www.dailypioneer.com

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



ON ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF COP28



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



MPs urged to raise voice ...

Andhra Pradesh Rythu Sanghala Samanvaya Samiti convener and former minister Vadde Shobhanadreeswara Rao has urged the government to implement Professor Swaminathan Commission's recommendations. The Central government should ensure the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for all crops and for this, people's representatives should be extending their support to farmers' agitations, he said Vadde Shobhandreeswara...



-PAGE: 3

Saranches demand NREGA ...

Andhra Pradesh Sarpanches Association (APSA) and Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj Chamber have demanded that the State government provide the funds of NREGA to village panchayats under 2006 Act. AP Panchayat Raj Chamber president YVB Rajendra Prasad also demanded the payment of honorarium Rs 15,000 to MPTCs and gram sarpanches. Rs 30,000 to MPPs and ZPTCs. The AP sarpanches association and Panchayat Raj Chamber organised a meeting of village sarpanches of combined .

Success of G20 meet in Srinagar ...

The third G20 Tourism Working Group Meeting held in Srinagar was very successtul and this wil contribute to boosting of tourism in Jammu and Kashmir and help in "allaying any fears" in the minds of visitors in future, a top official said on Friday. Addressing reporters here, Union Tourism Secretary Arvind Singh also said that during the TWG meet held from May 22-24, G20 member countries, invited countries, and international organisations gave inputs and feedback on the GOA Roadmap for tourism as a ...



BCCI could rest all seniors for...

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

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

-SPORTS

THE STRANGE CASE OF YSRCP & TDP

Bitter foes in State, both friends with BJP in Delhi





The YSRCP, currently in power, and the opposition TDP in Andhra Pradesh are engaged in political gamesmanship, maintaining a hostile stance towards each other within the State while both parties maintain friendly relationship with the BJP in Delhi. The political landscape in Andhra Pradesh presents a unique scenario, where the ruling YSRCP led by Jagan Mohan Reddy and the TDP led by Chandrababu Naidu maintain cordial relations with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy and TDP Chief Chandrababu Naidu extended their wishes to Narendra Modi on the occasion of the inauguration of the newly constructed Parliament building. It is customary for opposition parties to oppose the ruling party's alignment with the Central government or vice

Despite the failure to establish a railway zone and the public outcry against the privatisation of VSP, the YSRCP government, under the leadership of Jagan Reddy, maintains a cordial relationship with the BJP-led Central government.
The YSRCP-led government has

been causing significant trouble for the TDP by arresting its leaders and preventing them from holding protests. Several TDP leaders have een incarcerated in various cases. Remarkably, while the YSRCP and TDP maintain a hostile stance in Andhra Pradesh, both parties set aside their enmity and forge alliances with the BJP in Delhi.



'Pattas for social justice in Amaravati'

Construction of houses in R-5 zone to begin on June 9, coinciding with YSR Jayanti

'Do not believe Naidu's hollow promises'

PNS VIJAYAWADA

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

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

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

The day remains special not only in the State history but also in the history of the country as the TDP-backed farmers fought in vain to stop the distribution of house sites by creating legal hurdles and approaching even the Supreme Court saying demography of the CRDA would be disturbed. 'These are not just house site pat-

Chief Minister YS Jagan Monan Reddy has called upon the people not to believe him and fall prey to his hollow promises. Addressing a public meeting here on Friday, the Chief Minister said that Chandrababu remembers the poor at election time and goes on making false promises to hoodwink them. Not even a cent of land was given to the poor during the TDP rule, he said, stating that Naidu threw the 600-page TDP election manifesto into the dustbin

after coming to power with false

VIJAYAWADA: Stating that TDP

president Chandrababu Naidu is

unreliable and worse than Narakasura,

promises. "Chandrababu cheated all sections of society including unemployees, women and farmers," he said, adding that the former Chief Minister begins making empty promises as the election time draws nearer. He said the Government worked hard even during the Covid-19 pandemic to acquire land for allotment of house sites to the poor, treating the YSRCP election manifesto as sacred as Bhagavad Gita, Quran and the Bible, unlike Naidu who never cared for the poor. "I earnestly call upon you not to believe in Naidu.

VIVEKA MURDER CASE

granting bail to Gangi Reddy

Yerra Gangi Reddy on bail.

two petitions, including

the one filed by

Vivekananda Reddy's

daughter, Suneetha

the High Court order

ranting conditional bail to

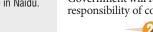
Gangi Reddy, while allow-

ಗುಂటూరు - 9, స**వు**లూరు

too," he said and described the event as historical and unprecedented. Explaining about the three options under which the houses would be

tas, they are social justice instruments

constructed, he said under the first option, the Government would transfer Rs 1, 80,000 directly into the bank accounts of beneficiaries who want to construct the dwelling units on their own. Under the second option, the Government would transfer the labour expenses directly into the bank accounts of beneficiaries after supplying cement, steel and door frames and under the third option, the Government will fully take upon the responsibility of construction.



Jagan meets Sitharaman, seeks aid for 'Nadu-Nedu'

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy called on the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman here on Friday and held discussions on

During the 40-minute meeting, the Chief Minister thanked her for extending financial help to the

He also raised the issues of resource gap funding for the year 2014-15, financial risks emanating from the excess borrowings made during the TDP rule from 2016-19 and the necessity of relaxations on

Reminding her that the issue of the outstanding dues of Rs. 6,756.92crore from the Telangana Discoms to the AP Genco for supplying power post-bifurcation was mentioned many a time before the Central Government, he urged her to initiate immediate action so that the dues are recovered at the earliest. AP Genco badly needs funds, he

Informing her that the State has brought revolutionary changes in educational, medical and health sectors, the Chief Minister said the Government has incurred Rs. 6000



crore under first phase of Nadu-Nedu improving basic infrastructure in 15,717 schools and digitising the class rooms with interactive flat panels (IFPs). Under the Nadu-Nedu in health and medical field, Rs. 4000 crore was spent establishing village clinics and improving the

infrastructure in teaching hospitals. Since the Centre has proposed in the annual budget to give special assistance on capital investment incurred by the States, he urged the finance minister to treat the Rs. 10,000crore spent under the Nadu-Nedu as capital investment and release special assistance.

The Chief Minister will address the NITI Aayog Governing Council meeting on Saturday.

Future is in Hyd, says Eric Garcetti

Buggana lays stone for Rs 630-cr road in Nandval

Finance Minister Buggana Rajendranath on Friday laid the foundation stone for the construction of a 53-km long road with a cost estimation of Rs 630 crore at H Kottala village in Nandyala district. This 53-km Highway 340 B (NH 340 B) will start from Somayajulapalli in Orvakal mandal (Kurnool district). Passing through Bethamcherla mandal, the road will be laid till Dhone (a town in Nandyala district) as part of the national highway, said the Finance Minister in a press note shared by the state government

PNS ELURU

Two persons were drowned at sea in Antarvedi of Sakhinetipalli mandal in Konaseema district on Friday. Police said that Bellamkona Jyothi (20) and Sola Rajiv Kumar (5) entered the sea for a bath. Both were drowned at the sea. The body of Jyothi was fished from the sea and a massive search is on for the body of Rajiv Kumar.

SC stays part of HC order

PNS ■ BETHAMCHERLA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI The Supreme Court on Friday stayed a part of the Telangana High Court order asking a trial court to enlarge on bail on July 1 a man accused of involvement in the murder of former Narreddy, challenging Andhra Pradesh minister Y S Vivekananda Reddy. A vacation bench of Justices J K Maheshwari and P S Narasimha,

Two drowned at sea

Entire planet is counting

on US-India relationship:

US Ambassdor to India

hearing on July 14, said it was stay-Court's order cancelling the bail. ing the part of the High Court's April "Re-list on July 14. Ťill the next 27 order directing the trial court to enlarge accused T Gangi Reddy alias date, the following part of the order

Jagan knew about Viveka murder much before news broke out: CBI

which posted the matter for further

VIJAYAWADA: In an interesting twist in the Viveka murder case, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has mentioned the name of CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy in a fresh additional counter affidavit filed before the Telangana High Court vacation bench on Friday. The CBI claims that YS Jagan Mohan Reddy was informed about the death of his uncle Vivekananda Reddy, much before the news was broken to the outside world by the slain former minister's PA MV Krishna Reddy. While listing out the 'fresh grounds' for it to oppose the anticipatory bail to YSRCP MP YS Avinash Reddy, the CBI, in its additional affidavit, said: "It is submitted that further investigation on the larger conspiracy aspect revealed that YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, the present CM of

Andhra Pradesh, had been informed

about the death of YS Vivekananda Reddy in the early hours of March 15, 2019, much before the information about the death of YS Vivekananda Reddy broke out through MV Krishna Reddy at around 06:15 am. Since YS Avinash Reddy was active before and after the commission of murder, his role in informing about the death of YS Vivekananda Reddy to YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is to be investigated." The latest sensational claim of the CBI has the potential to cause tremors in the political circles of the two Telugu states even as the investigating agency will have to corroborate it with clinching evidence. Nevertheless, this is the first time that the probe agency has mentioned YS Jagan's name as part of its investigation into the larger

stayed...," the bench said. In its April 27 order, the High Court had said, "Accused No.1 (T Gangi Reddy) is directed to surrender on or before May 05, 2023. On his surrender, he shall be remanded to judicial custody till

dated April 27 passed by the

ng a plea for its cancellation. The other petition was filed by T June 30, 2023 which is the outer limit Gangi Reddy challenging the High fixed by the Supreme Court for completion of investigation by CBI."

Sajjala sees conspiracy



VIJAYAWADA: Advisor to the Government of AP (Public Affairs) Sajja Ramakrishna has alleged that there is a conspiracy behing CBI

mentioning Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's name in the fresh counter affidavit filed in Telangana High Court in the Vivekananda Reddy murder case. Speaking to media persons on Friday, he said that it is imperative to find out who is behind this major conspiracy. "There is a need to investigate this aspect," he said. Sajjala said this is an example of CBI's tendency for

Rahul gets NOC from Delhi court

for ordinary passport for 3 years

PNS NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Friday granted a noobjection certificate (NOC) to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for issuance of an 'ordinary passport' for three years instead of 10, the period for which it is normally issued, following an objection raised by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy. The former Congress president had surrendered his diplomatic passport upon his disqualification as an MP. "I'm partly allowing your application. Not for 10

years but three years," Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) Vaibhav Mehta told Gandhi's counsel while pronouncing the order in a packed courtroom. The court noted the National Herald case was pending at the stage of cross examination of the complainant in pre charge evidence and Gandhi has been regularly appearing either in person or through his counsel and has not hampered or delayed the proceedings.



Businesses refuse to accept Rs 2,000 currency notes

PNS HYDERABAD

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

Many shopkeepers cited the lack of clear guidance from banks and the constraints on exchanging the notes for lower denomination notes as the primary reasons for their refusal. Many citizens said that banks are not following a uniform procedure for exchanging the notes. The public is expected to fill out lengthy forms and wait in long queues.



Many citizens said that banks are not following a uniform procedure for exchanging the notes. The public is expected to fill out lengthy forms and wait in long queues. Some private banks have reportedly requested the serial numbers of each note being deposited.

Some private banks have reportedly requested the serial numbers of each note being deposited. Even though the RBI said that there is no limit on depositing Rs 2,000 notes, there is a limit of Rs 20,000 in banks which has affected many businesses. This rejection is observed in various establishments ranging from franchise-based restaurants and malls to small grocery stores.

conspiracy of the sensational murder

Priyanka Reddy, a student from Hyderabad, shared her frustration stating, "They refused to accept my Rs 2,000 note at a supermarket, a medical store, an RTC bus and a petrol station. When I visited the bank, it was extremely crowded, especially PSU banks."

banks. Some private banks, on the other hand, are demanding the serial numbers of each note. This has become a problem for students like us. Despite being informed of the violation of government orders, shopkeepers remained unresponsive." Tarun Kumar, an IT professional said, "A supermarket refused the note. They said that they are aware that it is a violation but their management did not give them any update. They said that they are not accepting Rs 2000 notes until clear guidelines are issued for shops. Only a few banks are accepting Rs 2000 notes and it took us a lot of time to find those

Cong can improve tally in TS if it openly embraces BRS

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

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

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

Today, the electorate across

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

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

Later in 2018, just a few months before the General

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



KISHORE POREDDY

seven Union Territories in India.

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

Months after the Congress

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

> (The author is BJP TS spokesperson)

Protests staged against house sites distribution for poor in Amaravati

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Amaravati supporters, along with the Opposition Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leaders and activists, staged a protest wearing black badges, blind-fold and black balloons against the allotment of house site pattas to the poor people in R5 Zone in Amaravati. The pro-Amaravati supporters squatted with black balloons in the protest camps at Thullur, Mandadam and others when Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy was conducting the distribution of house sites titles to beneficiaries on Friday.

The police have been heavily deployed to prevent pro-Amaravati supporters, farmers and women from coming out of protest camps and the Amaravati JAC leaders were placed under house arrest.

The pro-Amaravati supporters including farmers and women rushed to the protest camps on Friday morning wearing black badges and holding black balloons and

airing slogans against Jagan Mohan Reddy government. The protest camps in Velagapudi, Mandam, Thullur and Krishnayapalem filled with pro-Amaravati supporters showing placards and black balloons. The protestors raised slogans asking poor beneficiaries not to trust the

fake pattas given by Jagan government when the buses going to the distribution of house sites titles meeting under the leadership of the Chief Minister passed the protest camps.

The angry pro-Amaravati supporters and farmers claimed that the fall of the

The pro-Amaravati supporters squatted with black balloons in the protest camps at Thullur, Mandadam and others when Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy was conducting the distribution of house sites titles to beneficiaries on Friday.

and alleged that the Jagan government had taken measures to damage the Amaravati master plan with the aim of destroying the capital and affirmed that such acts will not be tolerated. They warned that the government with destructive ideas is bound to fall in the coming

It's a defeat for anti-poor parties: YSRCP

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The ruling YSRCP leaders have announced that political parties and people's organisations normally stage protests for house sites for the poor. However, in Andhra Pradesh, it is the government that fought for securing house sites for the underprivileged sections.

Ministers Adimulapu Suresh, Jogi Ramesh, Meruga Nagarjuna, and Mangalagiri MLA Alla Ramakrishna Reddy, representing the ruling party, have expressed their determination to ensure the completion of houses in the R5 zone by Sankranthi 2024. They say that housewarming ceremonies will be conducted shortly after the New Year celebrations in 2024.

Minister Adimulapu Suresh emphasised that today marks the defeat of 'anti-poor' political parties, including TDP, and recognises CM Jagan Mohan Reddy's determination to prioritise the well-being of the less privileged. He referred to it as a day of triumph for the poor, equating it to their coronation with land rights. He further mentioned that Chandrababu's attempts to dis-

rupt Jagananna's grand initiative to provide shelter to the poor in Amaravati had been thwarted. Minister Suresh objected to strongly Chandrababu's comparison of housing sites for the poor with graveyards, asserting that the impoverished, including Dalits, would instead build a political would instead build a political graveyard for Naidu and the TD in the upcoming elections.

Meruga Nagarjuna, the Minister of Social Welfare, regarded this day as a momentum occasion for social institution.

tous occasion for social justice, deserving to be enshrined in history. He acknowledged that, previously, communist parties had protested and demonstrated for housing rights, but now their stance remains unclear as they have aligned with Chandrababu, who opposes providing homes for the less privileged in Amaravati. He cautioned that Chandrababu had resorted to legal measures against providing house sites for the poor, and if TDP were to come to power, Naidu would likely revoke the housing titles. Therefore, he called upon supporters of democracy to rally behind and strengthen Jagan's

Man assaulted by irate Amaravati farmers

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Amaravati farmers assaulted a man for raising slogans hailing Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. The farmers of Amaravati, who staged novel protests in Thullur and Mandadam on Friday, assaulted one person for raising slogans in favour of YS Jagan Mohan Reddy.

The incident happened during the day-long sloganeering by the farmers against YS Jagan. The farmers and their women family members

ister their resentment against the distribution of house site pattas in the R5 Zone of Amaravati capital region to the poor.

organised the protest to reg-

As part of their black balloon protest, the agitators raised slogans like 'Down Down CM. But to their shock, one of the men in the group countered them by shouting in praise of the Chief Minister (Jai Jai Jagan). Infuriated by this, the agitators pounced on him and launched an assault on the hapless person.

Alla Ramakrishna Reddy, the MLA of Mangalagiri, criticised Chandrababu for failing to adhere to the CRDA norm of reserving 5 percent of housing for the economically weaker sections (EWS). During his five-year tenure, Chandrababu had shown no interest in providing homes for the underprivileged. In contrast, CM agan has demonstrated solidarity with SC, ST, BC, and minority communities by allo-

cating houses to them in Amaravati. MLA Ramakrishna Reddy

appealed to CM Jagan to expedite the construction of houses and organise housewarming ceremonies during the Sankranthi festival in 2024. He praised CM Jagan for becoming a beacon of hope for the poor and setting an example for the nation by ensuring that no impoverished individ-

Future is in Hyd, says Eric.

Continued from page 1

India, Eric Garcetti, said that Hyderabad has captured his imagination.

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

"We are proud of opening the latest US consulate anywhere on this globe right here in Hyderabad which is more evidence of how important it is for us. You see how much we price our relationship with the city and how quickly we have grown

Sukla Paksha

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

May 25 05:53 PM to May 26 08:50 PM

to May 27 11:43 PM

10:36 AM to 12:13 PM

3:27 PM to 5:04 PM

10:16 AM to 12:04 PM

7:22 AM to 8:59 AM

07:02 PM to 08:50 PM

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

Updated: MAY 26, 2023 5:00 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Mostly Cloudy

TODAY

Magha:

Rahukalam

Varjyam:

Gulika:

Yamagandam:

Amritakalam:

Temp: 42°°

Humidity: 33%

Sunrise: 5:34 AM

Sunset: 6.35 PM

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:

and the ambitions that have and then Biden will be coming with India, Telangana and our future together as partners," he

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

ambassador for the President to visit their country and that he has been lucky that as Modi and Biden met thrice.

"Recently the PM met in Japan. Now, it is the third time in history that an Indian Prime Minister visits the White House

come together in this great to India for G20. This is a piv-The US Ambassador to city. The US consulate is an otal relationship between not investment for our relationship just India and the US, but the entire planet is counting on this relationship. This is not a transaction between two countries but a relationship. We are working towards the 4Ps, prosperity, planet, people and peace."

Speaking on cultural ties he "It is culture and people ties which are reflected. It is Tollywood that created the best song of the movie 'Naatu Naatu' and won an Academy Award this year.

Speaking about IPL, he said he would be going for the finale and said "Sorry for Hyderabad." He read out a poem of Sri Sri, "maro prapancham pilchindi andariki mundhu podham pai paiki."

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

Continued from page 1

"In case, the accused ... fails to surrender before the court concerned on or before the said date, CBI is at liberty to take him into custody as provided under law and produce him before the court of Principal Special Judge for CBI cases, Hyderabad," it had said. "The Court is directed to enlarge the petitioner on bail on July 01, 2023, on his executing a personal bond for a sum of Rs 1 lakh with two sureties for the like sum each to the satisfaction of the said court," the High Court had ordered.

During the hearing on Friday, senior advocate Siddharth Luthra, appearing for Suneetha, told the bench that the CBI has filed its

counter affidavit on her plea. He said the CBI has said in its counter that the High Court order is a "bad prece-

"We will take it up after vacation. The last portion (of the High Court order), we will stay that," the bench said.

During the hearing on May 24, the CBI had termed "inherently contradictory" the High Court order granting bail to the accused and told the bench that it supports Suneetha's plea challenging this verdict.

'We have never heard of it that the order which cancels the bail allows the bail. How is it possible? Inherently contradictory," Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Sanjay Jain, appearing for the CBI, had told the bench.

Energy Spl CS flays propaganda against govt over Hinduja payment

PNS VIJAYAWADA

K Vijayanand, Special Chief Secretary Energy, strongly condemned the articles published in a section of media against the government as favouring Hinduja National Thermal Power Corporation, false and baseless.

Addressing media persons

here on Friday, Vijayanand said that the media conference was organised to bring many facts related to Hinduja National Thermal Power Corporation to the notice of the public. He made it clear that the State government has taken the decision regarding the payments to Hinduja only after examining the orders of the High Court, Supreme Court and Electricity Regulatory Commission, in accordance with the law, according to the advice and



instructions of the legal experts and keeping in mind the interests of the people and the electricity distribution compa-

Vijayanand said that according to the current electricity regulatory laws and regulations, when an agreement is entered with any power purchase company, as per the power purchase agreement, if the electricity supply is to be purchased before the expiry of the agreement, fixed charges

and variable charges are usually payable. He said that as long as there is a PPA, the fixed charges must be paid whether the electricity is consumed or not. In this context, he clarified that the government has paid money is untrue and baseless. He said that after March 2022. the state government has purchased 1040 megawatts of electricity from Hinduja. Additional 15 million units of electricity are being supplied to

Bitter foes in ...

Continued from page 1

Although Naidu is making considerable efforts to align with the BJP and be part of the NDA, the BJP leadership does not seem inclined to consider this option. "The BJP-led Central government seeks the support of both the YSRCP and TDP due to its insufficient strength in the Rajya Sabha to pass bills. This explains why the BJP leadership maintains a cordial relationship with both parties. The TDP refrains from criticisng the Central government on issues such as the railway zone, VSP privatisation, and the granting of the SCS," pointed out a political analyst.

In Andhra Pradesh, BJP leaders Satya Kumar, CM Ramesh, Sujana Chowdary, Purandeswari, Adinarayana Reddy vehemently criticise the YSRCP. Interestingly, the YSRCP disregards the allegations made by State BJP leaders and maintains cordial relations with the BJP in

"Naidu aims to reinstate the TDP-BJP-JSP alliance before the 2024 elections, which explains his vigorous attempts to align with the BJP. Naidu recognises that facing the YSRCP led by Jagan Mohan Reddy in the next elections would be challenging without the support of the BJP," opined a political analyst.

'Do not believe ...

Continued from page 1

You can believe even Narakasura but not Nara Chandrababu Naidu," he said, adding that Naidu is trying to create obstacles even after the apex court of the country gave nod for distribution of house sites for the poor in the R-5 zone.

"Just think why Naidu failed to implement the welfare programmes which the Government is implementing now, though the budget was less now percentage wise," he said, adding Naidu only implemented the policy of plunder, stash and devour while his foster son and friendly media had silently supported him. The Chief Minister further said that the Government has been fighting a class war unleashed against it by the TDP which is against the poor."You should not fall prey to the evil designs of the TDP and the gang of thieves," he appealed

Rahul gets...

Continued from page 1

Rahul Gandhi is an accused in the case in which Swamy is the complainant. This court has to

take into account the public interests involved and also has to keep in view the rights of the applicant to travel abroad. Therefore, this court after going through the submissions of both the sides and after perusal of the record is of the view that ends of justice would suffice if the applicant is granted NOC for renewal of the passport of the applicant as per rules for a period of three years," the judge

Pattas for social justice in Amaravati: CM

Continued from page 1

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

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

So far, house sites were given

to 30, 75,000 poor women across the State, out of which 21 lakh women were sanctioned houses each worth Rs. 2. 5 lakh, he said, adding that the worth would go up to Rs 5 or Rs 10 lakh. This amounts to creating property worth Rs 3 lakh crore on the whole, he said.

Speaking about the TIDCO houses, he said the Government has been handing over the 300 square feet TIDCO houses just for Re 1 to 1, 43,000 beneficiaries with full rights while the TDP Government tried to exploit the beneficiaries by forcing

them to pay Rs 7.20 lakh per each TIDCO flat in instalmens over several years. It amounts to cheating the beneficiaries, he remarked.

Guntur District Collector

M Venugopala Reddy,

Municipal Administration Minister A Suresh, Social Welfare Minister M Nagarjuna, Housing Minister J Ramesh and YSRCP Mangalagiri MLA A Ramakrishna Reddy also addressed the public meeting. Some of the beneficiaries

from Guntur and NTR districts also spoke praising the Government's initiative.

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

INAUGURATION OF NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING

Yechury raps Union govt for not extending invite to Prez

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

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

He alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dis-



CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechury, addressing a press conference in Viiavawada on Friday

was a violation of the Indian Constitution. Referring to Article 79 of the Constitution,

Yechury highlighted that the President of India holds the responsibility for the functioning of Parliament and the Rajya

Furthermore, Yechury regard for the President of India emphasised that Prime Minister

Pic by Vijaya Bhaskar Modi should recognise that his role is that of the leader of the ruling party, not the leader of Parliament. He asserted that the leader of the opposition party should have the rank of a cabi-

net minister. Yechury also

stressed that the President of

India's approval is necessary for

the ruling party's proposed bills

to gain legality, as all rights ultimately rest with the President.

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

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

Pawan inaugurates admin block at JSP State office

Jana Sena chief K Pawan Kayan took all the party leaders and activists by surprise as he suddenly visited the State office at Mangalagiri where he inaugurated the administrative block.

Without informing the JSP leaders or the media, Pawan Kalyan arrived at Gannavaram airport on Thursday evening. He went to the party state office and inaugurated the administrative block. No JSP leader was allowed into the party office. The media was not informed and allowed into the party office either.

According to reliable sources, Pawan Kalyan held a meeting with a private agency which conducted a survey on in which constituencies the JSP is strong and winning chances of the candidates are bright.

It is learnt that the JSP entrusted the assignment of conducting a survey to identify the strong constituencies of



Pawan Kalyan condoles death of film director K Vasu

VIJAYAWADA: Jana Sena chief K Pawan Kalyan condoled the death of film director K Vasu. In a message here on Friday, Pawan Kalyan said the demise of K Vasu saddened him. "K Vasu directed the film 'Pranam Khareedu' in which my brother Chiranjivi played a lead role. We can not forget him as Chiranieevi appeared on the silver screen for the first time with the film." he stated. Pawan Kalvan recalled that K Vasu directed 'Sri Shirdi Saibaba Mahatyam' which popularized the history of 'Shiridi Saibaba'. "I convey my deepest sympathies to the bereaved family," he said

JSP to a private agency. The agency reportedly conducted the survey and handed over the

report to Pawan Kalyan. However, it is not known what the survey report or rec-

ommendations are. It may be mentioned here that Pawan Kalyan made it clear that the JSP would have an alliance with the TDP to ensure that the anti-YSRCP votes would not split.

PNS VIJAYAWADA

In a tragic road accident, the wife of an Intelligence Bureau officer of NTR district died on

the spot while the officer was

seriously injured in the accident. The accident took place at Jaggayyapeta when the car in

which they were travelling

rammed into a stationary lorry

while they were on way to

tified as Polmaraju Raghavendra Rao (55) and his

wife Sri Lakshmi (50) were on

their way to Hyderabad to visit

their children in Hyderabad.

While Raghavendra Rao was

driving the car, his wife was sit-

The injured officer was iden-

Hyderabad.

tified

Intelligence officer's wife

dies as car rams lorry

Pawan asks govt to extend aid to cop

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Jana Sena chief K Pawan Kalyan expressed grief over the death of a constable with

In a release here on Friday, he said that it is unfortunate that constable Pawan Kumar died of snake bite. The constable went to Tullur on bandobast duty and he was bitten by a snake when he was asleep in an open area, he said adding that he felt saddened

at the death of constable.
"The incident exposes the lack of facilities to the police personnel who are on duty. How are the food and accommodation facilities for the police personnel, who are going on duty to the outside areas being provided, should be assessed under the supervision of an SP level officer," Pawan Kalyan said.

The Janasena chief demanded the government to extend adequate compensation to the bereaved family.

ting beside him. Rao who did

not notice a parked lorry beside the national highway – 65 col-lided with the lorry. The left porting of the car was totally

damaged, and his wife who was sitting on the left side in the car

sustained severe injuries and died on the spot.

Chillakallu police rushed to the spot and shifted the body to

the Jaggaiahpet government

hospital. The injured officer is

undergoing treatment at a pri-

vate hospital in Vijayawada and his condition is said to be

stable. Police identified the

lorry driver who parked his

vehicle in no parking area and

caused the accident. A case has

Plea to revoke suspension of Ward sanitation secys

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh Ward Sanitation & Environment Secretaries Association's (APWS&ESA) honorary chairman Gujjula Eswaraiah has demanded that the State government fix their working hours as per the government orders. As per the G.O. 650, these employees must work from 10 am to 5 pm, he pointed out. He also demanded steps to lift the suspension and stop harassment of the Ward Sanitation & Environment Secretaries, Otherwise, the association will move the court, he warned.

In view of the pressure being faced by Ward Sanitation & Environment Secretaries from Municipal Commissioners, Eswaraiah, who is also a CPI State secretariat member, made an ultimatum to the government on Friday.

He alleged that although the people were against collecting garbage tax, the State government issued orders to cut the salaries of the Ward Sanitation & Environment Secretaries. He



that Commissioners and the Sanitary Inspectors should explain how many Municipal Health Officers' salaries were cut. "Also, immediately withdraw the suspension orders issued by Greater Visakha Municipal Corporation (GVMC) and Narsapur Municipal Commissioners," he

Further, he said the State government had not maintained timings for the Ward Sanitation and Environment Secretaries for the past three-and-a-half years. He expressed unhappiness over duties being assigned to these secretaries on the lines of sanitation mastery and workers, though their education qualification was graduation and post-graduation. As per the G.O., these secretaries are supposed to do technical jobs, however, the government is assigning other works, he alleged.

"Scores of secretaries committed suicide due to harassment and several staff have undergone treatment for illhealth. Some of the youths resigned from their posts because of harassment," he said. He made it clear that if the government did not revoke the orders, his association would fight the government legally.

He further said that those employees did not have a job chart. The Commissioners and the Sanitary Inspectors treated them as municipal workers. The State government should take steps to give them duties such as issuing birth and death certificates, NOC, and marriage certificates, supervising the environmental duties etc., he demanded.

Any Commissioner or Sanitary Inspector taking any action against these Secretaries will face legal action, he warned.



Michaela Kuchler, Consul General, German Consulate in Chennai, called on Governor of Andhra Pradesh S Abdul Nazeer at Raj Bhavan in Vijayawada on Friday

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The National Council of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), at a meeting, elected new office-bearers for 2023-24. R Dinesh, Executive Vice-Chairman of TVS Supply Chain Solutions, has assumed office as the president of CII for the period. He takes over from Sanjiv Bajaj, Chairman and Managing Director, Bajaj Finserv Limited.

tion TVS family member. He serving customers in over 50 has been engaged with CII for countries.

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Health Minister Viddala

Rajini inaugurated a mobile

dental clinic on the APIIC

premises in Mangalagiri on Friday. As part of National Health Mission (NHM) and

National Dental Health

Programme (NOHP), the

dental vehicles are inaugurat-

ed to treat the oral health

ed to treat the oral health problems of the people. Of the two vehicles provided by Colgate company, one was assigned to the Vijayawada Government Dental College and the other to the Kadapa

Srinivasa Rao,

Dental College.

CII elects new office-bearers

al and national levels. Dinesh started TVS Supply Chain Solutions (erstwhile known as TVS Logistics) in 1995. The company, under his able lead-ership, has grown multifold to become a billion-dollar company. The company has a presence across continents making

Health Minister launches

mobile dental clinics

awards including 'Icon of the Year' from ICT Academy of Tamil Nadu for the year 2018, Entrepreneur of the Year Award for 'Services' category by Ernst & Young in 2017. He is also the recipient of TiECON's "Next Gen Entrepreneur of the Year 2014" award and Entrepreneur' award by CII in 2010.

Meanwhile, Sanjiv Puri took

over as president-designate of CII for 2023-24. He is the Chairman and Managing Director of ITC Limited, one of India's foremost conglomerates with business spanning FMCG, hotels, paperboards and packaging, agri-business and information technology. Spearheading the ITC Next extensive strategy reset to define new vectors of growth

for each business with greater focus on consumer-centricity, agility, resilience and innovation to build an even more competitive, future-ready, climate positive and inclusive enterprise.

Rajiv Memani is new vicepresident of CII. He is the Chairman of the India region of EY (Ernst & Young), a leading global professional services organisation. He is also a member of EY's global man-Global Emerging Markets

Sportswear distributed to students taking part in summer camps

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Sportswear was distributed to the students, who are actively participating in the summer camps organised by the Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP) and the NTR District Sports Authority (DSA) at the Koneru Basavaiah Chowdary Zilla Parishad High School at Patamata in Vijayawada, on

School Headmaster KA Prem Sagar distributed the sportswear, sponsored by Industries Department Assistant Director M Madhu and Advocate Koneru Rajes.

As many as 100 students are taking part in the summer coaching camps at the KBC ZP High School at Patamata. Basketball, sepak takraw and handhall coaching camps are handball coaching camps are being conducted this year. School Physical Education teachers S Ramesh and L Durga Rao are leading the camps.



Speaking on the occasion, headmaster KA Prem Sagar said that taking part in sports and games would improve physical fitness among stu-dents, keeping them healthy and active. Talented sportspersons will get reservations for higher education and job recruitment, he added.

Adv Koneru Rajesh said summer coaching camps were helpful in creating awareness among the students of the importance of sports, he said.

M Madhu said students should maintain the spirit of sportsmanship whether they win or lose in the competitions. He praised coaches Akash, Satish, Danel and Eswar for helping the stu-

dents. NTR DSA basketball coach S Santosh Kumar and others were present.



services such as, fillings and tooth extractions related to dental problems will be pro-vided in the mobile dental vehicle. Plans have been made to serve the nearby primary medical centers, old age homes and schools, visually impaired schools and Principal of Government Dental College, Vijayawada deaf and dumb schools through the mobile dental explained that basic dental vehicle, he added.

Special Chief Secretary of Medical and Health MT Krishna Babu, Commissioner of Health and Family Welfare J Nivas, State Programme Manager Dr Venkata Ravi Kiran, National Oral Health Programme State Nodal Officer Dr E Prashanth, State Oral Health Consultant Dr Saujanyalakshmi and others were present.



MPs urged to raise voice to solve farmers' crisis

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Rythu Sanghala Samanvaya Samiti convener and former minister Vadde Shobhanadreeswara Rao has urged the government to implement Professor Swaminathan Commission's recommendations. The Central government should ensure the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for all crops and for this, people's representa-tives should be extending their support to farmers' agitations, he said.

Vadde Shobhandreeswara Rao, along with the Sangham leaders, submitted a representation to Rajya Sabha member Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar at his office in Vijayawada on Friday.

Speaking on the occasion, Vadde Shobhanadreeswara Rao said that Samyuktha Kisan Morcha was going to fight the Central government in view of the crisis being faced by the farmers. The Sangham urged MP Ravindra Kumar to

give support to their protest. The MPs should raise their voice to help the farmers overcome their problems, he added.

Samiti senior leader Y

Kesava Rao said that the

Central government should drop all cases registered dur-

ing the farmers' agitation, and

demanded compensation for those who died during the agi-Andhra Pradesh Koulu Rythu Sangham State general secretary P Jamalaiah said that the Centre and the State governments should waive all the debts of farmers and tenant farmers in the country. MPs should put pressure on the Central government during the Parliament sessions, he added.

Later, Ravindra Kumar said that he would fight the Central government to help the farmers. Andhra Pradesh Saguneeti Sanghal Samakhya State president Alla Venkata Gopala Krishna Rao and others were also present.

SCR, NDRF hold mock drill at Bitragunta Railway Station to help them be prepared in

PNS VIJAYAWADA

South Central Railway, Vijayawada Division jointly conducted a mock drill in association with NDRF 10th Battalion and Civil Defence Organisation, SCR under the supervision of M Srikanth, Additional Divisional Railway Manager, Operations, Vijayawada Division at Bitragunta Railway Station near CnW Office on Friday. Dr VB Manoj, Assistant Chief Medical Superintendent, Railway Hospital, Vijayawada, also took part in the Mock Drill exercise. Self Propelled Accident Relief Medical Van (SPARMV) staff of Vijayawada, CDO staff and 10th Battalion NDRF jointly performed the Mock Drill exer-

casualties.

The basic objective of conducting this mock drill is to train the staff working in medical and accident relief trains to play a vital role in extraction of passengers and move them to the nearest hospital for treatment, which will help in saving precious lives and minimize the

A total of 150 railway staff taking part in rescue and restoration operations, a con-demned coach and Medical Relief Van were placed at the Bitragunta for the purpose of a mock drill exercise. This exercise is not only aimed at training the staff in using the state of art Hydraulic Rescue Devices that are available in ART's, but also to train them in



entering the derailed coaches in typical situations where all possible ways of entering the blocked coaches. The site of the accident was perfectly replicated by the staff. All the coordinating teams of State govt like 108 services, Fire Safety, GRP and RPF took part in this multi department exercise

M Srikanth, Additional DRM briefed the media regarding the Do's and Don'ts' for passengers while undertaking journeys to avoid any fire accidents. He said that it is a multiple department exercise, as a part of periodical training to the staff of Mechanical, Safety, Medical and S&T Departments

times of exigency for quick and swift response to undertake rescue operations in minimum possible time to reduce rail passenger's casualties. ADRM appreciated the NDRF, Civil Defence and SPARMV staff of Vijayawada for conducting the mock drill efficiently and rescuing the stranded passengers in the golden hour. J Srinath, Sr DSO; M Ravi

Kiran, Sr DME, PV Ramana Rao, Sr DEN, South, Dr P Sudhakar, DMO, Bitragunta, Ch Suresh, AOM Subramaniam ADME Robin Kumar, Inspector, NDRF 10th Battalion T Sudheer Babu, Sr CDI; Pradeep Kumar, Inspector, 10th Battalion, NDRF, other officials and staff were present.





Sarpanches demand NREGA funds for panchayats

Andhra Pradesh Sarpanches Association (APSA) and Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj Chamber have demanded that the State government provide the funds of NREGA to village panchayats under 2006

AP Panchayat Raj Chamber president YVB Rajendra Prasad also demanded the payment of honorarium Rs 15,000 to MPTCs and gram sarpanches, Rs 30,000 to MPPs and ZPTCs.

The AP sarpanches association and Panchayat Raj Chamber organised a meeting of village sarpanches of combined West Godavari district here on Friday.

Addressing the meeting YVB Rajendra Prasad said that the village sarpanches who were elected two years ago were facing many problems and they are now unable to carry out any development at



their respective villages due to lack of funds.

The sarpanches have to be given due funds as per the 73 and 74 amendment to the Constitution but the AP government is not extending funds to the gram panchayats.

"The AP government has taken Rs 8,660 crore funds, released to the village panchayats by the 14 and 15 Finance Commission and diverted the money to other purposes. The Centre has to give Rs 2020 crore to the village panchayats," he said, expressing doubt whether the AP government will give the Rs 2020 crore to the village panchayats or divert the same to other purposes.

Rajendra Prasad demanded the AP government to return Rs 8,660 crore to the village panchayats. He warned of intensifying the agitation, if the government did not concede their demands

Meanwhile, Paladugu Lakshman Rao was elected the president of WG district sarpanches association and Tammishetti Satyanarayana as general secretary at the meet-

15 injured as truck, RTC bus collite

PNS VIJAYAWADA

As many as 15 people were injured when the RTC bus they were travelling in met with an accident at Ramavarappadu ring in Vijayawada on Friday. The incident took place when a truck hit the RTC bus. The injured were shifted to the Government General Hospital where they are undergoing treatment.

NTR District Collector S Dilli Rao and Central MLA Malladi Vishnu visited the hospital and enquired about the condition of the injured. They appealed to the hospital authorities to provide better treatment to the injured.

On the occasion, the collector and the MLA distributed Rs 25,000 each to the



13 PHCs will be expanded in remote areas: Collector

District Collector Prashanthi said that 13 PHCs would be expanded to provide more medical services in remote areas. The Collector held a meeting with the health and other officials concerned and reviewed the construction of health clinks.

Speaking on the occasion, the District Collector said that Rs 1.28 crore was sanctioned for the construction of the first floor to provide six beds in 13 PHCs in remote areas in the district.

She said that the construction would be undertaken in Tunduru, VR Gudem, Vallur, Manchili, Undi, Alamuru, Yalamanchili, Penumantra, Pentapadu, Siddhantam, Marteru, Toorpu Talla and Endagandi PHCs. The Panchayat Raj has ordered the engineering officials to take immediate steps for the construction of the same.

"Five block public health units will be constructed at a cost of Rs 50 lakh each with



in remote areas in the district. that out of 276 health clinics the funds being provided by sanctioned to WG district, 91 the 15 Finance Commission. clinics should be handed over by Monday, she instructed the officials. She said that the These constructions will be carried out in LB Charla of Narasapuram mandal, construction of 120 other health clinics should be com-Doddipatla of Yalamanchili pleted by September. Health mandal, Yandagandi of Undi mandal, Poduru mandal of clinics nodal officer Dr.

Keerthi, Panchayat Raj engi-

neering officer KSS Srinivasa

Rao and DWMA PD STV

Rajeswara Rao were present.

The District

that Rs 1.28

crore was

Collector said

sanctioned for

to provide six

the construction

beds in 13 PHCs

Atthili mandal," the Collector

Poduru and Atthili PHC of



3 drowned in stream

PNS KURNOOL

Three people, including a boy, were drowned in a stream at Siraladoddi village in Yemmiganur mandal in the district on Friday.

Police said that a group of women went to the stream to wash their clothes. One of the

deceased, Lokesh (5) slipped in the stream and drowned. Two women Salomi (25) and Mariyamma (28) went to his rescue but they were also drowned. The three bodies were fished out from the stream. The police registered a case and sent the bodies to the

Min inaugurates new building of polytechnic

Minister for Transport Pinipe Viswaroop inaugurated the newly-constructed Polytechnic building at Jangareddygudem on Friday. The polytechnic building was constructed at a cost of Rs 7.55 crore. Talking to the media on the

occasion, the minister said that the government is committed to provide free education from KG to PG to the poor students. The minister said that the AP government is giving the highest priority to the education sector like no other state in the He said that the Chief

Minister's ambition is to provide education to every poor student, and his vision of social development through education is ideal for the country.

Viswaroop said that the flagship schemes like 'Amma Vodi',



and 'Jagananna Vidya Deevena' schemes are giving a lot of support to educational develop-

By implementing the 'Vasati Deevena', accommodation and other facilities are being provided to the students. By implementing the Nadu-Nedu programme better infrastructure is being provided in all the government schools of the state. By

providing high quality education to poor students through government schools with digital classrooms the dream of Dr. B R Ambedkar is being

District Collector Prasanna Venkatesh said that the job and employment opportunities are being improved by providing training in skill development to those who have completed college education in the district. RDO K Jhansirani, Municipal Chairman

Nagalakshmi, ZPTC Babji, Municipal Commissioner Bhavani Prasad, AMC Chairperson Janaki Reddy, Women Child Welfare Regional Coordinator Saibala Padma and College Principal Subrahmanyam were among



IIM students complete internship

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Eleven first-year students of the 2022-24 Post Graduate Programme (PGP) of the Institute of Management-Visakhapatnam have successfully completed their internship at Rasapoorna Visakhapatnam.

of Rasapoorna Foods Pvt Ltd, said that internships played a crucial role in shaping one's career. It not only helps undergraduates and graduates gain real exposure to working environments, but also helps them develop the necessary skills required to stand out in the job

Woman ends life by jumping before from train

PNS BAPATLA

A woman committed suicide by jumping before a running train at Eepurupalem village in Chirala mandal in Bapatla district on Friday.

Police said that the deceased Shrevani prepared for the Civil services examination in Delhi.

She had to attend the examinations in Vijayawada on Sunday.

In the wee hours today, she ended life by jumping before a running train. She was immediately shift-

ed to the area hospital in Chirala where she died while undergoing treatment.

The police registered a case. YSRCP leader Karanam

Venkatesh and MLC Potula Sunita consoled the bereaved family members.

Free chess workshop from today

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Global Chess Academy is going to organise a free chess workshop at PVP Mall in Vijayawada on Saturday and Sunday, said Global Chess Academy Director and FIDE Instructor Shaik Khasim in a press release here on Friday.

He said that the workshop would be conducted for two days from 5 pm to 7 pm. It will be a good opportunity for chess players in the city, he

Interested players may register their names to participate in the workshop. For details, contact 9849514138,

Grand fete planned on NTR's birth centenary

GGH for postmortem.

Rao's birth centenary celebraly in Vijayawada on Sunday, under the aegis of NTR's Satha Jayanthi Utsava Committee, said organisers Tumati Premnadh, BasaveswaraRao Guttikonda Sri Ram.

Dr Nandamuri Tarak Rama

NTR's Satha Jayanthi Utsava Committee's preparatory meeting was held at Vijayawada on



Friday.

Speaking on the occasion, Tumati Srinadh said that they were planning magnificent celebrations at Mogalrajapuram

Siddharth College Auditorium in Vijayawada.

He said that as part of the celebrations, a free medical camp would be organised at 4

pm and cultural activities would be held at 5 pm. The main programme will commence at 6 pm. They will closely attached to NTR on the occasion.

Vijayawada East MLA Gadde RamMohan Rao, former Home Minister Vasantha Nageswara Rao, former ministers Vodde SobhanadreswaraRao, Yerneni Seetha Devi LB Sriram, Gajal Srinivas and others will grace the occasion, he added.

40 pleas received on 'Police Welfare Day'

PNS VIJAYAWADA

those who were present.

NTR District Police Commissioner Kanti Rana Tata organised 'Police Welfare premises of the Police Commissioner's office in Vijayawada on Friday.

Following the directive of the Director General of Police (DGP), the police observe Police Welfare Day every Friday to solve the police personnel's issues and duty-relatproblems.

Collector asks officials to speed



Commissioner received a total of 40 petitions from cops relating to transfers and other service issues. He directed the officials concerned to resolve

the issues as early as possible. Speaking on the occasion, the Commissioner asked the police personnel and staff to utilise such opportunities.

'Services of psychologists in society commendable'

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Acharya Nagarjuna University Vice-Chancellor Patteti Rajasekhar has said that the services rendered by Spandana Eda International Foundation are commendable. The VC also appreciated the role of psychologists in the development of society

The university has organised a two-day workshop for psychologists in association with Spandana Ida International Foundation (SEIF). Speaking on the occasion, Rajasekhar said that psychologists should have subject knowledge, besides cultural and social conscientiousness. They should understand the root cause of the problems faced by



the victims in many aspects and respond accordingly and put them in the correct path. He said that the present youth should build mental strength and should not be depressed by every small problem.

SEIF Chairman Dr Ida Samuel Reddy said that their foundation was taking various steps to strengthen the youth in Telugu States and many other areas mentally. If a situation arises that any student wants to end their life, they should think about their parents and family who cannot live without them, he said.

University Education Centre Director Prof B Nagaraju and others

up Jagananna house works

Krishna District Collector P Raja Babu has instructed all the officials concerned to expedite house construction works by taking special care towards the Jaganna housing colonies.

He inspected the Kara Agraharam housing layout where 4,318 houses are being built in 12 blocks in Machilipatnam on Friday.

During his visit, the Collector checked the layout maps and the ongoing constructions in the D block and L block. Later, he interacted with the beneficiaries and enquired about the facilities such as drinking water, electricity etc.

Speaking on the occasion, the Collector ordered the offi-



cials to take measures to flatten the layout premises and assured that the soil for the purpose would be provided free of cost. The Collector further directed the MEPMA officials to encourage the beneficiaries to complete the works soon.

The Collector further warned that if any beneficiary didn't take up the construction,

their allotment of the house would be cancelled. He insisted on reviewing the work progress every day and asked the officials to submit the details from time to time.

Housing PD Siva Narayana, Surya Narayana, Municipal Commissioner Chandrayya, RDO I Kishore and others accompanied the

Gas cylinder filling racket busted; 3 held

PNS HYDERABAD

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

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

The seized property includes 15 domestic gas cylinders, 26 commercial cylinders, 78 mini cylinders, five refillers, and one weighing machine. In total, 119 cylinders were recovered from the premises. The accused were taken into custody and will face legal consequences for their involvement in the illegal gas refilling activity.

The Mangalhat Police emphasised that the refilling of gas from larger cylinders into smaller ones poses a serious threat to human life and property. Such activities are in violation of the Essential Commodities Act

Cong insulted Telangana Formation, race and martyrs: Harish

Telangana Formation Day on June 2 is a Festival of four crore people. The Congress wants to celebrate Formation Day as a "fail Telangana programme." "Will anyone celebrate a good occasion like this? Telangana has not failed, Congress has

He was speaking at BRS Atmeeya Samnelan at

'You did not come togeth-

er during the Telangana move-ment and even didn't resign for the cause of statehood. The Congress turned its back and fled. They did not come together in the movement then, they are not coming together in development today. They are not coming together to celebrate with the people of Telangana".

The Congress insulted the formation of the Telangana State, the Telangana race and the sacrifices of Telangana

martyrs. KCR changed the fate of Telangana. If Telangana practised, then the country will fol-

Kishan Reddy, who did not resign from Telangana, announced that Telangana Utsav would be held. He questioned the

seven mandals in

merging

AP, not giving Bayyaram steel factory, and not funding Mission Bhagiratha, Kakatiya, medical colleges, and tribal universi-

ties.
"One says that Telangana has failed, the other says that we have done something for Telangana and celebrates. Kishan Reddy, you have no right to cele-

brate till what is due to Telangana comes", Harish Rao "Revanth Reddy has a twist-

ed mind. He speaks a lot of crooked words. He doesn't even know how jobs are filled. Vacancies are not filled by TSPSC alone. As you said, we have filled 37,000 posts through TSPSC alone. I said the same. You don't understand the real thing and you ramble on. TSPSC is not the only one filling jobs. Telangana State

Board, Junior Panchayat Secretaries, Singareni Coalries Company Limited, By power companies, DCCBs, Through TRT, teacher posts in gurukula. Replacement of doctors by Telangana Recruitment Board. Thousands of jobs have been filled like

Level Police Recruitment

He said In total, the government has filled 1,32,899 jobs so far. Another 80000 posts are

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

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

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

need seniors as well as young people.



Below normal monsoon rains likely in June: IMD

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

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



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

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

the 'Sahastra Jal Kalash Pujan' and witnessed a demonstration of martial arts presented by children and youth at Raj Bhavan here. Water collected from various rivers across the country will be used for the ceremony to mark the 350th anniversary of the coronation of the

legendary warrior-king. Principal Secretary (Culture) Vikas Kharge, Karyavahak of Raigad Smarak Mandal Sudhir Thorat, Shri Shiv Rajyabhishek Dinotsav Seva Samiti official Sunil Pawar and Mahant Sudhirdas Maharaj were present on the



9 YEARS OF MODI GOVT

Cong poses 9 questions to PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



tions," Ramesh said

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

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

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

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

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

ately "politics of hatred" for electoral gains was being used and alleged that an atmosphere of fear in society was being fuelled.

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

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

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

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

EAM decries Oppn boycott of Parl opening

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

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

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

NEW PARL BUILDING INAUGURATION

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

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

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

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

In another tweet, the min-



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

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

The ceremony to inaugurate the new Parliament building will begin with an early morning havan and a multifollowed by a formal opening in the Lok Sabha chamber by Prime Minister Modi.

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

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

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

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

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

A bench of Justices JK Mahe

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2018 ALWAR LYNCHING CASE

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

PNS JAIPUR

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

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

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

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

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

(SPP) Ashok Sharma had said

challenged in the Rajasthan High Court, Khan's family members said. Khan is survived by his wife

and seven children. His father Suleman died of a prolonged illness two years after the lynch-Talking to reporters after the

court's verdict, Kishore, howev-



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

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

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

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

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

building his 'estate'

Modi considers new Parliament

Sena (UBT) asks if Advani has been invited

PNS MUMBAI

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

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

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

L K Advani has been invited

for the May 28 event or not.

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

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

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

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

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

about democracy was a joke. "Has Advani, because of whom the BJP

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

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

MP forest team beaten up by villagers

PNS SHIVPURI

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

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

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

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

OLD PARLIAMENT BUILDING

Parliament House has for these nine-and-a-half decades witnessed the imperial rule of the British and its chamber has

The building has seen the dawn of Independence and its halls have reverberated with the historic 'Tryst with Destiny' speech delivered by first prime

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



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

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

the nation was still in the

making and Independence 26 years away, Britain's Duke of Connaught had laid the foundation stone of Parliament House on February 12, 1921,

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

higher destinies".

and said it would stand "as the

symbol of India's rebirth to yet

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

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

4,500 devotees leave for annual Kheer Bhawani mela in Kashmir

PNS JAMMU

Amid tight security, nearly 4,500 devotees, including members of the Kashmiri Pandit community, on Friday left from Nagrota area here to attend the annual Kheer Bhawani mela in Kashmir, officials said.

The annual Kheer Bhawani Mela, celebrated on Zeisht Ashtami, will take place on May 28 at the shrines of Tulmulla (Ganderbal), Tikker Tulmuna (C. (Kupwara), Laktipona Aishmuqam (Anantnag), Mata (Kulgam), and Mata Kheerbhawani Manzgam

(Kulgam) in the Valley. The four-day pilgrimage



commenced today Divisional Commissioner (Jammu) Ramesh Kumar, Relief Commissioner K K Sidha and prominent Kashmiri Pandit leaders jointly flagged off the yatra from Nagrota

area, ensuring the safety and well-being of the devotees. "The relief department, administration, and security forces have made comprehensive arrangements to ensure

the success of this pilgrimage,'

DC Kumar told PTI here.

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

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

Bhawani Welfare Society Kiran Watal said, "The LG administration and police have provided excellent arrangements and security measures.

President of the Mata Kheer

A long journey since its opening in 1927 by Lord Irwin PNS NEW DELHI

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

1927 by the then Viceroy Lord

Irwin. On May 28, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the new Parliament building and dedicate it to the nation, the old Sansad Bhavan will also hand over its position as the country's hallowed legislature, a privilege it enjoyed for over 96 years.

Revered today as India's temple of democracy, the old heard the echoes of bombs hurled by revolutionaries Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt in a bid to attain freedom.

minister Jawaharlal Nehru on August 15, 1947.

Over a century ago, when

www.dailypioneer.com

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

-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Danger of populism

The Karnataka election may spur competitive populism among various political parties

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



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

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



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

Decoding the scripts of 'Mann Ki Baat'



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

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

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

A closer look at the 100

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

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

suggesting the need for greater focus on these issues. The cultural heritage of the country, the importance of

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Who bears the huge cost of freebies?



SHASHANK **SAURAV**

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

Goddaa

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

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

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

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

25,267 crores in FY 2021-22

which came down to Rs.

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

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

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

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

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

PEOPLE IN POWER MUST BE SENSITIVE

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

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

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

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

AMERICAN LAW

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

Grand inauguration

THE EDITOR



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

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

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

Azhar A Khan I Rampur

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

NOTHING WRONG WITH FREEBIES

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

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

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

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

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

FIRST COLUMN

FAITH AS INTERACTION, **NOT AS KNOWLEDGE**

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



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

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

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



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

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

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

Bishnoi is a spiritual writer and can be reached at

US must undertake a midcourse correction



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



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

But, this diversification

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



ASHWANI MAHAJAN

(The author is Professor,

PGDAV College, University of Delhi)

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

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

for the youth to work as delivery agents.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ne pioneer

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

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



India witnessing 'snowball effect'; exponential growth

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

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



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

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

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



Success of G20 meet in Srinagar will boost tourism

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

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



tourism, digitisation, skills, tourism MSMEs and destination. These priorities are key building blocks for accelerating the transition of the tourism sector and achieve the targets for 2030 SDGs.

"Some members will give their suggestions in writing by today, and then the final draft will be prepared," he said.

The final versions of the documents will be placed in the fourth TWG meeting and Ministerial meeting, slated to take place in Goa next month. The GOA Roadmap and a ministerial communique endorsing it will be released after the last meeting of the G20 tourism working group that will take place from June

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

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

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

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

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

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



Ambani on advisory committee of COP28

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

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



uals with tax deducted from their income sources, a move that will help in ensuring cash flows of the individual taxpayers are not impacted, according to a senior official.

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

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

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

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



Move to link tax collected at source

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

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

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

event on Thursday.

The 20 per cent TCS levy on international credit card spends is to come into force from July 1.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Equity markets rally for 2nd day; Sensex jumps 1%

PNS MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices extended their previous day's rally on Friday, with the Sensex climbing 1 per cent, amid buying in index Cement, Tata Steel and fresh foreign fund inflows and a largely positive trend in global markets. The 30-share BSE Sensex

jumped 629.07 points or 1.02 per cent to settle at 62,501.69. During the day, it rallied 657.21 points or 1.06 per cent to 62,529.83. The NSE Nifty climbed

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

Bharti Airtel, Power Grid and NTPC were the lag-

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Shanghai ended in the green.

Equity markets in Europe were trading lower. The US market ended 178.20 points or 0.97 per cent to end at 18,499.35. mostly with gains on

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

Aditya Birla Group firm Grasim Industries on Friday reported 42.12 per cent decline in consolidated net profit at Rs 355 67 crore for ter 2022-23 on account of tax write-backs and other one-off

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

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



22, Grasim Industries said in a regulatory filing.

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

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

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

30,354.70 crore as against Rs 25,786.54 crore a year ago.

Total income in the March quarter was at Rs 33,682.49 crore, up 16.18 per cent.

During January-March, revenue from viscose-pulp, viscose staple fibre (VSF) and filament yarn segment was marginally down to Rs 3,764.06 crore from Rs 3,766.49 crore a

ZEE-SONY MERGER

NCLAT sets aside **NCLT** order PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Rupee rises 14 paise to close



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

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

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

PNS NEW DELHI

Engineering solutions provider Axiscades Technologies has posted a 55 per cent jump in its consolidated net profit to Rs 16.05 crore in the fourth quarter ended March 2023, backed by higher income.

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

filing on Thursday. The company's total income rose to Rs 222.07 crore in the March 2023 quarter from Rs

engineering services.

Its CEO and MD Arun Krishnamurthi said: "The quarter & year under review mark a significant achievement along with significant improvement in profitability. Our integration with Mistral business is progressing as per plan and we continue to syn-

Mahindra Q4 PAT at Rs 2,637 cr

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

The Mumbai-based company had reported a profit after tax (PAT) of Rs 2,237 crore in the January-March quarter of

the January-March quarter of 2021-22 fiscal. Revenue increased to Rs

32,366 crore for the fourth quarter of FY23, as compared to Rs 25,934 crore in the yearago period.

For the year ended March 31, 2023, the company posted a consolidated PAT of Rs business led the way last fisuse Tit has been a blockbuster business led the way last fisyear for the group. Auto led 4,65,601 units in FY22.



10,282 crore, up 56 per cent, from Rs 6,577 crore in FY22. The company said the FY23

PAT is its highest-ever profit reported in a fiscal year. Revenue rose to Rs 1,21,269 crore last fiscal, as against Rs 90,171 crore in 2021-22 fiscal,

an increase of 34 per cent.

cal with 62 per cent growth, driven by strong execution of launches and an improvement

in supply chain related issues. Besides, Mahindra Accelo grew by 37 per cent; Mahindra Logistics, by 24 per cent; and Club Mahindra by 22 per

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

Light commercial vehicles (LCVs), farm equipment, and electric three-wheelers continue to strengthen the compa-ny's leadership position, he added.

"We are very well positioned for the future, based on a strong presence in key industries, leadership in technology and a growth mindset, coupled with fiscal discipline," Shah said.

The company reported

highest-ever automotive seg-

ment volumes of 6.98 lakh in

FY23, up 50 per cent, from

upward movement in the domestic unit, forex traders The dollar index is trading above the 104-level on safehaven appeal, as US President Joe Biden and Republican House Speaker Kevin McCarthy are reportedly close

women have taken a leave of

absence from work during

The rupee appreciated by 14 paise to 82.58 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday,

supported by foreign capital

inflows and a positive trend in

crosses overseas restricted the

However, the elevated level

domestic equities.



to reaching an agreement on the US debt ceiling.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 82.73 against the US dollar and settled at 82.58 (provisional), up 14 paise over its previous close.

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

On Thursday, the rupee closed at 82.72 against the US

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

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



ergise our offerings to our current and potential customer base across the group".

73% women want firms to allow them take menstrual leave

PNS NEW DELHI

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

The Menstrual Hygiene Survey 2023, conducted by Everteen, a feminine hygiene brand, also revealed that 71.7 per cent of the participants in the survey do not want the menstrual leaves to be paid, fearing that it may make companies reluctant to hire female employees.

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

The survey report was released ahead of the global



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

cent of them do not want these to be paid and fear that vey stated. it may make companies reluc-

tant to hire female employees. "Also, 86.6 per cent of women are in favour of the concept of menstrual friendly workplace where females are not hesitant in discussing the subject openly, and menstrual hygiene methods and support infrastructure is made available to women. Besides, 68.9 per cent of

menstrual periods," the sur-

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

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

Sun Pharma posts consolidated net profit of Rs 1,984 cr in Q4

PNS NEW DELHI

Sun Pharmaceutical Industries on Friday said its consolidated net profit stood at Rs 1,984 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2023, aided by robust sales

across markets. The Mumbai-based company had reported a net loss of Rs 2,277 crore in the January-March quarter of last year.

Excluding the exceptional items, adjusted net profit for the fourth quarter last fiscal stood at Rs 2,156 crore, up 36 per cent, over the fourth quarter of 2021-22 fiscal, Sun Pharma said in a regulato-

ry filing.
Total revenue from operations rose to Rs 10,931 crore for the March quarter as compared with Rs 9,447 crore in the yearago period.

what's brewing?

VIDYA BALAN

LEADS CRUSADE AGAINST PLASTIC POLLUTION

Tidya Balan, the acclaimed Indian actress, has always been more than just a performer on the silver screen. With her unwavering commitment to social causes and environmental issues, she has become a beacon of change and a vocal advocate for a cleaner, more sustainable future. Balan's passion for making a difference extends beyond the realms of entertainment, as she consistently uses her platform to raise awareness about the pressing chal-

lenges facing our society. What sets Vidya Balan apart is her genuine commitment to everything she stands for. She does not shy away from discussing the challenges we face as a society and the changes we need to make. Her unwavering dedication to the causes she supports makes her a true champion of change. She is a proud advocate of child nutrition, women empowerment, education and sustainability.

Recognising the urgency of the situation, renowned actress Vidya Balan has joined forces with Bhamla Foundation to support their anti-single use plastic initiative. The Bhamla Foundation, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, has been dedicated to raising awareness about environmental issues for many

"We must eliminate unnecessary plastic items like water bottles, bags, trays, cutlery, plates, cups, and food packaging from our lives this World Environment Day," emphasises Vidya Balan. Her words resonate with the urgent need to address the crisis of climate change, pol-



lution, waste, and biodiversity loss caused by plastic pollution.

"I firmly believe that it is our duty to protect the envi-ronment for future generations. We need to be conscious of our choices and take action to reduce our plastic footprint. We must be responsible consumers and choose sustainable options. And we need to demand stakeholders to

take necessary actions to reduce plastic pollution", says Vidya Balan.

On the occasion of World Environment Day, Vidya Balan encourages individuals worldwide to take responsibility for their actions and eliminate unnecessary plastic items from their lives.

This year, the global effort to beat single-use plastic pollution has become a flagship campaign of the International G20 Summit, as well as being supported by India's Prime Minister,

Narendra Modi.

In addition to her support for the Bhamla Foundation, Vidya Balan has actively participated in raising awareness about plastic pollution through various plat-forms. One notable contribution is her appearance in the music video *Tik Tik* Plastic, which aims to educate and inspire individuals to take action against single-use plastic pollution. Apart from Vidya Balan the theme song stars Alia Bhatt, Gulzar Sahab, Ayushmann Khurrana and Rajkummar Rao. The song is rendered by Shaan and Shankar Mahadevan with lyrics by Swanand Kirkire. The choreography is done by Shiamak Davar and the direction by Sanjay Gadhvi. Ricky Cage, Guneet Monga, Neeti Mohan, Armaan Malik among others also appear in the music video. "Vidya Balan has always

stood for environment protection, climate change, earlier she has supported anti air pollution initiatives and now anti-single-use plastic. We are very grateful that Vidya Balan has joined this initiative that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has repeatedly conveyed, urging people to save the country from plastic menace. Climate change is real and its time we take it seriously. We are supported by the Ministry of Forestry and Environemnt alongside the state and the central government as well as the United Nations," say Asif and Saher Bhamla of Bhamla Foundation.

"Together we can make a difference to ensure we leave a beautiful and healthy world for future generations," Vidya Balan con-cludes.

Barbie has a new official trailer and it teases what Greta Gerwig's summer tentpole is all about, as Barbie and Ken are set to officially enter the real world on July 21. Fatigued from their days in

Barbieland (where everyone is seemingly also named Barbie and Ken), Margot Robbie's Barbie and Ryan Gosling's Ken venture out beyond the borders of their homeland, reports

The new footage shows Barbie and Ken exploring the modern world, which is quite different from the safe haven of their pink-coded, plastic lifestyle. While on Venice Beach, Barbie punches a man who slaps her butt, and she and Ken end up posing with some Los Angeles police department mugshots.

As per 'Variety', Gerwig and the *Barbie* ensemble attempted to keep the plot of the film hidden from audiences, but when photos and videos of them

Barbie, Ken Get arrested after leaving behind Barbieland Paradise in *Barbie* trailer

shooting in Los Angeles went viral last year, fans started to catch onto the movie's plot. "I can't tell you how morti-

fied we were, by the way," Robbie told Jimmy Fallon last year about the set photos gar-

nering widespread attention online. "We look like we're laughing and having fun, but we're dying on the inside. Dying. I was like, this is the most humiliating moment of my

> "I knew that we had some exteriors to shoot in Los Angeles.

I knew once you were doing exteriors, you're gonna get papped. There's probably going to be a small crowd of people who are going to take notice because, you know, we stand out a little bit in those outfits. So I knew there was going to be a little bit of attention, and probably some photos would get out there, but not like it did," added



Priyanka Chopra Jonasstarrer Citadel renewed for second season

he global spy streaming series Citadel, which stars Richard Madden, Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Lesley Manville and Stanley Tucci, has been renewed for a second season with Joe Russo set to direct every episode and executive producer David Weil returning as showrunner.

The first season of the series enjoyed breakout success in countries around the world, including India, Italy, Brazil, South Africa, the UK, and the US.

Executive producers Anthony and Joe Russo said in a statement, "AGBO is thrilled to embark on this next phase of the spyverse with Jen, Vernon, and the entire team at Amazon. The innovative storytelling of Citadel has paved the way for an incredible, worldwide collaboration with creatives in front of and behind the camera."

All episodes from the first season of Citadel is available to stream on Prime

CALVIN AND HOBBES



Nicolas Cage to play Superman cameo in *The* Flash, reveals director

It takes a super actor to play Superman. The upcoming film version of *The Flash* has reached back to the past in its casting for the Man of Steel.

In an interview with Esquire Middle East, *The Flash* director Andy Muschietti revealed that a certain revered actor would be making a cameo in the film as Superman, reports Deadline.

Nicolas Cage will play Superman, marking a return to the role for Cage, who was cast in Tim Burton's

Superman Lives 25 years ago.
"Nic was absolutely wonderful,"

Muschietti said, quoted by Deadline. "Although the role was a cameo, he dove into it. I dreamt all my life to work with him. I hope I can work with him again soon."

"He is a massive Superman fan. A comic book fanatic," Muschetti said. Cage isn't the only veteran returning in a cameo. Michael Keaton will reprise his role as Batman, which he played twice in 1989 and 1992 Tim Burton films, and Ben Affleck is also on board as Batman in a DC multi-

verse twist. The Flash opens in theatres on June



ARCHIE

















GARFIELD





YOU MAKE ME

FEEL LIKE I JUST GOT A NOTIFICATION

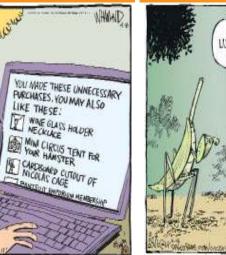
THAT SOMEBODY LEFT A COMMENT AND SHARED MY POST







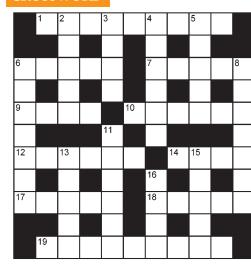
REALITY CHECK

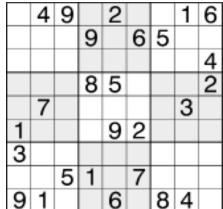


SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD





SUDOKU



exactly once. . The sum of all numbers in

ACROSS

- 1 This small sea creature might sting a swimmer
- 6 Does a signature on 7 Telling untruths 9 Very uncommon
- 10 The tiredness you get after a very long plane flight
- 12 A paper hanky 14 A hard black fuel

19 A month

2 Verv keer

3 Misplaced

camera

DOWN

- 17 The opposite of tails 18 Train tracks

4 Recorded with a movie



5 Not moving

11 Day's end

13 Frighten

6 Pull something to

make it longer or wider

8 A swimmer's glasses

15 A small oval oily fruit

16 A baby's transport

GINGER MEGGS

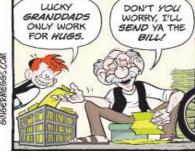
YOU MAKE ME

FEEL LIKE I JUST GOT A NOTIFICATION

THAT SOMEBODY







the pioneer 1]ayawada

Follow us on

@TheDailyPioneer

facebook.com/ dailypioneer

Saturday May 27, 2023

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

SHIKHA DUGGAL

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

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

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



MBBS in my hometown."

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

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

ward now.

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

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

have a WhatsApp group of 200 doctors through which we

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

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

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

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

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

is increasing day by day,

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

Amyra sheds her sweet image with Kya Loge Tum



Calming down your stressful pups

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

ANXIOUS

n adventures and engaging fully with playtime to make sure your connection with them stays strong.

The most important facet

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

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

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

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



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

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

Gill began sturdily and turned brutal in the second

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

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

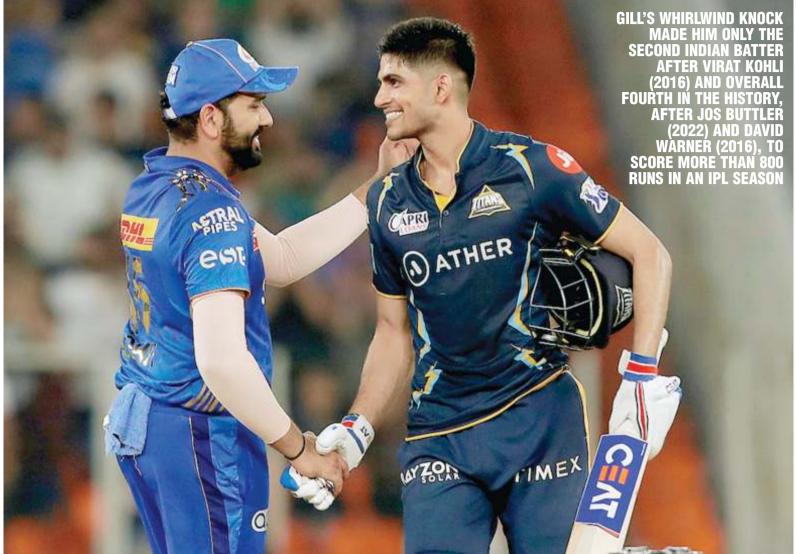
Gill's whirlwind knock made him only the second Indian batter after Virat Kohli (2016) and overall fourth in the history, after Jos Buttler (2022) and David Warner (2016), to score more than 800 runs in an Gill hit three sixes off MI's

hero of the last game, Akash Madhwal (1/53), in the 12th over to cross the 800-run mark, continuing his form to single-handedly lead Gujarat Titans' charge.

He brought up his fifty off

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

After Ishan Kishan could

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

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

Divine to perform at IPL 2023 finale

PTI MUMBAI

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

League (IPL) on May 28.

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

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

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

prominent sporting league of the country.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

With only window for

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

WTC winners to get \$1.6 mn prize money

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

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

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

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

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

earning USD 450,000 for finishing third in



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

The remaining teams New Zealand

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



as cover for Inglis

PTI ■ SYDNEY

ustralia have selected wick-Australia nave selected

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

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

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

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

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

The right-handed lowerorder batter has improved his man in."

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

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

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

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

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

Roy ends England deal to play T20 cricket in USA

AP LONDON

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

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

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

Roy was dropped from England's central contract list last year, downgraded to an incremental deal worth between £60,000 and £70,000.

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

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

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



many more years — that remains my priority.' He added: "As a single format player with no central contract I wanted to take the opportunity to play this competition as there are currently no scheduling conflicts with England. It benefits me as an

national runs in all formats.

hope to feature in this year's 50-over

statement on Twitter that he would

as a professional cricketer," said Roy,

who has scored nearly 6,000 inter-

never walk away from England.

The Surrey player said in a

"Representing my country continues to be my proudest moment

"I hope to play for England for

World Cup defence in India.

chances of wearing the iconic Baggy Green during the Ashes. England player to play as much competitive cricket as possible."

tollywood

#MenToo:

Haphazardly Mansplained



AMARTYA SMARAN

ter, #*Mentoo* would be a perfect

Keerthy Suresh starrer Raghuthatha wraps up its final schedule

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

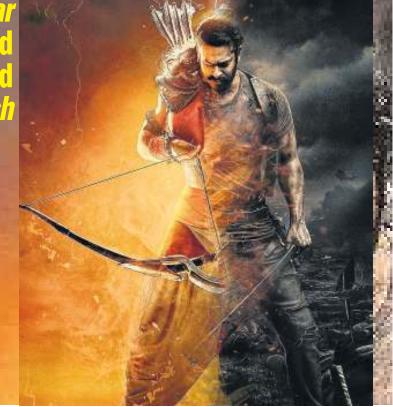


Pand most-anticipated there is no official announcement regarding the same yet.

Prashanth Neel's Salaar and Om Raut's Adipurush. Ever since he starred in the SS Rajamouli's Baahubali, he has become one of the most bankable stars, which turned him into a pan-India star. Now, moviegoers can't wait to know what's in store for them. While *Adipurush* is all set to hit the big screens on June 16, Prabhas fans are eagerly waiting for an update on Salaar.

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

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



Mahesh & Namrata overjoyed with Sitara endorsing a jewellery brand

Tollywood. She has been very active on the social media platform, Instagram, and steals the hearts of people with her style and elegance. Sitara is the first star kid to endorse a major brand on television.

Recently, Sitara has seized a great opportuni-



Sitara Ghattamaneni, daughter of Superstar ty for a brand endorsement. She will now appear on television for a major jewellery brand advertisement. Sitara has already appeared in a few tisement. Sitara has already appeared in a few advertisements with her father, Mahesh Babu. There are a few snaps regarding this on social media, in which the star kid is seen working on sets for the shoot. This will be a grand launch for her on the television commercial platform. Mahesh Babu and Namrata are overioved

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

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

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

Nagaraju Talluri

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

Performances:

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

Ali Reza, Arvind Krishna, and others

were fine in their respective roles.

Kiran Kallakuri

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

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

Conclusion:

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

