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



PAVAIL GULAT IS 'GLAD' HIS TRIP TO KERALA 'DIDN'T GET CANCELLED,

Rashi Singh: *Bhoothaddam Bhaskar* Narayana ended up helping **MY CAREER**

QUOTE OF THE DAY The pioneer People want Medaram Jatara to be recognised as a national festival but there is no such thing. As Union Culture Minister, I affirm that there is no existing mechanism for declaring any festival as a national festival. The Centre has sanctioned Rs 3.14 crore this year to the state government for conducting the 'jatara'

- G. Kishan Reddy, Union Minister

Call to expedite construction...

Health Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha held a review meeting to evaluate the progress of construction of super-speciality hospitals in the State. He checked the status of construction of 2,100 beds in Warangal, the TIMS Super-Specialty Hospital with a capacity of 1,200 beds being constructed in Alwal, Hyderabad progress of the construction works of 1,000 bed capacity super-specialty hospital in LB Nagar, 1,000 bed capacity superspecialty hospital being built in Sanatnagar and the progress of the expansion work...

Preterm birth risk to increase...

Exposure to extreme temperatures driven by climate change will increase risk of preterm birth by 60 per cent, causing several lifelong complications for millions of children around the world, a new research has found. Analysing results from 163 health studies globally, researchers said they have determined that climate change will be directly responsible for multiple detrimental health impacts in children, including..

-PAGE: 5

'Reforms over last 10 years lay...

Strong reform measures initiated by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government in the last ten years have laid the foundation of a solid economic growth in coming decades, Jefferies Equity Research outlook said. It also that India would become the third largest economy by 2027 and expected to achieve a market capitalization of US\$ 10 trillion by 2030. "With a consistent history of 10-12 pe cent CAGR (compound annual growth rate) over the last 10 and 20 years, India is now the fifth largest equity...

-PAGE: 8

India eye 17th series win on trot...

Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah's absence is a concern but an assertive and adaptive India will have the edge against England's seemingly depth-less 'Bazball' approach when the two sides clash in the potentially seriesdeciding fourth Test beginning here on Friday. From the dry heat of Raikot to the much cooler confines of Ranchi the temperature shift would be the only soothing factor for the Englishmen who have let it slip against the resilient hosts and are trailing 1-2...

CM blames BRS agents for outages

☐ Warns officials disrupting power supply

NAVEENA GHANATE
■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy warned that strong action will be taken against officials responsible if the power supply gets interrupted anywhere in the state.

He said that the government has noted that some people are engaged in a conspiracy to give a bad name to the government by disrupting the electricity supply. The CM warned that action will be taken against such officers and staff.

The CM warned that they have information that some field-level staffers appointed by the BRS government are deliberately disrupting the power supply to spoil the government's image.

He said that if the electricity sup-ply gets disrupted anywhere for more than five minutes, the reasons for that

should be investigated immediately. He directed that action should be taken against anyone who deliberately disrupts power supply without adequate technical reasons.

The CM made it clear that the government is supplying enough electricity to meet current needs and that electricity supply cuts are unnecessary. He said that electricity generation has increased in the state compared to the

The Chief Minister blamed the negligence of Electricity Department officials for the recent power outages. The Chief Minister told Electricity

Department officials that as electricity generation has increased it is their responsibility to counter the misinformation that they are cutting power

supply.

The Chief Minister questioned officials about the campaign about power outages. Transco CMD Rizvi said that in the last two months power generation has been more than the corresponding period last year and that power supply was interrupted for some time in areas served by three sub-stations in the state recently.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy asked the reasons for that and officials said that DEs should have monitored load fluctuations in sub-stations properly and that the problem arose due to their failure to do so.



Prevent drinking water crisis: CM

Gearing up for two more guarantees

RNI No. TELENG/2018/76469

*LATE CITY VOL. 6 ISSUE 130

To implement free power, LPG schemes on 27th or 29th Feb



CM Revanth Reddy and Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka at a review

ready immediately for implement- on February 27 or 29. ing the Gruha Jyothi and LPG cylinder at Rs 500 schemes. The

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy Chief Minister has tentatively issued orders to officials to get decided to launch the two schemes

KRISHNA WATER SHARE

Jupally blames BRS for injustice to TS

PNS HYDERABAD

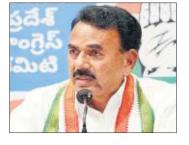
The BRS government is responsible for the grave injustice done to Telangana in getting its share of Krishna River waters, the Minister for Excise, Tourism and Culture Jupally Krishna Rao said.

Jupally said that there would be no compromise on getting Telangana's share of Krishna River waters. In a statement, he said that the Congress government headed by Revanth Reddy will fight for Telangana's share of water.

Jupally said that BRS leaders are Palamur district after committing

He reminded that the interests of Telangana are important to us and that the Assembly has passed a resolution that our projects will not be handed over to the KRMB.

The BRS government agreed to share Krishna waters in the ratio of 299:512 TMCs from 2015 to 2023 and now they are telling us to fight for a 50:50 share to cover up the mistakes they have made. The BRS government could not fully use the 299 TMCs in any year in the last



nine and a half years. Andhra Pradesh used more water than their share" he said

Jupalli said that KCR is the cause regarding Telangana's share of Krishna River waters. He said KCR did not care about Andhra Pradesh using more water than what they were entitled to.

KCR and BRS leaders from the erstwhile Palamuru district were described as traitors by Congress

He said that south Telangana was badly cheated by the negligence of the KCR government in increasing the use of Krishna River waters.



MODI GOVT INDULGING IN 'FINANCIAL TERRORISM'

Wants to cripple main oppn party: Cong

The Congress on Thursday accused the Centre of indulging in "tax terrorism" against it and alleged that the government "looted" more than Rs 65 crore from its accounts to financially cripple the principal opposition party ahead of Lok Sabha polls.

The Congress also alleged that the BJP was attempting to "murder democracy" and drag the country to a "dictatorship raj". Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters along with K C Venugopal and Ajay Maken,

communications Jairam Ramesh said "tax terrorism attacks" were being carried out against the party. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said in a post on X, "An autocratic Modi Government is capturing democracy through extortion and financial terrorism."He alleged that the Modi government "hoodwinked" nationalised banks to transfer Rs 65 crore of the donation received by the Congress and seized it through Income Tax.



Kharge gets Z-plus security

Ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has been granted Z-plus security across the country by the Union home ministry, official sources said Thursday.



IMPLEMENTATION OF GUARANTEES

Congress govt faces uphill task

Promises require around Rs 1 lakh crore every year

PNS HYDERABAD

With just three weeks to go before the 100-day deadline ends for implementing the six guarantees, the TS Congress government faces an uphill task in fulfilling its poll promises

In the last 70 days after coming to power, the party could implement only two promises which were part of its six guarantees.

With eyes on the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has announced that two other promises will be implemented within a week. However, the identification of beneficiaries from the 1.29 crore applicants and rolling out other promises which are part of the six guarantees pose a huge challenge to the government.

There are 13 key promises which form part of the guarantees on which the Congress contested the Assembly polls. Implementation of these promises requires around Rs 1 lakh crore (Rs 1,000 billion) every vear.



Govt removes KCR's videos from YouTube

PNS HYDERABAD

The Congress Government has removed the entire content of the last 10 years from the YouTube Channels of Telangana's I & PR Department and the Telangana

KCR government's data has van- ernment." ished now. Trying to hide all the good work done by the BRS



BRS social media convenor Y. showcases the ill mentality and Sathish Reddy said, "10 years of childishness of the Revanth gov-



Complete Dindi, SLBC projects within 2 years

Minister Uttam directs officials to take steps



Minister N. Uttam Kumar speaking at a review meeting held on Thursday

PNS HYDERABAD

Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy directed officials to complete the Dindi and SLBC tunnel projects within two years.

A review of the SLBC tunnel route and Dindi projects was held on Thursday under the Chairmanship of Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy and officials gave details through a PowerPoint presentation.

'The SLBC project should be taken up on top priority. Due to the gross negligence of the BRS govern-

ment in constructing the project, there was a serious delay. Now the government will provide all help and work should be undertaken on a war footing," Uttam Kumar Reddy said. "Of the 44 km tunnel, nine km remains to be done. Work on both sides of the tunnel should be done as soon as possible. Contracting agencies say that they will complete the work in two years. Work must be done in a time-bound manner,"



Employees not at work even at 11.40am

☐ Minister's sudden check reveals

Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy conducted a surprise inspection of the Revenue Department at the secretariat here on Thursday. The Minister lost his tem-

per on seeing that the employees of the Revenue

their duties till 11.40 am. While some employees did not come to office without taking leave, some did not come on time. He said that this was irresponsibility and asked top officials to take

Ponguleti checked the

Department did not attend to attendance register and in five sections of the Revenue Department employees were not fully present on time. The Minister warned offi-

cials who are supposed to be accountable to the people that if they neglect duties action will be taken.



Govt to procure over 200 BrahMos for Navy

Govt ready for talks

Do not follow path of violence: Centre to agitating farmers

PNS NEW DELHI

Union minister Anurag Thakur on Thursday appealed to the farmers protesting at the Punjab-Haryana borders to not follow the path of violence, asserting that the government is ready to hold talks with them to resolve their concerns.

The information and broadcasting minister also hit out at the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for their remarks on the farmer issue.

Thousands of farmers from Punjab remain camped at the Punjab-Haryana borders as part of their 'Delhi Chalo' march to press the Centre to accept their demands,

including a legal guarantee for minimum support price for crops and farm debt waiver.



The Congress on Thursday escalated its attack on the BJP-led Centre over the farmers' protest and demanded that a special session of Parliament be convened to discuss the pressing issues of

Continued on Page 2

Cabinet Committee on Security okays Rs 19K cr deal

PNS NEW DELHI

In a significant move, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has accorded approval for procurement of more than 200 BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles and associated equipment for the Indian Navy at a cost of around Rs 19,000 crore, people familiar with the mat-ter said on Thursday.

The missiles will largely be deployed on various warshīps to enhance overall combat capabilities of the Navy, they said.

BrahMos missiles having a

range of around 290 km and It is learnt that the proposal approved by the CCS entails acquisition of a mix of

the latest extended range variant of the weapon with a range of around 450 km. BrahMos Aerospace Pvt

Ltd, an India-Russian joint venture, produces the super-

sonic cruise missiles that can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, or land platforms.

BrahMos missile flies at a speed of 2.8 Mach or almost three times the speed of also exporting the BrahMos In January 2022, India sealed a USD 375 million deal with the Philippines for supplying three batteries

The supplies of the missiles to the Southeast Asian country are set to begin

next month. A few other countries including Argentina have procuring BrahMos missiles

from India. The approval to Rs 19,000 eration anti-tank mines.

crore procurement project The formal contract for comes amid renewed focus acquisition of the missiles is on maritime security in the expected to be sealed in the wake of China's growing forays into the Indian Ocean. next few months. India is

The IAF has already integrated the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile on some Sukhoi fighter jets. India has been focusing on bol-stering its overall combat capabilities in the last few

Last week, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved acquisition projects worth Rs 84,560 crore that included procurement also shown interest in of mid-air refuellers, heavy weight-torpedoes, air defence radars and new gen-

EXCISE POLICY CASE

ED issues fresh summons to Kejriwal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



The Enforcement Directorate has issued fresh summons to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, asking him to appear before it

on February 26 for questioning in the excise policy linked money laundering case, official sources said Thursday. The central agency, while issuing the seventh summons under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), has rejected his contention that a fresh notice for his attendance was wrong as the mat-

ter is sub judice before a local court. **Continued on Page 2**

Prevent drinking water crisis

Priority for providing safe drinking water: CM

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy directed officials to ensure that there is no drinking water crisis during summer and to take all necessary precautions to avoid a crisis.

After water levels hit dead storage levels at many reservoirs due to deficient rainfall this year, the CM held a review of measures to tackle the drinking water crisis in summer with Ministers N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and top officials of the Panchayat Raj, Municipal Administration and Urban Development and drinking water supply wings at the Secretariat on Thursday.

The officials explained to the CM details of water storage in the reservoirs and the quantity of water required for drinking purposes in the state.

The Chief Minister instructed officials to prepare a comprehensive action plan for supplying drinking water to all households in tandas, gudems, SC colonies, villages and urban



The action plan will be prepared by the Irrigation, MA and UD, Panchayat Raj and drinking water supply departments.

The officials told the Chief

Minister that Andhra Pradesh is taking around nine TMCs of water from the Nagarjuna Sagar for drinking water needs. The Chief Minister ordered officials to do a proper assessment of the utilization of water and to ensure that water is not diverted for other purposes.

The Chief Minister asked

officials to review in detail the requirement of water and write a letter to the KRMB (Krishna River Management Board) seeking permission to draw water from Nagarjuna Sagar and Srisailam for drinking pur-

The officials told the CM that the state did not face any water crisis as the Jurala project was filled with rainwater during April and May in the past. Otherwise, the state would have had to request the Karnataka Government to release water from the Narayanpur reservoir. The state drew water from the reservoir three years ago.

The CM told officials to write a letter to the KRMB first and consider the request for water from Karnataka as the last option.The Chief Minister said that many water resources were neglected after new water

The Chief Minister instructed officials to prepare a comprehensive action plan for supplying drinking water to all households in tandas, gudems, SC colonies, villages and urban areas.

supply schemes were launched and asked officials to find out the possibility of reviving them. Citing the Kagna River as an

example, the Chief Minister said that there was an opportunity to use water from Kagna in Tandur and Kodangal. The river was abandoned after the Mission Bhagiratha scheme was launched. All such water resources should be revived and drinking water bore wells, ordinary wells and motors

It's not reasonable to call me KTR's proxy: Ranjith

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BJP leader Maheshwar Reddy's derogatory remarks are baseless and meaningless, BRS MP Ranjith Reddy said.

He said that it is not logical or reasonable to accuse him of being KTR's benami and issued an open challenge that he is ready to accept anything if it is proved that he owns even an inch of land.

Chevella MP Dr G. Ranjith Reddy affirmed that he entered politics only to serve the poor of Chevella who gave him political birth and that it was never his intention to

make money. He said that comments made by BJP leader Maheshwar Reddy on Thursday were false and meaningless.

Ranjith said that it was shocking to see Maheshwar Reddy coming to Chevella and speak at a press conference from a script written by someone else.

Integrated schools will create casteless society

Quality buildings for integrated residential schools: Bhatti

PNS HYDERABAD

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu directed the Education Department to construct buildings like those of international schools for integrated residential schools.

Bhatti was speaking at a review meeting of the Education Department attended by senior officials regarding the construction of integrated residential schools at the Deputy CM's office in the Secretariat on Thursday.

He said that in Indiramma Rajyam emphasis is being laid on the design of school infrastructure. As part of that, the construction of 100 SC, BC and minority residential school buildings is being undertaken across the state with an outlay of Rs 2500 crore this year, he

The government has sanctioned Rs 25 crore for each residential building. He said that as funds have been allocated in



The government has sanctioned Rs 25 crore for each residential building. He said that as funds have been allocated in the budget for construction, steps should be taken to start construction as soon as possible.

the budget for construction, steps should be taken to start construction as soon as possible. An action plan should be evolved in such a way that buildings constructed in future will be in one place instead of separate residential schools

There are suggestions that problems associated with building SC, BC and minority residential schools can be overcome by opting for integrated construction in one place.He said that this could

is Rs 6,760 but in the market,

farmers are selling it for Rs 4,000

to Rs 5,000. They are losing around Rs 2000 per quintal.

Earlier, our government used to

buy sunflower from farmers at

the support price," he said. He requested Tummala

Nageshwar Rao to immediate-

ly order authorities to open sun-

flower buying centres across the

state and buy sunflowers at the

support price to protect farm-

Meanwhile, guidelines have

been issued to 197 agricultural

pave the way for a casteless society due to students from all classes mixing and developing a sense of brotherhood. He also said that it would be good to develop it as a mini-education hub.Madhira has been selected as the location for a pilot project for the construction of integrated residential schools. He said that SC, BC and minority boys' residential schools will be constructed on 10 acres near the indoor stadium in Chintakani Mandala

Free & fair election imperative for representative democracy: SC

PNS NEW DELHI

Ensuring a free and fair electoral process is imperative for maintaining people's trust in representative democracy, the Supreme Court has said.

The court had on February 20 declared defeated AAP-Congress alliance candidate Kuldeep Kumar the mayor of Chandigarh after overturning the result of the controversial civic poll where the BJP nominee had emerged an unlikely winner amid allegations of rigging of the counting process by the returning officer.

In its judgement, which was

uploaded on the apex court website on Thursday, a bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud noted the top court has consistently held that free and fair elections are a part of the basic structure of the

Constitution. It said elections at the local participatory level act as a "microcosm of the larger democratic structure in the country" and local governments, such as municipal corporations, engage with issues that affect citizens' daily lives and act as a primary point of contact with represen-

Govt to use reservoirs to generate solar power

PNS HYDERABAD

The state government is planning to generate floating solar power from reservoirs, Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka said.

The plans for generating floating solar power from the Mallannasagar and Lower Manor Dam were explained through a PowerPoint presen-

Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy and SCCL officials conducted a review of floating solar power generation from reservoirs at the Secretariat on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy CM ordered to set up solar plants on state reservoirs to generate 1,000 MW of floating solar power.

He said that a study should be conducted on the possibilities of establishing solar plants, preparing DPRs and ensuring that no damage occurs to fish-

He explained that floating

solar power generation is being promoted to encourage pollu-

tion-free power generation. Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy said that floating solar power generation will be encouraged by the Irrigation Department.

He said that SCCL which has the financial support of government organisations stands to gain from floating solar power generation and that it would benefit both the public and the

Open purchase centres, provide MSP to sunflower farmers: Tummala

PNS HYDERABAD

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageshwar Rao issued orders to Marketing and Markfed officials to open sunflower purchase centres in market yards from Friday and to provide a minimum support price for sunflower farmers.

Sunflower farmers have been advised not to sell below the minimum support price of Rs 6,760.Earlier BRS MLA Harish Rao said that sunflower farmers all over the state are suffering due to the non-availability of support prices. "This year the support price

market committees in Telangana to set up new work-

ED issues fresh summons to...

Continued from page 1

Kejriwal has been asked to depose on February 26 and record his statement in the excise policy linked money laundering case, the sources said.

The ED had recently filed a fresh complaint against the 55-year-old national convenor of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for disobeying its summons in this case.

The court listed the matter for further hearing on March 16 as it exempted him from personal appearance last

Gearing up for two more...

Continued from page 1

The Chief Minister also issued clear instructions to officials to ensure that all those who have applied during Praja Palana are given the benefits of the two guarantees.

Chief Minister Revanth officials to extend the Rs 500 Reddy and Deputy Chief LPG scheme to all eligible held a review meeting along with the Cabinet Sub-Committee at the Secretariat on Thursday. Ministers N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, D. Sridhar Babu, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and the Chief Advisor to the Chief Minister, Vemnarender Reddy, attended

The government has already implemented two of the six guarantees – the Mahalakshmi scheme, which provides free bus travel for women on TSRTC buses and has enhanced the Arogyasri scheme's limit to Rs 10 lakh

from Rs 5 lakh. Now, the CM has decided to implement two more election guarantees – the Gruha Jyothi and the Rs 500 LPG cylinder

Sukla Paksha

Feb 22 01:21 PM

Feb 23 03:34 PM

to Feb 23 03:34 PM

to Feb 24 06:00 PM

Feb 22 04:43 PM

to Feb 23 07:25 PM

11:02 AM to 12:29 PM

03:23 PM to 4:50 PM

08:53 AM to 10:40 AM

08:09 AM to 9:36 AM

05:38 PM to 07:25 PM

Abhijit Muhurtham: 12:06 PM to 12:52 PM

Updated: February 22, 2024 5:00 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

TODAY

ALMANAC

Nakshatram:

Ashlesha

Magha

Rahukalam:

Varjyam:

Yamaqandam:

Amritakalam:

Forecast: Sunny

Humidity: 35%

Sunset: 6:21 PM

Temp: 32°°

Month & Paksham:

Tithi: Chaturdashi:

The Cabinet Sub Committee discussed in detail the arrangements which are being made for implementing the two schemes and the procedures to be followed for that. The Chief Minister ordered

the 'Praja Palana' programme. The CM enquired with the

Finance and Civil Supplies officials about the challenges and hurdles that could be faced and the possibilities of disbursing the LPG subsidy either directly into the accounts of beneficiaries or the LPG agency. The Chief Minister empha-

sized that a user-friendly mechanism should be adopted so that the beneficiary gets the LPG cylinder by paying Rs 500 and asked officials to hold talks with gas distribution agen-

He said that arrangements should be made to pay the subsidy immediately to gas agencies on behalf of the govern-

The Chief Minister directed

Energy Department officials to implement the Gruha Jyothi scheme transparently without giving room for doubts. The CM gave clear instructions to the authorities to extend the scheme to all those who possessed a white ration card and consumed less than 200 units

per month for domestic needs. been asked to issue 'zero' electricity bills to all eligible beneficiaries of the Gruha Jyothi scheme from the first week of March.

The CM suggested that officials should allow applicants to rectify errors like wrong card numbers and power connection numbers mentioned in the applications submitted via praja palana. This will help applicants who were rejected to avail of the

Electricity bill collection centres and service centres will undertake the correction of wrong details in applications.

The CM asked energy officials to launch a mass campaign through flexies so that everyone becomes aware of the scheme's implementation.

held talks for several hours

in a very positive manner.

And we have said that in

future also, whenever need

arises, we are ready for

Congress calls...

Continued from page 1

The opposition party also

government to convene a

similar session of the state

assembly to deliberate on

the issue. A farmer was

killed and about 12 police

personnel were injured in

clashes at Khanauri on the

Punjab-Haryana border on

Wednesday. The incident

took place when some

protesting farmers were

trying to head towards

urged the Punjab

talks," he said.

Govt ready for...

Continued from page 1

While the Congress did

"nothing" for the farmers

during its regime in the

past, the AAP kept pressing

former Punjab Chief

Minister Amarinder Singh

for announcing MSP at

state level but did not do

anything in this regard

when it came to power in

the border state, Thakur

demonstrators that they do

not follow the path of vio-

lence. Government is

always ready to hold talks

with farmers on whatever

their organisations want to

discuss," he told reporters

of talks, the Modi govern-

ment's senior ministers met

them in Chandigarh and

"In the first four rounds

"It is my request to all

charged.

Kharge gets Z-plus...

Continued from page 1

The decision was taken by the home ministry early this month based on the threat perception of Kharge, they

Commandos of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) will provide the Z-plus security to Kharge on all India ident of the principal opposition party, Kharge is expected to tour across the country extensively in the run-up to the general elections as well as during the polls and the deci-

sion to enhance his security cover was taken keeping in view this fact, the sources said.Kharge will now be covered by a security blanket of about 30 CRPF commandoes round the clock in three shifts. This cover also includes a bulletproof vehicle, pilot and escort. The Z-plus is the highest category security provided ception in India.

There are four categories of VIP security Z plus, Z, Y and X -- depending on the threat perception analysis by the Intelligence Bureau.

Wants to cripple main oppn...

Continued from page 1

"Has the BJP ever paid Income Tax? Looting Opposition and blackmailing donors to fill BIP's coffers is a dark phase for our democracy. We shall fight this tooth and nail - Both in the court of law and in the court of the people," Kharge said."A conspiracy is being to make the financially crippled. This is an attempt to murder democracy,' Ramesh alleged, adding that this is politics of vendetta.

He also said that the action shows that the BJP government

is rattled by the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, the farmers' movement and rising inflation.

He said demonetisation was done just before the assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh. because the Modi government wanted that parties should not be able to contest elections. Similarly, before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, opposition paradded.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also slammed the government over

"The BJP government first put

the ED, IT department and CBI after the opposition parties and leaders. Attempts were made to crush the janadesh (mandate) by toppling governments with 'dhanadesh (money power)'. They broke parties, bought leaders, made every effort to eliminate the opposition," the Congress general sec-

extent that they are trying to weaken the biggest opposition

party by withdrawing money from its bank account so that there is no opposition in front of them in the elections.

has con

retary alleged.

CM blames BRS agents...

Continued from page 1

The Chief Minister ordered to strong action against offitions in advance if supply has to be suspended for repairs.

The CM said that the government has taken all measures to provide enough electricity to meet demand in the February, March and April.

February 1 to 13, 264.95 million units of electricity were supplied per day and that only 242.44 million units were supplied during the same period last year. In January 2023, 230.54 million units were supplied, while in January 2024 around 243.12 million units The CM said that from were supplied, he said.

Employees... Continued from page 1

While the Revenue Department plays a vital role in public administration, secretariat officers and staff should be models for other departments, he said. The Minister said that government officers and staff should work honestly and bring a good name to the

government.

Jupally blames BRS for...

Continued from page 1

He said that discrimination was also shown in the allocation of funds for the Palamuru-Ranga Reddy project, and due to the nonimplementation of canal works under other projects and failure to complete projects, the announcements of providing irrigation water to the district's people remained just on paper.

He said that even work on canals and baby canals has not been completed and so far they have not been able to irrigate the last ayacut.

Govt removes KCR's videos...

Continued from page 1

"Revanth Reddy said in the Assembly that he would wipe out KCR without a trace. Touching him is not as easy as deleting videos on I & PR Department's YouTube channel. Remember Revanth Anumula, you can do nothing more than that," the BRS social media convenor said.

The latest video available on the I & PR Department's YouTube channel is that of Revanth's swearing-in.

cials and staff who behave state. It has already made carelessly and also asked them arrangements to provide sufficient electricity during the peak demand season of to inform consumers in the areas of respective sub-sta-

Complete Dindi,

SLBC projects...

Continued from page 1

Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy directed Irrigation Secretary Rahul Bojja to set up a committee of officials to complete the

"Dindi and Pendli Pakala reservoirs should be completed immediately. 95 per cent of the work has been completed. Rs 90 crore is required for land acquisition. Procedures to get environmental and forest clearances must be speeded up. Works that can be used for watering the ayacut should be completed immediately. Every penny spent should be put to good use," he said. "Dindi and SLBC work should be completed in two years. Work should be speeded up through weekly reviews.

Congress govt faces... for the construction of houses a public meeting at Kosgi in

Continued from page 1

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Wednesday announced that the promises to supply 200 units of free electricity to every household and LPG cylinders for Rs 500 will be

implemented within a week. The Congress plans to invite Priyanka Gandhi to launch the two schemes. The event is also likely to mark the launch of the party's campaign for the Lok Sabha elections.Revanth also announced that Rythu Bharosa will be implemented from March 15. Under this scheme, the Congress had promised an annual investment support of Rs 15,000 per acre for farmers, up from the Rs 10,000 they are receiving under the Rythu Bandhu scheme of the BRS

The Chief Minister made the announcement while addressing

government.

Kodangal. This was the first visit to his constituency after assuming office last December.The announcements for implementing the promises came as the opposition stepped up its attack on the ruling party for the delay in implementing the six guaran-

Both the BRS and the BJP are looking to make this a key issue in the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections. Since the 100-day deadline set by Congress leaders is ending on March 17, the ruling party is likely to come under intense pressure. The monthly financial assis-

tance of Rs 2,500 for women from Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, financial assistance of Rs 12,000 per year for agricultural labourers, Rs 500 bonus per quintal for paddy crops above the Minimum Support Price (MSP), house sites and Rs 5 lakh for BPL families, a monthly pension of Rs 4,000 for senior citizens and the Vidya Bharosa Card worth Rs 5 lakh each for students are the other promises of the six guarantees. Immediately after assuming office, the Congress implement-

ed its promise to provide free

travel for women in TSRTC

buses. It also raised the coverage

under Rajiv Arogyasri (health insurance for BPL families) from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh. The free bus ride for women has imposed a financial burden of Rs 300 crore every month on

the government. Soon after coming to power, the Congress government released a white paper on the state's finances to highlight what it called financial indiscipline during the 10-year rule of the BRS which pushed the state to the brink of bankruptcy.

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Call to expedite construction of super-specialty hospitals

PNS HYDERABAD

Health Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha held a review meeting to evaluate the progress of construction of super-speciality hospitals in the State. He checked the status of construction of 2,100 beds in Warangal, the TIMS Super-Specialty Hospital with a capacity of 1,200 beds being constructed in Alwal, Hyderabad, progress of the construction works of 1,000 bed capacity super-specialty hospital in LB Nagar, 1,000 bed capacity super-specialty hospital being built in Sanatnagar and the progress of the expan-

Government Advisor Mohammed Ali Shabbir holds a review meeting with

Skill Development

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Advisor to the Telangana

government (SC, ST, BC &

Minorities) Mohammed Ali

Shabbir informed that the

State government would

release a Training Calendar to provide skills development

training to the youth belong-

ing to Scheduled Castes,

Scheduled Tribes, Backward

level review meeting with the top SC and BC Welfare

Department officials at Dr BR Ambedkar State Secretariat

Shabbir Ali also expressed

concern over the negligible

skill development initiatives

and courses for competitive

exams. He stated that SCs

constitute more than 16% of

the total population, and the

training programmes had not

reached more than 10,000

beneficiaries. He directed the

officials to increase the num-

ber of training camps across

Telangana. He emphasised

that more SC students should

be provided training for com-

petitive exams, especially for

Group 1, Group 2 and Group

Shabbir Ali urged the officials to study the Central Government schemes and

explore ways to secure more

funds for the State

The officials of the SC

Department informed that

Government schemes.

3 exams.

Classes and Minorities. Shabbir Ali held a high-

on Thursday.

Training Calendar for

programmes: Shabbir



Health Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha hold a review meeting on Thursday

sion work of NIMS hospital in Erramanzil with a capacity of

106 residential schools were

operating in rented buildings,

for which an yearly rent of Rs

52.52 crore is being paid. The

estimate for constructing one

new residential school com-

plex is Rs 25 crore. This can

be undertaken in four phas-

es at Rs 6.25 crore in each

phase, similar to Tribal

Welfare Residential Schools.

The estimated budget for

constructing 103 Residential Schools is Rs 2,575 crore at

For the civil works pro-

posed in phase -I for the con-

struction of 103 residential

schools, the total budget pro-

posed to allocate is Rs 643.75

crore at Rs 6.25 crore per

However, Shabbir Ali stat-

ed that Telangana was enti-

tled to receive Rs 20 crore

the Central schemes and pre-

pare a list wherein funds can

be sought for the State's

schemes. "Whether they are

Central or State funds, our

focus should be on develop-

ing infrastructure for the

welfare of Dalit, Girijan, BCs

and minorities. Ultimately, it

is the taxpayers' money which should be utilised properly for the betterment of society,"

Rs 25 crore per school.

In this review meeting, the

cussed with the engineering officers of the R&B department who are supervising the con-struction work of the newly constructed hospitals. The Minister directed the officials to complete the construction works expeditiously. The Minister ordered the officials of the medical and health depart-ment to work hard to provide better medical services by making the hospitals immediately accessible to the public as soon as the construction work is

He ordered the constitution of a technical committee on treatment for blind patients coming from various districts to Hyderabad city for better medical services. Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha ordered measures to provide specialty services and treatment in the respective hospitals as suggested by the technical committee.

In this review meeting, the Secretary to the Government of the State Medical Department Christina Z Chongthu, Director of Medical Education Dr Vani, Dr Sivaram Prasad, Senior Medical Officers, R&B ENC Ganapathi Reddy, Engineering Officers and Consultants participated.



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Control Drugs Administration (DCA) officials apprehended two quacks on Wednesday in raids at two locations in Hyderabad.

Those caught are D Hanmanth Reddy, who ran a clinic at Ambatipally village in Lingal mandal of Nagarkurnool district and Ayyub Khan, who ran a clinic at Nawabsaheb Kunta, Tadban,

Hanmanth Reddy and

51,500 during the raids and Ayyub Khan claim to be 'Rural Medical Practitioners' and detected several higher-generpractise medicine without ation 'antibiotics' at the clinics qualification at their clinics. during the raids.

During the raids carried out Indiscriminate sale of antibion their premises, the DCA otics by an unqualified person may have disastrous conseofficials detected huge stocks of medicines without any drug quences on the health of the licence. "In all, 45 varieties of medicines including antibipublic, including the emergence of 'Antimicrobial otics, analgesics, anti-ulcer Resistance'. The DCA officers lifted the samples for analysis. drugs, etc. were found stocked at the two premises," said DG Further investigation will be DCA, VB Kamalsan Reddy. carried out, and action will be The DCA officials seized taken as per the law against all



stocks of a total worth Rs

PNS HYDERABAD

Marut Drones, India's leading drone manufacturer, has been granted the world's first utility patent for a term of 20 years, under the provisions of the Patents Act, 1970. This patent recognises Marut's direct seeding drone, developed in collab-oration with Prof. Jayashankar Telangana State Agriculture University (PJTSAU), which incorporates a multi-nozzle aerial seed dispensing device. With this patent, Marut the widespread adoption of direct seeding drones for rice cultivation at the grassroots

each for the construction of Marut's seeding drones have 97 SC girls' hostels, and for the boys' hostels, the contriobtained the patent following bution can be in the 60:40 scientific validation by PJT-SAU, which has also released He emphasised that SC, ST, Standard Operating BC, and Minority welfare departments should study all Procedures (SOPs) for their

This validation underscores the reliability and efficacy of the technology in enhancing

The patented system enables the aerial dispersion of diverse rice seeds through a meticu-lously designed multi-nozzle mechanism, optimizing the efficiency and effectiveness of seed-sowing processes. Marut has adhered to standard operating procedures for seeding,



Prem Kumar Vislawath, CEO and Founder of Marut Drones

such as drone speed, swath width, nozzle type and pressure, spray volume, spraying altitude, and droplet size in Direct Seeded Rice (DSR)

Prem Kumar Vislawath, CEO and Founder of Marut Drones, emphasised, "This patented technology will revolutionise rice farming practices in India. By reducing on-farm manual labour through drone technology, we aim to address the persistent challenges faced by farmers, particularly labour shortages due to rapid urbanisation. From seeding paddy to controlling mosquitoes and pests

ensuring precise parameters in rice fields, labour costs pose significant hurdles. Through our collaboration with PJT-SAU, we seek to promote the widespread adoption of Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) through drones, fostering a more economically viable and sustainable rice cultivation ecosys-

> Marut's direct seeding drone is a multi-utility attachment, enabling farmers to utilise drones not only for pesticide application/spraying but also for direct seeding, thereby accelerating Return on Investment (ROI). This multifunctionality allows the drone to be utilised round the year, justifying its name AG365.

Speed up storm water drain works at Charminar: GHMC chief

GHMC Commissioner Ronald Rose instructed the officials to speed up storm water drains works undertaken from Yakuthpura, Maulika Chilla Ganganagar to Bhavaninagar and also restoration works of Sardar Mahal building, Charminar.

The Commissioner, along with MP Asaduddin Owaisi, inspected the SWD nala works from Ganganagar to Bhavaninagar and the Commissioner instructed the officials to complete the works well before monsoon to avoid inundation in the city during rainy season. While on inspection at

Moghalpura Complex, on noticing the various departments of GHMC in the sports complex building, the Commissioner directed the officials to identify the suitable buildings for shifting the offices from the sports complex and also to take up



GHMC Commissioner Ronald Rose along with MP Assaduddin Owaisi inspect civic works in the Old City on Thursday

repair works of the swim-

Later, the Commissioner inspected the progress of renovation works of Sardar Mahal Charminar and multi-level parking works at Charminar and directed to speed up the works.

MLAs Mir Zulfekar Ali, Zafar Hussain Miraj, MLC Mirza Rahmath Baig, Corporator Sohel Qadri, CCP Rajendra Prasad Naik, Sanitation, Additional Commissioners Upender Reddy, Yadagiri Rao, Zonal Commissioner Venkanna, Dattu Panthu, Quli Qutub Shah EE Venkatesh and senior officials participated in the visit.

CIVIC WORKS



Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, Ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy and Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy during a meeting with JICA India Chief Representative Saito Mitsunori about Metro Rail expansion, low interest loans for the development of Musi river basin and investments in various sectors. Saito responded positively.

TSMC chief summons hospital authorities for allowing quackery

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana State Medical Council on Thursday sought explanation from Continental Hospital for allowing quacks to attend conferhospital authorities were asked to appear before the ethics committee on February 28.

In a letter to the Medical Superintendent and the Managing Director of the Continental Hospital, TSMC chairman Dr K Mahesh Kumar said, "It is most unethical and unpardonable for the activities of your hospital to conduct quacks. The National Medical Commission is very much particular to crack down on this illegal activity by hook or crook. Despite the action taken earlier vide the letter cited in the reference, your hospital has resorted again to practice this unethical programme by name 'Cancer Awareness Programme' and invited unqualified quacks to

Bigg Boss contestant Shanmukh, his brother detained in drugs case

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telugu Youtuber and Bigg Boss contestant Shanmukh Jaswant Kandregula and his elder brother Vinay Sampath were on Thursday detained by the Narsingi police in a drug

The drugs angle was diswoman filed a complaint ered about 20 grams of mariagainst Sampath for cheating.

The police officials went to question him in their house at Puppalguda.

The victim alleged that while Shanmukh cheated her on the pretext of offering a role in short films, his brother cheated and indulged in sexual relations with her on

the pretext of marriage. arrived at their flat after a house, police officers recov-

ACB nabs four officials over sheep distribution scam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday arrested four government officials involved in the sheep distri-bution scam worth Rs 2.10

The accused were identified as Dr Dharmapuri Ravi,
Assistant Director, Area
Veterinary Hospital,

Director, Adult Education
Director, Adult Education
Director, Adult Education
Percon, Adult Education
Director, Adult Education
Director, Adult Education
Court.

Kamareddy, Dr Muntha Aditya Kesava Sai, Assistant Director, O/o. DV & AHO, Raghupathi Reddy, District Ground Water Officer, Ground Water Department, Ranga Reddy district and Sangu Ganesh, Deputy Director, Adult Education

Rainfall expected in Hyd amid rising temperatures

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad is likely to receive much-awaited relief from the summer-like temperatures as the city is expected to be hit by rainfall.

Eastern parts of Telangana are also likely to receive rainfall due to the convergence of easterlies and moisture pull from the Bay of Bengal.

Telangana weather expert T Balaji, known for accurate predictions, forecasts short but isolated rainfall during February 25 and 26. In the case of eastern Telangana, rainfall is expected between February 24 and 26, as forecast by the weather enthusiast. Hyderabad has been experiencing summer-like temperatures for the past few weeks, with many areas recording temperatures above 35 degrees Celsius.

According to the Telangana State Development Planning Society (TSDPS), no rainfall occurred in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

FOUNDER'S DAY OBSERVED AT CCMB

Green hydrogen key for low carbon emission

PNS HYDERABAD

CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad celebrated the birth anniversary of its Founder Director Dr PM Bhargava. This was the eighth consecutive Founder's Day celebration at the The institute celebrated the

day with the institute's PhD scholars connecting with their alumni, Dr Subhashini Sadashivam, Vice-President, Exsegen Genomics and Dr Ramachandran, Associate Professor, IISER Mohali. Atal Incubation Centre-CCMB showcased the technologies it supported towards COVID-19 mitigation funded by Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited. The keynote lecture was delivered by Dr Ashish Lele, Director, CSIR-National

Chemical Laboratory, Pune,



on India's energy status and the possibility of using green hydrogen fuel in the country.

In his address, Dr Lele stated, "Green hydrogen produced through processes with substantially low carbon emission will play a key role in India's energy transition, particularly in the sectors of industry and heavy-duty commercialisation."

"This is a day for us, as an institute, to remember everything that CCMB stands for. It was established as a place where scientists can get creative with their thoughts and yet stay rooted to the realities of society. And that has been the essence of our celebrations this year," said Dr Vinay Nandicoori, Director, CCMB.

TRAINING IN **GROWING VEGETABLES ON SUNDAY**

PNS HYDERABAD

Keeping in view rapid urbanization, unavailability of required area for cultivation of vegetables and escalating vegetable prices, the Department of Horticulture, Telangana, is organizing a training programme on Sunday from 10 am to 1 pm at Horticulture Training Institute, Red Hills, Hyderabad under 'Mana Illu Mana Kuragayalu' programme. This programme is being organized to create awareness on growing quality food, pesticide residue-free vegetables on terraces, thereby promoting public health and reducing carbon emissions. For further details contact 7674072539 or 7997725413 or 7997725411.

MLA Akbaruddin Owaisi visits Thalassemia Sickle Cell Society

PNS HYDERABAD

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (ÁIMIM) MLA Akbaruddin Owaisi on Thursday visited the Thalassemia Sickle Cell

The Chandrayangutta MLA was given a tour of the facility by the authorities during which he witnessed first-hand crucial services provided to patients and their families. He also interacted with the doctors, TSCS staff and other working members at the society.

Addressing the gathering Owaisi stressed the need for greater awareness and support for patients and their families. He stated, "Looking at the dire need for more awareness towards Thalassemia, I have assured TSCS society that I will put every effort to talk to the Health Ministry and the Govt of Telangana for a special GO to be passed making HbA2



Chandrayangutta MLA Akbaruddin Owaisi takes a tour of the Thalassemia Sickle Cell Society and interacts with the authorities

test mandatory all over responsibility to provide com-

Telangana. It is our collective prehensive care and support to

Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Society for their unwavering commitment to this cause." Dr Chandrakant Agarwal,

President - Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Society, expressed gratitude, "It is a pleasure to have Abkaruddin visit our society and show his support for the cause. His presence encourages us to continue our efforts in raising awareness about Thalassemia and Sickle Cell disease and continue to provide quality healthcare services, and advocating for the rights of affected individu-

als."
Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Society has been at the forefront of addressing these challenges by providing vital medical services, organizing awareness campaigns, facilitating support groups, and advocating for policy changes to improve the lives of affected individuals.



Cong won't rub BJP on wrong side up the same operation, the speculation that they may join the Congress The BRS MLAs US cop who ran over Telugu student won't face charges

The meeting of Opposition party MLAs with the Chief Mimister A Revanth Reddy is an indication of their joining the Congress in future. It may be correct in the case of BRS MLAs, but not in the case of BJP MLAs. Recently, some BRS MLAs met Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. With this, speculation has started that the BRS MLAs may join the Congress soon. BJP Sirpur MLA Palvai Harish Babu met Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. This time also speculation

PNS HYDERABAD

Union Minister G Kishan

Reddy said that there is no

such thing as national festival

During the Medaram Maha

Jatara , Union Minister Kishan

Reddy visited Sammakka and

Saralamma and presented jag-

gaery.
He said, "any people are asking to organise Medaram Jatara as a national festival. There is

no such thing as a national festival policy. As a Union Culture

Minister, I affirm that there is no existing mechanism for declaring any festival as a national festival". He said that

he will try to get internation-

al recognition for Medara in

the coming days. The Centre

sanctioned Rs 3.14 crore this

year to the state government

Restraining

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

order against

Rapolu Bhaskar

Based on the petition filed by

M Mahendar Reddy, Ex-DGP,

Telangana, against Rapolu

Bhaskar, who made per se defamatory false, baseless and

concocted allegations against

Mahendar Reddy, the XI Additonal Chief Judge, City

Civil Courts granted an injunc-

tion against the respondent

Bhaskar, thereby restraining

him or his associates or any person on his behalf

from making or publishing and defamatory / libellous/

scandalous statements, posts,

updates, videos, audios, arti-

cles, private notices, comments

and communicate on any pub-

lic or private platform includ-

ing in meetings, interviews,

social media, internet, websites,

TV interviews, all forms of

print and electronic media or

through any other medium

may join the Congress. But even if the BJP MLAs are ready to join, the Congress is not ready to admit them.

TPCC sources said that the party has taken a decision not to touch the BJP MLAs. At present, BJP is in power at the Centre and there are chances for the BJP retaining power at the Centre after the coming Lok Sabha elections.The Congress formed the government in the State with not overwhelming manority. Congress has just four MLAs majority over the required strength to form the government.

MEDARAM JATHARA

festival status: Kishan Reddy

for the conduct of the 'jathara'.

prayers to Ammavaru that the

country should be prosperous

with crops without natural

The TSRTC drivers and con-

ductors have been facing diffi-

culties from bus passengers,

including assaults from the

woman passengers, in spite of discharging their duties effi-

RTC Managing Director Sajjanar cautioned people against assaulting the drivers

and conductors on more than

A TSRTC driver was assault-

ed in Armoor of Nizamabad

employees staged a protest

condemning attack on

Narsaiah. Later, they com-

Bus driver Narsaiah was

about to switch on the bus

engine at 7 am on Thursday.

The bus conductor did not turn

up yet. When it was time for

the bus to commence the trip,

he honked the horn twice per-

haps to attract the attention of

once, but of no avail.

plained to the police.

PNS NIZAMABAD

He said that he offered

Union Minister for Culture G Kishan Reddy at Medaram Jatara in Mulugu district

Assault on bus driver triggers

protest by drivers, conductors

No such thing as national



Under this circumstances, if the Congress admits the BJP MLAs, the BJP, which is in power at the Centre may not keep quiet. If the BJP also takes

Also, a temporary campus of

Tribal University will be set up

in Mulugu. He said that the

Tribal University will work

under the auspices of Hyderabad Central University.

A passenger in the bus abused the driver a filthy lan-

guage for honking the horn. There was a heated exchanged

between the passenger and the

driver. The passenger, along

with two others, allegedly

assaulted the driver. The employees came to the rescue

of the driver and shifted him to

drivers at the bus station, the

situation would be worse while

driving the bus on the high-

ways and villages, the drivers

ing concern over the rude

passengers, including children

and the aged, to their destina-

tion, what they get is assaults,

the drivers and conductors felt

bad expressing concern over the clashes with the passengers.

Even women are not hesitat-

ing to abuse the drivers and

conductors in unprintable lan-

behaviour of passengers. In spite of safely taking the

conductors said express

If it is the condition of the

Congress government in the State may face problems and the existence of the Congress government also may become

With this scare, the TPCC reportedly has taken a decision not to touch the BJP MLAs. When the meeting of BJP MLA with CM Revanth led to speculation, the BJP leaders questioned what is wrong in meeting the Chief Minister by their party MLA. But the BJP MLA who met the CM is silent.

But in case of BRS MLAs, it was reverse. When the BRS MLAs met the CM, there was the Congress. The BRS MLAs who met the CM held a media conference and questioned what was wrong in meeting the CM by them.

But the party leadership is silent on this. Sources said that the BRS leadership thought if it says that there is nothing wrong in meeting the CM than every BRS MLA will meet the CM and the speculation over their joining the Congress will appear in the media and thus damage the image of the party. Due to this only, the BRS leadership kept silent on this issue, sources added.



Congress, BRS are cut from same cloth: Kamareddy MLA

PNS NALGONDA

BJP legislator from Kamareddy K Venkata Ramana Reddy has said that there is no difference between the ruling Congress and the

Addressing the party's Vijay Sankalp Yatra in Nakrekal in Nalgonda district on Thursday, he observed that both the parties totally ignored

the people's welfare. The Congress came to power on the plank of implementing six guarantees in Telangana. Surprisingly, Chief Miniser Revanth Reddy declared that the Congress would implement the guarantees provided the party comes to power at the Centre after the Lok Sabha polls. This indicated the power hungry of the Congress, he pointed out.

Activists of both the parties clash at the party workers' level but at the higher level the leaders of the parties display comradery, he compared and said expressing agony.

The Congress is not focusing on the agenda before it barring releasing the White Paper on the ommissions and

commissions of the predecessor BRS government, he said.
He exuded confidence that the BJP would win 12 Lok Sabha seats in Telangana. The credit of defeating two CMs in Telangana goes to the BJP, he

Prime Minister Narendra Modi would never practise the politics of spreading lies. He always thinks development of the nation. He ruled out BJP having truck with any other political party. He predicted that the BJP would come to power in 2028 elections in

Earlier he addressed a media conference at Lakshmi Sujata Function hall here.

Bhongir former MP Boora Narsaiah Goud, district BJP president NagamVarshit Reddy, Assembly convenor Myla Narasimha and several party leaders took part in the

Yadadri Thermal

Jaahnavi Kandula

PNS HYDERABAD

The Seattle police officer who struck and killed 23-year-old Telugu student Jaahnavi Kandula will not face charges, the King County Prosecutor's Office announced Wednesday. Officer Kevin Dave was driving 74 mph in a 25 mph zone

ving 74 mph in a 25 mph zone on January 23 in 2023, speed-ing through red lights on the

way to a high-priority overdose call. Kandula was walking

along a crosswalk at Dexter

Ave N and Thomas St when

Dave fatally struck her and sent

her 138 feet down the street.

Dave was then seen on body

camera calling dispatch for

help and performing CPR on the deceased Kandula.

Former Pierce County pros-

ecutor Mark Lindquist said if

a civilian were behind the

wheel, this would likely have

been vehicular homicide.

Dave's status as an officer

Attorney Leesa Manion

King County Prosecuting

changes the calculus.

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka is scheduled to visit the Yadadri Thermal Power Plant at Damaracharla on Friday.

He along with Ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy and Komatireddy Venkat Reddy would visit the thermal plant and inspect the progress of the works there. He reviewed the progress with officials there. He would return to the state capital by road by noon.

KTR asks US Embassy to provide



police who ran over an Indian student last year. Jaahnavi Kandula, a Master's student from Andhra Pradesh, was hit by a speeding police vehicle

driven by Seattle police officer Kevin Dave on January 23, 2023. US Cop who struck and killed Indian student Jahnavi Kandula hailing from Andhra won't face criminal charges due to 'lack of evidence'. KTR

said it is "I demand the @USAmbIndia to take up the matter with US Government authorities and deliver justice to the family of young Jaahnavi Kandula. I request EA Minister @DrSJaishankar Ji to take up the matter with his counterpart & demand a independent investigation into the matter. It is tragic that the life of a a youngster with soaring ambitions has been cut short but what's more tragic is the callous disregard for justice to

announced in a statement on Wednesday she believes they lack the evidence to prove a criminal case beyond a reasonable doubt.

Kandula's death is heartbreaking and impacted communities in King County and across the world, according to a statement from the prosecution. It is the responsibility of the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office to review all available evidence relating to the case involving Seattle Police Officer Kevin Dave and the January 2023 collision death of Jaahnavi Kandula. After examining the case with senior deputy prosecuting attorneys and office leadership, it was found that there was no sufficient evidence under Washington State law to prove a criminal case beyond a reasonable doubt.

Seattle cop who made callous remarks after Indian woman's death has been administratively reassigned

Kandula came to Seattle from Bengaluru in 2021 to pursue a master's degree at Northeastern University, the college said. She was pursuing a Master of Science in Information Systems at the College of Engineering and was scheduled to graduate in

Bhatti to visit Power Plant today

PNS NALGONDA

He will leave the Praja Bhavan at 8 am and

reach Damarachala at 10.30 am.

December 2023. DIG of prisons calls

on Minister PNS NALGONDA

The Department of Jails has accepted the request of the R and B Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy to part with its site at Mannemchelaka in Nalgonda town to facilitate the state government to set up the primary health centre there.

DIG of prisons Dr Sowmya Misra called on the minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy and discussed various aspects related to establishment of the PHC.

She told the minister that a meeting would be convened with Nalgonda district collector and then hand over the site to the government. DIG of prisons Dr Srinivas was also present.

Naidu, Pawan

seat-sharing

details soon

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Jana Sena Party (JSP) leaders, who attended a

joint coordination meeting

in Vijayawada on Thursday, deliberated on

several key issues, including seat-sharing.
Senior leaders from both
parties, including TDP

State president K Atchannaidu and Jana

Sena Political Affairs

Committee chairman

Nadendla Manohar, partic-

ipated in the coordination meeting. Following the session, Atchannaidu

addressed the media, stat-

ing that Chandrababu

Naidu and Pawan Kalyan

PNS VIJAYAWADA

to reveal

NEWS FROM ANDHRA PRADESH

DEMAND FOR MEGA DSC

Sharmila detained for leading 'Chalo Secretariat' protest



APCC chief YS Sharmila being dragged away by the Guntur district police as she led a 'Chalo Secretariat agitation demanding 'Mega DSC' on Thursday. Pic by Ch Vijaya Bhaskar

PNS VIJAYAWADA

President of the Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC), YS Sharmila, was detained by Guntur police as she attempted to lead a protest march towards the secretariat at the Kondaveeti Vagu Lift Irrigation Scheme near the Prakasam Barrage at Undavalli of Tadepalli Municipality on Thursday. Despite the police's assertion that no authorisation had been granted for the 'Chalo Secretariat' movement, Sharmila and other Congress leaders continued their march to the secretariat.

Consequently, the police took into custody Sharmila Reddy, a Special Invitee to the Congress Working Committee (CWC), along with former APCC chief Gidugu Rudra Raju and other participants. Initially held at the Duggirala Police Station, they were later transferred to the Mangalagiri police station. Subsequently, Sharmila Reddy was released after providing a signature under section 151 at the police

Authorities stated that the Congress party leaders and supporters were detained

As elections loom in less than two months, the CM's announcement to fill only 6,000 positions is deceptive. Instead of conducting a comprehensive DSC (District Selection Committee for Recruitment), he is resorting to deceit. The YSRCP regime exhibits dictatorial tendencies, suppressing dissenting voices.'

for non-compliance with police directives. During the apprehension, Sharmila Reddy sustained minor injuries to her hands as female constables escorted her into a police vehicle.

Sharmila Reddy initiated the 'Chalo Secretariat' protest march on Thursday morning in solidarity with the state's unemployed youth from the Congress party's headquarters, Andhra Ratna Bhavan, in Vijayawada. Former central minister JD Seelam, APCC Working President Dr N Tulasi Reddy, CWC special invitee Gidugu Rudra Raju, and others participated in the demonstration, advocating for the release of the Mega DSC notification to fill 25,000

teacher vacancies.

would finalise the decisions and disclose details regarding seat-sharing and a joint manifesto.

"At the first coordination

meeting between TDP and JSP, various crucial matters were discussed.

A joint public meeting will be held in Tadepalligudem on February 28, where the two parties will convey a unified message to the people of the State,' Atchannaidu announced.

He further clarified that TDP and JSP leaders have unanimously agreed to address the joint public meeting on February 28 and have established a 12member committee to oversee the arrangements for the event.

Atchannaidu also revealed that the common manifesto and seat-sharing details would be disclosed by the leaders of both parties soon. Additionally, the coordination meeting passed a resolution condemning the recent attacks on journalists and media houses, affirming solidarity with the media.

against Mahendar Reddy. people or conductor. Need to defeat BJP for survival of democratic secular state stressed

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

CPI-M state unit secretary Tammineni Veerabhadram has stressed the need to to defeat the BIP for the survival of democratic secular state.
Addressing the CPI-M ple-

held Sundaraiah Vignana Kendram here on Thursday, he told the party rank and file that they should not be under the false impression that the Lord Rama's Akshatas delivered to the people at their door-step would not convert into votes.

The BRS lost the recent Assembly elections due to its own omissions and commissions. The people, instead of voting for the development ini-



Tammineni Veerabhadram

tiated in the state by former Minister Chandrashekar Rao, hated his egoism, he noted.

The CPI-M hailed the BRS electoral defeat and welcomed the Congress to form government in Telangana, he said.

The Congress has apparently plans to approach the Lok Sabha elections delaying the but not giving any clarify with regard to the implementation of the the four more guaran-

Going by the Congress attitude, the CPI-M would have to pay the role of the Opposition in the days to come, he

It is a myth to think that the Congress government would take a pro-poor stance, he

guarantees to the people, he

observed. Out of six guarantees, the Congress implemented two

On the pretext of the financial crisis, the feasibility of Congress implementing the guarantees appears to be

tees, he said.

impossible, he said.

Telangana DG Prisons inaugurates training programme for jail warders

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Director General of Prisons and Correction Centres, Dr Soumya Mishra on Thursday inaugurated a training session for the third batch of jail warders at the State Institute of Correctional Administration (SICA), Chanchalguda.

In all, 85 trainees, including 78 male and seven women reported to the venue. They will undergo physical and mental training over the next nine months. The physical fitness will stress on foot drill, firing practice, karate, self defence and yoga. The candidates will also have to study the Indian Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code, Jail manual Legal Acts and security protocols, inmate management and rehabilitation strategies. While the physical training will last for seven months, two months have been allocated for studies.{ Addressing the candidates, Mishra said, "It is a great achievement to secure a government job. Following the training all the candidates will become an asset to the Telangana

Department. The department is well reputed all over India and I believe all of you will add value to it. The training provided here will polish your skills. As a lay person you must have thought of prisons as high walls built to apprehend people. Prisons are much more than buildings and walls. The purpose of prisons is to reform people. The aim is to reform criminals and not just to keep them in custody. The Prison department aims to reform these people so that they could be accepted by the society and lead a good life."

She further said, "This is why it is called the Prisons and correctional services department. Telangana is well known as far as prison reform is concerned. All of you will be taught the basics; warders are the face of the department since they are in close contact with the inmates. This is why you are required to be physically and mentally be fit to face various challenges. Hence, the course includes lessons on criminology, psychology, human rights, modern technology and legal

Chevella may witness three-cornered contest

The BRS has announced that it wild field the sitting MP Ranjit Reddy from the constituency. Similarly, former MP Konda Visweswar Reddy is aspiring to contest from the seat on behalf of BJP. For the past several days, it is speculated that Kitchennagari Lakshma Reddy may contest from the seat.

PNS CHEVELLA

The Chevella Lok Sabha constituency in Rangareddy district is likely to witness three-cornered contest as BRS, BJP and Congress are likely to field political heavy

weights. The three major political parties have set their sights on winning the seat, which emerged crucial in the dis-

The BRS has announced son Sunita Reddy who hat it wild field the sitting crossed over to the that it wild field the sitting MP Ranjit Reddy from the constituency. Similarly, former MP Konda Visweswar Reddy is aspiring to contest from the seat on behalf of

For the past several days, it is speculated that Kitchennagari Lakshma Reddy may contest from the seat. Vikarabad ZP chairper-

Congress very recently from the BRS is likely to be fielded from Chevella, it is speculated. Therefore, all the three parties are field-ing political heavy weights, the Chevella LS contest is going to be the cynosure of

In 2019 elections, at least 23 candidates tried their luck from the constituency.

16, 363 votes against his Congress rival B Konda Visweswar Reddy who secured 5,00,318 votes. BJP nominee B Janardhan Redy finished poor third in the race polling only 1,95,919 votes. As on Feb 8, 2024, the total number of voters in the constituency are 14,93,369, including 14,20,469 females and 269 transgenders.

The successful BRs candi-

date Ranjit Reddy polled 5,

Raj: Wrong blood transfusion puts patient's life in jeopardy

complications in both kidneys at the state-run Sawai Man Singh (SMS) Hospital here, Aofficials said on Thursday. The patient, Sachin Sharma, a resident of Bandikui town, was admitted to the Trauma Centre of the hospital on February 12 after he suffered severe injuries in a road accident in Kotputli city. The matter came to the fore when Sachin was

being attended to at the hospital, SMS Hospital Superintendent Achal Sharma said. He said the patient's blood group is 0 positive but he was transfused with AB positive blood. An official familiar with the matter said due to the wrong blood transfusion, both kidneys of the patient developed complications and he was put on dialysis which led to further deterioration in his health condition. Sharma said a special committee has been formed to probe the matter and action will be taker



Punjab woman involved in 2009 fake visa scam arrested

57-year-old woman from Punjab has been arrested for her alleged involvement in a fake visa scam busted in 2009, police said on Thursday. The accused has been Aidentified as Rajvinder Kaur, a native of the Moga district in Punjab. She was declared a proclaimed offender in the case which was registered on July 25, 2009. In this scam, several passengers were caught travelling to Canada allegedly on fake visas.

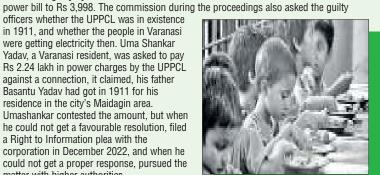
DCP (IGI Airport) Usha Rangnani said Kaur, along with her husband Sukhdev Singh and an associate identified as Ashok, used to arrange fake visas for passengers seeking to travel to Canada. For this, they would demand up to Rs 15 lakh from the passengers, she said. Rangnani further said that with the help of local intelligence, a team of IGI Airport police found out about the accused's arrival at New Delhi railway station on Wednesday, from



Power dept officers told to feed orphans as punishment

our Varanasi power department officers were told to feed orphanage inmates as 'punishment' for inflating an electricity bill to more than Rs 2 lakh, which they claimed had accumulated since 1911. The Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited officers were found guilty by the UP State Information Commission and were forced to reduce the

officers whether the LIPPCL was in existence in 1911, and whether the people in Varanasi were getting electricity then. Uma Shankar Yadav, a Varanasi resident, was asked to pay Rs 2.24 lakh in power charges by the UPPCL against a connection, it claimed, his father Basantu Yadav had got in 1911 for his residence in the city's Maidagin area. Umashankar contested the amount, but when he could not get a favourable resolution, filed a Right to Information plea with the corporation in December 2022, and when he could not get a proper response, pursued the



'P5 NATIONS ARE SHORT-SIGHTED'

EAM on slow UN Security Council reform

PNS NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday suggested that the "short-sighted" approach of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council is holding back forward movement in the longpending reform of the global body.

In an interactive session at the Raisina Dialogue, he said the "biggest" opponent for reform of the UN Security Council is not a Western country, in remarks seen as an oblique reference to China.

The external affairs minister said the sentiments for changes in the UN system is "very strong, but the challenge has been to get the concurrence for it from certain quarters".

"If you are going to ask five countries saying would you mind changing the rules that you would have less power, guess what the answer is going to be," he said.

"If they are wise, the answer would be something else. If they are short-sighted, the answer is what it is today," he

PNS NEW DELHI

Congress leader Priyanka

February 24 and will be part of

it for the remainder of its Uttar

Pradesh leg over the weekend,

She was to participate in the

yatra when it entered Uttar

Pradesh in Chandauli but could

not do so because of ill-health

and subsequent hospitalisa-

The Congress general secre-

Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud said

on Thursday he is a proponent of Ayurveda

as he pitched for adopting a holistic pattern of living for overall health.

He was addressing a function where he inaugurated an AYUSH Holistic Wellness

Centre on the Supreme Court premises.

sources said Thursday.

tion, they said.

atra in Moradahad on



PRIYANKA SET TO JOIN NYAY YATRA IN MORADABAD

Will cover remaining UP leg: Sources

I am proponent of Ayurveda and holistic lifestyle: CJI Chandrachud

Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal and

Minister of State for AYUSH Munipara

An MoU for establishing, operationalis-

ing and providing expert services at the well-

ness centre was also signed between the

Supreme Court and the All India Institute

of Ayurveda. "For me, this is a satisfying

moment. I have been working on this ever

Mahendrabhai were also present.

The five permanent mem-

bers are Russia, the UK, China,

France and the US and these

countries can veto any substan-

demand to increase the num-

tary will join the yatra when it

resumes from Moradabad on

Saturday and will remain with

The Congress has invited

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh

Yadav to participate in the

yatra in Agra, the sources said.

morning of February 24 from

Moradabad and will thereafter cover Sambhal, Aligarh,

Hathras and Agra districts cul-

minating in Dholpur in

Rajasthan on Sunday.

The yatra will resume on the

There has been growing

tive resolution.

Gandhi Vadra is set to join the the yatra during its leg in west-Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo ern Uttar Pradesh, the sources

he said the "biggest" opponent for reform of the UN Security Council is not a Western country, in remarks seen as an oblique reference to China. The external affairs minister said the sentiments for changes in the UN system is "very strong, but the challenge has been to get the concurrence for it from certain quarters".

In an interactive session

at the Raisina Dialogue,

ber of permanent members to reflect the contemporary glob-

India, Brazil, South Africa, Germany and Japan are strong contenders for permanent membership of the UNSC which has primary responsibil-

The Congress has said

February 26 to March 1 will be

break days to enable Rahul

ity for the maintenance of international peace and secu-

"When the UN was invented, it had approximately 50 members. We have four times the members. So it is a common sense proposition that you

Gandhi to fulfill his long-

standing commitment to deliv-

er two special lectures at his

alma mater Cambridge

University in the UK on

and also to enable him to

attend other important meetings in New Delhi.

resume from Dholpur at 2 pm

It will then cover Morena,

Gwalior, Shivpuri, Guna, Shajapur, and Üjjain among

other districts in Madhya

on March 2.

at a holistic pattern of living, not just for the

judges and their immediate families but for

the staff members, too. I am deeply grate-

ful to all the doctors of All India Institute

of Ayurveda," CJI Chandrachud told the

state-of-the-art facility providing holistic care addressing physical, mental and emotion-

al well-being, promoting overall health of

the judges and staff of the Supreme Court

The Ayush Holistic Wellness Centre is a

gathering.

The yatra will once again

and February 28

can't continue the same way when you have four times the members," Jaishankar said.

Asked about various complex geopolitical challenges and diverse positions on them by key nations, he said the endeavour has to be to find middle ground.

If you take UN Security Council reform, the biggest opponent is not a Western country, Jaishankar said.

"So let's get the totality of the problem. I think the reality is we will have to battle bit by bit to create groups which will push for change," he said.

"On many issues, you will get different combinations of countries and we'll have to live with a long period of incremental progress before we get to some kind of landing point," he said.

The Raisina Dialogue is India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-strategy. The three-day conference began on Wednesday.

The theme of the three-day conference is "Chaturanga: Conflict, Contest, Cooperate,

President to undertake 4-day

PNS BHUBANESWAR

visit to Odisha

from Feb 28

President Droupadi Murmu visit to Odisha starting February 28, official sources said. During her visit, President Murmu will participate in various programmes across several districts, including Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Ganjam, Khurda, and Sambalpur.

On February 28, President Murmu will arrive in Mayurbhanj district, where she is scheduled to lay the foundation stones for several projects and inaugurate

others in Rairangpur.
The following day, she will visit the Kichakeswari temple in Mayurbhanj to pay her respects to the goddess before proceeding to Keonjhar to inaugurate a national-level seminar on tribals at Dharanidhar University.

In the evening, she will attend the 53rd Convocation of Utkal University in Bhubaneswar and stay overnight at Raj Bhavan in the city.

'Congress abused my caste; the party has no other agenda'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday attacked the Congress over its comments about his caste and said the opposition party has no agenda except abusing him, but this attitude will only strengthen the resolve to win more than 400 seats for the BJP-led NDA in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

"You have seen how Congress people abuse Modi's caste. But Congress people forget that the more abuses they hurl, the stronger will be the resolve to cross 400 (Lok Sabha seats)," Modi said at a public function at Navsari in south Gujarat during his daylong visit to the state.

The Congress has no agenda for the country and its only goal is to abuse him, PM said, hitting out at the grand old

"The more mud they throw, the more gloriously 370 lotuses (BJP poll symbol) will bloom (referring to ruling party's target of winning 370 LS seats on its own). Except for abusing Modi, the Congress has no other agenda for the future of the country," asserted the PM.

Speaking in Parliament earlier this month, Modi expressed confidence that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) will get more than 400 seats and the BJP will win at least 370 seats in the Lok Sabha elections.

at the Navsari event.

"When nepotism, appeasement and corruption become goals of politics, then attention



Only BJP is working in 'clean way' for advancement of poor: Nadda

PNS MUMBAI

BJP president J P Nadda on Thursday said only his party was working in a "clean" manner to ensure progress of

All other parties indulge in corruption and their leaders are either in jail or out on bail, he said, speaking at a party

The Congress only gave slogans of poverty alleviation but the Narendra Modi government brought 25 crore people out of poverty, Nadda said. "Only the BJP is ensuring advancement of the poor and the country in a clean way. All other parties do corruption," he said.

When a party comes under the grip of nepotism, then no one is above the family, he said one is above the family is not paid to preserving the country's heritage," Modi one is above the family, he said one is above the family, he said one is above the family is not paid to preserving the country's heritage, "Modi one is above the family, he said one is above the family is a constant of the fami ernment has constructed nearly 4 crore pucca (concrete)

houses for the poor. At the function, Modi ded"Be it Sonia (Gandhi), Rahul (Gandhi) or Lalu Prasad, they all are out on bail. Soren (apparently referring to former Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren) is in jail," Nadda further said.

While 50 per cent of the country's population was living in poverty during former prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru's years in office, the proportion increased to 60 per cent after Indira Gandhi came to power, the BJP chief

"The Congress only gave slogans in the name of the poor, devised schemes and plans in the drawing room but they were never implemented," he said.

for construction of PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Park in

Cong's no-trust motion against Khattar govt defeated in Haryana

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

A no-confidence motion brought by the Congress against the BJP-JJP government in Haryana was defeated through voice vote on Thursday after the opposition party's MLAs walked out from the Assembly.

At the end of a four-hourlong discussion on the motion. Congress members walked out expressing dissatisfaction with the chief minister's reply. The motion was then defeated through voice vote.



Speaker Gian Chand Gupta

dence motion brought by the Congress in the second term of

announced that the motion had been defeated. It was the second no-confi-

the Manohar Lal Khattar government. The first such motion, which was brought by the Congress three years ago amid a stir against nowrepealed farm laws, was defeated as well.

At present, the BJP has 41 MLAs in the 90-member House while its alliance partner, the Jannayak Janta Party (IIP), has 10. Besides, six of the seven independent members in the House support the BJP, which also enjoys the support of the lone Haryana Lokhit Party MLA, Gopal Kanda.

'Zaiqa-E-Dilli': Festival dishes out Old Delhi delicacies

PNS NEW DELHI

A symphony of 100 culinary masterpieces, orchestrated by 'khansamas' from the bylanes of Old Delhi, at 'Zaiqa-E-Dilli' has unravelled the intricate flavours and fragrances of good old Mughlai cuisine.

The ongoing festival is currently underway at Crowne Plaza, Mayur Vihar with 'Dil Dehli Degh Dastarkhwan' as its motif. So be it a stall serving the much-relished deepfried breads from Chandni Chowk's iconic paranthe wali gali', different counters of melt-in-mouth kebabs or traditional welcome beverages like 'Mohabbat Ka Sherbat' and 'Bunta', each delicacy promises to transport food enthusiasts to the bustling lanes of Old Delhi.

EXPOSURE TO EXTREME TEMPERATURES

Preterm birth risk to increase by 60 per cent

PNS NEW DELHI

Minister of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy (AYUSH), Ports, Shipping and since I took over as CJI. I am a proponent of Ayurveda and holistic lifestyle. We have over 2,000 staff members, and we must look

Exposure to extreme temperatures driven by climate change will increase risk of preterm birth by 60 per cent, causing several lifelong complications for millions of children around the world, a new research has

Analysing results from 163 health studies globally, researchers said they have determined that climate change will be directly responsible for multiple detrimental health impacts in children, including higher occurrences of respiratory illnesses and more hospitalisations. The researchers, led by those at The University of Western Australia, warned that lack of global action on climate change will likely devastate children's health for genera-



tions. They said their study, published in the journal Science of the Total Environment, was the first to collect all the available scientific evidence for the effects of climate change on

children's health. The team also said they have

distinguished which particular climate-driven extremes were linked to what kind of health impacts in future generations.

The children's health issues we identified depend on weather extremes - cold extremes give rise to respiratory diseases,

rainfall can result in stunted growth for a population," said study author Corey Bradshaw from Flinders University, Australia. The team said that most of the studies they analysed were in high-income nations, despite the fact that children in lower-income countries are most likely to go without adequate access to healthcare, infrastructure, and stable food supply.

Their study revealed that

even advanced economies would not avoid the impacts of climate change on children's health, even as they said health risks varied across continents and socio-economic circumstances. "Given that climate influences childhood disease, social and financial costs will continue to rise as climate

increasing pressure on families and health services.

"For example, asthma has been estimated to cost as much as USD 1.5 billion due to a single fire season in the future, while another study estimated the costs of a single case of childhood asthma at up to USD 23,573 in the coming years," said Bradshaw.

Geography too dictated the health impacts of climate change, the researchers found.

While extreme temperatures have led to higher preterm births in Australia's East Coast, Northern Territory, and Western Australia and enhanced respiratory issues in Queensland, similar temperatures have increased mortality rates in South Africa, they

Rahul Gandhi, Pawar discuss seat-sharing formula in Maharashtra

PNS MUMBAI

Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi have discussed seat-sharing formula for the Lok Sabha elections in Maharashtra, state NCP chief Jayant Patil said here on Thursday.

Congress's Earlier, Maharashtra Maharashtra in-charge Ramesh Chennithala had said seat-sharing talks between the constituents of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) were in the last stage, and a final decision will be announced after a meeting of the alliance on February 27

and 28. "Pawar and Rahul Gandhi



have spoken on phone," Patil told reporters here. The MVA alliance consists of Congress, NCP-Sharadchandra Pawar, Shiv Sena (UBT) and Prakash Ambedkar's Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi.

Patil also said that he met Pawar on Thursday to discuss the ongoing seat-sharing talks besides organisational matfacebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Modi with a message

The PM's planned visit to Sandeshkhali challenges Mamata, seeks to gain ground in Bengal

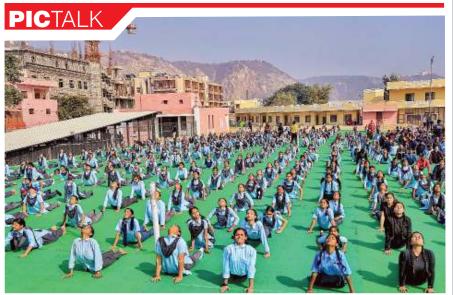
rime Minister Narendra Modi's planned visit to Sandeshkhali on March 7 holds significant implications not only for the BJP's Lok Sabha poll strategy but also for the political fortunes of Mamata Banerjee, the TMC supremo and an important constituent of the INDIA bloc. Sandeshkhali, in the North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, has emerged as a focal point of political strife due to incidents of alleged sexual abuse and land grab by a TMC leader, Shahjahan Sheikh. Ahead of Modi's visit, the BJP has unveiled a 20-minute documentary highlighting the TMC's alleged atrocities in Sandeshkhali with the apparent aim of pushing Mamata on the defensive. The film features Sandeshkhali women's testimony recounting alleged instances of land grab and sexual assault by Sheikh and his cohorts. The BJP's decision to schedule Modi's visit to North 24 Parganas signals its intent to bolster its support base and make inroads into areas traditionally dominated by the ruling TMC. The timing, just ahead of the elections, underscores the BJP's



concerted efforts to sway voters in its favour by exposing the TMC's 'wrongdoings'. Modi's persona and oratory have often been instrumental in galvanising public support, and his presence in Sandeshkhali is likely to energise the BJP cadre and attract undecided voters. Besides, the symbolism associated with Modi's visit cannot be overstated. By highlighting Sandeshkhali, which has witnessed political unrest and clashes, the BJP aims to convey a message of development and security to the residents.

This narrative directly attacks Mamata's leadership, which has faced frequent criticism over law and order issues, and poses to her a formidable challenge. The

BJP's relentless campaign, coupled with Modi's visit, threatens to erode TMC's support base in key constituencies. As she seeks to counter the BJP narrative, Mamata's response to Modi's visit will be closely scrutinised. It seems quite likely that the coming weeks would see a surge in BJP attacks on the TMC Government. This is not the first time that the BJP has launched a concerted attack on Mamata but her hold over the State remains more or less unshaken. That said, electoral outcomes are influenced by a multitude of factors beyond high-profile visits and political rhetoric. While Modi's visit may generate momentum for the BJP, the TMC's grassroots outreach, welfare schemes and organisational strength cannot be discarded. Mamata remains a formidable leader with a dedicated support base, especially among certain demographics and rural communities. Moreover, the political landscape in West Bengal is characterised by complex sociocultural dynamics, where regional identity and issues often play a significant role. The BJP's attempts to make inroads into the State must navigate these intricacies sensitively to resonate with the diverse electorate. How the PM's visit plays out remains to be seen but the attention Sandeshkhali is getting would indeed have one positive outcome: The victims of Sandeshkhali may get justice and Mamata may have to bite the bullet.



Schoolchildren perform Surya Namaskar on the occasion of 'Surya Saptami', in Jaipur

Indian nationhood thrives amid diversity.



Despite regional differences and identity quests, the strength of Indian nationhood persists, supported by a dedication to constitutional values and productive conversations

here is much talk about the nature of change in all aspects of Indian life, as is natural in changes envisaged at such a large scale. There are bound to be differences of opinion, multiple articulations, and an attempt to project one's point of view. This is how it should be. This is amplified by the Sanskrit dictum "Vade Vade Jayat Tatva Bodhah" (through discussion one arrives at the truth). However, discussion must follow a protocol. This protocol is often unwritten and is a bedrock of any civil society. It has some enduring principles. The first and foremost of which would be that it cannot be and must not be abusive.

The right to civil disagreement in a civil manner is the foundation of a civil society. Thus, it is that mutual respect and agreeing to disagree are required as essential to civil discourse.

One can add to it, for good measure, certain other attributes and certain attributes of the mind. These attributes recognise the need to not only listen but honestly weigh the merits of another person's point of view and have a genuine openness to consider it.

Agreeing to another point of view or modifying one's own in a civil society is not a hallmark f weakness but a source of genuine strength and maturity. Going by these principles, the Indian civil society has an interesting record with significant regional variations. The Dravid school of thought is an interesting example. They are saying in the twenties of this century, roughly the same things they were saying in the thirties of the

The Dravidian leadership has in the last seventy-five years then been in power in that part of India for several decades, though not always continuously.

Similarly, the exclusionist identity sought by some of the DMK ideologues has had on various occasions to be moderated because they have been in power. Notwithstanding long patches of time, not much significant progress has been made in the implementation of some of the



Kazhagam Munnetra (AIDMK). M.G. Ramachandran was the major proponent of the AIDMK version. Jayalalithaa was a key supporter. They linked up with the Dravidian Movement with all Indian processes. How it panned out is another story and fit enough for another discussion.

More to the point, it is important to realise that similar identity quests or some version thereof have been witnessed in the North Eastern States, Jammu & Kashmir State, parts of Andhra Pradesh, and a few other pockets of the southern Indian peninsula. This is a very understandable process. By and large, it has been contained within the constitutional framework. At times the divergent point of view has been espoused by neighbouring states of the Deccan peninsula or between the



MORE TO THE **CREDIT OF EVERYONE** CONCERNED IS THE URGE ON THE PART OF MOST PEOPLE TO EVOKE THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION WHENEVER NEED BE AND NOT PRACTICE BRINKMANSHIP

Deccan States and the Central Government at New Delhi over many matters including the distribution of river waters.

Notwithstanding these differences, Indian nationhood has endured and might even be seen as having gone from strength to strength. It is this resilience which is, also, the hallmark of Indian nationhood. This is not to deny the fact that once in a while, offensive or extreme statements are made, some of which are avoidable, though sometimes understandable. The long and short of it is the ability of people to work together despite differences and different articulations. More to the credit of everyone concerned is the urge on the part of most people to evoke the Indian Constitution whenever need be and not practice brinkmanship. The time is here to ensure that these practices of healthy shared perspectives become a

logue and discussion. Sometimes when extreme statements are made and

regular habit and a part of the

national methodology of dia-

some new thinking seems to arise, there is nothing wrong with that either, only that the model of integrative thinking would have to show far more resilience than it is many times currently showing.

This text has looked at the vantage point of collective cohesion. It is not as if there are no dangerous signs that need to be tackled, but that attempting to tackle them sensibly and systematically is necessary. It is this institutionalisation of handling dissent and allowing seemingly alternative perspectives to live peacefully with each other that will be the touchstone on which much of the future of Indian nationhood will continue to flourish.

In an era where subtle dissent becomes a part of covert political strategy, much care needs to be exercised. The number game can have dangerous manifestations. There is no substitute for good sense debate and the setting of and integrity of thought, deed, and follow-up.

(The writer is a well-known management consultant of international repute. The views expressed are personal)

Ayurveda: Seek balance of tridoshas for wellness



Ayurveda's mantra for wellness is 'seek balance.' Its holistic approach offers a timeless roadmap to good health in today's fast-paced world

n an era marked by fastpaced lifestyles, stressinduced ailments, and an increasing reliance on synthetic medication, the ancient wisdom of Ayurveda emerges as a beacon of holistic healing. Originating in the Indian subcontinent over 5,000 years ago, Ayurveda is not merely a system of medicine but a way of life deeply rooted in the balance between mind, body, and spirit. Its holistic approach offers a comprehensive framework for promoting well-being and preventing disease, making it highly relevant in today's fast-changing world.

At the heart of Ayurveda lies the belief that health is a state of equilibrium between the three doshas - Vata (air and space), Pitta (fire and water), and Kapha (earth and water). According to Ayurvedic principles, imbalances in these doshas lead to physical, mental, and emotional disturbances, paving the way for illness. By understanding an individual's unique constitution, or Prakriti, Ayurveda seeks to restore harmony



yoga, and meditation. One of the key strengths of Ayurveda is its emphasis on prevention rather than cure. By addressing the root cause of disease rather than merely treating symptoms, Ayurveda empowers individuals to take charge of their health proactively. Through practices such as daily self-care routines (Dinacharya), seasonal detoxification (panchakarma), and mindful eating

habits, Ayurveda cultivates

resilience and strengthens

the body's natural defences, reducing the likelihood of ill-Moreover, Ayurveda recognises the interconnectedness of all aspects of existence from the food we eat to the environment we inhabit. This holistic perspective underscores the importance of living in harmony with

rhythms. By promoting sus- maintaining vitality and balenvironmental awareness, personal health but also contributes to the well-being of tices that promote mental

Sharma, Director of Shree Baidyanath Ayurved Bhawan emphasises the importance sis intervention, Ayurveda of maintaining balance excels in promoting longeviamong the three elements— Vata, Pitta, and Kapha—to ensure fitness. "Imbalances in these elements lead to diseases and advocated for Ayurveda's ancient wellness system, particularly pertinent in today's times when unhealthy dietary choices, lifestyle habits, and indulgence in alcohol and smoking disrupt this equilibrium." He said this in his address at Gurugram's Wellness Carnival. It was organised to create awareness about the importance of health and wellness. A wellness carnival was recently organised at Cybercity

Gurugram. In the face of modern challenges such as chronic stress, pollution, and sedentary through personalised lifestyle nature and aligning our lifestyles, Ayurveda offers modifications, dietary lifestyle choices with its invaluable insights into

tainable living practices and ance. Its integrative approach acknowledges the role of Ayurveda not only fosters mental and emotional factors in health, emphasising practhe planet as a whole. clarity, emotional resilien and spiritual well-being. clarity, emotional resilience,

While Western medicine excels in acute care and crity, enhancing vitality, and restoring equilibrium. Integrating Ayurvedic principles into mainstream healthcare can lead to a more comprehensive and patientcentred approach, bridging the gap between traditional wisdom and modern science.

By embracing its principles of balance, harmony, and interconnectedness, individuals can cultivate resilience, vitality, and well-being on all levels - physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual. As we strive to navigate the complexities of modern life, Ayurveda serves as a guiding light, reminding us of the profound wisdom inherent in nature.

(The writer is a business consultant; views are per-

PM PAYS TRIBUTE TO VIDYASAGAR JI

Sir — India is truly blessed with so many noble saints, intellectuals, and spiritual persons who have dedicated their entire lives to the welfare of mankind. Renowned Jain seer Acharya Vidyasagar Ji Maharaj was one of the greatest saints of our time who attained Samadhi "Sallekhana", saddening us. He was the most renowned saint in the Digambar Jain community. He took sallekhana, a Jain religious practice involving voluntary fasting until death, for spiritual purification.

PM Narendra Modi is paying tribute to this great saint. He will be all the more remembered by the generations to come for his invaluable contributions to society, especially his efforts towards spiritual awakening among people. His notable work was towards poverty alleviation, healthcare, education, and more. His life exemplified the core principles of Jainism, embodying its ideals through his actions and teachings. Today, the world over, fundamental elements are fighting, but the teachings of Acharya Vidyasagar Maharaj to mankind have become even more relevant; they should be followed by all of us to enrich the lives of human beings and promote peace and harmony. We should all strive to live coherently to shape a new era of national and social integration. Education was very close to his heart. He was a true tapas, whose life was dedicated to the ideals of Bhagwan Mahavir. He will always be remembered for his rich contribution to society.

Ramesh G Jethwani | Bengaluru

DANGERS OF PLAYING VIDEO GAMES

Sir — The British Medical Journal has recently given information about the dangers of video games, especially in this research, in which scientists from the World Health Organisation were also involved. A total of 50,000 people were surveyed in video games using headphones, earbuds, and headphones. Also, the music venue has a definite effect on 349 points while Nifty scaled a fresh life-



he recent upheaval in Sandeshkhali, West Bengal, marked by allegations of sexual assault, land grabs, and political clashes, demands immediate attention. The state government's tendency to dismiss these accusations as political manoeuvres must give way to a genuine commitment to justice. While some

commendable arrests have been made, holding accountable those in power implicated in these crimes is essential. With the Supreme Court rejecting a CBI or SIT investigation, the onus now falls on Mamata Banerjee's government to prioritise citizens' well-being over political considerations, ensuring transparency and decisive action to restore trust

Amidst the turmoil, concerns over authoritarianism arise with the arrest of a journalist, emphasising the need to safeguard the freedom of the press. The dismissal of widespread fear and systematic abuse by the government does not instil confidence in a thorough inquiry. Mamata Banerjee must demonstrate the same dedication to justice she exhibited in opposition, addressing these grave issues transparently. Acknowledging the plight of women prisoners and taking decisive action against sexual violence as a political tool is imperative for rebuilding trust and integrity in the government's response to the Sandeshkhali crisis.

Amarjeet Kumar | *Hazaribagh*

the ear and reduces the ability to hear. An international research team reviewed 14 studies conducted by nine countries in this regard. North America, Europe, Southeast Asia, Asia, Australia, etc. were included in these nine countries. It is necessary to discourage children from playing video games. If not, a generation of young children will go deaf. This is a very sensitive subject. Parents should pay proper attention to their children and ensure that they do not watch those video games. It is necessary to tell the children about the consequences of this in various schools.

Shantaram Wagh | Pune

NIFTY AT ALL-TIME HIGH

Sir — Indices moved up for a fifth consecutive session, with the Nifty hitting a fresh all-time high amid mixed global cues. Benchmark Sensex spurted by

time high on the sixth straight day of gains on February 20, driven by buying n banking and select FMCG shares. The broader market outperformed the frontline indices.

Everything looks favourable, be it the strong macroeconomic fundamentals or the robust retail inflows. Both upstream and downstream oil companies benefit from a robust up-cycle in oil and gas markets and stable crude prices, which have boosted volumes and marketing margins, said Siddhartha Khemka, head of retail research at Motilal Oswal Financial Services. Reflecting broader investor bullishness, the 50-share index surged to a record high of 21,654.75 on intense buying in the metal, commodity, auto and banking sectors.

Jayanthi Subramaniam | Mumbai

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FIRST COLUMN GREEK PM'S VISIT BOLSTERS HISTORIC TIES

India and Greece are poised to deepen their ties across various sectors



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

he visit of Greek (Hellenic Republic (Greece)) Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis this week marks an important chapter in Indo-Greek relations, an ancient bilateral relationship that often gets shadowed in the wider European context. Legend has it that the mighty Greek conqueror Alexander reached the northwestern frontier of the Indian subcontinent some 2500 years ago, fought two mighty kings, but didn't cross the Indus to enter India. However, a diplomatic relationship was established some years down the line, under the Mauryan rule (whose ruler Chandragupta Maurya had a Greek ambassador in his court named Meghasthanes).

Cut to contemporary times, Greece established its embassy in India in 1950, however, India took 28 years to start an embassy in Athens. Now a European country, just two and half hours behind Indian standard time. during summer, often featured in many Bollywood films, wasn't still an important ally until last year. During a state visit by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2023, the bilateral relationship was elevated to a strategic partnership. The joint statement released in August 2023 highlighted: "Appreciating the increase in bilateral trade and economic engagement in recent years, the leaders also directed that both sides work to double bilateral trade by 2030. Both leaders reiterated the need for further broadening and deepening bilateral engagements in the fields of defence, shipping, science and technology, cyberspace, education, culture, tourism and agriculture. They took note of the signing of the MOU on Cooperation in the field of Agriculture... Both leaders directed their senior officials to ensure regular dialogue in the areas including political, economic, defence, security and public diplomacy. They also agreed to encourage direct flights between Greece and India.



This week's visit by the Greek PM has put the relationship under ample spotlight it deserves. When some of Greece's neighbours in Europe had made not-so-friendly statements on some of the most recent policy developments in India such as the "Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)/National Register of Citizenship (NRC), Abrogation of Article 370, Reorganisation of the new Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh, and Judgement on Ram Janam Bhoomi, etc. Greece had officially stated that it is an internal affairs matter of India. Greece and India have reciprocally supported each other for a reformed UN reflecting the current realities with a permanent seat for each other in the UN security council. As per a Ministry of External Affairs booklet released in 2023, just ahead of the Indian Prime Minister's visit to Athens, Greece, "voted for India's candidature to UNSC for 2021-22. It supported India at the Nuclear Suppliers Group in 2008, and 2016, MTCR, WASSENAAR arrangements, and Australia Group.

Greece supported India's candidature for ICJ, ITLOS, IMO, Postal Operations Council (POC), World Heritage Committee and the position of External Auditor of the IAEA for the term 2022-27 and various other international bodies." Similarly, in Jammu and Kashmir, internal security concerns particularly arising out of state-funded terrorist activities, Greece has been on India's side. Greece supports many of India's concerns in the larger European Union bilateral. India interestingly has held several rounds of discussions with the EU trade representatives, to hammer out a free trade agreement. Although with elections in India around the corner, a complicated, trade agreement with the EU with several moving parts looks difficult. However, to have preferential voices in the EU, with member nations like France and Greece, Italy, looking at India favourably, is always welcome. Some of the unfavourable comments India received from EU member countries, post former, not taking a Western approach towards long-standing ally Russia, are likely to fade away with India developing closer bilateral partnerships in the region.

A saga of resilience and adaptation



BKP SINHA

Trees, nature's silent guardians, witness the ebb and flow of civilisations, endure natural calamities and adapt to the relentless march of time

mbark on a journey through a mystical forest, where trees, the ancient storytellers, whisper tales of survival against the backdrop of ever-evolving landscapes.

These silent guardians of nature stand tall and firm, their leaves rustling with tales of time. They bear witness to the rise and fall of civilizations, endure natural calamities, and adapt to our planet's shifting climate. Indeed, trees are nature's superheroes, their power lies in their remarkable adaptability. Like shapeshifters, they ingeniously tweak their structure, physiology, and even their regeneration mechanisms to thrive in varied habitats.

India, with its diverse climates and landscapes, is home to a spectacular array of tree species. Each species, intricately woven into its habitat, embodies a unique journey of evolution and survival. Among these, Conifers stand out, particularly in the cool, windswept mountain regions. Unlike their deciduous counterparts, who shed their leaves with the changing seasons, Conifers wear their emerald attire year-round. Their foliage retains vital nutrients, helping them thrive in nutrient-deficient mountains.

As winter swathes the land in the snow, Conifers with their needle-like leaves stand poised to seize any fleeting warmth and bask in the sun's shy smile. Their ability to adjust their metabolism and lower their energy needs enables them to survive extended periods without photosynthesis. Conifers, with their evergreen nature, play a pivotal role in combating climate change. Even during the cold months when many trees stand bare, Conifers continue their silent vigil, actively absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Unfazed by winter's chill, they tirelessly continue to purify the air, showcasing their importance in

As spring arrives with its warmth, Conifers are ready to immediately kickstart photo-synthesis, thereby facilitating their growth and in times of intense heat, they close their stomata, thereby preserving water and enduring severe droughts. In contrast, broadleaf trees require time to sprout leaves, which delays their photosynthetic activity. This gives conifers an edge in regions with cold winters and dry summers while posing challenges for leafless decidnous trees with limited water supply Conifers, with their long, thin needles, have adapted remarkably to their often challenging habitats. The needles' minimised surface area, coupled with fewer stomata, smartly reduces water loss. Interestingly, the stomata located deep within the needle structure create air pockets, resulting in less transpiration compared to exposure to moving air.

Their slender shape also prevents snow accumulation, protecting the branches from breakage. The needle's outermost layer, a thick, waxy cuticle, serves as nature's exquisite raincoat, masterfully locking in moisture to ensure the tree's hydration even in the icy grip of winter. This same layer, inclusive of the cuticle, epidermis, and occasionally the hypodermis, also shields the tree from harmful ultraviolet-B radiation. In foggy regions, these needles efficiently condense airborne moisture into droplets. These droplets then merge and fall onto the forest floor, hydrating the trees. Inversely, deciduous trees with their broad leaves hold tiny droplets that evaporate. This gives Conifers a distinct advantage in areas prone to advection fog, where rainfall is



THE SAGA OF

TREE ENDURANCE IS MORE THAN A MERE AGAINST ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES AND HUMAN-INDUCED SCARS. WHILE SOME SPECIES MAY SUCCUMB TO RESILIENT WARRIORS,

PIONEER SPECIES

EMERGE

Under their bark, Conifers harbour a complex network of tissues, including the xylem and phloem, which transport water, nutrients, and sugars throughout the tree. However, during harsh winters, the sap, a life-sustaining fluid, faces the threat of freezing, which could severely damage the cell walls. But nature, in its infinite wisdom, has equipped these trees with a remarkable defence mechanism. Both deciduous and evergreen trees can osmotically move water out of their living cells into their intercellular (non-living) spaces. This strategic relocation of water confines the freezing process to these non-living zones. Also, the sap due to its higher sugar concentration transforms into a thick syrup that acts as an antifreeze. This transformation SHOWDOWN WITH reduces the internal freezing point THE WEATHER; of each cell and ennances us resistance to freezing. Thus, by employing these strategies, Conifers protect their living cells from ice rupture, ensuring the tree's survival through the harshest winters.

Conifers, particularly those in the Pinaceae family, are in a constant battle against formidable adversaries like bark beetles and their symbiotic microorganisms. Their defence mechanism is a sticky resin that seeps from their bark, serving both as a shield and a sword in their fight for survival. This resin forms a barrier that slows the movement of freezing air molecules, a feature that is especially beneficial in dry climates or during droughts as it helps preserve the tree's vital moisture. Moreover, the stickiness of the resin traps infiltrating insects, while its chemical composition deters or even exterminates these invaders, thereby ensuring the tree's continued growth and survival. However, climate change and invasive species are disrupting this balance, posing new challenges for these tenacious

Unlike broadleaf trees with large

vascular conduits that foster high growth rates and rapid leaf turnover, conifers possess narrow tracheids in their vascular system. The slender shape of these tracheids only allows tiny bubbles to form, which quickly dissolve back into solution, effectively averting freeze-thaw embolisms. Such embolisms occur after a long, cold winter when the vascular system thaws and air bubbles form. In broadleaf trees, these bubbles can grow large and struggle to dissolve back into solution, leading to an embolism. However, Conifers' narrow tracheids prevent this from happening, making them mountain marvels.

As we descend from the high altitudes towards the equator, we witness a captivating shift in the botanical world. The reign of conifers gracefully passes the baton to the broadleaf trees. These trees, preferring warm and moist climates, blazers, including Albizia, Dalbergia, become the stars of tropical and subtropical regions, thriving in valleys blessed with fertile and humid

Broadleaf trees, unlike conifers with exposed seeds on cone-like structures, protect their seeds within fruits. This strategy shields the seeds from harsh weather and predators, thereby improving the likelihood of successful germination and ensuring the continuation of the broadleaf lineage. During the dry season, these trees shed their leaves to conserve water and energy, a survival strategy akin to an investor offloading costly assets in times of scarcity. This process, known as abscission, involves specialised cells at the stem base acting like microscopic scissors, severing the leaf connection. However, before the leaves fall, the tree reclaims vital nutrients, storing them in the branches. When spring arrives, these stored nutrients fuel new leaf growth, transforming the landscape into a vibrant green canvas. While the botanical narrative often portrays conifers as inhab-

itants of frigid heights, they also demonstrate resilience in unexpected environments. Consider regions with high rainfall and poor water retention due to sandy or rocky soils. These challenging environments might seem inhospitable for most vegetation. Yet, in these very landscapes, Conifers, equipped with needle-like foliage and a waxy coating, defy expectations and adapt to thrive in water-deficient soils. Their presence attests to life's remarkable adaptability, reminding us that nature's stories are often far more surprising and nuanced than we initially imagined. The saga of tree endurance is more

than a mere showdown with the weather; it's a battle against environmental challenges and humaninduced scars. While some species may succumb, resilient warriors, the pioneer species emerge. These trailand the hardy duo of Willows and Birches in temperate climes, act as nature's first responder. They rejuvenate once the chaos subsides, splashing vibrant hues onto landscapes left barren and desolate. However, as the environment stabilises and resources become abundant, climax vegetation, the slowergrowing, shade-tolerant species, begins their steady march. Their endurance enables them to replace the swift pioneers, asserting their dominance in the landscape. This transition paints a dynamic picture of movement, upheaval, and significant transformation in the landscape, illustrating the timeless wisdom of the tortoise and the hare: it's not always about the speed, but the resilience and persistence that truly counts in the race for survival. This is nature's beautiful way of reminding us that every player, swift or steady, has a crucial role in the intricate tapestry of life.

(The writer is a former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, UP; views are personal)

Upholding the essence of agriculture amidst market pressures

The ongoing farmers' protest underscores the clash between economic and social objectives, particularly regarding the legal guarantee of minimum support prices

he farmer is the only man in our economy who buys everything at retail, sells everything at wholesale, and pays the freight both ways, said John F. Kennedy. Agriculture is the mother of all human cultures and all modes of man-made production. Agricultural production and its consumption are primarily guided by values of human existence, health and welfare; the values of the market are superimposed on it. Agriculture, thus, is not only a source of income and livelihood for many farmers but also a way of life and iden-

Agriculture is a springboard to food security, rural development, cultural heritage and thus, requires mechanisms to guarantee on minimum sup- (MSP) for Cereals (Paddy,



(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

SUKHDEV SINGH

safeguard it from the postindustrial market economy founded on the principles of profit rather than the exchange of goodwill and well-being. The market creates a conflict between the economic and social objectives of agriculture. It is for the social objective of 'food security' and the livelihood of landscape preservation and, farmers' protest for a legal

port price. The system of minimum support price introduced in 1966 to help India fight the food deficit has been a productive driver for development and food safety for the Indian population; a system to determine minimum support price has evolved through the years which yet needs improvement and support.

At present, the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), Government of India calculates the paidout costs on seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, hired human and machine labour, and leased-in land rent etc (A2) and the imputed value of unpaid family labour (FL), and adds 50% farmers that justify the Indian of its total to recommend minimum support price

Maize and Ragi), pulses (Gram, Arhar/Tur, Moong, Urad and Lentil), oilseeds Groundnut, Rapeseed/Mustard, Toria, Soybean, Sunflower Seed, Sesamum, Safflower Seed and Nigerseed), Copra, De-Husked Coconut, Raw Cotton, Raw Jute and Sugarcane every year. Then, keeping in view the production costs, fair remuneration for farmers affordability for consumers and the market conditions, the CACP recommendation is approved by the parliament of India to notify the MSP before the sowing season. In its recommendation, the CACP does consider 'Swaminathan National

Wheat, Barley, Jowar, Bajra, ommendation fully to include capital assets and the rentals and interest forgone on owned land which the protesting farmers demand. Another cause for farmers' protest is the demand for legislation providing farmers the Right to Sell at MSP' which the CACP itself had suggested in its price policy report 2018-19.

The farmers are demanding the same legal entitlement for their produce insulating it against the market pressures of 'demand and supply' as the markets can be subject to manipulation by the private traders and corporations, a concern shared by the CACP in its 2018-19 report.

The crops are unlike industrial production that can be controlled with resilience to is not about the procurement Commission for Farmers' rec-

market pressures; the cropping patterns are not so easy to shift. The biological nature of agricultural produce makes it vulnerable to unpredictable and uncontrollable weather conditions, pests and diseases on the one hand, and its 'all at once' yield makes it vulnerable to the market players if left for itself to guard. To enhance its resilience to the negative market pressures, a legal guarantee for MSP is required.

Unlike the corporate, the small farmers can not store and service 'value addition'; they have to sell the entire yield immediately. So, it is reasonable for the farmers to expect a guaranteed MSP announced by the govern-

ment. The legal guarantee for MSP of the entire crop by the government but about its purchase at a price not less than the minimum remunerative price declared by the government itself. In the absence of a legal guarantee, the traders purchase the agricultural produce at prices lower than the MSP, yet they sell it to the consumers at prices much higher than the MSP without passing on the benefit to the consumers.

Agriculture produce is for survival while all other industrial or service products are for additional comfort. To keep the farmers growing sufficient for the people to survive, it is well within the reasonable sense for the government to compensate the gaps in case 'demand and supply' forces the sale of crops at

prices lower than the MSP following the principle it employs in its intervention to support the corporate failures. The legal guarantee for all crops in all states can act as an instrument for organic farming and diversification, as the farmers will have no insecurity about price fluctuations. If left unguarded and subject to the 'demand-supply' principle, it may lead to food insecurity and compromise social values inherent in agriculture. Leaving agriculture on the market is neither desirable nor pro-national; it is only procorporate and anti-nation.

(The writer is a retired professor of Guru Nanak Dev University Amritsar and a member of the governing council of INTACH, New Delhi; views are personal)

India's mineral production rises 5.1 per cent

ndia's mineral output increased by 5.1 per cent in December as compared to the year-ago period, the government said on Thursday. The index of mineral production of mining and guarrying sector for the month of December, 2023 at 139.4 is 5.1 per cent higher as compared to the level witnessed in the corresponding month of 2022, the mines ministry said in a statement. The cumulative growth rate in the mining and quarrying sector for the April-

December period of the current fiscal over the corresponding period of previous financial year is 8.5 per cent, as per the provisional statistics of Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM). In December, the production of coal stood at 929 lakh tonnes while that of lignite at 40 lakh tonnes, iron ore at 255 lakh tonnes and limestone at 372 lakh tonnes. Production of lignite, limestone, coal, bauxite and natural gas showed positive growth. However, a negative growth was registered in the production of petroleum (crude), gold, chromite, phosphorite and diamond.



Gold slips Rs 50; silver tumbles Rs 500

old prices fell Rs 50 to Rs 62,800 per 10 grams in the national capital on Thursday, Gaccording to HDFC Securities. The precious metal had finished at Rs 62,850 per 10 grams in the previous close. Silver also tumbled Rs 500 to Rs 75,200 per kilogram, while it had ended at Rs 75,700 per kg in the previous trade. "Spot gold prices (24 carats) in the Delhi markets are trading at Rs 62,800 per 10 grams, down by Rs 50 against the

previous close," Saumil Gandhi, senior analyst of commodities at HDFC markets, spot gold at Comex was trading flat at USD 2,027 per ounce, unchanged from the previous close. However, silver was down at USD 23 per ounce. Following the release of the latest Federal Reserve's meeting minutes, which indicated that the US Fed is willing to maintain interest rates higher for longer. Accordingly, the vellow metal prices slightly declined on Thursday.

years, all the big issues, in a

way, we have not been able to

find a multilateral solution. So

the results or lack of results

demonstrates the case for

er global conversation and

global rebalancing as well which is bigger than the UN, which is really (about) whose rules, how does it work because

what has also happened in many cases is the rules have

been gamed," he said.
"We speak about globalisation for example. The fact is that the world trading rules

have been gamed. And we have a lot of our challenges

today that also emanate from

how countries have used that

for their benefit at the expense

of the international system," he

noted. Asked about various

complex geopolitical chal-

lenges and diverse positions on

them by key nations,

Jaishankar said the endeavour

has to be to find middle

"But I think there is a larg-

reform," he said.



Ashok Leyland reaches three million production milestone

milestone of having rolled out three million units out of its factory in Uttarakhand. The heavy commercial vehicle maker said it was moving steadfast on its vision to become one among the top 10 Commercial Vehicle (CV) manufacturers globally. "We are proud to have achieved this significant milestone. Ashok Leyland has always been ahead of the curve and leading the CV

industry in product technology and innovation,"Ashok Leyland MD and CEO Shenu Agarwal said in a company statement. 'The roll out of our three millionth vehicle is a testament to our well-established reputation for manufacturing highly reliable products and delivering top-notch customer service," he added. "The achievement at the company's state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Pantnagar, Uttarakhand highlights Ashok Levland's dedication to innovation. technological advancement and strong customer relationships.



World trading rules have been gamed: Jaishankar

PNS NEW DELHI

In its first year of Independence, India put its trust on multilateralism and took the Kashmir "aggression issue" to the United Nations but others made it a matter of "accession" for geopolitical reasons, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Thursday.

He made the remarks while elaborating on the need for having coexistence between national interests and multilateralism at a session of the Raisina Dialogue.

"That was always the case. Look at our own example. Very literally in our first year of Independence, we put our trust in multilateralism and took the Kashmir aggression issue to the UN and others made it into an accession issue and they did it for geopolitical reasons," Jaishankar said.

He was asked whether values are looking less important in the current geopolitical

That was always the case. Look at our own example. Very literally in our first year of Independence, we put our trust in multilateralism and took the Kashmir aggression issue to the UN and others made it into an accession issue and they did it for geopolitical reasons.

If you say people are playing multilateralism, they always did. We have grown up. It is not that we should be against multilateralism.

We speak about globalisation for example. The fact is that the world trading rules have been gamed. And we have a lot of our challenges today that also emanate from how countries have used that for their benefit at the expense of the international system.

promise on principles but never on interests.

"If you say people are playing multilateralism, they always did. We have grown up. It is not that we should be against multilateralism," he said.

"Multilateralism is a kind of lowest common denominator and anything above that. It will exist side-by-side with nationand competitions of countries," the external affairs minister said. At the same time, he agreed with the view that there is a place for sentiment and solidarity as well. Responding to a separate question on reform of the UN, Jaishankar, citing globalisation, said the "fact is

that the world trading rules have been gamed. "If you look at the last five

contribute to 47% of Assam's tea production' PNS GUWAHATI

Small growers contribute to more than 47 per cent of Assam's annual tea production, Industries and Commerce Minister Bimal Borah said on Thursday.

'Small growers

Replying to a question from Independent MLA Akhil Gogoi in the assembly, Borah said the total number of small tea growers in the state is 1,25,484, as per data provided by the Tea Board

A total of 1,17,304 hectares of land is under cultivation by these growers, and they contribute to 47.77 per cent of the total tea produced annu-

ally in the state, he said. The minimum price for green leaves produced by the small growers in 2022-23 was Rs 13.78 per kg and the maximum was Rs 40.44 per

kg.
The same rates per kg for 2023-24 were Rs 13.79 and Rs 33.97 respectively, as per information laid by the min-

Das: Premature policy move could undermine efforts to check inflation

The Reserve Bank of India's job to bring down inflation is not over, and any premature move on the policy front could undermine the success achieved so far on the price situation, according to RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das.

According to the minutes of the February Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting released by the central bank on Thursday, Das had said at this juncture, monetary policy must remain vigilant and "not assume that our job on the inflation front is over".

He stressed that the MPC must remain committed to successfully navigate the "last mile" of disinflation that can be

Das made the remarks while voting for status quo in the key interest rate earlier this month. "As markets are front-run-

ning central banks in anticipation of policy pivots, any premature move may undermine the success achieved so far," the governor said, as per the min-

He argued that price and

ing an inflationary spiral.

financial stability were essential to sustain a long haul of high growth, and the monetary policy's objective was to stay focused on achieving the 4 per cent inflation target on a durable basis, keeping in mind the objective of growth.

Five of the six MPC members had voted to keep the short-term benchmark lending rate at 6.5 per cent.

External member in the MPC, Jayanth R Varma, had made a case to reduce the repo rate by 25 points, and to change the stance to neutral.

The process of fiscal consolidation is projected to continue in 2024-25, he said, adding that this opens up space for

monetary easing without risk-

In my view, the time has come for the MPC to send a clear signal that it takes its dual mandate of inflation and growth seriously, and that it would not maintain a real interest rate that is significantly more than what is needed to achieve its target," Varma said.

RBI Deputy Governor and MPC member Michael Debabrata Patra, according to the minutes, said monetary policy must remain restrictive and maintain downward pressure on inflation while minimising the output costs of dis-

Stocks rebound: Sensex jumps over 500 points, Nifty hits fresh peak

Equity benchmark indices Nifty hitting its fresh all-time high and Sensex surging more than 500 points as investors went on a buying spree in IT, automobile and technology

After starting off on a volatile note, the equity market staged a recovery in the second half of the day, especially after 2.30 pm as the 30share benchmark Sensex soared 535.15 points or 0.74 per cent to close at 73,158.24

As many as 22 Sensex constituents closed in the positive territory and the index touched an intra-day high of 73,256.39 points. The broader Nifty climbed 162.40 points or 0.74 per cent to hit its highest ever closing level of 22,217.45 points. During the intra-day trade, the index touched the peak of 22,252.50 points and 25 Nifty constituents ended the session with gains.

"The domestic market staged a recovery from the day's low, buoyed by positive PMI data from the Eurozone and an impressive earnings report from US tech stocks.

The broader market showed resilience as India's economic activity continued to



expand in February, with both service and manufacturing improving. Consequently, it resulted in outperformance in discretionary stocks and capital goods," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said. BSE Midcap index gained 0.92 per cent, largecap index climbed 0.81 per cent and smallcap index rose 0.54 per cent.

In the Sensex pack, HCLTech rose the maximum by 3.12 per cent, followed by ITC which gained 2.73 per cent and M&M went up 2.61 per cent. TCS climbed 2.44 per cent. Tech Mahindra, Wipro, L&T and Maruti were among

the other major gainers. However, stocks of all major banks closed in the red with IndusInd Bank falling1.87 per cent. While HDFC Bank dropped 1.28 per cent, Kotak Mahindra Bank declined 1.11 per cent and SBI slipped 0.73

Bviu's shareholders to vote on resolution to oust **CEO**, family today

PNS NEW DELHI

Shareholders at Byju's are set to vote on Friday on a resolution brought by some investors to oust founder CEO Byju members over alleged "mismanagement and failures" at what was once India's hottest

However, the outcome of the vote at the extraordinary general meeting (EGM) will not be applicable until March 13, when the Karnataka High Court will next hear Raveendran's plea challenging the move by certain

The Karnataka High Court on Wednesday refused to stay the EGM, called by shareholders collectively holding more than 32 per cent stake in Byju's. Raveendran and family own 26.3 per cent in the company. The EGM notice calls for ouster of the current board of Think & Learn, the firm that operates Byju's, composed of Raveendran, his wife and co-founder Divva Gokulnath and his brother Riju Ravindran.

tech startup.

While reopening after the pandemic that saw students who earlier opted for online learning going back to physical classes and the recent acquisition of Aakash putting Byju's under financial strain, the edtech firm in last one year suffered others setbacks including its auditor resigning, lenders beginning bankruptcy proceedings against

Decision to ease FDI in space sector to boost startup ecosystem in satellite making, assembly

PNS NEW DELHI

The government's decision to ease Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) norms for the space sector will help fuel the efforts of the starti launch vehicles, satellite manufacturing, and assembly segment, according to experts.

They also said that the move would help Indian companies integrate well into global space sector supply chains, and enable innovation.

The government on Wednesday eased FDI norms and permitted 100 per cent

India needs to usher

in Green Revolution

2.0 to promote less

PNS NEW DELHI

water-intensive crops



overseas investment in making components for satellites, as part of efforts to attract overseas players and private companies into the segment.

Now, the satellite sub-sector has been divided into three different activities with defined limits for foreign investment in

each such sector, according to

an official statement. Presently, FDI in the space sector is allowed up to 100 per cent in the area of satellite establishment and operations through government route only.

policy, the government has allowed up to 74 per cent FDI under automatic route in satellite-manufacturing and operation, satellite data products, and ground and user seg-

Beyond this limit, government approval will be required in these areas for FDI, it said.

Uber signs MoU with govt-backed ONDC to expand its mobility offerings

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Uber, one of India's leading ridesharing platforms, on Thursday signed with Open Network for Digital Commerce to explore an integration with the network to expand the range of mobility offerings on the Uber app.

The agreement with Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), a private non-profit organisation established by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade of Government of India, stands to strengthen Uber's mission of bringing safe, affordable and reliable rides to all Indians.

At an event in Bengaluru, Uber's global CEO Dara Khosrowshahi, who is in India currently, spoke with Infosys Chairman Nandan Nilekani on the subject of 'Building Population Scale Technology. Khosrowshahi said companies and governments around the world can learn from the scale and ambition of India's Digital

Glenmark Pharma eyes US\$ 80mn from Ryaltris sales next year

PNS NEW DELHI

India needs to usher in Green Revolution 2.0 with a view to promote farming of less waterintensive crops such as pulses and oil seeds and discourage free power for the agri sector, economic think tank GTRI said on Thursday.

There is a need to "promote less water-intensive crops like pulses, oil seeds, and vegetables that can significantly reduce water demand and the government can guarantee MSP (minimum support price) on these crops.'

Glenmark Pharmaceuticals expects its nasal spray Ryaltris to hit about USD 80 million in sales next year, boosting its overall revenue, according to a top company executive. The drug firm has so far commercialised the product in 31 geographies across the globe.

Ryaltris is indicated for symptomatic treatment of seasonal and perennial allergic rhinitis in adults and children over 12 years of age. The drug relieves symp-

toms of allergic rhinitis,

nose, nasal itching, sneezing, as well as itchy, red and watery eyes. "Ryaltris is a huge product for us, right? I mean next year, we anticipate sales of close to about USD 80-odd million. So it's a very large product already in a short time," Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Chairman

including stuffy nose, runny

Glenn Saldanha said. The company is yet to launch the product in many of the major markets like China and Brazil, he added. Further, Saldana said, "So

and Managing Director

I think from peak sales, this will be a substantial product for us, right, over the next five years. And in terms of market share, if we end up with like 15-20 per cent right off the market. I think we would have done really well with this product."

Public Infrastructure (DPI). SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LTD.

Sealed tenders are invited through Open tender from eligible contractors for Carrying out various Electrical works in Operation division, Narayanpet. All Information can be obtained from the website: www.tssouthernpower.com Division Office. Phone No.:7901093692. Note: For Open Tender Works

TENDER NOTICE NO. 03/2023-24

Operation :: Narayanpet

Purchase Schedules from Division Office Narayanpet.

'Reforms over last 10 yrs lay foundation of solid growth'

PNS NEW DELHI

Strong reform measures initiated by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government in the last ten years have laid the foundation of a solid economic growth in coming decades, Jefferies

Equity Research outlook said. It also said that India would become the third largest economy by 2027 and expected to achieve a market capitalization of US\$ 10 trillion by 2030.

'With a consistent history of 10-12 pe cent CAGR (compound annual growth rate) over the last 10 and 20 years, India is now the fifth

largest equity market and market cap will likely to touch US\$ 10 trillion by 2030," the report said. It added that continued

reforms should maintain India's status of being the fastest growing large econo-Over the last 10 years, India's GDP has grown by 7

per cent CAGR in US\$

terms to US\$ 3.6 trillion,

jumping from the eighth largest to the fifth largest economy. "Over the next 4 years, India's GDP will likely touch US\$ 5 trillion making it the third largest economy by

2027, overtaking Japan and

The young demographics imply that the ratio of working age population is yet to peak, unlike several large economies and other comparable emerging market economies.

Germany, being the fastest growing large economy with the tailwinds of demographics (consistent labour supply), improving institutional strength and improvement in governance," it added.

Further, it said that GST implementation in 2017 simplified taxation and improved trade efficiencies, akin to the formation of Euro, and bankruptcy reforms drove a massive

banking sector balance sheets and improved governance. RERA (Real Estate

Regulation Act) cleaned-up housing sector laying the foundation for a multi-year housing upcycle, it said, adding the government's focus on physical (roads, airports, railways etc) and digital infra (UID, UPI, DBT) has helped the startup ecosystem.

It added that India, with the highest population in the world, also features favourable demographics with a vibrant and young population, whose average age is just a tad below 30

graphics imply that the ratio of working age population is yet to peak, unlike several large economies and other comparable emerging market economies," it said.

The report added that a strong earnings growth pro-file, track-record of generating peer beating returns, rising India market weight and deep markets should attract incremental foreign flows. "The Indian markets saw USD 20 billion of equity flows in 2023, though it was not as high as compared to previous levels as a percentage of market cap," it added.

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION 'E' PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE NIT No. 56/EE-6/CRZ /GHMC/2023-24 Nature of the Work: CC Roads, CC Patches works etc., Est. Cost. Rs. 123.15 Lakhs.

For 1 to 26: Download Start Date & Time: 23.02.2024 at 04.00 P.M. Last Date Receipt of Bids: 26.02.2024 at 04.00 P.M. Name & Address Officer, Cell No.: Sri. M. PEER SINGH EE Div-6, CRZ, GHMC, Hyderabad. Ph. No. 9154960551. For further details can be seen at e-procurement @ www.tender.eprocurement.gov.in. Note: 1% EMD should be obtained after the date of tender notice. R.O.No: 10171-PRICL/ADV1/12023-34, Dt. 22.02.2024

OFFICE OF THE KARIMNAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

tages of civil works for achieving quality of works (usually costing above 1.00 lakh) by MCK

"Corrigendum to EOI" Engaging of Consultancy services for 3rd party to conduct appropriate tests at differe

Instead of the following Start Date: 14-02-2024-04.00 PM Bid Document Downloading Start Date 21-02-2024-04.00 PM READ AS Bid Document Downloading End Date : 28-02-2024-04.00 PM

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Friday February 23, 2024

Pavail Gulati is 'glad' his trip to Kerala 'didn't get cancelled'

SHIKHA DUGGAL

A ctor Pavail Gulati, well known for playing Taapsee Pannu's co-star in *Thappad*, was recently sighted exploring the Malabar coast. He convinced us that he



felt more like he was in paradise throughout our talk about the travel features! Idling around the beaches or the backwaters, he relished every second he spent in Kerela.

He said, "Unfortunately, the music festival I was scheduled

to attend in Kerela was canceled. I had never been to Kerela before, so we all agreed not to postpone the Kerela before, so we all agreed not to postpone trip! I was enamoured with the spotless beaches. What I always search for is a lovely beach with fewer people."

He was struck by how kind the people of Kerela were to him and said,
"I visit some heritage hotels in

Kochi; the architecture is remarkable. Types that should not be overlooked! I would encourage my followers to try 'Nadan Chicken Curry' since I enjoyed it so much that I continued to eat it for every meal of the day. Additionally, each restaurant's rendition varied."

Giving us additional insight into tourism, the *Dobaraa* fame persists, "I started surfing. I tried surfing for the second time, and although I was definitely tired and sunburned after, it was a lot of fun. I attended a one-and-a-half-hour class in the afternoon to get ready for it. Plus, it hurt my back. I believe I have a strong desire

to attempt surfing again, therefore I might be seen in the backwaters. I kayaked in the backwaters as well.

Although quite exhausting, it was worthwhile to see the sunset! I'd never seen water this beautiful, and I could see the sun setting in its mirror reflection. I forgot for a little second that I was in India! I'm very glad the trip didn't get canceled." He thought it would be

enjoyable to vacation in a niche holiday destination. The leading man from *Yudh* said, "Varkala Beach was fantastic, such a gorgeous place. I frequently visit Goa and have been to many of its beaches, but the beach in Kerela was completely different. That beach looked as

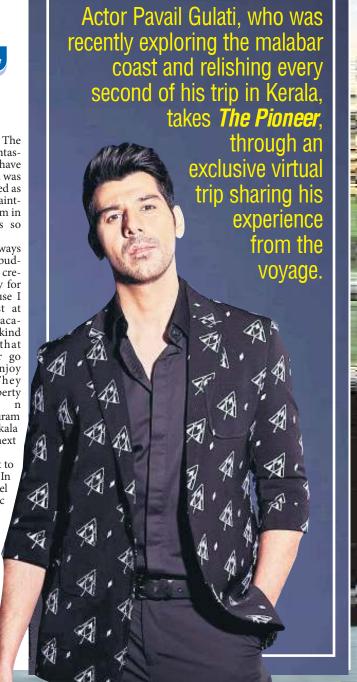
though it was straight out of a painting. It was wonderful to swim in the water since it was so

> He went on, "I always leave it up to my bud-dies to book and create the itinerary for all of us because I am the worst at organizing vacations. I'm the kind of person that would rather go there and enjoy myself! They reserved a property

Thiruvananthapuram close to the Varkala beach. It was right next to the sea!

And I was staring out to sea while sipping my coffee. In Kochi, even the Trident Hotel was enjoyable. Sadly, all of the historic

hotels were booked up! In a general sense, the Faadu star states, "I immediately go to my mom's house in Delhi whenever I am under a lot of stress after finishing a demanding film schedule. I take time to spend with my pet and family. That is the one location where I truly feel loved and safe. Being a Mumma's boy makes me happy. And since I already know Anurag Kashyap is an avid traveler and foodie, I would really love to go on a trip with him sometime. He shares all of his travel experiences with me, so why not invite him along on my industry travels?'



'I feel very nice when I get trolled because if you're getting trolled, it means people know you' Actor Mohammad Nazim Khilji, who

TEJAL SINHA

very actor has that one character in their journey, and the audience will remember them forever. The same has it been for Mohammad Nazim Khilji. If you actually wonder who it is, then he is none other than Ahem Modi aka Ahem Ji from the popularly watched show Saath Nibhana Saathiya. Though, it's not a big thing for him, however, he feels good knowing that people recognise him as Ahem Modi. In fact, they even Google to find out his real name,

Mohammad Nazim.

"I've learned a lot from my character, Ahem," begins the Saath Nibhana Saathiya fame. "He's close to his family, a real 'Mumma's Boy,' and

I'm the same. I'm very

close to my family. The

most important lesson I've learned is that no matter who you are, you must always be there for your family and support them. Having your family acters, our show is also receiving with you is invaluable." a lot of love." Basically, he had never thought about typecasting issues when he

doing the show Saath Nibhaana Saathiya. "I felt like this was one of the best characters made specifically for me. I believe there's something made for everyone, something they deserve. After Saath Nibhaana Saathiya, I've played negative characters, done main leads, and taken on lots of roles. But I do wish could play more characters like Ahem Modi. If I were to get something like that, I

would be very happy."

Though post-Saath Nibhana Saathiya he has starred in multiple other projects like Laal Ishq, Udaan Sapnon Ki, Bahu Begun, Tera Mera Saath Rahe, and even in Punjabi Films, there has been a constant recognition or let's say tag of Ahem ji. So, "There are so many serials and many actors who play lead roles, but they still have to introduce themselves. However, I'm happy that people recognise me as Ahem. I've been working in the industry for 14-15 years, and many people know who I am. There's a character that people love to watch. I still receive many messages from my fans; they still love the show. Like Salman Khan and Shah Rukh Khan, who are also known for their famous movie char-

> Now, the actor is all set to play the character of a cop in Alt Balaji's upcoming series *Backroad*. He is all set to give viewers a thrilling and memorable experience with his new character. So taking us through how it all happened, he says, "I had given the test, and at that time, my hair was short.
> They said the cop character
> suited me perfectly. The
> role was very powerful and bold,

date, his upcoming series, and more. even though it was very different from what I had done before. It was challenging for me as well. I wondered how my fans would react to seeing me in a totally different avatar. Would they like it or

is popularly known

for his character

candid with

Ahem Modi, gets

The Pioneer about

being recognised as

the character to

not? But they are loving it."

He further adds, "The show is bold, and it's all about this generation and how they operate. If they want something, they'll do whatever it takes to get it done. There's an awareness of drugs, and the story revolves around college-going students and how they live their lives. But in the end, work is work, and we have to

Recently, many of his Instagram reel videos have gone viral and netizens have trolled him miserably saying Rehem ji, Vehem ji, Gopi Bahu inka phone bhi dho do, etc., but he dealt them in a different way: "It's not a big thing; you should expect to get trolled. I feel very nice when

I get trolled because if you're get-ting trolled, it means people know you. It's good. I don't pay attention to those trolls."

"If there is any action involved, I focus on my fitness. If it's a comedy character, I create myself to fit that role. I have a jolly nature, but often people perceive me as serious or rude until they meet me and realize otherwise. Whenever I'm offered a character, my criteria is whether I'll suit the role. We have to mold ourselves into the character. Whenever I get a project as an artist, I prepare myself thoroughly for the role before working in front of the camera," shared the trending man on the internet right now.

Get the inside scoop before you plan your cosmetic surgery

ith a \$9 billion market, India ranks as the tenth-largest medical tourism hub world-tenth-largest medical tourism hub world-dissatisfaction with results. wide at the moment. These days, a large portion of it is being increased by people travelling for cosmetic surgery. According to a research by Mordor Intelligence, the Indian cosmetics market is anticipated to increase at a cumulative yearly growth rate, or CAGR, of 4.23 percent between 2022 and 2023

Cosmetic surgery involves procedures aimed at enhancing one's appearance. While these surgeries can offer significant benefits, it's essential to carefully weigh the pros and cons before making a decision. Understanding the risks, benefits, and necessory processing a gravital for it is in the constant. sary precautions is crucial for individuals considering cosmetic procedures. Here, we'll explore the pros and cons of cosmetic surgery, along with important time to consider the considering tant tips to consider.

PROS OF COSMETIC SURGERY:

- 1. Enhanced self-esteem: It can improve selfesteem and mental well-being by enhancing one's
- 2. Correction of physical abnormalities: The procedures can fix physical deformities, improving both looks and function.
- 3. Rejuvenation effects: It can reverse signs of ageing for a younger look.
- **4. Improved body proportions :** Breast augmentation or liposuction can improve body symmetry and proportions.

CONS OF COSMETIC SURGERY:

1. Risks and complications: It has risks like infec-

- 2. Financial burden: Cosmetic surgeries are costly and often not covered by insurance, limiting acces-
- 3. Unrealistic expectations: Cosmetic surgery patients may have unrealistic expectations, leading to disappointment if results fall short.
- 4. Recovery time and discomfort: Cosmetic surgery recovery can involve downtime and discomfort, affecting daily activities and lifestyle temporar-

TIPS BEFORE PLANNING **COSMETIC SURGERY:**

- 1. Research thoroughly: Before undergoing any procedure, it's important to educate yourself about the potential risks, benefits, and outcomes.
- **2.** Choose a qualified surgeon: Check if your surgeon is board-certified, experienced, and has a good
- **3. Have realistic expectations:** Discuss your goals and expectations with your surgeon to ensure they are achievable and realistic.
- 4. Understand the recovery process: Follow your surgeon's post-operative instructions carefully for
- (The author, Dr. Shireen Furtado, is a Sr. Consultant - Medical and Cosmetic Dermatology at Aster CMI Hospital.)





what's brewing?













Siri Shopping Mall Silks & Jewelleries at Kothapet, which was graced by the owners Shanapati Ramesh and Chetan. Siri Shopping Mall offers its customers the best shopping experience with the latest fashion garments. Benares silk, Pure Soft Brocade, Soshti Stone, Ikkat Saree, Designer Uppada Silk, Malay Silk, Designer Silk, and Kubera





Saptaparni, showcasing the artistic talents of about 30 children from the twin cities. Guided by Ohryu Rekha Reddy, Sub Grandmaster of the Ohara School of Ikebana, the exhibition opened its doors on Wednesday, following a week-long practice workshop. The event was graced by the presence of the Consul-General of Japan in Chennai, Taga Masayuki, as the Chief Guest.









With the divine presence of his Holiness Sri Sri Sri Tridandi Chinna Srimannaraya Ramanuja Jeeyar Swamiji, the Prana Prathista Mahotsavam will be held on March 6 at Swarnagiri Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple, Yadadri Tirumala Devasthanam, in Manepalli Hills. Ahead of the mahotsavam, the calendar was launced at the





Haldiram's strengthened its presence in Hyderabad with the launch of its new Quick Service Restaurant (QSR) in the vibrant locale of Begumpet. The new restaurant marks a significant milestone for Haldiram's as it expands its footprint in Hyderabad, with a total of 10 QSRs in the city. Having unveiled its first QSR in the upscale neighborhood of Begumpet, Haldiram's has brought its diverse range of dishes, including the restaurant's standout offering - the South Indian Thali, closer to residents and office-goers in the area

Photos by- SV Chary

ARCHIE

devasthanam.







CALVIN AND HOBBES



REALITY CHECK

WHY DON'T YOU TAKE

YOUR JACKET OFF AND

STAY A WHILE?



SPEED BUMP

GOOD NEWS! YOUR

CURROGITY HAS BEEN





GARFIELD



NANCY, IF YOU APPLY YOURSELF I THINK YOU CAN ACHIEVE GREAT THINGS

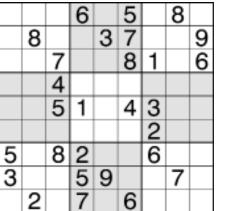








SUDOKU

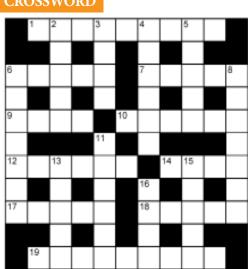




Yesterday's solution								
4	7	1	8	9	2	3	5	6
8	5	9	6	3	4	2	7	1
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6	8	2	1	7	3	5	4	9
9	1	4	5	2	8	7	6	3
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- Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9)
- exactly once. • The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

CROSSWORD



ACROSS 8 A bone where your

- 1 A pain in your mouth 6 Speed competitions
- 7 Intoxicated
- 9 Passenger's payment
- 10 Plan
- 12 Do again
- 14 Bathroom powder
- 17 Rub out 18 Woolly animal

4 Drug-dependent person

19 A huge seabird

DOWN 2 Happen

3 Try out

6 Umpire

5 Residence

leg bends

places

16 Consumer

11 Take a photo with this

13 A gem from an oyster

15 Parts of countries or

HEY, JUGEARS. NOW YOU'RE A BIT LIGHTER ON YOUR FEET, JOIN US FOR A GAME OF CRICKET?

GINGER MEGGS









Rashi Singh: *Bhoothaddam Bhaskar Narayana* ended up helping my career

SHIKHA DUGGAL

Actress Rashi Singh, who is all set to woo the audience with her upcoming film Bhoothaddam Bhaskar Narayana, gets candid with *The Pioneer*, sharing insights about the film, her character, and more.

tion of debutant filmmaker Purushottam Raj and Co., the eagerly awaited mystery crime thriller Bhoothaddam Bhaskar Narayana, which stars Shiva Kandukuri as the lead detective, and Rashi Singh as the lead-

ing lady, we were even more thrilled to provide to you an additional exclusive interview featuring the lead actress from the soon-to-be released movie.

Rashi Singh says candidly, "I blame my rapid rise in content consumption after the pandemic on being idle! Upon observing the millions of viewers captivated by the shows or movies,
I noticed that the majority came from the thriller genre. It inspired me to be the lead in a movie like

this! I have a lot of creative freedom with this specific character. I had almost minimal roles in any of the movies I had been in up to this point, but Bhoothaddam Bhaskar Narayana ended up helping my career." Prem Kumar fame doesn't stop there. "I am blazing brightly with my character in this movie, from the beginning to the very end. My face is completely devoid of makeup. I'm not portray-ing a sultry role here; instead, this

movie has a really natural aesthetic." Before the filming started, Rashi remembered a very humorous incident: "I was listening to two scripts at the same time. Even though I wasn't supposed to go for the audition, Bhoothaddam Bhaskar Narayana succeeded where the last one failed. The producer just so happened to be free, and they had yet to lock their lead actress. With great assertiveness, the director warned me that Rashi shouldn't anticipate any glamour in this movie. In fact, I replied with the same

fervor, sir, adding that this is exactly what I desire at this point in my career. I had to tell him that I'm not only a beautiful face; I'm an actress.'

She elaborated on her thrilling experience in the movie, saying, "We did-n't get the impression that Purushottam Raj was directing his first Telugu movie in any scene. Even I, as an actress, lacked the ten percent clarity that belonged to my director. I've witnessed a lot of filmmakers adopt ideas from their assistant directors, but this particular director refused to let the producer or the actor control him. He didn't need "extra gyaan" because he was clear in his own right. Instead, he offered me complete freedom to characterise the part however I see fit. Don't over prepare."

The actress mumbles, "I haven't seen a film yet that has a touch of mythology, crime, and a murder mystery all at once," as an insider from the movie. "And the investigating procedure is really cutting edge! Secondly, we had to depict the part in a positive light since we couldn't have let the stakes get too high for us. We could not have created a negative narrative about mythology in any way because we are all aware of their spiritual connection to the Almighty."

"My dream role is to play the character of Queen Padmavati—I have watched the film multiple times and still get goosebumps," the actress said in a generic closing statement. "Nobody is more adept at portraying these roles than Deepika Padukone! It's

also difficult to learn the South Indian language when you're from the North, where the language is scarcely known. There are still many lovely South languages that people are ignorant of. Some refer to it as Madrasi, which is a misleading phrase. That is an issue in our society! At the moment, I have erased all of my early obstacles in this field since I have overcome them all.

Chandini Chowdary in & as Jahnavi in Gaami

vishwak Sen's upcoming film, *Gaami*, has sent ripples of excit ripples of excitement through the audience with its captivating first look poster. The poster offers a glimpse into the mystical world of the film, setting the stage for what promises to be a unique cinematic experience. Adding to the anticipation, the recently released teaser introduces a myriad of maracters, culminating in Vishwak Sen's portrayal of a reclusive Aghori. The plot unfolds as Vishwak Sen's character, grappling with a rare human condition,

embarking on a journey to an

uncharted territory in search

of a cure. The teaser hints at a compelling narrative, and the inclusion of actress Chandini Chowdary adds an extra layer of intrigue. Chandini, seen in the teaser as a researcher, dons a simple yet classy look, carrying a bag and wearing glasses. Today, the unveiling of the first look poster for her character Jahnavi, has only heightened the curiosity surrounding her role After the success of Colour Photo, Chandini Chowdary's career trajectory faced some challenges with her subsequent projects. However, Gaami holds the potential to be a turning point for her. The buzz surrounding the film suggests that it could be the vehicle that propels Chandini back into the limelight, opening doors to more diverse and engaging roles. As the countdown to the release continues, fans can mark their calendars for the unveiling of the *Gaami* trailer on February 29th. The film is scheduled to hit screens on March 8th, 2024, coinclaing with the auspicious occasion of Maha Shivaratri. With a promising storyline, a stellar cast, and an enticing teaser, Gaami is poised to make a significant impact in the realm of Telugu



he hilarious trio is back as Bang Bros for the upcoming film directed by Sree Harsha Konuganti of Husharu fame. The Bang Bros- Sree Vishnu, Priyadarshi, and Rahul Ramakrishna are all set to offer a crazy fun ride. Titled Om Bheem Bush, Celluloid and Sunil Balusu together bankroll the project, while UV Creations presents it. After grabbing

attention with the pre-look glimpse, the makers came up with the first-look poster. The glimpse showed three

astronauts entering the Earth on a spaceship with detonating devices in their hands. The first look poster shows the trio Sree Vishnu. Privadarshi, and Rahul Ramakrishna walking stylishly with some pamphlets in their hands in a rural area. They all dressed up in astronaut costumes. The first look creates mirth

Sree Vishnu is known for his unique comedy timing and the actor is riding high with the success of his last movie Samaiavaragamana. So he is set to enthrall in another comical character now! Priyadarshi and Rahul Ramakrishna combo always offered comic

Om Bheem Bush is a mantra chanted in Tantric practices and there is also a fun side to it with kids chanting it while playing. The caption No Logic Only Magic prepares us to get entertained and not to think very much about logic. The presence of the hilarious combo alone hints at the kind of hilarity that is there in the movie

Sree Harsha Konuganti who proved his mettle in his directorial debut Husharu is readying a much crazier and hilarious film that is going to be entertaining from start to end. Each character is very crucial and is designed amusingly.

Preethi Mukundhan and Ayesha Khan are the heroines in the movie where Srikanth Iyengar, Aditya Menon, and Racha Ravi will be seen in important

The shoot of Om Bheem Bush was already completed and the makers through the poster announced the release of the movie on March 22nd. So, get ready for the laugh riot in summer!

Sree Vishnu and Priyadarshi's film titled Om Bheem Bush



pasana Konidela, recently surprised and delighted fans with the news that she and her husband are planning to have a second child. The announcement was made during a recent program where Upasana spoke about the importance of women's health and empowerment. Upasana and Ram Charan welcomed their first child, a daughter named Klinkara, in 2022 after 11 years of mar-

vate about their personal lives, but they have always expressed their desire to have more children.

Upasana's decision to have a second child is a significant step for her and her family. It shows her commitment to motherhood and her belief in the importance of family. It is also a sign of her confidence in her ability to balance her career and personal life. Upasana's announcement has been met with positive reac-

The couple has been very pri-tions from fans and wellwishers. Many have taken to social media to congratulate the couple and express their excitement at the prospect of another little one joining the

teaser of the

much awaited film. This

stunning teaser at Begumpet

Saturday, makers are unveiling the

Konidela family. The news of Upasana having a second child is sure to bring joy and happiness to the Konidela family and their fans. It is a testament to the couple's love for each other and their desire to build a happy and fulfilling life

Geethanjali Malli Vachindhi teaser launch event will be held at **Begumpet graveyard on Feb 24**



and Malayalam languages in early 2024. Along Reddy, Satyam Shankar, Satya, Sunil, Ravi Shankar,

graveyard at 7PM. As the

film is connected to hor-

Srikanth Iyyengar are playing the lead roles in this sequel. The makers roped in popular actor Rahul Madhav from the Mala yalam film

industry too. This is his Telugu debut. Makers are confident that this sequel will surpass all horror comedy genre films.
The plot of this movie will take place in Hyderabad and Ooty.



Shaitaan promises an edge-ofthe-seat supernatural thriller

¬he highly anticipated supernatural thriller starring Ajay Devgn, Jyotika and R Madhavan has captured the intrigue of moviegoers since its teaser release. The film brings together powerhouse talents and promises a thrilling experience like never before.

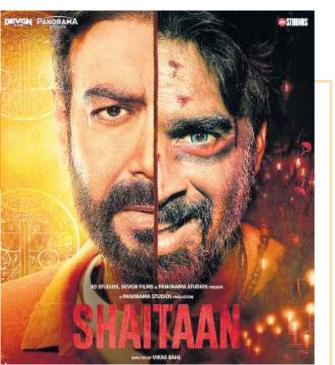
To further pique audience excitement, team Shaitaan gathered in Mumbai to launch the much-awaited trailer of

the film. As expected, the trailer takes us on a rollercoaster ride of heart-thumping adrenaline moments, giving a glimpse into the world of *Shaitaan*.

The film takes the audience on a journey with Kabir and his family as their fun weekend retreat takes a nightmarish turn when they let a friendly but mysterious stranger into their house. As the clock ticks, the family will

be forced to confront their worst fears in this gripping tale that deals with the sinister elements of Indian black magic.
Presented by Jio Studios,

Devgn Films and Panorama Studios, *Shaitaan* is produced by Ajay Devgn, Jyoti Deshpande, Kumar Mangat Pathak and Abhishek Pathak and directed by Vikas Bahl. It is set theatrically on March 8,



INDIA EYE 17TH SERIES WIN ON TROT AT HOME Whether it is Yashasvi Jaiswal, who has maintained an ENGLAND AIM FOR REDEMPTION IN 4TH TEST that Axar Patel would be recalled. The team is expected have helped the likes of Zak

Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah's absence is a concern but or concern but an assertive and adaptive India will have the edge against England's seemingly depth-less 'Bazball' approach when the two sides deep in the protection. clash in the potentially series-deciding fourth Test beginning here on Friday.

From the dry heat of Rajkot to the much cooler confines of Ranchi, the temperature shift would be the only soothing factor for the Englishmen who have let it slip against the resilient hosts and are trailing

Eyeing a 17th series win on the trot at home, India have been near invincible since the shock defeat to Alastair Cook's England in 2012. After that, India have won a staggering 38 out of 47 Tests, and have lost just thrice (two each versus Australia and England) when challenges on home turf.

Captaining a depleted batting line-up in the absence of Virat Kohli, KL Rahul and an out-ofform Shreyas Iyer, Rohit Sharma has found answers from the young guns, whose performance has been the biggest takeaway from the

impressive average of 109 with impressive average of 109 with a total of 545 runs, or Sarfaraz Khan, who ended his prolonged wait for a Test debut with a blazing 66-ball 62 in Rajkot, or Shubman Gill, gradually settling in at No.3, India's next generation of batters are showcasing how a seamless transition happens. seamless transition happens. As for replacing Bumrah, who has been the top wicket-taker (17) of the series which was expected to be dominated by spinners, it could well be India's Achilles' heel in Ranchi.

His reverse-swing mastery on day two of the Vizag Test during a six-wicket burst, was the biggest contributing factor in the 106-run win that levelled the series 1-1.

Bumrah has been rested after bowling a little more than 80

overs in the three gone-by

On a docile Rajkot wicket too, Bumrah made in-roads giving India crucial breakthroughs. Keeping in mind the seaming conditions in Dharamsala for the fifth Test and the hectic IPL season ahead, Bumrah has been given a break, making Mohammed Siraj the sole experienced pacer in the lineup. It will be a toss-up between



Bengal duo of Mukesh Kumar and an uncapped Akash Deep for the second pacer's slot in

Ranchi. Fresh from his career-best 10wicket haul in Ranji Trophy, Mukesh is not only more experienced but also partnered Bumrah in the Vizag Test. He, however, bowled just 12 overs taking one wicket across both

innings. It remains to be seen whether the Indian think-tank will take the gamble of giving another debut cap or persist with Mukesh, who has been average at best.

History suggests that the JSCA Stadium pitch will suit a plan featuring two seamers and three spinners. But England's assessment of

attack would be ideal. "It's an interesting pitch...There

are a few cracks, very platey and looked a bit crusty, the top layer, One half is good, and the other has a lot of platey cracks," England vice-captain Ollie Pope had said after the team checked in here on Thursday.

the conditions has been that

four spinners and one seamer

That may bring Shoaib Bashir into the picture to go alongside Tom Hartley, Rehan Ahmed and part-timer Joe Root. Root has more overs (107) under his belt than runs (77) in this

India, on the other hand, have preferred the conventional two-pacer-three-spinner combination and it's unlikely

series.

recalled. The team is expected to stick to Ravichandran Ashwin, Kuldeep Yadav and Ravindra Jadeja.

Historically, the Ranchi pitch has proven deceptive for the

visiting teams.
In the last Test here in 2019, South Africa were blown away by the duo of Mohammed Shami and Umesh Yadav, who shared 10 wickets between them, as against the eight by the spin trio of Ashwin, Jadeja and Shahbaz Nadeem.

"It has never been a rank-"It has never been a rank-turner. The pitch would be beautiful for batting for first two days and would assist spin from day three. History should repeat itself," the local groundsman told PTI. For the 'Bazball' inspired England, the win in Hyderabad has become a distant memory

has become a distant memory and a repeat of 2021 looks likely when India bounced back to win the four-Test series

The record 434-run thrashing in Rajkot has triggered criticism of England's so-called aggressive 'Bazball' approach. It seems to have found a match in India after tasting success against New Zealand, South Africa and Pakistan and Australia to an extent.

have helped the likes of Zak Crawley and Ben Duckett, who swung his bat around for a stunning 153 in Rajkot, but it has also doomed the likes of Joe Root and Jonny Bairstow. Root was seen as their main batter to cope with the spin challenge but the way he reverse scooped to Bumrah at Rajkot summed up the disarray he is in.

The desperation to find a way out can be judged from skipper Ben Stokes expediting his rehab from a knee injury by opting to bowl at the nets ahead of the fourth Test.

INDIA: Rohit Sharma (C), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, Rajat Patidar, Sarfaraz Khan, Dhruv Jurel (WK), KS Bharat (WK), Devdutt Padikkal, R Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohd. Siraj, Mukesh Kumar, Akash Deep.

ENGLAND: Ben Stokes (C), Rehan Ahmed, James Anderson, Gus Atkinson, Jonny Bairstow, Shoaib Bashir, Harry Brook, Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ben Foakes, Tom Hartley, Jack Leach, Ollie Pope, Ollie Robinson, Joe Root,



Rathour praises Indian young guns

PTI RANCHI

The astonishing, inspiring and quick success of youngsters like Yashaswi Jaiswal and Sarfaraz Khan at the highest level is a good advertisement for the country's robust domestic circuit which has made them "cricket smart" who can handle Test match pressure, reckons India's cricket, that the batting coach Vikram Rathour. cricket smart." Jaiswal is just six-Test old but the 22-year-old Mumbaikar at a time when Virat Kohli is already has two double hundreds under his belt. His expressive and fearless batting against a strong England side has earned him praise from the pundits of the game and fans alike.

His Ranji teammate Sarfaraz too has made a confident start to his Test career, scoring pacy half-centuries in both his

innings in Rajkot on debut. Sarfaraz had scored a monumental 439-run knock as a 12-year-old in a 2009 Harris Shield match, hinting at a

bright future. "It is good for the team but it's better for them. Once you get to this level and start playing Test cricket, everything said and done, there are nerves, there is some pressure, but if moment."

you get a good start, nothing better than that," Rathour said on the eve of the fourth Test

against England.
"And the young players who have come in the team have got a good start and it feels good. They have cricket intelligence in them, which is again a great sign. It's a great message, coming from Indian domestic cricket, that the new players are

not part of the gruelling five-match home series, KL Rahul could play only one game and Shreyas Iyer has been dropped for lack of form.

"It is tough to miss key players, it's better for the team if everyone is available but a series like this is a good opportunity for the young players, who have played on these wickets to establish themselves.

There is always belief that our domestic cricket is so strong, you are pretty assured that whoever comes has come through after doing good. We don't know what is going to happen when KL Rahul, Virat come back in. That is not a concern at the

Bowling full tilt at nets raised hopes of Ben Stokes rolling his arms over in the fourth Test against India but the England captain on Thursday preferred to keep the suspense over his availability as a bowler here.

Due to issues with his knee, Stokes has been playing only as a batter since the second Ashes Test last June. However, he was seen bowling extensively at the nets on the eve of

the fourth Test. Asked about the possibility of him bowling in the match, Stokes said, "Nah, I think it's maybe, maybe not." Stokes said going in with two pacers is the best option for England, forcing them to include the tall Ollie Robinson in the playing XI, even though the Ranchi track is likely to

assist the spinners. "Bringing Robbo (Robinson) in gives us good options, especially looking at this wicket," Stokes said at the pre-

match media interaction. "I feel like the spin will be assisted, but I also feel having two seamers gives us a good chance purely because of Ollie Robinson's release height and his relentlessness with his areas."

The 30-year-old Robinson, who last played in the Ashes, has come at the expense of Mark Wood, while Shoaib Bashir replaced leg-spinner Rehan Ahmed. "You look at the player Mark is, especially with the ball, you want someone like that operating at 100 per

"His number one skill is how fast he bowls and the effort he put in last week was monumental. You want to be able to keep players like that on the



field operating at that level. "We do like to look at the pitch two days out and one day out, because that's how we like to pick our XIs. You want to give yourself some idea or some indication about what XI you think is

going to give you the best chance.
"Looking at that, I think there is going to be assistance for spin, but I think also it looks like someone like Bash (Bashir), who releases the ball from

(Bashir), who releases the ball from such a high release point, the extra bounce that he gets, we feel, is going to bring us more into the game."

'DON'T PREJUDGE THE PITCH TOO MUCH': Stokes added spice to the talks on Ranchi pitch, saying he has not seen anything remotely like the 22-yard strip here in the past. But he also stated that it's not fair to have "preconceived ideas" about the pitch "preconceived ideas" about the pitch.
"We get asked about the pitch and we

give our opinion, but that doesn't mean we are going in with too many preconceived ideas. The pitch could be as flat as a pancake, who knows.

"If it is, we will adapt to that. If it does more than we think it will, we will adapt to that as well. We won't let those conversations seep into what we

England have retained old warhorse James Anderson who is seven shy of reaching the landmark 700 wickets and become the first pacer to achieve the feat.

The 41-year-old has bowled 73 overs in two matches in the series and taken six wickets.

"If you're a young fast bowler, Jimmy Anderson is the one person who you want as your role model. Not only the amount of wickets he's got but the fact that he can keep going at his age.

Focus on young Indian stars as WPL 2nd | Shami ruled out of IPL, edition starts with Mumbai, Delhi face off

PTI ■ BENGALURU

1 the Women's League, Premier beginning here on Friday with a highprofile match between defending champions Mumbai Indians and

runners-up Delhi Capitals, will be optimistic about meeting its existential purpose of giving a wider platform to promising home-grown talents.

The foreign stars glittered brightly in the inaugural edition held in Mumbai, and the Indians will be hoping to hog some of the limelight this year as the tournament takes a multi-city format shape with New Delhi being

the Purple Cap went to Hayley Matthews of Mumbai for taking 16 wickets. Amid this surge of overseas players, the Indian

the other host city.
While Capitals' skipper Meg Lanning, who has now retired from international cricket, took the Orange Cap last year for the highest run-getter,

hope.
Let's take Shreyanka
Patil of Royal
Challengers Bangalore as a case in point. During
WPL 2023, she was a wide-eyed young cricketer
who was awestruck to rub shoulders with some of the finest names in women's cricket.

She played seven matches, but the spotlight was understandably on players such as Smriti Mandhana or Ellyse Perry or Sophie Devine. But in the last 10 months or so, Patil has built a place of her own. She earned her maiden India cap in both Test and ODIs in December last year, besides making her mark in the Caribbean Premier League for the Guyana Amazon Warriors.

struggled

in the previous year, but now some of the young

domestic stars will eye this WPL with genuine

In this interim, the 21-year-old has also added more arrows to her quiver in the form of powerhitting at the death overs.

to undergo ankle surgery

PTI NEW DELHI

generally

Cenior pacer Mohammed Shami has been ruled out of next month's Indian Premier League owing to a left ankle injury, for which he will undergo a surgery in the UK, a BCCI source told PTI on Thursday.

The 33-year-old, who is not part of the ongoing Test series against England, last played for India in the ODI World Cup final against Australia in November.

"Shami was in London in last week of January to take special ankle injections and he was told that after three weeks, he can start light running and take it from thereon.

"But the injection hasn't worked and now the only option left is surgery. He will shortly leave for UK for



surgery. IPL seems out of question," a senior BCCI source said on the condition of anonymity.

Shami, who was one of the architects of India's stupendous World Cup campaign with 24 wickets, played through pain as he had problems with his landing but didn't let it affect his performance.

Shami, who was recently conferred with the Arjuna Award, has 229 Test, 195 ODI and 24 T20 wickets in his decade-long career.

time winners Mumbai Indians.

Having chosen to play their first two home matches in

Visakhapatnam, the Delhi Capitals will host the Chennai

Super Kings on March 31 in the port city and will then face

the Kolkata Knight Riders at the same venue on April 3.

As per the format, 10 teams are

divided into two groups of five.

In the group stage, each team plays 14 games facing the other four sides in their group two times each (home and

away basis, four teams in the

other group once, and the remaining team two times.

Hardik Pandya will be leading

Mumbai Indians for the first

time, having replaced Team India's all-format skipper

sensation Rachin Ravindra

young

Zealand's

Rohit Sharma.

New



Kaun hai tumhara bowler? Tendulkar plays gully cricket in Kashmir

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

He aptly called it a "match made in heaven" as Sachin Tendulkar pleasantly surprised a bunch of youngsters playing gully cricket in Uri, turning his bat upside down at one point just to give the boys a shot at dismissing him.

On his maiden trip to Jammu and Kashmir, Tendulkar got down from his SUV when he saw some young boys playing cricket on the road with a cardboard carton and an empty oil can as their stumps. "Cricket and Kashmir: Match made in heaven," posted Tendulkar on X along with a short video in which he can be seen facing nine balls, watched in awe by the locals.

His wife Anjali can also be seen smiling in the clip which starts with Tendulkar asking the boys, "Hum Khelein? (Shall we play?).

Kaun hai tumhara bowler (Who is your bowler)?" he probed further as he gripped a

Dressed in a brown jacket Tendulkar, who retired from cricket in 2013, played nine deliveries, hitting straight drives and also a scoop shot. There was also an attempted paddle sweep before he turned

the bat upside down and jokingly stated, "Ye out karna padega (you will have to dismiss me)." But even with an upside down bat, Tendulkar was not to be dismissed as he signed off with

will be participating in his maiden IPL following his grand success in the ODI World Cup last year.

CSK talisman Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who has led his team to five IPL titles, has not played any competitive cricket since a smooth drive, fetching a their triumphant campaign round of applause and several smiles.

Holders CSK to take on RCB in IPL opener on March 22 and finalists of the last season going head-to-head with five-

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Defending champions Chennai Super Kings will take on Royal Challengers Bangalore in the 2024 IPL season-opener in Chennai on March 22, the BCCI announced Thursday while unveiling the schedule for the first 17 days of the popular T20 league.

The roster for the remaining matches will be announced once the dates for the upcoming general elections are announced early next month.

During the period from March 22 to April 7, a total of 21 matches will be played across 10 cities, with each team playing a minimum of three matches and a maximum of

As in the past, the BCCI will work closely with government and security agencies, following all necessary protocols and advisories related to the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections in India, the apex cricket body said in a statement.

"Once the dates for the 18th Lok Sabha elections are announced, the Board will

review and address any issues pertaining to the schedule of the first two weeks.

"Subsequently, the BCCI will work in tandem with local authorities to finalise the schedule for the remainder of the season, taking into account the polling dates," the BCCI said.

The general elections are expected to be held in April-

Only in 2009, the IPL, in its entirety, was held overseas (South Africa) while the 2014 edition was partially held in the UAE due to the general

elections. However, in 2019, the tournament was held in India despite the elections.

The first weekend will feature two double headers, beginning with the Punjab Kings hosting the Delhi Capitals on March 23, followed by the Kolkata Knight Riders hosting the Sunrisers Hyderabad in the

day's second game. On March 24, the action will shift to Jaipur, where the home team Rajasthan Royals will face the Lucknow Super Giants. Sunday evening will witness the home team Gujarat Titans, the 2022 champions

