

Vishwak Sen's rugged look from VS11 pays tribute  
**TONTR**



P12

## ○ New Parliament reflects the aspirations and resolve of the 'new India': Modi

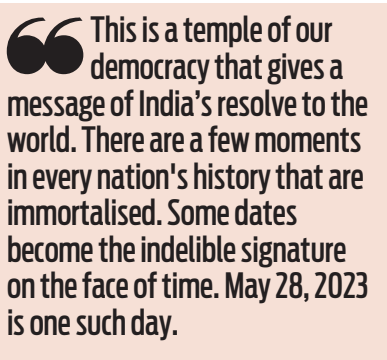
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday described the inauguration of the new Parliament building as an "immortalised" moment in the country's development journey, asserting it will mark the dawn of a self-reliant and developed India which will also inspire the progress of other nations.

In a speech delivered from the grand and cavernous Lok Sabha hall decorated in peacock motif, Modi said the new Parliament reflected the aspirations and resolve of the "new India" to set and work towards achieving greater heights.

"Every decision taken here will lay the foundation of India's glorious future... the way to empower the poor, Dalits, backwards, tribals, divyangs and other marginalised sections goes through here," he said, adding "each brick and wall of this Parliament building should be dedicated to the welfare of the poor."

However, Murmu, in her speech read out at the event, expressed deep satisfaction at the inauguration by Modi who, she said, symbolises Parliament's trust.

Lauding the building for its reflection of India's diversity and traditional riches in its architecture, Prime Minister Modi said the new India is shedding the "slave mentality" which had crept into the country after hun-



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

**NEW DELHI:** The inauguration of the new Parliament building on Sunday was marked with a boycott by 21 opposition parties which accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of treating the event like his 'coronation', and said democracy is run by people not by buildings.

The opposition leaders also accused the government of violating Constitutional norms by not inviting President Droupadi Murmu to the event. They said when the inauguration ceremony was underway, protesting wrestlers, who have accused a BJP MP of sexual harassment, were removed from Jantar Mantar as

They sought to march towards the new Parliament House.

The government has rejected the opposition argument, saying no protocols were violated and that Modi respects the President.

The Congress claimed the new Parliament was inaugurated in a grand fashion by a "self-glorifying authoritarian PM with utter disdain for Parliamentary procedures". Democracy does not run from the buildings but through the voices of the people, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge said.

"The right to inaugurate the new Parliament was snatched from the President.

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy met Union Home Minister Amit Shah at his residence here on Sunday and held discussions for over 40 minutes on State-related issues.

He urged for endorsing the revised estimates of Polavaram project and ensuring Union cabinet approval.

The unresolved issues between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana during bifurcation should be expedited, he urged the Union Home Minister.

He also discussed the issues of division of assets as per Schedule 9 and 10 including AP Bhavan.

The electricity dues receivable from Telangana Government was also mentioned and he urged that steps should be taken to clearance of dues.

## -SPORTS

Under the new system, passengers can conveniently purchase a direct ticket online from their departure location to their intended destination. For instance, if a passenger wants to travel from Kadapa to Srikakulam, where there is no direct RTC service, they would have had to purchase a ticket to Visakhapatnam and then change buses, buying another ticket to Srikakulam. This process was not only tiresome but also costly. However, with the introduction of multi-city ticketing, passengers can travel on the bus they initially boarded, paying only a single reservation fee, thus reducing the hassle

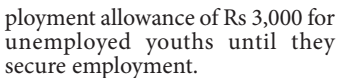


The APSRTC has implemented an advanced seat reservation system even for connecting buses. With this new system, passengers are provided with a break journey facility to reach their final destinations. The ticket remains valid during the break journey, which may involve waiting periods ranging from 2 to 22 hours for the connecting bus.

2

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) national president N. Chandrababu Naidu launched his election campaign with a grand event at Mahanadu, where he announced an attractive manifesto that encompasses the interests of women, Backward Classes (BCs), farmers, youth, and senior citizens, all under the banner of "Guarantee for the Future."

Addressing a massive crowd on the final day of Mahanadu, Naidu received thunderous applause as he proposed six key schemes aimed at empowering women, farmers, BCs, and the youth in preparation for the upcoming Assembly elections.



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

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

## 2

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leaders, supporters, Nandamuri family members and multitudes of people across Andhra Pradesh paid rich tributes to former Chief Minister N T Rama Rao, founder of TDP and legendary actor, on his 100th birth anniversary on Sunday.

On the second day of TDP Mahanadu, a brainstorming session of the party leaders and sup-

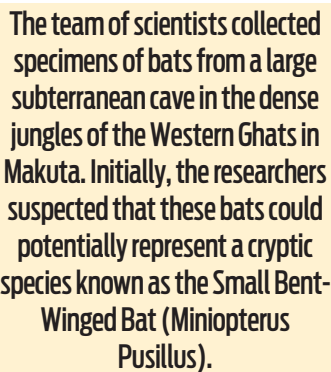
porters, which coincided with Rao's birth anniversary, his son-in-law and former chief minister L Chandrababu Naidu paid tributes by garlanding Rao's statue at Kotipalli bus station in Rajamahendravaram in East Godavari district.

The TDP president was accompanied by Rao's son and Hindupur MLA Nandamuri Balakrishna and senior party leader Atchannaidu among others.

**PAGE:2**



The team of scientists collected specimens of bats from a large subterranean cave in the dense jungles of the Western Ghats in Makuta. Initially, the researchers suspected



The Small Bent-Winged Bat is found in the Nicobar Islands, peninsular India, Nepal and Northeast

India. Previous studies conducted on bats in the Andaman Islands revealed genetic differences between the island fauna and mainland India populations. This led the scientists to suspect that the specimens from Makuta and other parts of the Western Ghats may belong to a cryptic

When at rest, their wings tend to fold over themselves, giving them the distinct bent-winged appearance.

Before this discovery, four species of bent-winged bats were known in India. With the identification of Srin's Bent-Winged Bat, the number of known species has increased to five. Aditya Srinivasulu, a PhD researcher at the University of Reading, UK, gave more info about the findings. He said that the two species of bent-winged bats, *Miniopterus Phyllipsi* and *Miniopterus Pusillus*, were known to exist in the Western Ghats. However, their research provided evidence that the population of bent-winged bats earlier considered as *Miniopterus Pusillus* actually represents a cryptic species.

2

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi received a new ordinary passport on Sunday, two days after a local court granted its no objection to the issuance of the same, sources said. They said the passport office had assured Gandhi in the morning that the passport would be issued to him on Sunday and he got it in the afternoon.

Starting with San Francisco where he is scheduled to interact with students at the prestigious Stanford University, Gandhi will also address a press conference and have meetings with the lawmakers and think tanks in Washington DC.

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



# Monday Mirchi

## THE MAN FOR THE JOB ANYWHERE ACROSS THE GLOBE

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

## OPPN TO FIGHT BIAS AGAINST BABUS

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

## TRIGGER FOR TROLL TRAFFIC OVER TWEET

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

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

## GAG ORDER AND LICENCE TO SPEAK

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

## 5:00 PM IS NO LONGER CLOSING TIME

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

-Yours truly

# Naidu is a visionary: Lokesh

PNS ■ RAJAHMUNDRY

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) national general secretary Nara Lokesh has described TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu as a visionary and Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy as a prisoner.

Addressing the Mahanadu on the second and concluding day on Sunday, Nara Lokesh termed Chandrababu Naidu as a hero while Jagan Mohan Reddy as a zero.

Before the last Assembly elections Jagan Mohan Reddy acted as a soft leader but after coming to power he became a psycho and this is the reason as to why he is named as psycho Jagan, remarked Lokesh. Profusely thanking all those who attended the Mahanadu, Lokesh said that he bows his head before the cadre who are out to safeguard the TDP.

Recalling the services rendered by the Late NT Rama Rao as the chief minister of the State, Lokesh said that it was the Late NT Rama Rao who introduced the schemes like Rs 2 a kg rice, pucca houses, janata clothes, mid-day meal



and several other such schemes to the country. While NTR, who floated the Telugu Desam Party has history, Chandrababu Naidu has the calibre to run the State, he remarked.

It is Chandrababu Naidu who has created history by building the Hitech City in Hyderabad and clearly defined what is development by

encouraging several companies to set up their units in the State like Kia Motors, HCL and TCL, Mr Lokesh observed. Chandrababu introduced several welfare schemes like Chandranna Bheema, Pelli Kanuka, loan waiver for farmers, Pasupu Kunkuma and many such schemes besides introducing Anna Canteens to provide food to the poor, he

# Govt committed to quality power supply: Vijayanand

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

In a bid to revolutionise the power sector, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh is determined to establish the State as a leader in cost-effective and abundant power supply for its consumers and future generations. The government's primary goal is to ensure round-the-clock, high-quality power supply for consumers, along with nine hours of power supply for agricultural purposes.

K Vijayanand, the Special Chief Secretary for Energy, highlighted that the government has already introduced a renewable energy export policy in 2020. This policy aims to promote the development of

wind solar hybrid projects, thus strengthening the energy sector. Additionally, pumped hydro storage projects (PSP) with a total capacity of approximately 33 GW are planned, both along rivers and in off-river locations. Upon the completion of these projects, Andhra Pradesh will lead the country's power sector and have the ability to export surplus power to other states.

Emphasising the importance of providing top-notch services to consumers, the Special Chief Secretary for Energy stated that consumers are the cornerstone of the sector, while the electricity employee community serves as the pillars of the power industry. During district-level review meetings, the



employee community reaffirmed their commitment to working tirelessly to deliver quality power supply to consumers.

Chief Minister, Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, and Energy Minister, Peddireddi Ramachandra Reddy, are

strongly committed to ensuring reliable power supply for consumers, as well as free power for agriculture. The government has entered into an agreement with the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) to procure 7000 MW of solar power, ensuring the continuation of the 9 hours of free power for agriculture during daylight hours for the next 25 years.

During discussions on the latest activities of thermal power generating units, KVN Chakradhar Babu, the Managing Director of APGENCO, stated, "APGENCO currently supplies approximately 102 to 105 million units per day to the state grid, which accounts for around 40 to 45%

of the total energy demand. This is the highest level achieved since the state's bifurcation." APGENCO is making concerted efforts to enhance coal stocks, improve the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of power generation through better heat rates and optimal fuel resource utilisation. The organization aims to become a premier national entity in power generation, maintaining the highest Plant Load Factor (PLF). The MD of GENCO also informed the Special Chief Secretary for Energy that APGENCO is devising an action plan to improve financial and operational performance, further bolstering the thermal power generating units.

# Heavy rain plays spoilsport



PNS ■ RAJAHMUNDRY

Rajamahendravaram witnessed an unexpected turn of events on Sunday as heavy rainfall and strong winds marred the second and final day of Telugu Desam Party's (TDP) Mahanadu. The inclement weather wreaked havoc on the event held at Venagiri on the outskirts of the city, causing significant damage to the extensive flexis and banners erected by party workers. Concerned for

their safety, party members scrambled for cover as the rain intensified and gusty winds made it perilous to remain near the towering banners and flexis.

Meanwhile, Mahanadu witnessed a disruptive incident involving Aaku Venkateswara Rao, an ardent follower of the TDP. Venkateswara Rao expressed his discontent at the event, alleging mistreatment by TDP's national general secretary, Lokesh. He claimed that he had been

used and subsequently abandoned when his services were no longer deemed valuable to the party.

Venkateswara Rao further accused TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu and Atchannaidu of ruining his life, thus expressing his desire to spare other followers from similar experiences. He made a dramatic entrance into the Mahanadu venue and directed his grievances towards Nara Lokesh, not only verbally abusing Naidu's

# Naidu in poll mode...

Continued from Page 1

Naidu assured that all eligible individuals would benefit from these schemes, which he plans to launch with the objective of improving their financial well-being.

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

Taking a harsh stance against the ruling Jagan Mohan Reddy-led government, Naidu alleged that all sections of society had been adversely affected during YSRCP's rule. He criticized the additional burden of Rs 5 lakh crore imposed on the people of the state

through various forms of taxation.

Naidu also denounced the ruling party leaders for exploiting natural resources such as sand and soil, while the state's income declined significantly compared to neighboring Telangana, which experienced an increase.

"The incompetence of the YSRCP regime has hindered the progress of the state. The welfare of SCs has been neglected, and the government is attempting to protect individuals accused of murder. During the YSRCP regime, 26 TDP activists belonging to the BCs were murdered," Naidu criticized. Despite heavy rain, a large number of TDP activists attended the meeting.

TDP senior leaders including K Atchannaidu, Nara Lokesh N Balakrishna, V Anita, Nimmala Ramanaidu, Payyavula Keshav and Gorantla Butchchaih Chowdary also addressed the gathering.

# Avinash Reddy's mother stable

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Kadapa MP YS Avinash Reddy's mother has undergone Cutting Balloon Angioplasty and stent placement procedure at a private hospital here and is said to be stable.

Avinash, who was summoned by the CBI to appear before it here on May 22 in connection with former minister YS Vivekananda Reddy's murder case, wrote to the central agency seeking time to appear before it citing his mother's ill health and intimating that he will come for investigation once his mother fully recovers.

Earlier, Y S Laxmi was admitted to a hospital in Kurnool and later shifted to AIG hospitals here.

"Yeduguri Sandinti Laxmi, 66 years old female was admitted in AIG Hospitals,

Gachibowli, Hyderabad on 26th May 2023 referred from a hospital in Kurnool after Angiogram. Her Coronary Angiogram showed two vessel diseases.

She underwent Cutting Balloon Angioplasty and stent placement, to Right Coronary Artery today at our hospital. Currently she is stable and recovering in the ICU after the procedure," the hospital said in a statement on Saturday night.

The cousin of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, Avinash is under the scanner of the CBI in connection with his uncle Vivekananda Reddy's murder that took place in March 2019.

He has appeared before the CBI at least five times this year. He subsequently moved the Telangana High Court with the anticipatory bail petition. The

High Court on Saturday directed the CBI not to arrest him till May 31.

His father Y S Bhaskar Reddy was arrested by the CBI on April 16 in connection with the case.

Vivekananda Reddy, one of the brothers of the late Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Rajasekhara Reddy, was found murdered at his residence in Pulivendula in Kadapa district on the night of March 15, 2019, just weeks before the Assembly elections in the State.

The case was initially probed by a special investigation team (SIT) of the state crime investigation department, but was handed over to the CBI in July 2020.

The CBI filed a charge sheet in the murder case on October 26, 2021 and followed it up with a supplementary charge sheet on January 31, 2022.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:

Sukla Paksha

Tithi: Navami:

May 28 09:57 AM to May 29 11:49 AM

Dashami:

May 29 11:49 AM to May 30 01:08 PM

Nakshatram:

May 29 02:20 AM to May 30 04:29 AM

Uttara Phalguni:

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

Hasta:

May 31 06:00 AM to May 31 06:00 AM

Rahukalam:

7:22 AM to 8:59 AM

Yamagandam:

10:36 AM to 12:13 PM

Varijyam:

01:25 PM to 03:07 PM

Gulika:

1:50 PM to 3:27 PM

Amritakalam:

08:38 PM to 10:23 PM

Abhijit Muhurtham:

08:38 PM to 10:23 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Mostly Sunny

Temp: 40°

Humidity: 55%

Sunrise: 5:34 AM

Sunset: 6:36 PM

Updated: May 28, 2023 5:00 PM

# APSRTC launches...

Continued from Page 1

In case the bus passenger is travelling and experiences any mechanical issues along the way, they will be promptly accommodated on another bus to ensure a seamless journey for all passengers. APSRTC officials have noted that there are currently no direct bus services available to eight districts from Rayalaseema to various remote locations, excluding Visakhapatnam. Keeping this in mind, the APSRTC has introduced the multi-city ticketing (break journey) facility to destinations such as Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Bhadrachalam, and other locations, including Visakhapatnam.

To raise awareness about this new facility, the APSRTC is distributing pamphlets and providing information at ticket counters through informative posters. The implementation of the break journey feature is aimed at improving convenience for passengers. Gopinath Reddy, Executive Director of the Kadapa Zone, highlighted that the break journey facility is available across several locations in the Kadapa zone, including Kadapa, Proddutur, Rayachoti, Tirupati, Chittoor, and Madanapalle. Additionally, break journey services are provided from Puttaparthi, Anantapur, and Hindupur depots.

# OU scientists discover...

Continued from Page 1

Cryptic species share morphological similarities with known species but differ genetically. The Makuta specimens and other populations reported from the Western Ghats, previously assigned to Small Bent-Winged Bats, may actually represent Srin's Bent-Winged Bat. The taxonomic status of the bats found in Nepal and Northeast India requires further investigation.

Insectivorous bats, whether residing in forests or human settlements, play a vital ecological role by controlling insect pop-

ulations that affect cash crops, agriculture and the transmission of diseases in both animals and humans. Bats make significant contributions to the economy and are essential components of ecosystems.

The newly discovered bat species has been named in honour of Prof. C. Srinivasulu, a renowned bat biologist associated with Osmania University. The comprehensive description of the new species has been published in the latest issue of 'Zootaxa', a respected peer-reviewed scientific journal specialising in animal taxonomy.

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# ‘Naidu’s betrayal haunted NT Rama Rao till his end’

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

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

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

In a scathing attack, Lakshmi Parvathi denounced



Telugu Academy Chairperson Lakshmi Parvathi, FDC Chairman Posani Murali Krishna, Director Ramgopal Varma, YSRCP East incharge D.Avinash and others paying tributes to NTR on his birth anniversary organised by NTR Vignyan Trust and Devineni Nehru Charitable Trust in Vijayawada on Sunday. Pic by **Ch Vijaya Bhaskar**

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

Lakshmi Parvathi firmly stated that Chandrababu Naidu

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

Lakshmi Parvathi expressed her deep gratitude to Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy for the decision to name a district after NTR, acknowledging his immense contribution in honouring her husband's legacy. She credited director Ram Gopal Varma for

his unwavering support during challenging times and commended Posani Krishna Murali for standing by her like a brother, ensuring her character was portrayed accurately in the film based on NTR's life.

The event also witnessed speeches from Devineni Avinash, former minister Velampalli Srinivas, director Ram Gopal Varma, and Posani Krishna Murali, who shared their thoughts and memories of NTR.

## Kodali dares Naidu, Lokesh to contest from Gudivada, Gannavaram

Pays tributes to Dr NTR on his birth centenary

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Former minister and Gudivada MLA Kodali Sri Venkateswara Rao (Nani) has challenged Telugu Desam Party (TDP) chief and former Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and general secretary Nara Lokesh to contest the elections from Gudivada and Gannavaram Assembly constituencies. He said that Chandrababu was prepared to backstab people in the next elections by using the name of NTR.

Former Chief Minister and TDP founder Dr NT Rama Rao's birth centenary celebrations were conducted at Gudivada in Krishna district



on Sunday. Kodali Nani paid tributes to NTR by garlanding his bronze statue.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Nani came down heavily on the TDP chief and his son Lokesh. "TDP should be

defeated in the 2024 elections and people should teach a befitting lesson to Chandrababu," he said.

"Chandrababu once said that if NTR had been alive, TDP and the State would have

been destroyed. He has no other way to sustain himself politically, so he is using NTR's name," he said.

"People know well about the 'backstabbing politics' of Chandrababu and the lies he tells for getting votes. Heirs of Dr NTR will take over TDP by driving away Chandrababu and Lokesh from the State.

"Chandrababu snatched the Telugu Desam Party from Dr NTR and was responsible for his death. Under the leadership of Chandrababu, TDP has collapsed in Telangana State. Similarly, the Opposition party will disappear in Andhra Pradesh. Dr NTR's heirs only can save TDP in the State," he added.

## Clean canals soon, Collector tells VMC

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

NTR District Collector Dr S Dilli Rao has ordered the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation authorities to take measures to clean Bandar, Ryves, and Eluru canals by removing the mud, waste materials and dregs which are obstructing the water flow.

On Sunday, he checked the Ryves canal at Kotha Vantena Centre in the city, where water flow is blocked by mud.

He went to the nearby Ward Secretariat and talked to the officials about the situation.

The Collector said that due to the stagnant sewage water, infections and contagious diseases are likely to spread speedily. He directed the officials to sprinkle anti-larva spray to contain mosquitoes.

The Collector insisted on maintaining hygiene along all the canal banks, including the green parks set up there.

He directed the officials to take prompt steps to solve the issue.

## SAI selection trials for admission

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Sports Authority of India (SAI) will conduct selection trials for athletics (both boys and girls) and weightlifting (girls) for admission into its State-level Khelo India Centre, at the SAI Centre, Eluru, on May 31 and June 1. Trials will be conducted in Under-14, Under-16 and Under-18 age groups, said centre in-charge DNV Vinayak Prasad in a press release here on Sunday.

As per the rules of SAI, free accommodation and food will be provided, apart from sports kits. Individual insurance facilities will also be provided.

Those interested to attend the selections should bring their age proof, Aadhar, sports certificates, three passport-size photos and fitness certificates. For further details, contact 9885312356, he added.

## Balayya's photo missing at Mahanadu venue

PNS ■ RAJAHMUNDRY

Questions arise regarding the treatment of MLA Nandamuri Balakrishna, the active member of TDP and the heir of TDP founder NT Rama Rao, by the TDP leadership. Balakrishna's absence from the two-day Mahanadu programme held in Rajahmundry suggests that he may not have received the recognition he deserved.

Despite being engaged in both politics and movies, Balakrishna's photo was noticeably absent from the TDP's newspaper advertisement for Mahanadu. Moreover, his photo was nowhere to be seen on the event's stage. Instead, the stage featured a photo of NTR on one side and Chandrababu Naidu on the other, with a larger poster in the center displaying

images of NTR, Chandrababu, and Lokesh. Small photos of AP President Atchannaidu and Telangana President Kasani Jnaneshwar were placed above the three leaders' photos, while the photos of other important party members appeared below.

The exclusion of Nandamuri Balakrishna's photo from Mahanadu, which commemorates the TDP founder NTR's birthday, has led to speculations about Chandrababu's intentions. It is puzzling why Balakrishna's photo was absent from both the advertisements and the prominent stage poster when NTR, Chandrababu, and Lokesh were represented. Interestingly, Balakrishna's photo did appear in the TDP's newspaper advertisement for the NTR centenary celebra-

tions. The absence of Balakrishna's photo in Mahanadu advertisements has become a topic of discussion among TDP activists.

Balakrishna, who is not only NTR's successor but also Chandrababu's brother-in-law and Lokesh's father-in-law, being left out of the advertisement has sparked widespread interest. Additionally, all members of NTR's family have been invited to the Mahanadu event, which is being held in honor of NTR's centenary. Actor Junior NTR, however, has distanced himself from the party, likely due to his understanding of Chandrababu's tendency to use and discard individuals. It remains unknown how Balakrishna has reacted to the absence of his photo at Mahanadu.

## Man killed by nephew

PNS ■ MANCHERIAL

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

The deceased was identified as Mujampalli Posham alias Bujii.

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

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

## New Parl bldg a jewel in crown of Mother India: Pawan Kalyan

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Jana Sena president K Pawan Kalyan has described the newly constructed Parliament building as a 'Jewel in the Crown of Mother India'.

In a statement here on Sunday, Pawan Kalyan said that the Indian society, which secured independence with the sacrifices of warriors, is proudly celebrating its diamond jubilee year.

"There have been many changes and many more additions in the past 75 years. There are many newer decisions and



Central Vista.

"On behalf of Jana Sena, I extend my heartfelt greetings to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the auspicious occasion of his inauguration of the House of Constitution which was designed as a collection of arts from various states. I also congratulate Narendra Modi and BJP leadership for initiating the construction of a great structure which was designed as a triangle-shaped masterpiece. I feel that everyone who is involved in the construction of the structure will remain great in history," Pawan Kalyan said.

victories in dispelling foreign rulers. At a time when we are working tirelessly to emerge as a top leading nation, another new symbol is being added to the necklace of our mother India, that is the new 'Parliament Building' which came up on the premises of

## UPSC Prelims exam held smoothly

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Civil Services preliminary examination of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) was conducted peacefully across Andhra Pradesh on Sunday. The UPSC allocated centres in four major cities in the State including Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Tirupati and Anantapur.

According to the information from the district collectors of the respective cities. A total

of 17,157 candidates attended for paper-I (morning session) and 14,273 candidates for paper-II (Afternoon session) appeared for the preliminary examination against a total 32,786 candidates applied across the State.

The examination was conducted peacefully in 79 centres in four cities. District collectors monitored the examinations from the special control rooms arranged in respective collectorates and higher officials inspected the centres.



## Woman cheats youths after offering govt jobs, arrested

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Vijayawada police arrested a woman for cheating unemployed youth to the tune of Rs 8 lakh on the pretext of getting them government jobs. The woman, a former VRO, cheated six youths after offering government jobs.

The Suryaraopet police said that Muppala Rekhashree (30) from Kasturibaipeta in NTR district previously worked as Village Revenue Officer in Vuyyuru of Krishna district. She was dismissed from the job in 2018 after many allegations of cheating by making false promises of providing government jobs were levelled against her. Rekhashree collected around Rs 8 lakh from

Manavath Balaji of Palnadu district along with five others claiming to provide VRO and outsourcing jobs in the Tehsildar Office. She collected more than Rs 5 lakh from Balaji alone.

After some time, Balaji asked for the appointment letter and enquired about the date of joining, and the accused started avoiding him. Balaji, who realised that he had been cheated, filed a complaint against her. The police registered a case, conducted an investigation, arrested Rekhashree, and produced her before the court. It is said that many such cases have already been registered against Rekhashree. Six people who have already been cheated by her have approached them, said the police.

## HC judge offers pujas at Kanaka Durga temple

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

High Court Judge Justice V Sujatha visited Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Devasthanam atop Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada on Sunday.

The Judge, along with her family, offered special pujas to the presiding deity. Temple EE KVS Koteswara Rao and others welcomed Justice Sujatha and family.

Meanwhile, thousands of pilgrims visited the temple and participated in Nithya Arjithsevas such as Kadgamarachana, Laksha Kumkumarchana, Sri Chakranvaranarchana, Chandi Homam and Sathi Kalyanam. In view of Sunday, the temple priests performed Suryopasana Seva for the welfare of people.



## SRM conferred with Award for Excellence

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

SRM University-AP has been bestowed with the 'Excellence in Enabling Research Environment (Science) Award' at the 16th International Education Leadership & Skill Development Summit held in New Delhi.

The award ceremony was organised by ASSOCHAM - National Council on Education. Prof Ranjit Thapa, Dean-School of Engineering and Sciences; Dr Mahesh Kumar Ravva, Assistant Dean-Research; and Pankaj Belwariar, Director-Communications of SRM University-AP, received the award from Kunwar Shekhar Vijendra, Chairman, and Prof Rajita Kulkarni, Co-chairperson, ASSOCHAM.

In response to the award, Vice-Chancellor Prof Manoj K Arora said: "Our appetite for



research and innovation is always ongoing, and such recognitions are huge fuel for the numerous discoveries that can happen at the interface of science and research. I am proud to say that we are involved in fundamental and pure research, interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary research, applied and transla-

tion research, innovation and entrepreneurship."

Prof Ranjit Thapa, Dean-School of Engineering and Sciences, said that SRM University had created an incredible research ecosystem through a robust research infrastructure, laboratories, and research centres of excellence.

Dr Mahesh Kumar Ravva said: "Being at the receiving end of such awards is a great honour for a nascent university. We are confident to make many more impactful innovations and contribute to the country's development."

SRM University has 72 sponsored research and industrial consultancy projects with a total outlay of Rs. 28.11 crore. Among the 128 published patents, five have been granted. The research environment is anchored by eight Interdisciplinary Research Centres of Excellence.

The summit was organised in the context wherein the use of technology coupled with innovation is potent to improve education, develop ingenuity, empower people, bolster governance, and stimulate the effort to achieve the human development goal for the country.

## Gallantry medals to be presented

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Naval Investiture Ceremony-2023 will be held at Naval Base, Visakhapatnam, May 31 to felicitate the Naval personnel who have demonstrated gallant acts, leadership, professional achievements and distinguished service of a high order.

Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS), will confer Gallantry and Distinguished Service Awards, on behalf of the President of India, to the recipients.

As many as 33 awards will be presented during the ceremony, including two Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry), 13

Nao Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty), 16 Vishisht Seva Medals and two Jeevan Raksha Padaks.

The CNS will also give away the Lt VK Jain Memorial Gold Medal for pioneering research in the field of weapon improvement and Electrical Engineering, and the Capt Ravi Dhir Memorial Gold Medal for promoting flight safety.

The event will commence with a ceremonial parade and will be witnessed by the spouses and family members of awardees, along with several senior dignitaries of the Indian Navy. It will be live-streamed on 'IN YouTube' Channel from 5 pm.



# ‘Summer Shapes’ to polish students English skills

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Youth Empowering Service - Jesuits’ ‘Summer Shapes’ programme is proving to be a game-changer for students who want to improve their English communication skills and develop their soft skills. This engaging and effective programme has exposed students to a variety of learning methods that helped them be more confident in their abilities and reap the rewards for a lifetime, says Fr Bala, founder-director, YES-J.

The programme started on May 1, and will continue until May 30.

Summer Shapes’ comprehensive curriculum covers topics such as public speaking, pragmatic English grammar learning, critical thinking, time management, and leadership development, among others. Fr Bala briefed that his vision goes beyond just teaching English and soft skills, but aims to create a holistic learning environment where students can develop critical thinking, leadership skills, and a growth mindset. His philosophy of education emphasises on the importance of engaging students in a personalised and interactive learning.

Students are given ample opportunities to practise their English communication skills through interactive sessions, group discussions, and presentations. “The curriculum is customised according to the learning needs of the students aiming to erase the banking model of education,” says Pity Parker, programme coordinator of YES-J. They also get to showcase their talents and creativity through various activities such as talent shows, art exhibits, and cultural events. The organisers offer free resi-



dence with high-class facilities and free food.

According to the programme organisers, ‘Summer

Shapes’ is more than just a summer camp. It is a transformative experience that empowers students to discover their

potential and reach for their dreams. Through this programme, the students also develop a growth mindset, build lasting friendships, and gain a sense of community and belonging.

Dheeraj, one of the participants of the programme, said, “The learning here is fun. The concepts which I had found tough at school are in fact explored easily here. I’m now confident that I can be a world-class speaker if I continue this method of inquiry in learning.”

Anjali, another student, says: “I have fared well in merit in my intermediate boards. However, my knowledge in English, before, was only limited to filling grammar blanks but Summer Shapes taught me to be pragmatic in learning things especially English.”

## CRIME BEAT

## Woman electrocuted while trying to rescue a girl

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

A woman was electrocuted while trying to rescue a girl from being electrocuted at Gollapalli village in Arakonda mandal in Chittoor district.

Police on Sunday said that the deceased woman Goutami (30) went to Anjaneya swamy Temple located at Gollapalli village along with her relatives. The temple organisers erected an iron fence around the temple.

Due to a short circuit, electricity was passing through the iron fence. An eight-year-old girl came into contact with the iron fence and got electrocuted. The deceased woman, Goutami, who saw the girl being electrocuted, went to her rescue. She pushed the girl aside



but she held the iron fence with her hand and was electrocuted. She was immediately taken to a private hospital where she was declared brought dead. She risked her life to rescue a girl, who she did not know, her family members said while grieving inconsolably. The deceased Goutami was survived by husband, a son. The police registered a case.

## King cobra captured in poultry shed, released into forest

PNS ■ ANAKAPALLI

A 13-foot dreaded King Cobra was found in a poultry shed at Krishnayapalem village in the district.

The snake entered a small poultry shed owned by a farmer Suresh Chowdary. However, it got stuck in the iron mesh of the poultry shed.

Suresh Chowdary the matter to the snake catcher Venkatesh. He went to the village and captured it and later released it into the forest area.

Due to shrinking forest area and displacement of habitations, King Cobras and other wild animals are straying into the nearby villages. King Cobras are called Girinagu in the local parlance and King Cobras often enter the villages in search of food, but most of the time, the frightened villagers kill them, a forest official said. King Cobras are prevalent in the combined Visakhapatnam and East Godavari districts.



## Tipper, ethanol tanker’s cabin destroyed in fire

PNS ■ KAKINADA

A tipper was gutted in a head-on collision with an ethanol tanker near Peddapuram ADB road junction in

Kakinada district on Sunday. The tanker filled with 30,000 litres of ethanol was intact though its cabin was destroyed, police said. Two fire tenders from Peddapuram and Samalkot rushed to the

spot and put out the flames after an over three-hour fight. The tanker driver suffered burns and was admitted to the Area hospital at Peddapuram. A case was registered and further investigation is on.

## Five hurt in fire at cracker unit

PNS ■ NELLORE

Five persons were injured when a huge fire broke out late on Saturday night at an unauthorised fireworks unit at Mamuduru village in Nellore district.

Of the five injured, two of them are said to be critical.

Sub inspector Marri Naidu said that as many as six people from Damaramadugu, Kondadibba, and Atmakuru mandals of Nellore were working in the illegal fireworks manufacturing unit established in the orchard. Of six people, five were injured

and they were shifted to Nellore and Atmakuru hospitals for treatment.

The victims are currently undergoing treatment, two of the victims named Bandi Shiva and Ramesh are said to be in critical condition. Other injured named Bandi Mallikarjun, P Mani, Kanne Malli, and Raja are out of danger.

Initially, police received information about a fire accident in the orchard due to a short circuit.

The orchard owner identified as Jayanth Reddy informed the police that the

injured men all were working in the orchard as tree cutters.

On Saturday night, after completion of work, they all consumed alcohol and slept. Suddenly, there was a huge blast and in the flash they received burn injuries.

Police registered a case, took up an investigation and found that an unauthorised and illegal fireworks manufacturing unit was established in the orchard.

Police also collected clues from the spot. Apart from the police, revenue, and fire officials inspected where the explosion occurred.

## Man arrested for harassing pregnant woman; demanding Rs 25 lakh

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

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

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

Despite taking the money, the accused demanded Rs 25 lakh from the victim.

## Minister exhorts sportspersons to take victories and defeats equally

PNS ■ BHIMAVARAM

Minister for Civil Supplies Karumuri Venkata Nageswara Rao has exhorted the players to take victories and defeats equally and excel in sports.

The minister participated in the prizes distribution for the winners of the differently abled cricket premier league which was held on May 26, 27 and 28. Karumuri team defeated Central zone in the crime premier league.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that the Chief Minister of the State Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy has given great importance to sports and encouraged the students from the student stage.

“We want our athletes to participate in national and international competitions and



win and bring accolades and recognition to the state and the country. The state government has laid great emphasis on the welfare of the disabled and is encouraging them by giving reservations in education and

employment opportunities,” the minister stated.

The medical certificates of the disabled are provided by Southern and a pension of Rs 3,000 is provided to every disabled person on the first day of

every month, he said.

The minister said that he would do his best to organise more tournaments and expressed his interest for disabled people and sports by providing financial support to encourage talented athletes.

The disabled athletes who won the competitions were felicitated and given prizes in the programme. Similarly, the minister urged the defeated athletes to work hard to become winners in the next competitions.

RDO Dasi Raju, Tahasildar Y Ravi Kumar, MPDO Srirama Chandra Prabhu, DNR College Governing Body Members Sivarama Raju, Principals of various colleges, teachers, physical education teachers and disabled athletes were among those who participated.

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

K VENKATESHWARLU ■ HYDERABAD

The opposition parties in Telangana, the BJP and the Congress, are criticising each other saying that they are hand-in-glove with the ruling BRS. This has been going on for many years in Telangana.

At the same time, these two parties – the BJP and the Congress – say that they are the alternative to the BRS and are not at all hand-in-glove with the BRS.

The Telangana BJP’s spokesperson, NV Subhash, told ‘The Pioneer’ that there was no need for confusion regarding this.

Congress MLAs and MLCs joined the BRS immediately after elections on two occasions and it clearly shows that voting for the Congress is nothing but voting for the BRS. BRS supremo K. Chandrasekhar Rao did not go to Karnataka to campaign for the Congress. The latest evidence is that BRS MPs did not attend the inauguration of Parliament’s new building as per the directions of the Congress. The Congress will field weak candidates in the 2023 Telangana Assembly elections to help the BRS,” he said.

Subhash said that there is no need for any confusion regarding this as there is circumstantial evidence right from 2014. But Telangana Congress spokesperson B. Ayodya Reddy told ‘The Pioneer’ that the statements of BJP leaders Konda Vishweshwar Reddy and Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy have raised doubts among the people that the BJP is hand-in-glove with the BRS as Central investigating agencies are not arresting Kavitha.

This is enough to prove that the BJP and the BRS are two sides of the same coin. He said that even recently a Delhi BJP leader said almost the same thing during a chat. Ayodya Reddy said that both the BJP and the BRS are one and so the BRS is not opposing the BJP in Parliament seriously. Not only the BRS, the AIMIM is also hand-in-glove with the BJP, Ayodya Reddy said.

He said the BJP always says that the Kaleshwaram Project is an ATM of the BRS but it never asks Central investigating agencies to probe it. This is another proof that they are one, he added.

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

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

On Sunday, Harish Rao slammed both the BJP and the Congress saying that both of them are more dangerous than even natural calamities. The people are confused regarding this and they ask which party (the BJP or the Congress) is hand-in-glove with the BRS. Elections are just five months away but their confusion has been cleared.

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



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

“This confusion is a sin against the people of Telangana. I think there is no such confusing politics anywhere else. These parties are deceiving the people of Telangana. They have an obligation to clear the confusion in public minds,” Ram Reddy said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Ujjain to celebrate TS Formation Day

■ MP Guv to participate

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Madhya Pradesh IAS officer P. Narahari tweeted on Sunday that Telangana Formation Day will be celebrated in Ujjain City on June 2 under the chairmanship of Madhya Pradesh Governor Mangubhai Patel.

Narahari also posted an invitation along with his tweet which says that Madhya Pradesh Higher Education Minister Dr Mohan Yadav would also participate in the celebrations named ‘Akandatha Ka Utsav’ being held at Kirthi Mandir near the Vikram Vishwavidyalaya in Ujjain City.

“Jayaho #Telangana! First time “Telangana Independence Day Celebrations” by Madhya Pradesh Government. This programme will be held at Mahakal in Ujjain city on June 2 under the chairmanship of the Hon’ble @Governor of Madhya Pradesh Manyulu Mangubhai Patel. #Telangana,” tweeted IAS officer P. Narahari.

It is learnt that there are many settlers from Telangana in Ujjain city and that the celebrations are being held as per the wishes of Telangana settlers. In fact, IAS officer P. Narahari is also originally from Telangana.



## Four of a family died in bus-car collision

PNS ■ MEDAK

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

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



## In fighting BJP, KCR proves he is unyielding

SNCN ACHARYULU ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao has proved that he is different from other opposition leaders in fighting the BJP which is in power at the Centre.

There are speculations that BRC MLC K. Kavitha, the daughter of KCR, has come out safely from the Delhi liquor scam as the CBI has not mentioned her name in its latest charge sheet.

The BJP-led Centre is using Central agencies like the CBI, the ED and the IT Department to harass opposition parties and force them to join hands with the BJP. The Centre has been trying out this experiment on the opposition for a long time now.

In this process, some opposition leaders have surrendered to the Centre and some others are silent to avoid harassment by Central agencies.

BRS President KCR declared a political war against the BJP and tried to bring all opposition parties under the Federal Front



umbrella.

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

After the ED issued a summons in the Delhi liquor scam Kavitha appeared thrice before ED officials. Once there were strong speculations that the ED is going to arrest Kavitha in the Delhi liquor scam.

But KCR did not compromise with the Centre to save his daughter from the liquor scam. Instead, KCR intensified his moves against the BJP. Kavitha also thinks that

she is now safe in the Delhi liquor scam. BRS circles also strongly feel that Kavitha’s role in the Delhi liquor scam is a closed chapter.

Even though Central agencies were harassing BRS leaders and KCR’s family, KCR stood like a rock against the BJP without any compromise, unlike some other opposition leaders. This has boosted KCR’s image across the nation. Some opposition leaders think that the opposition’s leader should be a person like KCR who will fight the BJP without any compromise.



INDIA CORNER

## Twitterati rave about ‘Akhand Bharat’ mural in new Parliament

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



## Bengal: Mango exports this season to start from early June

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



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

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



# Census unlikely before LS polls

○ Citizens to be asked about smartphones, Internet, cereals

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

voter lists, etc.

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

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

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

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

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

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



## Deer shot dead by poachers in Jharkhand

PNS ■ MEDININAGAR (JHARKHAND)

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

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

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

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

## Wrestlers detained after scuffle as Delhi Police thwarts protest

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Politicians and sportspersons condemn police action

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

## NCR youth embarks on foot journey to Mount Kailash

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

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

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

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

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

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

## PARLIAMENT BUILDING INAUGURATION

## Focus on VP Enclave, new PMO, Common Central Secretariat

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



the cost rose marginally due to certain changes.

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

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

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

## New Parliament building highlights rich democratic traditions with modern touch

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



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

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

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

Mahabharata," Modi said.

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

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

## Delhi HC sentences to jail two PWD officials for contempt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

PNS ■ BENGALURU

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

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



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

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

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

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

## Will meet FM Sitharaman to claim refund of Rs 9242.60 cr

PNS ■ DHARAMSHALA

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

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

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

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

# ISRO begins countdown for launch of navigation satellite

PNS ■ SRIHARIKOTA (AP)

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## DRAFT RULES TO REGULATE E-PHARMACIES

## Centre told to inform HC outcome of consultations

PNS ■ BENGALURU

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

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

A bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and

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

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







FIRST COLUMN

## ‘SENGOL’ GETS ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE

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



THIRUVANNATHAPURAM S **RAMAKRISHNAN**

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

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

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




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

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

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

*(The author is a Public Policy Analyst)*

# Ever increasing threat of transnational terrorism



DR SUDHIR **HINDWAN**

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

## Transition from road to rail is an opportunity worth exploiting

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





NIKHIL **AGARWAL**

*(The writer is President-CJ DARCL Logistics)*

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

As per the Boston Consulting Group, “No form of mass transport has more potential to aid in the fight against global warming than rail. It is one of the most energy-efficient transport modes, responsible for 9% of global motorized passenger movement and 7% of freight shipping—but only 3% of transport energy use, according to the International Energy Agency.

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

Despite having the fourth largest network of railways globally, about 71% of inland cargo transportation in the country happens via road, and just about 17% of cargo is moved via rail. Road transportation is not just time-consuming; it also results in massive greenhouse gas emissions while Rail emits about one-fifth of trucks’ GHG emissions.

**THE PROMISING LANDSCAPE**

As per the Ministry of Railways, the Government has set a target of 33% emissions intensity reduction, with the transport sector being one of the key sectors with substantial emission mitigation potential. One of the most vital transportation emissions mitigation strategies agreed to by the Government of India was increasing the share of Indian Railways in the movement of freight from the current ~35-36% to 45% by 2030.” To achieve this, Indian Railways has prepared a National Rail Plan (NRP) for India – 2030.

There has been a massive investment lined up towards the development of Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFCs), which is touted as the most important step towards increasing the efficiency of this sector. The first phase of the DFCs project alone is estimated to reduce emissions by about 457-million-ton CO2 over a 30-year period. Looking at the promising potential this project holds, in this year’s Union Budget, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman allocated Rs27,482 crore to the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India (DFCC) for the financial year 2023-24 (FY24). As a result, the regular operation of freight trains has been started on the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC), the country’s largest railway line for freight and almost 60% of the freight trains operations on the main New Delhi-Howrah (up to Chunar) have switched on to EDFC.

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

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



MONEY MATTERS

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

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



Kaveri Seed looking at new frontiers for exports

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



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

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



Recession in Germany may impact export sectors from India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

He said the entire European



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

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

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

Citing a report, he said the

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

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

recessionary conditions.

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

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



384 infra projects showed cost overruns of Rs 4.66 lakh cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WEF president pitches for 'win-win thinking'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

years to come.

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

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

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

Bank of Maharashtra top performer in NPA management during FY23

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

cent and Indian Bank at 93.82 per cent.

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

Negotiations on supply chain pact under IPEF almost over

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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



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

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

India has joined all the pillars except the trade one.

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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



ONGC puts a date to start of KG gas

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Mihir Gandhi, Partner and

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

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

Global trends, macroeconomic data to drive equity markets

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

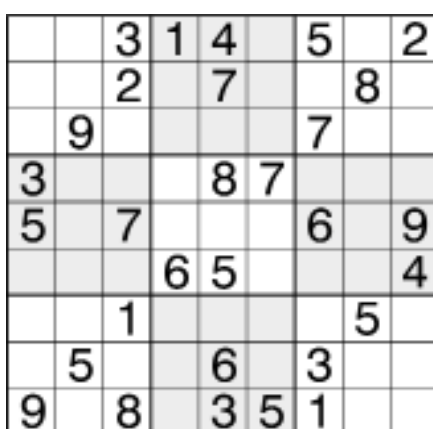
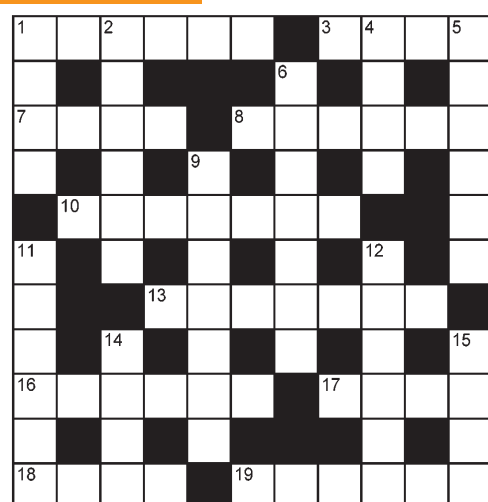
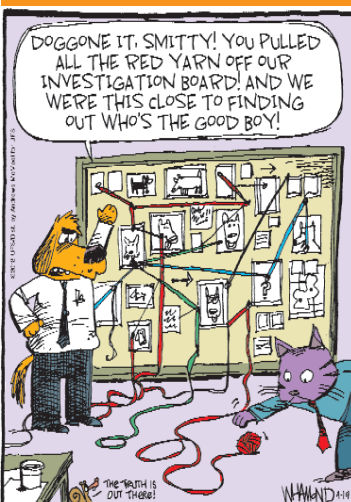
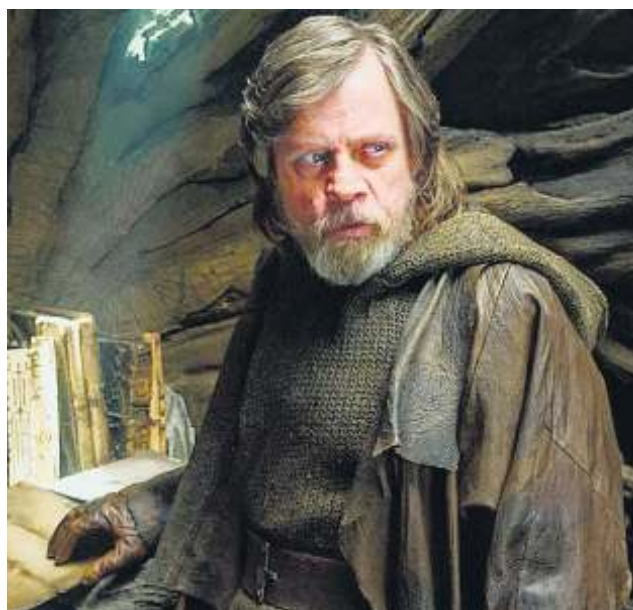
The US debt ceiling negotiations and institutional flows will also be watched by investors.

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

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

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





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- Rules**
- Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9) exactly once.
  - The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

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

**DOWN**

  - 1 The number nothing
  - 2 This type of aeroplane has no engine
  - 5 A sea robber
  - 6 These birds might talk
  - 9 A large, flightless bird
  - 11 The hottest season
  - 12 Instructions for making a cake
  - 14 The way out of a building
  - 15 Pleads

**SOLUTION**

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

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

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



# Actor Sharwanand escapes unhurt after an unfortunate car accident

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

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

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

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



# Rishab Shetty urges to make a film city in Bengaluru

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

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

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

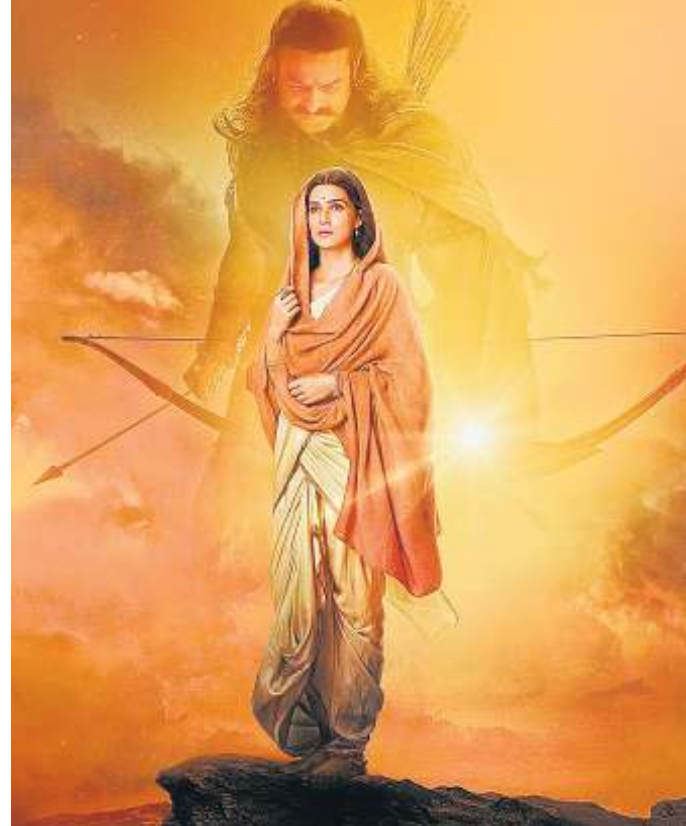
With the phenomenal success of *Kantara*, Rishab Shetty put India on the global map. The film emerged as the second highest-grossing Kannada film of all time and was also 2022's third highest-grossing film in India.



# Whopping amount spent on Adipurush's theatrical rights?

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

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



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

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

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



# Director Teja reveals the title of his film with Rana

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

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

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



# Spy team heads to Araku for shooting key scenes

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

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



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

Global star Ram Charan has taken a significant step in his career by launching his production banner, 'V Mega Pictures'. Partnering with his friend Vikram Reddy of UV Creations, the aim is to create groundbreaking films and promote new talent in the film industry while providing a peculiar storytelling experience.

Abhishek Agarwal Arts is a production house that stands for true and real content such as *The Kashmir Files* and *Karthikeya 2*.

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

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

