandhu initiative, the BRS government must remain in power."

He criticised the Congress rule, stating, "Congress rule equates to no access to 24-hour electricity, no drinking water, no 2000 pension, no Rythu

Bandhu, and no Rythu Bima. It is clear that the BRS party, led by our Chief Minister KCR, is a party that prioritizes the needs of the poor."

In conclusion, Harish Rao emphasised, "The BRS party instils fear in both the BJP and the Congress. It is our relentless dedication to the welfare of the people that sets us apart. Let us unite under the leadership of KCR and continue the remarkable progress we have achieved thus far."

Achampet farmers gathered in a Thanksgiving meeting to express their gratitude to the Telangana State Government for approving and allocating 2300 crores towards the Achampet Irrigation projects.

During the meeting, the Minister addressed the attendees, stating, "Today is an extraordinary day as we witness two remarkable developments in the Achampet Constituency. Firstly, the inauguration of a 100-bed government hospital, which will enhance healthcare services in the region. Secondly, the realization of our long-awaited dream of Krishna river water reaching Achampet."

Physiotherapy centre for aged, urban clinics inaugurated

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

Minister for Prohibition Excise, sports and Tourism Dr V Srinivas Goud has said the State government made better medical services accessible to people by establishing urban clinics and maintained that the Government General Hospital in the town is offering healthcare to patients on a par with corporate hospitals.

Talking to the media here on Tuesday, after inaugurating a physiotherapy centre for the aged at the Government Hospital, and urban clinics at TD Gutta and Veeranna Peta, the Minister recalled how the patients used to dread to go to the Government Hospital in the past.

The patients in the past were not confident of receiving good treatment. However, in the new State the first-ever medical college was established in Mahabubnagar and the district hospital was upgraded to the general hospital. Modern equipment is provided in the hospital besides large-scale recruitment of doctors and nurses.

An oxygen plant has been set up in the hospital during



Minister for Excise V Srinivas Goud inaugurating Basti Dawkhana in Mahabubnagar on Tuesday

the pandemic situation. The hospital ICU has a bed strength of 65 and the hospital has 550 beds with oxygen facility. During the covid, the hospital saved many precious lives, he added.

The Urban Clinics would solve problems related to health care, the minister said. The urban clinics perform 104 types of diagnostic tests free of cost. If samples are given in urban clinics, the report would

be given in 24 hours. In case of emergencies, ambulance services are provided as an ancillary to the urban clinics.

Municipal Chairman KC Narsimhulu, MUDA Chairman Ganji Venkanna, Municipal vice chairman Ganesh, DMHO Dr Krishna, General Hospital Superintendent Dr Ram Kishan, deputy superintendent Dr Jeevan and others were present on the occasion.

BRS FORAY INTO MP

Former MP, MLAs join party

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BRS crossed another milestone on Tuesday. In Madhya Pradesh a former MP and MLAs and some public representatives joined the BRS.

Buddasen Patel, a former MP from BJP's Rewa Parliamentary constituency in Madhya Pradesh, joined the BRS in the presence of KCR. He was welcomed into the party with a pink scarf.

Along with them, former BSP MLA Dr Naresh Singh Gurjar, former Satna MLA Dharendra Singh of SP, former Satna district panchayat members Vimala Bagri and Sarvajay Kalyan, BSP president Sanjay Yadav, Rakesh Malviya from Bhopal, Satyendra Singh and others joined the BRS.

Former MP Buddhasen Patel, who joined the party, has been appointed the coordinator of Madhya Pradesh BRS by KCR.

The leaders, who joined the party, said that after they return to Madhya Pradesh, they will meet leaders and people and discuss extensively about the BRS. They said that the

people of Madhya Pradesh are ready to join the BRS for Telangana-type governance.

He said that they will come back to Hyderabad and join BRS in large numbers. After that, they will organise a big public meeting by inviting KCR to Bhopal. Chennai MLA Balka Suman and others were also present.

"The BRS is receiving overwhelming response from all sections of people and the party's President Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao is winning the confidence of people across the country. Party activities gained momentum at the national level after the BRS office was opened in New Delhi," Buddhasen said.

People from Maharashtra including intellectuals and leaders of various parties are attracted to the BRS as they are impressed by the development projects and welfare schemes implemented by the Telangana Government.

Many leaders are joining the BRS by wearing the pink scarf in the presence of KCR hoping that the Telangana model will be implemented in their states soon.

Long-cherished dream of hospital for tribal people comes true

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

The long-cherished dream of a hospital has come true for tribal people in the Nallamala area. Minister for Health T Harish Rao inaugurated a 100-bed hospital. The hospital, which was built at a cost of Rs 20 crore at Achampet, was equipped with state-of-art facilities. The Minister inspected the emergency wards and dialysis centre. Achampet MLA and Government Whip Guvvala Balaraju, Lok Sabha member P Ramulu, Zilla Parishad Chairperson Shantakumari, Telangana State Medical Services Infrastructure Development Corporation chairman Errola Srinivas, District Collector P Udaykumar and others were present. Speaking on the occasion, Harish Rao said that the Achampet Hospital was built on a

par with Hyderabad Corporate hospitals. With the addition of the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), Emergency Wing and Dialysis Centre, it has been upgraded into a 140-bed hospital. The people in the undivided Mahabubnagar district were forced to travel to Hyderabad in the past for medical treatment in the combined Andhra Pradesh. Now, the State government under the leadership of Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao not only opened 100-bed hospitals but also sanctioned five medical colleges in the undivided Mahabubnagar district. He said whether the Mahabubnagar district would have got five medical colleges if the Bharat Rashtira Samithi was elected to power. There were several big leaders in the district, but none took care of providing healthcare to people, he added.

700 appointments to be released in Passport Seva website

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Considering the increased demand for appointments availability cycle, the Ministry of External Affairs has decided to open 14 Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POP-SKS) under Regional Passport Office, Hyderabad on Saturdays.

Now for the 3rd Special Drive on coming Saturday, June 3 at the 14 POPSKS under RPO, Hyderabad, 700

normal appointments would be released in the Passport Seva website on May 31 at 4:30pm. In addition to this, for five PSKS under RPO, Hyderabad, 1,000 additional appointments with 200 appointments per day for the 2nd week of June, would be released on June 2 at 4:30 pm. All applicants, both registering now and desiring to reschedule their appointment, may make use of this facility through online sources.

SPIRIT OF REVERENCE



New look Nandi Junction welcomes devotees to Sri Rajarajeshwara swamy temple in Venulawada, popularly known as Dakshina Kasi

Dropout rate decreases in schools; digital classes a big hit

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Highlighting the importance of the state schemes, the Education Department officials said that the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan report said that dropouts are decreasing and retention (continuing till the end of the academic year) is increasing in government schools in the state.

The Telangana government's programmes for the development of basic education, such as mid-day meal scheme, small rice for students, free books, distribution of two pairs of uniforms and 100 per cent

mess charges, have reduced the dropout rate and increased attendance in schools. Under Sarvasiksha Abhiyan, 44,588 works were undertaken and 38,182 works were completed.

T-SAT, through its network channels, focuses on school education and imparts lessons to students through e-learning. In all, 5,99,537 students are being educated with international standards in 930 gurukula schools, residential junior colleges and degree residential colleges across the state.

The government spends Rs 1.25

lakh per year on every student studying in gurukulas. In all kinds of schools and hostels, meals are served with rice and free books and uniforms are provided.

The schemes will reshape the education system. An amount of Rs 7,289 crore has been allocated by the government for the phase-wise development of schools in the state. Instruction in English medium was introduced in all government schools of the state. In all, 23,35,952 children are studying in 26,815 government schools in the state.

PharmaLyrica expo to be held from June 1

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

PharmaLyrica, a three-day expo for the pharmaceutical industry will be held from June 1 to 3 at Hitex.

The ninth edition of the expo will be conducted by Informa Markets in India. PharmaLyrica will bring together industry leaders, innovators, and stakeholders to explore the latest advancements and opportunities within India's thriving pharmaceutical industry.

Demand for Assembly tickets in BRS, Congress; LS tickets in BJP

SNCN ACHARYULU
■ HYDERABAD

The aim of all politicians is to contest elections. The Telangana Assembly and Lok Sabha elections will be held one after the other with a gap of six months.

Some politicians are showing interest in contesting Assembly elections and some others are interested in contesting to the Lok Sabha.

In Telangana, the BRS, the Congress and the BJP are the main political parties. While the leaders of the BRS and the Congress are showing interest in contesting to the Assembly, BJP leaders are interested in contesting in the Lok Sabha elections.

The reason is that BRS leaders are confident of a hat-trick victory while Congress leaders strongly believe that they will come to power after a decade. BJP leaders are confident of a hat-trick victory in the Lok Sabha elections in Telangana.

The Karnataka Assembly elections have changed the mindset of Congress and BRS leaders in Telangana. BRS and Congress leaders think that if their party comes to power in the Assembly elections they have a chance of becoming a minister.

BJP leaders think that if they win in the Lok Sabha elections they will get a chance to join the Union Cabinet.

Before the Karnataka Assembly elections, BJP leaders had hopes of coming to power in TS. But after the Karnataka Assembly elections, they don't think that they will come to power in Telangana but are confident of a BJP victory in the Lok Sabha elections.

At present there is heavy demand for Assembly tickets in the BRS and the Congress and in the BJP there is demand for Lok Sabha tickets. The MPs of the BRS and the Congress prefer to contest Assembly elections than the Lok Sabha elections.

Some leaders in the Congress and the BJP want to test their luck in Assembly elections and if they lose they want to contest to the Lok Sabha.

During the last Assembly elections, Congress and BJP MPs like Revanth Reddy, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, G. Kishan Reddy and Bandi

Sanjay Kumar were defeated and they later contested to the LS and got elected.

Meanwhile, the BRS and Congress leaderships are thinking of fielding senior MLAs and leaders in the Lok Sabha elections. But they prefer to contest in the Assembly elections and become ministers if their party comes to power.

HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
4th Floor Swamajayanti Commercial Complex, Ammerpet, Hyderabad.
Public Notification Uis. 15 (3) of HMDA Act. 2008
(Government Memo. No. 17749/Pig.1(1)/2022 dt. 12.04.2023)
In exercise of powers conferred by Sub-Section (1) of Section 15 of HMDA Act 2008 (Act No.8 of 2008), it is proposed to make the following draft variation to the road network envisaged in the notified Master Plan approved vide G.O. Ms.No.286/MA, dt.03.04.2008. The site in Sy.No. 49,50,51 & 52 of Halespet (V), Sarilingampally (M), R.R. District to an extent of Ac-2-05 Gts., (Excluding the area falling in FTU) which is presently earmarked as Conservation Use zone as per the notified Revised Master plan of RC putnam zone segment approved vide G.O. Ms.No.288/MA&UD, dt.03.04.2008, is now proposed to be designated as Residential use zone as per NDC's issued by Irrigation/Reverse Departments. The details of the above are available in Web sites <http://gazette.telangana.gov.in/> and <http://hmda.gov.in/>. Objections/Suggestions would be considered from any person or body to the said proposals. They can submit objections/suggestions in writing either to the M.C. HMDA or to the Special Chief Secretary, MA & UD Dept., Telangana Secretariat, Hyderabad within Fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this Notice. Sd/- For Metropolitan Commissioner, R.O. No.: 234-PPICL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2023-24 HMDA

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
REVENUE (LAND ACQUISITION) DEPARTMENT
DISTRICT COLLECTOR, JANGAON
PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION
FORM-VI**
(See Sub-rule (1) of rule-19 and Section-11 (i) of the Act-20/2013)
Rc. No. A/54/2023 Date: 04.05.2023
Dist. Collr. File No. G2/152/2023 Date: 19.01.2023
Gazette No. JN/LA/26/2023 Date: 20.05.2023
Whereas it appears to the District Collector, Jangaon that a total of Ac. 0.03 gts of land is required in the Obulapuram Village of Zaffargadh Mandal of Jangaon District for public purpose, namely acquisition of Additional land for the purpose of excavation of TL-D of Nashkal Main Canal from Km. 0.300 & Km.3890 of Embankment of Canals under JCR DLP, Phase-II Package-VI.
As per the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act No. 30 of 2013 the District Collector (appropriate Government) declares that the proposed acquisition is comes under exempted category as defined under 6(2) & 10(4) of the said act and as such the provisions of Chapter-II and Chapter-III of the Act shall not apply to this case
Total (Nil) families are likely to be displace due to the land acquisition. The Adtl. Collector is appointed as Administrator for the purpose of Rehabilitation and Resettlement of the affected families.
Therefore it is notified that for the above said project in Obulapuram village of Zaffargadh Mandal of Jangaon District a piece of land measuring, more or less Ac. 0.03 gts of standard measurement, whose detailed description is as following, is under acquisition.
SCHEDULE
Village: Obulapuram; Mandal: Zaffargadh; Dist.: Jangaon
Sl. No. Sy. No. Nature of Land Class Extent Name of the Enjoyer Remarks
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
1 260/1 Pota Dry 0.03 Velpula Chinnu Ramulu S/o Basaviah
Total 0.03
Trees / Structures
Village: Obulapuram; Mandal: Zaffargadh; Dist.: Jangaon
Sl. No. Sy. No. Extent Name of the Enjoyer Trees Structures Remarks
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
Nil
This notification is made under the provisions of section 11(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation & Resettlement Act 2013 Act No.30/2013 to all whom it may concern.
A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the District Collector & Special Deputy Collector, LA, R&R, Irrigation Projects, Unit-II Jangaon on any working day during the working hours. The Government of Telangana/Jangaon Collector-cum-Appropriate Government is pleased to authorize officer Special Deputy Collector, LA, R&R, Irrigation Projects, Unit-II Jangaon and his staff LA to enter upon and survey land take levels of any land or bore into the sub-soil & do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in section 12 of the said Act.
Under section 11(4) of the Act no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land to be purchased or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the Collector.
Objection to the acquisition if any may be filed by the person interested with in 60 (sixty) days from the date of publication of this notification as provided Uis 15 of the Act before District Collector/ Special Dy. Collector, LA, R&R, Irrigation Projects, Unit-II Jangaon. Sd/- Special Dy. Collector, Sd/- Adtl. Collector, Sd/- Dist. Collector, LA, R&R Unit-II, Irrigation (Revenue) Jangaon. Jangaon. Projects, Jangaon. DCPR No. 270/LA/PP-Pub/2023-24

INDIA CORNER

Unruly passenger assaults Air India crew member onboard Goa-Delhi flight

A male passenger onboard an Air India flight from Goa on Monday physically assaulted a crew member and the unruly passenger was handed over to the security personnel after landing at the Delhi airport, according to the airline. In recent months, there have been multiple incidents of unruly passenger behaviour onboard aircraft and the latest incident happened onboard flight AI882 enroute from Goa to Delhi. The said passenger verbally abused the crew members and then went on to physically assault one of them on board. On landing at Delhi airport, the passenger continued with the unprovoked, aggressive behaviour and was handed over to the security personnel. We have also reported the incident to the regulator," an Air India spokesperson said in a statement on Tuesday. Further details about the incident could not be immediately ascertained.



Delhi court denies bail to policemen accused of abduction, extortion

A court here has denied bail to five Delhi police personnel accused of abducting two people, extorting money from them and insulting their religious beliefs, saying they betrayed the State, which employed them to protect the life, liberty and property of its citizens and not to harm them. Special Judge Samar Vishal dismissed the bail applications filed by accused Sandeep, Sompal, Amit Kumar, Chander Bhan and Amit, all working with the Delhi Police, noting the allegations against them were serious and they had already tried to influence the complainants Mohd Nawab and Soaib. The accused had sought the relief on the ground that they tried to save the complainants, who were transporting beef in their car, which collided with a scooter. Soon a mob gathered there and tried to communalise the issue, they claimed.




Villagers in Anantnag hold fishing festival to clean waterbodies

Residents of Panzath village here have found a novel way of keeping their water bodies clean. They hold a fishing festival annually in which men of all ages clean the lakes and ponds, all the while managing to catch some fishes too! What sets the exercise apart is that people do not use fishing rods but baskets made of wicker or plastic containers to catch fish. The containers are dipped into the water and then pulled out with trash collected in them, which are then unloaded on the banks of the water body. People, if lucky, find fishes from among the trash. The trash is later discarded. "Today people are gathered here to celebrate the annual fishing day. The main aim of this celebration is to clean the water bodies. Like we wait for the Eid to be celebrated every year, the same way we celebrate this day," Farooq Ahmad Bhat, a local resident of the village, said.



India a major partner in UN's transformation of peacekeeping

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



India is a "major partner" in the UN's strategy for the digital transformation of peacekeeping, the United Nations peacekeeping chief has said, as he lauded the country's commitment and engagement through key initiatives such as ensuring accountability for crimes against the Blue Helmets.

India is currently the third largest contributor of uniformed personnel to UN Peacekeeping, with over 6,000 military and police personnel deployed to Abyei, the Central African Republic, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lebanon, the Middle East and Western Sahara.

"India is a major player in the world, in the UN, in multilateralism, and it's a major player in peacekeeping as well, including but not only through the importance of its contribution in terms of troops and police. We're also supported in many other ways, including in terms of the initiatives that we take to improve

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

"role of India in supporting our initiative to make sure that peace operations will be up to speed in terms of digital technologies because this is absolutely critical. We have a strategy for the digital transformation of peacekeeping. And India is a major partner in that regard," he said.

The UN marked 75 years of peacekeeping and commemorated the International Day of UN Peacekeepers on May 29 with this year's theme of "Peace begins with me".

Three Indian peacekeepers, who lost their lives serving under the UN flag last year, were among the 103 military, police, and civilian peacekeepers honoured posthumously with the prestigious Dag Hammarskjöld Medal at a solemn ceremony last week. Border Security Force personnel Head Constables Shishupal Singh and Sanwala Ram Vishnoi, who served with the Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and Shaber Taher Ali, who served in a civil-

PNS ■ JHAJJAR KOTLI/JAMMU

Ten Vaishno Devi pilgrims, most of them from Bihar, were killed and 57 injured on Tuesday as the bus they were travelling in skidded off the road and rammed into the railing of a bridge before falling off it, officials said.

The death toll may go up as Government Medical College Hospital Principal Shashi Soodan said two of the injured admitted there are critical.

The officials said the bus, which was on its way to Katra from Amritsar, met with the accident in Jhajjar Kotli area on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway between 6.30 and 7 am. Katra is a base camp for the pilgrims visiting the famous shrine atop the Trikuta hills.

They said most of the travellers were members of an extended family from Bihar's Lakhisarai and were on pilgrimage to Vaishno Devi temple for a ritual of a child.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

One cannot malign judicial officers by using social media, the Supreme Court observed on Tuesday while dismissing a plea challenging a Madhya Pradesh High Court order that sentenced a man to 10 days in jail for making corruption allegations against a district judge.

A vacation bench of Justice Bela M Trivedi and Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra said it was not inclined to interfere in the matter.

"Just because you don't get a favourable order doesn't mean that you will malign the judicial officer. Independence of (the) judiciary doesn't just mean independence from (the) executive but also from outside forces. This has to be a lesson for others also.

"He should have thought twice before casting any aspersions on the judicial officer. He maligned the judicial officer. Think of the damage done to the judicial officer's image," Justice Trivedi observed orally.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The counsel appearing for the petitioner sought leniency from the Supreme Court and said the imprisonment order was excessive.

The lawyer said this is a matter pertaining to personal liberty and the applicant has already been in jail since May 27.

The top court bench then remarked, "We're here to decide on law, not show mercy. Especially to such persons."

The apex court was hearing a plea filed by Krishna Kumar Raghuvanshi, challenging the high court judgment in a suo

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

motu criminal contempt case initiated against him for making allegations of corruption against a district judge.


The proceedings were initiated against Raghuvanshi in response to a reference made by Additional District Judge SPS Bandela under Section 15(2) of the Contempt of Courts Act.

The reference was based on Raghuvanshi's defiance of the court's orders in a temple-related dispute and his circulation of a letter maligning the court's image, reputation and prestige through WhatsApp.

BJP TO BEGIN MAHA JANSAMPARK ABHIYAN TODAY

To reach out to 1,000 eminent persons in every LS constituency

PNS ■ MUMBAI



The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will begin its Maha Jansampark Abhiyan, a month-long campaign, on Wednesday, during which it will reach out to 1,000 eminent persons from every Lok Sabha constituency, a party leader said on Tuesday.

Talking to reporters, the party's national general secretary Vinod Tawde said the campaign, which will begin on May 31, will continue till June 30.

"We have prepared a list of 1,000 persons from every Lok Sabha seat in the coun-

try, who have won civilian awards such as Padma or president's medals during their service. With 543 seats in Lok Sabha, the cumulative figure comes to 5.5 lakh people in the country, who will be visited by the BJP's union ministers or senior party functionaries during the reach-out campaign," Tawde said.

Those supporting Kejriwal on Delhi ordinance issue will be seen as corrupt: BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

All those coming in support of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to oppose the central ordinance on control over administrative services in Delhi will be seen by the people as the "corrupt standing in favour of corruption", the BJP said on Tuesday.

The BJP's reaction came after CPI (M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury assured his

party's support to Kejriwal on the issue.

BJP leader and Union minister Meenakshi Lekhi said the ordinance has been brought to ensure action is taken against those involved in corruption and "make Delhi and India corruption-free." "All those who are standing against the ordinance will be seen by the people as the corrupt who are standing in favour of corruption," Lekhi charged.

Retailers asked not to take consumers' mobile numbers without consent

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid rising complaints, Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh has written to major industry bodies for advising retailers not to take mobile numbers of consumers without their consent at the time of sale of goods or services.

The secretary has recently written a letter to CII, FICCI, Assocam, PHDCCI, Retailers Association of India (RAI) and Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), asking them to advise retailers on this issue.

"I urge upon you to suitably advise the retailers that the mobile number of the consumers should not be taken without their express consent at the time of sale of any goods or services and, providing the same should not be made a mandatory pre-condition for sale," Singh said in the letter dated May 26. The secretary noted that a number of grievances are being registered on the National Consumer Helpline (NCH) about the fact that many retail stores are compelling consumers to submit their mobile numbers before purchasing a product.

In case of denial to provide the mobile number, consumers were in many cases denied their rights under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 by retailers, either declining to sell the product or service and/or also rejecting any refund, exchange etc, the secretary wrote.

SC grants protection to woman fearing threat to life from family

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed the Delhi Police to grant protection to a 20-year-old woman who allegedly ran away from home and is apprehending threat to her life from her family members.

The top court passed the order while declining to interfere with a Madhya Pradesh High Court order cancelling the anticipatory bail granted to a man accused of kidnapping her.

As the matter was being heard by a vacation bench of

Justice Bela M Trivedi and Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra, the woman appeared via videoconferencing and requested the court to permit her to appear in-person.

After being granted permission, she appeared before the bench and expressed apprehension that there is a threat to her life from her family members and alleged that her brother is following her.

The woman expressed apprehension that she will be forcibly taken back to her home, where she does not want to go. According to her, she stays in Varanasi and wants

to return there. However, she sought protection.

When the women told the court about her condition, the bench said the high court had cancelled the anticipatory bail

Rs 53,000 fine for official who drained out 41L litres of water from reservoir to retrieve mobile phone

PNS ■ RAIPUR

The Chhattisgarh government has imposed a fine of Rs 53,092 on an official who allegedly drained out 41 lakh litres of water from a reservoir to retrieve his mobile phone.

The Water Resources department imposed the fine on Rajesh Vishwas, a food inspector posted in Pakhanjore area of Kanker district, an official said on Tuesday.

Vishwas was earlier suspended after the incident at Paralkot weir came to light.

In a letter to him, the department said he drained out water from the cistern of a waste weir using a diesel pump without

been asked to pay Rs 43,092 at the rate of Rs 10.50 per cubic meter, the letter said.

Besides, a penalty of Rs 10,000 has been imposed for evacuating water without permission, the letter stated.

The official was, thus, asked to pay a total of Rs 53,092 to the department within ten days. Vishwas had gone to the reservoir for an outing with friends on May 21 when his mobile phone fell into the cistern of a waste weir while he was taking a selfie.

He then allegedly roped in villagers and got diesel pumps to empty the water till the phone was finally fished out on May 25.

NCERT drops references to Khalistan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



The NCERT has dropped references to the demand for a separate Sikh nation Khalistan from the class 12 political science textbook following objections from the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), according to education ministry officials.

The SGPC had last month alleged that the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) misrepresented historical details about Sikhs in its Class 12 political science textbook.

The Sikh body's objection pertained to the mention of the

was a plea for strengthening federalism".

"Representation from SGPC was received regarding withdrawing objectionable content against Sikh community by misrepresenting Sri Anandpur Sahib resolution. A committee of experts was constituted by NCERT to examine the issue and the decision was taken on basis of the recommendations of the panel," a senior MoE official said.

"A corrigendum has been issued by NCERT. While the physical books for the new academic session have already been printed, the changes will reflect in the digital books," he added.

plea for a separate Sikh nation" and "the more extreme elements started advocating secession from India and the creation of 'Khalistan'".

The statements have been rewritten as "the resolution

Industrialist Yash Birla gets HC nod to travel abroad

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court has permitted industrialist Yashovardhan Birla, who is facing several cases of fraud and money laundering, to travel to the United Kingdom and Egypt till July 1, noting that he was not a flight risk or likely to abscond.

A vacation bench of Justices Abhaya Ahuja and Milind Sathe on May 26 suspended the Look Out Circular (LOC) issued against Birla till July 1 and directed the immigration authorities to permit him to pass through immigration and board his flight.

The court, while granting

Birla permission to travel only to Egypt and UK, noted that he has travelled and returned to India on many occasions and has complied with all the conditions imposed on him.

"The applicant (Birla) has abided by the terms and conditions imposed on him during earlier travels abroad and has his family in India," the court said.

"Prima facie, therefore, at this stage, it does not appear to us that the applicant (Birla) is a flight risk or likely to abscond or not present himself before the Authority/ Investigation or the Court," the high court said in its order.

NATIONAL MONUMENT NOT DEMONSTRATION SITE

Wrestlers will not be allowed to protest at India Gate: Police

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The agitating wrestlers will not be allowed to shift their sit-in to India Gate as the national monument is not a site for demonstrations and alternative places for their dharna will be suggested, police sources said on Tuesday.

The country's top wrestlers, who were removed by the Delhi Police from their Jantar Mantar protest site on Sunday, had earlier in the day said they would immerse their medals in the Ganga and sit on a hunger strike "until death" at the India Gate.

"India Gate is not a protest site and we will not allow them (wrestlers) to protest there," a police source said.

"They have not approached us till now with any such request. If they want to protest, they will have to submit a written communication to the DCP concerned, following which a call will be taken accordingly," he said.

The Delhi Police will suggest alternative sites that are designated for protests such as Ramlala Ground and Burari, the source added.

On Monday, the police said they would not be allowed to protest at Jantar Mantar.

The wrestlers had been protesting at Jantar Mantar since April 23 against Wrestling Federation of India

TMC files case against Delhi Police

The TMC has filed a case with the National Human Rights Commission seeking action against the Delhi Police for "manhandling and assaulting" protesting women wrestlers at Jantar Mantar here, party spokesperson Saket Gokhale said Tuesday.

The protesting wrestlers, including Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia, were detained on Sunday after they breached the security cordon while trying to move towards the new Parliament building. 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.

"On behalf of my party TMC (@AITCofficial), have filed a case with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) seeking action against Delhi Police for manhandling & assaulting our protesting women wrestlers.

chief and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, accusing him of sexually harassing women grapplers.

FIRST COLUMN

BE MINDFUL OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS

Mindfulness can be practised by anyone irrespective of any faith or religion



SAKSHI SETHI

A beautiful life is not stumbled upon rather it is built. It not only allows many alternative views to how one looks at an experience but also allows the individual to go beyond the capabilities of someone who is mindless. Mindfulness is the key to having an adventurous and exciting life. Mindfulness in its simplest form means being able to pay attention to the present moment, without judgment and criticism. Life without mindfulness is no life at all.

The origin of mindfulness is rooted in Buddhist philosophy and practice tradition which is more than two and a half thousand years old. However, this does not mean it is only for monks or priests rather it is a way of connecting with the natural quality of awareness and presence which all human beings have. Mindfulness can be practiced by anyone irrespective of any faith or religion and involves training the mind and doesn't enforce any religious belief system. When an individual gets blinded by their success it begins to change their perspective on their relationships with their peers, friends and families. The individual develops a false impression that their circle needs them more than they do.

Mindfulness means non-judgemental awareness i.e., knowledge of what is going on inside and outside ourselves, moment by moment. Various research has shown that meditation is a type that encourages mindfulness and can improve many aspects of individuals' lives. Some people just live on autopilot when in reality there are so many amazing things in our daily surroundings that are meant



to be noticed. Being mindful and becoming more aware of the present moment means noticing the sights, smells, sounds and tastes that one experiences as well as the thoughts, feelings and sensations that occur from one moment to the next. A strong impact is made on health and overall well-being by what and how an individual thinks and feels, how they talk to themselves and what views they take about what's happening in and around them.

Mindfulness is the practice of purposely focusing an individual's attention on the present moment and accepting it without judgment. It is today, one of the most talked about developments in human psychology and innumerable researches are being undertaken across the globe to understand its positive effects and implications.

What mindfulness does is that it allows an individual to reduce their stress and anxiety related to issues in the past or anticipated issues in future? It helps to recognize that it is the present - 'the now' that is more important than any other moment. Remember, a person becomes what he surrounds himself with. Energies are contagious. So, one should choose carefully as it's the individual's chosen environment that makes or destroys them.

(The writer is an educator)

Children with disabilities need robust policies for support

The National Family Health Survey must include specific questions about disabilities to help formulate appropriate policy



SWAPNA MAJUMDAR

India has 2.68 crore persons with a disability, according to the 2011 Census. However, with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, of 2016, now recognizing 21 types of disabilities, this number is expected to increase manifold. A robust policy is critical to encompass their aspirations and ensure all persons with disability achieve their full potential and play an active part in nation-building.

This is why the recent decision to drop questions related to disability from the sixth National Family Health Survey (NFHS), scheduled to begin on July 1, 2023, is inexplicable. The NFHS, conducted every three years, collects data on a gamut of development indices vital to inform policy and programmes.

(The writer is a senior journalist. The views expressed are personal)

Modi and his 'India First' governance



TARUN CHUGH

The 'India First' policy has also been guiding the nation on the path of expansion of economy. PM Modi has given special focus to infrastructure



Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given India First governance in the last nine years. In each area of governance, India First has been the guiding principle. India's national interests guide the governance. In the last nine years, PM Modi has shown a 'Yes, we can do it' approach. This has worked wonders.

India is now the fifth-largest economy. The developed world wants India on its side. Developing countries want India to be their voice. The poor nations look at India with hope. The small island nations in the Pacific, Indian Ocean, Caribbean, and elsewhere have seen India as their saviour. African and Latin American nations have seen Indian healing touch when the Covid-19 pandemic wreaked havoc with death tolls.

It was PM Modi who went to Australia in 2014, after a gap of 28 years, to deepen the bond between the two nations. Now, India and Australia are strategic partners. There are several countries, including Papua New Guinea, where PM Modi's visits were the first in several years. This approach with 360-degree foreign policy has helped India in gaining several friends and well-wishers all across the globe. Now, Indians in any part of the world are warmly received. The Indian passport has weight at the immigration offices. Indian tricolour is well recognized. This was made possible by PM Modi's India First policy and also by putting into practice the ancient philosophy of 'Vasudhev Kutumbkam'.



PM MODI HAS ALSO FREED THE ENTREPRENEURIAL POWER OF THE YOUTH OF THE COUNTRY. THIS HE DID BY PUSHING THE 'INDIA FIRST' POLICY IN THE SPHERE OF THE ECONOMY

(Author is the BJP national general secretary)

PM Modi has also freed the entrepreneurial power of the youth of the country. This he did by pushing the India First policy in the sphere of the economy. The GEM (Government e Marketplace) portal has eliminated the scope for middlemen. This has helped the businessmen without any bias and hindrance to bid for the procurements by the government departments. It brought much-needed confidence among the businessmen that they can take part in economic activities without paying bribes.

The spread of confidence touched the youngsters. Over one lakh startups were founded in recent years. More than 100 are now unicorns, gaining a valuation exceeding \$1 billion. One such startup from Hyderabad even launched a small satellite. PM Modi's India First policy saw the government opening the space sector to private companies. Now, hundreds of startups are working in the space sector by taking advantage of the opening up of the sector.

The India First mantra brought the 'Panch Pran of Amrit Kaal' - The goal of developed India; to remove any trace of colonial mindset; take pride in our roots; unity among all Indians; and a sense of duty among citizens.

The five guiding principles were backed by actions, and they are showing results. India improved its ranking in the ease of doing business, by moving from 142 in 2014 to 63 in 2019, which now has moved to 43. Several offences in the Companies Act were decriminalized to instil confidence among businessmen.

The India First policy has seen unemployment declining to 6.5 per cent in January 2023 from 7.2 per cent in January 2020. The skilling of the youth has gained pace. Bilateral agreements with a few developed countries for skilling the youth to their requirement has added more momentum. The state governments have also now realized that they must dedicate their resources to the skilling of the youth.

This again is the result of the India First policy of PM Modi India has emerged as the second largest manufacturer of mobile phones. India has also taken a huge stride in the automobile sector. India's First policy guided in policy thrust to gain self-reliance in the manufacturing of chips. Two big-ticket FDIs have come to Gujarat and Karnataka to help India achieve self-reliance in the manufacturing of chips.

India's First policy again was in action when PM Modi

launched the Atmanirbha campaign for the defence sector. Several of the weapons, ammunition, equipment and others which were imported in the past have to be compulsorily manufactured within India. This shift has created a vibrant private sector working in the defence area. Also, a number of startups have joined the Atmanirbha campaign. The linkages with the research and development agencies of the government with the private sector as part of the hand-holding exercise have helped in creating competitive firms, that are competing with the best in the world.

The India First policy has also been guiding India on the path of expansion of the economy. PM Modi has given a special focus on infrastructure. PM Gati Shakti Scheme has become a key intervention.

India is also looking to become a top global destination for tourists. With the G20 presidency, PM Modi has brought the positive image of India to several countries. Now, the people in several countries are curious about India. It is to the credit of the India First policy of PM Modi that the policy attention has been given to sectors that were never paid attention to and they are now giving new dimensions to the economy.

MONEY MATTERS

Adani Transmission Q4 net profit jumps 85% to Rs 439.60 crore

Adani Transmission Ltd (ATL) has posted an 85.48 per cent jump in its consolidated net profit at Rs 439.60 crore during March FY23 quarter, helped by higher income. It had clocked a net profit of Rs 237 crore during the January-March quarter of the preceding 2021-22 financial year (FY), the company said in a regulatory filing on Monday. The total income of the company increased to Rs 3,494.84 crore from Rs 3,165.35 crore in the year-ago quarter. For the whole FY23, the net profit rose to Rs 1,280.60 crore from Rs 1,235.75 crore recorded in FY22. Total income during the entire fiscal stood at Rs 13,840.46 crore, up from Rs 11,861.47 crore in FY22. In a separate statement, Gautam Adani, Chairman, Adani Group, said: "We are leaders in the transmission and distribution space and have consistently set new industry standards in efficiency, performance, and asset development. Adani Transmission is well positioned to deliver exponential growth, and we are working towards fulfilling our nation's massive electricity needs and strengthening our position as a world class utility."



MFI sector portfolio up 21% in FY'23

Portfolio size of the microfinance institutions increased by 21.3 per cent to Rs 3.51 lakh crore in the 2022-23 financial year, an industry body said on Tuesday. The portfolio of all microlenders was Rs 2.89 lakh crore by the end of the 2021-22 fiscal. The number of loan accounts in the MFI industry increased to 1,363 lakhs in the last financial year from 1,239 lakhs in the previous year, posting a 10 per cent growth, it said. RBI-recognised self-regulatory organisation, Sa-Dhan ED and CEO Jiji Mammen said the overall growth suggests that the industry has come out of the Covid blues and is now on the growth path. The new regulatory norms have also created "a level-playing field" as reflected in the growth of portfolios of non-banking finance companies and NBFC-MFIs, he said. The total disbursements of all the MFI lenders in the last financial year stood at Rs 3, 19,948 crore, registering a 26 per cent growth from Rs 2,53,966 crore of advances in the previous year, the association said.



Dredging Corporation of India eyes over Rs 1,300-crore turnover

Dredging Corporation of India Ltd (DCI) is targeting a 12 per cent growth to hit the turnover of more than Rs 1,300 crore in the ongoing financial year, MD & CEO S Divakar said. To achieve the goal, the company is looking to participate in new dredging tenders and also planning to enter new markets, Divakar told PTI. "Our turnover was at Rs 1,164 crore in FY22-23. It is the highest ever turnover since inception of the company. Going forward, we are now targeting the new milestone of over Rs 1,300 crore in the ongoing financial year," he said. When asked about the factors that would contribute to the company's growth, the CEO said the scope of dredging activity in the country is expected to grow significantly in the months to come as government's focus is on deepening and widening navigational channels of major ports, and developing the inland waterways for improving the intra & inter EXIM trade.



Nayara Energy sells petrol, diesel at Re 1 less than PSUs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After Reliance Industries Ltd and its partner bp plc of the UK, Nayara Energy - the nation's largest private fuel retailer - has started selling petrol and diesel at Re 1 less than the fuel sold by state-owned retailers, officials said. While state-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) continue to hold prices despite a drop in international rates, private fuel retailers have started passing on the benefit to consumers. "To further stimulate domestic consumption and cater to local customers better, we have introduced a Re 1 discount in our retail outlets until the end of June 2023," a spokesperson for Nayara Energy said. "We believe in being a strong partner to India's energy needs and will continue to serve the country's consumption demand."

RBI's balance sheet grows 2.5% to Rs 63.45 lakh cr

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The size of the Reserve Bank's balance sheet increased by 2.5 per cent for the year ended on March 31 to about Rs 63.45 lakh crore on higher income, as per the central bank's annual report released on Tuesday. The balance sheet of the RBI plays a critical role in the functioning of the country's economy, largely reflecting the activities carried out in pursuance of its currency issue function as well as monetary policy and reserve management objectives. "The size of the balance sheet increased by Rs 1,54,453.97 crore, i.e., 2.50 per cent from Rs 61,90,302.27 crore as on March 31, 2022 to Rs 63,44,756.24 crore as on March 31, 2023," the report said. While income for the year increased by 47.06 per cent, the expenditure increased by 14.05 per cent. The year ended with an overall surplus of Rs 87,416.22



crore as against Rs 30,307.45 crore in the previous year, resulting in an increase of 188.43 per cent. The RBI transfers the surplus as dividend to the central government. "The increase on the asset side was due to rise in foreign investments, gold, and loans and advances by 2.31 per cent, 15.30 per cent and 38.33 per cent, respectively," the RBI said. On the liability side, the expansion was due to increase in notes issued, revaluation accounts and other liabilities by

7.81 per cent, 20.50 per cent and 79.07 per cent, respectively. RBI further said domestic assets constituted 27.69 per cent while the foreign currency assets and gold (including gold deposit and gold held in India) constituted 72.31 per cent of total assets as on March 31, 2023 as against 28.22 per cent and 71.78 per cent, respectively, as on March 31, 2022.

India's growth momentum to continue

The Reserve Bank on Tuesday said that India's growth momentum is likely to continue in 2023-24 even as it made a case for pushing structural reforms to deal with the geopolitical developments and also to achieve sustained growth in the medium-term. The Reserve Bank's annual report flagged slowing global growth, protracted geopolitical tensions and a possible upsurge in financial market volatility as possible downside risks to growth. The report notes that volatility has ebbed in global financial markets and risks to financial stability from the failure of banks in some advanced economies (AEs) in March 2023 have eased. Resolute policy actions have stemmed the tide of confidence runs for now. "Amidst strong global headwinds, the Indian economy is expected to have recorded a growth of 7.0 per cent in real GDP in 2022-23," it said. A sustained recovery in discretionary spending, particularly in contact intensive services, restoration of consumer confidence, high festival season spending after two consecutive years of COVID-19 induced isolation and the government's thrust on capex provided impetus to the growth momentum.

India extends US\$ 1 bn credit line to Sri Lanka

PNS ■ COLOMBO

India on Tuesday extended its USD 1 billion credit line to Sri Lanka by another year to help the island nation hit hard by an unprecedented economic crisis procure much-needed food, medicine and other essential items.

An agreement was signed between the State Bank of India (SBI) and the Sri Lankan government for USD 1 billion credit facility in March last year. India extended the credit line to Sri Lanka at the height of the country's economic crisis.

"India reaffirms its commitment to the people of Sri Lanka. The Amendment Agreement signed in presence of Hon.Minister @ShehanSema today will enable Sri Lanka to use the USD 1 billion Indian credit facility for the procurement of medicine, food, and other essentials for one more year," the Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka tweeted. "Beyond the original duration, that is, till March 2024. The facility was extended by



India through @TheOfficialSBI in response to a specific request from GOSL and forms a part of the multi-pronged assistance of USD 4 billion provided by India last year," it said. Since last year, the credit facility has been used for urgent procurement of fuel, medicine, food items and industrial raw materials, as per the requirements and priorities of Sri Lanka. India extended multi-pronged assistance of about USD 4 billion to Sri Lanka last year, through multiple credit lines and currency support, in line with India's Neighbourhood First policy. India's continued support to Sri Lanka is a testament to

"our abiding commitment to stand with the government and the people of Sri Lanka towards early economic stabilisation and recovery," the Indian High Commission said. Sri Lanka was hit by an unprecedented financial crisis in 2022, the worst since its independence from Britain in 1948, due to a severe paucity of foreign exchange reserves, sparking political turmoil in the country which led to the ouster of the all-powerful Rajapaksa family. Meanwhile, Sri Lanka announced on Tuesday that it has commenced the preliminary work to resume the abandoned Japan-funded Light Rail Transit (LRT) project.

Sensex rises 123 pts, Nifty closes above 18,600

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark BSE Sensex rose by 123 points while Nifty closed above the 18,600 level in their fourth straight day of gains on Tuesday helped by FII inflows and firm Asian markets. Gains in financial, banking, capital goods and industrial shares helped the key indices close in the green in a range bound trade. Selling in select metal, IT and oil and gas shares restricted gains in key indices. The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 122.75 points or 0.20 per cent to settle at 62,969.13. During the day, it jumped 189.74 points or 0.30 per cent



to 63,036.12. The broader NSE Nifty advanced 35.20 points or 0.19 per cent to end at 18,633.85. Stock markets have been on the rise since Thursday last week. Sensex advanced by 1,195 points or 2 per cent while Nifty rose by 348 points or 2.26 per cent in the four-day rally. "The domestic market continued its rally as recent Q4 results indicated improvement

in demand. Further, expectations of a normal monsoon and a drop in international commodity prices supported the rise in the margin profile," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. Hotels to cigarette conglomerate ITC was the biggest Sensex gainer, rising by 2.31 per cent. Bajaj Finserv, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bajaj Finance, Axis Bank, HCL Technologies, Wipro, UltraTech Cement, Maruti and Infosys were among the major gainers. On the other hand, Tech Mahindra fell the most by 1.27 per cent among Sensex shares.

P-notes investment hits 4-month high

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Investment in the Indian capital markets through participatory notes has seen an upward trend in the past two months, with the number reaching Rs 95,911 crore in April-end, primarily driven by the country's robust economic growth. This was the highest level since November 2022, when investment through the route stood at Rs 96,292 crore. Participatory notes (P-notes) are issued by registered Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to overseas investors who wish to be part of the Indian stock market without registering themselves directly.

Darjeeling tea industry hit by lower yield

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Planters of Darjeeling, the premium tea belt of the country, are worried by the twin blows of falling productivity and low price realisation in their export markets. Depressed economic conditions in traditional markets such as western Europe and Japan have led to reduced prices being offered, industry bodies said on Tuesday. Production volumes of the 87-odd Darjeeling tea gardens, which used to be in the region of more than 8 million kilograms per year, have plummeted to 6.5-7 million kilograms, primarily due to old bushes, climate change and pest attacks, planters said. "The Darjeeling tea indus-



try is in ICU. The cost of production has increased, while due to the unfavourable climate, the crop is declining. Exports, which had been the mainstay of the premium tea, are also declining owing to the depressed economic conditions of western Europe and Japan coupled with stagnant unit price realisations," Indian Tea Exporters Association chairman

assistance by way of a one-time subsidy to be paid to the tea planters of the region and also funding for promotional activities," he said. Kanoria also explained that the one-time subsidy is required to keep the industry afloat and prevent sales of gardens to real estate players as the Darjeeling tea industry has "suffered greatly due to free imports from Nepal under the friendship treaty". Indian Tea Exporters' Association has suggested the introduction of a minimum import price on tea shipped from Nepal to prevent dumping, he said. Indian Tea Association secretary general Arijit Raha said, "Both production and price realisations have fallen in Darjeeling".

CtrIS Datacenters enter Odisha with greenfield project

PNS ■ HYDERABAD/ BHUBANESWAR

CtrIS Datacenters Ltd, the world's fastest-growing Rated-4 Datacenter company, held its ground-breaking ceremony on Tuesday for its greenfield Edge data center in Odisha. Naveen Patnaik, the Chief Minister of Odisha, laid the foundation stone for the facility in a virtual ceremony held on Tuesday. The new data center CtrIS Bhubaneswar 1 will be located in the State's capital. Sridhar Pinnappureddy, Chairman, CtrIS Datacenters Ltd, said, "Odisha is a fast-growing region in India,

making it a strategic destination for CtrIS expansion. We are excited to bring our expertise to the State. Built by Infocity in Chandrasekharpur, the data center will be easily accessible to both the city centre and its airport. The Infocity site is an innovation hub and home to a broad community of emerging technologies. CtrIS Bhubaneswar 1 is designed to serve hyperscale, government and enterprise customers and will provide a range of hosting and cloud services. Phase-wise, the project would eventually scale as a hyperscale data center campus spread across 10 acres. The facilities will have all the sustainability features that CtrIS is known for

our project. Large IT infrastructure initiatives such as Info Park, Info Valley, Infocity and IT investment regions are under development, giving a big fillip to the IT/ITES sector," Sridhar stated. CtrIS Bhubaneswar 1 is planned to be a 5 MW facility designed to serve hyperscale, government and enterprise customers and will provide a range of hosting and cloud services. Phase-wise, the project would eventually scale as a hyperscale data center campus spread across 10 acres. The facilities will have all the sustainability features that CtrIS is known for

Prachanda eyeing long-term power trade

PNS ■ KATHMANDU

Ahead of his visit to India, Nepal Prime Minister Pushpakamal Dahal "Prachanda" has said that he would raise long-term power trade issue with New Delhi, hoping that this "bottleneck" will be sorted out and ensure that the Himalayan nation will be a favourable market for its surplus energy. Prachanda, along with a high-level delegation, will travel to India on Wednesday on a four-

day official visit for talks with his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi and other leaders to further strengthen the age-old, multifaceted and cordial ties. This will be the 68-year-old Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (CPN-Maoist) leader's first bilateral visit abroad after assuming office in December 2022. "There are some understandings relating to energy with India, which is of long-term interest to Nepal," the Prime Minister pointed out.

"We will raise some issues relating to long-term power trade with India during my visit," Prachanda told Nepal's National News Agency (RSS), according to the government daily Gorkhapatra. This is what the Nepalese people have been seeking for many years, Prachanda said. "It is our realisation that if we can't find out the proper market for energy after our production starts, then big investments won't come," said the Prime Minister

Notes in circulation rose in value, volume

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The value and volume of banknotes in circulation increased by 7.8 per cent and 4.4 per cent, respectively, during 2022-23 as compared with 9.9 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively, in 2021-22, revealed the RBI

annual report released on Tuesday. In value terms, the share of Rs 500 and Rs 2,000 banknotes together accounted for 87.9 per cent of the total value of banknotes in circulation as on March 31, 2023, as compared to 87.1 per cent a year ago.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA FISHERIES DEPARTMENT			
CORRIGENDUM			
Lr No: CF-2/2023-DND		Date: 14.05.2023	
District		Revised time Schedule	
All Districts except Hyderabad		Published	May be read as
		Bid closing date/time	Bid closing date/time
		31.05.2023, 3.00 PM	12.06.2023, 3.00 PM
		Bid opening date/time	Bid opening date/time
		31.05.2023, 3.30 PM	12.06.2023, 3.30 PM
SPP R.O. No: 36-25-DP/CLADVT/11/2023-24, Dt: 30.05.2023		Sd/- Executive Engineer, Fisheries	

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION		e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE	
NIT No: 13/EE/GHMC/IDM/21/2023-24		Date: 29.05.2023	
Tenders are called vide no. No. 13/EE/GHMC/IDM/21/2023-24 (Item No. 01 to 03), Dt: 29.05.2023, Through 'e' procurement for (03) work's with an estimated cost of Rs. 92.50 Lakhs. The sale of bids is open on the website 'e' procurement market place from 4.30 PM on 31.05.2023 onwards. Last date for submission of bids is 03.06.2023 at 4.30 PM. Sale of bids closes one hour before the submission time. Further details can be seen on the website https://tender.telangana.gov.in .			
R.O.No: 2518-PP/CLADVT/11/2023-24, Dt: 30.05.2023		Sd/- Executive Engineer, Irrigation Circle, Bhadrachalam.	

		GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA	
IRRIGATION & CAD DEPARTMENT			
NIT No: 15/2023-24		TENDER NOTICE	
		Date: 25.05.2023	
Bhadrachalam Kothagudem District- Irrigation Circle, Bhadrachalam- Online tender are invited for the NIT No.15/2023-24, Date: 25.05.2023 for an estimate contract value of Rs. 29.82 Lakhs for O&M- 2023-24 work. Tenders are available from Dt. 30.05.2023 @ 11.00 AM to Dt. 03.06.2023 @ 11.00 AM . For Further information visit www.tender.telangana.gov.in .			
R.O.No: 2485-PP/CLADVT/11/2023-24, Dt: 30.05.2023		Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Circle, Bhadrachalam.	

RBI working on light weight, portable payment system

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Reserve Bank of India is working on a light weight and portable payment system, a "bunker equivalent in payment systems", that can be used for critical transactions during catastrophic events like natural calamities and war. The proposed Light weight and Portable Payment System (LPSS) will be independent of conventional

technologies and can be operated from anywhere by a bare minimum staff, according to the central bank. Existing conventional payment systems like RTGS (Real Time Gross Settlement), NEFT (National Electronic Funds Transfer) and UPI (Unified Payments Interface) are designed to handle large volumes while ensuring sustained availability. These systems are depen-



dent on complex wired networks backed by advanced

IT infrastructure. However, catastrophic

events like natural calamities and war have the potential to render these payment systems temporarily unavailable by disrupting the underlying information and communication infrastructure, RBI said in its latest annual report released on Tuesday. "Therefore, it is prudent to be prepared to face such extreme and volatile situations," it said. Keeping this objective in mind, RBI has conceptu-

alised the LPSS that will be independent of conventional technologies and can be operated from anywhere by a bare minimum staff. "It is expected to operate on minimalistic hardware and software and would be made active only on a need basis. It would process transactions that are critical to ensure stability of the economy such as government and market related transactions," RBI said.



Abhilash Thapliyal: Cannes has become a marketing place for celebrities now

Anurag Kashyap's *Kennedy* had recently received a seven-minutes standing ovation at the Cannes Film Festival. And so, *The Pioneer* interacts with actor Abhilash Thapliyal, who'll be next seen in the film, sharing his experience of being at the Cannes.

SHIKHA DUGGAL

Actor Abhilash Thapliyal, who's starring in *Kennedy* — yes, the same movie that received a resounding response at the Cannes Film Festival this year — tells us exclusively how he wants to make it big in the industry, but only and only via resonating with audiences through his craft.

The inside sources tell us that our interviewee, despite trying everything, merely caught the attention of his director. Accordingly, what are we here for? For us, actors like Abhilash are still sustaining success and making an impact. Unexpectedly, for the actor, it was the very first time walking any red carpet in his life since hailing from Uttarakhand, and this seemed like a final flourish for him, going international. "The only thing I hope for after receiving a seven-minute standing ovation at The Grand Lumiere Theatre is for my success to be a long call. When I was shooting for *Kennedy*, I had no idea that the film was going to go international. Neither did I have the idea that I'd be making a red carpet debut in my entire life! And then my red carpet debut will be a grand affair. So now, I never want to disappear from the big screens."

So, as we all know, movies are a platform everyone wants to be associated with. The industry comes with a lot of perks. Therefore, "My director, Anurag Kashyap, has not just made violent movies; he has also made a film like *Manmarziyaan*. His genre of movies is just like his changing moods! Now, what you want to remember. Anurag Kashyap for is totally your call. But all-inclusive, I will call Anurag Kashyap a noir director only. I am still very obscure in this industry and don't have a choice of scripts. My inclination is only to work hard to be seen as a prominent artist, that's all."

Talking about the film screened at the international film festival, Abhilash Thapliyal said, "After a resounding success at the international festival, I cannot still set my standards higher because that will be unfair to how I function as a person. I didn't have any ulterior motives with any of my movies. Most probably, the directors see the giallo quality in me, but I claim it to be my personal innocence. By default, I am a very virtuous man! And my approach is also very pure this way."

Giving us supernumerary information about the film festival, he imparts, "This specific film festival is way too magnificent. As far as I remember, the first time it was held was for artistic

achievements, but I have no idea how the times have changed. I had never been invited to a film festival ever in my life! But what I could see was that this place was actually becoming an international marketing place for our stars. My thought process tells me that it should be more about the rendezvous of films and less about fashion, but it's going in the opposite track. Cannes has the biggest theater there! Inside the theater, there are certain guidelines on how you have to dress appropriately, it's a formal affair as compared to what's happening outside. Even your feet should be covered! As soon as I entered the theater, I could see a black-and-white atmosphere. What else I observed when I came back to India was how the media was hardly talking about the films that were screened there, most of the limelight was taken by the actresses and what they wore. Nobody discussed Martin Scorsese's film in detail! I don't understand this obsession with fashion by our media?"

He continued, "There are many directors and producers that come there so that their ambition for storytelling is recognised. Even I got confined in this media discussion! But because I am from Uttarakhand, I played smart and took the statement pieces from my native state in anticipation of identification that I am an

Indian, specifically from a state called Uttarakhand. I took it into my stride! And in fact, the art form from my birthplace is actually dying — so this was a moment of recall. We were not so successful in drawing eyeballs with the cinema that was being screened there, the media was discussing the worth of the necklace piece worn by Miss Diva Universe. As it's been discussed, it's really true that biggies actually book the ticket, walk the red carpet, and then leave without even watching the film inside the theater. That's so uncool! You are wasting space. Each to its own — at least I wasn't there for a fashion parade. Fashion should be an extension of this festival, not the primary focus!"

Coming to an end, we hear, "My challenges in professional life were a little lesser in comparison to my personal life. The professional life has always been kind to me, but simultaneously, while doing all these movies, something else was going on in my personal life that took a toll on me. For example, when I was shooting for *TVF Aspirants*, I lost my father! Every day, my father was going through chemotherapy, and I had to make a career for myself as well. Immediately after that, my mother had to go through a major heart surgery, so my battles were like these. But all is well now."

Bringing in the religious hostility through his idealistic mind

SHIKHA DUGGAL

Aman Sachdeva, the director and writer known for his art, reflected through his films and not to forget that he is a national award winner has his latest movie opium on board — his next masterpiece keeping his legacy up to the mark.

So in an exclusive interview with the filmmaker, who is weaving the themes of religion and faith throughout this film's five distinct realms, said, "I wrote a part of this anthology feature film which was inspired by some personal events. It took place a few years ago and then one thing led to the other. This was when my uncle passed away and I travelled with my brother in law who happens to be a Muslim for the last rites. Upon reaching, we had a strange task at hand, to look for cow dung for a ritual. So, we roamed the streets looking for dung because that was one thing that was not available for sale in any of the shops. And, this film happened."

Opium is truly a collection of intriguing stories that explore human emotions associated with religion. So he continued, "The emotions come from the interrelationships of the characters and the protagonists. The theme of religion is not really in the face. These are just human stories which may have a connection to the religious angle directly or indirectly."

Just as people wish the philosophical progression of the universe to be, his stories also eventually move from dystopia to utopia. Besides, "Each story has its own atmosphere, like in Vinay Pathak's story, it's set in a quaint Christian neighbourhood in the suburbs of Mumbai. In the story where Sharib Hashmi plays an artist, the film is set in a dystopian world where everyone wears a book mask. This probably is the most atmospheric film since we worked on the theme of this world in a very minute way. We had ourselves

asking questions like does this world have electricity? What mode of transport do they use? Is there any traffic noise or just plain dead hum in the background? In a more utopian story, it is set in a beautiful Kumaon hill station. Then, another one is a tense — one night story where two women take refuge at a place where a contemptuous man has his own plans to take revenge from them. Or the other one in which a fresh off the boat young girl is tested by the city. As the stories progress from dystopian to utopian worlds, the themes of those worlds change but we tried to keep each film in a highly cinematic world regardless of the theme."

A great deal of emotion and sincerity is put into the examination of anger, retaliation, irritation, prejudice, and even friendship! The movie has garnered both critical acclaim and a devoted audience because of its beautifully written storyline. The premiere is expected to be a star-studded occasion because it has already generated hype and accolades at film festivals. The film premiered at 35th Tokyo international film festival where it was nominated for Best Film in the Asian Future Award.

In this context, the director says, "The audience make the film festivals, so world over you can see the most successful film festivals are where the audiences are, for

the lack of word, cinephiles. We had three housefull screenings in Tokyo IFF and audiences accepted the film so much that some people came to re-watch the film in the following screenings. And then in IFF Kerala, we had a houseful screening at 9:30 am, audiences cheered and applauded at the end of the film. We received three nominations at the New York Indian International film festival where the most of the audiences were locals and Indians living abroad who were very accepting of the theme and philosophy of the film. So, it's the audiences and film enthusiasts that make the film festivals and not the red carpet glamour."

The religious hostility that contemporary Indians have been experiencing for some time is finally explained by Sachdeva, and while his last piece may seem idealistic in some ways, it actually has a lot to say about how we develop into selfish adults.

In an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*, director-writer Aman Sachdeva discusses his intriguing stories that he brought to us through *Opium*, and having premiered at 35th Tokyo international film festival.

Eliminate excessive heat with right walls & floor

When it comes to creating a comfortable and clean indoor environment, the right choice of tiles for walls and floors plays a crucial role. Not only can tiles enhance the aesthetics of your space, but they can also help eliminate excessive heat, resulting in a cooler atmosphere. Minal Somany, brand custodian at Somany Ceramics brings to us the impact of heat-resistant tiles on temperature control and delves into the benefits of utilizing advanced tech tiles that reduce room temperature to keep your interiors cool and pristine. Read along!

The quest for cooler interiors

In our pursuit of comfortable living, excessive heat poses a significant challenge, particularly in regions with scorching summers. Enter heat-resistant tiles, a game-changer in maintaining cooler indoor temperatures. These innovative tiles, such as the one we'll discuss, boasts the ability to reflect up to 75% of sunlight. By doing so, they effectively reduce the room temperature, offering you a respite from the sweltering heat outside.

Energy savings made easy

By employing heat-resistant tiles like the ones designed for roofs and sun-facing sides, you can go beyond mere temperature control and realize substantial energy savings. The reduced room temperature translates to a diminished reliance on air conditioning, thereby helping you curtail energy bills. Whether it's your roof, pavement, courtyard, balcony, or any other sun-exposed area, the incorporation of these tiles can significantly contribute to beating the heat inside your home.

Nullifying the Urban Heat Island Effect

These heat insulating tiles repel excessive heat and help minimise the Urban Heat Island Effect (UHIE) which is mainly caused due to the high concentration of buildings and man-made infrastructure, alongside dense population and other human activities. These factors lead to exceedingly high temperatures in cities and urban areas. The heat repellent tiles help the interiors to stay cool and thus help homeowners tackle the UHIE rather comprehensively.

Leveraging innovation and technology



The temperature shield technology in tiles, offers an innovative solution, providing a protective layer that safeguards tiles from unprecedented rise in temperatures. This technology acts as a shield, extending the efficiency of your homes while also maintaining the aesthetic appeal even in the face of harsh weather conditions during summer.

Protection against high heat conduction

Some of the better tile brands out there offer tiles that protect buildings from the damages inflicted by high heat conduction. Cracks, deformation and other structural mishaps can occur due to extreme heat, and this is where some innovative tiles in the market distinguish themselves from others. Besides the protection, these tiles are also environment friendly, and thus can be the X factor in the pledge for your carbon neutral and energy efficient home.

By incorporating heat-resistant tiles, you can effectively beat the heat and save on energy costs and support environment sustainability. So, make an informed decision and embrace the power of innovative tiles to create a cool and pristine haven within your home.



'I need my director to unfurl the character for me in layers'

Wamiqa Gabbi, who will soon be starring in the upcoming *Modern Love Chennai*, is one of the incredible talents in the industry. In an exclusive interview with *The Pioneer*, the actress discusses becoming a part of the series, acting her roles with such conviction, and more.

SHIKHA DUGGAL

Modern love Chennai is one of the better things that's going to churn out lately and we were really astounded to see Wamiqa Gabbi playing one of the lead protagonists in the anthology. Stunned because? Most of the time we have seen the leading lady pulling Punjabi characters to a greater extent. But we are sure she has a connection! And so, bringing you a fresh Tollywood interview with this incredible new talent on board for *Modern Love Chennai*, we take in, "In view of the fact that I could feel the passion between the two characters, I signed this anthology. I was actually contacted for two of the stories in *Modern Love Chennai* but due to some date issues I could only pull one of the episodes. Now you got me right that yes I am a Punjabi by blood but I am doing love stories from Chennai and that's the beauty of being in this entertainment industry." The flair and the aptitude of the actress takes you through a place where she still doesn't know how to speak Telugu Tamil or Malayali, yet it's her sheer hard work that she plays all of these roles with so much conviction. She continued to speak to us, "I never really understand my characters in the first to the second meetings, I need my director to unfurl the character for me in layers. After that I surrender! In just one episode there are so many theories revolving around it. Once upon a time, I was a demented girl too just as my character in *Modern Love Chennai*. So this bewilderment led me to outspread my character in this episode. Until the mid-shoot, I couldn't figure out my character sketch because of so many theories surrounding her."

There was an untold story where Wamiqa confides with the media that even though she is from Punjab—she had her few bad experiences in the Punjabi industry too. And then when she came to the Hindi industry there also she was consecutively giving auditions for six years but never anything really lucked out for her. But the actress is not sorry about these incidents! Instead, now with *Modern Love Chennai* in her kitty, "I promised my director that I am going to learn Tamil this year so that I can enjoy my Tamil characters even more with so much of genuineness that I would like to bring on the table. The character has created a stir in our lives (she laughs) Hysterically, this character troubled me a lot on a personal note too! But a streaming giant like Prime Video has come like a blessing in disguise for me — they are giving me my most beautiful projects that I can take pride in and add those in my filmography. Even the artwork on the sets of modern love chennai was so overwhelming for an artist to perform at! Generally, I don't see the monitor but after every shot my instinct and excitement both were persuading me to go watch myself. Being a native of Punjab state, I never had the idea that I'll be tapping success in the Tamil industry too."

Genelia aims for 'well-rounded- workout for not just physical fitness but also mentally

Actress Genelia Deshmukh is someone who's known for her charm, grace, and cuteness that she brings to the table. Not just her movies, Genelia grabs attention for her Instagram content as well to a great extent. She has recently caught the attention of fitness enthusiasts by sharing her hard-core workout sessions on her Instagram story.


Known for her infectious energy and vivacious personality, Genelia has managed to make fitness an enjoyable experience, inspiring her fans to embrace a healthy lifestyle with enthusiasm and joy. In a powerful display of strength and determination, the *Ved* actress made heads turn by lifting a whopping 90 kilograms which is quite heavy, during a rigorous workout session. However, what makes this video different from a lot of her contemporaries is the caption. She highlights the importance of keeping workouts real without glamourising it too much as with that, the basic purpose of working out can get defeated. At a time when so many women at times get so busy that they miss their fitness schedule, this video serves as an ideal inspiration so that fitness becomes an essential necessity of their life.

At the end of the day, the idea is to keep your fitness routine in check without thinking much of the glamour quotient that's associated with it.

Delving into details about her fitness routine, she says, "My workout sessions incorporate a variety of exercises that target different muscle groups while keeping the element of enjoyment intact. By combining elements of cardio, strength training, and flexibility exercises, I aim for a well-rounded workout that not only enhances physical fitness but also helps me mentally."

During her workout sessions, Genelia chooses to forgo all makeup and elaborate styling, embracing her natural beauty instead. By opting for a fresh-faced, clear look with tied hair and a fitness driven attitude, she encourages others to embrace their own unique features and feel confident in their skin. Her fans could really relate to this determined side of the actress, as is visible in the comments that she has been receiving.

Beyond the realm of fitness, Genelia's workouts serve as a reminder that perseverance and dedication can lead to success in any area of life. In an industry often obsessed with unrealistic beauty standards, she has been an advocate for embracing strength and fitness as a means of empowerment. The video serves as an ideal inspiration to ensure that no matter how busy women get in their lives, that 1 hour of dedicated workout for their own body can make a massive difference indeed.




Aishwarya Rajinikanth to direct Sourav Ganguly's biopic

No surprise that cricket has been one of the most loved sports in the nation. Offlate, even the entertainment industry has come up with several biopics of cricketers including *M.S. Dhoni: The untold story*, *Jersey*, *Sachin: A Billion Dreams*, *Azhar*, 83, and *Shabash Mithu*. Now adding to the list is Sourav Ganguly's biopic, which is in the cards, and fans cannot wait to know more details about the same.

Well, as soon as this news was out, several reports have claimed that actor Ayushmann Khurrana will step into the shoes of the cricketer for the biopic. Infact, if the reports are to be believed, the legendary cricketer has given a green signal to get the actor onboard to play him onscreen.

Not just that there's been discussion regarding the actor, but also the director. The rumours claim that Superstar Rajinikanth's daughter Aishwarya will take on the director's seat for the biopic. There have also been rumours that before Aishwarya, director Vikramaditya Motwane was approached but he allegedly turned down the offer.

While there have been no official confirmation about it, we can all just wait for any further developments regarding the biopic.



Director Srikanth Addala all set for a comeback with a 'new-age' film

Director Srikanth Addala, who is known for his films like *Kotha Bangaru Lokam* and *Seethamma Vakitlo Sirimalle Chettu*, is going to make a comeback on big screens after almost 7 years with a new-age film. His last film was Mahesh Babu's *Brahmotsavam* in 2016 is his last theatrical release, and in 2021, Venkatesh's *Naarappa* was released directly on OTT.

The director has now teamed up with Miryala Ravinder Reddy, the producer of *Akhanda*. The film's title will be unveiled on June 2 along with the first-look poster.

The film's cast and crew details will be divulged on the date. Presenters Miryala Sathyanarayana Reddy and Dwaraka Creations are expected to mount the film on a big scale.




Mari Selvaraj's *Maamannan* will hit the screens in June

Director Mari Selvaraj's upcoming movie *Maamannan* starring Udhayanidhi Stalin, Vadivelu, Fahadh Faasil, and Keerthy Suresh in key roles, is scheduled to hit screens next month.

In a recent interview, the director talked about his next movie, which will feature Dhruv Vikram as the protagonist. He revealed that the movie is a sports biopic on Indian Kabaddi player Manathi Ganesan, who also won the Arjuna Award.

Dhruv Vikram is currently preparing for this movie, which will begin filming in August 2023. More details about this project will be shared in the coming days.



Venky comes in support of Abhiram for *Ahimsa*

Rama Naidu's grandson, Abhiram is making his debut as the lead actor on the screen with his upcoming entertainer *Ahimsa*. The film directed by Teja is releasing on 2 June 2023. It is known that Abhiram is the son of Suresh Babu and brother of Rana.

He happens to be the nephew of Victory Venkatesh. Now ahead of the film's release, Victory Venkatesh came in support of Abhiram's *Ahimsa*. In a video byte, Venkatesh recollected how his father Rama Naidu from a small village attained a name and frame in the industry and drew comparisons with director Teja who introduced many talented youngsters.

He said Abhiram is making his debut under his direction and wished the makers all the best. The film's promotions got a good response from the movie lovers. Geethika is the heroine in the film which stars Rajat Bedi, Sadha, Ravi Kale, Kamal Kamaraju, Manoj Tiger, Kalpalatha, and Devi Prasad in important roles.

The music for the film is scored by RP. Patnaik and cinematography is handled by Sameer Reddy and editing by Kotagiri Venkateswara Rao. P Kiran is producing the movie under Anandi Art Creations.



