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Maaya Chesave from Devil -A 'blend of vintage music and **SETTING**'



TS Assembly Speaker

### Aiming at balance between...

The Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, 2023, (FCA) notified in the official Gazette of the Central government on August 4, has been brought to achieve the country's national as well as international commitments such as Nationally **Determined Contributions** (NDCs), carbon neutrality, eliminate the ambiguities and bring clarity about the applicability of the Act in various lands..

### SC issues notice on plea seeking...

The Supreme Court on Friday sought responses from the Tamil Nadu government and its minister Udhayanidhi Stalin on a plea seeking an FIR against him for his "eradicate Sanatan Dharma" remark. A bench of Justices Aniruddha Bose and Bela M Trivedi issued notices on a plea filed by B Jagannath seeking an FIR against the Tamil Nadu minister on grounds that the remarks are akin to hate speech...

### No LOC on bank's mere request...

The right to travel abroad, which is guaranteed under the Constitution, cannot be taken away in an arbitrary and illegal manner and Look Out Circulars (LOCs) opened merely at a bank's without application of mind, the Delhi High Court has said. Justice Subramonium Prasad observed that the "court was coming across a large number of cases where banks are now insisting on opening of LOCs only as a measure for...

### **Asian Games:** Chance for...

Led by Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra, India will seek to showcase its ascendency as a sporting power at the Asian Games, which opens formally on Saturday after an unprecedented one-year delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic. India will hope to surpass the 70 medals (16 gold, 23 silver and 31 bronze) won in 2018 in Indonesia with largest contingent of 655 athletes competing in 39 sports in Hangzhou to show the world the rapid strides the country ..

# **Upper hand for women voters in TS**

**NAVEENA GHANATE** HYDFRABAD

Women voters are going to play a key role in the Telangana Assembly elections with more than half of the Assembly constituencies having more than 50 per cent female voters.

As per data on district and Assembly constituency-wise voters, as of September 18, 2023, 66 constituencies have more than 50% women voters. Twenty of the 33 districts have more than 50% women voters with Nizamabad district having the highest number of 52.1% women followed by Jagtial, Nirmal, Kamareddy, Khammam, Medak, Rajanna Sircilla and Bhadradri which have more than 51% women voters. Women voters comprise 49.84% of the electorate across Telangana.

Balkonda has the highest percentage of women voters at 53.7% followed by Nizamabad Rural with 53.2% and Armoor 53.1%. The lowest is Serilingampally with 46.8%, followed by Jubilee Hills at 46.9%.

In Telangana, in the 2018 elections, 1.02 crore women voted across the State and played a major role in the mandate with women exceeding men by around 4,700. In 2018, 2.5 lakh more men were enrolled than

It may be mentioned here that in 2018, during the Telangana Assembly elections, more women voters turned up in the constituencies of Mancherial, Nirmal, Nizamabad, Kamareddy, Jagtial,



DISTRICT NAME	MALE	FEMALE	THIRD GENDER	TOTAL	PERCENT
Nizamabad	6,37,094	7,06,678	58	13,43,830	52.5869%
Jagtial	3,27,018	3,48,441	27	6,75,486	51.5837%
Nirmal	3,39,353	3,60,782	49	7,00,184	51.5267%
Kamareddy	3,16,534	3,34,158	46	6,50,738	51.3506%
Khammam	5,77,614	6,09,301	78	11,86,993	51.3315%
Medak	2,09,645	2,21,120	9	4,30,774	51.3309%
Rajanna Sircilla	2,23,550	2,35,548	14	4,59,112	51.3051%
Bhadradri	4,59,348	4,80,293	34	9,39,675	51.1127%
Adilabad	2,16,296	2,24,328	10	4,40,634	50.9103%
Mulugu	1,08,486	1,11,397	21	2,19,904	50.6571%
Hanumakonda	2,41,589	2,47,562	12	4,89,163	50.6093%
Warangal	3,62,153	3,70,586	258	7,32,997	50.5576%
Narayanpet	2,29,370	2,34,475	2	4,63,847	50.5501%
Suryapet	4,73,337	4,83,420	31	9,56,788	50.5253%
Karimnagar	5,09,677	5,20,496	52	10,30,225	50.5226%
Siddipet	4,55,146	4,63,061	24	9,18,231	50.4297%
Mahabubabad	2,28,457	2,31,668	60	4,60,185	50.3424%
Jogulamba Gadwal	2,38,039	2,41,183	18	4,79,240	50.3261%
Nalgonda	7,00,826	7,06,848	119	14,07,793	50.2097%
Vikarabad	4,60,860	4,61,425	37	9,22,322	50.0286%

Siddipet, Rangareddy, Medchal Malkajgiri, Mahbubnagar, Wanarpathy, Jayashankar Bhupalpally and Khammam.

In the GHMC area, in Kukatpally, Nampally, Serilingampally, Uppal, Pattancheru, Quthbullapur, Sanath Nagar and LB Nagar more women turned up to vote than men.

Keeping in view women across the state, the Congress has already announced the Mahalakshmi scheme for women through which an assistance of Rs 2,500 per month will be given to women.

Apart from that LPG gas would be provided for Rs 500 a cylinder and free travel would be allowed for women in TSRTC buses across the The BRS on the other hand has

been giving schemes in the name of women, be it 2BHK houses of the Gruha Lakshmi scheme.

The BRS government is pitching hard the KCR kit scheme, nutrition kit and the Amma Vodi Scheme

among others.

The BRS has nominated only seven women in 115 constituencies. The BJP is going to use the Women's Reservation Bill to make inroads in the state. Women's reservation is a gender-justice step that the BJP government will focus on during the 2024 campaign like the triple talaq ordinance during the 2019 polls. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections more women than men exercised their

### Probe TS Jagruthi Skill Development schemes'

### Cong alleges Kavitha siphoned off crores of rupees

PNS HYDERABAD

The Congress said that BRS MLC Kavitha committed illegal acts in the name of Telangana Jagruthi Skill Development and that she should be arrested immediately.

Congress leaders also filed a complaint with the CBI requesting it to investigate the illegal acts of the Telangana Jagruthi Development programmes.

Congress leaders staged a dharna in front of the Gandhi Bhavan on Friday under the leadership of former TPCC general secretary Bakka Judson. TPCC general secretary Uzma Shakir, Laxman Yadav, Godvuri Laxman Yadav, Ayita Giribabu and others participated in the dharna.

Speaking to the media, Judson said that in 2014, the Union Government had set up the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY). The then Minister Rajiv Pratap Rudy was the Minister in charge of skill development programmes. A total of Rs 12,000 crore was spent in this

KCR's daughter Kavitha had earlier started an organization named 'Telangana Jagruthi' as a state cultural centre. It was a private and



**Development Centres** were opened in the 17 parliamentary constituencies of Telangana (photo sessions) and publicity was ensured by hiring film stars and celebrities for fund raising.

organisation and it collected crores with quid pro quo arrangements for underground favours by her father



### AP HC rejects plea to quash FIR against Chandrababu in skill development scam



PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh High Court on Friday dismissed the petition filed by TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu seeking to quash the FIR registered against him in connection with the Skill Development Corporation scam.

The Andhra Pradesh CID will seek custody of Naidu for further interrogation in the special court for Anti-Corruption Bureau in Vijayawada.

"Quash petition is dismissed. We are seeking police custody," Special Public Prosecutor Y N Vivekananda told.

Meanwhile, the ACB court extended the former CM's judicial remand by two days till September 24 in the Skill Development Corporation scam.

## Former Hyd BJP chief Venkata Reddy quits BJP, joins BRS

The BJP as well as its state president G. Kishan Reddy received a shocker with former Hyderabad BJP city president Venkata Reddy quitting

Shortly after that, the Venkata Reddy couple joined the BRS in the presence of IT Minister KT Ramarao. Venkata Reddy had been one of the main associates of Kishan for a long time.

When Venkata Reddy asked Kishan to give him a chance to contest from Ameerpet, Kishan did not give any answer. After months of waiting for Kishan's answer, Venkata Reddy finally resigned from the BJP

and joined the BRS.

Speaking to the media along with his wife Padma Venkat Reddy, Venkata Reddy said that he had served the BIP for 40 years.

"I asked for a ticket to contest party for a long time. But there was no response. Getting upset with the party's attitude I quit. I have been serving the BJP for a long time but I was not given a chance to contest. Kishan did not give me time when I tried to meet him. He avoided giving an answer and said that the party would decide when I told Kishan that I wanted to contest in case he is not contesting," he said

### **TELANGANA ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS**

### Cong finalises 60% of its candidates

K VENKATESHWARLU HYDERABAD

The Congress said that it has finalised around 60 per cent of its candidates, that is, about 70 candidates unanimously.

submit the finalised candidates' list to the Central Election Committee (CEC) and the CEC will announce the first list of candidates for the Telangana Assembly elections before September end or the first week of October, it is learnt.

The Screening Committee had a 5-hour meeting on Friday in the party's war room on GRG Road in New Delhi.

It is learnt that TPCC President



Revanth Reddy and former TPCC President N. Úttam Kumar Reddy had a verbal duel during the finalisation of the candidates' list in the

It is learnt that the Screening Committee finalised the candidates' list based on surveys, the party's strength and based on opponent candidates. It is learnt that the party also considered social equafinancial status and the n ical strength of candidates while finalizing candidates.

Congress war room on Friday.

The Screening Committee said that it finalised candidates taking care that the high command would not face trouble, it is learnt. Speaking to the media, Telangana

Congress in-charge Manikrao Thakre said that the CEC will take a decision on whether to announce the names of the candidates in one go or in a phased manner.

### Trudeau urges India to work with Canada to 'uncover truth'

PNS NEW YORK

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau Thursday said Canada is not looking to "provoke or cause problems" with India amid a raging diplomatic row over the killing of a Khalistani extremist leader as he urged New Delhi to take the matter "extremely seriously" and work with Ottawa to "uncover the truth".

matter and to work with us to shed full transparency and ensure accountability and justice in this

matter," Trudeau said while responding to questions on the diplomatic row between India and Canada.

"We are a country of the rule of law. We are going to continue to do the work necessary to keep Canadians safe and to uphold our values and the international rulesbased order.

That's our focus right now," We call upon the government added Trudeau, who is here to of India to take seriously this attend the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.





### pact with BJP for LS polls in Karnataka PNS ■ NEW DELHI The Janata Dal (Secular) on Friday

JD(S) joins NDA;

joined the BJP-led NDA and forged an alliance with the saffron party ern parts of the state where the safahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls to fight the Congress

in Karnataka, with the two parties expected to announce the seat sharing for-Dussehra festival next month. The BJP said

the alliance will come as a boost to its prospects in the Lok Sabha polls and strengthen the National D e m o c r a t i c

Alliance(NDA) after it was sealed just months after the party was ousted by the Congress from its lone southern citadel in the May Assembly polls.

As the BJP attempts to recalibrate its electoral strategy in different states in the run-up to both the upcoming Assembly polls in five States and the next general election, the JD(S) that is headed by former prime minister HD Deve Gowda said it has officially joined the NDA and asserted it has partnered with the saffron party to take on the Congress in Karnataka in the Lok Sabha polls.

The BJP believes an alliance with

the JD(S) will ensure its domination in Karnataka in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls as the regional party enjoys considerable influence in the south-

> and former chief minister Basavaraj Bommai said the new alliance will be a "political game changer" in Karnataka.

The alliance and

Kumaraswamy's 45-minute meeting with Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president J P Nadda at Shah's residence in the national

heartedly welcome them in the NDA. This will further strengthen NDA and vision of Hon PM Narendra Modi Ji for 'New India, Strong India'," Nadda posted on X

oped India.



# One more Vande Bharat Express for Telangana

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana will soon have its third Vande Bharat Express train. The Centre started the Secunderabad-Visakhapatnam Vande Bharat as a Sankranthi gift and the Secunderabad-Tirupati Vande Bharat train as a Ugadi gift.

The latest Vande Bharat will run between Kacheguda (Hyderabad) and Yeswantpur (Bengaluru) from September 24. The train's inauguration will be

held at Kacheguda on Sunday at

12.30 pm virtually by Prime Minister Modi from New Delhi. Telangana Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan and Union Tourism Minister G. Kishan Reddy and others will participate in the pro-

After that on every day (except Wednesday) the train will leave



from Kacheguda at 5.30 am and will stop at Mahbubnagar (6.59 am), Kurnool (8.39 am), Anantapur (10.54 am) and will reach Yeswantpur at 2.15 pm.

Departing from Yeswantpur at 3

pm the Kacheguda bound Vande Bharat will halt at Anantapur (5.40 pm), Kurnool City (7.50 pm) and Mahbubnagar at 9.39 pm. The train will reach Kacheguda at 11.15 pm.

#### PNS NEW DELHI grievances related to catering serv-The Railway Board has directed its

Address passengers' complaints of hygiene, food availability trains: Railway Board

zones and İRCTC to take a series of measures with immediate effect to address complaints and grievances related to catering services on board Vande Bharat trains. In a communication, accessed

by PTI, the board listed the measures to be taken by all zonal railways, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS) to reduce the complaints of hygiene, service and availability of want to book meals.

"Passengers' complaints and

ices in Vande Bharat trains have been reviewed by the Board," the letter said, directing CRIS and IRCTC to work together and send SMS to passengers "giving the option to book food and also informing them about food services being made available against the catering appointment collect-

It said that those passengers, who have confirmed tickets but opted out of food services, will be given a link in SMS immediately on booking of tickets in case they

ed from them.

fron party has traditionally been weak. BJP leader

> was formalised after JD(S) leader former Karnataka chief minister

capital. "I am happy that JD(S) has decided to be the part of National Democratic Alliance. We whole-

after the meeting.
Shah said the JD(S) has expressed its trust in Modi's vision of a devel-

'Madhu Yashki, family

went abroad using



### Pocharam condemns Chandrababu's arrest

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana Assembly Speaker Pocharam Srinivas Reddy said that the arrest of former AP Minister Chandrababu Naidu was an undemocratic act.

He said that there should not be vengeful acts in politics and that it is painful that they did not reveal why Chandrababu Naidu was

Addressing the gathering after inaugurating double-bedroom houses in Sambapur and Bhairapur in the Birkur mandal of Kamareddy district on Friday, Pocharam said that this kind of politics cannot be justified in a democracy.

"Politics doesn't mean conspiracies and vengeance. I am



condemning the arrest of Chandrababu Naidu," he said. Meanwhile, Sambapur village passed a resolution unan-

imously extending full support to Pocharam during the forthcoming elections. He said that the people of

Telangana are ready to ensure KCR's victory once again seeing the state's development.

# KTR mends Rajaiah-Kadiyam rift

The BRS leadership under Industries Minister KT Rama Rao sorted out the differences between MLA T. Rajaiah and MLC Vadiyam Sri Hari in MLC Kadiyam SriHari in Station Ghanpur constituency.

MLA Rajaiah declared that he would support the candidature of Kadiam Srihari who was given the BRS ticket and will work for the party's victory.

After a meeting with BRS Working President KT Rama Rao, MLC Palla Rajeshwar Reddy and senior BRS leaders at the Pragathi Bhavan on Friday, he said that he fully supports BRS candidate Kadiam Srihari and will work for his victory.

KTR assured MLA Rajaiah at the meeting that the party would stand by him and would give him a suitable post.

BRS MLA candidate

Kadiam SriHari thanked Rajaiah for his support. He expressed the hope that the pink flag of the BRS would be hoisted in Station Ghanpur once again.

Rajaiah, who represented the constituency for two consecutive terms earlier decided to work for Kadiam SriHari's

The decision to field Kadiam SriHari from Station Ghanpur did not go down well in the constituency especially considering Rajaiah's electoral success in the constituency.

Twice in the past Kadiam SriHari had backed Rajaiah's candidature which enabled the BRS to achieve a strong grip on

the erstwhile Warangal district. Rajaiah held the portfolios of Deputy CM and health minister but was sacked from the posts following some allega-

KTR and Palla Rajeshwar Reddy together sorted out the issue as Rajaiah seems to be satisfied with the assurances given by KTR.

Before KCR declared the names of 115 BRS candidates, things turned murky between Kadiyam and Rajaiah in July. There was a dispute between MLA Rajaiah and MLC Kadiam Srihari.

Rajaiah previously said that Kadiam Srihari had met TPCC President Revanth Reddy, along with his daughter Kavya, and had asked for a Congress ticket. He had said that he would reveal the evidence for

fighting in the HC against Gone said that Madhu did not speak on a single issue in his capacity as the AICC's official spokesperson and that he will not be able to save his deposit in LB Nagar. The

PNS HYDERABAD

using fake documents.

demic certificates.

banned as a lawyer as he

deceived an attorney in New

York and that Madhu is not an

attorney in the US. He said

that Madhu is using fake aca-

Gone said that he had col-

lected information from

Kakatiya and Gulbarga univer-

sities through RTI regarding

Madhu's degrees and that he is



Congress will lose 10 seats due to Madhu, he added.

He asked Madhu who claimed that the Congress won twice in Karnataka because of him to reveal why he is not contesting from Nizamabad.

He said that Madhu had cheated hundreds of people after staying in the US for 20 years and that it is certain that Madhu would go to jail. He said that Madhu would be caught by Interpol and that Madhu's family also will have to go to jail and return to India.

### Epuri Somanna set to join BRS

PNS HYDERABAD

Giving a shocker to YSRTP President YS Sharmila, singer Epuri Somanna decided to join the BRS. Somanna met BRS Working President KT Rama Rao on Friday and KTR announced that he is welcoming Somanna and gave a warm hug to him. Somanna distanced him-

self from the YSRTP as Sharmila had ended her party YSRTP's political programmes four months ago. Moreover, she had decided to merge her party with the Congress.

Somanna gave a jolt to Sharmila after meeting KTR along with BRS MLA Balka Suman, MLC Deshpathi Srinivas and senior leader Dasoju Sravan.

It may be recalled that



Somanna joined the YSRTP two years ago and has been accompanying Sharmila after that. Sharmila too had announced that Somanna was the YSRTP's candidate from the Thungathurthy

Assembly constituency.
Before joining the YSRTP, Somanna was with the Congress and had moved closely with TPCC President Revanth Reddy. Somanna used to sing songs during Revanth's padayatra.

Somanna quit the Congress and joined the YSRTP issuing a statement that he was joining the YSRTP to fight the dictatorial BRS government.

However, Somanna has been drawing flak on social media. Netizens criticised Somanna saying, "The voice, which questioned in a resounding manner to whose hands Telangana has gone and who is ruling Telangana has been silenced and has gone to Dora Gadi saying Banchan Dora' I will touch

## Mynampally quits BRS, may join Cong today

PNS HYDERABAD

The BRS suffered a big blow as its Malkajgiri MLA Mynampally Hanumanth Rao announced his resignation from the party on Friday night in a video he released. "I am resigning from the BRS today as per the wishes of the people of Malkajgiri, my associates and as per the wishes of my well-wishers in the State. Surely I will reveal to you which party I am going to join at the right time. I will never forget your cooperation till now as long as I have life in my throat. I stand by all my well-wishers in the State and with the people of Malkajgiri. As long as my life exists, I will move forward according to the wishes of the



is no point in surrendering to anything," Mynampally said in the video he released. Mynampally may join the Congress on Saturday. Mynampally goes to Delhi with son Rohit to meet Cong

After resigning from the BRS, Malkajgiri MLA Mynampally Hanumantha Rao went to New Delhi along with his son Rohit Rao on Friday people. I am saying that there night to meet the Congress

It is learnt that the Congress may field Mynampally Hanumantha Rao from Quthbullahpur Assembly constituency and give the Medak ticket to his son Rohit Rao. It may be recalled that

Mynampally was upset with the BRS for not giving a ticket to his son.

Mynampally launched a scathing attack on Health Minister T. Harish Rao at Tirumala and said that Harish was interfering in Medak. He also made it clear that he would quit the BRS in case the party did not give a ticket to his

Mynampally sent his resignation letter to BRS chief KCR on Friday as he had said in Tirumala.

## Vemula Veeresham may join Congress today

PNS HYDERABAD

Former BRS Nakrekal MLA Vemula Veeresham may join the Congress on Saturday at New Delhi. Vemula has already gone to New Delhi.

Vemula Veeresham may join the Congress in the presence of AICC President Mallikarjuna Kharge and former AICC president Rahul Gandhi, it is learnt.

Vemula decided to join the Congress as the BRS did not give him a ticket. The BRS had given tickets mostly to sitting MLAs. Rumours had spread

that Vemula may join the Congress when former MP Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy joined the Congress in Khammam at a public meeting. Vemula was expecting a call from the BRS. But there was no response from KCR, IT Minister KTR, Health Minister T. Harish Rao and District Minister G. Jagdeesh Reddy. Vemula then decided to join the Congress.

Congress leaders Daida Ravinder, Vedasu Sridhar and Kondeti Mallaiah are also in the race for the party ticket in Nakrekal.

### **AP HC rejects** plea to quash **FIR** against Chandrababu...

Continued from page 1

The ACB court is expected to hear the police custody petition today.

Chandrababu Naidu was arrested on September 9, for allegedly misappropriating funds from the Skill Development Corporation, leading to an alleged loss of over Rs 300 crore to the state exchequer.

He is currently lodged in the Rajamahendravaram central prison.

Sukla Paksha

Sep 22 01:35 PM to Sep 23 12:18 PM Sep 23 12:18 PM

to Sep 24 10:23 AM

Sep 22 03:34 PM

Sep 23 02:56 PM

to Sep 23 02:56 PM

to Sep 24 01:41 PM

9:08 AM to 10:38 AM

1:38 PM to 3:08 PM

6:08 AM to 7:38 AM

12:02 AM to 01:33 AM

08:47 AM to 10:20 AM

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:44 AM to 12:32 PM

Forecast: Scattered Thunderstorms

Updated: September 22, 2023 5:00 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

TODAY

**ALMANAC** 

Tithi:Ashtami:

Nakshatram:

Purva Ashadha:

Rahukalam:

Varjyam:

Gulika:

Yamagandam:

Amritakalam:

**Temp**: 29°°

**Humidity: 79%** 

Sunset: 6:13 PM

Navami

Moola:

# Trudeau urges....

Continued from page 1

When asked whether his government will take any retaliatory measures following India's suspension of visa services for Canadians, Trudeau said that his government was not looking to provoke or cause problems.

There is no question that India is a country of growing importance and a country that we need to continue to work with, not just in the region but around the world. We're not looking to provoke or cause problems. But we are unequivocal around the importance of the rule of law and unequivocal about the importance of protect-

ing Canadians.
"That's why we call upon the

### Palla Rajeshwar Reddy is Jangaon BRS candidate

PNS HYDERABAD

The BRS decided to give the Jangaon ticket to MLC Palla Rajeshwar Reddy instead of sitting MLA Muthireddy Yadagiri Reddy. KCR convinced Muthireddy Yadagiri Reddy regarding this on

Friday at the Pragathi Bhavan. Earlier in the day, BRS MLA Jeevan Reddy and MLCs Madhusudhana Chary and Venkatram Reddy went to Muthireddy's residence and made him come to Pragathi Bhavan where KCR asked Muthireddy to stay away from the election and to give way to Palla Rajeshwar Reddy.

government of India, to work

# JD(S) joins NDA...

Continued from page 1

"I warmly welcome JD(S) to the NDA family. Their association will lead Karnataka on the path of development and pave the way for a stronger NDA and a stronger India," he posted on X.

Talking to reporters at Shah's residence, Kumaraswamy said: "Today we have officially joined the NDA. We have formed the alliance against Congress. Congress is indulging in corruption in the state. It is working against the interest of farmers. We have joined the NDA alliance against the Congress."On seat sharing, he said, "There is a positive response from both sides. Seat sharing is not a big issue. We will sort out that issue as both sides are positive."

Sources said the BJP High Command will finalise the number of seats and constituencies after holding deliberations with Karnataka state party leaders. The seats are likely to be announced after Dussehra festival which falls on

Sources said the JD(S) may get 3 or 4 seats of the 28 seats at stake although the regional party has been demanding 6-Goa Chief Minister Pramod

Sawant, who is believed to have played a role in the negotiations with Kumaraswamy, was also present in the meeting along with the former chief minister's son Nikhil Kumaraswamy.

The JD(S) headed by Gowda, who is father of Kumaraswamy, has long been a strong third player in Karnataka where the Congress and the BJP have traditionally been the two main parties.

### Have Reds given up hopes of an alliance with Congress?

K VENKATESHWARLU HYDERABAD

the Telangana Communists — the CPI and the CPM — given up the hope of forging an alliance with the Congress? It seems yes as the Communists have said that they will announce the Assembly constituencies they are going to contest jointly on October 1.

However, a political analyst wondered whether October 1 is a deadline for the Congress or for the Communists as the Congress has not yet announced its stand on the alliance with the Left. Moreover, the Congress is busy selecting candidates with its Screening Committee meeting for the last three days. It is learnt that the Left has

decided to do their homework before announcing the constituencies that they are going to contest on October 1. It is learnt that the Left has a feeling that the Congress is going about with its election manoeuvres without giving clarity on the alliance with the

CPI State Secretary Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao said, "Why is there the speculation that the Congress will give seats to the Communists? On October 1, we will announce the seats where the CPI and the CPM will contest jointly." Kunamneni said the issue of

an alliance with the Congress

did not come up for discussion at the joint meeting of the CPI and the CPM held on

September 21.

CPI and the CPM are going to contest the Assembly elections

However, he said that the

Speaking to *'The Pioneer,'* Kunamneni said, "If Congress leaders come before October 1, then we will think. But we will continue our exercise."

In fact, a Congress leader told 'The Pioneer' that the Congress is offering a seat each to the CPI and the CPM. However, the Left is demanding three seats each, it is learnt. He also said that the alliance may not take off if both the Congress and the Left stick to

### Address passengers' complaints...

Continued from page 1

"Another SMS with a link would be sent to them 48 hours before their journey, in case they want to book meals," the board

According to the communication, those passengers who have got their tickets confirmed later but they had already opted for food services at the time of booking, will get an SMS "24 hours before journey regarding catering services to be provided as per their journey details and food choices made during the

booking. The third category of passengers are those who have confirmed tickets and who have opted for a meal

at the time of booking.
According to the board, such passengers "will be

given SMS, regarding catering services to be provided as per their journey details immediately after booking of tickets.'

It added that current booking passengers will be served only vegetarian meals because the current booking facility is available up to 15 minutes before the departure of the train and service provider is left with very short time to make arrangements of meals.

The board has directed all zonal managers to make provisions for announcement in all Vande Bharat trains to create awareness about the availability of meals for passengers.
"At originating stations as well as every boarding

station an announcement

will be made about catering

being made available...,

the board said.

Continued from page 1

One more...

On Sundays the train will leave Kacheguda at 12.30 pm and will go via Falaknuma, Ûmdanagar, Shadnagar, Jadcharla, Mahbubnagar, Devarakadra, Gadwal, Kurnool City, Dhone, Pendekallu Junction, Gutti, Kallur, Anantapur, Dharmavaram Junction,

Penugonda, Rangepalli, Hindupur and Thondebhavi

and will reache Yesvantpur via Yelahanka Junction and Lottegollahalli stations. The Madhu Vande Bharat Express will passes through 12 districts in Telangana (Hyderabad, Rangareddy, Mahbubnagar.

## Probe TS Jagruthi Skill...

Continued from page 1

He said that on November 7, 2015, she also started a limited company named 'Bharat Jagruti Foundation' and she and her husband Anil Kumar who were its directors entered into an agreement with the Ministry of Skill Development and siphoned off crores in the name of a Skill Development Programme in Telangana.

Five Skill Development Centres were opened in the 17 parliamentary constituencies of Telangana (photo sessions) and publicity was ensured by hiring film stars and celebrities for fund raising.

In fact, the list of students who received the mentioned skills and training at the centres is still not available. Currently, the website of the skill development programmes also is not available. The skill development centres mentioned earlier with addresses are not providing any training.

He said that the AP CID arrested former CM N. Chandrababu Naidu as the main beneficiary of this racket. Siemens denied a scam of Rs 371 crore in its contract for skill development projects and no family members of Chandrababu are directors in Siemens.

He said the KCR's daughter Kavitha is the brain behind the

Telangana Jagruthi Skill Development programmes. This scam is bigger than the Siemens Skill Development scam, he

added. He said that in 2019, the Telangana programme was stopped and investigation is not going on because of the involvement of the Union Minister and Chief Minister's daughter in the scam. KCR, his daughter and Skill Development Minister Rajiv Pratap Rudy along with the chief architect misled youth with false statements, he added.

Judson said that the PMKVY was revamped in 2016, making it mandatory to report employment data to skill training centres. "The pace of skilling does not match the objectives set by the ministry at the time of inception. The CII's Skill Development National Committee Chairman Arun Nanda said that Prime Minister Modi's removal of Rajiv Pratap Rudy from the ministry symbolised his displeasure with the ministry's progress," experts

Judson requested the CBI to investigate the Telangana Jagruti and its audit reports of the last 10 years. The investigation should focus on foreign funds (money laundering), visa scams and inappropriate activities and the various types of funds received without Central approval.

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

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**LEFTWING EXTREMISM AREAS** 

## Aiming at balance between conservation and development

PNS HYDERABAD

The Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, 2023, (FCA) notified in the official Gazette of the Central government on August 4, has been brought to achieve the country's national as well as international commitments such as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), carbon neutrality, eliminate the ambiguities and bring clarity about the applicability of the Act in various lands, promoting the plantation in non-forest land and enhancing the productivity of the forests.

To enhance the outreach of the recent amendments made in the Act, ICFRE-Institute of Forest Biodiversity, Hyderabad, organised a one-day workshop on 'Striking balance between conservation and development in LWE areas on Friday at TSFA, Dulapally,



Hyderabad, in association with the sub-office, MoEF & CC, Hyderabad.

Director, ICFRE-IFB, E Venkat Reddy, informed that the Amendments brought in the FCA 1980 will help in both the conservation needs and socio-economic development of the country.

P Subramanyam, DDGF, RO, Bengaluru, said that this

workshop is an outreach for the Forest Conservation Amendment Act 2023. There are many misconceptions related to provisions of the Act and emotional perceptions related to the Act. He clarified that this Act is not a prohibitory but regulatory. The State government is the land owner/custodian and the orders pertaining is issued by the State Government only after obtaining prior approval of the Central Government. RM Dobriyal, PCCF (HoFF) Telangana State, spoke about his experiences of working in LWE areas and challenges related to implementation of forestry and developmental activities in these areas.

He highlighted the issues related to forest diversions, post diversion compliances, monitoring of compliance and complications. He also mentioned that now Telangana is left with very less forest area and while supporting development there is also need to protect and conserve which itself raises the question of how to balance conservation and development. He said that hopefully the workshop will help to draw solutions to the problems in implementation of

#### Metro Rail relaunches Super Saver -59 Offer

PNS HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Metro Rail announces the re-launch Super Saver - 59 Offer (SSO-59) to enhance the travel experience for it's passengers.

Starting September 23, all Hyderabad Metro Rail passengers can travel unlimited in Metro at just Rs 59 on the listed Super Saver holidays instead of Rs 99 (earlier SSO-99 offer).

Passengers may use their previously purchased METRO HOLIDAY CARD or buy a new Metro Holiday Card at Rs 100 and recharge it with just Rs 59 from the ticket counter at Metro station on the listed Super Saver Holidays to avail this offer. The offer is valid on all listed Super Saver Holidays till March 31, 2024.

For further information about this offer, please visit the website www.ltmetro.com or visit any Metro station.

## Timely loans for women's self-help groups assured

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation Commissioner Ronald Rose said that loans should be provided to women's self-help groups in the city to contribute to their economic and social development. The Commissioner reviewed the schemes implemented in the city through the Urban Community Development Programme on Friday.

The Commissioner said that women's groups should work in a structured and natural manner in upkeep of sanitation. In many colonies in the city, the authorities have been directed to involve the women in selfhelp groups to put household waste in Swachh Autos instead of throwing them at will. The representatives of the slumlevel federations said that they should check whether their community members are giving waste to Swachh Auto and why they are not throwing the waste



Ronald Rose said that ID cards should be issued to street vendors and provide them loans as per the specified target

Through bank linkage, the target should be reached in this financial year, the officials were told. Steps should be taken to provide bank linkage to those who are eligible. He said that the details of the business being done for the loans taken

should also be collected. In addition, Ronald Rose said that ID cards should be issued to street vendors and provide them loans as per the specified target. Necessary steps should be taken to achieve women's empowerment. The officials were directed to grant loans from time to time. Efforts should be made to provide selfemployment schemes to slumlevel and town-level federa-

The women of SHGs said that a copy of the resolution passed on every social issue discussed in their monthly meeting should be handed over to them. The officials were directed to resolve the applications of senior citizens. All arrangements should be made so that those who do not have the right to vote can be registered as voters and exercise their vote, he

Additional Commissioner Chandra Reddy, PD Saujanya and PO Vijayalakshmi were among those who participated

## City boy bags gold medal at U-19 shooting nationals

PNS HYDERABAD

Bijju TB, a resident of the city, secured the gold medal at the International School Sports Organisation Shooting U-19 nationals competition held in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. This achievement marks the firstever national-level accolade for the twelfth-grade student. With the exception of a fourmonth coaching stint under Neelakant (at Gun for Glory), the teenager did not undergo any other professional training.

Bijju's journey into shooting commenced at the age of 12, when he clinched a medal in the district-level shooting competition in 2018. The same year, he earned a medal at the SGF Telangana State Shooting Championship 2018.

From 2019 to 2021, he actively participated in various State and national-level competitions, amassing a collection



of medals. In addition to the national gold in Noida, Bijju also shot renowned shots

The teenager secured a gold medal at the district level, along with four golds, one silver and four bronze medals in diverse State-level shooting

At just 16 years, Bijju decided to give it a shot and gradually developed a genuine

Elaborating on his techniques, Bijju emphasises the importance of focus, aiming, and shooting.

Expressing his ambition to participate in the Olympics, Bijju is earnestly pursuing this goal. He incorporates breathing exercises into his practice regimen to enhance accuracy, emphasizing their critical role in rifle shooting.

### Vinay Kumar takes charge as Director of ICFRE

PNS HYDERABAD

Dr Vinay Kumar was appointed as Director (International Cooperation) of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), a Central government organisation located in Dehradun,

Uttarakhand on Friday. He is a senior officer in the Telangana Forest Department and is currently working as the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests. He is also in charge of IT. The new post will coordinate international relations on forest research and education. He will serve in this position for five years.

Vinay Kumar oversees conferences on forest study, research and environmental change by organisations from various

## 361 posts in info dept to be filled soon

Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao has been informed that 361 posts in the information department have to be filled, said Dr Patnam Mahender Reddy, Minister of State Information, Public Relations, Mines and Geology. The Minister conducted a high-level review meeting with State Information Commissioner Ashok Reddy, Director Rajamouli and other officials of all districts at the Secretariat on Friday.

He said that the Telangana government is informing the people of the progress achieved in the context of development and welfare schemes unlike anywhere else in the country. He also said that along with the progress in all the fields in the State, there is a need for more extensive publicity, especially for various schemes, events, expos, heritage and festivals such as Mission Kakatiya, Mission Bhagiratha, Kutumba, Farmers Welfare Schemes, Bathukamma and other fes-

**Blind students briefed about** 

animals in zoological park

To strengthen the information department, advanced video cameras will be provided along with vehicles and infrastructure to the staff, he

The Minister said that information department officials focus on the development programmes and pay special attention to success stories. He also said that the problems of women employees working in the information department will be solved. Moreover, in the context of social media being active in society, the Department of Information and Public Relations should increase its role in social

He appreciated that the staff of all the districts of the Information and Public Relations Department led by Commissioner Ashok Reddy worked very hard in organising the decennial celebrations in a grand manner and said that they should work harder as the elections are fast approaching.

### Star Air now connects Nagpur and Hyd to Ajmer

PNS HYDERABAD

Star Air, India's leading regional airline, announced the expansion of its flight network with the introduction of a new route connecting Nagpur and Hyderabad to Ajmer (Kishangarh).

Starting from September 30, Star Air will operate nonstop flights on its modern Embraer E175 aircraft, providing travellers with convenient and comfortable access to the enchanting city of Ajmer (Kishangarh).

These new routes, part of 40 routes awarded to Star Air under the Govt. of India's RCS-UDAN scheme, will provide convenient and seamless travel options for passengers visiting the beautiful cities of Ajmer and

## 8 accused persons get 7 days' jail for harassment

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

XIII Special Metropolitan Magistrate, Marredpally, Secunderabad, has sentenced eight accused persons in a case of harassment with seven days imprisonment and a fine of Rs 50, on Friday.

The eight accused created a ruckus in Mekalamandi area and harassed a family by covering their faces with a handkerchief on September 19, 2021. The accused are R Chandu (19) of

Ambedkar Nagar, Ganesh (18) of Vayupuri, G Siddartha (18) of Neredmet X Roads, Murali (22) of Sainikpuri, Venu (18) of Dammaiguda, K Shiva Reddy (18)of Ashok Nagar, Rahul (23)of Ambedkar Nagar and Praveen (29) of Ambedkar Nagar.

# Digital Media Wing bags 5 PRCI awards

PNS HYDERABAD

Dileep Konatham, Director, Digital Media, was awarded Social Media Person of the Year by the Public Relations Council of India (PRCI).

The Telangana Digital Media wing clinched four more awards in other categories. The Digital Media Wing of IT, E&C Department has won the prestigious Public Relations Council of India's (PRCI) Excellence Awards 2023 in five categories. The awards were presented at the 17th Global Communication Conclave and 13th Excellence Awards on September 21 and 22, in New Delhi.

Dileep Konatham received the Social Media Person of the Year award from Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, former Union Minister. This award is presented to individuals who have made significant contributions on social media, both nation-

ally and internationally. Besides this award, the Digital Media Wing has also won four PRCI Excellence Awards for the year 2023 under the categories of Best Use of Social Media Award, Best Annual Report Award



(for Telangana IT, E&C Department Annual Report 2022-23), Public Service Ads Award (for "Let's keep our Tankbund clean and beautiful" video) and Best Government Communication Films (for Kaleshwaram, the water revolution in Telangana" video).

Witness the grandeur of Assistant Director, Digital Media Mudumbai Madhav and Consultant, Digital Media Narender Gunreddy received Telangana Digital Media Wing. Dileep Konatham thanked Chief Minister Chandrasekhar Rao and Minister KT Rama Rao for the opportunity and constant

guidance. The Digital Media Wing of IT, E&C Department was established in June, 2014 and is responsible for connecting and engaging with citizens for disseminating information and services of the Telangana

#### PNS HYDERABAD In all, 40 students from Devana School for the Blind, Begumpet, participated in a

day-long programme to mark the Rhinoceros Day celebrated on Friday at Zoological Park. In this connection,. Nehru

Zoological Park, in association with World Wild Fund (WWF), India and Factset voluntary organisation, conducted a nature trail programme to the completely and partially blind students with utmost care and Dr Sunil S Hiremath , Curator, Nehru Zoological Park, briefed the students. The students were taken to the animal enclosures, especially at the Rhino maintaining the ecological bal-

ance.
VSNV Prasad, Conservator of Forests/Director, Zoo Parks, was present. The blind children

were allowed to els of spotted deers, tigers and lions to know the body structure of the animals which are placed at the different locations of the

Later, a team of (20) members of Indian Oil Corporation Limited headed by Chakravarthy came forward to adopt the Rhinoceros at the zoo park and its maintenance.

K Krishna Murthy, an employee of Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Hyderabad, adopted an elephant for a period of one month and presented a cheque of Rs 25,000 towards the adop-

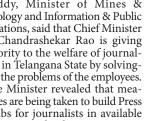
Sagar lake . This is

going till early hours. Commissioner of Police CV Anand visited several such sensi-

### the awards representing the Measures taken to build Press Clubs

PNS HYDERABAD

During a high-level review meeting conducted on Friday at the Secretariat, Dr Patnam Mahender Reddy, Minister of Mines & Geology and Information & Public Relations, said that Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao is giving priority to the welfare of journalists in Telangana State by solvinging the problems of the employees. The Minister revealed that measures are being taken to build Press Clubs for journalists in available government lands.



He also said that CM KCR has



fare of journalists, especially for

Coronavirus and accident vic-

tims. "We have provided a finan-

cial assistance of Rs 6.25 crore to

479 journalist families while Rs 68 lakh has been provided as financial assistance to 136 journalists at the rate of Rs 50,000 each," he said.

Additionally, the credit for giving accreditation cards to a maximum of 22,686 journalists belongs to the State government. "We have provided free bus passes to accredited journalists at the state and district levels," he added.

The government also provides Rs 74.37 lakh for the education of journalists' children at the rate of Rs 1,000 each per month. "We are also providing health security to journalists through health cards.

Through medical reimbursement, financial support has been provided by the government," the Minister added.

Mahendra Reddy also said that two-day training classes were organised for 7,460 journalists in the State and tried to improve their professional skills. A Media Academy building has

been completed at Rs 15 crore for the sake of journalists. Media Academy Chairman Allam Narayana has asked for Rs 2 to 3 crore for modern facilities in the building and efforts are being made to provide them.

#### enclosure and briefed about the tion and maintenance of the species and importance in elephant.

Raijv Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), Adilabed invites applications for the posts or Professors, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors, Tutors and CS RIMO's and CMO in various Departments on purely contract basis. The candidates may appear for Walk-in Interview th original certificates and two sets of Xerox copies. Merit and ROR will be followed wherever applicable. For more details please visit Adilabad district Website: adilabad.telangana.gov.in Walk-in Interview will be conducted at Director office, RIMS, Adilabad on 27,09,2023 (Wednesday) from 10:30 AM to 04:00 PM. For more details please contact our land line numbers Ph. No. 08732-359573, Cell No. 98490 57606, 94400 57799, if any query please mail R.O. No.: 7033-PP/CLIADVT/1/2023-24, Dt. 22.89.2823

### GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA FOREST DEPARTMENT

NOTICE FOR INVITING SEALED RFP (REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL)
Selection of Operators for Upgradation and Operation of Facilities at Nehru
Zoological Park, Hyderabad and Narsapur Urban Forest Block, Medak district, Telangana State on License to Operate Basis

Forest Department, Government of Telangana intends to select operators for Upgradation & Operation of the facilities at following locations on License to Operate basis and invites RFPs from eligible and interested firms for undertaking the same Food Courts & Restaurants (4 Nos.) at Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad.
 Eco-tourism Facilities at Narsapur Urban Forest Block, Medak District.

Issue of RFP Document: RFP Document can be downloaded from www.forests.telangana.gov.in and https:// tender.telangana.gov.in from 25.09.2023 onwards.

Amendments Addendum/ Corrigendum to the RFP, if any, shall be posted only on the Fores Department Website: www.forests.telangana.gov.in and https://tender.telangana.gov.in Sd/- R.M.Dobriyal, Prl. Chief Conservator of Fores 1823 & Head of Forest Fore R.O. No.: 7044-PP/CL/MDVT/1/2023-24, Dt. 22.89.2822

### Night vigil heightened

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

Every night all the city police officers are making rounds of Ganesh pandals, gathering details, ensuring safety measures and checking the immersion process in and around Hussein

tive areas on Thursday night in the Old City in Kamatipura And Moghalpura and reviewed the situation with his officers.

#### GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT DISTRICT COLLECTOR, JANGAON FORM-VII :: DECLARATION See Sub - rule (1) of rule -25 and Section -19(1) of the Act-30/2013 Rz. No. A/55/2023 Dist.Collr.File No. G2/152/2023 Gazette No. JMILA/52/2023 Date: 08.08.2023 Where as it appears to the Government of Talangana / Distri Collector, Jangaon that a total land of an extent of Ac. 0.07 gts land is required in the limits of Thammadapalli. G village of Zaffergadh Manda in Jangaon District for public purpose, namely acquisition of Excevation of 7L Distributory of Nashkal Main Canal under JCR DLIP for providing

water to Agriculture lands under the Governament of Telangaro Collector, Jangaon District, as per L.A. Act. 30/2013. Therefore the "DECLARATION" is hereby made that a piece of Lan-essuring more or less Ac. 0.07 gts under acquipisition for the above said project in the limits of Thammdapalli.G Villege of Zaffergadt Mandal in Jangaon District whose detailed description is as following

SCHEDULE 7L Distributory of Nashkal Main Canal adapalli.G Villege, Zar Jangaon District

Ĭů.	No.	Nature of land	Classifi cation	Extent	Name of the Enjoy	Pattader as per Record			
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ares u.s. 15 of the L. A.Act. No. 30/2013 after well fication of objections the declaration is issued. The number of families likely to be resettled due to Mines of Coal, Iron-Stone, slate or other minerals lying undfor th aid land or any particulars portain of the said land, exept such parts o the mines and minerals which may be required to be dug or removed o

used during the cristuction phase of the project for the purpose of which the land is being acquired, or not needed. A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Land Acquisition Officer & Special Deputy Collector, LA, R&R, Unit-II igation Project, Jangaon on any working day.

Sdl- Spi. Deputy Collector, Sdl- Addi. Collector, Collector, L.A., R&R Unit-II, Irrigation Jangaon Jangaon Jangaon





# A car without fuel, a hand that can't give

apply. This proviso pretty much sums up the attitude and approach of the Bharat Rashtra Samiti and the Congress parties and their respective promises to the people of Telangana.

The last nine years of the BRS government in the state reflected how Telangana went from being a revenue-sur-plus state with a low loan burden into one that creaks and groans and barely manages to squeak through each month to meet the bare minimum of expenditure, including staff salaries.

There was a time, before bifurcation, when fears arose over what could happen to the revenues generated from the growth engine that is Hyderabad, and whether these would have to be shared by Telangana and residuary

10 years but this remained just an unfounded fear leaving Telangana to boost its kitty from Hyderabad.

But then a sense of well-

being and hope dissipated when the BRS government let promise after promise it had made to people fall by the wayside. There are many to list but suffice to recount some of these unkept promises which serve as more than adequate examples of the failures of the BRS government. These include double bedroom houses for the poor, 3 acres of farmland for landless Dalits, a job to every household, the Rs 3,016 unemployment dole, free fertilisers, and loan waiver for farmers. And these were just the unfulfilled promises.

Coupled with other acts of sleight of hand including

The last nine years of the BRS government in the state reflected how Telangana went from being a revenuesurplus state with a low loan burden into one that creaks and groans and barely manages to squeak through each month to meet the bare minimum of expenditure, including staff salaries.

denying benefits such as medical insurance, fee reimbursement, diverting panchayat funds, and payments to cooks in schools, the path the BRS government put Telangana on has become increasingly evident.

This situation came to be despite the Centre increasing its tax devolution to the states from 32% to 42%, the state enforcing highest taxation on fuel prices, pushing liquor sales to new heights, selling

government land to raise funds to pay salaries, leasing out assets such as the ORR, and holding back on payments to public utilities such as the DISCOMS and GENCO throwing them into financial ruin.

It is at this stage that the Congress decided to exploit the unfulfilled aspirations and dreams of the people with it, without any thought of Telangana's financial distress and unprecedented loan bur-



**KISHORE POREDDY** 

den. Despite full knowledge of the state's inability to service loans and its being on the verge of bankruptcy –Union Power Minister RK Singh only recently said loans had been held back for the state's power sector as the Centre now believed that Telangana

point and could not service any fresh loans -- the Congress, believing it has nothing to lose but everything to gain, has begun making promises that will be impossible to fulfil. Although estimates vary, the cost of its promises and declarations are expected to require another Rs one lakh crore a year that will need to be found. It is not that the Congress

is unaware of the duplicity of its promises. It cannot claim that it does not know where things stand as far as Telangana's financial doldrums are concerned. The Congress also knows that it cannot divert any funds from an already non-existent development budget but it still has made promises in a brazen manner, possibly in the hope that if proclaimed with such

confidence, the people could just buy into a fresh round of hope, after having been ditched by the BRS which too acted in the same manner. In fact, almost every promise Congress has made as part of its so-called guarantees and declarations involve a hidden sleight of hand --incidentally that party's symbol that suddenly has acquired a different meaning with this move - and its true costs will become evident if it ever comes forward with data based on which it made its promises.

Meanwhile, be it the BRS or the Congress, their promises mean just one thing: the casualty will be development in Telangana with every possible penny getting diverted to vote catching doles desperately camouflaged as welfare schemes and programmes.

The silence of both parties

on the attacks on Sanatan Dharma raises apprehensions, whether it is Congress leading the INDI Alliance or the BRS, would not hesitate to even exploit the very way of our life for which they clearly have no regard for. For the BRS, temples are nothing more than good business opportunities, a stand taken by none other than the CM's son Taraka Rama Rao -- the party's working president and Minister. For the Congress, which has proved it has no regard for Sanatan Dharma, it should come as no surprise if it devises ways and means to dip into even God's funds. But it is unlikely that even God, with his funds would be able to rescue Telangana from these two parties ruining the state.

> (The author is BJP TS spokesperson)

# TSRERA imposes Rs 16 cr penalty on two realty firms

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana State Real Estate Regulatory Authority (TSR-ERA) has received 132 complaints against Sahiti Infratech Ventures Pvt. Ltd. on the various projects undertaken by it.
The Authority, under the Chairmanship of N Satyanarayana, and Members, K Srinivasa Rao and Laxmi Narayana Jannu conducted three hearings.

As the projects titled "Sahiti Sishta Abode", "Sahiti Sitara Commercial" and "Sahiti Sarvani Elite" were not registered with the Authority, clearly violating Sections 3 & 4 of the Real Estate (Regulation & Development) Act, 2023, the Authority has imposed a penalty of Rs 10,74,00,000 on it. Furthermore, the High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad in



its order on a writ petition, remanded the matter related to Mantri Developers Pvt. Ltd for its project titled "Mantri A" to this Authority after conducting

the Authority pronounced its final order directing the promoters, namely, Mantri Developers Pvt. Ltd. and Jubilee Hills Landmark Pvt. Ltd. to pay a penalty of Rs 6,50,00,000 for committing violations under various provisions under the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 and the Rules. Similarly, the Authority also received four complaints against Sai Surya Developers Pvt. Ltd on its project titled "Nature County" amongst

other projects and for the vio-

lation under Section 3 of the

Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016, a penalty of Rs 25,00,000 had been imposed on them. The TSRERA chief N

Satyanarayana said these penalties had been imposed after a meticulous review of each builder's conduct, taking into account the violations of the provisions under the Act, 2016 and the Rules, for noncompliance with project completion timelines, and such other discrepancies that came to light during the investiga-

Builders who have been penalised are required to submit the penalty amounts to TSRERA within the specified deadline as per the prescribed guidelines. Failure to comply with this order may result in further legal action as per the

### Three dead in wall collapse in Hanamkonda district

PNS WARANGAL

Two senior citizens died on the spot and a woman died on the way towards hospital when the rain-soaked wall collapsed on them at Shayampeta in Hanamkonda district on

Another man suffered injuries in the incident. According to Circle Inspector of Police K Sreedhar Rao, the rainsoaked wall collapsed on the senior citizens

suddenly. The déceased were identified as Moure Sambaiah (60), Jogamma (65), S Laxmi (50). M Bhagya Laxmi suffered severe

injuries. The police shifted the dead bodies to Parkala Government Area Hospital for the post-mortem.

### PROF S VENUGOPAL RAO'S BIRTH CENTENARY

## Complex crimes order of the day, says DGP

The 4th oration on the birth centenary of Prof S Venugopal Rao witnessed a captivating speech by Anjani Kumar, Director General of Police, Telangana State.

The event, held at ASCI, Hyderabad, was attended by K Padmanabaiah, Chairman of the Forum for Good Governance, Rajini Kanth Suret, member of Prof S Venugopal Rao Memorial Charitable Trust, Gareth, Brtish Deputy High Commissioner for Telangana and Andhra

Pradesh and other dignitaries. The central theme of the oration was "Policing in the Changing Society: Challenges

at various levels. In his opening remarks, Padmanabaiah commended the exemplary tenure of Anjani Kumar as Hyderabad's

Police Commissioner, describing his work as of the highest order. He also acknowledged Telangana Police's standing as one of the country's finest police forces.

Anjani Kumar began his address by sharing his life-long fascination with the thirthankars of Jainism, drawing parallels between Prof S Venugopal Rao and K Padmanabaiah, whom he likened to the thirthankars of the bureaucracy. He praised their extensive experience and their unwavering commitment

to guiding society through the challenges it faces. Reflecting on his journey,

Anjani Kumar shared his experiences as an ASP during his training, highlighting the sig-nificant changes and progress he had witnessed in law enforcement from his initial days in service to the present. He emphasised the pivotal role played by senior officers in shaping the success of their department, underscoring the importance of collaboration.

Transitioning to law enforcement, he shared insights from his postings in regions heavily affected by left-wing extremism/naxalism, highlighting the evolving nature of crime. He explained that as societies transitioned from being food gatherers to food producers, crime also transformed, shifting from petty theft and quarrels to

### **NVSS** alleges irregularities in allotment 2BHK houses

PNS HYDERABAD

Senior BJP leader NVSS Prabhakar on Friday said that it has become a habit for Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao to take the poor for a ride. Speaking to the media

at the BJP party office on Friday, Prabhakar said that the people were made to believe that the BRS government would build double-bedroom houses after the elec-

He said that KCR is misleading the people that the Central government had not extended financial assistance for the project. Prabhakar alleged that

there was no transparency in the selection of beneficiaries. The poor did not get houses. Distribution of double bedroom houses was carried out only in Pragati Bhavan. The beneficiary list was not available in any government offices.

Houses were allotted only to those who gave Rs 3 lakh. Lakhs of houses are being constructed in other States under PM Awas Yojana.

There were irregularities in conducting the draw of lots and demanded that an investigation be ordered into the issue by a sitting judge. Instead of putting all pieces of paper containing all names in the container for drawing lots, the pieces of paper containing the names of those selected at Telangana Bhavan were put in the containers and the drawing of lots was carried out at the Collectorate, Prabhakar pointed out.

He stated that the BIP would complain to Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan with evidence in two or three

### Workshop on research methodology in social sciences opens

Course in Social Sciences" sponsored by the Indian Council of Social Science Research, organised by the School of Management, NIT Warangal opened on Friday at Raman Hall of Seminar Halls complex.

B Raja Shekhar, professor of the University of Hyderabad, in his address, focused on good quality research and publications. He said such workshops would enhance networking skills and

encourage interdisciplinary

A 10-day workshop on of NIT Warangal emphasised Warangal, a frontrunner in



the significance of research. He said researchers have to look for ways to solve problems around the society. He expressed the hope that the participants

would benefit from the ten-day Bidyadhar Subudhi, Director workshop. He also said NIT

encouraging management research in the Institute. V Rama Devi, Head of,

School Management gave an overview of the depart-

P Ramlal, the course coordinator, said that the course received 150 applications out of which 30

research scholars have been shortlisted to attend the ten-day workshop. G Sunitha, course coordinator proposed the vote

## JAC calls for Vemulawada shutdown today

### The joint action committee protested the government order to divert Rs 5 crore from Sri Raja Rajeswara Temple to a temple in Kamareddy

PNS ■ RAJANNA SIRICILLA

An all-party joint action committee (JAC) on Friday gave a call for a shutdown of Vemulawada on Saturday to protest against the State government diverting Rs 5 crore funds from Sri Raja Rajeswara

The JAC meeting was held under the leadership of JAC convener Tirumala Goud on

The JAC leaders condemned the orders issued by the Endowments Department directing the authorities to ti Kamareddy district for its transfer Rs 5 crore to a temple



Joint Action Committee leaders holding a meeting in Sircilla on Friday

The JAC leaders criticised

Chandrashekar Rao for "exerting pressure" on the Sri Raja to transfer funds to a temple in Kamareddy district. The temole earned donations from devotees.

Therefore, it was not prop er to transfer the funds of the temple to another temple. They criticised the Chief Minister for not fulfilling his promise to allot Rs 100 crore to Sri Raja Rajeswara Temple for its development.

The JAC leaders warned that they would intensify agitation unless the government withdrew its orders.



Minister for Finance T Harish Rao with Congress leaders and activists who joined the BRS party in Siddipet on Friday

## Large number of Cong activists join BRS

PNS SIDDIPET

A large number of Congress leaders and workers joined Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) in Siddipet in the presence of Minister for Finance T Harish Rao on Friday. The Minister presented pink scarves to those

who joined the BRS party.

Speaking on the occasion, Harish Rao pointed out that the people in the constituency used to face drinking water

scarcity in the past. The State government has ensured that potable water is provided to every household in the constituency. The underground drainage was built.

Educational institutions, including medical colleges, veterinary colleges and agriculture colleges, were established. Apart from them, four polytechnic colleges and Nursing and Pharmacy colleges were established. Beautification of Komati

Chervu was carried out. Siddipet got the rail connectivity also. Those who joined the BRS party pledged to work for

the party.
BRS party Siddipet city unit president Kondam Sampath Reddy, BRS leaders Darpalli Srinivas, Mohammed Chand, Naresh, Lagi Setty Navin and others were present.

## Surprise check conducted on school buses

PNS HYDERABAD

To ensure the safety of children while in transit, the Women & Children Safety Wing (W&CSW) partnered with the Traffic Police department conducted a surprise check on the school buses within the school premises on Friday.

The school management should follow certain guidelines issued by the Government of India (GOI). They are the driver should have experience of over five

fitness certificate issued by the concerned authority. With the instructions of

senior officials of Cyberabad Police, SHE Teams, along with the Traffic Police conducted mock drills for school bus drivers of some schools regarding children's safety measures. They have checked the bus labeling, whether it has sticker mentioned (on school duty) on the front and rear side, checked whether the school contact number is mentioned



years and the bus shall have a on the bus and whether the buses have first aid kits, fire

extinguishers and cameras. They have also checked the windows of the school buses whether they have horizontal drills or not, verified the driver and conductors' antecedents and ID cards, checked whether the driver has a valid driving license or not, checked for the challans against the driver in the e-challan app with the assistance of

traffic officials. If any driver is challaned twice, he is not eligible for dri-

ving school buses. The bus driver must carry a complete list of the children being ferried in the school cab, indicating the name, class, residential address, blood group, points of stoppage and route

The officials also verified all the relevant documents related to the school vehicles including RC book, pollution checks, fitness certificate and insurance; verified the fingerprints on the Papillon device to find out whether the driver was involved in any criminal case and took the fingerprints of the bus driver. Breath analysis device was also used to check if the drivers were drunk

### Newborn leopard found in Sircilla dist



PNS RAJANNA SIRCILLA

A newborn leopard cub was found at Sivalingapally village under Annarao mandal in the district on Friday. The presence of the leopard cub created panic among people as they feared that a leopard could be on the prowl in the village. There were instances of a leopard killing goats and

cows in the past. According to villagers, the leopard gave birth to four cubs and took away three of them. One cub was left

behind. The farmers stayed indoors because of the fear that the leopard may come back to retrieve its cub. Meanwhile, the Forest offi-

cials visited the place where the cub was left out. They expressed the opinion that the mother leopard could have dropped the cub in the village while shifting the cubs. The officials said that the leopard may come back to the village to retrieve the cub. They advised the villagers not to visit the place where the cub was left out.

### **Gujarat court issues second summons** to Tejashwi Yadav in defamation case

metropolitan court in Ahmedabad on Friday issued summons to Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav for the second time in a criminal defamation case after Rearning that the first summons could not be served to him due to some confusion As per the latest summons, Yadav is required to appear before the court on October 13 On August 28, the court of Additional Metropolitan Magistrate D J Parmar had issued

defamation case filed against him over his reported remarks that "only Gujaratis can be thugs (fraudster)". The court issued summons to the senior Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader to appear before it on September 22 in the case registered under sections 499 and 500 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). When the court began the hearing of the case on Friday, it was revealed that the summons was still lying in the court and it was never delivered to



### **HC** grants relief to TMC's Abhishek, rules against coercive action by ED

he Calcutta High Court on Friday granted relief to TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee, directing the ED not to take coercive steps against him in connection with its probe into the school jobs scam in West Bengal. The court, however, did not quash the Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR), equivalent to an FIR, filed by the Enforcement Directorate against Banerjee. The single bench of Justice Tirthankar Ghosh

directed the ED that no coercive steps can be taken against the Trinamool Congress MP based on the ECIR. The court maintained that evidence produced by the ED is not sufficient to warrant Banerjee's arrest. It also said that the investigation against Banerjee into the alleged irregularities in recruitment of teachers in government and governmentsponsored schools will continue. Earlier this month, the TMC national general secretary was questioned by the ED for a marathon nine hours.



### Jaishankar embarks on US visit to attend annual session of UN General Assembly

xternal Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday began a nine-day visit to the US, primarily to attend the annual session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in New York and to host a special event on Global South. Following the completion of the 78th UNGA related engagements, Jaishankar will visit Washington DC from September 27 to 30 for bilateral meetings with his American interlocutors. "During his visit to New

York from September 22 to 26, the External Affairs Minister (EAM) will be leading the Indian delegation for the high level week at the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said. "In keeping with India's support for Global South, the EAM will be hosting a special event 'India-UN for Global South: Delivering for Development'," it said in a statement. Jaishankar would also attend various plurilateral and bilateral meetings in New York.



# **Concern over uncertainty** in implementation pronto

PNS NEW DELHI

The passage of the women's reservation bill has ignited hope among stakeholders about attaining gender equality in India's political landscape, especially at the policy-making level, even as some raised concerns over its effectiveness given the uncertainty in the deadline for its implementation.

The bill to reserve one-third of the seats in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies for women received the parliamentary nod on Thursday as the Rajya Sabha unanimously voted in its favour. It will now require the approval of a majority of state assemblies.

The 128th Constitution amendment bill, referred to as the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, will be implemented after a delimitation exercise to redraw parliamentary and assembly constituencies based on the census which the government has said will be commissioned next year.

Prominent lawyer Shilpi Jain said it could have been imple-

she said.

mented immediately.

"Just give tickets to 33 per cent women! At least fix a time limit for its implementation. Otherwise, it's an eyewash. It's like being given a prize which can't be taken for the next few

"A law that doesn't have a time limit about its actual implementation doesn't come into effect till it's implemented! It's half a trophy being given now. The other half, no one knows if/when it will be given!" she said.

Shabnam Hashmi, of the Leftleaning NGO Anhad, said that first there will be a census and after that, there will be delimitation. So, there is no guarantee of this happening even by 2029,

The stakeholders, however, cautioned that reservation for women in Parliament and assemblies can become a token exercise as is seen in many Panchayat elections where 33 per cent of reserved seats are filled by female family members of politically influential sections of the community.

There should be provisions to encourage those from non-political backgrounds to contest polls rather than those picked by male members of politically influential families, they said.

Dolly Verma, a second-time

against the system of "Sarpanch Patis" (husbands of elected village council heads) in India, expressed hope that the women's reservation bill will empower

women "in the long run".

"Reservation in local governance has existed for a long time. But as a sarpanch elected twice to office, even today, I see that Sarpanch Patis are widely accept-

"However, I have also seen a gradual change happening. Elected women are working as leaders and motivating other women too. I strongly feel that the women's reservation bill will empower women in the long run," she said.

Echoing her views, Hashmi said a large number of women are asserting themselves now. "At the MLA and MP levels, there would be a difference. A woman will need to establish herself at the constituency level, she will need to be more assertive and more self-dependent rather than depending on the family," she

### Women's quota bill to empower half of India's population

PNS ■ NOIDA

When half of India's population will contribute in policy decisions and feel empowered, the speed of the country's progress will double, BJP leader Mahesh Sharma said on Friday, lauding the passage of the women's reservation bill in Parliament.

The Lok Sabha MP from Gautam Buddh Nagar in Uttar Pradesh also lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi for "completing" a "long-pending"

The bill to reserve onethird of the seats in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies for women received the parliamentary nod on Thursday as the Rajya Sabha unanimously voted in its favour. It will now require the approval of a majority of the state assemblies.

The 128th Constitution amendment bill will be implemented after a delimitation exercise to redraw parliamentary and Assembly constituencies based on the census, which the government has said will be commissioned

## Manipur govt files report in SC on recovery of arms

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Manipur government on Friday told the Supreme Court it has filed a status report on recovery of arms from "all sources" in the ethnic violence-hit state.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre and Manipur government, told a bench headed by Chief Justice D Chandrachud the status report is for the "consumption" of judges only.

On the issue raised before it that the CBI should be asked to give updates of the probe being conducted by the agency in 11 FIRs transferred to it in cases involving sexual violence against women and children in the state, the bench said it has already appointed "seasoned" IPS officer Dattatray Padsalgikar to supervise the investigation of criminal cases.

"Allow a little bit of time to the officer to take charge, monitor the situation and then we may ask for a status report," said the bench, also comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra.

The CJI said Padsalgikar, a



former Director General of Police of Maharashtra, himself went to Manipur to oversee the process. He is one of the most highly respected officers from Maharashtra, Chandrachud

In its August 7 order passed on a batch of pleas, including those seeking court-monitored probe into the cases of violence, besides measures for relief and rehabilitation, the apex court had appointed Padsalgikar to supervise the CBI investigation into the FIRs transferred to it as also the cases being handled by the state police agencies.

During the hearing on Friday, Mehta said he has placed before the court a report on recovery of weapons.

"That is for your lordships' consumption," he said.

The solicitor general informed the bench about a short affidavit in the matter.

'I have a short affidavit also which says that whatever issues are being debated here are already being brought to the notice of the (apex courtappointed) committee," he said, adding the panel is seized of the matter.

The top court had earlier appointed a three-member committee of retired high court judges headed by Justice (retd) Gita Mittal, to oversee relief and rehabilitation of the victims of ethnic violence in the state.

The all-woman panel headed by Justice (retd) Mittal, a former chief justice of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court, also comprises justices (retd) Shalini P Joshi and Asha Menon.

Mehta said the matter can be kept for September 25 so the court can go through the status report as well as the affidavit. "Last time we had said that the status report on recovery of arms shall be shared with the court," the bench said, adding the affidavit can be shared with the petitioners but not the status report

### BJP issues notice to Bidhuri for his remarks against Danish Ali

PNS NEW DELHI

Sabha member Ramesh Bidhuri for his use of objectionable words against Bahujan Samaj Party MP Danish Ali in Parliament during a discussion on Chandrayaan mission's suc-

BJP sources said the party has sought a reply from the South Delhi MP for his use of

Bidhuri had used derogatory words against Ali while speaking in Lok Sabha on Thursday. Speaker Om Birla later expunged those words.

Singh had expressed regret for Bidhuri's remarks. The video of Bidhuri's con-

Union minister Rajnath

The Congress on Friday strongly condemned BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri's objectionable remarks in the

Lok Sabha against BSP parliamentarian Danish Ali and

demanded his immediate suspension from the House.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the

Describing the remarks as an insult to all MPs,

The BJP on Friday issued a 'My name dragged into this by people with vested interest

> $B^{\text{JP}}$  MP Harsh Vardhan on Friday alleged that some people with vested interest have "dragged" his name into a row over certain objectionable remarks made by his party colleague Ramesh Bidhuri in the Lok Sabha. "While I was no doubt witness to the jugglery of words being thrown at each other (which in fact the entire House was), the truth of the matter is that in the chaos that existed, I could not clearly hear what was being said," Harsh Vardhan, a former Union minister, wrote on X. He is currently the MP from Chandni Chowk in Delhi. The BJP leader's clarification came a day after Bidhuri made certain objectionable remarks targeted at BSP member Kunwar Danish Ali on Thursday night during a discussion in the Lok Sabha on the success of Chandrayaan-3 mission.

troversial references to the Muslim MP have gone viral with opposition parties against him, including sus-

Cong slams Bidhuri's remarks against BSP MP

pension from the House. Speaker Birla has cautioned him and warned of strict demanding strict action action if such an offence is

shame what Bidhuri has said. Rajnath Singh's apology

is simply not acceptable. It is a half-hearted apology, it

insult to Parliament and makes a mockery of what the

prime minister keeps repeating 'Sabka Saath, Sabka

Vikaas, Sabka Sabka Vishvaas, Sabka Pravas' which

was an afterthought. "What Bidhuri has said is an

### **Rain continues in many parts of** Kerala; IMD issues 'yellow alert'

PNS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

As incessant rains continued to lash several parts of Kerala, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Friday issued "yellow alert" warning isolated heavy rains in seven

Heavy rainfall was predicted in Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Kottayam, Idukki and Ernakulam districts.

Northern districts including Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur and Kasaragod are likely to witness thunderstorms, moderate rains and heavy rains in the coming hours, IMD sources said.

"Yellow alert" indicates heavy rainfall between 6 and

Incessant rains caused waterlogging and uprooting of trees in high ranges of

Kottayam and Idukki districts. Meanwhile, shutters of Peppara Dam here were raised by 10 cm in the wake of increased water level, district authorities said.

The District Collector has asked local people to be vigil as the shutters would be raised by another 10 cm later in the day, an official statement said

Heavy rains lashed hilly areas in Kottayam on Thursday causing landslides in two places and disrupting traffic on various roads, including the one leading to the popular hill station of Vagamon in Idukki.

The sudden heavy rains also led to rise in water levels of various streams and rivers. including the Meenachil river, raising concerns of a flood situation in the downstream areas, the district administration had said.

#### Paddy acreage up 3 % to 411.52 lakh hectare this Kharif sowing season

PNS NEW DELHI

nearly 3 per cent so far in the ongoing kharif sowing season to 411.52 lakh hectare, while pulses acreage declined 5 per cent, according to the agriculture ministry data.

Paddy acreage stood at 400.72 lakh hectare (LH) in the same period last year.

As per the data released on Friday, area under pulses declined 5 per cent to 122.57 LH from 128.49 LH in the yearago period. Acreage of coarse cereals increased marginally to 186.07 LH from 183.73 LH. Oilseeds sowing was down at 192.91 LH as against 196.08 LH. Groundnut area dipped to 43.89 LH from 45.51 LH while the acreage of soyabean rose to 125.59 LH from 124.77 LH.

The agriculture ministry data showed that area under cotton decreased to 123.42 LH from 127.57 LH. However, sugarcane area was higher at 59.91 LH as against 55.66 LH in the year-ago period. The total acreage under the ongoing kharif (summer sown) season increased to 1,102.99 LH from 1,099.23 LH.

### IAF's airshow to commemorate J-K's accession enthrals spectators

PNS JAMMU

An airshow by the Indian Air Force (IAF) to commemorate 76 years of the accession of Jammu and Kashmir into Keshav Vohra, and senior here on Friday morning even as the event was cut short by a little over 15 minutes due to

Thousands of people, mostly youngsters, thronged the Air Force

Station here as the show was open to the public. The show was presented by the Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT), Mi-17 helicopters and

Aakashganga Daredevil Skydiving team.

The act by the Air Warrior Drill Team and the musical performance by the IAF band drew a lot of applause and

whistle-blowing.
Lt Governor Manoj Sinha was the chief guest at the event, which was organised jointly by the IAF and the Union Territory administration. The airshow was also to flag and performing the celebrate the Diamond most difficult stunts in the Jubilee of the Air Force

Station, Jammu and raise awareness about aviation.

Air officer commanding Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh Air Vice Marshal Praveen civil and police officers also witnessed the show.

"The Indian Air Force is a glowing symbol of strength, bravery and dedication. I salute the IAF personnel for their magnificent heroism

and the spirit of sacrifice. My deepest gratitude Warriors and their families," the L-G wrote on X after the event. Three Mi 17

helicopters of the 130 Helicopter unit, headed by Wing Comman der Irfan Wahid Khan Jarial presented

a flypast on the arrival of the chief guest. Shruti Arora, a youngster from Jammu city, thanked the IAF for providing the people the opportunity to watch the show. "The show had a magnificent start with 11 members of the IAF fly-

ing high with the national

#### apology offered by Union Minister Rajnath Singh was becomes all 'bakwaas' (nonsense)," Ramesh told a "mere eyewash" and not acceptable. "It is an absolute reporters here when asked about the issue.

### **LIGHT AFTER 25 YEARS!** 7 remote villages in Naxal-hit Sukma get power supply

PNS RAIPUR

Nearly 25 years after their homes plunged into darkness due to damage to infrastructure by Naxals, 342 families from seven remote villages of insurgency-hit Sukma district are back on the electricity supply

grid, officials said. In the late 1990s, these villages had to bear the brunt of Left Wing Extremism after Naxalites ran amock in the area, destroying electricity poles and other infrastructure and depriving the locals of basic facilities.

The Dabbakonta, Piume, Duramangu, and and villages Tumbangu, Singanpad and Dokpad were electrified



source of power supply early this week, said Sukma Collector Haris S.

The government and administration are committed to proration, electricity and water to the people, particularly the last man in the last mile and ensure that benefits of welfare schemes reach them, said col-

Though some of the houses had access to solar power to light up bulbs and operate a fan, that too was plagued due to maintenance issues, said officials.

About 342 families have benefited from electrification in these seven villages, said the collector. The priority of the government is to ensure the development of basic facilities in hyper-sensitive areas. Electricity will soon be provided to other villages in the area, he said.

Sukma is among seven districts of the less prosperous Bastar division in South Chhattisgarh, more than 400 km from the capital Raipur. Inspector General of Police

(Bastar Range) Sundarraj P said setting up of six police camps in the area has helped in ensuring the development of such remote areas and reaching benefits of welfare schemes to the people. There was electricity con-

nectivity in these villages till the late 1990s. But Maoists damaged the electricity poles and infrastructure due to which the villagers were deprived of regular power sup-ply for about 25 years, the IG said. After the establishment of Dubbakonta, Pidmel, Tondamarka, Dubbamarka, Elmagunda, Karrigundam and other such police camps in the area, villagers are now getting back their basic facilities and

amenities, he said.

### **SANATAN DHARMA REMARK**

### SC issues notice on plea seeking FIR against TN Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin

PNS NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday sought responses from the Tamil Nadu government and its minister Udhayanidhi Stalin on a plea seeking an FIR against him for his "eradicate

Sanatan Dharma" remark.

A bench of Justices Aniruddha Bose and Bela M Trivedi issued notices on a plea filed by B Jagannath seeking an FIR against the Tamil Nadu minister on grounds that the remarks are akin to hate speech and that the top court had in similar matters passed several directions, including registration of FIR.



Senior advocate Dama Seshadri Naidu, appearing for the petitioner, submitted that the minister allegedly asked school students to say that this religion is not good and that the other religion is good.

similar matters where individuals make such a statement against another's faith but in this case it is a minister making the statement. Here it is a state, which is telling the school students that so and so religion is wrong," Naidu said. The bench asked Naidu

what was he seeking from the court, to which the senior lawyer said he is seeking a restraining order against the minister (Stalin) from making any such statement and sec ondly that an FIR be registered.

"We are also seeking that students should be kept out of this," he said.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

## **Course correction**

The IMF's call to tax the rich and shield the poor in Pak will not be easy to implement

akistan's dwindling economy has steadily dug its way into such a morass that even sane, helpful and logical directions from the experts outside, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in this case, do not seem to be able to pull it through. The recent call by IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva to Pakistan for increasing taxation on the wealthy and protecting the poor is a stark reminder of the country's economic woes. The cash-strapped nation, which secured a bailout from the IMF in July, is grappling with double-digit inflation and a range of structural issues that need immediate redressal. Kristalina's meeting with Interim Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly session has brought the pressing economic issues facing Pakistan to the forefront. Kristalina emphasised the need for Pakistan to collect more taxes from the wealthy and simultaneously protect the country's vulnerable populations. The IMF has long been advocating economic reforms in Pakistan.



Pakistan's economy is reeling under soaring inflation, which has been exacerbated by the conditions attached to the IMF's \$3 billion bailout package. Meanwhile things have only gone from bad to worse for general population. Massive hikes in electricity and petrol prices have driven inflation to a staggering 27.4 per cent last month, placing the citizens under a crush-

The promise of economic stability and growth through the IMF bailout has not yet materialised for the majority of Pakistanis. The IMF's insistence on revenue collection and protecting the most vulnerable segments of society underscores the importance of a bal-

anced approach. But the irony is that this bailout, and even the previous ones, have hardly changed anything. The ordinary Pakistani continues to suffer while the Pakistani elite (especially the army) enjoys the privileges. These measures are essential not only for fiscal sustainability but also for maintaining social cohesion in a country facing considerable economic hardships. The IMF's approval of the \$3 billion standby agreement, which is crucial to prevent a sovereign debt default, has saved the day but the crisis runs deeper in Pakistan's system. It must galvanise and upgrade industry and trade to compete in the international market. But it is resorting to piecemeal reforms such as earmarking 10 Government-owned companies for privatisation. Though this move is in line with the IMF's recommendations as State-owned entities' losses have been straining Government finances, it is not a permanent solution. Pakistan's economy needs structural changes that can create a conducive business environment. The IMF's prescription may not be easy to follow as Pakistan's elite is going to resist it tooth and nail, especially with the general elections slated for January end. In the short term, however, such moves can play a pivotal role in steering Pakistan away from the brink. The path ahead is challenging as it is directly linked with the survival of Pakistan as a State.



Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel perform during diamond jubilee celebrations of Air Force Station Jammu

# Who killed Hardeep Singh Nijjar?



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

The Indo-Canada relations have deteriorated after the killing of Nijjar, a pro-Khalistani. Are sectional conflicts among Khalistanis in Canada the cause?

rime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegation that Indian agents had murdered the Khalistani leader, Hardeep Singh Nijjar, on June 18, 2023, in Canada, is reportedly based on inputs from intelligence sources. This raises the question as to how reliable these inputs are. No final judgement is possible until these inputs and the evidence behind them are made public. Nevertheless, one can have some idea of the efficiency of the Canadian intelligence and security establishment by looking at their performance in respect of the biggest ever terrorist outrage emanating from Canadian soil-the mid-air explosion that brought down Air India's Boeing 747 aircraft, Emperor Kanishka, carrying flight AI 182 from Toronto to Mumbai via Montreal, off the coast of Ireland. All 329 persons, passengers and staff, on board the flight which had taken off on June 23, 1985, were killed. Only 131 of the bodies could be

The Air India explosion was a result of negligence, intelligence failure, inaction and lax security arrangement on the part of the Canadian authorities. For quite some time before the explosion there was a fear that Khalistani terrorists in Canada were planning a strike. Alerted, India's Intelligence Bureau had sent a telex message on June 1, 1985, both to Air India's management and the Canadian authorities asking them to beef up security measures to forestall a possible attack on an aircraft by Sikh terrorists.

James Bartleman, then head of Canada's intelligence bureau, got a frosty response from an official of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), whose attention he drew to a highly classified Communications Security Establishment (CSE) document saying that Sikh extremists might be targeting AI 182. He was told that officials were probing the matter. among them prevented the Security measures remained lax. Sniffer dogs remained missing from all Canadian airports because they were under training at Vancouver. X-ray screens at Toronto's Pearson Airport



"broke down" on the day of the flight.

Days before the bombing, Canadian intelligence operatives who were tracking Talwinder Singh Parmar, founder and leader of terrorist group Babbar International (BKI), and subsequently considered to be the mastermind behind the downing of AI-182-- heard an explosives test that he conducted in a forest. They ignored it, thinking that it was a "gunshot!"

In its report submitted in 2010, a commission of inquiry, appointed by Stephen Harper, then Canada's Prime Minister, in 2006, and headed by a retired judge of the country's Supreme Court, John Major, condemned several security failures and blunders on part of Canadians that led to the bombing. According to the report, the RCMP and Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) had significant pieces of information that, taken together, "would have led a competent analyst to conclude that Flight 182 was at high risk of being bombed by known Sikh terrorists in June 1985." Lack of coordination risk from being neutralised. The report called the security lapses "inexcusable" and termed Canadian security arrangements at the time "wholly deficient". THE REPORT CALLED THE

**LAPSES** were acquitted. "INEXCUSABLE" AND TERMED **CANADIAN SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS** AT THE TIME "WHOLLY

**SECURITY** 

Nor have the post-explosion developments shown any profound regret on the part of the Canadian authorities over what had happened. Nor have they reached out to the victims and their families the way they should have. The earnestness with which investigations into the outrage were conducted is reflected in the fact that only one person Inderjit Singh Reyat, was convicted and, that too, decades after the bombing. Talwinder Singh Parmer, who had returned to India, was killed in an encounter with the Punjab police in 1992. The other accused, including Ripudaman Singh Malik, who was subsequently murdered in Canada on July 14, 2023,

In a searing observation, judge John Major, had stated that Canada had relegated the biggest terrorist attack targeting their country to background. He noted, "I stress this is a Canadian atrocity. For too long the greatest loss of Canadian lives at the hands of terrorists has somehow been relegated outside the Canadian consciousness? Given this background, one can hardly be blamed for doubting, prima facie, Canadian intelligence agencies' conclusion that Indian agents had murdered Hardeep Singh Nijjar. This is particu-

larly so in the context of Ripudaman Singh Malik's subsequent murder. He had written a letter on January 17, 2022, to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, praising him for his initiative to redress some of the pending demands of the Sikhs. While thanking Modi for removing the names of some Sikhs from the blacklist which prevented them from visiting India, he accused certain "anti-India members" of the Sikh community of running an "orchestrated campaign" against Modi. Back in Surrey in British Columbia, his praise for Modi had prompted a section of Sikhs to accuse him of treachery towards the Sikh qaum. Was he murdered for the 180degree turn in his attitude to India and Modi?

The world of Khalistani terrorists, it appears, is not one of great mutual camaraderie and friendship, but one of sectional acrimony. Hardeep Singh Nijjar a victim of this internecine conflict, and the RCMP, CSIS and the CSE have been clueless about this entire matter as they were about the preparations to blow up the Air India flights? The question needs to be looked at

(The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer. The views expressed are

## Multivitamins: A traveller's companion GAGAN MANCHANDA



The role of multivitamins cannot be overstated to reinforce your immunity while travelling

ravel has become an integral aspect of mod-L ern lifestyle. People nowadays are traversing the globe more than ever before for business as well as for leisure. Even though travelling is fun, people who travel a lot often face the challenge of maintaining their health during their trips. This is because of the change in their usual routines, consumption of different foods, and the new environment. These factors can drain travellers, both physically and mentally, besides dampening the excitement of their adventure. This is precisely where multivitamins come into play. Why is Multivitamins?

The stress of travelling can cause discomfort like a stiff neck, sore muscles, back pain, and joint aches, which can be quite tiring. Multivitamins can soothe these symptoms besides providing the essential vitamins and minerals that could be deficient in your diet throughout your journey. Besides this, multivitamins can prove beneficial in several other ways:

Supporting Natural

als usually found in our food. They are beneficial for bridging nutritional gaps and nat-

blend of vitamins and minerurally improving health. One daily multivitamin during travel can serve as a reliable support system, countering the deficiency of essential nutrients induced by changing diets. Changing time zones and long flights can disrupt our sleep patterns and leave us fatigued and stressed. B vitamins, particularly B6, B12, and folic acid, play a substantial role in stimulating the nervous system for combatting stress. Including these nutrients in a multivitamin can help travellers manage fatigue and adjust to new time zones more effectively. Thus, consuming health supple-

ments or multivitamins dur-

ing travel can play a crucial

come in various forms, from commonly found in planttraditional tablets and capsules to gummies and powmakes them an ideal travel companion. When choosing multivitamins for your journey, consider a blend that includes all the essential nutrients for travellers- Vitamin B complex, Vitamin C, magnesium, probiotics, and ginseng. For instance, vitamin B formance while Vitamin C aids in fortifying the immune

Vital Nutrients to Vegan

& Vegetarian Travellers Vegan and vegetarian travellers often struggle to meet their nutritional needs while on the go. Dietary restrictions can impact their energy levels and overall health during their journey. Multivitamins play a crucial role in bridging these nutritional gaps for such individuals. Furthermore, multivitamin supplements for this group contain medicinal herbs and higher levels of zinc, vitamin B12, iron, and Supporting Natural role in balancing irregular algae-derived omega-3 fatty Wellness: Multivitamins are a meal patterns. Multivitamins acids to address deficiencies

based eating patterns. For instance, multivitamins comders, catering to different posed of Ashwagandha, an preferences and dietary restrictions. Their portability renowned for its rich reserve of Vitamin C, calcium, and iron, are known for enhancing stamina. Similarly, certain multivitamin products include Shilajit, a mineraldense resin used in Ayurveda. This natural substance is rich in nutrients, including iron, magnesium, retinol, and vitcomplex boosts cognitive per- amins B, C, and E. It also aids in stress and anxiety reduction, which makes it an ideal companion for vegan and vegetarian travellers.

Multivitamins, the tiny powerhouses are not just supplements; they are the steadfast companions that can empower you to conquer new horizons with strength, and vigour. So, whether you are chasing sunsets on remote beaches or sealing business deals in bustling cities, let multivitamins be your trusted companions. Your journey is extraordinary-let your health be equally exceptional.

(The writer is the CEO, Co-Founder, of Positive Gems; views are personal)

#### **PLAYING POLITICS**

Sir — The proposal by Karnataka State Cooperation Minister Rajanna to appoint three additional Deputy Chief Ministers in the Karnataka government seems to be a well-calculated political manoeuvre aimed at weakening the current Deputy CM, D K Shivakumar, who is poised to replace Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in the second half of the government's five-year term. Rajanna has openly aligned himself with CM Siddaramaiah, fueling speculation that he is the latter's spokesperson. Reports indicate that only one Deputy Chief Minister position was created in response to D K Shivakumar's demand to assert his position as the second most powerful figure in the government after the Chief Minister. In this context, Rajanna's statements hint at a power struggle behind the scenes. Moreover, the open rebellion staged by senior leaders B K Hariprasad and Bsavaraja Raya Reddy against the government undermines the expectation that the Congress, with its 135 seats, can provide a strong and stable government in the state. Failure to address these troubling developments with firm corrective measures early on may spell trouble for the Congress government, erode its credibility, and pave the way for political instability.

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

**WOMEN REPRESENTATION** Sir —It is disheartening that despite being proud to call ourselves the world's largest democracy, we have failed to achieve gender equity in our legislative bodies at both the national and state levels even after seventy-six years of independence. While women constitute nearly half of India's 95 crore registered voters, they make up only 15 percent of lawmakers in Parliament and 10 percent in state assemblies. Therefore, the move to reserve 33 percent of seats for women in the Lok Sabha and state legislatures, initiated in 1996, is a significant and commendable step toward promoting gender equality in politics. However, due to political maneuvering, we have failed to enact it into law.

### **Neutralise the Khalistan movement**



ness of the dangers posed by the divisive Khalistan movement, confronted it head-on through Operation Blue Star. Without this intervention, the movement could have taken deeper root within our nation. Although its leaders were compelled to disperse abroad, in 1984, she paid the ultimate price with her life for the greater national cause. Canada, with its enthu-

siasm for immigration and a relative lack of experience in dealing with terrorism, tragically suffered the loss of 268 of its own citizens in the 1985 bombing of Air India's Kanishka Flight 182. It appears that, perhaps due to a delayed examination of history, Canada is now recklessly aligning with proponents of the Khalistan movement within its borders for short-term political gain. Sooner or later, the nation will realize that these renegades owe their allegiance to nothing but blind devotion to a misguided cause. The Indian government must step far beyond the scope of diplomacy and demonstrate unwavering resolve through every possible means to neutralise the Khalistan movement, not only within Canada but also in other emerging regions, to prevent the ignition of domestic unrest.

R Narayanan | Mumbai

Finally, after six attempts and twentyseven years since its first introduction in 1996, the Women's 33 Percent Reservation (Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam) Bill passed in the Lok Sabha on September 20, 2023. Despite all political parties' efforts to attract women voters with various schemes and financial incentives, they have remained silent on the 33 percent reservation. Now that the bill has cleared this hurdle, the question arises of how soon it can become law. According to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, "After the next year's elections, the census and delimitation exercise will take place. After this, there will be 1/3 women in this house." This implies that it is unlikely to happen before the 2029 elections, unless there is a significant shift in the government's stance and amendments to the Constitution. Nevertheless, involving women in policymaking is essential to address issues concerning

them adequately. Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

**RAHUL GANDHI MEETS COOLIES** Sir — Former Congress President Rahul Gandhi once again surprised people by vis-

iting a railway station in New Delhi and engaging with porters to understand their concerns. The Congress leader arrived at Anand Vihar Railway Station to interact with the coolies. Gandhi engaged in extensive conversations with them and discussed the challenges they face. This visit comes several months after a group of porters requested him to meet them and comprehend their issues, and to work towards their betterment.

In recent months, Rahul Gandhi has consistently surprised people with his interactions with the public. He visited Bengali Market, the Jama Masjid area to have a meal, and Mukherjee Nagar to engage with UPSC aspirants.

Recently, he undertook a motorcycle ourney in Ladakh, Leh, and Kargil regions to interact with the local population. Rahul Gandhi's fearless and courageous efforts to engage with ordinary people and understand their problems are commend-

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

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### A CALL FOR FAITH, PEACE, AND UNITY

The positive spirit of hope and faith in God is essential for our well-being



RADHANATH SWAMI MAHARAJ

he Bhagavat Gita verse (BG 8.15) states, that the world is a place of ordeal and unease for the living beings. Further, it outlines the genres of trouble caused by nature (adi-Devika), by society (adibhautika), and by body & mind (adhyatmitka). Does the cause of discomfort trigger resentment, bitterness, and anger? Does it invoke a victimhood mindset? Does the innate troubles of the world have a license for perpetrating violence, causing generational rivalry and spreading ani-

Humans look forward to living in peace and harmony however still we see fights between individuals, family, friends and nations. The underlying reason behind such fights/war shows the obvious failure of any potential dialogue, but more than that it reveals the true characters of an individual or and leaders involved directly in this fight/war. The Bhagavad Gita 16.4 states; that hypocrisy, arrogance, conceit, anger, harshness, and ignorance are the traits of a person possessed by ignorance. And, these fights/war exposes the deep-seated dark traits seated within the hearts of individual/leaders, leading to the unfortunate dehumanization of humanity.

Every fight/war historically, globally and generationally has been fought due to conflicting ideologies between the well-intentioned and not-sowell-intentioned people or groups. But people bereft of spiritual wisdom; act whimsically, instinctually, and emotionally to further their selfserving ideologies without much thought. Additionally, when people start believing they are 'right' 20 times a day, it gets into their heads. They act as (pseudo) God displaying their ignorance brazenly, adversely impacting the lives of many. What they fail to recognize is that, at the core, every being is equal in spiritual identity (nastatmano). Steeped in arrogance and ignorance they fail to perceive the sanctity of life, and thus engage in unbeneficial, destructive work (Agra karma) bringing sociocultural and economic ruins (ksayaya Jagat). True greatness lies in forgiveness, sacrifice, and compromise for a higher objective of life, peace, and harmony. If those are not the values that drive us; how could it be



otherwise? In the absence of spirituality that fosters resilience and forgiveness, people would naturally tend to slip into the bloody cycle of endless retribution. As a social thinker's question, How many lives per mile would ultimately work, to bring the parties to the table in negotiation? If tooth for a tooth, and eye for an eye is the policy followed, then the whole society will end up blind and toothless.

The quintessential message of Krishna Consciousness, calls forth the positive spirit of hope, meaning and faith in God in critical times. Historically, Kamsa ran a godless kingdom and wreaked havoc in the society by using deceit, fear, and force to maintain his grip on power. To assuage the suffering, Lord Krsna appeared as lightning amid the darkness of the world and neutralized Kamsa who was possessed by the spirit of ignorance beyond redemption. Currently, this lightning potency of the Lord is still accessible, within our reach, as the wisdom of the Gita. Irrespective of social, cultural, or religious diversities, the spiritual wisdom of the Gita empowers us to orient our lives towards a higher purpose, beyond selfish and short-sighted objectives. This higher purpose needs to be placed at the heart of world leaders and citizens, guided by universal qualities of forgiveness, fortitude, simplicity, nonviolence, truthfulness, and freedom from anger, among others. Guided by wisdom and integrating such favourable characteristics into our lives as individuals, we feel spiritually empowered to be a positive force, bringing order amid the chaos of godless civilization and bridging the divide among human hearts with faith, peace, and unity.

(The author is the Spiritual Guru of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness)

# Celebrating International Day of Sign Languages

On this day, let us recognise the power of communication and the indispensable role sign languages play in bridging the gap for the deaf-mute community



very year, on September 23rd, the world unites to observe the International Day of Sign Languages, acknowledging the vital role sign languages play in our global society. This year, with the theme "A World Where Deaf People Everywhere Can Sign Anywhere!," we contemplate the significance of sign languages in reshaping the world, especially in a context where communication is an integral part of our daily lives.

Communication forms the lifeblood of our interconnected world, serving as the foundation for building relationships, sharing ideas, and engaging in the intri-cate processes that shape our societies. Yet, for the millions of individuals worldwide who are deaf or hard of hearing, accessing this fundamental human right can be challenging. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), currently, over 1.5 billion people, nearly 20% of the global population, live with hearing loss, and 430 million of them experience disabling hearing loss. Alarmingly, it is projected that by 2050, this number could exceed 700 million people with disabling hearing loss.

The deaf community in India constitutes a significant portion of the population, with a diverse and vibrant culture. India has the largest deaf population in the world. As per WHO estimates in India, there are approximately 63 million people, who are suffering from Significant Auditory Impairment; this places the estimated prevalence at 6.3% in the Indian

population. Despite the challenges they face, the deaf community in India has made considerable strides in recent years. The Indian Sign Language (ISL) is recognized as one of the officially recognized languages of India, which has helped promote communication and inclusion among the deaf population. Additionally, various NGOs, government initiatives, and educational institutions have been working tirelessly to improve access to education, healthcare, and employment



TO ENSURE THAT AND POLICIES TO THE DEAF al institutions. COMMUNITY, IT MANDATORY TO HAVE A SIGN LANGUAGE

INTERPRETER AT GOVERNMENT

(The writer is Executive Director, National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People)

opportunities for the deaf.

In terms of education, there are specialised schools and institutions across the country that cater to the needs of deaf students, offering tailored curricula and sign language instruction. However, there is still a need for more inclusive education practices and increased awareness about the rights and potential of deaf indi-

Efforts are also being made to empower the deaf community through vocational training and employment opportunities, ensuring they can lead fulfilling and GOVERNMENT independent lives. Indian sign language interpreters play a cru-PROCEEDINGS language interpreters play a crucial role in facilitating communication between the deaf and hearing communities in various set-ARE ACCESSIBLE ting confinding government offices, hospitals, and education-

Indeed, the deaf community in SHOULD BE ic part of the country's diverse population. While there have been positive developments in terms of recognition and inclusion, ongoing efforts are needed to further improve the quality of life and opportunities for deaf individuals in India. Accurate and up-todate statistics will be essential to track the progress and tailor interventions to better meet the needs of this vibrant community.

For this vast community, sign languages act as a conduit to participate in the broader narrative of global communication. Sign languages are not just tools of communication; they are intricate and vibrant linguistic systems in their own right, featuring distinctive grammar, vocabulary, and cultural nuances. They provide the means through which deaf individuals convey their thoughts,

with the world around them. On the International Day of Sign Languages, we celebrate the diversity of these languages and the sense of unity they foster among the global deaf community.

India, being the most populous nation globally, also has the largest deaf population and therefore it is our collective responsibility to address their needs and aspirations. We have made significant strides in assistive technology, and there must be a decisive push to enable larger access to these technologies for the deaf population. With its inbuilt rich dynamics, the addition of technology will make sign language more profound and relevant. It's also essential for the country to view disabilities as an investment to promote their integration into mainstream society.

In the same vein, it is important to emphasize that achieving inclusion cannot occur in isolation. An ecosystem must be created to facilitate two-way communication through sign language. The responsibility lies not only with the deaf community but with society as a whole. Sign language should be integrated into the standard school curriculum to ensure that everyone becomes proficient in this language and skill. Just as foreign languages are taught in schools, there's no reason why Indian Sign Language shouldn't be part of the curricu-

The significance of sign language reaches beyond everyday conversations. In an increasingly interconnected and diverse world, sign languages are pivotal in areas such as education, employment, healthcare, and civic engagement. They empow-

share their stories, and connect er deaf individuals to access quality education, pursue meaningful careers, make informed healthcare decisions, and participate in the political and social life of their communities. Without sign languages, millions would find themselves excluded, unable to fully engage in society.

To ensure that government proceedings and policies are accessible to the deaf community, it should be mandatory to have a sign language interpreter at every government event. This way, a significant portion of the population would not miss out on essential government information and pro-

In a world that prides itself on progress and inclusivity, such oversights should be deemed unacceptable. The International Day of Sign Languages serves as a stark reminder of the imperative for governments, organizations, and individuals to prioritize accessibility and inclusivity in all facets of society. It is a day when we should reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that sign languages are accessible to all, everywhere.

As we commemorate the International Day of Sign Languages in 2023, let us recognize the power of communication and the indispensable role sign languages play in bridging the gap for the deaf community. Let us also advocate for increased awareness, investment, and action to guarantee that sign languages are accessible to everyone, everywhere. Only through such collective endeavours can we genuinely create "A World Where Deaf People Everywhere Can Sign Anywhere!" and transform the global order for the better, making it a more inclusive and equi-

## Cooperatives can end Punjab's agriculture woes

Cooperative societies can make agricultrue viable by providing cheap loans, selling agricultural inputs at reasonable rates and buying farm produce at fair price

Dunjab has been the leader in food grain production; despite the bad weather, this year too, the contribution of wheat to the national grain reserve from Punjab is more than 46 per cent. However, the economic condition of the farmers of Punjab is getting worse. They cannot repay the loans taken on crops and commit suicide. One-third of the farmers in Punjab are either marginal with up to 2.5 acres of land or small farmers with 2.5 to 5 acres of land. Their total land is only 9.7% of the cultivable land in the state. According to a survey, the number of marginal and small farmers with up to 5 acres of land is 3,61,938, while the number of semi-medium farmers with 5 to 10 acres of land is 3,67,938



The writer is Professor (Retd)

Guru Nanak Dev University,

Amritsar and a member, the

Governing Council Amritsar

and medium farmers with 10 to 25 acres of land is 3, 05,220. There are only 57,707 farmer families with more than 25 acres of land. Despite their hard work and optimization of the yield, more than 80 per cent of the farmers in the state are in debt. The majority of the farmers depend on six-month yield

crops i.e. wheat and paddy, and earn what barely meets the repayment of the money borrowed during the previous six months for expenditure on growing the crop and supporting the families. Then the cash is needed for the next cycle. But they don't have savings to defray the expenses on agricultural implements, seeds, fertilizers and pesticides, on the one hand, and on personal needs, such as food,

clothing and health facilities for the family, children's education and other social responsibilities, on the other. Thus, the farmers have to take a loan for the next term. Small landowners face difficulty in loan sanctions from banks or moneylenders. Due to a lot of paperwork and lateral guarantees, the sanction of bank loans is delayed and sometimes completely refused or else the partial amount is sanctioned. Then the farmer has to approach some private moneylender for a loan at a high interest rate to save the crop. Due to the high interest rate, the real income from the crop decreases, while due to delayed loans, the use of fertiliser and pesticides is delayed causing low yield and losses. Some moneylenders sell fertil-

giving the loan amount in cash, so the farmers have to buy these products at the moneylender's price. What is worse is that sometimes the farmers double their losses when they happen to buy fake products.

In such circumstances, cooperative societies can be a solution to this thorny issue. They can purchase agricultural inputs like quality seeds, fertilizers and pesticides in bulk at competitive prices and sell to the farmers at a marginal profit, sanctioning the total cost as a crop loan at low interest. Societies can buy farm machinery and tools and rent to such farmers at a reasonable cost. This will benefit both farmers and cooperatives.

Cooperative societies can the scope of cooperative soci-

izers and pesticides instead of encourage farm support activities and set up processing and procurement centres for agroproducts to help farmers generate their daily, weekly or monthly income. If possible, they may employ marginal farmers on a part-time basis in

the processing units.

Future of Cooperative **Societies:** There are 19164 cooperative societies in Punjab out of which 3953 are Primary Agriculture Cooperative Credit Societies (PACS). Of these, 56% are in profit, 38.6 in loss, while the rest are in 'no profit, no loss'. While effecting administrative reforms in cooperative societies and efficient utilisation of funds, the Punjab Government can take advantage of the recent Union Cabinet decision to expand

eties, by setting up new PACS in unrepresented villages and by computerizing PACS for their efficient, transparent and accountable performance. Future Action Plan:

In Punjab, the State Agricultural Development Bank (SADB), Prīmary Agricultural Development Bank (PADB) and Primary Agricultural Cooperative/ Credit Societies (PACS) should jointly support dairy, poultry, fisheries, piggery and agro-processing units in addition to loans for crops. operative farming should be developed by pooling the holdings of 2.5 to 5 acres of land to form a unit of at least 25 acres to which 10 acres of Panchayat land on concessional contract may be added making it a unit of 35 acres. In addition to

tive farms may be provided electricity connections for tube wells on priority and the necessary machinery at con-

cessional rates. The other types of cooperative farms can be the cooperative farm for Dalits, the cooperative farm for women and the cooperative farm for landless farmers, each on 10 acres of Panchayat land attached to a subsidiary business of dairy, piggery, poultry, fish farming etc. Similarly, by combining 5-10 acres and 10-25 acres of land holdings, cooperative farms of 35-50 acres can be created without the addition of Panchayat land. These farms should also be given the same facilities as other cooperative

### Rupee rises 19 paise to close at 82.94 against US dollar

he rupee appreciated 19 paise to 82.94 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, as the inclusion of India in the JPMorgan bond index boosted investor sentiment.

Forex traders said the decision of JPMorgan Chase & Co to include Indian government bonds in its benchmark emerging market index is expected to have far-reaching implications for India's debt market and global investors. At the interbank foreign exchange

market, the local unit opened at 82.75 against the US dollar and touched the lowest level of 82.97 in the day trade. The rupee finally settled 19 paise higher at 82.94 (provisional) against the previous close. On Thursday, the rupee settled at 83.13 against the US dollar. India's inclusion in a major global bond index will open doors to increased foreign investment in the nation's debt market, traders said. Analysts expect India's inclusion in a major global bond index will lead to a direct inflow of USD 20-25 billion



### **Gold plunges Rs 170**; silver jumps Rs 800

Gold plunged by Rs 170 to Rs 60,000 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday amid fall in precious metal prices in overseas markets, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, the yellow metal had settled at Rs 60,170 per 10 grams. "Domestic markets gold price came under pressure, causing

strength in the rupee," Saumil Gandhi, senior analyst of commodities at HDFC Securities, said. However, silver jumped Rs 800 to Rs 75,300 per kilogram. In the global markets, gold was down at USD 1,925 per ounce, while silver was trading higher at USD 23.70 per ounce. Comex gold fell on the back of strong US macro data that stoked expectations that the Federal Reserve will pursue a higher-forlonger stance on interest rates,



### **Suzion secures 29.4 MW wind** capacity order from BrightNight

capacity from BrightNight in Maharashtra. The capacity is a part of BrightNight's 100 MW wind-solar hybrid project in Osmanabad in Maharashtra, Suzlon Group said in a statement ."Suzlon will install 14 units of S120 140m wind turbine generators with a hybrid

MW each," it said without disclosing the order value. The project is expected to be commissioned in phases, beginning April 2024 and curb 2.5 lakh tonne of CO2 emissions per year, it added. Suzlon will execute the project with a scope of supply, installation, and commissioning, Additionally, Suzlon will offer post-commissioning operation and maintenance services. JP Chalasani, Chief Executive Officer, Suzlon Group said, the power generated from this project will target the Commercial and Industrial (C&I) customer

segment, creating deeper penetration of

renewable energy in India



# **Govt to make IT hardware** import process fully online

The government on Friday informed IT hardware players that the process of import authorisation for laptops, tablet, servers etc. will be completely online and has sought data of the past three years for the inbound shipments of mobile, IT and telecom products, sources aware of the development said.

Industry players have been informed that the "import management system" portal, which will be managed by Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), will go live by the end of this month.

"MeitY has informed companies that 'import management system' will go live by September end. It will be managed by DGFT. It has asked importers to feed their organisation data and import data subsequently for the past 3 years," a source, who did not wish to be identified, told PTI.

The government has proposed to implement new rules for import of IT hardware from November 1.

The new rule will allow



imports of IT hardware by authorised firms.

The import management system will handle imports related to mobile phones, IT and telecom products.

"The import authorisation will be processed completely online without any manual interventions for speedy approval," an industry source

The authorisation will be initially granted for about a year, after which there will be gradual reduction of 5 per cent on import quota of fin-

ished products.

There may be conditional relief on import quota on a case to case basis," the industry source said.

Minister of State for electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar will hold a meeting with the industry on October 1 to assess the situa-

"The minister has told industry that he will also speak with commerce minister Piyush Goyal and request him to set up a similar consultation with the industry on this subChandrasekhar told reporters that the government aims to meet up to 70 per cent of the

from non-trusted sources. "At present, almost 80 per cent of our supplies to the digital ecosystem come from imports. We want to make sure whatever the sources are, they are trusted.

country's IT hardware require-

ment through local production

in the next three years and

reduce dependency on imports

"As part of emphasising trust, it is obvious that the Indian component of that supply chain will have to grow. Today 8-10 per cent of our supply requirement comes from India, we want to make that 65-70 per cent in the next three years," the minister said.

As many as 40 companies, including Dell, HP, and Lenovo, have applied for the IT hardware production linked incentive (PLI) scheme with a commitment to make personal computers, laptops, tablets, servers and other equipment worth Rs 4.65 lakh crore during the scheme period.

### **NALCO** reports lower sales, net profit for FY'23

PNS BHUBANESWAR

National Aluminium Company Ltd (NALCO) clocked sales of Rs 14,171 crore and a net profit of Rs 1,544 crore in the 2022-23 fiscal, a company official said on Thursday

The aluminium major registered an export turnover of Rs 4,217 crore during the period.

It, however, had registered the "highest-ever" sales of Rs 14,181 crore and a "record" net profit of Rs 2,952 crore in the 2021-22 financial year, the official said.

The company's 42nd annual general meeting held here on Thursday via virtual mode approved the annual accounts for 2022-23.

"Higher input costs, volatility in business environment as well as dynamics of global demand-supply has impacted NALCO's profit margins in spite of the fact that the company has registered growth in several fronts in FY 2022-23," CMD Sridhar Patra told shareholders at the AGM

## FinMin sees 6.5 % growth in FY24 despite risks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The finance ministry on Friday exuded confidence that the country will achieve 6.5 per cent growth in FY24 on the back of improved corporate profitability, private capital formation and bank credit growth, notwithstanding the risks of rising crude oil prices and monsoon deficit.

The ministry's August edition of Monthly Economic Review said the 7.8 per cent growth recorded in the first quarter (April-June) was on account of strong domestic demand, consumption and investment. The growth was also witnessed in various high-frequency indica-

Flagging certain risks like steadily climbing crude oil prices in the global market, impact of monsoon deficit in August on Kharif and Rabi crops, the review said, "that needs to be assessed." At the same time, it observed, the rains in September have erased a portion of the rainfall deficit at the end of August.

Furthermore, the review said, a stock market correction, in the wake of an overdue global stock market correction, is an ever



remain comfortable with our 6.5 per cent real GDP growth estimate for FY24 with symmetric risks," it said.

"In sum, we

present risk, and offsetting these risks are the bright spots of corporate profitability, private sector capital formation, bank credit growth and activity in the construction sector.

"In sum, we remain comfortable with our 6.5 per cent real GDP growth estimate for FY24 with symmetric risks," it said.

Observing that the strength of domestic investment is the result of the government's continued emphasis on capital expenditure, the report said, measures implemented by the central government have also incentivised states to increase their capex spending.

The external demand has further complemented the

domestic growth stimulus, it said, adding, the contribution of net exports to GDP growth has increased in Q1FY24, as services exports have performed

High Frequency Indicators (HFIs) for July/August 2023 reflect sustenance of growth momentum in Q2FY24, it said.

With regard to the banking sector, it said, a variety of indicators suggest increasing resilience of the sector through declining Non-Performing Assets (NPA), improving Capital to Risk-weighted Asset Ratio (CRAR), rising Return on Assets (RoA) and Return on Equity (RoE) as of March

#### ANZ bank selects HCLTech to drive digital services

PNS NEW DELHI

Banking major ANZ company HCL Technologies (HCLTech) for a new engagement that entails digital workplace transformations across 33 countries.

HCLTech will provide ANZ with digital workplace services and experience management across end user devices and applications, including laptops, mobile phones and tablets, according to a release.

The release, however, did not divulge the size of the contract bagged by HCLTech.

'HCLTech, a leading global technology company, and ANZ, one of Australia's four largest banks and the largest banking group in New Zealand and the Pacific, have expanded their relationship with a new engagement that will transform ANZ's digital employee experience across 33 countries," it said.

### ADB appoints Bhargav Dasgupta as Vice-President for market solutions

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Friday appointed CEO of ICICI Lombard General Insurance, as Vice-President (market solutions) for a period of three years.

He will be responsible for management of the operations of ADB's Private Sector Operations Department and Markets



Development and Public Private Partnerships, ADB said

An alumnus of Indian Institute of Management Bangalore, Dasgupta replaces Secretary and Election Commissioner of India.

Dasgupta, who tendered resignation from his position as managing director and CEO on Thursday, has over 35 years of experience across a range of economies, including in Asia and the Pacific.

## Gen Z dating preferences: Honesty more important than physical appearance

**PNS** ■ BENGALURU

their intention when it comes to dating and do not shy away from stating that they want situationship' if that is what they want, findings of a survey conducted by dating app Tinder indicates.

Tinder India Director of Communications Aahana

to 30 across several Indian cities, including Bengaluru, as part of the survey.

Situationship is the Gen Z term for a relationship without any pre-set agendas, with thrust on transparency and freedom. According to the study, Future of Dating', 43%

Dhar says questions were of Bengaluru Tinder users posed to 1,018 Indian young pick situationship as their

The Bengaluru survey also identified six trends followed by the youth in the information technology hub.

"From what we could see, Gen Z, which we think is the most fluid generation, has completely rejected previous dating norms.



PNS CHENNAI

TVS Industrial and Logistics Parks (TVS ILP), part of the TVS Mobility Group, has held the groundbreaking ceremony of its state-of-the-art warehouse in the city, the company said on Friday. The city-based firm

through the new warehouse has planned to offer support to the vertically integrated solar manufacturing facility of US-headquartered First Solar. The warehouse to come up

over an area measuring 5.70 lakh sq ft at Pillaipakkam in neighbouring Kancheepuram district, would supply the raw materials and inventory to First Solar, a company statement here said.

ILP COO Manikandan Ramachandra said, "This strategic location is intended to reduce time, inventory, and space utilization costs within the First Solar factory...

"We understand the importance of proximity for manu-

facturing companies in need of warehouses near their facilities, and our strategic land acquisition adjacent to First Solar's facility emphasizes our dedication to meeting this need," he said.

The construction work of the facility is expected to be completed by the first quarter of 2024 and will generate 200 jobs in the region.

First Solar Vice President Sujoy Ghosh said, "We are pleased that TVS ILP has decided to set up this impor-

tant piece of warehousing infrastructure close to our

New state-of-the-art warehouse in Chennai

TVS ILP performs ground-breaking ceremony

facility in Chennai. "We anticipate that the warehouse will play an important role in our effort to optimize inventory and capacity utilization," Ghosh, also the company's Country Managing Director, said.

According to the company, the foray into the renewable energy sector is a testament to its versatility and dedication to serving clients from diverse industries.

amount/ ECV: Rs. 747.50 Lakhs, Start Date & Time: 23.09.2023 @ 11.00 A.M Last date and Time for receipts of Bids: 30.09.2023 @ 11:00 A.M, Name Address of Officer: SE/KPZ, GHMC, Cell: 9989930363.

R.O.No: 7056-PP/CLIADVT/1/2023-34, Dt.22 89.3923

### RIGHT TO TRAVEL GUARANTEED IN CONSTITUTION No LOC on bank's mere request: Delhi HC

The right to travel abroad, which is guaranteed under the Constitution, cannot be taken away in an arbitrary and illegal manner and Look Out Circulars (LOCs) opened merely at a bank's request without application of mind,

the Delhi High Court has said. Justice Subramonium Prasad observed that the "court was coming across a large number of cases where banks are now insisting on opening of LOCs only as a measure for recovery of money without initiating any criminal proceedings" when it can be done only in "exceptional circumstances" affecting the

The judge emphasised there has to be some application of mind by the authorities concerned while issuing an LOC as it results in restraining a person from travelling abroad, which is their right, and caus-

es social stigma. "The authority opening the Look Out Circular must satisfy itself that the departure of a person against whom Look Out Circular has been opened would be detrimental to the sovereignty or security or integrity of India or that the same is detrimental to the bilateral relationship with any country or to the economic interests of India or departure



of such a person ought not be permitted in the larger public interest at any given point in time," said the court in an order

cannot be taken away in an dated September 19 "It is well settled that the the court asserted

right to travel abroad is guaranteed under Article 21 of the

Constitution of India which

arbitrary and illegal manner,"

petitions by former directors of a company challenging the LOC issued against them at the instance of Bank of Baroda in connection with a loan default

by the company.

The petitioners, who were the guarantors, contended that the opening of the LOC was mere blackmailing and armtwisting tactics, and the bank only wanted to keep them as hostages in the country till the

money has been paid. The court concluded the opening of LOC against the petitioners was "not justified" and "wholly unsustainable", and quashed it.

It noted there was neither

petitioners, who were not involved in the day-to-day affairs of the company for the last several years, nor a suspicion that they siphoned off funds, and time to make pay ment had also been extended till the end of September as part of a one-time settlement.

"There has to be a proper application of mind by the authorities on the facts of each case before opening of a Look Out Circular which not only impedes the right to travel but also casts an aspersion/stigma on the person in the society against whom the Look Out Circular has been opened,' the court said.

#### e- PROCUREMENT NOTICE NIT.No.29/SE/KPZ/GHMC/2023-24 Dated: 21.09.2023 Name of the Work: CC Roads, Construction of School, Box Culvert, Estima

Kukatpally Zone, GHMC

爾 GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION 🚳

e- PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
MT No.: 24/GHINCKIPC-24/TEI/2023-24, Dated: 21.03.2023
Name of the Work: Developmental Works, Estimate amount/ ECV: Rs. 635.00
Lakhs, Start Date & Time: 22.09.2023 @ 11.00 A.M, Last date and Time for receipts of Bids: 29.09.2023 @ 11.30 A.M, Name & Address of Officer: Sri. D. Goverdhan Goud,

Executive Engineer, GHMC, Kukatpally Circle - 24, Cell: 9154299633, Further detail:

can be seen at e-procurement @ https://tender.telangana.gov.in. R.O.No: 7047-PP/CLIADVT/1/2023-34, Dt.22.89.2923

Sdi-Executive Engine Kukatpally Circle- 24, GHMC

### GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA TRIBAL WELFARE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

NIT No.: SE/TW/HYD/198 to 259 (9works)/2023-24, dated: 20-09-202 Name of the works : Certain Building works in Certain District. No. of works -9. Total Co of 9 works is Rs. 2894.70 Lakhs, Bid Submission Starting Date : 25-09-2023 at 5.00 PM and Bird Submission Closing Date: 04-10-2023 at 3.00 PM. Further details can be een at e-procurement market place @ https://tender.telangana.gov.in

DIPR No.: 626-DPICL-Agency(Advt.H/2023-24)

Superintending Engineer

### SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LTD TENDER NOTICE NO. 02/2023-24

Sealed tenders are invited through E-Tender & Open Tender from eligible contractors for Carrying out various Electrical & Civil works in Operation Circle Mahabubnagar. All Information can be obtained from the website www.tssouthernpower.com. Circle Office: Phone No: 94407 68928. Note: For Open Tender works, Purchase Schedules from Circle Office Mahabubnagar. Sd/- Superintending Engineer

R.O.No: 7023-PPICL/ADVTH/2023-24, Dt. 22.89.2023

Operation: Mahabubnagar

# the pioneer derabad

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Saturday September 23, 2023





# **'HYDERABAD TO** MY SWARGDHAM; PEOPLE HERE HAVE ALWAYS **RESPECTED ME'**

TEJAL SINHA

Renowned yoga teacher B.K.S. Iyengar once very well said, "Yoga is the only key that unlocks the door to peace, tranquility, and joy." True that! Regardless of your level of yoga expertise, if you're practic-ing regularly, you can feel better from head to toe. With a similar aim to cure multiple health issues, including diabetes, hypertension, obesity, and PCOS, right from colds to cancer, headaches to heart diseases, and diabetes to depression, Yoga Acharya Narayanam Gopinath, through his Maharshi Patanjali Yoga-Health and Diabetes Care Centre, believes and aims at curing all of them with the right food as med-icine and yogic prac-

A former aeronautical engineer who had worked with the Indian Air Force shifted to Hyderabad with his family due to his job. Later after that, he retired; he joined the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) in 1992 and went on to work until 2018. But throughout his work, he had always had a passion for teaching yoga, ever since his childhood, making him pursue his master's in yoga. Today, he is not only a healthcare expert but also a diabetologist and an advanced medical nutritionist. In fact, during the pandemic, he, along with Dr. Vishnu Chaudhary, formed a team called the NICE Network of Influenza Care Experts, curing more than one lakh people with zero medicine, zero money,

and zero morality.

With all his experience, he shared, "I can say that any disease can be cured by changing the lifestyle. These are all lifestyle-oriented diseases. Lifestyle is all about your behaviour. We educate the people. There is a greater need to educate people in terms of medications. People come and cure their issues in 1 to 3 months, depending on the issue. Once we start giving the nutritional plan, they get rid of this. Some medicines have side effects, but we try to provide side benefits. I strongly believe that a man is more of an emotional entity than a logical entity."

"It's not about a lifestyle disease; it's about your commitment to your diet and lifestyle. Curing me is not a problem, but convincing them of this is a big problem. I have also helped people with Gangrene cases when they have to cut their legs. We only give the



This week for our weekly column of Hyderabond, The Pioneer interacts with a former aeronautical engineer at the Indian Air Force and now a healthcare expert, Yoga Acharya Narayanam Gopinath, to speak of his association with the city,

natural medicines; even during the pandemic, we had given natural kadhas," shared the 66-year-old expert, who recalled working in various places of the city, including Balanagar, Kukatpally, and Sangareddy, to

name a few. Speaking of his love for the city, he said, "Since day one, I have loved Hyderabad. I love the climate here. People here have received me very well. Here, you have multilingual people. Since I had worked in the forces, I know like 3–4 languages, and people here treated me very well. They used to take my services to cure their health prob-

lems. People are very friendly." Having lived in various parts of the country like Srinagar, Uttar Pradesh, and Chandigarh, one thing that he really enjoys about the 'City of Nizams' is its lovely climate. He explained, "The climate here is so good that back then, even the rajas and maharajas had made the city their capital. Here, there are a lot of good job opportunities for anyone and everyone. The bond that I share with Hyderabad is amazing. I can settle here for the whole of my life."

Ever since he was a kid, he'd



him, and more. always adored the popular places that Hyderabad has

**Almonds** 

as the top

**snacking** 

ver the past few decades, there has been a significant

decreased physical activity, unhealthy diets, increased stress,

cardiovascular disease, hypertension and certain types of cancer. While modern medical advancements have enabled us

through lifestyle changes remains an effective way to reduce the burden of lifestyle-related diseases. It is important to

prioritize healthy habits and make positive lifestyle changes to

improve our overall health and wellbeing. In a recent YouGov survey conducted by the Almond Board

of California between 24th January - 6th February 2023, it

was found that most urban cities in India reported a rise in

lifestyle-related health issues such as obesity, diabetes

cardiovascular disease. While the survey highlighted the

the key strategies followed by them to fight these health

problems like eating a well-balanced diet, exercising, and

The quantitative survey was done amongst a sample size of

Ahmedabad, Pune, Bangalore, Coimbatore, Hyderabad, Kochi

Commenting on the results of the survey, Ritika Samaddar,

Regional Head - Dietetics, Max Healthcare, Delhi, said, "Maintaining a healthy diet is crucial for overall health and

balanced diet provides essential nutrients and energy that

minerals. One food that has gained attention for its health

benefits is almonds. Almonds are a nutrient-dense food that

provides an abundance of essential vitamins and minerals.

including vitamin E, magnesium, and potassium. They are

Regular consumption of almonds has been associated with

various health benefits, such as reducing the risk of heart

weight management."
MBBS and Nutritionist, Dr Rohini Patil, said, "Awareness

precautionary measures to curb the onset of such health

the top nut choice in Indian diets as per the survey.

Almonds are extremely nutritious and are a plant-based

source of protein and calcium. They make for a perfect

calcium, almonds are a good source of dietary fiber that

help in blood sugar control and weight management. They

are also high in vitamin E which acts as an antioxidant to

support pulmonary immune function. A convenient and

effective strategy to boost overall health and wellbeing is

dietary choice for vegans and people with lactose intolerance. In addition to being rich in protein and

by integrating almonds into a wholesome diet.'

problems. It is good to see that almonds have emerged as

disease, improving blood sugar control, and promoting

around PCOS, type-2 diabetes and hypertension have

increased in the recent past as people are taking

also a healthy source of healthy fats, fiber, and protein.

wellbeing and this survey is a testament to that fact. A

our bodies need to function properly, including

carbohydrates, proteins, healthy fats, vitamins, and

over 4000 respondents in cities including Delhi, Lucknow, Ludhiana, Jaipur, Indore, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, Mumbai,

growing health concerns in India, it also revealed some of

and inadequate sleep. These changes have resulted in an

increase in chronic diseases such as obesity, diabetes,

to better manage and treat these conditions, prevention

increase in lifestyle-related health issues. A large part of

his problem is due to changes in our lifestyles, such as

choice

eating healthy snacks.

voted

always been known for, including the Salarjung Museum, Tankbund, and Khairatabad Ganesha. But talking of what he particularly likes, he said, "I really love the fruits here. For instance, Hyderabad's banana and Andhra's banana are different (he giggles). In my diet plan, fruits are very important. When I think of Hyderabad, and since I'm a vegetarian, I can think of fruits and not Paradise

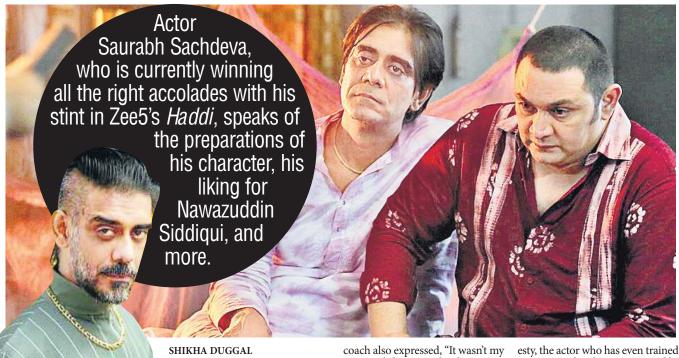
Biryani, hahah!"

With people migrating from different cities for a better living, he feels that the population has been increasing day by day. However, looking at the other side of it, he feels the city has been a good place to live, with not only job opportunities but also a good education. He further goes on to appreciate the chief minister, K. Chandrasekhar Rao, and health minister, Harish Rao, for putting up efforts to improve the health infrastructure throughout the state. "Today, every district has a medical college. Being a yoga practitioner and healthcare expert, I feel prevention is always better than cure. Yoga is the only preventive and curing medicine for any of the diseases. Like the central government, the state government has also taken several measures to promote and raise awareness of roga. However, schools and colleges also need to come forward and provide at least 30 minutes of yoga for students so they are aware of its benefits and will have a habit of performing it regularly," signed off the expert, who ended the conversation by saying, "Hyderabad to me is my Swargdham, and so is it for

many other people who'd want to establish their work in the city.

One can stay here and live a peaceful life."

## I was never fearful of getting blocked out by Nawazuddin Siddiqui: Saurabh



hopeful year for the trans-gender community has come, and some really good representations of them have come on screen. One of which was actor Saurabh Sachdeva's role, executed with defiance and style. Yes, we are talking about Haddi streaming on Zee5, and we see the emotional blueprint he showcases in the vengeful track.

On an even more rebellious note, the actor who is grabbing all the eyeballs with his pairing opposite Kareena Kapoor Khan in Jaane Jaan—it seems like he's really imbuing all his character roles with his heart. Don't you think so?

In an exclusive conversation with us, also, an acting

responsibility to make the caricature of the character, nor did I want to be scornful about the community. I was free of values and morals when I was representing this role. Now I didn't enter their community just to understand their world; I was just empathizing. I watched quite a few documentaries and met a few of them personally. You have to be liberal to understand their psyche, or else you can't."

The sweet exchange of conversation continues with Sacred Games fame: "I saw this role as a literal challenge. I read the script a lot, many times. I have always been like this: without going out of the circumference of the character that's given to me, I try to find the spine of it. This time the body language was very violent, but externally I was happy.

In true blue hon-

Rana Daggubati has an extreme liking for Nawazuddin Siddiqui, to which he explains, "We may have studied at different acting schools, but we are in the same tandem. Our mother tongues match. He was always joking around me on the sets, asking me to finally let go of my trans character when the cam-eras weren't rolling. I knew there was an Anurag Kashyap and a Nawaz in the movie but I was Nawaz in the movie, but I was never fearful of getting blocked out by the veterans."

Those outwardly feminine gestures and everything he did to make the character look real were greenlit. His comment was, Transgenders shouldn't just play themselves. They should grab every role! But the scene where all of us go to the Kinnar Gharana to kill Ila Arun was disturbing to all of us. We were just following the director's instructions and didn't get into the why and how of it."



ommon myths about workouts continue to plague the fitness industry. Misconceptions about fitness tend to spread far and wide through word of mouth.

#### **BELOW ARE THE** TOP 10 MYTHS ONE MAY REGULARLY **ENCOUNTER:**

**Spot Reduction:** People often approach me with requests to lose abdominal fat or eliminate cellulite in specific areas like their thighs. The reality is that targeting fat loss in specific areas through exercises for those regions alone is nearly impossible. Effective fat loss for the entire body relies on a smart combination of diet and exercise.

No Pain, No Gain: While some soreness or discomfort after exercise is normal, the belief that experiencing pain

signifies a successful workout is a myth. To see results, you must challenge yourself consistently.

**loss solution:** This notion is entirely incorrect. While cardio is crucial for calorie burning, a combination of strength training, a balanced diet, and cardio is essential for weight loss and overall fit-

always better: quantity is not the key to weight loss. The weight you lift or the number of deadlifts you perform is less important than proper form, correct technique, and injury prevention. Quality surpasses quantity, and rest and recov-

More exercise is

ery are equally vital. Eating less leads to weight loss: Reducing calorie intake can slow down your metabolism, prompting your body to store fat. Eating less can have adverse effects on your health. For sustainable weight loss, a balanced diet is imperative.

Keep in mind that your Crunches for

> Rely on evidence-based research and consult a fitness expert if you have questions or concerns.



myths you need to stop believing abs: Focusing solely on crunches won't yield a toned midsection. A combination

**Busting** 

fitness

healthy diet is essential. Cardio is the sole weight-Women will bulk up from lifting weights: Contrary to popular belief, women can't bulk up in the same way men can due to their hormonal differences. Weightlifting,

a form of strength training, is an effec-tive way for women to burn calories over an extended period.

of core exercises and a

Supplements can replace a healthy diet: Supplements can complement but not replace the nutritional benefits of whole foods and a balanced diet. Food provides essential energy for daily activities.

**Sweat equals fat loss:** Sweating during exercise is a natural response to regulate body temperature and does not necessarily indicate calorie burn or fat loss.

More exercise means faster results: Quality matters more than quantity in the long run. Weight loss is a gradual process that requires patience and consistency. A sustainable fitness routine and patience are key components of a weight-loss regi-

fitness journey is unique and multifaceted.

# what's brewing?

### ISTINGS

### **Truecaller unveils a new** brand identity

ruecaller announced a corporate rebranding and launch of a brand new app icon that will be instantly recognisable on the Google Play Store and Apple App Store. The timing of the new brand identity aligns with a significant transformation taking place in the digital space. At the heart of this rebranding is Truecaller's renewed sense of purpose, energy and enthusiasm. As part of this refreshed identity, Truecaller users also get a powerful new anti-fraud feature called Search Context, as a part of the Truecaller Al Identity engine. While looking at the search results for any number, Truecaller users will be instantly notified if the name for the number has been recently changed or is being changed frequently.

# ITC Hotels signs Management Agreement for Welcomhotel

TC Hotels announced the signing of Welcomhotel Kalimpong resort under a management agreement with Pravez Constructions Private Limited. This 70-key greenfield upper-upscale project, spread over 4 acres will offer plush rooms with spectacular views of the Himalayas and the valley, an all-day dining restaurant, a lounge, a bar and a specialty restaurant along with ample recreational facilities such as fitness centre, childrens' club, games room, library, and a spa. The picturesque resort shall offer over 15,000 sq. ft. of indoor and outdoor event spaces.

### Cinépolis India bags two prestigious awards at MAPIC India 2023

inépolis, a world-renowned International Movie Exhibitor and the first international cinema chain in India is thrilled to announce its remarkable achievement at the MAPIC India 2023, formerly known as India Retail Forum. The company has been honoured with the coveted "Most Admired Retailer of the Year: Best U Turnaround Story" and Retailer of the Year- Leisure and Entertainment category" award.Cinépolis India's recognition in the "Best Turnaround Story" and "Retailer of the Year- Leisure and Entertainment" category is a testament to the company's dedication, resilience, and transformative journey in the face of unprecedented challenges. The award celebrates Cinépolis India's remarkable resurgence, highlighting its ability to adapt and thrive in an ever-evolving industry landscape.

### Indri becomes the 'Best whisky in the world'

proud homegrown single malt brand from the house of Piccadily Distilleries in India, Indri has earned a place among the best whiskies across the globe. Indri Diwali Collector's Edition 2023 has been awarded the Best in Show, Double Gold at the prestigious Whiskies of the World Awards. This win is a testament to the quality and the growing popularity of Indian single malts across the globe. One of the largest whisky tasting competitions in the world, Whiskies of the World Awards judges over 100 varieties of whiskies from across the globe every year. Following a rigorous blind tasting over several rounds across categories, a panel of some of the top tastemakers and influencers in the alco-bev industry declares one whisky as the best whisky in each class. Further to this, they then select one whisky as the Best in Show out of all the Best-in-Class whiskies. This year, Indri Diwali Collector's Edition 2023 is proud to have claimed the coveted spot, outshining hundreds of Scotch whiskies, Bourbons, Canadian whiskies, Australian and British single malts. The well-deserved accolade shows that India has emerged as a worthy contender, and the world is awakening to the new star from India – Indri.

### HDFC Bank unveils 3 innovative digital payments products on UPI

DFC Bank announced the launch of three innovative digital payments products on UPI (Unified Payments Interface). These innovative solutions are set to redefine the way customers and merchants engage in seamless transactions: UPI 123Pay: Payment via IVR UPI Plug-In Service for Merchant Transactions AutoPay on QR UPI 123Pay makes it possible for anyone in India, regardless of their phone type, to effortlessly make payments using a simple phone call, without requiring internet connectivity or a smartphone. UPI Plug-In Service aims to provide a seamless and frictionless payment experience, eliminating the need for customers to switch between merchant and payment apps when paying on UPI.AutoPay on QR enables seamless recurring payments through UPI QR and aims to transform various use cases, including OTT platforms, audio subscriptions, newsletters, and other digital subscription services.

#### **Applications for New Zealand Excellence Awards 2023-24, are now LIVE**

uducation New Zealand Manapou ki te Ao is now inviting applications for the 2023 – 24 New Zealand Excellence Awards. Designed exclusively for Indian students, the unique scholarship scheme offers students an opportunity to study at world-class New Zealand universities and experience the country's inclusive, multicultural society. Unveiled during the New Zealand-India Education Week earlier this year, these awards feature a comprehensive package worth NZD 320,000. The scholarship package offers a range of award options from NZD 10,000 to NZD 20,000 per student. The awards are designed to encourage high calibre students to pursue undergraduate and/or postgraduate qualifications at one of the New Zealand universities, all of which feature in the top 500 of the 2023 QS World Rankings.

### **HCL Concerts announces winners of 'The Carnatic Quest 2023'**

CL Concerts, a platform dedicated to identifying, nurturing and supporting the next generation of talent in the Indian classical performing arts space, announced the winners of third edition of 'The Carnatic Quest', organized in association with Chennai based Rhapsody Music Foundation. A one-of-a-kind Indian music the winners of third equition of the california duest, organized in association with contest was specifically designed to recognize and empower exceptionally talented Carriag unusicians in the age group of 18 to 30 years. The contestants showcased their prowess across five categories including Vocals, Violin, Veena & Mandolin, Flute, and Percussion (Mridangam / Kanjeera / Ghatam / others). Winners of the Third HCL Concerts Carnatic Quest include: Vocals Dharini Veeraraghavan from Mumbai Aditi B Prahalad from Bangalore Veena & Mandolin B Saiharinni from Chennai Ujaya Vigneshwar from Chennai Violin Sumanth Manjunath from Mysore Flute Sreejith G Kammath from Cherthala Percussion Kripals from Kochi

#### IndiGo to be the first Indian airline providing direct connectivity from Hyderabad to Colombo

ndiGo announced the introduction of new direct flights between Hyderabad and Colombo from November 02, 2023. IndiGo is the first Indian carrier to provide direct connectivity between the two cities, reinforcing trade, economic, and cultural ties. This is part of IndiGo's strategic expansion in international markets, providing customers with seamless and efficient connectivity.

#### **IDBI Bank extends festive offers on its** popular "Amrit Mahotsav" FD schemes

DBI Bank extends Festive Offers on its popular "Amrit Mahotsav FD" schemes. Under this limited time promotion, the 444 days option offers lucrative peak rate of 7.75% p.a.Besides this, the 375 days option attracts rate up to 7.60% p.a.This festive offer extension will be available for limited period upto October 31, 2023. Further, the Bank has made its rates attractive in the maturity slab of '271 days to less than 1 year' by 50 basis points (bps), offering a peak rate of 6.75% per annum.





from the city graced the launch of the Desire designer exhibition at the N-Convention in HiTech City. The exhibition will continue until







Photos by- SV Chary

BBG Bangaru Talli-Sems Olympiad Foundation, organised its 4th National awards ceremony, with an aim to ignite and nurture hidden talents. During the event they had also announced how through its contribution have resulted in changing the lives of nearly 1,50,000 to 2,00,000 girl children in the states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh through its "Bangaru Talli" programs.



#### **ARCHIE**







### **CALVIN AND HOBBES**



D'UOY 21 YAS NAO I LIA BETTER DO A GREAT JOB! I DON'T WANT TO FLUNK JUST BECAUSE I WAS ASSIGNED A DOOFUS FOR A PARTNER.







### **GARFIELD**

NANCY



LET'S FACE IT. YOU AND I MARCH

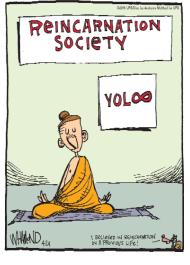
TO DIFFERENT DRUMMERS!



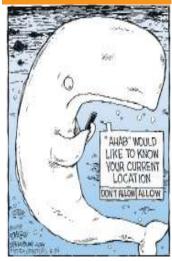
HE'S MINE! OKAY,



#### REALITY CHECK



# SPEED BUMP



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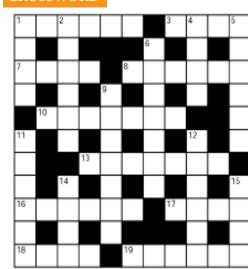
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3	7	2	1	9	6	5	8	4
6	5	3	9	8	4	7	2	1
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#### DOWN

exactly once. . The sum of all numbers in

#### 2 Ugandans live here any row or column must equal 45. 4 Parts of a week

#### CROSSWORD



#### ACROSS

- 1 Bleeding injuries
- 3 Counts up 7 This heavy metal is used for making fishing sinkers
- 8 Took part in a game 10 Write this on an envelope
- 13 A two-wheeled ride-on you push along with a foot
- 16 Of greater height 17 Young female

1 Go on foot

- 18 Gritty stuff on beaches 19 A small river

wickets



5 Australia's largest city

6 A flower on a fruit tree

9 A game with bats and

11 A prickly desert plant

12 Make up your mind

14 A map of a building

15 This fruit has a stone

### GINGER MEGGS







Hyderabad | Saturday September 23, 2023

### **PRAGATI SHRIVASTAV**

I was happily roving in my half-saree on the sets of *Peddha Kapu-1* 

ALL SET TO WOO THE AUDIENCE WITH HER UPCOMING FILM PEDDHA KAPU-1, THE LEADING LADY PRAGAT SHRIVASTAV GETS CANDID WITH THE PIONEER ABOUT HER ROLE, SOME BTS OF SHOOT, AND MORI

SHIKHA DUGGAL

The intense and gripping trailer of director Srikanth Addala's rural new-age political actioner *Peddha Kapu-1* is all set to raise the bar on high. We have the heroine of this another sensible movie on board with us—that's right, Pragati Srivastava—and she's managing the switch quite well.

Maintaining the same intensity with us in the interview as well, the leading lady advances, "This role came very instinctively to me. Most of the time, what happens is that the filmmakers already have an already received idea of how a heroine should be in Telugu. Srikanth is not your cliche filmmaker, and that's what made me sign this movie. It was really a very good chance for me to step into new shoes and even break off from that hackneyed idea of an actress." When the pre-look of the

movie came out, it showed a hand with blood marks and dust on it. The outline of the story is not known vet, but it is a social drama for sure! And the actress, who will also be the new leading lady opposite Anand Deverakonda, continues, "We were shooting at a village background. I have never tapped into a role of a village belle! I was happily roving in a half-saree. Its okay to not do glamorous roles always, as an actress. I have watched all of my director's movies and

I was keeping a track of it."
She further elaborates, "I was so happy to give look tests for him. I am a crucial part of the film; what else would I need? What happens in a massy film when the role of an actress is overlooked? It's different when you are doing a film with Srikanth Addala. This is supposed to be my re introduction in the telugu

film industry and I am not ready to get obscured by any

other actress. This rustic village drama had a lot of action sequences too. Pragati spills the beans, "Where the leading actor was doing his hostilities, I was finding it so difficult to show anger on screen. I was in the body language of a typical telugu ammai. I just can't express my anger! I strug-gle, literally. The trickiest moments on the sets. I was oblivious about my role—we did a lot of field work. I was trying to observe how Telugu girls carry their half sarees and

the Andhra slang. The language was challenging enough! I in fact went to a vegetable mandi too just to see the variety of telugu women there. I got my body language for this movie from there, as hilarious as it may

She's been looking for scripts that add value to her filmography; perhaps Peddha Kappu-1 is one of them. On the contrary, "Comfort on-screen has improved a lot from my first film. I take marketing of my films very seri-

ously now, I need my films to be backed by big banners. I am very practical, this way! Press meets to date feels dreamy to me. My co-actor taught me how to just not eat food but fall in love with it. Virat enjoys having food, he

eats with dedication. I know it's funny but it's true. He used bring all the local cuisine at one palate. He made me discover my taste buds! On a final note, I would love to work with Prabhas next. Fingers crossed."

tollywood



## rumours on her wedding pic, says, 'It's disheartening to have to explain'

he Tollywood actress Sai friends who are family, I have Pallavi is one of the most coveted female stars in India. She denounced the "baseless" claims about her marriage to director Rajkumar Periyasamy that were making the rounds on social media and several news websites on

In the widely shared image, the couple could be seen sporting traditional attire and wearing garlands. The cropped photo was originally taken at a puja ceremony for her most recent film. It was painstakingly modified and then spread

online. The actress finally responded to the rumours. She tweeted on X (formerly Twitter), "Honestly, I don't care for rumors, but when it involves

to speak up. An image from my film's pooja ceremony was intentionally cropped and cir-culated with paid bots & dis-

gusting intentions."
She added in her statement, When I have pleasant announcements to share on my work front, it's disheartening to have to explain for all these jobless doings. To cause discomfort like this is purely

Fans urged the actress to ignore the negativity on social media and wished her luck for her next film.

On the work front, Sai Pallavi was last seen in the 2022 Tamil movie Gargi. She was also recently signed for Chandoo Mondeti's film opposite Naga Chaitanya.



## Lakshmi Manchu celebrates historic Women's Reservation Bill at New Parliament building

enowned actor and philanthropist Lakshmi Manchu, along with fellow actresses Tamannah Bhatia, Divya Dutta, and other prominent figures, visited the new Parliament building to witness the historic moment Women's the Reservation Bill, titled the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinivam, was moved by Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal in the Rajya Sabha. The momentous occasion was a celebration of progress towards gender equality and representation in the Indian political landscape.

The Women's Reservation Bill, when implemented, is set to bring about a significant increase in female members of Parliament in the Lok Sabha. rising from the current 82 to 181, as announced by Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal during the bill's introduction. Lakshmi Manchu, who had

the privilege of touring the new Parliament building, joined other women activists and actresses in attending the proceedings as the Women's Reservation Bill passed in the Rajya Sabha. She shared her thoughts, saying, "Honored to witness history at our new

Parliament as the historic Women's Bill passed in the Rajya Sabha. Heartfelt thanks to @narendramodi Ii and @ianuragthakur Ji for inviting me to this momentous occasion. A day etched in my heart forever. #EqualRights # I n d i a R i s i n g # H i s t o r i c M o m e n t #WomensReservationBill

#NewParliamentBuilding." The passage of the Women's Reservation Bill is a significant step towards ensuring equal representation for women in Indian politics, fostering a more inclusive and diverse democracy.

### **Euphoric Original Gangster Music from** Shiva Rajkumar 's *Ghost* is out now Ghost for a fancy rate reflects the craze

arunada Chakravarthy Shiva Rajkumar's Pan India Film *Ghost* is being made as High Voltage Action Thriller. Durector Srini is crafting the film as big daddy of action films. Popular politician and producer ndesh Nagraj is bank-rolling this iggie on a prestigious manner under s Sandesh Productions. *Ghost* is gearing up to hit the screens globally on 19th October for Dussehra in Kannada, Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, and yalam languages akers released the euphoric *Original Gangster Music* from Ghost in a grand event held

amidst fans are Loyola College in Chennai. The high voltage song is composed by Arjun Janya has lyrics in Kannada, Telugu, Tamil and Malayalam languages. The lyrical video is highly towering screen presence along with glimpses from making of the film. In addition to *Ghost* striking promotional material, Shivanna's role in recent blockbuster, Jailer received tremendous response which further raised the hype around the film. Popular Bollywood distributor Jayantila Gada of Pen Movies has acquired theatrical, dubbing, digital rights of

The crew of *Ghost* comprises top technicians. Dialogues by Masthi and Prasanna VM. Music is composed by popular music director Arjun Janya. . Cinematographer Mahendra Simha's captivating visuals promise to take the film a notch higher. Production Design is by Mohan B Kere PRO, BA Raju's Team will be doing Telugu version PR work Ghost will be released in Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, Hindi and Malavalam languages produced by top production house Sandesh Productions

of the film.



#### AVIKA GOR'S NERVE-**RACKING LOOK FROM MANSION 24 UNVEILED**

fter intriguing fans with the first look poster of Varalakshmi Sarath Kumar in *Mansion 24*, the makers unveiled a spine-chilling first look of actress Avika Gor. Looking at the poster, the first think that catches the attention of the viewer is Avika's eyes, which seems to be permeated with blood. She's also seen holding a hammer, which is cover with bloos stains. The makers shared the poster with a caption that read, "The blood has a story to tell. Are you ready to listen?"

Well the poster and the caption surely intrigues one to know what this horror project is going to be about. As of now, no specific release date has been announced by the platform, but we can expect some updates sooner than we

# LIVERPOOL, WEST HAM WIN IN EUROPA

In a meeting of two former European champions in crisis, Ajax and Marseille drew 3-3 in "a crazy game" while Liverpool and West Ham were also winners on Thursday in the opening round of Europa League group games.

Liverpool fell behind for the fourth time in five matches this season but fought back to beat LASK 3-1 in Linz to make Jurgen Klopp the first coach to win 50 European games at the Merseyside club.

West Ham, who won the

West Ham, who won the Conference League last season, also hit back to beat visiting Serbian club TSC Backa Topola

Brighton, making their European debut in the Europa League, and Aston Villa return-League, and Aston Villa returning to Europe, after 12 years, in the Conference League, both fell behind early and although they each equalised twice, lost 3-2.

In Amsterdam, Ajax, who have won just two games all season and sit 12th in the Dutch league met Marseille who are third in Ligue 1

third in Ligue 1.

Ajax carved open the visit-ing defence in the first 20 min-utes and took a two-goal lead with goals by Carlos Borges and Steven Berghuis. Jonathan Clauss and Pierre-

Emerick Aubameyang hit back before half time.

In Brighton, Djibril Sidibe put AEK ahead with a bullet



header from 13 yards. Brighton twice levelled with Joao Pedro penalties. AEK twice regained the lead when sudden "We can improve but it's difficult to accept this defeat," said Brighton coach Roberto De

Zerbi. "I can't be happy when we win at Old Trafford and sad today with a good performance."
"We didn't show as much experience as AEK Athens."

Liverpool, playing in the Europa League for the first time since finishing runners-up in 2016, changed their entire starting 11 away to LASK.

They fell behind to a 14thminute rocket from Florian Darwin Nunez levelled with

a 55th-minute penalty kick after Luis Diaz was brought down. After 61 minutes, Klopp started to replace teenagers with regular starters.

Within two minutes they were ahead when Ryan

burst down the right and crossed low for Diaz to score from close

Two minutes from the end Mohamed Salah, a second-half replacement, poked home a

"I'm really, really happy, because I said before, I knew it would be difficult and it was dif-

ficult," said Klopp.
"A well-deserved win in the end, and that's it."

Elsewhere in the Europa League, Romelu Lukaku earned last year's beaten finalists Roma a 2-1 victory at Sheriff in

Abdallah Sima scored the only goal as Rangers beat Real Betis 1-0 in Glasgow.

Beus 1-0 in Glasgow.

Bayer Leverkusen crushed
Swedes Hacken 4-0, Rennes
cruised past Maccabi Haifa 3-0
in France, Spaniards Villarreal
lost 2-0 to Panathinakos in

In the Conference League, Aston Villa fell behind in the third minute to Legia Warsaw and despite equalising twice

"We have to be demanding of ourselves to impose the game plan, but we didn't do it," said Villa boss Unai Emery, three time winner of the Europa

"I like demanding games that are a challenge and not easy. Now these will be the types of matches we will face in the

Germany's



### Odegaard signs new contract

**AP** ■ LONDON

Arsenal captain Martin Odegaard has signed a new five-year contract at the club, becoming the latest play-er to commit his long-term

future to the Gunners.

The 24-year-old midfielder follows in the footsteps of Bukayo Saka, Gabriel Martinelli and William Saliba, who have all extended their deals.

The former Real Madrid player scored 15 Premier League goals and provided seven assists as the Gunners finished second behind

Manchester City last season.

He has three goals in all competitions this season.

"It was an easy decision for me," said the Norway international, who initially joined on loan from Real in January

"As I said many times, I felt connected and I felt at home here since the first day."

"Also, I was moving around a lot (during loan spells) and struggling to really settle down, so I felt like I preded a place to come and needed a place to come and settle down and to kind of find a home.'

Arteta said Friday that the new deal was "great news" for Arsenal.Arsenal are fourth in the Premier League table ahead of Sunday's home match against Tottenham.



### Garcia, Kenin reach WTA Guadalajara semis

AP GUADALAJARA

 ${
m F}$ rance's Caroline Garcia overpowered Victoria Azarenka in straight sets to reach the semifinals of the WTA 1000

Guadalajara Open on Thursday. Third-seed Garcia was always in control against her 10th-seeded opponent from Belarus, winning 6-3, 6-4 in 1hr

The 29-year-old French woman will face Maria Sakkari in the last four on Friday after the second seed from Greece eased past Colombia's Emiliana Arango 6-3, 6-4.

Garcia, who is chasing the 12th title of her career, used her powerful serve to gain the upper hand on Azarenka, slamming

down 10 aces during the match. Garcia was also able to save no fewer than 11 break points to deny Azarenka any chance of an opening.
"It's always tricky," said

Garcia. "She had a lot of break point opportunities, but I served really well at those points, so I guess I have to thank my serve." The win ensured that

Garcia, the world number 11, will move into the top 10 at the end of this tournament. In other quarter-final action

on Thursday, former Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin's recent resurgence continued as she overpowered 2021 US Open finalist Leylah Fernandez of Canada 6-4, 6-7 (6/8), 6-1 to reach the last four.

deflections in the rain opened up

chances. Mijat Gacinovic buried

one and Ezequiel Ponce tucked

home the winner

Kenin, 24, has worked her way back up the rankings after tumbling to 426th in the world last year following a slew of injuries and upheaval in her coaching set-up.

She has won 14 of her last

17 matches on the WTA Tour since July, and is poised to climb back into the top 30 after this tournament.

On Thursday, she secured her latest semi-final berth the hard way, advancing despite coughing up 14 double faults, with Fernandez racking up 15

Kenin, who also reached the semi-finals in San Diego last week, will face unseeded American Caroline Dolehide in the last four.

Dolehide defeated Italy's Martina Trevisan 3-6, 7-6 (11/9) 6-3 in their quarter-final.

The American battled into her first WTA 1000 semi-final after saving four match points in the second set before winning the deciding set.

Julian Nagelsmann has been given nine months to revive flail-ing Germany ahead of hosting Euro 2024 after being named as the sacked Hansi Flick's successor

German football association (DFB) fearing another embarrassing performance in a major tournament, this time as hosts at next year's European championships.

Former Bayern Munich boss Nagelsmann has signed a deal until the end of next July, allowing the 36-year-old to leave after

Euro 2024.

"We have a European

Championship in our own country -- that's something special," Nagelsmann said in a statement.

"I have a great desire to take on this challenge."

Nagelsmann said he signed the short-term deal "to keep the Euros in focus" but insisted he

would not rule out" an extension. Flick, who became the first Flick, who became the first coach in Germany history to be sacked, had won just four of 17 matches leading up to his dismissal and took the team to a disappointing group-stage exit at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

The four-time world champions were also knocked out in the group stage at the 2018 World Cup

group stage at the 2018 World Cup in Russia under previous boss Joachim Loew.



DFB president Bernd Neuendorf called Nagelsmann "an outstanding coach" and said: "We are convinced (he) will ensure that the national team inspires its fans and that the Euros are also a sporting success."

Flick was sacked after a humiliating 4-1 friendly loss to Japan in Wolfsburg in early September.

Nagelsmann, who also succeeded Flick as Bayern coach, has been jobless since he was sacked by the German champions in March.

DFB sporting director Rudi Voeller called Nagelsmann "an absolute football expert" and said he had "proven himself at a very young age for a head coach".

## Verstappen gets back on track ahead of Japanese GP qualifying

**AP** SUZUKA

 $M^{\mathrm{ax}}$  Verstappen laid down a marker with the fastest times in both practice sessions for the Japanese Grand Prix on Friday, as he looks to put one hand on his third-straight Formula One

Red Bull's Verstappen put down a lap of 1min 30.688sec to finish 0.320sec quicker than second-placed Charles Leclerc of Ferrari in the second practice.

Verstappen, who leads teammate and nearest rival Sergio Perez by 151 points in the championship standings, cannot clinch the title on Sunday but a favourable result can set him up to seal the deal at the Qatar Grand Prix next month.

The Dutchman is looking to bounce back from a disappointing fifth-place finish at last weekend's Singapore Grand Prix that ended his record streak of 10straight wins.

He said his car was "enjoyable to drive again".

"We had a strong day on short runs, long runs," said Verstappen.



"There's a lot of degradation on this track so it will be quite tough on tyres in the race, but so far it's a good start to the weekend.

Verstappen made his intentions clear from the start of the day, finishing the first practice quickest ahead of

Ferrari's Carlos Sainz and McLaren's Lando Norris. And there was no let-up in the second session. He briefly ceded top spot to Leclerc before switching to fresh tyres and reclaiming first place.

Norris had the third-fastest time with 1min 31.152sec.

### Paris Olympics berths up for grabs at Asian Games boxing

**AP** ■ HANGZHOU

Flyweight world champion Hasanboy Dusmatov will be one of the favourites for gold when boxing gets under way at the Asian Games on Sunday, with qualification for the

Paris Olympics also up for grabs.
The 30-year-old Uzbek was Olympic champion in 2016 and in Hangzhou will be seeking the one gold medal absent from his collection in the 51kg division.

His first bout will be on Monday, with gold and silver medallists in the seven men's weight divisions all guaranteed a place at next summer's Paris Olympics. In the women's competition, 20 Paris berths can be won in Hangzhou.

Dusmatov was stunned in the 2018 Asian Games final by Amit Panghal in a massive upset, but the Indian is a notable absentee this time. Another hoping to turn 2018 sil-

ver into gold is middleweight (71kg) world champion Aslanbek Shymbergenov from Kazakhstan.

Shiva Thapa, a winner at the 2013

Asian Championships, will lead the Indian squad in Panghal's absence. In the women's competition, ight flyweight (50kg) Thi Tam

Nguyen has recovered from a torn knee ligament suffered at the SEA Games earlier this year and will lead a nine-strong Vietnam team. The world championships silver

medallist has already secured her place at Paris and will become the first Vietnamese boxer to take part in two consecutive Olympics.

She could again come up against India's multiple world champion Zareen Nikhat, who beat the Vietnamese by unanimous decision to lift the world title in New Delhi earlier this year. Nikhat also won gold in the 2022 world championships in Istanbul in the 52kg category.

Oh Yeon-ji from South Korea returns to defend her Asian Games

ightweight (60kg) gold medal. Organisers will be desperate to avoid the chaos of five years ago in Jakarta when the Asian Games boxing competition was marred by judging protests and controversy.

## Asian Games: Chance for Chopra-led India to showcase its sporting prowess

**PTI** ■ HANGZHOU

ed by Olympic champion L'Neeraj Chopra, India will seek to showcase its ascendency as a sporting power at the Asian Games, which opens formally on Saturday after an unprecedented one-year delay due to the COVID-19 pandem-

India will hope to surpass the 70 medals (16 gold, 23 silver and 31 bronze) won in 2018 in Indonesia with largest contingent of 655 athletes competing in 39 sports in Hangzhou to show the world the rapid strides the country has made in sports since the historic performance in Tokyo Olympics in 2021.

India have not finished in the top-5 in medal tally standings since the 1986 edition in Seoul. For the first time in the Asian Games history, India will be having five Olympic medallists in their ranks led by javelin superstar Chopra, who will be defending his title, raising hopes of the country grabbing more

gold medals than the 16 won in

The other Olympic medallists are weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, shuttler PV Sindhu, wrestler Bajrang Punia and boxer Lovlina Borgohain.

Still, it is difficult to predict the gold medal count for India. Sindhu has been struggling for some time, Chanu has had fitness issues recently while Bajrang started training only a few months ago after taking part in the wrestlers' protest.

Borgohain and Chopra have, though, become world champions recently. Borgohain will also shoulder the responsibility of being the Indian contingent flag-bearer during the opening ceremony on Saturday along with the men's hockey team captain Harmanpreet Singh.

The eight-gold show in athletics in 2018 will be hard to repeat but hockey (men and women), kabaddi (men and women), chess and archery can swell India's yellow metal tally. Going by current form,



India can win gold in both men's and women's hockey competitions. India can also win a gold each in men's and women's kabaddi and make amends for missed chance in Jakarta. The men's team had won a bronze and the women's settled for a silver last time.

Shooters had given nine medals in 2018, including two gold, but they may not be abe to surpass the tally this time.

In boxing, the likes of Nikhat Zareen and Borgohain are favourites to win a medal but it is difficult to predict the colour. The same is the case with the wrestlers who had won three medals, including two gold, in 2018.

By hosting the world's biggest multi-sporting event, China is heralding its opening from the pandemic, a giant competition which will be the biggest ever in its history.

No doubt the Olympics is the pinnacle of multi-sporting event in the world but more athletes compete in the Asian

Games, with over 12,000 taking part in Hangzhou.

The 19th edition of the continental showpiece, which will run till October 8 in Hangzhou and five co-host cities of Huzhou, Ningbo, Shaoxing, Jinhua and Wenzhou, was to be held in September 2022 but was postponed by a year after a surge

of COVID-19 cases in China. Forty-five nations and territories in Asia will compete for 481 gold medals from 40 sports and 61 disciplines, including Esports which is making its debut in the Asian Games. Competitions in football, vollevball, cricket, rowing, sailing and modern pentathlon began before the grand opening cere-

China are fielding their second-largest contingent in their Asian Games history with 886 athletes, including 437 women, taking part in Hangzhou. It is 91 less than the 977 athletes China fielded at the 2010 Guangzhou

China are not only fielding

the most number of athletes in this edition of the Games but they are also set to continue their domination by bagging the top spot in the medal tally, which they have been doing at every edition since 1982 with several Olympic champions participating. South Korea are sending their largest ever athletes' contingent of 867 with an aim to finish second in the medal tally.

The Asian Games are expected to be declared opened by Chinese president Xi Jinping Organisers have already

spent about 10.2 billion yuan (USD 1.4 billion) on venues for competitions and training, according to reports. Hangzhou is the third Chinese city to hold the Asian

Games, after Guangzhou in 2010 and Beijing in 1990. The Chinese capital has also hosted the Summer and Winter All the venues will use green

electricity as the goal is to host a carbon-neutral and green Asian Games.