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PM launches world's





QUOTE OF THE DAY the pioneer VIPs are getting killed in road accidents in recent times due to inexperienced drivers. The Transport Department will conduct fitness tests for drivers driving the vehicles of Ministers, MLAs, MLCs, IAS and IPS officials soon. VIPs should choose only the

selected drivers

when they

travel long

distances

- Ponnam Prabhakar, Transport Minister

Resolve all Dharani

applications

CM directs officials

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy asked

officials to resolve all pending

Dharani applications immediately

The Chief Minister told officials to

make arrangements in all Mandal

Tahsildar offices to dispose of

applications in the first week of

March. The CM also directed the

terms and conditions for the

taking into consideration the

Committee. Around 2.45 lakh

applications are pending regarding

the Dharani Portal across the state

The Chief Minister discussed with

officials the possibility of addressing

phase. The CM asked the authorities

to resolve these issues immediately

make arrangements for the same in

without troubling farmers and to

the first week of March. Chief

Minister Revanth Reddy held a

review meeting with the Dharani

Committee at the Secretariat on

all pending applications in the first

suggestions of the Dharani

Revenue Department to formulate

disposal of pending applications by

Modi to inaugurate 554 Amrit...

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate 554 Amrit Stations and 1,500 Road over Bridges (RoBs) worth Rs 1,800 crore of the South Central Railway next August, the SCR announced on Saturday.Modi will also inaugurate 15 railway stations in Telangana, 34 railway stations in Andhra Pradesh, six railway stations in Maharashtra and two railway stations in Karnataka worth Rs 925 crore. The PM will also 156 inaugurate RoBs worth Rs 927.31 crore.The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme..

India, Maldives & Sri Lanka's...

Highlighting the importance of "collaboration and interoperability" among the coast guards personnel of the Maldives. India and Sri Lanka, Maldivian Defence Minister Mohamed Ghassan Maumoon said the trilateral exercise Dosti' will unite the troika to address "shared maritime security concerns through collaboration." Maumoon was speaking at an event to formally inaugurate the 16th iteration of Dosti," the biennial exercise, which began on Thursday and would continue until Sunday. Indian Coast Guard ship Samarth and ICGS...

IRF calls for making seat belts...

International Road Federation (IRF) -- a global road safety body -- has urged the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) to make the use of seat belts mandatory in all heavy vehicles school buses, to minimise casualties and injuries in road accidents. IRF President Emeritus K K Kapila in a letter to MoRTH said there is an urgent need to provide seats belts in buses, which need to be made mandatory. "There have been heart-wrenching passenger bus accidents resulting in loss of innocent... -PAGE: 6

Scientists measure gravity at...

Scientists have measured gravity at the microscopic scale in a new study, which they say paves the way for finding the elusive quantum gravity theory. The gravitational force, originally discovered by physicist and mathematician Isaac Newton, is known to be fundamentally weak gaining prominence and being detectable only at macroscopic scales. Einstein's theory of general relativity - the widely accepted theory of gravity - has been confirmed through experiments multiple times, more recently by directly observing gravitational waves from the merging of two black holes in 2016 and other black hole imaging studies. However, in the quantum realm, or at the atomic scale, how the gravitational force..

THEY HAVE TO CHANGE

DELHI LIQUOR CASE

Will CBI arrest Kavitha?

SNCN ACHARYULU HYDERABAD

The Centre has again become active in the Delhi liquor scam ahead of the Lok Sabha elections and is getting ready to take action against BRS MLC K. Kavitha, the daughter of BRS supremo K. Chandrasekhar

The CBI has summoned Kavitha to appear before them on February 26 in connection with the Delhi liquor scam. Perhaps, Kavitha may ignore the CBI summons like she did in the past when she was summoned by the ED.

February 26 and 28 are crucial days for Kavitha. The Supreme Court protection for Kavitha from arrest and summoning by probe agencies ended on February 16. Now, only the CBI has summoned Kavitha to appear on February 26.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court is taking up the petition filed by Kavitha objecting to the CBI summons in which she said that women should be interrogated only at their residences.

Will Kavitha appear before the CBI on February 26 or not? As the Supreme Court's protection for Kavitha from arrest has ended political observers are interested in knowing whether the CBI will

At the same time, the Supreme tion scheduled on February 28 is till February 16.



also creating interest. During the recent Telangana Assembly elections, the Centre gave the impression that Kavitha may be arrested at any time. But finally, the Centre remained silent on the issue.

With Lok Sabha elections round the corner, the Centre has again become active in the Delhi liquor case. The difference now is that the CBI has named Kavitha as an accused in the Delhi liquor scam.

In March 2023, Kavitha appeared before the ED in New Delhi and was questioned regarding her role in the Delhi liquor scam.

Meanwhile, Kavitha filed a petition in the Supreme Court saying that women should be questioned only at their homes and objected to the ED action summoning her to appear in their office. In this case, the Supreme Court recently extended Kavitha's protection from arrest Court's decision on Kavitha's peti- and summoning by probe agencies

Safety of land records worrying

☐ CM orders probe into agency running Dharani Portal

K VENKATESHWARLU HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy ordered a comprehensive inquiry into the agency running the Dharani

The CM questioned the handing over of the Dharani Portal's maintenance to a private agency instead of the CCLA (Chief Commissioner of Land Administration) which is expected to handle the portal on behalf of the government.

The CM expressed serious concern about the safety of the land records of lakhs of farmers which is now in the hands of foreign companies. Attending a review meeting of the Dharani Committee on Saturday at the Secretariat, the Chief Minister blamed the BRS government for



keeping highly confidential land entrusted the design, development data, Aadhaar and bank account details with the agency and also raised doubts on whether the land records are safe.

The officials informed the CM that the BRS government had

and management of the Dharani Portal to a company named IL&FS based on technical and financial bidding and qualifications in 2018.

Geetha Reddy's absence from Cabinet a shortcoming: CM

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said that the absence of TPCC Working chief guest along with Ministers Jupalli Krishna Rao, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and Ponnam said that Ishwaribai had made her mark in politics inspired by



the Cabinet is a shortcoming. The 33rd death anniversary of J.

President Geetha Reddy (Gitakka) in Ishwaribai was held at the Ravindra Bharati under the auspices of the Telangana Language and Culture Department and the Eshwari Bai Memorial Trust.Chief Minister Revanth attended the function as the

Prabhakar. The CM paid tributes to Eshwari Bai's portrait and visited the photo exhibition at Ravindra Bharati. Speaking on the occasion, Revanth



Continued on Page 2

Screening tests for VIP's drivers soon

PNS HYDERABAD

The Transport Department will conduct tests for drivers driving the vehicles of Ministers, MLAs, MLCs and IAS and IPS officials soon, Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said.

Ponnam said that some VIPs were killed in recent road accidents Minister said that the Transport Department will send letters to all VIPs in this regard. The Minister advised VIPs to appoint only select drivers if they want to travel long



In a chit-chat with scribes at the Gandhi Bhavan on Saturday, Ponnam Prabhakar said that the RTC is suffering from the debts of

Rs 6,000 crore contracted during the BRS government.

The Minister said that women are travelling in TSRTC buses in a big way due to the Mahalaxmi scheme free bus travel. He said that women are visiting all temples in the state and subsequently the revenue increased.

The Minister said that 50 lakh TSRTC buses after introduction of the Mahalaxmi scheme. The RTC is running in benefit path now and that he had purchased new buses.



Revanth trying to create differences, says Subhash

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



to follow in the former Chief

by creating differences between Indians on the eve of the 2024

issue with Seattle officials

Family shocked over decision of authorities

JAAHNAVI CASE

Indian mission raises

PNS ■ WASHINGTON

India's consulate in Seattle has raised with authorities the case of Indian student Jaahnavi Kandula after the prosecution attorney said an overspeed-

ing Seattle police officer who struck and killed her while responding to a drug overdose call will not face any criminal charges citing lack of "sufficient" evidence.

Kandula, 23, from Andhra



ing $\dot{7}4$ mph (more than 119 km/h) on the way to a report of a drug overdose call. Kandula was thrown 100 feet when she was struck by the speeding police patrol vehicle.

was crossing a street in

Seattle on January 23



Chinna Reddy All 3 RS candidates in to head TS **Planning Board**

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana government appointed TPCC Disciplinary Action Committee Chairman Dr G. Chinna Reddy as the Chairman of the Telangana Planning Board on Saturday.

Chinna Reddy was born in Thirumalapur village in Gopalpet mandal in the erstwhile Mahbubnagar district in 1955. He completed his school education in Wanaparthy. He entered student politics in

1970 and contested Assembly elections as a Youth Congress leader in 1985 and lost. However, Chinna Reddy won in 1989 and became Rural Development Minister in the YSR Cabinet in 2004. Before KCR joined the

Telangana movement, Chinna Reddy was in the Telangana MLAs Forum and had raised his voice for a Telangana state.



HYDERABAD

All the three Rajya Sabha candidates contesting in Telangana have criminal cases against them. Four (36%) out of 11 candidates

from Uttar Pradesh, two (33%) of six Candidates from Bihar, two (33%) of six candidates from Maharashtra, one (20%) of five candidates from Madhya Pradesh, two (40%) of five candidates from West Bengal, one (25%) of four candidates from Karnataka, all the three (100%) candidates from Telangana, two (67%) of the three candidates from Rajasthan, one (33%) of the three candidates from Andhra Pradesh, one (33%) of the three candidates from Odisha and the two (100%) candidates from Himachal Pradesh have declared criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits. The Association for Democratic Reforms and National Election Watch analysed

the self-sworn affidavits of 58 of the 59 candidates contesting in the Rajya Sabha elections being held on February 27 for 56 seats in 15 states.



New criminal justice laws from July 1

PNS NEW DELHI

The newly enacted laws -- the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Act -- to completely overhaul the criminal justice system in the country will come into effect from July 1. The three laws got the Parliament's approval on December 21 last vear and President Droupadi Murmu gave her assent on December 25.

Continued on Page 2

Chief Minister R e v a n t h Reddy wants

Minister KCR

Parliament elections, the BJP's TS spokesperson Subhash said.He said that Revanth wanted to win at least a few LS seats in Telangana by creating differences among the people of Telangana.

YADADRI THERMAL POWER PLANT

Bhatti orders officials to speed up

PNS HYDERABAD

Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarkamallu ordered officials to complete the Yadadri Thermal Power Project quickly.

On Saturday, along with Ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy and Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, he visited the thermal project under construction in the Damaracharla mandal of Nalgonda district in a helicopter and held a review meeting with

officials. When asked about the project's progress, he said that 1,600 MW will be generated by two units in September 2024, and 4,000 MW will be generated by five units by March

Earlier, petitions were received Officials were directed to seek the



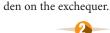
Deputy CM Bhatti addressing officials on Yadadri Thermal Power Project on Saturday. nisters Uttam Kumar Reddy and Komatireddy Venkat Reddy are also seen in the picture

station. The Deputy CM congratulated officials for giving a good presentation on the project's progress.

He said that Ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy and Venkat are aware of the project and said that both of them worked for the project's progress during their MP tenures.

from locals near the thermal power full cooperation of the two ministers for the project's completion.

The thermal plant's outlay increased hugely as the estimated cost of the project was hiked twice and as a result, it has become a bur-



Medaram Jatara ends, drawing 1.35 cr pilgrims

PNS MULUGU

four-day Sammakka-Saralamma Jatara held in the Medaram village of Tadwai mandal ended on Saturday and lakhs of tribal devotees left for their hamlets and villages after paying

obeisance to the tribal goddesses. The Minister for Panchayat Raj, Seetakka, thanked the officials who worked for the success of the Medaram festival. She said that 1.35 crore pilgrims visited Sammakka and Saralamma.

Addressing the media on the last

Lakhs of devotees attending the last day of tibal festival on Saturday in Medaram village

day of the three-day festival on crore for the Medaram Jatara.

Saturday, she pointed out that the government had earmarked Rs 100 departments spared no efforts to

In all, officials of 20 government

make the Jatara a grand success. The TSRTC operated 6,000 buses and 12,000 trips to transport devotees to Medaram. In all, 5,090 people went missing during the festival. Of them, 562 were traced and reunited with their families. 32 children too are in the safe custody of

officials, she noted.
She asked the parents of the missing children to contact Media Point and a missing persons point was set up near Jampanna Vaagu.

In all, 4,000 sanitation workers were engaged to conduct sanitation works at Medaram for 10 days from Monday, she said.

9 IPS promoted; **Stephen** Raveendra ADGP

PNS HYDERABAD

Stephen Raveendra, an IPS officer of the 1999 batch has been empanelled for promotion to the rank of the Additional Director General of Police in the Above Super Time Scale (i) Level 15 in Pay Matrix of IPS (Pay) Rules,

Continued on Page 2



With YouTuber, KTR and Cong on the same page

Bharat Rashtra Samithi leaders may send out feelers about an alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party even while being on the page with the Congress on political matters. BRS MLA KT Rama Rao has been promoting Dhruv Rathee, a YouTuber based out of Germany, who has made a video against Modi. Dhruv Rathee's latest video depicting Modi as a dictator is being amplified extensively by the Congress at the national level. The Congress has posted Dhruv Rathee's video on their official YouTube

channel. Interestingly, at the local level, BRS has been amplifying it. BRS MLA KTR did the honours on X. Mind you, this

is happening at a time when TPCC chief and CM Revanth alone the gathering, TDP leaders and Reddy has been taunting the BRS and BJP of having a secret alliance.

'Congress' contractors' bills cleared

People from various walks of life cannot help dealing with politicians directly or indirectly. However, it pays them always only if they are apolitical. In Telangana, following regime change, only contractors blessed by the governing 'hand' are having a field day. Ironically, most of the bills kept pending by the previous Bharat Rashtra Samithi government, apparently due to political considerations, are being cleared without any visible consideration. That is, bills relating to pro-Congress and Congress leaders, who happen to be also contractors, are being cleared expeditiously. In the erstwhile BRS regime, few bills were cleared and they were not those related to Congress leaders. While Komatireddy brothers, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and others belonging to the ilk are reaping the benefits of the Congress government coming to power, those in the other camp may have to wait indefinitely.

'Break' for CBN-a joke gone awry

The other day, TDP supremo and ex-CM N Chandrababu Naidu's wife N Bhuvaneshwari, who has been campaigning across Andhra Pradesh for her

(Truth must win) yatra, started thinking loudly during a programme at the Kuppam Assembly constituency result-ing in a bit of breaking news spreading like wild fire briefly. Addressing people, she said: "Let me share something and please feel free to react. I felt a certain urge within me. Chandrababu Naidu has been enjoying enduring trust of the people. Kuppam residents have consistently backed him for 35 years. May I suggest that he should take a break, and I should step into the electoral arena?" Let

BRS government, not only scribes but also (present Panchayatraj Minister) Seethakka was not allowed to enter the new Secretariat after its inauguration. Now, the Chief Minister claimed, scribes are visiting every Minister's chamber inside the Secretariat freely.

Scribes write about 'sentimental' CMs and PMs in a sarcastic manner. But their own fraternal colleagues are not beyond sentiments. One of the scribes commented that the Chief Minister will certainly ful-

fil the promise relating to house sites for journalists. For, the one with nose for news for newsmen averred: "The Chief Minister made his promise

at Medaram during Jatara time". In contrast, he recalled the CM's reported comment for effect: "ex-CM K Chandrasekhar Rao paid a heavy price for neglecting the Sammakka-Sarakka Medaram Jatara".

Is media landing **Dharani-Bhumatha in trouble?**

Media persons worth their salt do their job, nothing more and nothing less. As for the Dharani portal, much has been written about its ills during the previous Bharat Rashtra Samithi regime. The Congress government, which had promised to clean up the mess with its own portal called Bhumatha, is perhaps scared of media monitoring of the transition. Otherwise, why would the state government ask the Dharani Committee to take a call on organizing press conferences after every sitting?

It is learnt that Chief Minister A

Revanth Reddy has directed the Dharani Committee members not to conduct press meets after its meeting every time. Scribes on the Secretariat beat, who read between the lines, gathered that the CM was concerned that the right message was not going out through such pressers. So, the CM directed the Committee members, particularly Kisan Congress national vicechairman, not to conduct press meet after every meeting of the Dharani Committee.

> (With inputs from Naveena Ghanate, SNCN Acharyulu and K Venkateshwarlu)

IF THERE WAS NO UNEMPLOYMENT

Youth would not use mobiles 12 hours a day, says Rahul

PNS LUCKNOW

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said youngsters would not be using their mobile phones for 12 hours a day had there been no unemployment

in the country.
Rahul Gandhi said this while addressing a gathering in Sambhal as part of his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra.

The Congress leader's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra reached Sambhal via Moradabad and Amroha, where Congress and Samajwadi Party leaders welcomed Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

Speaking at the Chandausi intersection, Rahul Gandhi asked a man, "How many hours do you use your mobile?" to which he replied, "Twelve

Responding to this, Rahul Gandhi said, "There is no employment in India, that is why you use your mobile phone for 12 hours. Did you know that the sons of big businessmen don't watch Reels, they count money 24 hours (a

day)?"

"If you get employment, you will watch Reels for half an hour and work for 12 hours," the Congress leader said.Rahul Gandhi -- who has claimed several times during the yatra that people from backward

classes, Dalits and SC/ST communities don't hold senior positions -- sharpened his

He said, "If we take out the list of employees of any company take out the list of owners. Not one backward class, Dalit owner will be found. Take out the list of owners of media houses, private colleges or judges of high courts.

attack on their lack of represen-

The same three to four per cent people (from upper castes) keep working in these posi-

Rahul Gandhi also claimed that work is being done to eliminate small farmers and traders.

"You are being starved to death, you are being destroyed. Exam paper gets leaked because these people do not want to provide employment to the youth of India. They cannot provide employment to them," the Congress leader claimed.

Gandhi said he undertook the 4,000-kilometre Bharat Jodo Yatra from Kanyakumari to Kashmir last year because the BJP and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh are spreading hatred in all corners

of the country.

Cornering the media, the Congress leader said,

"Whenever we present our views in the media, the media does not show it. Be it the hard work of workers, unemployment, inflation -- these things are not going to be visible in the media.'

'A shop of love has to open in the market of hatred," Rahul Gandhi said and added, "My work is to fight and eradicate hatred from the country."

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also lashed out at the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh, alleging that bulldozers are used to demolish homes of "innocent people" while the "guilty" escape unscathed.

husband as part of her 'Nijam gelavali'

cadre were also taken aback at her astounding statement. Although the sound bite had spread from Kuppam to Kanyakumari within minutes, Bhuvaneshwari finally said: "I was just teasing. I have no aspirations for any positions. My husband takes care of me well". People are of the view that this 'joke', call it conjugal teasing or whatever, could prove costly for Chandrababu, coming as it does from his own wife.

Why scribes feel at home with Revanth

Scribes hopeful of getting house sites are happy these days, thanks to Chief Minister Anumula Revanth Reddy's resolve to give them their due, which was revealed after his darshan of the deities on Friday at the Sammakka-Sarakka Jatara. The matter would be handled upon the appointment of the Media Committee chairman, he added.

Like at every available opportunity, when newshounds asked him about house sites for scribes, the Chief Minister made it clear: "the Congress government will solve the issue within 100 days". This implies that the present government, which has completed 75 days, needs only 20 plus days maximum for the issue in question. Mentioning that the government "belongs to journalists", the Chief Minister urged scribes to concentrate on writing about the conspiracies of the BRS and the BJP. Drawing a parallel, the Chief

Govt forms

GO 317

Cabinet sub-committee

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana government issued orders setting up a Cabinet Subcommittee to review GO: 317 with Minister Damodara Rajanarsimha as its Chairman. The government

Many employees objected that they have been treated unfairly. The Congress promised in its manifesto that it will review GO: 317 and solve the problem of affected employees.

MLC Balmoor Venkat said, "As promised earlier, allotted employees to new districts as per GO: 317. the first step in addressing

the issues of GO 317 and GO 46 by constituting a 3-member cabinet sub- committee with Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha as its Chairman and Ministers.Sridhar Babu and Ponnam Prabhakar are household members. The sub-committee will thoroughly examine these GOs and make recommendations.

9 IPS promoted; Stephen ...

Continued from page 1

Consequent to empanelment, Stephen Raveendra has been promoted to the rank of Additional Director General of Police and retained in the same post, that is, Addl DGP, Home Guards. The MoS is also placed in Full Additional Charge of Addl DGP Welfare & Sports in Telangana.

Six IPS officers of the Telangana cadre have been empanelled for promotion to the Super Time Scale (ii) in the rank of Inspector General of Police, Level 14 in the Pay Matrix of IPS (Pay) Rules, 2016. This includes Kartikeya, IPS (RR: 2006), who has been retained in the same post as Inspector General of Police, Intelligence.Ramesh Naidu, IPS (SPS: 2006) has been retained in the same post as Managing Director, Telangana State Tourism Development Corporation (TSTDC), Hyderabad, in the rank of Inspector General of Police.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:

Tithi: Pratipada:

Nakshatram:

Purva Phalguni

Uttara Phalguni:

Rahukalam:

Varjyam:

Gulika:

Yamagandam:

Krishna Paksha

Feb 24 06:00 PM

to Feb 25 08:36 PM Feb 25 08:36 PM

to Feb 26 11:16 PM

Feb 24 10:20 PM

Feb 26 01:24 AM

to Feb 26 01:24 AM

to Feb 27 04:30 AM

4:50 PM to 6:17 PM

12:29 PM to 1:56 PM

09:32 AM to 11:20 AM

06:11 PM to 07:59 PM

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

Updated: February 24 2024 5:00 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Partly Cloudy

Temp: 32[∞] Humidity: 62%

Sunset: 6:21 PM

3:23 PM to 4:50 PM

24 die as tractor-trolley falls into stream in UP

PNS KASGANJ

Twenty-four people, including eight children, died when their tractor-trolley overturned and fell into a stream in Uttar Pradesh's Kasganj district on

They said 15 to 20 people

that occurred on the Patiyali-Dariyavganj road under the Patiyali police station area when the occupants of the tractor-trolley were going to take a bath in the Ganga river.

Inspector General of Aligarh Shalabh Mathur Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath were injured in the accident has condoled the loss of lives

in the accident and announced

financial assistance of Rs 2 lakh deceased and Rs 50,000 to the

Bhatti orders officials to...

Continued from page 1

He said that if this project is not completed soon, it will become an unbearable burden. That is why we are focussing on pending projects and also examining the thermal power station, he said.

It was recalled that the project's progress was reviewed in bad earlier. He said that there will be full cooperation from the state govern-

ment for completing the project and in providing jobs to local skilled and unskilled hands.The team of ministers inquired about details of unskilled labourers currently working on the project site and where they hail from. The officials replied that after the project's completion, jobs will be provided to locals.

ing a competent officer to complete the project quickly and that officials should coordinate with ministers and high officials to complete pending roads and rail tracks.

"If officials think that a policv should be formulated for quickly completing projects, the government is ready for it," he said.He said that the world is moving towards renewable energy. "Green energy sources like solar, hydropower and Plant should be completed before they become available," Bhatti said.

He said that the BRS government discriminated against the thermal plants in Yadadri and Bhadradri and that renewable electricity will be available cheaply soon.

He said that BHEL engineers should keep in mind that if the wind energy are increasing. ed soon, the company will get The Yadadri Thermal Power a bad name.

Safety of land...

Continued from page 1

The CM and Dharani Committee members held a detailed discussion on the agency's operations which went bankrupt later and changed its name to Terrasys Technologies Limited, changed all directors and then sold its shares to Falcon Investment Company.

The Chief Minister inquired how the BRS government permitted the agency which won the bid to change its name as it liked and also change com-

The Chief Minister also inquired with officials on whether there are any rules for handing over land records to foreign companies or anyone

Revanth said it was astonishing that the company, which had won the Dharani tender for Rs 116 crore in 2018, sold its shares for around Rs 1,200 crore later.

Resolve all Dharani...

Continued from page 1

Revenue Minister Ponguleti

Srinivasa Reddy, the Chief Adviser to the Chief Minister, Vemnarender Reddy, Dharani Committee Members M. Kodanda Reddy, retired IAS officer Raymond Peter, Advocate Sunil, Retired Special Collector B. Madhusudan, Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari, Revenue Department Principal Secretary Naveen Mithal, the CM's Principal Secretary Seshadri, CCLA officer Lacchi Reddy and other high officials attended the meeting.The Dharani Committee submitted a report to the Chief Minister at the meeting. The report pointed out flaws in the ROR Act (The Telangana Rights in Land and

Pattadar Pass Books Act) which

came into force in 2020. The committee explained to the Chief Minister that a comprehensive cleansing of land records was conducted in haste in just three months and that it created a lot of problems. The same land records have been taken as the parameter and so land disputes increased in the state. As a result, lakhs of land ownership problems came to light. Due to this, even small typographical errors in names have to be corrected by the district collector.The committee brought to the CM's notice that the Revenue Department allowed correcting mistakes in Dharani data through 35 modules, but farmers are facing difficulties as they do not know which modules to apply for.

Geetha Reddy's absence from...

Continued from page 1

He said that Geetha Reddy had pursued a course in medicine.

The CM said that there is a woman behind every man's success and there is a doctor's contribution in every success of Geetha Reddy. He said that he felt it was his responsibility to attend the function and that Geetha Reddy had actively worked as the TPCC's Working President.

He said that Geetha Reddy kept her medical problems aside and participated actively in party programmes and that's why she could win the Assembly seats in Nalgonda

Screening tests... Continued from page 1

The Transport Department acted effectively in Medaram Jatara, he said.

Ponnam said that the government will certainly implement the scheme of giving Rs 12,000 per annum to auto drivers. He said that 450 autos purchased were by the GHMC and that there will be 3030 autos in rural areas.

He said that the Congress government is sincere on the caste census and is thinking of implementing reservations like in Bihar. The government is thinking of setting up a team with Rs 1 lakh capital to do a caste census in Telangana.

The government will conduct a meeting with all parties very soon and the government

is thinking of setting up a commission regarding that, the Minister said.

He said that the Congress government will implement reservations in all sectors after the caste census in the state is

The Minister said the Transport Department will issue driving licenses only if persons pass in all future tests. . He said that the TSRTC is running successfully due to the hard work of drivers and conductors. He said that they had identified RTC assets in the state. RTC targeted Rs 2000 crore through RTC Cargo and that the RTC got only Rs 150 crore now. He said that the RTC has 90 depots and that the RTC will run buses to all parts of the state.

New criminal... national festival, but BJP state President G. Kishan Reddy and other BJP lead-

According to three identical notifications issued by the Union Home Ministry, pro-

Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act of 1872 respectively.

The affidavit of candidate

GC Chandrashekar (INC) contesting from Karnataka was not analysed as it was badly scanned.

two candidates from the BJD

(13%) out of 30 candidates of the BJP, 2 (22%) out of 9 candidates of the INC, 2 (67%) of the 3 candidates from the YSRCP, 1 (33%) of the 3 candidates from the SP, 1 (100%) candidate from the SHS, 1 (100%) candidate from the NCP and 1 (100%) JD(S) candidate have declared assets valued at more than Rs 100

Three (27%) of 11 candidates from Uttar Pradesh,

Rs 100 crore.

Chinna Reddy...

Continued from page 1

However, he fell silent after YSR became the CM of United Andhra Pradesh.

It may be recalled that the Congress first gave Wanaparthy ticket to Chinna Reddy. However, the party later gave the ticket to Thoodi Megha Reddy, who won defeating BRS candidate Singireddy Niranjan Reddy.

The party had assured Chinna Reddy then that it would give him a suitable post. Sticking to its word, the Congress has now given him

Continued from page 1 cerned, it is of great importance for the people of Telangana and in neigh-He knows very well that the Congress cannot win bouring states. There is no any seats in the rest of the mechanism with the Centre country and so he wanted for declaring this Jatra as a

Revanth trying to create...

to save his CM's seat by winning at least a few LS seats in Telangana. As far as the Sammakka

Saralamma Jatara is con-

Indian mission... Continued from page 1

In bodycam footage released by the Seattle Police Department, Officer Daniel Auderer laughed about the deadly crash and dismissed any implication Dave might be at fault or that a criminal investigation was necessary.On Wednesday, the King County Prosecutor's

Office said they would not move forward with criminal charges against Dave due to a lack of evidence to prove a criminal case beyond a reasonable doubt.India's consulate in Seattle also said it was monitoring the progress in the case and will extend all possible support in ensuring justice for Kandula and her family.

ers have taken this Jatra to

the national level, he said.

Continued from page 1

visions of the new laws will come into force from July 1. The laws will replace the colonial-era Indian Penal

The three legislations aim at completely overhauling the criminal justice system in the country by giving definitions of various offences and their punishments.

All 3 RS candidates...

Continued from page 1

Eight (27%) out of 30 candidates from the BJP, six (67%) out of nine candidates from the INC, 1 (25%) out of 4 candidates from the AITC, 2 (67%) of three candidates from the SP, 1 (33%) of the three YSRCP candidates, 1 (50%) of the 2 candidates from the RJD, 1 (50%) of the

and one (100%) candidate from the BRS have declared criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits. Among major parties, 4

two (33%) of 6 candidates from Maharashtra, 2 (67%) out of 3 candidates from Andhra Pradesh, 1 (25%) out of 4 candidates from Karnataka, 1 (33%) out of 3 candidates from Telangana, 1 (33%) out of 3 candidates from Odisha, 1 (50%) of 2 candidates from Himachal Pradesh and 1 (25%) of 4 candidates from Guiarat have declared assets of more than

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Modi to inaugurate 554 **Amrit Stations, 1,500 RoBs**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate 554 Amrit Stations and 1,500 Road over Bridges (RoBs) worth Rs 1,800 crore of the South Central Railway next August, the SCR announced on Saturday.

Modi will also inaugurate 15 railway stations in Telangana, 34 railway stations in Andhra Pradesh, six railway stations in Maharashtra and two railway stations in Karnataka worth Rs 925 crore. The PM will also 156 inaugurate RoBs worth Rs 927.31 crore.

The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) launched by the Railway Ministry is aimed at modernizing railway stations. The idea is based on the implementation of various critical elements that cater to the increasing needs of railway

registers car in

City man

2024, get

PNS HYDERABAD

cial website.

2020 challan

A man on February 23

claimed that his friend, who

registered his newly bought car in 2024, has got traffic

challan for his vehicle. He posted a photo showing details of the challan on the

Telangana State Police's offi-

The X user named 'Night Owl' termed it a "Time Traveling Traffic Ticket", and

urged the city traffic police to

provide a solution to the

issue. "Time-Traveling Traffic

Ticket? Challan for a new Car

Bought in 2024 Mystifies



The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) launched by the Ráilway Ministry is aimed at modernizing railway stations.

The facilities planned under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme are the improvement of facades, providing aesthetically pleasing entrance porches, betterment of rail station approaches to ensure smooth access by widening roads, proper signage, dedicated pedestrian pathways, wellplanned parking areas, improved lighting etc.

The plan also includes landscaping, providing green patches, local art to create a pleasant experience for rail users, earmarking stalls for the 'One Station One Product' scheme, enabling second entry for the station building and circulating area as per feasibility, construction of high-level platforms and adequate platform shelters, provision of passenger facilities like high-quality pub-

LED station name boards, and improvements to waiting halls. Of the 156 RoBs Telangana will have 49, 59 will be in Andhra Pradesh, 19 in Maharashtra and 29 in Madhya Pradesh. This will help strengthen the safety of both road and rail users, facilitate seamless movement of road

traffic without stoppings at

level crossing gates, and will act as a bridge connecting locali-

ties, villages and towns. SCR General Manager Arun Kumar Jain said, "These initiatives will strengthen rail infrastructure in the zone and also enhance safety standards. The redevelopment of these railway stations is being accorded top priority so that work gets completed within the planned time. Once completed, these stations will provide a unique experience to passengers."

Kharge attends marriage reception of Sharmila's son

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy received the AICC president Mallikarjuna Kharge at Shamshabad Airport on Saturday night.

Mallikarjuna Kharge came to Hyderabad and attended the reception of the APCC president YS Sharmila's son YS Raja Reddy.

AICC general secretary (Organisation) KC Venugopal, AICC in-charge general secretary to Andhra Pradesh State Manickam Tagore also attended the reception. The Telangana Ministers, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Ministers



All Indian Congress Committee president Mallikhariun Kharge, AICC general secretary KC Venugopal, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, former MP KVP Ramachandra Rao and others at the marriage reception of APCC president YS Sharmila's son in Hyderabad on Saturday

Jupally Krishna Rao, Ponnam ed the reception.

Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, Prabhakar and others attend-

Peak power demand recorded at 15031 mw in February

PNS HYDERABAD

Owner with 2020.

Compared to last year, the consumption of electricity in the Telangana is 6.9 per cent higher in January and 4.6 per cent higher in February. Also, the maximum power demand in February 2023 was 14,649 MW while in February 20.24 it was recorded as 15031 MW (up to 23rd February 2024). Peak demand 15031 MW on 23.02.2024 while 14526 MW on 23.02.2023. It is likely to increase further till the end of

this month.

The average power consumption in January and February 2023 was 242.95 million units while in January and February 2024 it reached 256.74 million units. Similarly, in the southern DISCOM. compared to last year, this vear in the month 6.67 percent and 6.24 percent in the month of February, higher consumption has been recorded in the state. In February 2023, the maximum power demand was 9043 MW

and till February 23, 2024 it was recorded as 9253 MW. It is likely to increase further till the end of this month. The average power consumption in January & February 2023 was 158.71 million units while in January & February 2024 it reached

169.36 million units. Hyderabad, 9.47% higher consumption has been recorded in the month of January and 12.27% in the month of February compared to last year. In February 2023, the

maximum power demand was 2930 MW and till February 23, 2024 it was recorded as 3174

The average electricity consumption in January & February 2023 was 51.69 million units while in January & February 2024 it reached 57.34 of electricity consumption in this February. Agricultural electricity consumption in the months of January and February last year and compared to the current year.

Kamareddy Passport Ševa Kendra operation suspended

PNS HYDERABAD

Operations at the Post Office Passport Seva Kendra in Kamareddy have been temporarily suspended due to operational reasons.

Applicants appointments booked from February 26, 2024, will receive an SMS providing them with the option to reschedule their appointments.
Additional appoint-

ments are being made available at the Passport Seva Kendra in Nizamabad to accommodate these changes. However, applicants have the option to reschedule their appointments to any of the PSK's/POPSK's Telangana according to their convenience and

availability. Hyderabad Regional passport office regretted inconvenience caused and request public cooperation in this matter. Efforts are being made to resume operations at the earliest. For any other concerns, applicants may reach out to us at rpo.hyderabad@mea.gov.in

No irregularities in promotions of professors: OU

Osmania University has clarified that the allegation of irregularities in the

promotions of senior professors are baseless. It concluded that the promotion

process was done in accordance with the UGC norms. Registrar,

Osmania University, Prof P Laxminaryana, said that following the G.O. No 15, the UGC rules and regulations have been strictly followed. The Registrar explained that it was wrong for a few people to allege that there were irregularities in the promotions of senior professors. If there are any doubts, it is suggested that the UGC rules can be examined once. He expressed concern that the reputation of Osmania University would be damaged by the spread of false

Although UGC Care List, Scopus, Peer Reviewed are options. They exhorted that it is not appropriate to spread false propaganda in their name. According to the public notice issued by UGC on September 16, 2019, the earlier UGC care list rules have been amended. He said the UGC selection committee should consider the quality of research of the faculty rather than just the number of articles. He said that for senior



professor promotions, 10 years of experience as a professor along with 10 research papers and 2 PhDs under their supervision should be awarded in the review period. According to the notification, the list of subject experts from other universities nominated by the Board of Studies (BoS) of the respective departments will be provided to the University.

It was explained that after the approval of the same list by the Executive Council, the respective experts will participate in the promotion process. To send the files of those who have applied for promotions to professionals. Based on their report only eligible candidates will be called for interview/ interaction.

The Vice-Chancellor as Chairman, Governor Nominee as member, qualified Deans, Heads of Departments, Social Welfare Representatives and

subject experts nominated by BoS will participate in this process. It was explained that the list will be released based

on the final decision given by

the committee during the selection process. According to the public notice given by UGC in 2019,

it has been clarified that the opinion of the subject experts is the final decision.

The registrar has made it clear that every provision of the UGC, High Court and Supreme Court judgments has been followed in the promotions of senior professors in OU. Press and media friends have been requested to be vigilant against the spread of false information.

Everyone is asked to contribute to preserve the reputation of Osmania University, which has provided worldclass leadership in various

ority we expected from the

party high command. We

were offended because we

did not have a proper place in

the party. We asked for MLA

ticket but couldn't get, we

asked for MP ticket but there

is no possibility. My husband went to meet BRS working

president KTR but was made

to wait for an hour. We did

not get justice in KCR's party

and that's why we are leaving

the party. We were hoping for

the post of mayor of GHMC but we were given the post of

GHMC Dy Mayor resigns from BRS, to join Congress today

GHMC Deputy Mayor Srilata Shobhan Reddy has resigned from the BRS Party on Saturday. Along with them, six BRS corporators have decided to resign from the party and join the Congress. Deputy mayor's couple has been unhappy with the leadership of the BRS party for some time

It seems that the leaders have resigned from the Congress party as they thought that they would get the right priority only if they joined the Congress party.

It is reported that they have mentioned to their followers party because the high command is not paying attention to them. It seems that some top leaders of the Congress have also invited the couple of Deputy Mayor Srilata to the



Mothe Srilatha Shobhan Reddy and her husband Mothe Shobhan Reddy

party. As part of the plan, expressed their grief that the Sobhan Reddy resigned from the basic membership of the party and from the post of presment. They will join the Congress on Sunday at 11 am at Gandhi Bhavan in the presence of Telangana Congress incharge Deepa Dasmunshi. In the letter of resignation, they

activists in BRS Party were not supported. GHMC Deputy Mayor Mothe Srilata Shobhan

resigning from the BRS party. She said, "We are joining the Congress on Sunday . We have been in BRS for years and we fought in the movement. We did not get the prideputy".

"The leaders of that party assured him that they will give him a good position from the Congress. He promised to give ing GHMC elections. That position is mine and I will stay here. You will see who will resign from the BRS party along with us and join the Congress," said Srilata Shobhan Reddy.

2 cyber criminals arrested in city

PNS HYDERABAD

The cybercrime unit of the Cyberabad police on Saturday arrested two persons for cheating people by promising jobs and defrauding them of Rs 1,70,000 and Rs 25,000 cash was seized from them. The accused were identi-

fied as Mutchu Siva Prasad (32) and Battagiri Ranga Pardhudu (26) both natives of Andhra Pradesh another person identified as Dhan Raju is absconding. The accused promised a job at the WNS global services. Based on an interview, a fake offer letter was handed to the victim; he was also asked to transfer the amount to a given bank account.

The incident happened on January 26, the victim received a call from Ranga Pardhu regarding placements in "WNS Global Services Private Ltd company" for Devops Associate software Engineer Job role where will be Charges applicable. If interested, share your name and Study certificates copy along with Aadhar. He had shared his certificates through Whatsapp to their mobile number +91 8317567581. Later one person named Shiva called him and told that some Jobs are available in "WNS Global Services Private Ltd company" Initially, he asked the charges of rupees 1,70,000/-



On 26-01-2024, So he agreed to pay the charges after receiving the offer letter. Then they agreed and requested him to pay for Rs. 20,000 as Initial fee, so that they schedule the Interview on January 27.

Following a virtual interview, the accused asked the victim to pay the remaining amount which agreed to However, When he visited the office at Mindspace the personnel at the office informed him that it was a fake appointment letter. The complainant tried to contact the fraudsters but there

was no response. Prasad previously worked as an employee in Accenture, Infosys Hyderabad and innominds at Bangalore. He lost his job due to recession, later he contacted his previous acquaintance Raju, who secured him a job in Infosys in 2017. They planned to lure unemployed youth on the pretext of providing jobs and joined A3 in their team, who was also searching for a job. Later, they post the job vacancies in social media and whoever contacts them they'll promise victims to provide jobs in WNS Global service.

Cong cut eligible recipients of free LPG & power schemes by 40%: BRS

PNS HYDERABAD

The BRS said that the Congress had slashed by 40% the number of eligible recipients for the Rs 500 LPG cylinder scheme and the 200 units free power supply schemes.

BRS leader Dasoju Sravan accused the Congress Government of cheating the people of Telangana regarding the six guarantees they gave during elections. Addressing a press conference at the Telangana Bhavan on Saturday, Dasoju said that the Congress Government was not serious about imple-

menting the guarantees and had been resorting to delaying He said despite the availability of data on eligible ben-

eficiaries, the Congress

Government enacted a drama named 'Praja Palana' and forced commoners to stand in long queues and spend to

apply for those schemes. He said that 'Praja Palana' was intended to delay the implementation of guarantees and to cut down most Referring to the announce-

Revanth Reddy during the Medaram Jatra on Friday, Sravan said that the Congress Government is planning to launch the two guarantees -LPG cylinders for Rs 500 and free electricity up to 200 units on February 27 by inviting AICC General Secretary

Priyanka Gandhi. The Chief Minister also ment made by Chief Minister claimed that two guarantees of free travel in TSRTC buses for women and an increase in the Rajiv Aarogyasri benefit to Rs 10 lakh had already been implemented by his govern-

Dasoju clarified that 13 major promises were packed as six guarantees by the Congress government to deceive people.

He said that there are 1.24 crore LPG connections in the state. Of them, about 90 lakh consumers are white ration card holders. However, the Congress government proposed providing gas cylinders for Rs 500 to only 40 lakh peo-

The BRS leader also condemned the Congress Government for putting a ceiling on the number of cylinders to three to five per

Jayanthi of former AP speaker to be celebrated as State function

PNS HYDERABAD

former speaker of AP assembly & father of IT minister Sridhar Babu to be celebrated as "State function" on 2March2024. Telangana Government have decided to celebrate Birth Anniversary (Jayanthi) of (Late) Sri Duddilla Sripada Rao, Former Speaker, State Legislative Assembly, Erstwhile Andhra Pradesh falling on 02.03.2024 as a "State Function".

Jayanthi of Duddilla Sripada Rao

As per the orders of CS Santhi Kumari, Accordingly, all

Date 07-03-2024. R.O. No.: 868-DP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2023-24

the District Collectors are requested to celebrate Birthday (Jayanthi) of Duddilla Sripada Rao, Former Speaker, State Legislative Assembly, Erstwhile Andhra Pradesh as a "State

Function". The YAT&C Department shall take necessary further action in the matter duly meeting the expenditure from the budgetary provision of YAT&C Department. Duddilla Sripada Rao was Zamindar, he was a gold medalist lawyer and speaker in 1999. He was shot dead by Naxalites

Training programme held police personnel



Cyberabad police personnel attending the training session in Hyderabad

Cyberbad Commissioner of Police Avinash Mohanty on Saturday conducted a training programme for the police officials to identify critical polling

The officers were briefed about the following during the session Identification of Critical Polling Stations by the Sector Police officers in coordination with Sector Officers of Revenue Department. Reasons for Critical Polling Stations and details of

points to be noted for sending; reports to the DEO; Confidence Building measures to be taken to build confidence among the general public to cast their vote; Measures to be taken to conduct free, fair, participative, accessible, inclusive and safe election in Cyberabad limits and Force deployment in Critical Polling Stations.

As many as 18 Inspector of Police and 85 Sector Police Officers (SPOs) attended the training session from various Police Stations.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA ANDOLE - JOGIPET MUNICIPALITY, SANGAREDDY DISTRICT

Closing Date.07-03-2024.
Further details can be availed from e-procurement market place
wew.lenders.telangana.gov.in_Bid uploading Starting Date: 28-02-2024 to Closing
Date: 07-03-2024.
Sdl- Superintending Engine
R.O. No.: 888-DPICL-AGENCY/ADVTI1/2023-24
PR, Region, Karimnagar

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA O/o Superintending Engineer, PR, Region Karimnagar E procurement Tender Notice

E procurement render Notice

NIT No.730 to 739/5E/Tanten/2023-24,

Total No. of works (10) Cio Sub Centre Building at Sirpur (V) of Mallapur (M) in Jagital District & Rajanna Sincilla undersigned, Total Est Cost Rs.200.00 Lakhs Bid uploading Starting Date: 28-02-2024 to Closing Date.07-03-2024.

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST R.No.78/ Andole - Jogipet JAII Works (2023-24 Expression of interest is invited in sealed covers from experienced (in similar type of work consultants for proparation of DPR's for Buildings and other infrastructural Development work n Andole - Jogipet Municipality under any grants for one year. A Demand Draft of Rs: 1000/- hav to be drawn in favor of Commissioner, Andole - Jogipet Municipality. Last date for the issuing of schedule: Dt. 29-02-2024. Time: 3.00 PM. Last date for submission of sealed expression of interest: Dt. 29-42-2024. Time: 3.00 PM. Conditions: - 1. Conditions of EOI should be accepted. 2. Experience consultants in similar nature of works and eligibility criterio also be considered. 3. Consultant should be empanelled in any dept in any state. 4. Should have worked not less than Rs. 30.00 crores project in single ULB in Telangana State. 5. The firm should have Rs. 5.00 Crores of sverage as financial turnover in last. Three years, 6. The DPR should prepare in stipulated period and should get approved by the department. 7. The DPRs shall be prepared as per the guidelines and norms and all the information as part the check list raised by the financiancial R. Commissioner facilities. Indeed the definitions of all prepared in the properties. Separtment. 6. Commissioner, Andole - Jogipel Municipality of has all powers to accept or reject the sealed lenders. 9. E.O.I shall be submitted along with [Individual] DD for RS: -1999/- have drawn in favor of Commissioner, Andole - Jogipet Municipality. 10 The rate quoted by the consultants shall be in percentage (%) of total estimated cost. Any other details contact on engineering section. Andole - Jogipet Municipality in Working hours. Contact Mobile No: -Commissioner.-(9676756262) Municipal Engineer.-(._____) Commissioner, R.O. No.: 10872-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2023-24

Bhatti promises pattas to Podu farmers soon

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka has announced good news for Podu farmers and declared distribution of pattas to the lands being cultivated by them under Podu. Podu is a part of shifting cultivation.

It may be recalled that the Congress leaders during the poll campaign mentioned giv-

ing free pattas to Podu lands. He visited Suryapeta of erstwhile Nalgonda district and stated that the Congress government would implement



Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, alongwith Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy, laying foundation stone for R. 400 crore Innovera life sciences that the benefits reach every eligible person irrespective of his or her political affiliation..

Claiming that their government is the government that works for the people, the minister said that out of six guarantees two are under implementation and two more are ready for implementation on February 27

He said that Priyanka Gandhi would launch the scheme of giving an LPG cylinder for Rs 500 only and also the scheme to provide 200 units of power per month free of cost to the poor.

Three held for robbery of gold, mobile phones

PNS HYDERABAD

The Uppal police on February 23 arrested three persons involved on charges of robbery of gold, mobile phones and weapons worth Rs 14 lakh were seized from them.

The incident occurred on the evening of February 19. The accused were identified Dasari Sathwik (29)' Meneni Anil Kumar (36), Gadde Sai Kumar (21) Complainant Nuthalapati Ramadevi stated that a person approached her and informed that a 2 BHK flat was sanc-

for successful medaram Jatara She said that the event was successfully

Konda Surekha thanks officials

Endowments Minister Konda Surekha on Saturday thanked the officials and all the stakeholders, including people, for their cooperation to the suc-cessful conduct of the Medaram festival.

She said that the event was successfully conducted with the cooperation of all government departments.

She observed, "The Congress government will safeguard Telangana state and

On directions from Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, Ministers, elected people's representatives, higher authorities made all arrangements for the festival in a planned way from the beginning. The devotees had darshan of the deities, fulfilled their vows to the forest deities and returned home

with a lot of satisfaction. The State government spared no effort to provide all amenities to devotees at every step, she said, and appealed to the devotees for forgiveness if any mistakes crept into the arrangements rather inadver-

As an Endowments Minister

departments. for the first time, she supervised the arrangements for the festival with full commit-ment. With the blessings of the forest deities, she recovered from her ill-health quickly

and was fortunate enough to

have darshan of the deities on

conducted with the

cooperation of all

government

the elevated platforms. She prayed to the deities for their blessings on people of

Kavitha offers jaggery in the name of KCR

BRS MLC Kalwakuntla Kavita on Saturday offered jaggery to Sammakka-Saralamma equivalent to the weight of former Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao through T

App Folio.
She described the event as the biggest tribal fair in India. KCR said that the protaganists of Telangana derived inspiration from the festival to uphold their self-respect. The Godavari valley region, which

was once regarded as dis-

turbed area under the rule of



the combined Anahra Pradesh rulers, is now a fertile valley with availability of water for irrigation. He appealed to the State government to provide all Medaram from all parts of the country. He prayed to the deities for the prosperity and happiness of the people of Telangana.

Meanwhile, the forest deities who left the forest on February 21 and 22 to reach the elevated platforms gave darshan to the people till February 23. All roads led to Medaram.

Former minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao had faced the ire of the people waiting in serpentine queues as he tried to have quick darshan of the

Chief Justice inaugurates Civil Judge Court



Telangana High Court Chief Justice Alok Aradhe inaugurating Second Additional Civil Judge court in Suryapet on Saturday

PNS SURYAPET

Telangana High Court Chief Justice Justice Alok Aradhe inaugurated the second Additional Junior Civil Judge Court on the premises of the district court complex here on Saturday. He also inaugurated an e-Seva centre there.

Earlier, he inspected a guard of honour presented by the

Suryapeta district judge G Rajagopal, sub-judge G

Srivani, principal junior civil judge K Suresh, and additional junior civil judge J Prasanti welcomed the Chief

Telangana State High Court judges T Vinod Kumar, K Lakshman, B Vijayasen Reddy, Pulla Karthik, Suryapeta Bar association president Gandrala Ashok, general secretary PalaboyinaNarsaiah Yadav, DSP G Ravi, advocates and others were present on the

One held, DJ systems, music equipment worth Rs 25 L seized

PNS SURYAPET

The Suryapeta police on Saturday arrested an inter-state thief during inspection of vehicles and recovered from him Rs 25 lakh worth of

stolen DJ systems and other music equipment. Disclosing this to media at the District Police headquarters here, Suryapeta DSP Ravi said that the police nabbed the culprit while checking the

vehicles on directions from SP Rahul Hegde. While checking vehicles at Janagoan X roads on Saturday, a suspicious good carrier was spotted. Upon checking it, several electronic equipment related to sound system worth Rs 25 lakh were detected.

The arrested was identified as KurraTulcha, resident of Adividevulapallimandal of Nalgonda district. Upon questioning him, he admitted to have stolen them. He admitted that he did steal the equipment along with Dharawat Balakrishna of and BarmawatGurucharan of Kodada and Ramawat Vamsi of Nalgonda dis-

The police recovered 27 amplifiers and 13 and IT cell personnel for their success.

other equipment from them.

Tulcha figured as an accused in bike lifting case in Saroor Nagar police station. Balakrishna and Gurucharan figured as accused in Ganja smuggling case in Kodada town PS.

Tulcha who used to drive autorickshaw for a living in Hyderabad hatched a plan along with other accomplices to steal music systems and other equipment and sell them to earn money

He took cars from Long Drive cars in Dilsukh Nagar and visited various function halls and DJ shops in Macharla, Suryapeta, Kodada, Chilukuru and Chivvemla areas since November and stole amplifiers, mixers, crossover equipment from vehicles parked near function halls after the entertainment programme was over. He kept them at one place and now transporting them to elsewhere to dispose them of.

SP congratulated Suryapeta SI G Rajasekhar, SIs Yakub, P Lokesh and Balakrishna, crime inspector Karunakar, Krishna Saidulu, Anand

Seek votes for Modi with confidence: Konda Vishweshwar

510 EVMS requisitioned from

be tested in the presence of the

representatives of various polit-

ical parties. If any of the equip-

ment is found to be faulty, they

would be sent back to

Hyderabad to get the new

The Nizamabad Lok Sabha

constituency has Nizamabad

Urban, Nizamabad rural,

Bodhan, Armoor, Balkonda,

Korutla and Jagityal

Assembly segments.
The Jagtial district offi-

cias take care of poll arrange-

ments in Jagtial and Korutla

segments. Nizamabad dis-

trict officials take care of the

ECIL for Nizamabad seat

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

PNS NIZAMABAD

in warehouse.

VVPATs.

The district authorities here

have requisitioned 510 control

units of the Electronic Voting

Machines (EVMs) from ECIL

in Hyderabad and stored them

In fact, the district has 6,983

The district administration

recently got them checked by

the engineers to ensure that the

control units, ballot units and

The BJP can ask people to vote for Prime Minister Modi with confidence as he is working hard for the development of India and as the people have placed enormous trust in him, BJP leader Konda Vishweshwar Reddy said.

He was addressing the public after taking part in a bike rally held in connection with Vijay Sankalp Yatra at Nanakramguda in Gachibowli on Saturday.

"Modi served as the Chief Minister of Gujarat thrice and as Prime Minister twice. No one can match his track record. If you grab power with false promises people will give you a second will elect him back as Prime Minister this time too. Modi launched many development projects and its benefits have percolated down to villages,"

"Whether it was Corona or any other problem Modi was always there not only to help our people but also other countries. That's why we can ask people to vote for the BJP. Whom does the Congress ask people to vote for? Do they have the guts to seek votes for Rahul Gandhi? Will anyone vote for him? They have no choice but to make false promises like they would give Rs 2,500 pension to women, Rs 4,000 as unemployment allowance etc. If the BRS seeks votes for the Kalvakuntla family, will the people vote? No one will vote for them.

We will seek votes with utmost honesty for Modi. He holds the people of India close to his

heart and will do everything for them," he added.
Telangana BIP's official spokesperson Rani Rudrama, Sherlingampally BJP leader Ravi Yadav, Rajendra Nagar BJP leader Tokala Srinivas Reddy and party workers took part in large numbers in the Vijaya Sankalp Yatra.

poll arrangements in

Banswada which is located

under Zaheerabad LS con-

stituency. There are over

1,549 polling booths in all

segments including the

In all, 7745 polling person-

nel are required to staff these

polling booths at the rate of

five personnel for each booth.

An additional 20% - 1549 -

would be kept under reserve.

ered information about 9294

personnel from the district.

Their information is being

fed into computer.

The district officials gath-

Banswada segment.

Woman, who gets TV anchor kidnapped to marry, arrested

PNS NIZAMABAD

A young businesswoman, who got a television channel anchor kidnapped, to force him to marry her, has been arrested in Hyderabad, police said on Thursday.

Pranav, a techie who also works as part-time as anchor on a Telugu TV channel, was kidnaped in Uppal area on the night of February 10. He managed to escape from their clutches the next day and lodged a complaint with the police.

A case was registered at Uppal police station under Rachakonda police Commissionerate.

The police took up the investigation which led to Trisha's arrest. She confessed that she got him kid-napped as she wanted to marry him.

The woman, who is into digital marketing business, had seen Pranav's photograph and details on a mat-

ago. As someone had created a fake ID with Pravan's photograph, she called him to alert him. Police said Pranav had subsequently lodged a complaint with the police about his profile and photograph being mis-

The woman then developed interest in Pranav and wanted to marry him. Though he was not interested, she continued pestering him for the marriage.

She had also got a GPS device installed secretly in Pranav's car to track his movements.

She hired four goons, who kidnapped him on February 10 when he was returning home from duty. He was taken to her office where he was kept in a Assistant

room. Commissioner of Police Purshottam Reddy said they arrested Trisha. The four persons who kidnapped Pranav were absconding.

Son, daughter-in-law punished for neglecting sr citizen

PNS KHAMMAM

Son and daughter-in-law of an old woman were arrested by Bhadrachalam police and produced them in a court which sentenced them to undergo jail order to treat the senior citizen with respect.

Parents sacrifice everything for the welfare of their children. But some children

A court sentenced the old

woman's son and his wife for

neglect their parents/ In Khammam district, such a pathetic incident took place.

not taking good care of woman. It sent them to remand. According to the police, the incident took place on Friday

in Chunchupallimandal of the district. to Ram Nagar of the mandal, idenfied as Utla Venkata

Shankar. court complaining against

proper care of her.

Ramanamma, has a son, Ravi In 2022, the old woman approached the Kothagudem

her son and daughter-in-law

accusing them of not taking

give proper care to her. But, he turned a deaf ear to the directions given by the judge. As usual, her son and

The Kothagudem court

judge directed Ravi Sankar to

take his mother home and

denying her entry to their She lodged a complaint with the Bhadrachalam police who took her son and daughter-in-law under their custody and produced them before the magistrate who

remanded them in judicial

Hyderabad NGO worker detained for distributing cash in riot-hit Haldwani

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad-based social worker Salman Ayub was detained by the police on Thursday after he was allegedly found distributing cash to families in riot-hit Haldwani.

The Nanital police detained Salman after he shared a video giving away cash to families, in Bhanpoolpura, affected due to the riot. He was let go after questioning on the condition that he would join the questioning when summoned.

The Hyderabad NGO's accounts, PAN card details, registration number and details of

donors were sought by the police. The police have also initiated action to cancel its registra-

In a video statement, the NGO worker and a familiar face in Hyderabad, Salman stated that it was the protocol of the police that he was detained for questioning for a short period. He also appreciated their efforts in bringing back peace into the riot-hit area.

"Police officials have been carrying out their duties diligently in Haldwani. The atmosphere is peaceful now and there is no fear among people," said Salman.

TDP-JSP ANNOUNCES FIRST LIST OF SEAT ALLOCATION TO CANDIDATES

DP to fight 151, JSP 24 seats

Jana Sena gets 3 LS seats

PNS VIJAYAWADA

TDP supremo N Chandrababu Naidu and Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan on Saturday announced their first joint list of 118 seats for the forthcoming Assembly polls in Andhra Pradesh.

The two leaders, however, said the seat allocation has been done keeping in mind the "need to accommodate" BJP in case the saffron party decides to join the

TDP candidates will be contesting from 94 constituencies while Jana Sena will contest from 24

"On this auspicious occasion, both TDP and Jana Sena are ready to go for the polls. I wish this news to be good tidings for everyone in the state. This union is for the future of the state. This is the first step for a great effort," said Naidu, addressing a press conference at his Andhra Pradesh residence in Undavalli on the TDP-Janasena alliance.

Observing that the TDP-Jana Sena alliance "has the blessings of the BJP", Kalyan read out the names of five Jana Sena candidates and promised to reveal the remaining 19 names in a couple

Explaining the rationale behind

Kalyan noted that it is important to take a lower number of seats than experimenting with a higher number of seats. "We have to first put the state on the right track, keeping the future of the state ahead of individual and party prospects," said the actorpolitician.

Including the three Lok Sabha seats allocated for Janasena in the alliance, he noted that it is as good as the party contesting some 40

Assembly seats.

Meanwhile, Naidu highlighted that if the BJP also comes along with their alliance then those issues will also be discussed at the right time to take the right decifuture of the state, not for any two individuals or two parties. Both parties decided to work together for the welfare of five crore people. This is a historic day for the state," said Naidu.

For his ninth election, Naidu highlighted that he had done the most intense exercise of zeroing in on the candidates, unlike previously, even during the times of united Andhra Pradesh. Taking the opinion of 1.1 crore

eople from various sources, Naidu said the 94 TDP candidates have been selected after a multipronged analysis and filtering. He asserted that the selected

candidates are people who are in

people, approved by the people and who can 'resiliently' face the polls and opponents. Further, the opposition leader observed that the TDP gave

prominence to youth, women, those from BC communities and educated people in selecting candidates. Out of the 94 candidates, Naidu said 23 are first-timers, three doctors, one retired IAS officer, 25

three doctorates. Naidu called on the Janasena and TDP leaders to cooperate for mutual benefit wherever both

post-graduates, 51 graduates and

the parties are contesting. "Wherever Jana Sena is contest-

ing for creating belief in people and victory will be easy, nobody can stop us...," Naidu added. Seat-sharing arrangements for the remaining 57 of the 175 Assembly constituencies are

wherever TDP is contesting the

expected to be announced soon. As part of the alliance, Jana

Jana Sena should cooperate. Both discussions were underway with the BJP for a possible pre-poll should work with an understandalliance. Meanwhile, talking to reporters, Andhra Pradesh BJP chief D Purandeswari said

TDP sources said currently

ing the TDP should cooperate and seats of the total 25 from the state.

alliances in the southern State would be decided by the party high command and as of now the state unit is gearing up its activi-Sena will contest three Lok Sabha ties in all the constituencies.



Three services used to work in 'silos' earlier

Now they have better coordination to jointly confront challenges: Rajnath

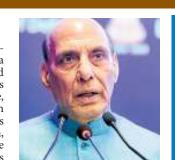
PNS NEW DELHI

India's annual defence production is expected to touch a whopping Rs 3 lakh crore and exports of military hardware is poised to reach Rs 50,000 crore, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Saturday. In an address at a defence conclave, Singh, delving into structural defence reforms, said the three services used to work in "silos" earlier but now they are ready with better coordination to deal with every challenge jointly.

He said capital acquisition projects worth more than Rs 4,35,000 crore have been given in-principle approval in the financial year 2023-24, and the government is aiming for production of high-end systems like aero-engines and gas turbines in India in the next five years.

Singh noted that the government has been focusing on jointness among the Indian Army, the Navy and the Indian Air Force that would ensure enhanced coordination in times of "crisis".

"Earlier, the three Services used to work in silos. We focused on their integration side and self-reliance in defence



He said capital acquisition projects worth more than Rs 4,35,000 crore have been given in-principle approval in the financial year 2023-24, and the government is aiming for production of high-end systems like aero-engines and gas turbines in India in the next

which was an out-of-the-box step and the need of the hour. It was a little difficult in the beginning; but today our military is ready with better coordination to deal with every challenge together," he said at the Firstpost Defence Summit.

Singh said restricts on import of arms was difficult in the short-term but the challenge is slowly turning into opportunity, and India is rising on the defence industrial landscape of the world. "Today, our military is using weapons and platforms, which are manufactured on our own soil," he said.

He asserted that no military can protect its nation from equipment imported from outproduction is must for India in today's time, adding the government's persistent efforts have started to bear fruit as the defence production has crossed Rs 1 lakh crore. "Earlier, India was known to be an arms importer. But today, under the leadership of the prime minister, we have come out of our comfort zone and found a place in the list of top-25 arms

exporter nations," Singh said. Seven-eight years ago, defence exports did not even touch Rs 1,000 crore. Today, it has touched Rs 16,000 crore. By 2028-29, annual defence production is expected to touch Rs 3 lakh crore and defence exports

tion of setting simple targets does not arise. We will soon embark on an exciting journey Rs 50,000 crore," he added. towards achieving extraordi-The defence minister added nary goals," he said.

Voters have right to know about fulfillment of vows

PNS CHENNAI

The voters have a right to know about the feasibility of fulfilling poll assurances made by political parties, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said on Saturday and made it clear that the matter

is, however, sub judice.

Political parties have a right to make promises in their election manifestos and the electorate has a right to know if these are genuine and how these programmes could be funded, he said, adding the entire matter forms part of an ongoing case and the matter was sub judice.

At a press conference here, Rajiv Kumar, answering questions, said the Election Commission has prepared a 'proforma' to make parties to make a disclosure on their election promises. However, this aspect also relates to the pending court matter.

He said enforcement agencies have been directed to stay vigilant and prevent distribution of cash and freebies. National Payments Corporation of India too has been tasked to monitor online

transactions.

To a question on 'fake news,' he said, 'today fake news is running as you mentioned that election dates have been announced,' This fake news has, however, been countered within half an hour and it was made amply clear that it was

A majority of political parties have sought single phase polls. After holding meetings with political parties during the last two days, Rajiv Kumar said "a majority of parties informed him that many parties have commenced parking of funds for distribution to

"We met various political parties both national like the BJP, INC and state parties like the AIADMK, DMK. A majority of their demands were single phase elections, curb on distribution of money and freebies," he said.

The parties also sought action to prevent 'voter impersonation,' distribution of liquor and transfer of money through online mode.

During past elections in Tamil Nadu, parties have often accused each other of 'inducing' voters by distributing cash and gifts.

Ram temple in Ayodhya receives donations of around Rs 25 cr

PNS ■ AYODHYA (UP)

The newly constructed Ram temple has received donations, including 25 kg gold and silver ornament, of around Rs 25 crore in a month after the consecration ceremony on January 22, trust officials on Saturday said.

Prakash Gupta, office in charge of the Ram temple trust, said the amount of Rs 25 crore include cheques, drafts and cash deposited in the temple trust's office along with those deposited in the donation boxes.

"However, we are not aware of the online transactions done directly in the trust's bank accounts," he added.

Gupta said that a total of around 60 lakh devotees have

Gupta said the temple trust is expecting an increase in donations during the days of Ram Navami festival when about 50 lakh devotees will be present in Ayodhya.

INDIA CORNER

Toddler abducted from govt hospital in Udaipur



n unidentified woman allegedly abducted a 13month-old girl from Maharana Bhupal Government Hospital in Udaipur in the early hours of Saturday, police said. The toddler, Avyansh, was sleeping with her mother in the corridor of the

hospital when the incident occurred, they said. When the mother woke up around 4 am, she found that her daughter was missing and alerted the hospital administration, police said. An official from the hospital said the woman, whose daughter was abducted, had come to the hospital as an attendant and was not a patient. "They were sleeping in the corridor when another woman, who was also sleeping there, picked up the girl and left the hospital." the official said upon examining the CCTV footage. A case has been registered under the Indian Penal Code section 363 (kidnapping) at Hathipole police station, police said, adding that efforts

Class 6 student detained for schoolmate's murder in Delhi



Class 6 student of a private school in northeast Delhi's New Usmanpur area was detained for allegedly killing a 14-year-old boy from his school, police said on Saturday. The students had a fight over some

petty issue outside the school and the accused punched the victim a student of Class 8 -- on the face, they said. The alleged incident occurred on Friday. The police received a call from JPC Hospital around 4 pm about the victim, a resident of Brahmpuri. The boy had injuries on his head, face and left hand. The place where the alleged altercation occurred was also littered with blood spots, the police said. The victim died due to excessive bleeding from the nose, they added. CCTV cameras installed in the locality were scanned and the 12-year-old accused was identified. He was apprehended late on

Two undertrials escape from UP court lock-up



wo undertrials, one of whom has 47 cases registered against him, escaped from the lock-up on a court premises here by cutting through the window bars, police said on Saturday. A case was registered

against both the accused late Friday night and three policemen have been suspended after the incident. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Ghule Sushil Chandrabhan said four teams have been deployed to nab them. Sub-Inspector (SI) Virendra Kumar said Ankit Yadav and Sachin Saini had appeared before the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) and Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate III on Friday morning after they were summoned. A total of 55 prisoners had come with them to appear before the court. After everyone's appearance, the count started at 5.30 pm before sending the

India's traditional system of medicines going global



nion minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Saturday said traditional medicines like Ayush have gained a new lease of life, and are being recognised worldwide for their efficacy. He also said that the traditional medicine sector of India has grown beyond geographical boundaries and reached a global market, under the BJP-led central government. The Union Minister of Ayush was speaking after inaugurating a centre of excellence at the State Avurvedic

College and Hospital here. "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. India has taken leadership position in the revamp of traditional medicines worldwide... This has helped our traditional medicine sector to grow out of its regular geography and communities to reach a wider population across communities from different parts of the world," Sonowal said.

'LIVING DOCUMENTS'

India, Bangladesh recognise their constitutions

Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud on Saturday said both India and Bangladesh share the tradition

of constitutional and judicial systems largely aiming to ensure stability and both nations recognised their constitutions as "living documents."

"Our shared tradition aims to ensure stability, but

when stability is desired, the stability must never be confused with stagnation," Chandrachud he spoke at the valedic tory function of a two-day conference here in the presence of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who was the

"We recognise our constitu-

tions are living documents. The constitutions of Bangladesh and India proclaim that they are given to the people by the people themselves' as citizens of sovereign nations,"

Chandrachud said. Bangladesh's Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan chaired the event. Bangladesh's apex court judges took part in the conference, which drew many jurists, senior lawyers, and gov-

ernment leaders including Law Minister Anisul Huq.

Earlier on Fr Bangladesh Presi Mohammad Shahabuddin opened the two-day conference on 'South Asian Constitutional Courts in the Twenty-First Century: Lessons from Bangladesh and India.

Bulldozers demolish homes of 'innocent' while 'guilty' escape

that Rs 6.21 lakh crore was allo-

cated to the defence budget for

2024-25. He also spoke of the

Agnipath scheme, saying it aims

to make the country's military

as one of the strongest in the

world. "These decisions reflect

the government's long-term

approach towards national secu-

rity," he said. Singh said the gov-

ernment has firmly set its sight

to make India a major defence

cation of our youth is extraor-

dinary and the intentions of the

government are clear, the ques-

"When the ability and dedi-

manufacturer.

■ Priyanka Gandhi attacks UP's BJP govt

PNS LUCKNOW

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday lashed out at the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh, alleging that bulldozers are used to demolish homes of "innocent people" while the "guilty" escape unscathed. Priyanka Gandhi on Saturday

joined the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, which resumed its journey from Moradabad after a two-day halt for the march's final leg in Uttar Pradesh. She will accompany her

brother as the yatra passes through Amroha, Sambhal, Bulandshahr, Aligarh, Hathras, Agra, concluding at Fatehpur ri on Sunday

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav is set to join the yatra in Agra on Sunday, a development that comes after the parties reached a seat-shar-



ing arrangement in Uttar Pradesh for the Lok Sabha polls. "The Bharat Jodo Nyay resumed from Moradabad. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra was also present. As the vatra moved through Moradabad, people from different walks of Manish Hindvi, a spokesperson for the Congress' Uttar Pradesh

unit, told PTI. Priyanka Gandhi was to participate in the yatra when it entered Uttar Pradesh in

dismisses Rahul's

petition to quash

The Jharkhand High Court

Jharkhand HC

proceedings

PNS RANCHI

Chandauli but could not because of ill health and subsequent hospitalisation.

Addressing the public in Moradabad, she said, "When I came here in 2022, we had made a plan in the manifesto on how to stop repeated question calendar, which would have the examination date and the date of appointment. We also spoke about making a commission to address all the injustices that had taken place."

LOK SABHA ELECTIONS

AAP, Cong announce seat-sharing pact for Delhi, Gujarat, Goa, Haryana

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party will contest four Lok Sabha seats in Delhi and the Congress three, the two constituents of the INDIA bloc said on Saturday as they announced their seat-sharing arrangements for the national capital, Gujarat, Goa and

AAP General Secretary (organisation) Sandeep Pathak said his party entered into an alliance with the Congress by sidelining its own political interests as it believes that the "country is important and the party secondary" The BJP termed the Congress-AAP tie-

up as an alliance of the "corrupt", assert-



favours the two parties against the NDA, the ruling combine led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Congress and the AAP are constituents of the INDIA bloc formed by opposition parties to take on the BJP in

the upcoming general elections. In a joint press conference here on Saturday, . Congress leader Mukul Wasnik announced the AAP will contest the Lok Sabha seats of New Delhi, West Delhi, South Delhi and East Delhi while his party will fight in Chandni Chowk, northeast Delhi and the northwest Delhi seats.

He said the Congress workers in Delhi will ensure that INDIA bloc candidates win all seven seats in the national capital. The BJP won all seven Lok Sabha seats in Delhi in the 2014 and 2019 general elections. In the last Lok Sabha polls, BJP candidates in each of the seats polled more votes than Congress and AAP candidates

Cong will not be able to open its account in UP this time: Anurag

PNS HAMIRPUR

Union Minister Anurag Thakur on Saturday said the Congress will not be able to open its account in Uttar Pradesh this time as party leader leader Rahul Gandhi has raised a question mark on the intelligence of the people of the state.

Thakur said the people of Uttar Pradesh have elected four generations of the Nehru-Gandhi family and sent them to the Lok Sabha.

Referring to Gandhi's recent drunk and addict comment on the youth of Uttar Pradesh at a rally in Varanasi, Thakur said

Pitching for labour reforms, the

chairman of the 16th Finance

Commission and former NITI

PNS MUMBAI



the Congress leader has lost his senses and is not aware of what he is saying.

Thakur, while talking to the media persons here, said Gandhi has hurt the honour and respect of the people of Uttar Pradesh.

The minister said the Congress has cheated the pub-

lic by making false promises. Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi's videos are going viral among the public in which she had said that five lakh government jobs would be given to the youth in Himachal Pradesh and now Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has retracted from the statement, he added

Addressing the Tridev conference of Hamirpur BJP Mandal here earlier, the minister said the people will vote for the BJP in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections as they are fed up with the Congress' false

has rejected Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's petition seeking to quash proceedings against him in a trial court in connection with a criminal complaint. Naveen Jha, a BJP worker, had filed the case against Gandhi in 2019 for his alleged defamatory remarks against Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Justice Ambuj

Nath of the high court dis-

missed Gandhi's plea on

Wednesday but the order was

uploaded on the high court

India, Maldives & Sri Lanka's Dosti-16' kicks off in Maldives

website on Friday.

PNS MALE

'collaboration and interoperability" among the coast guards personnel of the Maldives, India and Sri Lanka, Maldivian Defence Minister Mohamed Ghassan Maumoon said the trilateral exercise Dosti' will unite the troika to address shared maritime security concerns through collaboration."

Maumoon was speaking at an event to formally inaugurate the 16th iteration of Dosti," the biennial exercise, which began on Thursday and would continue until Sunday.

Indian Coast Guard ship Samarth and ICGS Abhinav along with Sri Lanka Naval Ship Samudura are participating in the

as a trilateral exercise that aims to enhance cooperation, strengthen friendship, improve mutual operational capability, nel of India, the Maldives, and Sri Lanka. "Scheduled from February

22nd to 25, the exercise provides participating forces with opportunities to engage in various maritime activities, including interdiction operations, search and rescue missions, surveillance, and communication drills," the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) said in



These activities aim to Force, Brigadier General Ibrahim Hilmy, Additional enhance their collective capabil-Director General of Indian ity to respond to maritime security and safety challenges," it said. Ministers of the Maldivian Coast Guard, ADG S Paramesh, and some foreign ambassadors, government, as well as the Chief took part in the inauguration of Defence Force, Lieutenant ceremony that was held on February 22, the MNDF state-General Abdul Raheem Abdul Latheef, Vice Chief of Defence ment said late on Friday night.

Maumoon emphasised the importance of greater collaboration between the coast guards of Maldives, India and Sri Lanka to address "shared maritime security concerns. Exercise Dosti' focuses on

Speaking at the event,

regional cooperation in areas such as search and rescue, medical evacuations, countering piracy, pollution response, as well as humanitarian assistance

and disaster relief efforts. According to Edition.mv, a news portal, Maumoon said, "President Dr Mohamed Muizzu's administration places the highest priority on ensuring that close relations, peace and stability is maintained between Maldives and neighbouring assured that he will focus on maintaining regional stability and noted that Sri Lanka's participation in the training since 2012 has brought further advancement to the programme, the portal said. 'Îrilateral Joint Exercise 'EX-DOSTI-16' begins.

He said that the President has

Minister of Defence @mgmaumoon graced the inauguration ceremony, emphasising the importance of this historic event in uniting the Coast Guards of Maldives. India and Sri Lanka to address shared maritime security concerns through collaboration, the MNDF posted on its official X handle along with photos from the event late on Friday night local time.

Aayog Chairman Arvind Panagariya on Saturday people or maybe three said that "unemployment," is not a prob-lem for India but "under-employment" is.

Speaking at a session 'The Economic Whisper: how to fuel growth with jobs' at the concluding day of the two-day ABP Network's 'Ideas of India Summit 3.0' here, he also sounded optimistic that the

jobs problem in the country will

be solved over the next 10 years.

Stating that in the economy's jargon,

Under-employment is a problem

for India: Arvind Panagariya

"Unemployment is really not India's problem in my view. Our problem is underemployment, so productivity is low. So the job that can be done by one person often gets done by two

people. And that is where I think, the real challenge of jobs is creating well-paid high-productivity iobs," he said.

India is a labour-abundant and capital-scarce country, he said, "What we have done is to put much of the capital in very selective sectors which are in any case very capital intensive"

exercise DOSTI-16' while Bangladesh is participating as an Highlighting the importance of observer. Sri Lanka has described Dosti'

and develop interoperability among the Coast Guard person-

COOPERATIVE SECTOR

PM launches world's largest grain storage programme

Entailing investment of Rs 1.25 L cr

PNS NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched the world's largest grain storage plan in the cooperative sector, entailing an investment of over Rs 1.25 lakh crore, with the inauguration of 11 godowns in primary agricultural credit societies (PACS) in as many

Under the programme, 700 lakh tonne of storage capacity will be created over the next five years in the cooperative sector by constructing thou-sands of godowns and warehouses, Modi said at an event

He also laid the foundation for creating godowns and other agri infrastructure in 500 more



He also laid the foundation for godowns and other agri infrastructure in 500 more PACS.

"Today we have launched the world's largest storage scheme for our farmers. Under this, thousands of warehouses and godowns will be constructed across the country," he said after inaugurating 11 godowns set up by 11 PACS across 11 states. He rued that farmers were forced to bear huge losses due to lack of storage infra-

structure in the country. "Previous governments never paid due attention to this problem. But today through PACS, this problem is being addressed. Under the world's largest food grain storage programme, 700 lakh tonne storage capacity will be created in

the next five years. On this initiative more than Rs 1.25 lakh crore will be spent," the prime minister said.

With the creation of the huge storage facilities, Modi said farmers would be able to store their produce in the godowns/warehouses, get institutional credit against it, and sell their items when market prices are remunerative.

He also asked cooperative organisations to work towards reducing imports of food items, including edible oils and pulses, and also fertilizers.

Modi also emphasised on the importance of bringing transparency in the election system in cooperatives, saying this would encourage more participation of people in the cooperative movement.

Sitharaman inaugurates new campus of BITS Pilani

PNS MUMBAI

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman Saturday inaugurated the fifth campus of the Birla group-run engineering institute BITS Pilani, with which the national institute of eminence also diversifies into law, management and design.

Located in the nearby Kalayan area of the megapolis, the Rs 1,600-crore campus spread across 60 acres will accommodate 5,000 students at full capacity, said Kumar Mangalam Birla, the group chairman and the chancellor of the institute.

Began in 1964 in Pilani, the

native village of the Birlas in the Marward region of Rajasthan, the institute, which was one of the six private institutes elevated as an institute of eminence and houses 80,000 students across its five campuses in Pilani, Goa, Hyderabad, Dubai and Kalyan.

The new campus moves away from its core focus of engineering to law, manage-ment and design. The design school was started just last week while law and management schools were functional from last year from the temporary campus in Powai.

Declaring the new campus open, Sitharaman said.

Foundation

stone for POL

& LPG project

laid in Assam

The foundation stone for a

first-of-its-kind combined

petroleum, oil, and lubricants (POL) & LPG facilities

of Hindustan Petroleum was

laid at Kamardanga in

Assam's Chirang district, an

for Petroleum and Natural

Gas Rameswar Teli attend-

with an investment of Rs 540

crore and sprawling across

an expanse of 78.68 acres,

underscores Hindustan

Petroleum's unwavering

commitment to enhancing

energy accessibility and fos-

tering socio-economic

progress in the North East

region," the statement said..

1500 MT mounded storage

vessels, a cutting-edge 4 Bay tank truck Loading gantry,

and tank wagon unloading

capability, ensuring seamless

operations and meeting the wing demand for I

These facilities will ensure

The project will bolster the

existing network of 332 retail

outlets, with plans for future

outlets slated for develop-

energy sufficiency of a min-

imum of 15 days in Assam,

the statement said..

the region.

The LPG facility will boast

Union Minister of State

This visionary project,

official statement said..

ed the programme..

PNS GUWAHATHI



MONEY MATTERS

Sebi using AI for investigations



ebi is using Artificial Intelligence (AI) for investigations, its Whole Time Member Kamlesh Chandra Varshney said on Saturday and emphasised that entities should keep track of technological developments. Against the backdrop of instances of manipulations in the stock market, he said the message is that abiding with the law

will be more beneficial and violations will cause problems. In response to a question by PTI on whether Sebi is using AI, Varshney said, "we are using Al for investigations... and also using for a lot of things". He was speaking on the sidelines of the 13th international convention of the Association of National Exchanges Members of India (ANMI) in the national capital. As long as the market is transparent and no manipulation is happening, that is fine with the regulator, he noted. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has been taking action against violators as well as measures to enhance transparency.

Odisha approves new industrial projects



he Odisha government has approved 27 new industrial projects to the tune of Rs 6,134 crore across sectors, a senior official said on Saturday. The proposals got the state government's nod at a meeting chaired by Chief Secretary P K Jena on Friday. The potential sectors include aluminium, renewable power, manufacturing, aerospace and defence, food

processing, apparel and textiles and IT infrastructure, the official said. The proposed projects are likely to create employment for 42,275 people, Jena said. In the aerospace and defence sector, Premier Explosives will set up a plant in Rayagada for an investment of Rs 864 crore, while in renewable power, Odisha Hydro Power Corporation Ltd will come up with a Rs 787.48-crore project in Kandhamal, officials said. In the manufacturing space, Texmaco Rail & Engineering Ltd will initiate a 35,000-MT unit for Rs 438.92 crore, and a combined inves tment of Rs 709.13 crore is expected in IT infrastructure, they added.

'Rumours of me being fired firing exaggerated



troubled edtech firm Byju's voted for a leadership change, Byju Raveendran has penned a note to employees saying he continues to remain CEO and the management remains unchanged, as he dubbed Fridav's EGM as a "farce". The note to employees assumes significance as it comes after Byju's

shareholders (prominent investors) on Friday voted for removing m the hoard ove "mismanagement and failures" at what was once India's hottest tech startup, but the company dug in its heels, calling the voting done in absence of founders as invalid and ineffective. In a note to employees on Saturday, Raveendran alleged that a lot of essential rules were "violated" at Friday's Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM). "This means that whatever was decided in that meeting does not count, because it didn't stick to the established rules... It is crucial for everyone to understand the specific issues that make this EGM a

farce," he wrote. PTI has seen a copy of the letter.

Adani hints at future collaborations with Uber

Billionaire Gautam Adani on Saturday met Uber CÉO Dara Khosrowshahi, who is currently on a visit to India, and hinted at possible future collaborations

between his conglomerate and the ride-hailing app.
Taking to X, both business

leaders appreciated their conversation on the Indian growth story and their vision for the subcontinent.

"Absolutely captivating chat with @dkhos, CEO of @Uber. His vision for Uber's expansion in India is truly inspiring, especially his commitment to uplifting Indian drivers and their dignity. Excited for future collaborations with Dara and his team! #UberIndia," Adani said in a post on X.

The Uber CEO said he met

the head of ports-to-energy conglomerate over breakfast for an "absolutely terrific conversation". He also highlighted the mobility service provider's commitment to accelerate EV

Adani also posted pictures of the meeting but the two did not say where the meeting took place. The pictures seem to suggest the meeting took place at Adani group's

headquarters in Ahmedabad. "An absolutely terrific conversation with @gautam_ adani over a delicious breakfast about India's phenomenal growth and rising entrepreneurship. @Uber is committed to scaling up shared mobility and accelerating transition to

EVs -- looking forward to

take our partnership to the next level," Dara replied to Adani's post. The Über CEO arrived in India earlier this week. During this time, the ride-sharing platform Uber on February 22 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) to explore an integration with the network

to expand the range of mobility offerings on the Uber app.

Don't experiment on digital nagriks with 'unreliable' models and AI

PNS NEW DELHI

Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar on Saturday made it clear to Google that explanations about unreliability of AI models do not absolve or exempt platforms from laws, and warned that India's digital 'nagriks' "are not to be experimented on" with unreliable platforms and algo-

The minister's comments came after Google, which is under fire over AI tool Gemini's objectionable response and bias to a question on PM Narendra Modi, said it has worked quickly to address the issue and conceded that the chatbot "may not always be reliable" in responding to certain prompts related to current events and political topics.

Chandrasekhar, the Minister of State for IT, in a post on X (formerly Twitter) said ensuring safety and trust are legal obligation of plat-

"Government has said this before - I repeat for attention @GoogleIndia...Our DigitalNagriks are NOT to be experimented on with "unreMoS IT warns Google



platforms/algos/ model...`Sorry Unreliable' does not exempt from law," the

minister said. On Friday, Chandrasekhar had warned that Google AI tool Gemini's response to a question around the prime minister was in direct violation of IT rules as well as several provisions of the criminal

Chandrasekhar has taken immediate cognizance of the issue raised by verified accounts of a journalist alleging bias in Gemini in response to a question on Modi while it

gave no clear answer when a similar question was asked for Trump and Zelenskyy.

'Government has said this

@GoogleIndia...Our

experimented on with

before - I repeat for attention of

DigitalNagriks are NOT to be

platforms/algos/model... Sorry

Unreliable' does not exempt

from law," the minister said.

In an e-mail statement earlier on Saturday, a Google spokesperson said, "We've worked quickly to address this issue.

Google further said Gemini is built as a creativity and productivity tool and 'may not always be reliable, especially when it comes to responding to some prompts about current events, political topics, or evolving news". "This is something that we're constantly working on improving,".

65,000 functional PACS to be computerised by Aug: Shah

Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said around 65,000 functional Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) will be computerised by August this year to improve their efficiency.

The computerisation work has already been completed so far in 18,000 PACS.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated the project for computerisation in 18,000 PACS across the country. "I am happy that out of

65,000 PACs, computerisation of 18,000 PACs has been completed. Before elections, 30,000 PACs will be done," Shah said, while addressing a conference. By August 2024, all PACS will

be computerised, the Union minister said.

In June last year, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the computerisation of these PACS with an outlay of Rs 2,516 crore. he objective is to increase the efficiency of PACS, bringing transparency and accountabil-



Territories, irrespective of political parties.

Shah also highlighted

that the model bylaws

implemented by all

states and Union

have been

ity in their operations. This will also help in facilitating PACS to diversify their business and undertake multiple activities/services.

Shah also highlighted that the model bylaws have been implemented by all states and Union Territories, irrespective of polit-

With the adoption of these model bylaws, he said PACs can

up by PACS across 11 states.

now diversify into new areas.

The Prime Minister formally launched 'World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector' with the inauguration of 11 godowns set

Modi also laid the foundation stone for the construction of

godowns in an additional 500 PACS across the country.

On this initiative, Shah said farmers would be able to store 100 per cent of their production with the creation of new capac-

Storage capacity in other countries is higher than production except for India, he added. Food Corporation of India (FCI) has been bearing the

farmers, Shah said. The cooperation minister said more than 50 initiatives have been taken in just 35 months following the creation of the cooperation ministry.

Brazil eyes deeper economic ties with India

PNS KOLKATA

Ambassador of Brazil to India, Kenneth F lix Haczynski da N brega on Saturday said energy, defence and agro-processing are the three key pillars for strengthening economic cooperation between the two coun-

Speaking at a session on 'India-Brazil Fostering Trade Partnership - Focus West Bengal' organised by the Bharat Chamber of Commerce here, the diplomat emphasised on business-tobusiness collaborations in iron and steel, milk production, ture. He also expressed optimism about the evolving defence sector alliance

between the two countries. Ambassador N brega said the first Brazil-India Defence Dialogue is expected to begin next week, focusing on strategic partnerships and technological cooperation.

The interactive session explored avenues to deepen economic ties and leverage West Bengal's potential in various sectors.

The diplomat expressed interest in exploring partnerships and technological exchange in food processing



Kerala leads India's healthcare talent migration to MENA

Kerala leads India's healthcare talent migration to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, especially to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) which witnessed a 3.3fold increase in demand in 2023, said a report.

Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh emerged as the leading states contributing to the migration of healthcare workers, including nurses, doctors, and laboratory technicians, to MENA countries, according to data by blue-collar worker platform Huntr.

Migration of healthcare workers from Kerala, in particular, witnessed a notable increase in migration to the UAE, with a 3.3-fold rise in 2023, the report stated.

The report is based on data on Huntr platform and employer organisa-tions in the Middle East from 2022 and 2023.

It further noted that the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar are the most preferred destinations for Indian healthcare professionals seeking job oppor-tunities. These countries offer attractive incentives, including extended residency visas, financial benefits, and state-of-the-art healthcare infrastructure,

the report added.
"The rapid globalisation has opened doors for extensive

"The surge in migration from states like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh reflects a significant shift in the region's

NIT No.25/EEC-4LBNR/GHMC/2023-24

R.O.No:10888-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2023-24

healthcare landscape. With Huntr's innovative solutions and stakeholder collaboration, we're poised to drive further growth and development in the

The report further revealed that employers in MENA countries seek candidates with

PASSENGER BUSES AND HEAVY VEHICLES TOO

IRF calls for making seat belts mandatory

PNS NEW DELHI

International Road Federation (IRF) -- a global road safety body -- has urged the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) to make the use of seat belts mandatory in all heavy vehicles, including passenger buses and school buses, to minimise casualties and injuries in road accidents.

IRF President Emeritus K K Kapila in a letter to MoRTH



said there is an urgent need to which need to be made mandaprovide seats belts in buses, tory. "There have been heartwrenching passenger bus accidents resulting in loss of innocent lives. Many of them would have been saved, had they been wearing seat belts," he

Kapila pointed out that according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's 2021 data, only 14 individuals lost their lives in bus accidents in the

Similarly, based on the

analysis of the accident propensity of Chinese bus drivers in 2022, China reported 215 fatal-

He pointed out that both developing and developed countries have achieved remarkable outcomes due to stringent safety standards for public transport like buses.

"The contrasting and alarming data in India suggests a lacuna in mandating safety standards in buses.

global mobility, and this report is a testament to the crucial role that India plays in meeting MENA countries' rising healthcare talent demands.

MENA healthcare sector," Huntr CEO Samuel Joy said.

specific skills and qualifica-📆 GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION 📶

L.B.Nagar Circle-4, GHMC, (M): 9989094468. For further details can be seen at a rocurement @ www.tender.eprocurement.gov.in. R.O.No:10868-PPICL/ADVT/1/2023-24

SHORT TENDER NOTICE

Name of work: Maintenance Works-1 Nos. Estimate Amount: Rs. 2.90 Lakhs, Stan

Date & Time: 25.02.2024 @ 03.00 PM, Last Date for receipt of Bids: 26.02.2024/3.00

PM, Name & Address Officer Cell No : Sri. D.Koleshwar Rao, Executive Engineer

🔞 GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION 🚜

NIT No.33/GHMC/MPT/EE/20/23-24 Name of work: Other Work, Estimate Amount/ECV: Rs.19.00 Lakhs, Start Date & Time: 27.02.2024 / 01.00 PM, Last Date receipt of Bids: 02.03.2024/11.10AM Name & Address Officer: Sri. P.Satya Narayana, Executive Engineer, GHMC Moosapet Circle -23, Cell : 9989930362. For further details can be seen at e procurement @ www.tender.eprocurement.gov.in. Sdi-Executive Engineer



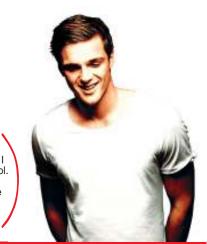
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE CTM No: 2/SE/DEE/Tenders/2023-24 Dated: 22/02/2024

On line tenders are invited Yadadri Bhongir Districts vide Superintending Engineer (R&B) Yadadri Bhuvanagiri. "Construction of Municipal Office Building at Yadagirigutta Municipality in Yadadri Bhongir District (2nd call) ECV Rs. 236.67 lakhs. Further details at http://tendectelangans.gov.in.

GIPR R.D. No.: 868-DP/CL-AGENCH/ADVIT1/2020-24, Gott: 24-02-2024

the pioneer

"I didn't finish university, I barely finished high school books I've read, and the plays that I've read"



BOOKS

The New Delhi World Book Fair is a celebration of the written word that transcends boundaries and bridges cultures. Here - as in others counties of the world the significance of books reverberates with resounding clarity



By Rajdeep Pathak

s the vibrant panorama of the New Delhi World Book Fair unfolded its final chapter on February 18, 2024, it bid a fond farewell o nine days filled with the symphony of literary marvels and cultural splendour. Nestled within the expansive embrace of Bharat Mandapam at Pragati Maidan, this majestic event, inaugurated on February 10th, played host to a multitude of nearly 15 lakh book lovers, who traversed its labyrinthine corridors in search of enlightenment and inspiration. Here, amidst the grandeur of more than 1,000 publishers hailing from 40 illustrious nations such as India, the United Kingdom, Argentina, Spain, and beyond, over 2,000 enchanting stalls stood as beacons of literary excellence.

Organised by the National Book Trust (NBT) under the nurturing wing of the Ministry of Education, this year's fair unfurled its vibrant banner under the resplendent theme of "Bahubhashi Bharat - Ek Jeevant Parampara" (Multilingual India - A Living Tradition). With the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia taking part as the guest country, the air was suffused with the heady aroma of cultural exchange, literary discourse, and harmonious dialogues, weaving a rich flavour of mutual appreciation and understanding between the two nations. While traversing through the stalls with long overhanging signages guiding paths for visitors, one could also wonder at the very craftsmanship of the engineers who put up the display in a manner that attracted students, school children, writers, authors, guest speakers, men and women with their families alike from far end - thanks to the event management groups of companies who designed this panoramic extravaganza, the effect was spell-binding.

However, what really attracted once again is the versatility and the imaginative and creative manner of enticing the readers/visitors and capturing (read holding on) to their interest. There were many window shoppers who just passed by. While some stalls engaged children in solving different crossword puzzles through creative games, there were others like ours (Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti), where spinning on the traditional charkha became a centre of attraction for the young and the old who wanted to try their hands on spinning. What came as a surprise in this digital age where Kindle and other such forums have become the latest fad, is that the Autobiography of Mahatma Gandhi, "My Experiments with Truth" was still a popular choice amongst the

The Children's Pavilion became a delightful sanctuary for young book enthusiasts, offering a diverse array of activities including storytelling, illustration workshops, calligraphy sessions, art demonstrations,

ORGANISED BY THE NATIONAL BOOK TRUST (NBT) UNDER THE NURTURING WING OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, THIS YEAR'S FAIR **UNFURLED ITS VIBRANT** BANNER UNDER THE RESPLENDENT THEME OF "BAHUBHASHI BHARAT -EK JEEVANT PARAMPARA" (MULTILINGUAL INDIA - A LIVING TRADITION). WITH THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA TAKING PART AS THE GUEST COUNTRY, THE AIR WAS SUFFUSED WITH THE HEADY AROMA OF CULTURAL EXCHANGE, LITERARY DISCOURSE, AND HARMONIOUS DIALOGUES, WEAVING A RICH FLAVOUR OF MUTUAL APPRECIATION AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TWO **NATIONS**



languages, dialects, and traditions

World Book Fair, the symphony of myriad harmoniously intertwined into a seamless expression of unity. Here, as one flapped through the pages of literature and glanced at the strokes of artistry, the feeling resonated with a profound testament to the nation's rich heritage. The unveiling of "Jaadui Pitara", an enchanting e-learning oasis, emerged as a beacon of enlightenment in consonance with the vision of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Overflowing with the treasures of puzzles, riddles, and tales, this marvellously inclusive repository, deftly translated into 22 languages through the marvels of (artificial intelligence) AI, stood poised to revolutionize the landscape of childhood education. Alongside, a constellation of specialized modules, meticulously crafted in alignment with NEP 2020, adorned this educational tableau, offering a cornucopia of resources and insights tailored to the modern learner. Embracing the noble vision of fostering a nation of avid readers, an ethereal e-library welcomed all with its boundless offerings, inviting one and all to immerse themselves in the splendour of knowledge.

bibliophiles and seekers of wisdom converge in a harmonious symphony of literary delight. The English author Neil Gaiman once remarked, "Literacy is more important than ever it was, in this world of text and email, a world of written information. We need to read and write, we need global citizens who can read comfortably, comprehend what they are reading, understand nuance, and make themselves understood." His words underscore the contemporary relevance of literacy in an age dominated by digital communication.

Maya Angelou, the celebrated poet and civil rights activist, aptly encapsulated the transformative power of literacy when she asserted, "Any book that helps a child to form a habit of reading, to make reading one of his deep and continuing needs, is good for him." She underscored the profound impact that exposure to literature can have on shaping young minds and nurturing a lifelong love for reading. Book fairs, with their wide array of offerings spanning genres and age groups, play a crucial role in instilling this habit of reading and nurturing a generation of literate and intellectually curious individuals.

Book fairs also serve as vital platforms for promoting diversity and inclusion within the literary world. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, the acclaimed Nigerian author, emphasized the importance of diverse representation in literature when she said that "Stories matter. Many stories matter. Stories have been used to dispossess and to malign, but stories can also be used to empower and to humanize. Stories can break the dignity of a people, but stories can also repair that broken dignity". Therefore, by showcasing literature from diverse cultures, perspectives, and voices, book fairs contribute to a more inclusive literary landscape, fostering empathy, understanding, and interconnectedness among readers.

Book fairs, by bringing together a diverse array of literature, empower individuals to engage with various forms of written expression, thereby fostering critical thinking and communication skills essential for navigating the complexities of the modern world.

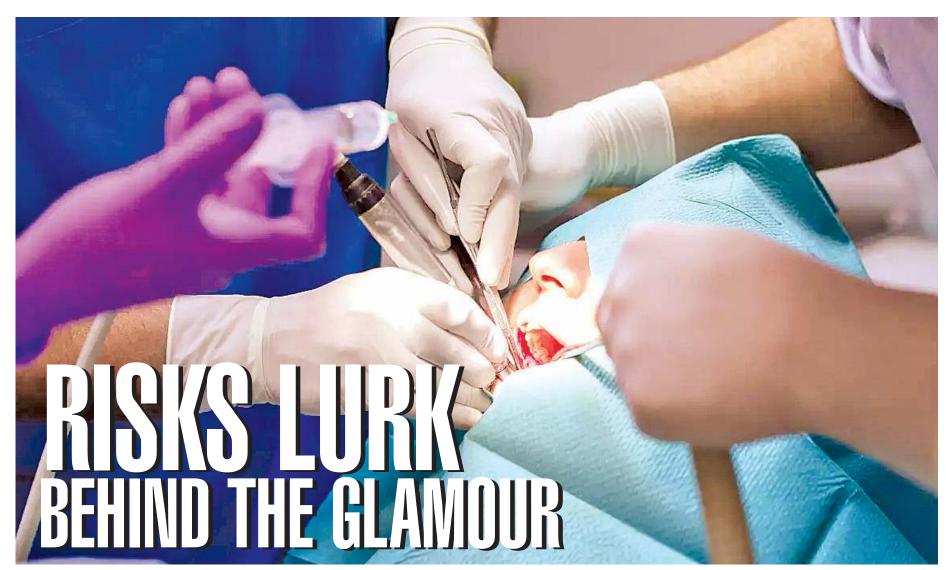
The New Delhi World Book Fair is a celebration of the written word that transcends boundaries and bridges cultures. Here - as in others counties of the world - the significance of books reverberates with resounding clarity, underscoring the enduring relevance of organizing such transformative events with new creative engagements. It is time when we move beyond just literacy...

(The writer is programme executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Sansthan, views are

TO MAINTAIN GOOD HEALTH, YOU NEED TO EXERCISE ALMOST EVERY DAY - 30 MINUTES IS RECOMMENDED, THAT'S WHAT I PERSONALLY DO - AND YOU NEED TO EAT RIGHT - DENISE AUSTIN

health/books 08

HYDERABAD, February 25, 2024



A recent tragic death during smile enhancement surgery of a 28-year-old man in Hyderabad highlights the risk of cosmetic procedures. In a chat with ARCHANA JYOTI, experts emphasise the need for thorough consideration before surgery, advocating stricter regulations, and increased awareness

Prom smoothing wrinkles to reshaping body contours, the allure of cosmetic procedures often promises transformative results and a boost in self-confidence. Cosmetic surgery has emerged as a popular option for individuals seeking to enhance their physical appearance and address perceived imperfections. However, there lies a landscape fraught with risks and complexities that warrant careful

consideration. Consider a few cases of 2023: *Chethana Raj, a promising young TV actor, who tragically lost her life after undergoing plastic surgery in Bengaluru. Her father, K Varadaraj, revealed that hospital authorities attributed her death to a cardiac arrest.

The untimely Luana Andrade, a 29-yearold Brazilian influencer, following liposuction surgery in São Paulo, serves as a chilling reminder of the risks inherent in cosmetic procedures. Complications during the surgery led to cardiac ultimately claiming her life. *Argentine model and actor Silvina Luna died due to complications related to a kidney illness associated with prior plastic surgery. These reported cases involve celebrities or in some others, complainants managed to reach out to media or vice versa. The recent one that has been reported this year is

of LN Vinjam (28) who lost his life on February 18 while undergoing a 'smile designing' procedure, just

weeks before his wedding. from Park Hospital points There are countless out that craze for cosmetic unreported instances of individuals suffering after day. Minimally invasive cosmetic enhancements. procedures have seen an Many endure silent pain as even larger increase than smooth wrinkles over face. their pursuit of an ideal surgical ones. "When it This is also used for

POTENTIAL COMPLICATIONS

Hematoma: Hematoma, a pocket of blood Deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary resembling a bruise, can occur in 1 percent of breast augmentation procedures and is the most common complication after facelifts.

Seroma: Seroma, the pooling of sterile body fluid beneath the skin's surface, is a common complication following surgeries like

Blood loss: While some blood loss is expected during surgery, uncontrolled blood loss can result in severe outcomes such as a drop in blood pressure.

Infection: Despite preventive measures, infections remain common after plastic surgery, affecting around 1.1 to 2.5 percent of individuals undergoing breast augmentation. Cellulitis, a skin infection, is one example, while severe cases may require intravenous antibiotics.

Nerve damage: Many surgeries carry the risk of nerve damage, leading to numbness problems. temporary, nerve damage can sometimes be in the operated area.

embolism: Though relatively uncommon, these conditions can be life-threatening, with rates slightly higher in procedures like abdominoplasty.

Organ damage: Procedures like liposuction pose risks of visceral perforations, where surgical instruments inadvertently puncture internal organs, potentially leading to fatal consequences.

Scarring: Scarring is an inevitable outcome of surgery, with some individuals experiencing hypertrophic or keloid scars, which can be red, thick, and raised, causing aesthetic concerns.

General appearance dissatisfaction: Despite overall satisfaction rates, some individuals may experience dissatisfaction with their postoperative results, particularly if there are contouring issues or asymmetry

or tingling sensations. While often Complications of anesthesia: Anesthesia carries its own set of risks, ranging from permanent, affecting sensitivity or function lung infections to tions, stroke, heart attacks,



DR MANISH JANGRA

appearance is botched by incompetent surgeons. Manish Jangra, Consultant Dermatologist from Park Hospital points procedures is rising day by

cosmetic individuals often seek treatments to address a variety of concerns related to their skin's appearance and texture, correcting skin tone, wrinkles, removing hair on the face or body and reducing surface

'When we talk about Botox a lot of thing comes in our mind as it is widely used by various media platforms and many famous celebrities for various indications. Botox is a botulinum toxin obtained from bacteria. It is basically used in dermatology for various cosmetic issues like frown lines(Forehead) Crow footprints (Lateral to Eyes). These are basically used to

Hyperhidrosis of palms & for excessive sweating. "Then there are Fillers.

These are used to fill the area that has lost tissue or to fill that gap.

"Dermal fillers, sometimes

called soft tissue fillers, are substances designed to be injected beneath the surface of the skin to add volume and fullness. The time they take to work, as well as how long they last, also vary. Some fillers last six months, while others last up to two years or longer. They can be used to enhance lips, enhance shallow area like undereye trough & to soften the static wrinkles. But they must be injected by dermatologist with great experience in aesthetic practice," warns Dr Jangra. He reiterates, this must be

injected qualified dermatologist only various quacks too are flourishing in market claiming cosmetologists leading to various complications. People must check qualification and experience of the doctor first and should cautious about the quacks using term "Cosmetologists." There is no such degree by this name approved by National Medical (NMC), Commission cautions Dr Jangra.

"Also you must ensure to go to dermatologist with MD/DNB/DVD (Degree in Dermatology). A lot of dentists/MBBS/non medicos/nurse have started practicing as cosmetologists, playing with health of the common people."

at Massh Hospital, stresses on the necessity for hospitals to be equipped to handle emergencies and emphasizes the importance of thorough patient history-taking before any surgical procedureminor or major which he's had in the previous history. If he's had a surgery, what kind of anaesthesia, did he have any kind of complications and if there is any detailed notes discharge summary available with the patient. Before any surgery the medical teams get multiple tests done that



DR SACHIN AMBEKAR Director of Minimal Access Surgery and Medical Director at Massh Hospita



at Fortis La Femme

includes local anaesthesia test dose, IV antibiotic test dose. The anaesthetist or the surgeon takes a detailed history of the medical and surgical history. While it is mandatory for every centre involving dentists, oral maxillofacial, aesthetic ad plastic surgery to have qualified doctors on its panel but it is most important to **Dr** Sachin Ambekar, keep a backup in case there is Director, Minimal Access any emergency. **Dr Madhu**Surgery and Medical Director **Goel**, Director, Gynecologist and Obstetrics at Fortis La Femme highlights several key points surrounding the motivations, types, potential risks associated with these surgeries.

From addressing perceived enhancing flaws to confidence and conforming to societal beauty standards, rise of social media and celebrity culture have also contributed to the desire to emulate certain looks or features, she notes. While many

procedures are generally safe

and backed by research, it's crucial for patients to be aware of the potential risks and complications involved. As with any surgical procedure, there are inherent risks such as anesthesia complications, infections, scarring, and in sensation. changes 'Therefore, thorough consultation with a qualified healthcare provider and a realistic understanding of both the benefits and risks are essential steps, advises Dr Goel.

DOCTORSPEAK

India's Over-the-Counter Topical Steroid Crisis

Topical steroids, initially designed for short-term under medical supervision, are increasingly being used without proper guidance, with various factors contributing to this issue. The ease of availability and lack of stringent and lack of stringent regulations contribute to the rampant over-the-counter sales, leading to misuse with Topical Steroid-Damaged Facies (TSDF) standing out as a visible consequence. While steroids are used for medical conditions like medical conditions like psoriasis and eczema, amongst others, their unsafe and unregulated use can leads to multiple problems. Let's delve deeper into the reasons behind this phenomenon:

MISDIAGNOSIS AND SELF-MEDICATION

Many individuals lack proper medical knowledge and may incorrectly diagnose their skin conditions. This leads them to self-medicate with topical steroids without seeking professional advice. This practice not only exacerbates existing skin issues but also puts them at risk of developing dependence on these potent medications.

PROFIT-DRIVEN
PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY: pharmaceutical Some companies prioritize profits over public health by making topical steroids readily available without stringent regulations. This accessibility encourages indiscriminate use among consumers who may not be aware of the potential risks and side effects associated with these medications.



DR DIKSHA AGRAWAL Consultant Dermatologist Ghaziabad Dermatology Čentre

LACK OF AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

There is a general lack of awareness among the public regarding the appropriate use of topical steroids and their potential adverse effects. Consumers may be influenced advertisementsrecommendations from non-medical

sources, further perpetuating the misuse of these medications. For instance, skin thinning occurs due to the inhibition of collagen synthesis by steroids. This can result in skin atrophy, making it more fragile and prone to injuries. Additionally, continuous application of topical steroids can lead to the development of stretch. marks (striae) on the skin, highlighting the detrimental

effects of steroids. This scenario urgently calls for collaboration between regulatory authorities, healthcare professionals, pharmaceutical companies, and the public to ensure the safe and appropriate use of

WHO: Nations must step up tobacco control measures

Despite significant declines in tobacco consumption over the years, the South-east Asia region continues to be the home of the highest number of tobacco users, including smokeless tobacco. Moreover, the use of ecigarettes is on the rise, particularly among young people, posing additional health risks.

Highlighting the gravity of the menace causing health issues like cancer, respiratory issues, and heart disease, newly elected Regional Director of WHO South-East Asia, Saima Wazed, has called for heightened efforts in controlling both tobacco and e-cigarette usage within the

Of particular concern is the increasing number of adolescent tobacco users, indicating a concerning trend among younger populations. Additionally, the rise in ecigarette use among schoolaged children, as evidenced by Thailand's experience, demands immediate

attention, she said. Furthermore, she stressed the lack of evidence supporting the effectiveness of ecigarettes for smoking cessation, underscoring the need for regulatory measures. Key statistics underline the gravity of the situation, with an estimated 411 million tobacco users in the region, further curb accounting for a significant consumption," Wazed said.



SAIMA WAZED

portion of global tobacco consumption. Smokeless tobacco usage is particularly prevalent, with the region hosting nearly 77% of global users. Furthermore, there approximately million adolescent tobacco indicating concerning trend among younger populations.

Regarding e-cigarettes, she said, despite efforts by some countries to ban or regulate ecigarettes, comprehensive measures are required.

'Several countries in the region have set ambitious targets for tobacco control, with initiatives such as "Tobacco Free Bangladesh" and "Tobacco Endgame" in India.

"Moreover, countries are implementing reduction strategies advocated by WHO, such as the MPOWER package, to

BOOK REVIEW

Rhythm of the Ruins unveils emotional brilliance

Enter the world of 'Rhythm of the Ruins' by Mukul Kumar, a captivating collection of poignant poems that capture the essence of life's complexities, offering a profound exploration of the beauty found amid chaos and change. From the slums of Bombay to mythic realms, the book promises to touch the hearts and minds of all who dare to delve into its pages

By SWARN KUMAR ANAND

I miss you terribly, Papa My sky stretches, serene Within the fortress of his care, Deluge or draught draws from My shelter a joyous smug stare.

Mukul Kumar's poetry collection "Rhythm of the Ruins" commences with an unwavering dedication to his late father, painting a vivid picture of the poet's profound connection to his Papa. The poem portrays the father as a piece with a unique blend of for resolution amid tumult.

nurturing guardian, providing a sense of eternal peace and security. Evoking imagery of a serene sky sheltered within the fortress of paternal love, Kumar finds solace amid life's uncertainties. The phrase "joyous smug stare" hints at the comfort and pride derived from his father's strength and support.

Rhythm of the Ruins offers a profound exploration of the human experience through thought-provoking poems. Mukul Kumar's mastery of personification infuses each

romance and realism, drawing inspiration from sources as Renaissance diverse as paintings to the chaos of modern life. The title poem, "The Rhythm

of the Ruins," sets a captivating tone for the entire collection, prompting readers to ponder the beauty inherent in disorder and flux. Through introspective exploration, the poem delves into the tumult of inner emotions, conveying a yearning

withholding its rain and the subsequent silence following a storm portrays the poet's struggle for catharsis.

Despite the pervasive sense of emptiness, there emerges a resilient endeavour to impose order upon chaos, driven by a desire for rejuvenation symbolised by the invocation of "Gaia" and "Eros".

Will She Come Back?" is an exploration of longing and uncertainty, where time seems of imperfection. Each poem is to blur into an unintelligible a journey in itself, offering

The vivid imagery of a cloud haze. It delves into the universal question of whether someone departed will return, evoking themes of hope, longing, and the enigmatic nature of fate. With its emotive depth and evocative language, the poem invites readers to contemplate the intricacies of human relationships and the

enduring quest for closure. Throughout the book, Mukul Kumar delves into a wide range of themes, from love and loss to the complexities of human nature and the beauty

readers moments of reflection and insight. "Not Missing the Rainbow" invites us to ponder the significance of common sights and experiences.

What sets "Rhythm of the Ruins" apart is Mukul Kumar's ability to convey deep emotions with simplicity and clarity. His language is accessible yet rich, inviting readers to immerse themselves in the beauty of his verses.

One of the most remarkable aspects of this collection is its ability to resonate with readers on a personal level. Kumar's attention to detail and keen

observation of life's nuances ensure that each poem feels like a deeply personal experience. These are poems to return to time and time again, each reading offering new insights and revelations.

From its evocative title to its stunning cover design, Rhythm of the Ruins (The Browser) is a book that demands attention. Whether you are a lover of poetry or simply someone who appreciates the beauty of wellcrafted words, this collection is sure to leave a lasting impression.



Navalny's death marks Putin path to unchecked power

He was regarded as Putin's most significant political opponent to date and had sparked protests from the heart of Moscow to many other parts of the world.

His death appears to be shrouded in mystery, according to various media sources. However, the Yamal Directorate of the Federal Penitentiary Service, where for alternative ways of he was detained, issued an punishment, official statement regarding his sudden demise. It reads, "On February 16, 2024, in Penal Colony no. 3, the convict Alexei Navalny felt unwell after a walk, almost immediately losing consciousness, according to the representatives of department. Medical from personnel the institution arrived promptly, and an ambulance crew was All necessary resuscitation measures were carried out, but unfortunately, the steps did not yield positive results. The emergency medical team are nearly 700 such prisons pronounced the convict dead. The cause of death is being

investigated."

Aleksei A Navalny, the fiery French, published in 1975)
Russian Opposition leader strongly condemns the and critic of President Vladimir modern prison system. He Putin, passed away last week. argues that prison did not become the principal form of punishment solely because of the humanitarian concerns of the reformists. Probably, he is right; otherwise, the criminal justice system could have taken an ugly turn by now. Due to the continued fight of reformists, human rights activists, liberals, and many legal experts who advocated punishment has become less prevalent. However, Putin's Russia still maintains a century-old prison system located in the deep Arctic Circle. And this was where Navalny spent the last days of his life.

Commonly known as the "Polar Wolf," Penal Colony 3 (IK-3) or FKU-IK3 was established in the 1960s. It is located in the town of Kharp in the Province of Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug. It serves as a maximumsecurity corrective colony for men in Russia, although there

across the country.
Initially established as part of the Gulag System of forced Navalny died, leaving behind labour camps, it was built by a legacy of resistance. It is Gulag prisoners during the worth knowing about the notorious Stalin Era. Situated horrific prison he was kept in. about 1900 km northeast of Michel Foucault, the great Moscow and about 60 km French philosopher, in his north of the Arctic Circle, the after receiving prompt famous work titled "Discipline" town of Kharp experiences and Punish: The Birth of the hardly any difference between Prison" (Surveiller et punir: night and day, as it is mostly Naissance de la prison in covered by snow year round. to defy Putin, fully aware that



Navalny wrote in one of his posts on X, "When I look out of the window, I can see a night, then the evening, and then the night again." This was a real hell where convicts were subjected to mental and physical torment, and Navalny too became a victim

of the system last week. Navalny was first jailed in 2021 for 11 and a half years on fraud and other charges. In 2023, another term of 19 years was added to the previous ones for various offences, including funding extremism. The first known attempt by state agents to kill Navalny was in 2020 when he was poisoned with the nerve agent Novichok, which was smeared inside his underwear, but he survived treatment Germany. Less than a year later, he flew back to Moscow

he would soon be jailed. During his trial in 2021, he boldly said in the courtroom, "I have morally offended him (Putin) by surviving. He will enter history as a poisoner. We had Yaroslav the Wise and Alexander the Liberator. And now we will have Vladimir the Poisoner of Underpants." He fearlessly spoke out about all the plans Putin made to kill him but stood his ground

As an individual, Navalny never embraced tragedies, and he was a fan of "Star Wars". While in prison in 2021, he wrote, "Prison (exists) in one's mind. And if you think carefully, I am not in prison, but on a space voyage... to a wonderful new

and did not flee Russia.

At 47, when he passed away, he remained hopeful that one day Russia would witness a land of freedom. But alas! The dissident and born activist

Navalny could not see and experience the light of that day. On the way to that blissful voyage, he departed from this world.

The saddest part of this tragedy is that so far Navalny's body has not been handed over to his family. His mother, Lyudmila Navalnaya, who immediately travelled to the remote IK-3 penal colony after his death, was barred from seeing his body.

Investigators gave Lyudmila three hours to agree to forgo a public funeral or else they will bury him immediately on prison grounds.

Meanwhile, Navalny's wife, Yulia Navalnaya, who vowed to continue the struggle against Putin, alleged that her husband might have been killed with a Novichok-style nerve agent. According to her, the authorities are delaying the release of the body because they want all traces of

the poison to disappear. But spokesperson Dmitry Peskov completely rejects Yulia's allegations. Repression is at its peak in

Russia as Putin prepares for the presidential election next month. He is virtually assured of winning the election as there is absolutely no Opposition in Russia today. He has been intensifying his efforts, either through his secret agents or by using state forces, since the beginning of his regime to eliminate almost all of his political rivals. Putin has been in power since

1999. He became President in 2000 and has remained in the Kremlin ever since, firmly holding onto power by eliminating all of his rivals. He aims to restore Russia's past glory in the face of the expansion encirclement of the NATOled West around his country. The traditional inclination to highlight the uniqueness of Russia stems from the moral and spiritual background of the "Russian Idea".

Thus, there has always been a debate within Russia about whether it should align with the West or with the East. However, with Putin, it is well-established that today's Russia stands in opposition to the West (which is also strongly opposed to Russia) and aligns with the rest. In prolonged challenging journey, he has been striving to convey to Russians and the rest of the world the importance of his continued hold on power.

Putin's game plan has become clear to the world. He is not only seeking to maintain his rule but also to assert Russia's glory against the West in the 21st century. Moreover, the bloody war

with neighbouring Ukraine, which began in February 2022, has put Putin and his system in crisis. This war has inflicted significant damage on him. The longer it persists, the more casualties and losses of resources he will incur in the days ahead. However, his objective is straightforward "the capitulation of Ukraine". He aims to restore the Russian Empire and its vast influence over Eurasia. So, 21st-century Russia under Putin is entangled in myths and faces challenges from within and outside. It can be best described with the prophetic words of Fyodor Tyutchev, a 19th-century poet: "With the mind alone Russia cannot be understood, No ordinary yardstick spans

She stands alone, unique, In Russia, one can only

her greatness:

believe." It is evident that Russia, somehow beyond the rational understanding of a commoner, can no longer accept the geopolitical realities and global governance constructed by the West. Thus, the struggle continues between Russia and the West. However, it is better for the US and the rest of the West to engage with Putin.

As Russia's defiance of Western norms continues, engaging with **Putin remains** crucial. However, Navalny's death highlights the need for accountability and space for **Opposition voices** within the regime



MAKHAN SAIKIA

While his vision of a new, powerful, and aggressive Russia may persist, Putin should provide a meaningful platform for opposition voices to point out the flaws in the regime. Whether natural or unnatural, Navalny's death paints a grim picture of Putin.

(The writer is a Senior Faculty at the Department of Political Science in the School of Liberal Education, Ğalgot University, Greater Noida.) Galgotias

OUTLOOK-

Transforming public broadcasting



SHASHI SHEKHAR VEMPATI

decade of reforms in Indian only critical examination, not only for has also freed up valuable the transformation since Prime spectrum for 5G and rural Minister Narendra Modi took office but also for the pivotal role public service media is poised to these transmitter sites towards play in India's developmental managing its fast-expanding FM "Viksit Bharat" by 2047.

India, is often labelled as the "lost breaking the silos within which decade", particularly true for public broadcasting due to the lackadaisical approach of the then government towards reforms. Doordarshan and All India Radio remained entrenched in a status Kisan, challenges of the 21st century. every embarked on an unprecedented journey of public broadcasting reforms, the impact of which was most evident during the COVID-19. This transformation has not only been about technological upgrades but has been driven by

challenges of the internet era. The transformation witnessed since 2014 is staggering in both Internationally, DD India's scale and complexity. The reach growth as a channel has been of DD FreeDish, India's largest remarkable, becoming the free-to-air DTH platform, has number one English news doubled, serving over 45 million channel in India and expanding families. It became a lifeline its global footprint to over 190 during the COVID-19 pandemic, countries through a combination providing critical access to of platforms such as myK in educational content to millions of Korea, YuppTV in North students across India who faced limitations in internet access. FreeDish's role in saving the academic year for these students was recognised by global media outlets, highlighting how India impact of the pandemic.

Also, Doordarshan's broadcast of

Wall Street Journal. The viewership records established by Ramayan set a high benchmark for Indian television for years to

public broadcasting undertaken terrestrial television transmitters. With this phase-out, Prasar Bharati has not Apublic broadcasting warrants expenditure on electricity, but it communication services. Redeploying the manpower from journey towards achieving a radio network, Prasar Bharati also undertook long-overdue The period between 2004 and convergence between 2014, when the UPA governed television and radio operations, Akashvani and Doordarshan had

long operated. The expansion of Doordarshan's satellite channels from 23 in 2017 to 36 in 2021, including dedicated channels like DD underscores quo of the 20th century mindset, commitment to diversified ill-equipped to meet the content catering to the needs of Indian. Similarly, However, since 2014, under the Akashvani's footprint expanded stewardship of Prime Minister significantly, ensuring the voice Narendra Modi, Prasar Bharati of India reached the farthest corners of the country and beyond. Digitalisation and the integration of IT systems across DD and AIR have made public broadcasting more accessible and inclusive. The introduction of sign language commentary for a vision for how broadcasting major events and the digitisation must evolve to meet the of archival content preserve India's rich cultural heritage while making it accessible to all. America, apart from YouTube. This international outreach is critical for projecting India's perspectives and values on the

global stage. Financial sustainability has also effectively leveraged public been a focus, with Prasar Bharati broadcasting to mitigate the achieving a 13 per cent revenue growth in 2021-2022 from commercial operations. This corner of the globe by amplifying epics Ramayan and Mahabharat financial prudence, coupled with during the COVID-19 lockdown technological advancements, has engaged citizens across India and established a strong foundation caught the attention of for a roadmap towards a self-

international media such as the sustaining public broadcasting

Strategic interventions, such as broadcasting weather reports for Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and expanding the digital footprint The most significant reform in through platforms like the NewsOnAir App, reflect a bold over the past ten years has been and innovative approach to the phasing out of over 1200 leveraging public broadcasting interest and globs

> The impact of a decade of reforms in public broadcasting is clearly visible, with the Reuters Institute of Journalism Studies ranking Doordarshan and Akashvani as the most credible and trustworthy sources of news in India in its annual surveys. Yet, these reforms are not an end but

a beginning. To realise Prime Minister Modi's vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047, public broadcasting must continue to evolve. It must serve as a platform for education, dialogue, innovation, and bridging the digital divide and ensuring that every Indian, irrespective of their socioeconomic status, has access to information, education, and entertainment. This becomes apparent when one considers the diversity of India's languages across regions, many of which are either underserved or unserved by the private media. Akashvani's services spanning more than a hundred languages and dialects are a reminder of how challenging it is to disseminate developmental messages to the remotest regions of India in a consistent and accurate manner. Through Prime Minister Modi's Mann ki Baat, Akashavani has only amplified developmental messaging across India but has also contributed to the technologies of the future. Today, AI models are being developed for these languages and dialects by leveraging the corpus of Mann ki Baat recordings and the archives of Doordarshan and All India Radio.

The journey from "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" to "Viksit Bharat" is long and challenging, but with the strategic use of public broadcasting, India is poised to achieve this vision, ensuring that the voice of every Indian is heard, and the story of India's development reaches every these billion voices.

(The writer is a former CEO of Prasar Bharati)

PERSPECTIVE

Legal support to MSP hurts economy

The tnirieen-monan are granters' protest on the borders thirteen-month-long of the national capital in 2020-21 was called off when three farm laws were repealed. Now, Punjab farmers have demanded statutory guarantees for minimum support prices (MSPs) for 23 crops, loan waivers, pensions, amendments to trade policies such as withdrawing from the WTO, withdrawing criminal cases filed by agencies against them, free electricity, and exemption accountability for any pollution and environmental hazards caused

by farm practices. In several rounds of discussions between the government and farm representatives have explained that a legal guarantee for the procurement of 23 crops at MSP could result in a fiscal disaster and damage the economy. Referring to the 2020-21 data, the total value of agricultural produce is ₹40 lakh

crore, and no government can make a provision of this amount from the total outlay of ₹47 lakh crore. Hardly any money would be left for other development works and achieving social goals necessary for overall growth. The data reveals that the government spent ₹2.5 lakh crore in 2022-23 on procuring wheat and rice at MSP. The Union Government's proposal for a five-year contract with farmers to procure maize, cotton, and pulses - arhar, tur, masoor, and urad — at MSP has also been rejected by farm unions. Furthermore, farmers are demanding to work out MSP based on the formula C2+50 per cent (C2 is the comprehensive cost

including the imputed cost of capital and rent on land), suggested by the Dr Swaminathan Committee, while at present, it is being worked out with all paid-out costs A2+FL, which includes costs incurred towards hiring human labour, leased rent for the land, cost of inputs like seeds, fertilizers, manure, depreciation on implements and buildings, irrigation charges, interest on working capital, and also the

imputed value of family labor. Agriculture contributes 17 per cent to India's economy, while it employs 50 per cent of the workforce. Furthermore, only 2 per cent of Indian farmers own 25 per cent of the land, with the top 7 per cent of farming households owning 46 per cent of farmlands. These households are affluent and have a strong influence on policy

However, the majority, comprising over 80 per cent of farming

households, have land holdings of less than a hectare. The total holding of this 80 per cent household group accounts for only 30 per cent of the agricultural lands.

The protest has garnered global support. Similar to the previous protest at the borders of Delhi in 2020-21, Claudia Webbe, a UK MP from Leicester East, has supported the Delhi Chalo protest emphasising that Indian farmers are peacefully protesting but are met with spiked barricades and tear gas en route to Delhi. Dr Swaiman Singh's organisation,

based in the US, which provided medical services to farmers at the Tikri border during the earlier protest, has urged volunteers to too. Support is also pouring in from many other quarters for this edition of the protest. In a viral video, Sanyukta Kisan

Morcha leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal is heard saying, "cut Modi's graph." This indicates that the entire protest is politically motivated and lacks sincerity in pushing for the demands. It does not appear to be a genuine movement to save farmers; rather, it seems to be a movement to remove Modi from power.

The main Opposition party, Congress, through its national president Mallikarjun Kharge, announced during the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in Ambikapur, Chhattisgarh, that his party would bring MSP under the purview of legal guarantee if voted to power in the forthcoming Lok Sabha election.

Rahul Gandhi also echoed similar Clearly, sentiments. Opposition has a political agenda, and their only aim is to remove Modi and seize power at the centre. However, all the opinion polls suggest that Modi is poised for a strong comeback for a third

Both jawan and kisan draw sympathy from everyone in the country. The former protects us from aggression and disasters, while the latter provides us with food and is considered Annadata (provider of food). The Food Corporation of India procures grain at MSP and utilises it in the PM Garib Kalvan Yojana to feed more than 800 million people at a rate of 5 kg of wheat or rice per month per person. The government heavily subsidises (80 per cent) in favour of consumers, with only one-fifth of the benefits going to producers for subsidised power, fertilizer, etc. Whenever the

price of essential commodities

rises, the government either bans exports or increases imports, as the case may be. This is purely to help consumers. If farmers' demands for MSP are met, it would result in a 25 to 30 per cent increase in food inflation. No government will accept such high

Ironically, the MSP of wheat and rice in north India is higher than the market price Puniah has a procurement system at its mandis where Arhtiyas (commission agents) charge a 2.5 per cent commission, and the Punjab Government charges a 6 per cent fee. Procurement of wheat and rice in Punjab exceeds production; in fact, grains from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, where market rates are provide similar support this time 15 to 20 per cent lower than MSP, are transported and sold in Punjab. Punjab has a hundred per cent irrigation potential and provides free electricity up to 300 units for each farmer. Additionally, seeds, chemical fertilizers, and pesticides are heavily subsidised; farmers utilise all these to increase productivity.

Economic principles suggest that if MSP is artificially kept high, a large part of the produce will remain unpurchased, leading to hardship for small farmers. Commodities such as poultry, fisheries, fruits, vegetables, and milk are traded in the free market, and there is no demand to fix MSP for any of these.

The present AAP Government in Punjab has allowed 300 units of free power, which has had a devastating effect on agricultural lands. During my recent visit to Punjab, I observed that farmers switch on the water pump and keep it on auto mode, resulting in excess water being brought out. table and, more importantly, floods marginal lands adjoining agricultural fields. Consequently, the land becomes saline and less suitable for agriculture, making it impossible to grow food crops. The provision of free power is leading to desertification.

Punjab's most eminent farm expert, SS Johl, has estimated that 80 per cent of the State's debt is due to free electricity. The debt-to-GDP ratio in the State is 48 per cent, the highest among all States in India, leaving very little money for infrastructure development. Furthermore, high farm income leads to higher land prices. No industrialist ventures into environment. acquiring land at such high prices (ranging from one to five crores per acre), which is a reason for slow industrial growth in the State.

The farmers protest is politically motivated and lacks sincerity in pushing for the demands. It does not appear to be a genuine movement to save farmers; rather, it seems to be a movement to remove Modi from power



BK SINGH

Studies have revealed that the water table has declined by 25 meters in 20 years in Punjab. It is high time that farmers heed the government's suggestion and diversify agricultural lands for other crops that are less waterintensive. 2023 was designated as the International Year of Millets. This causes a lowering of the water Growing millets aligns with more natural agricultural practices and offers crops with higher nutritional value. To prevent overexploitation of the land, the cultivation of paddy needs to be minimised. Studies have shown that every hectare of paddy crop causes 5 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.

Given our efforts to reduce emissions to mitigate climaterelated disruptions and catastrophes, it is imperative to shift our crop cultivation practices away from paddy and towards millets. Furthermore, if farmers continue stubble burning, it will take a toll on health and harm the

(The writer is retired Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force) Karnataka)

sunday pioneer

Idli, chicken jalfrezi featured among foods with highest biodiversity footprint

India's idli, chana masala and rajma featured in the top 20 dishes with the highest biodiversity footprint, along with chicken jalfrezi and chicken chaat, according to a new study analysing 151 popular local dishes from around the world.

However, researchers found that dishes with beef as the main ingredient such as fraldinha - beef cut dish originating from Brazil - formed the bulk of the top 20. Chili con carne (spicy stew with chili peppers, beef and beans) and beef tartare were other such dishes.

The scientists from National University of Singapore analysed lists of popular dishes taken from CNN.com and TasteAtlas.com to estimate their biodiversity footprints when globally and locally produced.

The researchers found that dishes made from ingredients like beef, legumes and rice encroaching on biodi-



versity hotspots with already very high agricultural pressure such as India end up having a high biodiversity footprint.

"India was observed to be involved with the production of mostly high biodiversity footprint dishes with biodiversity impacts driven by ingredients (e.g. rice, legumes, chicken) that are not commonly flagged as having a high environmental footprint," the researchers wrote.

Brazilian beef dishes also had high biodiversity impacts due to the conversion of Amazon rainforest and other diverse ecosystems to pasture, they said. Vegan and vegetarian dishes were found to have a consistent significantly lower biodiversity footprint compared to dishes containing meat, the researchers said.

On the other hand, dishes made from starchy foods comprising potato and wheat such as mantou and Chinese steamed bun were among those with the lowest biodiversity footprint, the researchers said in their study published in the journal PLoS ONE.

They said this was partly explained by the lower weights of these dishes with below-average biodiversity footprint per kcal per gram in both locally and globally produced scenarios

and globally produced scenarios.

The researchers calculated the biodiversity footprint of each dish's ingredient by looking at the richness, conservation status, and range of wild mammals, birds, and amphibians within the agricultural land used for the specific product. They then added each ingredi-



ent's footprint together to generate the dish's overall biodiversity footprint score, which shifted depending on whether the ingredient was locally or globally sourced, and industrially or small-scale farmed.

Estimating dishes' biodiversity footprints across countries can empower consumers and facilitate transitioning towards sustainable diets to mitigate the impacts of producing food on biodiversity, the researchers said.

Small changes in the dish we choose to eat and where we get the ingredients from can go a long way in preventing species extinctions, they said.

FIGHT AGAINST RUSSIA

Questions abound on whether Kyiv can sustain



The future looks bleak for war-weary Ukraine: It is beset by shortages in soldiers and ammunition, as well as doubts about the supply of Western aid. Ukrainian forces also face a Russian enemy that has recently saized the initiative on the battlefield.

recently seized the initiative on the battlefield. Two years after Russia's full-scale invasion captured nearly a quarter of the country, the stakes could not be higher for Kyiv. After a string of victories in the first year of the war, fortunes have turned for the Ukrainian military, which is dug in, outgunned and out-

numbered against a more powerful opponent.
As the war enters its third year, here is a look at the situation on the ground, the challenges ahead and some of the potential consequences if Ukraine does not acquire the people, ammunition and assistance it needs to sustain the fight.

WHAT IS THE STATE OF PLAY?

Triumphs have turned to attrition to

Ukraine along the snaking front line in the country's east. With Russia gaining advantages, shortages mounting and a major military shake-up still fresh, questions abound about whether Kyiv can keep going.

"As things stand, neither side has won.

Neither side has lost. Neither side is anywhere near giving up. And both sides have pretty much exhausted the manpower and equipment that they started the war with," said Gen. Richard Barrons, a British military officer who is co-chair of a defense consultancy.

Ukraine suffered setbacks after the muchanticipated summer counteroffensive failed to produce any breakthroughs. The armed forces switched to a defensive posture in the fall to repel new advances from Moscow.

On Feb. 17, Russian forces took control of the embattled city of Avdiivka, where Kyiv's troops were under constant fire with Russians approaching from three directions. Ukrainian commanders had complained for weeks of

personnel and ammunition shortages. It was the biggest battlefield victory for Russia since the fight for Bakhmut, and it confirmed that Moscow's offensive was gaining steam.

Away from the battlefield, Ukraine has proven successful in the Black Sea, where it has used long-range weapons to strike military installations in Crimea and maritime drones to sink Russian warships. Ukraine has disabled a third of the Black Sea Fleet, according to the Atlantic Council. Ukraine is looking to acquire more long-range missiles to strike deep into Russian-occupied territory, a move that some European countries fear may spark escalation from Moscow.

HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED?

Both Russia and Ukraine have sought to keep casualty figures under wraps. Few details about Ukrainian military deaths have emerged since the full-scale invasion began in 2022. But it's clear that tens of thousands of Ukrainian civilians have been killed.

In 2023, the first independent statistical analysis of Russia's war dead concluded that nearly 50,000 Russian men had died in the war. Two independent Russian media outlets, Mediazona and Meduza, worked with a data scientist from Germany's T bingen University to analyze Russian government data.

WHAT HAPPENS IF UKRAINE CAN'T FIND MORE TROOPS?

Without more soldiers, Ukraine's defensive lines will be overstretched and more vulnerable to Russian attack, especially if Moscow launches intense multi-pronged assaults along the 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front line.

The Ukrainian military has an average personnel shortage of 25% across brigades, according to lawmakers. Military commanders are unable to give their soldiers enough rest, and Russia has recently increased the tempo of attacks. As a result, soldiers are tired and more easily injured exacerbating the

effects of the shortage.

Ukraine's military command has said 450,000 to 500,000 additional recruits are needed for the next phase of the war. Even if Ukraine succeeds in mobilizing that number, which is unlikely, it still would not be able to match the manpower of Russia, which has more than three times Ukraine's population.

Lawmakers have spent months mulling over a controversial proposal to increase the conscription pool, as many Ukrainian men continue to evade the war in Ukrainian cities.

Commanders say they don't have enough men to dig trenches or carry out offensive operations. Shortages have also required them to switch tactics and focus on preserving the lives of the soldiers they do have, sometimes at the expense of holding territory.

WHAT ABOUT WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION?

If they continue, ammunition shortages will jeopardize Ukraine's ability to hold territory and keep soldiers alive.

Military leaders appear to be rationing shells, sending trickles of ammunition to firing positions to preserve stockpiles, while promises for more ammunition from Western allies have gone unfulfilled. The European Union failed on its promise to deliver 1 million rounds by the start of the year, delivering only a few hundred thousand.

At the same time, Russia is mobilizing its defense industry and may soon be able to fire 5,000 artillery rounds a day, Barrons said. Ukraine is building up its domestic arms production but will not be able to match Moscow in scale in the short-term.

Military commanders have complained for months of ammunition shortages for infantry fighting vehicles, machine guns, artillery and multiple rocket launch systems. Those shortages grew particularly acute by the end of 2023, with some artillery commanders saying they can meet only 10% of ammunition



Zelenskyy hosts Western leaders in Kyiv

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy welcomed Western leaders to Kyiv Saturday to mark the second anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion, as Ukrainian forces run low on ammunition and weaponry and foreign aid hangs in the balance.

hangs in the balance.
Zelenskyy posted a
video from the Hostomel
airfield together with
Italian Premier Giorgia
Meloni, Belgian Prime
Minister Alexander De
Croo and Canadian Prime
Minister Justin Trudeau, as
well as the the European
Commission President

Ursula von der Leyen.

"Two years ago, here, we met enemy landing forces with fire; two years later, we meet our friends and our partners here,"

Zelenskyy said at the airport just outside of Kyiv, which Russian paratroopers unsuccessfully tried to seize in the first days of

the war. The Western leaders arrived shortly after a Russian drone attack struck a residential building in the southern city of Odesa, killing at least one. Three women also sustained severe burns in the attack on a residential building Friday evening, regional Gov. Oleh Kiper wrote on his social media account. Rescue services combed through the rubble looking for survivors.

Italy, which holds the rotating presidency of the Group of Seven leading economies, announced that the G7 will meet virtually on Saturday with

Zelenskyy and would adopt a joint statement on Ukraine.

"More than ever we stand firmly by Ukraine. Financially, economically, militarily, morally. Until the country is finally free," von der Leyen said in a post on X, formerly Twitter.

On the front line in the eastern Donetsk region, Ukrainian soldiers pleaded for ammunition.

"When the enemy comes in, a lot of our guys die. ... We are sitting here with nothing," said Volodymyr, 27, a senior officer in an artillery bat-

"In order to protect our infantry ... we need a high number of shells, which we do not have now," said Oleksandr, 45, a commander of an artillery unit. The two officers only gave their first names, citing security concerns.

In a message on the war's second anniversary, Col. Gen. Oleksandr Syrskyi, the commander-in-chief of Ukraine's armed forces, thanked Ukrainian soldiers for their sacrifices and Western allies for their support, saying, "Every projectile, every tank, every armoured vehicle is, first of all, saving the life of a Ukrainian soldier."

Earlier this month, Zelenskyy fired top military commander Valerii Zaluzhnyi and replaced him with Syrskyi, marking the most significant shakeup of top brass since the full-scale invasion.

Astronomers spot new tiny moons around Neptune and Uranus

A stronomers have found three previously unknown moons in our solar system two additional moons circling Neptune and one around Uranus.

The distant tiny moons were spotted using powerful land-based telescopes in Hawaii and Chile, and announced Friday by the International Astronomical Union's Minor Planet Center.

The latest tally puts Neptune at 16 known

The latest tally puts Neptune at 16 known moons and Uranus at 28.

One of Neptune's new moons has the longest known orbital journey yet. It takes around 27 years for the small outer moon to complete one lap around Neptune, the vast icy planet farthest from the sun, said Scott Sheppard, an astronomer at the Carnegie Institution for Science in Washington who helped make the discovery. The new moon orbiting Uranus, with an estimated diameter of just 5 miles (8 kilometers), is likely the smallest of the planet's moons. "We suspect that there may be many more smaller moons" yet to be discovered, he



<u> WWII-ERA BOMB SAFELY DETONATED AT SEA</u>

A World War II-era bomb whose discovery prompted one of the largest peacetime evacuations in British history has been detonated at sea, the Ministry of Defense said on Saturday.

The 500-kilogram (1,100-pound) explosive was discovered Tuesday in the backyard of a home in Plymouth, a port city on the southwestern coast of Britain. More than 10,000 residents were evacuated to ensure their safety as a military convoy transported the unexploded bomb through a densely populated residential area to a ferry slipway, from which it was taken out to sea.

"I think it is fair to say that the last few days will go down in history for Plymouth," said Tudor Evans, the leader of Plymouth City Council.

Plymouth, home to major naval bases for centuries, was one of the



most heavily bombed cities in Britain during the World War II. Fifty-nine separate air raids killed 1,174 civilians, according to local officials. The raids destroyed almost 3,800 homes, and heavily damaged another 18,000.

Scientists measure gravity at microscopic scale

scientists have measured gravity at the microscopic scale in a new study, which they say paves the way for finding the elucive quentum gravity theory.

sive quantum gravity theory.

The gravitational force, originally discovered by physicist and mathematician Isaac

Newton, is known to be fundamentally weak, gaining prominence and being detectable only at macroscopic scales.

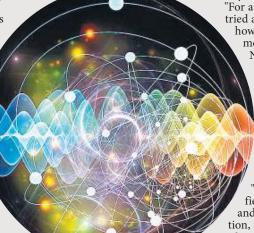
Einstein's theory of general relativity - the widely accepted theory of gravity - has been confirmed through experiments multiple times, more recently by directly observing gravitational waves from the merging of two black holes in 2016 and other black hole imaging studies.

However, in the quantum realm, or at the atomic scale, how the

Say it paves way for understanding quantum gravity gravitational force works is not yet fully understood, even as it is

gravitational force works is not yet fully understood, even as it is believed that particles and forces at this scale interact differently than regular-sized objects.

In this study published in the journal 'Science Advances', physicists at the University of Southampton in the United Kingdom along with those in the Netherlands and Italy, report that they have successfully detected a weak gravitational pull on a tiny particle using a new technique involving levitating magnets. Lead author Tim Fuchs, from the University of Southampton, said the results could help experts find the missing puzzle piece in our picture of



"For a century, scientists have tried and failed to understand how gravity and quantum mechanics work together.

Now we have successfully measured gravitational signals at the smallest mass ever recorded, it means we are one step closer to finally realising how it works in tandem," he said.

Using a sophisticated

setup involving superconducting devices, or "traps", with magnetic fields, sensitive detectors and advanced vibration isolation, the scientists measured a weak pull of just 30 attonewtons (aN) -- 30 quintillionths (10 raised to -18) of a newton -- on a tiny particle of weight 0.43 milligrams by levitating it in freezing temperatures a hundredth of a degree above absolute zero -- about -273 degrees Celsius.

The results open the door for future experiments between even smaller objects and forces with their novel technique employing extremely cold temperatures and devices to isolate vibrations of tiny particles likely proving to be the way forward for measuring quantum gravity, said professor of physics Hendrik Ulbricht.

"From here, we will start scaling the source down using this technique until we reach the quantum world on both sides. By understanding quantum gravity, we could solve some of the mysteries of our universe - like how it began, what happens inside the black holes, or uniting all forces into one big theory," said Fuchs.