www.dailypioneer.com

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





Wedding bells ringing for Taapsee



IRREGULARITIES IN OUTER RING ROAD TOLL TENDERS

CM orders blanket inquiry

the pioneer You see what will happen after the Lok Sabha elections in Telangana. Their behavior is such. For a very long time they were not in power. So now suddenly they are in power and have no limits. What's the language used by the ministers? After elections, we will know whether it will be Himachal or Karnataka. Today their own minister is speaking. We need not have doubts. Such a situation may occur in Telangana. They just have 64

QUOTE OF THE DAY

- Dr K Laxman, BJP MP

Some exam centres lack ...

Some private colleges in Tarnaka and Mehdipatnam reported lack of basic facilities such as drinking water and lights despite the Telangana State Board of Intermediate Education (TSBIE) claiming that all arrangements are available for the students during the examinations. The Intermediate public examinations commenced on Wednesday wherein the first-year students have exam in second language Telugu, Hindi, Urdu, Sanskrit. Arabic, French, Marathi and

-PAGE: 3

Climate change may be reducing...

Climate change may be causing more competition for food in oceans, leading to a reduction in the weight of fish, according to a study. Researchers at the University of Tokyo in Japan found that fish weight in the western North Pacific Ocean dipped in the 2010s due to warmer water limiting food supplies. They attributed the first period of weight loss to greater numbers of Japanese sardines, which increased competition with other species for food. "With higher temperatures... -PAGE: 5



India's super rich have allocated 32 per cent of their wealth in residential properties in the country and overseas. Knight Frank said in a report on Wednesday. As per real estate Wealth Report 2024, 32 per cent of India's Ultra-High-Net-Worth Individuals' (UHNWIs) wealth is allocated towards residential real estate asset class. Nearly 14 per cent of their residential portfolio is allocated outside India. UHNWIs are individuals with a net worth of USD 30 million...

-PAGE: 8

Rahul still feeling sore while...

Senior India batter K L Rahul is unlikely to feature in the fifth and final Test against England in Dharamsala as he continues to feel sore in his right quadricens Rahul became unavailable after the series-opener in Hyderabad in January but as per BCCI, he was 90 per cent fit before the third Test in Raikot earlier this month. Rahul has now travelled to London to get an expert opinion on his injury and with the series in the bag, the Indian team management will not take the risk of playing..

-SPORTS

DELHI EXCISE POLICY SCAM

SC extends protection to Kavitha till March 13

The Supreme Court on Wednesday extended till March 13 the protection it had granted to BRS leader K Kavitha from any coercive action in a money laundering case lodged by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the alleged Delhi excise policy scam.

A bench comprising justices Bela M Trivedi and Pankaj Mithal extended the operation of its earlier order and said the matter will now be taken up for further hearing on March 13.

The ED had issued summons to the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader on February 21 seek-

ing her présence on February 26. However, Kavitha did not appear before the central probe agency.

The ED has alleged that Kavitha was a part of liquor cartel 'The South Group' which paid kickback of Rs 100 crore to Delhi's ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in return for favours under the now-scrapped excise policy for 2021-22.

The top court had on February 5 also extended the protection to Kavitha, the daughter of former Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao.



The bench had deferred

General S V Raju, appearing for the ED, had told the court that Kavitha has been avoiding summons and not

Delhi office on September 15.

the matter after senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Kavitha, said it may be listed for final hearing. Additional Solicitor

appearing before the agency.
On September 15, 2023, the ED

had told the apex court that the summons issued to Kavitha for her appearance before the agency would be extended by 10 days. The ED had issued the summons dated September 4, 2023 to Kavitha, seeking her appearance at the agency's

ders without fixing the minimum rate. He ordered a thorough inves-

tigation into the whole episode, including the involvement of people and organizations responsible in the tender process. HMDA Joint Commissioner Kata Amrapali Reddy has been asked to submit complete details about the irregularities in the tenders, the procedures followed and the movement of the files during the tendering process. The officials have been instructed to also register cases against the officials and employees concerned if any files related to ORR tenders were found to be missing.

NAVEENA GHANATE

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy

has ordered a comprehensive probe

into the irregularities alleged in the

award of tenders relating to the

Outer Ring Road (ORR) toll. The

Chief Minister expressed his dismay

over the finalization of the tenders

at a low price, resulting in a huge

revenue loss to the state govern-

The Chief Minister questioned

HMDA officials for calling the ten-

HYDERABAD

HMDA limits extended up to Regional Ring Road

- Stringent measures and special officers to protect HMDA lands
- Model Schools in government places in layouts



Chief Minister Revanth Reddy holding a review meeting with HMDA officials at the Secretariat on Wednesday

'WE CANNOT ABANDON THE KALESHWARAM PROJECT'

Govt will facilitate BRS' 'Chalo Medigadda'

'KCR must visit personally and apologise to the people of TS'

Irrigation Minister Capt N Uttam Kumar Reddy has suggested that former chief minister K Chandrashekhar Rao should personally visit the Kaleshwaram project, witness the disaster he had caused to Telangana, and apologize to the people of the state, instead of deputing other BRS leaders in the name of 'Chalo Medigadda'. At a press conference here on Wednesday, Uttam Kumar Reddy remarked that it was extremely foolish

- Repairs to be taken up on the basis of NDSA report Kaleshwaram a burden
- forever on state: Uttam

and arrogant on the part of BRS leaders to go ahead with their call for 'Chalo Medigadda'. He added: "From the government's side, we have

cooperation to the BRS leaders and let them inspect Medigadda and other barrages. But whatever the government has to do, it will do." He, however, underlined that the BRS' call was nothing but a political gimmick.Uttam Kumar Reddy posited that ideally KCR himself should visit the Kaleshwaram project and apologise to Telangana people

instructed officials to extend full

Modi to visit TS in March first week



PNS HYDERABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit Telangana in the first week of March. The Prime Minister is likely to

participate in various programmes in Adilabad and Sangareddy districts during his two-day visit. According to sources in the BJP,

PM Modi will visit Adilabad on March 4, where he will attend various development programmes and address a public meeting.
After the visit to Adilabad, the

Prime Minister will return to Hyderabad and have a night halt at the Raj Bhavan. The next day, he will visit

Sangareddy district to launch some development projects. The Prime Minister will later address a public meeting there.

This will be PM Modi's first visit to Telangana after the Assembly elections held on November 30 last year. The state BJP leadership has started making arrangements for the success of PM Modi's public meetings, his first in Telangana ahead of the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections.

excluding synergies," it added.

Chairperson.

Industries Chairman Mukesh

while Uday Shankar will be the Vice

One Time Scheme to clear property tax arrears

The Telangana government on Wednesday announced a 'One Time Scheme' (OTS) for Greater Hyderabad Municipal

Urban Local Bodies, offering a waiver of 90 per cent of accumulated interest on property tax arrears, provided taxpayers clear principal

amount by 2022-23 along with 10 per cent of the interest on accumulated arrears in one go. As per the orders issued by

MAUD Secretary Dana Kishore, "In the circumstances reported by the Commissioner, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, Hyderabad and Director of Municipal Administration, TS Hyderabad in the reference 7th and 8th read above and after careful examination the matter, Government hereby order waiver of 90% on accumulated arrear interest on Property Tax, provided the taxpaver clears the principal amount of property tax

Property dues till the Financial Year 2022-2023 together with 10% of interest on accumulated arrears at one go ncipal amount by 2022-2 ng with 10 per cent of the terest on accumulated in respect of all properties i.e. private properties and government proper-

ties, which are existing in the GHMC limits and other ULBs under "One Time Scheme' (OTS). This scheme is also applicable to all those taxpayers, who paid their entire property tax dues including interest / penalties up to March, 2023 during the current Financial Year prior to coming into force of this scheme, 90% of such interest shall be adjusted against the future payments.

The Commissioner, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, Hyderabad and Director of Municipal Administration, T.S. Hyderabad have been directed to take appropriate action.

Collectors for 3 districts PNS HYDERABAD

IAS transfers: New

Transfers of IAS officers are continuing in Telangana. Recently five more IAS officers were transferred: Rahul Raj as Collector of Medak, Rajarshi Shah as Collector of Adilabad, Sneha Sabarish as Collector of Kumram Bhim Asifabad, BH Sahadev Rao as Additional Commissioner of GHMC, and Hemanta Keshav Patil as Additional Collector of Hyderabad.

Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari has issued orders to this

UTTAM SHARES FROM MINUTES OF MEETING KCR decided even the

size of concrete block

Former chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao, who had been construction of the Kaleshwaram, seems to have had a hands-on approach towards many aspects of the project, going by details of the minutes of certain meetings shared by Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy on Wednesday. Sharing technical details, Uttam Kumar Reddy told the media: "In the minutes of meeting (MoM), it is officially recorded, Chief



Minister suggesting on the size of concrete blocks to be used, how much concrete needs to be poured.

HIMACHAL POLITICAL CRISIS DEEPENS

Speaker suspends 15 BJP MLAs

Minister Vikramaditya resigns from Sukhu cabinet

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress scrambled Wednesday to save its government in Himachal Pradesh, amid dramatic developments that included a resignation announcement by high-profile minister Vikramaditya Singh and the suspension of 15 BJP MLAs by the Speaker.The crisis was triggered by Tuesday's crossvoting by six Congress MLAs in the Rajya Sabha election for the lone seat from Himachal Pradesh.



The party has now sought the disqualification of these MLAs from the assembly, and the matter was heard by the Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania who has reserved **Continued on Page 2**

TS netas keenly observing developments

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana legislators are keenly observing developments in Himachal Pradesh, where there is a burgeoning political crisis. Amid apparent wishful thinking among BRS legislators, BJP Rajya Sabha member Dr Laxman said one must 'wait and watch what happens after MP elections' The senior BJP leader said that Himachal Pradesh-like situations could happen in Telangana also post

the Lok Sabha elections.

Disney, Reliance to create Rs 70,000 cr behemoth

one go at age 90

I can sing almost 18 songs at

Global media giant Walt Disney Co and billionaire Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries on Wednesday announced signing of binding pacts to merge their media operations in India to create a Rs 70,000 crorebehemoth.

A successful completion of the deal would create the biggest firm in Indian media and entertainment sector, with over 100 channels in several laguages, two leading OTT platforms and a viewer base of 750 million across the country.

"As part of the transaction, the media undertaking of Viacom18 will be merged into Star India through a court approved scheme of arrangement," a joint statement

"The transaction values the joint venture at Rs 70,352 crore (USD 8.5 billion) on a post-money basis, 63.16 per cent stake in the com-





bined entity while Disney will have Nita Ambani, wife of Reliance the remaining 36.84 per cent share-

holding. Reliance has also agreed to invest Ambani, will chair the joint venture at closing Rs 11,500 crore into the Reliance and its affiliates will hold

joint venture to grow the OTT busi-

A successful completion of the deal would create the biggest firm in Indian media and entertainment sector, with over 100 channels in several laguages, two leading OTT platforms and a viewer base of 750 million across the country.

steps, the JV will be controlled by RIL and owned 16.34 per cent by RIL, 46.82 per cent by Viacom18 and 36.84 per cent by Disney," the statement said.

Moreover, Disney may also contribute certain additional media assets to the joint venture, subject "Post completion of the above to regulatory and third-party

approvals.
"The joint venture will be one of the leading TV and digital streaming platforms for entertainment and sports content in India, bringing together iconic media assets across entertainment (eg. Colors, StarPlus, StarGOLD) and sports (eg. Star Sports and Sports18) including access to highly anticipated events across television and digital platforms through JioCinema and Hotstar," it said.

The combined entity will have more than 750 million viewers across India and will also cater to the Indian diaspora across the world

Further, the joint venture will be granted exclusive rights to distribute Disney films and productions in India, with a license to more than 30,000 Disney content assets.



National parties declare Rs 3,077 crore income

BJP gets maximum share of Rs 2,361 cr

PNS NEW DELHI

The six national parties have declared a total income of nearly Rs 3,077 crore in the 2022-23 fiscal, with the BJP getting the maximum share of around Rs crore, the 2,361 Association Democratic Reforms (ADR) said Wednesday.

tutes 76.73 per cent of the total income of the six national parties durthe six national parties. ing FY 2022-23, it said. The Congress declared the second highest income

and AAP collected 49.09 per cent or Rs 1,510.61 crore of national parties total income from donations through electoral bonds for FY 2022-23.

The BJP, Congress

The ruling BJP's income consti- at Rs 452.375 crore, which forms 14.70 per cent of the total income of









LEGAL POWER NOT ENOUGH FOR JUDGE

'Stronger tool is desire to understand human life'

PNS NEW DELHI

Legal power is not enough for a judge for whom the stronger tool is their desire to understand human life and people's problems, Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud said on Wednesday.

Speaking at a function organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) to felicitate newly appointed judges- Justices Satish Chandra Sharma, Augustine George Masih, Sandeep Mehta and Prasanna B Varale-Chandrachud said with their elevation, the apex court is once again operating at its maximum mandated strength of 34.More importantly, the



top court would benefit from the diversity of their experience, the CJI said.

"Legal power is not enough for a judge. The stronger tool is their desire to understand human life. The journeys of Justice Sharma, Justice Masih, Justice Mehta and Justice Varale demonstrate their commitment to understanding human life and to improving it with the help of our laws, Chandrachud said

Uncover Cong 'conspiracies' on Kaleshwaram: KTR

Bharat Rashtra Samithi working president and former minister KTR has called on the rank and file of the party to uncover the conspiracies of the Congress to discredit the previous government on the

Kaleshwaram project.
Peddapalli Zilla Parishad
Chairman Putta Madhukar on Wednesday unveiled a document titled 'Facts of the Kaleswaram project' in Sircilla. Speaking on this occasion,

KTR accused the Congress party of plotting to demolish the Kaleswaram project for votes in the MP elections. He

KTR accused the Congress party of plotting to demolish the Kaleswaram project for votes in the MP elections.

ject, was plotting to defame the



BRS party by making false

allegations.
The reputation of the project was being tarnished by showing "small technical errors" in the Kaleswaram project,

known as 'number one project in the world'.

He said that March 1 'Chalo Kaleswaram' program had been planned to explain the truth about the Kaleswaram project to people.

Manthani BRS in-charge,

former MLA and current chairman of Peddapalli Zilla Parishad Putta Madhukar said: "If you read this document explaining the facts about the Kaleswaram project, you will get complete understanding."

The party leaders demanded that the conspiracies of the Congress on the Kaleswaram project should be thoroughly explained to the people.

Telugu language is classical: Governor

PNS HYDERABAD

"Telugu language means classical language," said Telangana Governor Soundararajan. She said, "Speaking Telangana language brings a lot of happiness. Telugu language and culture should be spread through-

The Governor participated in the 16th Convocation of Potti Sriramulu Telugu University held at Ravindra Bharati. Degrees were awarded to those who completed PhD in many courses. Later, she said that Telugu should be taught to all the people who speak other languages. She said that there is no short cut to achieve progress, hard work



is the basis.

"Graduation is a big festival It is our responsibility to give something new to the society. Mother tongue is connected with our life. Telangana language is a classical language. It brings happiness while speaking. There are many Telugu people in many countries. The Telugu language and culture should spread through-

Vigilance raids on HMDA offices

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Vigilance officials reportedly conducted searches at Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) offices. A special team of 50 people reportedly seized files.

The Vigilance surveillance team, which went with an arrest warrant, enquired about the files approved by the two previous directors of the HMDA.

Vigilance officials reportedly seized the files which were given permission in the previous government. Vigilance has reportedly seized all the files on the fourth floor of Maitrivanam. Apart from that, the seventh floor of Swarna Jayanthi complex is also being inspected.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, who expressed anger over the destruction of the ponds from online data, warned the GHMC and HMDA officials that raids would take place, four days

ACB also conducted raids in the HMDA offices a few days ago. The files of various zones were checked at the HMDA office in Swarna Jayanthi Complex, Ameerpet.

On the one hand, while the vigilance searches are continuing, on the other hand, CM Revanth Reddy conducted a review on the HMDA.

Cleaning of 6 major river basins on cards

Govt ropes in 12 institutes to conduct study



PNS NEW DELHI

The government will undertake the work of cleaning six major river basins on the lines of the Ganga and has roped in 12 top technical institutions to conduct a study and formulate a management plan, Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said on Wednesday.

Following the success of the River Basin Management Plan framed by a consortium of seven IITs led by IIT Kanpur, the government on Wednesday signed agreements with different technical institutes for preparing the outlines of river basin management plans for the Narmada, Godavari, Krishna, Cauvery, Periyar, and the Mahanadi.

The agreements were signed between the institutes and the National River Conservation Directorate (NRCD) under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

The Mahanadi River Basin Management Plan will be undertaken by IIT Raipur and IIT Rourkela, Narmada by Indore and IIT Gandhinagar, Godavari by IIT Hyderabad and NEERI Nagpur, Cauvery by IISc Bengaluru and NIT Trichy, and the Periyar River Basin Management Plan by IIT Palakkad and NIT Calicut.

Speaking at the event, Shekhawat highlighted that an announcement in this regard was first made by then President Ram Nath Kovind in an address to a joint sitting of Parliament in 2019.

"In 2019, then President Ram Nath Kovind had spoken about working on six river basins in the country on the same level as the work done in the Ganga basin.

NDA likely to get majority in Rajya Sabha

PNS NEW DELHI

The ruling BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is likely to get a majority in the Rajya Sabha in April this year once the remaining six vacancies under the nominated category are filled and those newly elected take oath.

According to data available with the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, the BJP, which currently has 94 members, gained two seats in the Upper House in the just concluded elections, pushing its own strength to 96.

The strength of NDA, which at present has 113 members, will cross the halfway mark of 123 in the 245member House in April this year once all nominated members take oath. At present, there are only six

MPs who have been nominat-



ed by the President of India as members in the Rajya Sabha, with some having joined the BJP later. There are a total of 12 nominated members in the House.

The data shows that with the support of some independents and nominated members, the NDA which did not have a majority in the Upper House so far will finally achieve the magic figure this April, helping it get crucial leg-islations passed in the Council

Next 5 years will see rapid development, asserts PM

Says NDA will top 400-seat tally in LS polls

PNS YAVATMAL

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday asserted that the ruling BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) will cross the 400-seat mark in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls and said the next five years will see rapid development in the country.

Speaking at a public rally in Yavatmal district, Modi slammed the Congress over pending irrigation projects in the country, especially in the Vidarbha region of eastern Maharashtra, where the district is located.

"We (BJP-led NDA) will cross the 400-seat tally this Lok Sabha polls which are

likely to be held in April-May. The Lok Sabha has a total of 543 seats.

"The coming five years will see rapid development," the Prime Minister maintained. He attacked former Union minister Sharad Pawar and said when he handled the

agriculture portfolio (in the Congress-led UPA government from 2004 to 2014), financial packages would be announced for farmers, but the money would be siphoned off before it could reach the beneficiaries.

The PM said prior to 2014, the year when the BJP came to power at the Centre, of the 100 families, only 15 had time," Modi said ahead of the access to piped water in the

releases their reports."

He said that they were vet-

KCR decided even...

Lashes out at DMK

PNS TIRUNELVELI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday strongly criticised the DMK in Tamil Nadu for being 'oblivious' to the nation's achievements in space sector, after a newspaper advertisement by a state minister belonging to the party over a spaceport kicked up a row over what the BJP claimed had a 'Chinese flag'. Modi alleged the DMK has disregarded India's success in space technology and demanded that the Dravidian party apologise for featuring China in its advertisement in a

Disney, Reliance to create...

Continued from page 1

Mukesh Ambani said this is a "landmark agreement" that heralds a new era in the Indian entertainment industry and welcomed Disney as a key partner of Reliance group.
"We have always respected

Disney as the best media group globally and are very excited at forming this strategic joint venture that will help us pool our extensive resources, creative prowess, and market insights to deliver unparalleled content at affordable prices to audiences

across the nation," he said. Walt Disney Company CEO Bob Iger said India is the world's most populous mar-ket, and is excited for the opportunities that this joint venture will provide to create long term value for the com-

Continued from page 1 Increase it to 10,000 cubic metres per day"... We will release all these after vigilance

ting the minutes of the meeting legally so that they could disclose further details of the decisions taken by KCR.Uttam

said that the Completion ulent way. Contrary to norms, the coffer dam was not removed. 'There are dams and barrages that have life of 100 years. It was great KCR who built a barrage that collapsed in 3

years". Uttam said that they

would try to restore it by this

summer season after they get

from a scratch, we will. We have told L&T to take up the repair at their cost"."Our argument for KWDT-2 is, we will ask as per our catchment area - 68% for water sharing", Uttam said. There is no geographical profile, as per initial reply to NDSA. "The chief designer

NDSA report. "NDSA will tell

us how to repair; we will do as

advised. If they say to start

(KCR) decided on the construction. It is floating structure but constructed it as rigid structure", Uttam said. Uttam Kumar Reddy said that they were planning to do department reorganisation. Chief Minister and Irrigation Minister will visit Karnataka to seek more water for Telangana.

CM orders blanket...

probing agency.

HMDA officials at the Secretariat on Wednesday. Minister that the total revenue generated from the ORR was Rs 600 crore per year before calling the toll tenders. The Chief Minister inquired why the tender was finalised at a meager Rs 7,800 crore to the IRB compa-

TODAY

Shashthi

Chitra:

Swati

Nakshatram:

Yamagandam:

Varivam:

Temp: 33°°

Humidity: 43%

Sunset: 6:22 PM

Gulika:

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:

Tithi: Panchami:

Rs 18,000 crore revenue gener-

ny as against the estimation of the company that won the tender by showing the contract agreement made with the government and handing over 49 per cent of its shares to the foreign companies.

CM Revanth Reddy directed the officials concerned to consider the area inside the Outer Ring Road (ORR) as a unit and prepare plans for the development of Hyderabad. The CM suggested that the HMDA limits should be extended up to the Regional Ring Road (RRR). Radial roads should be constructed to connect the ORR to the RRR. The CM emphasized that priority should be given to the creation of infrastructure in

the newly expanding surrounding municipalities in Hyderabad along with the development of the city. The officials have been asked to prepare a vision document for the development of the city by hiring a special consultancy in tune with the Master Plan-2050.

the officials to focus on the preservation of ponds, streams and other water bodies in the HMDA limits and also speed up land pooling. The officials have been advised to take the help of District Collectors in land pooling and development of the places and work in tandem with all the authorities.

Govt will facilitate BRS'

Continued from page 1

"KCR was not only the Chief Minister but also the Irrigation Minister. He acted as the Chief Designer, Chief Planner, and Chief Architect of the project. Therefore, KCR should visit Kaleshwaram and tender an apology, not others who know nothing about it," he remarked Uttam Kumar Reddy recalled that the Congress government and Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy had invited KCR to the Assembly to speak on the Kaleshwaram project and explain the fiasco and fraud that had occurred in the name of irrigation project. "We even offered to arrange a helicopter for KCR to visit Kaleshwaram, but he is not

coming out," he said Interestingly, he noted that leaders not directly involved in the projects were planning to go to Kaleshwaram. Even former minister K Tarakarama Rao had stated that he was not in the loop regarding irrigation projects. "Someone who designed, planned, and did the engineering is not going. The visit of other leaders is only a political gimmick and drama," he emphasized. The Irrigation Minister said that the Director-General of the Vigilance Department had briefed him about the status of the inquiry. The vigilance report would be submitted soon. "Based on the vigilance report, we will file cases against whoever is guilty of the act.

National parties...

Continued from page 1

Besides the BJP and the Congress, BSP, AAP, NPP and CPI-M have declared their income.

The BJP, Congress and AAP collected 49.09 per cent or Rs 1,510.61 crore of national parties' total income from donations through electoral bonds for FY 2022-23.

The BJP received Rs

1294.15 crore through electoral bonds, while the Congress received Rs 171.02 crore and AAP Rs 45.45 crore.

Citing data shared by the SBI in response to its RTI, the ADR said electoral bonds worth Rs 2,797.356 crore were redeemed by parties in FY 2022-23.

Fifty-four per cent or Rs 1510.62 crore of this has been redeemed by national parties. Between 2021-22 and 2022-23, the BJP's income increased by 23.15 per cent or Rs 443.724 crore from Rs 1,917.12 crore in to Rs 2,360.84, the ADR said.

The AAP's

income increased by 91.23 per cent (Rs 40.631 crore) from Rs 44.539 crore during FY 2021-22 to Rs 85.17 crore during FY 2022-23.

Between the 2021-22 fiscal and 2022-23 fiscal, the income of the Congress, CPI(M) and BSP decreased by 16.42 per cent (Rs 88.90) crore), 12.68 per cent (Rs 20.57 crore) and 33.14 per cent (Rs 14.50 crore) respectively, it noted, citing their records submitted to the

Election Commission. It also said the BJP declared a total income of Rs 2360.844 crore during FY 2022-23, but spent only 57.68 per cent, which comes to Rs 1,361.684 crore of the total income.

The Congress' total income was Rs 452.375 crore while it spent Rs 467.135 crore, with its expenditure for that year exceeding its total income by 3.26 per cent.

The CPI(M)'s total income was Rs 141.661 crore while it spent Rs 106.067 crore - 74.87 per cent of its income.

Similarly, the AAP's total income was Rs 85.17 crore while it spent Rs 102.051 crore -- its expenditure for that year exceeding its total income by 19.82 per cent.

Continued from page 1

After receiving a full report from HMDA, the government will discuss it in the Cabinet and hand over the issue for a probe to the CBI or an equivalent

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy held a review with Officials explained to the Chief

Krishna Paksha

Feb 29 04:18 AM

Mar 01 06:22 AM

Feb 28 07:33 AM

Feb 29 10:22 AM

to Feb 29 10:22 AM

to Mar 01 12:48 PM

1:56 PM to 3:23 PM

6:42 AM to 8:09 AM

04:32 PM to 06:18 PM

9:33 AM to 11:01 AM

03:07 AM to 04:52 AM

Abhijit Muhurtham: 12:05 PM to 12:51 PM

Updated: February 28, 2024 5:00 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Partly Cloudy

to Mar 02 07:54 AM

ation in 30 years period. It had been estimated that the government incurred a loss of Rs 15,000 crore due to the flawed tender process adopted by the HMDA. The meeting also discussed how the HMDA prepared the DPR (Detailed Project Report) with two companies and finalized the one which caused huge revenue loss to the government. The Chief Minister is of the strong opinion that the truth will prevail only if a thorough probe was ordered into the matter. The CM also ordered officials to investigate the transactions of

Modi to visit

TS in March...

Continued from page 1

The state BJP has

already started cam-

upcoming elections

Praja Sankalp Yatras

covering all the 17

paigning for the

CM Revanth Reddy asked

Speaker suspends 15...

Continued from page 1

The suspended BJP MLAs, with the ongoing five Lok Sabha seats in the

In 2019, the BJP had bagged four Lok Sabha seats, which was the party's bestever performance in

Telangana. In the last Assembly elections, the BJP bagged eight seats in the 119member state Assembly, a big improvement from its tally of just one seat in the 2018 polls.

who include the leader of the opposition Jai Ram Thakur, initially refused to leave the House -- in an apparent bid to stall the assembly from passing Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu government's Budget through voice

The BJP wanted voting on the Budget, which they felt would reveal that the Congress has lost its majority in the state assembly. But in the afternoon, the crisis was staved off for the time being as the House passed the Finance Bill by voice vote with

no Bharatiya Janata Party mem-

ber being present. The Speaker

then adjourned the session sine

Chief Minister Sukhu dismissed speculation that he was resigning. "Neither the high command, nor anyone else has

asked me for resignation," Sukhu told PTI Videos.

Congress stalwart Abhishek Manu Šinghvi was defeated by BJP's Harsh Mahajan Tuesday through a draw of lots, after the two candidates bagged 34 votes

Continued from page 1

The result meant that the

"You see what will happen after the Parliament elections. Their behavior is such. For a very long time they were not in power. So, now suddenly they are in power and have no limits. What is the language used by the Ministers? Keep your responsibilities. After elections, we will know whether it will be Himachal or Karnataka. Today

and the possibility of the opposition BJP bringing a no-confidence motion loomed large. TS netas keenly observing... their own Minister is speaking. We need not have doubts that such a situation may not occur in Telangana. They just have 64 seats."A BRS MLA, who did not want to be named, said: "If it

can happen in Himachal, why

not in Telangana? The majority

is not huge for Congress. We

should see how equations

change post poll not just in

Himachal, but Telangana and

Karnataka too.'

Congress which had stormed

into power in the state just 14

months back, winning 40 seats

in the assembly, had failed to

reach the halfway mark.The

Budget was still pending passage

SC extends...

Continued from page 1

She approached the apex court with an application seeking directions to restrain the ED from calling her by way of a notice or summons under section 50 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) during the pendency of her petition. In her plea, she sought protection from coercive action by the antimoney laundering agency on the ground that there are relaxations for women in various criminal laws, including

the PMLA. Section 50 of the PMLA deals with the powers of authorities regarding summons, production of documents, submitting evidence, etc. The application also sought a stay on the operation of the September 4 summons or any other summons and "all coercive measures relating thereto".

The income of National People's Party (NPP) -- the only party from the northeast to have the national party status -- increased from Rs 47.20 lakh during FY 2021-22 to Rs 7.562 crore during FY 2022-23, a rise of 1,502.12 per cent

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

Printed and published by B Krishna Prasad for and on behalf of CMYK Printech Ltd., Phone: 040-23322341, Hyderabad Office: F-502, Diamond Block, Lumbini Rockdale, Somajiguda, Hyderabad - 500 082. Telangana. Printed at Sree Seshasai Enterprises, Plot No.19, IDA Balanagar , Hyderbad-500037, Medchal -Malkajgiri District, Telangana. Editor-in-Chief: Shobori Ganguli. Resident Editor: B Krishna Prasad, AIR SURCHARGE of Rs 2.00.

Hyd ranks fourth in housing price rise in two years

Over the last two years, the housing market in Hyderabad witnessed a significant surge in prices, fueled by robust demand and increased supply, according to the latest Housing Price-Tracker Report jointly released by CREDAI, Colliers and Liases Foras.

Amid unwavering confidence among home-buyers, propelled by favourable interest rates and a positive eco-nomic outlook, housing demand soared, propelling prices upward. The report reveals a 10 per cent year-onyear increase in housing prices, driven primarily by a substantial influx of luxury supply.

Ex-judge of HC

losés Řs 2.5cr

A former High Court judge

was duped by scamsters in the name of electoral bonds. According to the FIR filed at

Film Nagar police station, the

judge paid an amount of Rs

2.5 crore to scamsters who

asked for amount in the

Sarath Reddy, collected Rs

2.5 crore from a former high

court judge for a political

party, claiming that it would

be acknowledged in the form

The former judge alleged,

The scammers said, out of

regard for me and my expe-

rience as a former judge of

High Court, they would

place me and my grandchil-

However, after the sum

was collected from the judge's

family, no bonds were issued,

and no favour was done.

Subsequently, he lodged a complaint at Film Nagar

Later, the former judge

of electoral bonds.

dren in the US.

police station.

name of a political party. According to the police, the accused, Narendran and

in electoral

bond scam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



Notably, the Southwest submarket experienced the highest surge at 24 per cent yearon-year, while prices in Central Hyderabad moderated after a sequential rise in the fourth quarter of 2022.

Analysis of the report further indicates that 4BHK units witnessed the highest annual price rise at 14 per cent, closely followed by 1BHK units with a 11 per cent year-on-year

According to the report, a significant portion of the unsold inventory, approximately 95 per cent, is currently under construction in Hyderabad.

Hyderabad witnessed the fourth-highest increase in average housing prices in 2023 compared to 2021 levels, following Bengaluru, Delhi NCR and Kolkata. The report also highlights a surge in new property launches in the mid and luxury segments across major cities during 2022 and 2023. In Hyderabad, along with Bengaluru, Kolkata, Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) and Pune, new supply surged 2-2.5 times over the past two years.

BIOASIA 2024 CONCLUDES

AI to provide advanced health solutions mooted



Telangana Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan and Minister Sridhar Babu pose with representatives of various firms at the

PNS HYDERABAD

The three-day Bio Asia Conference concluded on Wednesday with the Government of Telangana announcing strategic plans for the formation of a Life Sciences GCC Consortium bringing together all the Life Sciences GCCs in Hyderabad. The government aims to create a collaborative ecosystem fostering innovation, knowledge sharing and collective growth within the Life Sciences GCCs.

The conference witnessed

withdrew the complaint after the launch of Centre for Fourth the accused, Narendra, and Industrial Revolution in Life Sciences (C4IR) by the governhis family members promised to return the ment of Telangana and Global CEOs David Ricks, CEO, Eli money within a couple of Chairman & CEO, Medtronic. He wrote, "I could see tears in the eyes of the moth-C4IR is the first thematic centre focused on healthcare and er and wife. I believe in and respect them. Therefore, I life sciences in Telangana, in hereby withdraw my comcollaboration with the World

nerships were forged as headquartered Garmin Health launched a hackathon with C4IR. An exchange of MoU between National University of Singapore and C4IR also took place with the aim of empowering and designing innovative clinical trials that will facilitate development and skilling pro-grammes for local talent. Yet another MoU exchange between Calyx.AI and C4IR was the hallmark of the event which aimed at utilising AI to provide advanced health solu-

Addressing the gathering, Telangana Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan, said, "BioAsia was conceptualised matured as an initiative to support more entrepreneurs. In India, the cost factor is very important. I appreciate BioAsia for creating such a platform for encouraging innovations such

as affordable ultrasound and vaccines. After the invention of AI, diagnosis has become easy. As the First Citizen of the State, I appreciate the Telangana government supporting entrepreneurs, Biotechnology centers and pharma centers.'

Minister for Industries and Commerce, Govt. of Telangana, D Sridhar Babu said, "A significant milestone has been set as we gather to inaugurate the Centre for Fourth Industrial Revolution in Telangana. It's a moment of pride for Telangana as the World Economic Forum has considered Telangana for setting up this centre. C4IR is aligned with three focus areas

Skilling to provide livelities; Health profiling of every citizen; Creating clinical registries for better evidence based care through clinical profiling and cutting edge therapies to

TSBIE CLAIMS ELABORATE ARRANGEMENTS

Some exam centres lack even basic facilities

PNS HYDERABAD

Some private colleges in Tarnaka and Mehdipatnam reported lack of basic facilities such as drinking water and lights despite the Telangana State Board of Intermediate Education (TSBIE) claiming that all arrangements are available for the students during the examinations. The Intermediate public examinations commenced on Wednesday wherein the firstyear students have exam in second language - Telugu, Hindi, Urdu, Sanskrit, Arabic, French, Marathi and Kannada.

Also, the board has strictly announced that students will not be allowed if they are late even by one minute. However, a few students have reported being late to their centres due to confusion in locating hall tickets and distance, despite the TSBIE providing a Centre Location app for the students.

According to the Intermediate board officials, as per schedule, Intermediate first-year examinations began in 1,521 centres across Telangana, with a staggering 4,88,133 students appearing for the first-year exams. The number of absentees on the



CP imposes curb orders

HYDERABAD: Cyberabad Commissioner of Police Avinash Mohanty has imposed Section 144 CrPc at all examination centres of Intermediate public examination till the exams are over on March 19. As per the Commissioner's orders, a gathering of five or more persons is prohibited within 200 meters radius of the examination

centres. This order will remain in force from 6 am on February 28 to 6 pm on March 19 at all the examination centres in Cyberabad commissionerate limits. Only on duty police officers, military personnel. home guards, flying squads responsible for invigilation and bonafide funeral processions are exempted from the curfew

first day was 19,641, resulting 3.86 per cent. The exams in an overall absenteeism of were conducted peacefully

were reported in the city except for three malpractice cases reported at Nizamabad, Janagon and Karimnagar.

Sunil Rao, Inter first-year student whose centre was at LB College, Mehdipatnam said, "The centre did not have water facility. The exam hall was not properly illuminated; there were no fans, and even no wall clock. TSBIE should have inspected all the centres before issuing the approval for the exam centre.

Also, the students are late by one minute in a few centres across the State. Three students from Nalgonda, one from Tarnaka, one from Dharmapuri and three from Vikarabad district were late to the exam.

Lahari, Inter first-year student whose centre was at ISO Junior College, Tarnaka said, The centre did not have drinking water and ORS facilities. However, we tend to carry our water bottles not to face a problem during the exams." Sai Tharun, Inter first-year student whose centre was at Vishwa Chaitanya Junior College, Tarnaka, said, The centre has provided all the basic facilities and the process of the exam went peacefully.

TSCOST, EPTRI celebrate National Science Day

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana State Council of Science and Technology (TSCOST) and Environment Protection Training and Research Institute (EPTRI) celebrated the State-level event of National Science Day at Pingli Government Women's College, Warangal on Wednesday.

Mandal-level and district-level environmental painting, poetry, singing and elocution competitions were conducted from the first week of February 2024 and prizes were given to the students.

The State-level function was presided over by A Vani Prasad, Principal Secretary to Government, Environment, Forest and Science & Technology Department. She said that scientific temper, curiosity to know the truth, creative thinking and developing innovative abilities are the need of the hour for the present generation. Countries that are rich in research Programmes such as National Science Day celebrations shall motivate the students towards Science and Technology (S&T). The Telangana government is contemplating a good number of S&T programmes in this direction, she



A Vani Prasad delivering the presidential

added. Marupaka Nagesh, Member Secretary, Telangana State Council of Science and Technology, said that on February 28, 1928, CV Raman made the revolutionary discovery based on light in physics and was awarded the Nobel Prize in the year 1930. It is India's first Nobel Prize in the field of science. In recognition of this, February 28 is being celebrated as National Science Day.

Hanumakonda District Collector Siktha Patnaik congratulated the winners and sensitised them on the in day-to-day life and several impor-

tant sectors. Principal of the college Prof. B Chandramouli, school students from the districts, teachers and parents participated in the programme.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA REVENUE DEPARTMENT Collector / Joint Collector/ RDO Huzurnagar

FORM - VII (See Sub rule (1) of rule - 25 And Section 19 (1) of the Act-39/2013)

DECLARATION Dist. Collector Suryapet File No: G/362/2023; Date: 20.10.2023 RDO Huzumagar File No: F / 351/2023; Date: 08.08.2023 Gazrette No: 60/2023: Date: 20.10.2023

Whereas it appears to the Government of Suryapet that a total of Ac. 25.04 Guntas of Patta / Governmen land in survey number 248,289,283,350,351,199,287 situated a Kistapuram H/o Chintriyalla village of Chinthalapalem Mandal, o Suryapet District is required for public purpose to acquire namely the land is coming under submergence under foreshore of Dr K Rao Sagar (PCP) Project.

Therefore, the declaration is made that a piece of land easuring, more or less Ac: 25.04 Guntas of standard measurement under acquisition for the above said project in the Kistapuram H/o Chintriyala village of Chinthalapalem Mandal, of

Suryspet District whose detailed description is as follows; SCHEDULE

Pats V Pats V Pats V Pats V Pats	ogssep 4 Dry	1.18	Pattedar 6 Sx. Pappu Jan Sto Imam Sab Imam Sab Sto Mastan Sab Kadiyam Lasyspriya Dio Srinivas Reddy Kadiyam Kaytina Wio Srinivas Reddy Sio Srinivas Sio Imam Sub	of the Enjoyer 7 Sit. Pagou Jan Sio Iman Sab Kadiyam Lasyapriya Dio Srinivas Raddy Kadiyam Kavitha Wio Srinivas Raddy Kadiyam Vijaya Sai Raddy Sio Srinivas Raddy Sio Srinivas Raddy Sio Srinivas Raddy Sio Srinivas Raddy Sio Insan Sub	293 293 287	1 2931 2931 289	287 287 317 ^{co} East	291 & 292 291 & 292 2891 249 West	9 No
V Pati V Pati V Pati V Pati	is Dry is Dry is Dry is Dry is Dry is Dry	1.20 1.00 1.37 1.18	Sk. Pappu Jan Sla Imam Sab Sla Imam Sab Sla Mastan Sab Kardiyami Lasysprilya Dio Srinivas Raddy Kardiyami Kardiyami Kardiyami Vijaya Sai Raddy Ski Dastapiri Slo Imam Sub	St. Pappu Jan Sio Iman Sab Kadiyarn Lasyapriya Dio Srinivas Reddy Kadiyarn Kavitha Wio Srinivas Reddy Kadiyarn Vijaya Sai Reddy Sio Sioliyas Reddy Sioliyas Sioliyas Reddy Sioliyas Sio	293 293 287	1 2931 2931 289	287 287 317	8 292 291 8 292 2891	No No
Pats V Pats V Pats V Pats V Pats	bis Dry Dry Dry Dry Dry	1.00 1.37 1.18	Sis Imam Sab Sis Imam Sab Sis Madan Sab Kadiyam Lasyapriya Dio Srinivas Raddy Kadiyam Kadiyam Kadiyam Vijaya Sai Raddy Sio Srinivas Raddy Sio Srinivas Sainady Sio Srinivas Sio Srinivas Sio Sio Srinivas Sio Sio Srinivas Sio Sio Srinivas Sio Sio Srinivas Sio Sio Srinivas Sio Sio Srinivas Sio Sio Srinivas Sio Sio Sio Sio Sio Sio Sio Sio Sio Sio	Kadyam Lasyapriya Dio Srinivas Raddy Kadyam Kadyam Kadiyam Vijaya Sai Raddy Sib Srinivas Raddy Sinivas Raddy Sisinivas Raddy Sinivas Raddy Sisinivas Raddy Sinivas Siniva Siniva Siniva Si	293 293 287	1 2931 2931 289	287 287	8 292 291 8 292 2891	No
Pats Pats Pats Pats Pats	a Dry	1.18	Mastar Sab Kadiyam Lasyapriya Dio Srinivas Reddy Kadiyam Kadiyam Kadiyam Vijaya Sai Reddy Srinivas Reddy Sio Srinivas Reddy SK Destapir Sio Inan Sub	Kadyam Lasyapriya Dio Srinivas Raddy Kadyam Kadyam Kadiyam Vijaya Sai Raddy Sib Srinivas Raddy Sinivas Raddy Sisinivas Raddy Sinivas Raddy Sisinivas Raddy Sinivas Siniva Siniva Siniva Si	293 293 287	1 2931 2931 289	287 287	8 292 291 8 292 2891	No
Pats Pats Pats	a Dry	1.18	Lasyspriya D/o Srinivas Reddy Kadiyem Kavitha Wlo Srinivas Reddy Kadiyam Vijaya Sai Reddy Sio Srinivas Reddy Sio Srinivas Reddy SK Destagin Sio Imam Sub	Lasyapriya D/o Srinivas Raddy Kadiyam Kavitha Wo Srinivas Raddy Kadiyam Vijaya Sai Raddy Sio Srinivas Raddy SK. Dastagiri	293 293	1 2931 2931	287	8 292 291 8 292 2	No
V Pats	a Dry	1.18	Kavitha Wo Srinivas Reddy Kadiyam Vijaya Sai Reddy Sio Srinivas Reddy SK. Destagir Sio Imam Sub	Kaviha Wo Srinivas Reddy Kadiyam Vijaya Sai Reddy Slo Srinivas Reddy SK Destagiri	293	2931		8 292 291 &	
/ Pats	a Dry	1.08	Vijaya Sai Reddy Sio Srinivas Reddy SK. Dastapir Sio Imam Sub	Vijaya Sai Reddy Silo Srinivas Reddy SK. Dastagiri			287	98	No
┖			S/o Imam Sub		П	-			
и рун	b Dry	0.92		me name one		8	350/3	284	
9.00		0.21	Sk. Imam Sub						
Pats	a Dry	0.13	SK. Saida S/b Ali Saheb	Sk Imam		35111	3510	380/2	No
N Pass	b Dry	0.14	Sk. Mastan Slo Ali Saheb	Sio Bal Sab					
2	a Dry		Sk. Mastan Slo Janmiya						
y Ass gre lan		2.18	Khaja Bee Wio Saida	Khaja Bee Wio Saida					No
Ass gne	Dry d	2.17	Baisu Gopalah Sib Nagalah	Baisu Gopaiah S/o Nagalah		282	282	282	No
gner	d d		Gollepudi Bixam slo Mattalah	Gollapudi Bixam sib Mattalah			287	287	No
gne	d "	6.00	Bandaru Sanjeev Sio Kistalah	Bandaru Sanjeev Slo Kistalah			287	287/1	No
Pat	Dry	1.15		SK. Ale Sab S/o Bale Sab		38	289	28711	No
-	TAL	25.04				Г			
	TABS gne lan Ass gne lan Patt	Patta Dry TOTAL his declarat	T Assi- Dry 2.19 gred land / Assi- Dry 6.00 gred land / Patta Dry 1.15 TOTAL 25.04 his declaration is	Tasi- Dry 2.19 Gollapudi Bixam slo Matalah / Assi- Dry 6.00 Bandaru gand fand Dry 1.15 SK Ale Sab Slo Bale Sab TOTAL 25.04	Tade Nagaiah Nagaiah Aasi- Dry 2.19 Gollapudi Gollapudi Bixam slo Matalah Aasi- Dry 6.00 Boxen slo Matalah Aasi- Dry 6.00 Bondaru Gollapudi Bandaru Sanjeev Sio Kistalah Patta Dry 1.15 SK Ale Sab SK Ale Sab Slo Bale Sab TOTAL 25.04 his declaration is made after hearing of obj	land Nagalah Nagalah Aasi- Dry 2.19 Gollapud Gollapudi gred Bixam slo Bixam slo Mattalah Mattalah Aasi- Dry 6.00 Bandaru Bandaru gred Sarjeev Sio Kistalah Slo Kistalah / Pattal Dry 1.15 SK. Ale Seb Sk. Ale Seb Slo Bale Sab Slo Bale Sab TOTAL 25.04 his declaration is made after hearing of object sted and due enquiry as provided ut's 15 of the /	Nagalah Nagalah Nagalah	Nagaiah Nagaiah Nagaiah Nagaiah	Assigned Nagalah Nagalah Nagalah

under the said land or any particulars portion of the said land except such parts of the mines and minerals which may be required to be dug or removed or used during the construction phase of the project for the purpose of which the land is bein

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Land Acquisition Officer & Revenue Divisional Officer Huzumagar of

r Sd/- Sd/-Addl. Collector, Dist. Collecto Sdl- Land Acquisition Officer Suryapet Suryapet Officer (FAC) DIPR No.922/LA/PP-Pub/2023-24

Sancta Maria clinches Cambridge varsity award

Economic Forum. New part-

PNS HYDERABAD

plaint.

Sancta Maria International School, Hyderabad has announced that it has been honoured with the prestigious Cambridge University Press and Assessments Schools Conclave South Asia 2024 award for excellence in early years on Wednesday. Speakers from Cambridge and over 500 school participants from various countries in South Asia, were

part of the event.

The conclave brings together educational leaders and practitioners from around the world. The main objectives are to gain insights about new educational developments, meet the senior leaders of Cambridge University Press and Assessment and share best practices within the community of Cambridge schools. Sancta Maria stood out

among the participants, show-

casing its commitment to providing a holistic and globally relevant education to its students. The institution's educational model was well-received, and its approach to nurturing both students and teachers garnered accolades from the international community.

Ruchira Ghosh, Principal, and Mahender Reddy, CEO of Sancta Maria, were present at the event to receive the award on behalf of the school.

3K Walkathon's call to become financially smart

PNS HYDERABAD

As part of Financial Literacy Week scheduled by Reserve Bank of India, from February 26 to March 1, the State-Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC), Telangana, has organised "2K Walkathon" on February 27 from 7 am on Osmania University Campus, Hyderabad. The event was attended by around 400 officials from the RBI and various other banks, in addition to students from the university.

While addressing the gathering after the Walkathon, K Nikhila, Regional Director, Reserve Bank of India, Hyderabad, reiterated the theme of Financial Literacy Week 2024, i.e., "Make a Right Start: Become Financially Smart". The target segment of the FLW this year is students/young adults, with the three sub-themes being the

Saving and power of compounding, banking essentials for students, digital and cyber Nikhila, further emphasised

that, the bank officials must create more awareness among their customers and ensure that the customers are well equipped with appropriate updates for taking financial decisions to become financially smart. Rajesh Kumar, CGM, SBI, Hyderabad Circle, in his message, appreciated all banks for actively participating in the Financial Literacy Week, and

appealed to them to conduct financial literacy competitions among students of schools and colleges and reach out to the youth and create awareness, focusing on themes of the Financial Literacy Week.

The Walkathon was also attended by various other dignitaries, viz., K Bhaskara Rao, CGM, Union Bank of India, Debashish Mitra, General Manager, SBI & Convenor of SLBC, Telangana and executives from RBI, public sector and private sector banks and



Bill Gates visits Microsoft India Development Centre in Hyd

Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates on Tuesday visited the Microsoft India Development Centre (IDC) in Hyderabad, a centre of innovation that he envisioned in 1998.

IDC is celebrating its 25th year of groundbreaking research, engineering and development, marking its pivotal role in shaping world-class products such as Azure, Windows, Office, Bing, Copilot and other AI applications. "It was rewarding to watch Bill address some of India's brightest engineering minds at IDC, our biggest asset," Rajiv Kumar, Managing Director, Microsoft IDC, and CVP, Experiences + Devices India, said in a statement.

"Echoing his optimism over the opportunity for an AI-powered India, IDC is excited to drive innovation from India for Microsoft - from AI and cloud to security and gaming," he added. Earlier this week, Gates announced his plans to visit founder mentioned that he is vis-



Bill Gates at Microsoft's India Development Centre in Hyderabad

India in a LinkedIn post, saying, "I can't wait to learn about how India is finding innovative new ways to advance health, digital public infrastructure and climate to improve the lives of bil-

In his blog, the Microsoft co-

iting this week to learn about "how we can continue working with India to help its ideas and inventions reach everyone who needs them, no matter where they live." "This will be a main topic when I meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi this week," Gates

Delhi man arrested for morphing photos, extortion

The Cyber crime unit of the Hyderabad police has arrested a man for extorting money from girls by blackmailing them with their morphed photographs.

According to officials, the accused would befriend girls through the social media plat-form Instagram and pretend to fall in love with them by slowly gaining their trust. At his request, the victims would send their photographs which he morphed with nude images. 'He then threatened to share them on social media if the victim did not recharge his mobile

phone. He blackmailed the victim for several months, demanding such favours in return," the police said.

The police said that the accused would reach out to random individuals through online platforms such as Instagram by sending invitations to connect, aiming to lure them into relationships that are not genuine, they added.

One such victim was from Hyderabad lodged a complaint with the cybercrime team. The accused was arrested from Delhi.

¢	GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION									
l	Quotations are invited through box Tender Notice No. GHMC/KC/E/1/36/2023-24,									
0	dt: 27.02.2024 for the work of "Junction Improvements at various places in Kapra									
(Circle-1, GHMC*.									
3.	t Events	Date								
1	Starting date for issue of application/Schedule containing items for which quotations are invited.	28.02.2024@11:00.AM								
2	End Date for issue of applications/Schedule containing items for which quotations are invited.	29.02.2024 @11:00 AM								
1	Start date for receiving quotations	28.02.2024@11:30AM								
4	Last Date & Time for Receipt of quotations	29.02.2024@11.30AM								
	No quotations will be received after 29.02.2024 after 11.30 AM, Address of Concerned Officer: Executive Engineer Kapra Circle-1, GHWC. Mobile No. 9989930377. Sdf- Executive Engineer,									

R.O.No: 11053-PP/CLIADVT/1/2823-24, Dt. 28.02.2024

Regional parties are supporting Modi: CM

The Chief Minister made it clear that government will stand by Christian community

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said that the State government will stand by the Christians who spread the message of peace and love in the society. Medak Diocese Bishop Padmarao, Reverend John George AMJ Kumar, Rev. Sam Abraham, Anil Thomas along with representatives of various churches and independent churches called on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy at the Secretariat on Wednesday.

Revanth Reddy said that the regional parties have no relevance in national level elections and all the seats won by regional parties are supporting Narendra Modi. The Chief Minister recalled that KCR won 11 MP seats in 2014 and 9 MP seats in 2019. The BRS party supported abrogation of article 370, GST, demonetisation and anti-farmer bills brought by the Narendra Modi government. KCR supported



Modi at every stage. The Chief Minister appealed to people to support the Congress to form a secular government at the

national level. The Christian delegation explained to the Chief Minister the problems including the encroachment of church properties. In a quick response, the CM made the promise of protecting church properties and facilitating the construction of new churches. Required land will be allocated for Christian burial grounds. The Chief Minister expressed his willingness to visit the Medak Church again as he visited in the capacity of TPCC President during the Assembly elections.

The Chief Minister said that before Malkajgiri MP election, he discussed many issues with Christian religious leaders in Secunderabad. After being elected as MP, he participated in many celebrations including Christmas. Revanth Reddy reiterated that his government respects religious free-

Revanth Reddy said that a frightening situation prevailed after the formation of Narendra Modi government at the center and KCR government in the state in 2014. The chief minister expressed concern that the conditions of living as second-class citizens have come against the spirit of the constitution. The Chief Minister cited the incidents of Manipur and Gujarat saying that when riots and conflicts happened in the past, the rulers

used to suppress them. Today, the rules are behind the conflicts. This is not good for the welfare of the country and everyone should exercise utmost patience. Rahul Gandhi's goal is to love the people and keep all sections of people together. For this, Rahul Gandhi undertook the trip from Kanyakumari to Kashmir and then started the second leg of the trip from Manipur to Gujarat. The Prime Minister and the Union Home Minister did not go to Manipur, where clashes are taking place.

After Rahul Gandhi's visit, the central and state governments came down and controlled the clashes.

A secular government has been established in Telangana, the CM said, appealing to everyone to cooperate in the establishment of a secular government at the Centre.

The Chief Minister also appealed to everyone to support Rahul Gandhi as the Prime Minister.

ERMEDIATE FIRST-YEAR EXAMINATIONS

'Not even one minute' rule proves to be testing time for students across TS

K VENKATESHWARLU

'Not even one minute late' rule proved to be a testing time for Intermediate first-year students across the state. Though some students made all efforts to reach in time but they could not make it to examination center due to "one minute late' rule as they reached 5 to 15 minutes late. But the authorities did not allow them inside the examination hall citing one minute late rule. But some colleges took the matters into the hands and allowed students inside the examination center.

One of the lecturers of the government college told The Pioneer that "No politician comes in time... no employee comes in time. Even our lecturers will not come in time. However, this one minute late rule introduced due to Corporate colleges. The Corporate colleges leak papers to their students and those students come late to the center while reading answers. However, genuine students suffer in reality due to corporate colleges leaking question papers to their students. Now new trouble the colleges facing is from media. The media is



not allowed. So the colleges are following government rules".

There are traffic snarls-up, there are troubles in the homes of the students because all are not born with silver spoon in their mouth. There are troubles with buses and cabs...there are many other issues. Due to these issues, they are failing to reach in time.

Jyothy, a parent of intermediate first year student, questioned the intermediate board to tell how a girl student will reach in time if the examination center is allotted 6 kilome-

Three women farmworkers

died on the spot and 12 oth-

ers were injured in a road acci-

dent as a TSRTC bus hit an

auto-rickshaw at Mothe in

Suryapet district on Thursday

The deceased were identi-

fied as Kandula Nagamma

making an issue if allowed or ters away from her residence that too odd route East

Marredpally. "Girl students will have several problems that cannot be revealed in public. Exam is at 9 am. We faced lot of troubles to reach examination center. My child didn't write exam very well due to the tension with one minute late rule", Jyothy told The Pioneer.

Assistant Professor Anand from Osmania University said that 'one minute late' rule is a barbaric rule. "If the students do not come to examination Hall in time...they have to

3 farmworkers die as TSRTC bus hits auto-rickshaw

Telangana State.

and Chevula Narayananamma from Vijayaraghavapuram and

behind. The women farm-

ose their valuable one year..what is this? Corporate colleges find new ways to leak question papers even the government implemented one minute late rule", he said.

Despite the opposition form all quarters, the Telangana State Intermediate Board persisted in implementing "one minute" rule.

Venkat Reddy, another stu-dent's father, told The Pioneer that one minute late rule has been mounting unwanted pressure on students as well as parents. Due to this rule, the students are concentrating thier mind on reaching examination center issue instead of the subject they are going to

Ramesh, an intermediate lecturer, opined that one minute late rule is a cruel one and it should be abolished immediately. The government has to take serious actions on paper leakers but not to punish the innocent fresh students if comes one minute late, he lamented. He said one or two students at each center comes late due to various reasons but not allowing them inside the examination Hall is atrocious one, he said. One year punishment to the students will lead to various troubles.

Cadbury chocolates contained worms; State food lab says its not safe to eat

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana State Food Laboratory has declared that a sample of Cadbury chocolate was unsafe to consume as it was found to be contaminated with white worms and webs. Hyderabad resident Robin Zaccheus found a worm crawling in a Cadbury chocolate purchased at Ratnadeep Metro in Ameerpet on February 9.

The food laboratory received Cadbury Dairy Milk Chocolate (Roast Almond) and Cadbury Dairy Milk Chocolate (Fruit and Nut) for testing. After the test, the laboratory confirmed that the sample contains white worms and webs. Hence, it is considered as unsafe under Section 3.1(zz)(iii)(ix) of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

Robin Zaccheus posted on that FMCG companies are made accountable and penalised for supplying unsafe food that our children

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Work Integrated Learning

Programmes (WILP) division

of Birla Institute of Technology

and Science (BITS), Pilani, has

introduced a new PG Diploma

programme in Smart

Manufacturing, which is designed to help engineers working in diverse industries to

design, implement and manage

manufacturing operations using digital technologies. The

programme can be pursued

without a career break and has

been developed in collabora-

tion with organisations from

The PG Diploma pro-

gramme has three broad

themes — additive manufac-

turing, industrial IoT, and oper-

ations management which sup-

the manufacturing sector.

PG Diploma in Smart

Manufacturing introduced

consume very often."

Mondelez India spokesperson said, "We follow the internationally accepted HACCP (Hazard Analysis & Critical Control Points) programme, which is the most comprehensive food safety system in the world, to ensure that our products are free from any physical, chemical and microbiological issues. Chocolate like any other food product requires specific care and attention in the distribution chain, retail environment and in storage. Every Cadbury carries the label - 'Store in a cool, hygienic and dry place'. We have tested the samples of the same batch, as well as other batches manufactured around the same time and found no issues. We are confident that the product has not been affected during the manufacturing process. The quality of ucts and safe consumers is our highest priority and we remain committed to ensuring our consumers continue to love our products."

port a wide range of processes

from data acquisition to the

realisation of digital factories.

It covers the technology

enablers of digital factories,

such as mechatronics, industri-

al IoT, big data analytics,

machine learning, blockchains,

cloud computing, connected

manufacturing, microfabrica-

tion, and cybersecurity. The last

date for applications for admis-

sion to this program is March

According to Fortune Business Insights, the global

smart manufacturing market size was valued at \$277.81 bil-

lion in 2022 and is projected to

grow from \$310.92 billion in

2023 to \$754.1 billion by 2030,

exhibiting a CAGR of 13.5

percent during the forecast

18, 2024.

Eggs thrown at Bandi Sanjay's convoy at PV's village

PNS ■ BHEEMADEVARAPALLI

Eggs were thrown at BJP MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar's convoy at Vangara under Bheemadevarapalli mandal in Hanamkonda district on

Tension built up in the area when BJP activists reached there in large numbers following the incident. Bandi Sanjay visited the vil-

lage as part of his Prajahitha Yatra to seek voter support for the party in the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections.

As part of the Yatra, he visited the residence of former

PNS VEMULAWADA

totál 84 sunk.

he alleged.

BRS leader B Vinod has

accused the Revanth Reddy

Government of conspiring to

unleash false narrative that

the entire Medigedda barrage

is in a dilapidated state though

only two or three piers of the

The State government is

not undertaking repairs to the

damaged piers with the inten-

sion to project it as if it was

unfit for repair. If the barrage

got washed away, the water in

the barrage run downstream

towards the AP. Vinod alleged

that Revanth hatched the con-

spiracy to benefit his political

guru N Chandrababu Naidu,

Addressing the BRS leaders

and activists of Vemulawada constituency here on Wednesday, Vinod said that

bringing Godavari waters,

which are at a higher altitude,

to the fields became feasible

only with Kaleswaram project.

Lifting Godavari waters to a

height of 400 meters, the BRS



minister prime Narasimha Rao.

Having visited the PV's house, he embarked on his journey to proceed to Mulkanoor when two persons threw eggs at the convoy. They fell on the vehicle in which media persons were

Cong govt conspiring to project

government provided irriga-

tion facility to over one crore

acres, he said accusing the

Congress of embarking on a

vilification campaign on the

project. However, the people

give no credulence to the

words of Congress leaders, he

people, the BRS is arranging a

trip to Kaleswaram project on

Refuting the allegations lev-

elled by CM Revanth Reddy

against BRS supremo KCR

and BRS working president KT

Rama Rao, he observed that

the Congress leaders them-

To demonstrate facts to the

observed.

March 1.

Medigadda Barrage as lost'

lence of tension in the area. The BJP leaders alleged that Congress activists resorted to throwing eggs on Bandi's convoy at the instance of the Minister Ponnam

travelling, leading to preva-

Bandi Sanjay said in an angry tone that the police remained mute spectators when miscreants threw eggs

at his convoy. I did not need any security from police. Police need not come with the convoy. My party activists will take care of my security,"Bandi Sanjay said

in a voice choked with anger.

selves were heard commenting

that the Congress regime is

going to be short-lived. The

Congress rank and file would

have no faith in the party

leaders, he said adding that

people were at a loss of com-

prehension on what the

The BRS emerged as a

strong opposition in Telangana

with 39 MLAs. Therefore, it

should prove its mettle in the

forthcoming LS elections, he

said. The party position is bet-

ter with the BRS leadership at

the grassroots level. "Let us

build the party on a grand scale

overcoming the mistakes," he

The BJP and Congress did

The BJP has been suffering

not have the capacities that the BRS has had, he observed.

from over confidence, while

the Congress has low self-

esteem, he said. Therefore, the

BRS leaders should sweat it out

to some extent to help BRS win

not only Karimnagar LS seat

but also all other seats in

Congress leades would do.

Drug abuse case: Director Krish to cooperate with cops

Telugu film director Krish Jagarlamudi

Krish reportedly asked the officials for two nore days' time to attend the interrogation He told them that he was in Mumbai. So,

On Tuesday, Madhapur DCP Vineeth said that three people have tested positive. In that FIR, which was registered on Sunday, police named 10 accused, who are Gajjala Vivekanand, Abbas, Nirbhay, Raghu Charan, Kedhar, Sandeep, Swetha, Lishi, Neil and Krish. The drug supplier Syed Abbas Ali has been arrested and police are in search of the other contacts in his phone and they may include a few others in the case. Police were reportedly questioning about the sources of

the narcotics also.

A mother and her son committed suicide in their house in Malkajgiri on Wednesday.

According to the Malkajgiri police officials, the duo has taken the extreme step due to family problems. The two were upset over the divorce case of the son Sridhar that was cur-

The bodies of deceased Vijayamma (65) and her son Sridhar Goud (48), residents of ing to the ceiling fans in different rooms of the house. The locals alerted the police. The police reached the spot and shifted the bodies to the Gandhi Hospital morgue. A case was

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

would reportedly attend the investigation into the drug abuse case on Friday. He was listed as accused-10 in the First Information Report (FIR) in the drug abuse case, which occurred on February 25.

he would attend the investigation on Friday.

Mother, son end life

rently in a local court.

Pragathi Nagar, Malkajgiri, were found hangregistered and investigation is on.

CM Revanth draws inspiration from AP CM Jagan's volunteers' system

SNCN ACHARYULU HYDERABAD

The successful volunteers system of Andhra Pradesh which became popular across the nation, is being taken up Telangana also. Taking inspiration from Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy also decided to bring such systen in Telangana. The change in this is only the name. Revanth Reddy recently announced that Indiramma Committees will be constituted in every village with five members. In Andhra Pradesh it is called as volunteers system and in Telangana it is called as Indiramma committees. The style of functioning and the duties are the same.

In Andhra Pradesh, CM YS Jagan appointed one volunteer for every 50 families. Through these volunteers the government is implementing all the welfare schemes.

With this, middlemen and corruption in the implementation of welfare schemes is mostly eradicated. The beneficiaries are directly getting every welfare scheme through these volunteers at their doorstep. This system has become

very popular and received praise from many in the country. During the Covid time, the services of these volunteers were appreciated by everyone. Now on the same lines, Revanth Reddy has decided to constitute Indiramma committees.

CM Revanth said Indiramma committees would be constituted with party workers from all sections and the government's programmes and welfare schemes would be taken to the people by involving the Indiramma commit-

CM Revanth further said that the role of Indiramma committees is to take the schemes to the people effectively and to ensure that the government image is enhanced. In AP, CM Jagan collects the ground level information on whatever issue and subject through these volunteers. In the same way, Telangana CM Revanth also can get ground level information from these Indiramma committees

Begumpet Police arrest four for manufacturing spurious goods

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Central Zone Commissioner's Task Force, in coordination with the Begumpet Police on Wednesday arrested four persons involved in manufacturing spurious garlic paste and ginger worth Rs 5,00,000.

The accused were identified as Panduranga Rao (72), a businessman and resident of Begumpet; Raheem Charaniya (36), Ajay Kumar Aheer (43), a resident of Begumbazar and Pradeep Sankla (29), a resident of Panjagutta. The primary accused Charaniya is a native of Gujarat, who migrated to Hyderabad a few years

Charaniya began trading under the company name Deccan Traders; in

order to make easy money, the accused established manufacturing machinery in Upperpally, Rajendranagar where adulterated garlic paste and ginger were produced.

It contained chemical, powder red in colour by using citric acid and spurious components. The spurious products were sent to various kirana stores as genuine products.

Charaniya engaged Rao, Kumar and Sankla who sold the adulterated products. He also supplied the material in Telangana and other states. The adulterated ginger garlic paste is hazardous to human life. The purious material may cause life threatening effects even in small amounts and with short exposure.

Pakala Anasurya under The injured persons were Munagala mandal in shifted to the Government General Hospital in Suryapet. A TSRTC bus belonging to The condition of three of the Madira depot rammed them was stated to be serious. into the auto-rickshaw from

rickshaw.

mandal in the ill-fated auto-

The driver of the auto-rickshaw Sompangu Pavan also workers were on their way to suffered injuries in the acci-Burkacherla underr Mothe

FORM VI (See Sub-rule (1) of Rule-19 and Section-11(1) of the Act-30/2013) GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

No. D/51/2023

Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/ Collector hat a total of Ac.43.32 gts Government/Assigned land is require in the Ramreddypally H/o Indurthy Village of Marriguda Mandal Nalgonda District for public purpose from Km. 58.500 to Km 66.300 of DLIS Main Canal formation of Dindi Main Canal. Hence,

below mentioned lands are notified under Section 11 (1) of the Act 30/2013 RFCTLARRAct 2013. The Government of Telangana has issued G.O.Ms.No.36 Imigation & CAD (LA.R &R/A2) Department dated: 30.06.2017 noting the Provisions of Chapter-II & III under Sec-10 AAct No 21/2017 under RFCT LARR Act-2013 to this project.

Therefore, it is notified that for the above said project i Ramreddypally Hio Indurthy Village of Marriguda Mandal Nalgonda District a piece of land measuring more or less Ac.43.32 gts of standard measurement, whose detailed description is as mentioned below, is under acquisition. SCHEDULE

Village: Ramreddypally H/o Indurthy;

	Mai	ndal:	Marriguda; District: Nalgono	ia
	Sy No., Classification, Description of land i.e. pathal Inam Govt.	Exte- nt	Name of the pattadar / Enjoyer	Other Particulars such as structures wells etc.,
1	2	3	4	- 5
1		0.16	Bheemanagoni Mallamma Wio Yadalah	1 Chinthe
2		1.00	Balsula Somaiah S/o Roshaiah	-
3		1.00	Vadde Naresh Sio Yellalah	1 Toddy
4		0.20	Bhmanapally Kavitha W/o Ravi	
5	729	1.06	Domala Mallalah S/o Narsimha	14 Toddy
6	Gost, land	2.00	Nagilla Pedda Narsimha Sio Papaiah	15 Toddy
7	(Assigned)	1.07	Yadla Peddulu S/o Chandraiah	22 Toddy
8		1.07	Yadla Yadalah S/o Chandralah	14 Toddy
9		1.10	Eesam Ramulamma Wo Narsimha	2 Toddy
10		0.15	Vadde Ramulu S/ o Anthaiah	
11		0.15	Vadde Muthyalu S/o Anthaiah	
12		0.01	Palvai Ramulu Slo Mallaiah	1 Vapa
13		0.32%	Koranki Yadalah Wilo Narsimha	14 Toddy
14		0.33	Battapothu Ramulamma Wio Rama Lachalah	
15		0.32%	Koranki Bayamma Wio Venkalah	
16		0.15	Chilivolu Tharakamma W/o Ramulu	
17		0.08	Chilivelu Jangamma W/o Narsalah	
18	729	0.15	Chiliveru Lexmamma W/o Sathalah	
19			Esapu @ Karnati Narsamma Wio Narsaiah	
20			Vadde Narsimha Sio Pedda Maraiah	
21		0.06%	Vadde Venkatesh S/o Pedda Maraiah	
22	729 Gort, land	28.18	Govt. Land	
	Tetal Extent	43.32		
of			n is made under the provisions of Sect air Compensation and Transparency	

Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Act No. 30(2013), as amended by the Right to Compensation an Fransperency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlemen (Telangana Amendment) Act, 2016 (Act No. 21 of 2017) to all whom

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Special Deputy Collector, R&R & LA, Unit-II, Nalgonda and Executive Engineer Irrigation Division No.10, Mall on any working day during the working hours. The District Collector, Nalgorda pleased to authorize the Special Deputy Collector and Requisition Department and Revenue Department and their staff to enter upor and survey the land, take levels of any land, dig or bore into the sub-soil & do all other acts required for the proper execution of their

work as provided and specified in section-12 of the said Act. Under section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make a ransaction or cause any transaction of land i.e. sale/purchase, etc. or create any encumbrances on such land from the date or publication of such notification without prior approval of the Collector.

Objections to the acquisition, if any, may be filed by the person terested within (60) (sixty days) from the date of publication of his notification as provided under section (15) of the Act before the District Collector, Nalgonda and the Special Deputy Collector, R&R

Sdi- Addl. Collector, Sdi- Dist. Collector, Spl. Deputy Collector, R&R Nalgonda. Nalgonda. Nalgonda. DIPR NO.SRALAJPP-PutriRORESA.

Use term 'differently abled' for persons with disabilities: Delhi HC

ersons suffering from disabilities are "no different from you or me" and the more Dappropriate term to use for them would be "differently abled" and not "disabled", the Delhi High Court has said. Justice C Hari Shankar said the Right of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPWD Act) and all other laws seek to neutralise disability so that a differently abled person and his peers stand on equal footing, which is the "heart" of the

Constitution. "It is because of this that the more appropriate term to use would be 'differently abled', rather than 'disabled' Persons who are differently abled are as able as any of us; however, as their ability is different, it poses a challenge when they seek to integrate with the societal whole," said the judge in a recent order. "Persons who suffer from disabilities, as recognized by the RPWD Act, are no different from you or me. In one way or the other, each of us suffers from disabilities, known and

theory of equal opportunity and the



PM Modi likely to visit

Srinagar on March 7

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit Jammu and Kashmir's summer capital Srinagar in the first week of March, his second visit to the Union Territory in over two weeks, officials said. During the visit to Srinagar ahead of the parliamentary elections, the prime minister is likely to address a public meeting, inaugurate or lay the foundation of several development projects and interact with beneficiaries of centrally

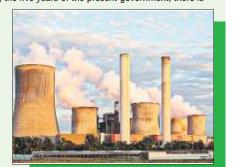
sponsored schemes through virtual mode. The officials said the visit, the prime minister's first to Kashmir Valley since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, is likely on March 7. The public rally is most likely to be organised at the convention centre along the Dal Lake, they said. The public address of the prime minister may be streamed live at various locations in the valley, especially in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, the officials said. The visit of the prime minister is part of his outreach programme ahead of the



Mizoram govt not to increase power tariff for 5 years: Minister

he Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) government in Mizoram will not increase power tariffs during the next five years, the state assembly was informed on Wednesday. Power Minister F Rodingliana said the government is making efforts to augment power generation in the state. "During the five years of the present government, there is

no plan to change power tariff for consumers," the minister said. The ZPM came to power in the state in December last year. The minister said that Mizoram now has 15 small hydroelectric projects that together generate 38.55 MW of power. He also said that power generation fluctuates depending on the weather. Mizoram spends Rs 33-37 crore a month for purchasing power from outside as the northeastern state requires 156 MW of power during



Rajnath lauds Modi, highlights Work for developed India: Murmu increase in defence exports

PNS SITAMARHI (BIHAR)

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday claimed that the country's military exports rose by more than 20 years in the last five years, which was proof of India's "self-reliance" under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

Addressing a gathering of local intelligentsia in north Bihar's Sitamarhi town, Singh said defence exports were worth "about Rs 1,000 crore, when I took over, and it has soared to worth over Rs 20 lakh crore"

"Our total defence manufacture stands at a monumental one lakh crore. Try figuring it out by scribbling the number, in digits, on a piece of paper. This shows India is becoming self-reliant (atma nirbhar) and leaders across the world acknowledge that 21st century shall belong to India", said the Defence minister, who was on a day-long trip of Bihar.

The former BJP president asserted that his party was characterised by "no difference between words and deeds", and disclosed "I had been entrusted with preparing the manifesto for elections in 2014 and again five years later. On both occasions, Narendra Modi had insisted that we do not make any promise that we could not fulfil'

Singh said abrogation of



Article 370, scrapping of triple talaq and construction of Ram temple at Ayodhya showed "we always walk the talk (Jo kahte hain Kar ke dikhate hain)".

Going down the memory lane, he recalled having gone to jail at the height of the Ayodhya movement in 1990s "when I headed the BJP's youth wing".

The Union minister also highlighted "India's jump from the 11th spot to the fifth" in terms of the size of the economy and expressed conference 'We will be among the top three in the world soon and by 2047 we shall be a developed econ-

He also credited the prime minister's intervention for the recent release from Oatar of former Indian Navy officials whom a court in the West Asian country had awarded death sentence

He also recalled Russia and

Ukraine "halting their war for

a few hours, upon Modi's

request, to facilitate return of

our students" a year ago. "In contrast, governments formed by the Congress in the past were known for empty promises of eradicating poverty and corruption scandals that saw even Union ministers landing in jail", said the senior BJP

Singh, who is on a day-long tour of Bihar, had earlier paid obeisance at the nearby Punaura Dham, a shrine situated at the spot where Goddess Sita is believed to have been discovered by King Janaka.

The way Prime Minister Narendra Modi's credibility has been rising, there will be no area left where the lotus would not bloom", Singh had told reporters on the occasion.

He was also asked whether the lotus would bloom "for the

first time" in Sitamarhi, a Lok Sabha seat the BIP has never

He replied "With the blessings of Mother Janaki, the lotus would bloom in Sitamarhi, too", but hastened to add, with a ghost of smile on his lips, saying "there is a pond nearby with lots of lotuses. So there is no problem".

Notably, the party has not fielded its own candidate in Sitamarhi after the 1998 Lok Sabha polls, leaving it for allies like Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U) or, in 2014 when he fought separately, for the now defunct RLSP.

The JD(U) had won the seat in 2019, when it fielded Sunil Kumar Pintu, a BJP man who chipped in after the official candidate of the Chief Minister's party returned his ticket.

It is being understood that the JD(U) wants to contest the seat again and Nitish Kumar, who is now the party president, has assured state legislative council Chairman Devesh Chandra Thakur that he will be the candidate this time.

This has met with resentment from Pintu while the BJP has been maintaining a studied silence over the issue.

The Union minister declined to take questions on development of Sitamarhi, which is not a patch on Ayodhya in terms of infrastructure, despite being a part of the "Ramayana Circuit".

President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday urged students to work for a prosperous and developed India.

She was addressing the third convocation of Central University Jharkhand (CUJ) in Ranchi.

"India is one of the youngest countries in the world where 55 per cent population is below 25 years. India is the fifth largest economy in the world, and it is going to be third largest by 2030. As you know we have set a target to make India a developed country by 2047, so, there is a golden opportunity for students, and we have to make use of the situation accordingly," she said.

Murmu urged students to take a pledge that in whatever field they work, they will work for a developed India and build a society where there is harmony and every person has a dignified life.

The president advised the students to always keep in mind whether people from deprived sections will benefit



from their work.

Murmu said that she has a connection with the people of Jharkhand, "especially with the tribal brothers and sisters".

"There are many traditions in tribal lifestyle that can improve the lives of other people and communities. They live in balance with nature, and if we can learn from their lifestyle

and methods, we can deal with big challenges like global warming," she said. Chief Minister Champai

Soren and Governor CP Radhakrishnan also attended the convocation.

Congratulating the students, Soren said his government was working to encourage students for research and innova-

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA

REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT

DECLARATION

(FORM-VII)

The government is also working for imparting quality education," he said.

Radhakrishnan said the responsibility of students is not only to build their careers but also to contribute to the betterment of society.

After the convocation, Murmu left for Odisha.

Woman delivers baby at busy road in Greater Noida

PNS NOIDA

Two trained nurses who were on their way to work stopped midway to attend an emergency by helping a 33year-old woman deliver her baby at a busy road intersection in Greater The incident took place on Tuesday

a private company, was pleading for help for his wife Roshni Sharma, who was undergoing labour pain. Noticing his cry for help, nurses Jyoti and Renu Devi, who work at

at Pari Chowk in Greater Noida

nearby Sharda Hospital, tended to the emergency and with their help the woman delivered a baby girl along the road at the busy Pari Chowk.

Nurse Devi said she was going for duty from Kasna. As soon as she got out of the auto at Pari Chowk, she saw the woman lying on the road, and her husband was pleading for help from

"As soon as I reached there, the woman was suffering from labour pain. I called my fellow nurse Jyoti, she was also leaving for duty and she also came soon. We told people that we nurses are from Sharda Hospital. First, we covered the woman with her shawl with the help of a woman, after that, we both got the woman given a normal delivery," Renu said.

"After the delivery, we wrapped the child in his jacket and booked an auto

and started going to the hospital. The woman in the auto started feeling pain due to shock but we woke her up and got her admitted to the hospital," she added.

Dr. Ruchi Srivastava, Senior Consultant, Gynecology Department, Sharda Hospital said the nurses called the hospital after delivery.

"As soon as they brought the oman and the child, we immediately started the treatment. The weight of the child is about 2.50 kg. This is the woman's second child and now both are healthy," she said.

"The woman was undergoing treatment in a hospital in Kasna but she said that she was having a caesarean child. From there she went to her home in Luksar. In the morning, she started having a labour pain and as soon as she reached Pari Chowk, she fell on the road. We are thankful that they were brought to the hospital timely," Dr. Srivastava said.

Sharda Hospital spokesperson Ajit Kumar said the woman and the child are undergoing treatment and their medication is going free in the hospital and soon both will be discharged.

"The condition of the baby and mother is also stable. This is a proud moment for all of us and we should learn from such people. PK Gupta, Chancellor, Sharda University has given a certificate and Rs 5,100 to both nurses as an appreciation reward," Kumar added.

(See sub-rule (1) of rule -25 and section - 19(1) of the Act 30/2013) G1/5900/2023 Date: 17.02.2024 No.D/1643/2023 Date: 10.02.2024 Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/ District Collector, Nalgonda that a total of Ac.3.06 gts. of land is required in Cheruvu Annaram Village of Kattangur Mandal, Nalgonda district for public purpose namely Altipamula Lift Imigation Scheme near Theruvugattu Village of Kattangur Mandal. Therefore declaration is made that a piece of land measuring more or less Ac.3.06 gts., of standard measurement under acquisition for the above said project in the village Cheruvs Annaram, Mandal Kattangur, District Nalgonda whose description s as following

SCHEDULE Village: Cheruvu Annaram Mandal: Kattangur District: Nalgonda

					_					
SL No.	Sy. No.	Type of title	Type of land	Area Acqui- sition (Ac.Gts)	Name & Address of person interested					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				
1	338	Pata	Dry	0.07	Pinnapureddy Lingamma Wo Prethap Reddy					
2				0.07	Pinnapureddy Sridhar Reddy S/o Mohan Reddy					
3				80.0	Pinnapureddy Srinivas Reddy Slo Pichireddy	-				
	Sub	-Total:		0.22						
4	337	Pata	Dry	0.07	Chilumula Omkar Sio Maraiah					
5				0.07	Chilumula Krishna S/o Maraiah					
6				0.03	Dende Srinu Sib Ramaswarry					
	Sub	-Total:		0.17						
7	333	Pata	Dry	0.06%	Chilumula Ranjith Slo Maraiah					
8				0.06%	Chilumula Omkar Sio Maraiah					
	Sub	·Total:		0.13						
9	332	Pata	Dry	0.10	Ramadugu Santhosh Sharma Slo Venkatshwarlu					
10				0.04	Ramadugu Yashwanth S/o Ram Mohan Shastri					
11				0.04	Ramadugu Avinash S/o Ram Mohan Shastri					
	Sub	-Total:		0.18						
12	314	Pata	Wet	0.11	Palwai Sagar Reddy S/o Rangareddy					
13	316	Pata	Wet	0 12.	Palwei Sagar Reddy S/o Rangareddy					
14				0.01	Road					
	Sub	-Total:		0.13						
15	311	Pata	Dry	0.10%	Meka China Mallareddy					

This Declaration is made after hearing of objections of person terested and due enquiry as provided u's 15 of the Ad No.30/2013. The area for acquisition would have no displacemen of people and no disturbance to the infrastructure in the vicinity ecology and minimum adverse impact is foreseen on the effecter individual's livelihood. Hence, there is no need to pass a separate R&R award in terms of Section 31 and second schedule of the RFCT LA RR Act, 2013 (Act 30 of 2013). The Government of Telangana has exempted the acquisition of land for pumping Station, laying of pressure mains and Distributory Network of Aitipemula Lift Imigation Scheme from the provisions of Chapter-I & III of the RFCT in LA R&R Act, 2013 and issued GO Ms No.5 Irrigation & CAD (LA) Department, dated:07:02:2023. Mines of coal, iron stone, slate or other materials lying under the said land or any particular portion of the said land, except such parts of the mines and minerals which may be required to be dug or remove or used during the construction phase of the project for the urpose of which the land is being acquired, are not needed.

S/o Surareddy

0.32

Grand Total: 3.06

0.101/2 Nandyala Sampath Reddy

S/o Vernana Reddy

Nandhyala Anthireddy

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the land acquisition officer & Revenue Divisional Officer, Nalgonda on any

Sd/- Addl. Collector Sdi- District Land Acquisition Officer & Collector, Revenue Divisional Officer

can sing almost 18 songs at one go at age 90, says Asha Bhosle

PNS MUMBAI

Her first song came when she was just 10. Eighty years on, the legend of song, Asha Bhosle, is 90 and says she can belt out 18 numbers at one go even today.

And that's just what Bhosle is about to do at her March 9 concert to celebrate her 90th birthday.

"If I will live more, I will go almost everywhere in Maharashtra and do shows. The name of my show is 'Woh Phir Nahin Aati Hai'. I will also not come again... You should never regret that you haven't seen that person. People say we did not see Kishore Kumar and other singers (perform). But now you can say we have seen Asha Bhosle," the legendary singer said at a press conference on Wednesday.

Singing, she said, is her passion. She would sing even as a child but took to professional singing due to circumstances, Bhosle said.

"I got the name and fame,

people started recognising me. Even though when I am not

Maintaining one's voice is akin to "taking care

for others. I practise for myself because I

song when I was 10 years old and it's been 80 years. I want to thank you all, (I don't know) how you have tolerated my voice for 80 years? I almost sing 18 songs at this age. I am always on stage," Bhosle said.

Her first film track was "Chala Chala Nav Bala" for the 1943 Marathi film "Majha Bal". From peppy numbers such as "Piya Tu Ab To Aaja" and "O Haseena Zulfon Wali" to soulful ghazals like "Dil Cheez Kya Hai" and the classical "Tora Man Darpan Kehlaye", she has some 12,000

Entire stretch of river Ganga in West Bengal unfit for bathing: NGT

PNS NEW DELHI

fine unless there was progress

that 258.67 million litres per day (MLD) of untreated sewage was directly flowing

The NGT was hearing a matter involving prevention, working, I keep singing. I keep practising. I never left singing, that's why my voice is okay even today.

of your body", she "I don't practise

"I sang my first

songs across languages to her

control and reduction of pol-

lution of the Ganga across

each district and state through

which the river or its tribu-

It was considering a report from West Bengal, submitted in pursuance of its earlier directions. A bench of NGT

Chairperson Justice Prakash

Burdhaman, Howrah, Purba

Medinipur and South 24

Parganas.

The entire stretch of the Ganga in West Bengal contains high faecal coliform making the water unfit for bathing, the National Green Tribunal has observed, warning the authorities concerned of imposing a

Shrivastava noted that reports were filed by the District Magistrates (DM) of North 24 in tackling the pollution.
The tribunal underlined Parganas, Murshidabad, Nadia, Malda, Hooghly, Purba into the river.

insisted that the two cannot be Banerjee was, however, careful not to name Sandeshkhali

directly while making that observation. "Remember Singur is Singur, Nandigram is Nandigram, Khatra is Khatra, and Bishnupur is Bishunupur. Each place has its own characteristics. So do not compare one with the other," the West Bengal chief minister said while speaking at the administrative review meeting held at Khatra in

PNS ■ CHENNAI

Bankura. "Do not make the mistake of inciting violence. I do not want any bloodshed and any incident of torture anywhere. I do not support any wrongdoing and I won't do that ever in my life. Even if some wrong was unknowingly committed somewhere, I do not support that as well," she said.

Nandigram. Singur have no parallels: Mamata in Sandeshkhali backdrop

PNS BANKURA (WB)

Rubbishing the BJP's attempts to draw parallels between antiland acquisition agitations in Nandigram and Singur in the past and those currently taking place in Sandeshkhali, TMČ supremo Mamata Banerjee

Several BJP leaders in the recent past have tried to corner the ruling Trinamool dispensation by drawing similarities of the anti-land grab agitations in Nandigram and Singur back in 2007-08. While those agitations catapulted Banerjee to state power against the erstwhile ruling Left Front, the BJP suggested that the current Sandeshkhali agitations signified the turning of tides against Banerjee this time around.

Santhan, former convict in Rajiv assassination, dies

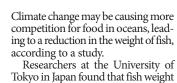
Santhan, a convict in

the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case who later freed

by the Supreme Court, died here on Wednesday following a cardiac arrest, a government official said. Santhan alias T Suthendiraraja (55), a Sri Lankan national, was one of the seven persons set free by the Supreme Court in 2022 after they served over 20 years of jail term in connection with the killing of the former prime minister in Sriperumbudur near here in 1991. E Theranirajan, Dean of the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital where Santhan was undergoing treatment for liver failure, said he

died at 7.50 am.

Climate change may be reducing fish weight in oceans, finds study



in the western North Pacific Ocean dipped in the 2010s due to warmer water limiting food supplies. They attributed the first period of weight loss to greater numbers of Japanese sardines, which increased competition with other species for food. "With higher temperatures, the

ocean's upper layer becomes more stratified, and previous research has shown that larger plankton are replaced with smaller plankton and less nutritious gelatinous species, such as jellyfish," Professor Shin-ichi Ito from the University of Tokyo said. "Climate change can alter the timing and length of phytoplankton

blooms, which may no longer align

with key periods of the fish life cycle.

The migration of fish has also been



shown to be affected, in other studies, which in turn impacts fish interaction and competition for resources," the researcher added.

During the 2010s, the effect of climate change warming the ocean appears to have resulted in more competition for food, as cooler, nutrientdense water could not easily rise to the

surface, the researchers said. The results, published recently in the journal Fish and Fisheries, have implications for fisheries and policymakers trying to manage ocean resources under future climate change

According to the UN Food and

western North Pacific accounted for almost a quarter of the global total of fish caught and sold. However, the latest research shows that during the 1980s and 2010s, fish

weight in the region changed dramatically. "We investigated 17 fish stocks -- that is, populations or groups of fish -- from 13 species and found that many decreased in weight during this period," said Ito. The team, including the study's co-

author Lin Zhen, a PhD student, analysed fish weight and biomass data from Japan's Fisheries Agency and the Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency. Fish weight refers to individual fish (for example, a 200gram mackerel), whereas biomass is the total weight of a species or group in an area (for example, 50,000 tonnes of mackerel). The team looked at long-term data for six fish populations from four species between 1978 and 2018 and at medium-term data for 17 fish populations from 13 species from 1995/1997 to 2018. www.dailypioneer.com

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

PAPER WITH PASSION-

Upper hand

Showing astute political strategy in RS polls, BIP seems all set for Lok Sabha elections

ven before the Lok Sabha elections, whose dates are yet to be confirmed, the BJP is busy securing one political citadel after another. Beyond the mathemat-■ical calculation of winning eight Rajya Sabha seats of the 15 available in three States, it has managed to bag two extra seats — the lone seat in Himachal Pradesh and one in Uttar Pradesh, dealing another body blow to the INDIA bloc, an Opposition alliance. Worse, the upset in Himachal would likely embolden the saffron party to demand a trust vote against the Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu Government. Already, the Congress Government is seeing a fresh scramble for power amid abandonment by its own members, the latest being the announcement of resignation by State PWD Minister Vikramaditya Singh. Trouble has been mounting for the Congress since Tuesday, when it lost the sole Rajya Sabha seat to the BJP with six of its members cross-voting in the poll. The RS elections are often seen as a litmus test of political equations with-



in States and among parties. They reflect the ability of political parties to rally support and secure positions of influence in the Upper House of Parliament. However, the cross-voting has added a new dimension to the political landscape, indicating possible shifts in alliances and loyalties. The INDIA bloc, comprising 28 Opposition parties, had hoped to consolidate its position in the Rajya Sabha. However, this setback has raised questions about the cohesion and effectiveness of the Opposition alliance, even in States where the Congress is in power.

These instances of brazen cross-voting have not only raised eyebrows but also sparked speculation about

its potential implications for the Lok Sabha elections. The BJP's success in securing additional seats through cross-voting underscores its growing clout and organisational strength, especially in key battleground States. For the Opposition, the Rajya Sabha poll results serve as a wake-up call, highlighting the need for greater unity and coordination. The failure to prevent cross-voting not only reflects internal fissures but also raises questions about the effectiveness of their electoral strategy. As the Lok Sabha elections draw near, the Opposition parties must regroup and realign their priorities to present a formidable challenge to the BJP. At the same time, the BJP's latest triumph should not be viewed in isolation. It reflects the party's relentless pursuit of expanding its footprint across regions and States. The BJP's ability to capitalise on opportunities, whether through defections, alliances or cross-voting, underscores its status as a formidable political force. Looking ahead, the Rajya Sabha poll results indicate a shifting landscape where traditional alliances may no longer hold sway, and parties must adapt to changing realities to stay relevant. The BJP's latest success is a testament to its adaptability and astute political strategy. In modern times, political expediency is everything; moral values, ideologies and loyalties can be taken up later.



isitors during the Bharat Tex 2024, a global textile expo, in New Delh

The US presidential election: Trump redux



Former US President Donald Trump's recent victory over his challenger, Nikki Haley, in South Carolina has injected fresh energy into the American presidential election race

n Saturday, former Donald Trump's win over his challenger, Nikki Haley, intensified the American presidential election race. With this win, Trump is moving toward a clear path to the Republican nomination. He dominated the primaries so far, in which voters select a party's nominee who will compete in the general election. " On November 5, we'll get up here and say, 'Joe, you're fired! You're fired! Get out!'" Trump said after his South Carolina win.

According to polls, the next pres-

idential election on November 5 is expected to be close. It will be a replay between the current President, Joe Biden, and the former President, Donald Trump, just like in 2020. Additionally, there will be third-party candidates in the upcoming election. Both presidential candidates are old. American media reports suggest that some people prefer a third option. They believe there is little difference between them. Fewer Americans are interested in a potential rematch between these two candidates. Biden wants to finish the work he started in his first term. He believes winning a second term is crucial to preserving America's democratic traditions. However, some people worry about his age and the reported memory loss, while others support him. Republicans have criticised him for this.

Historically, since 1944, no US President has lost an election without a recession during the election cycle or just before. Being the incumbent President is in Biden's favour. He has no serious challengers in his party. Though Biden's poll numbers are low, the Democrats do not have an alternative plan.

The two presumptive presidential candidates must complete several steps before the November elections. From January 15 to June 4, 2024, states will hold caucuses and primary elections to choose their preferred candidates. The two candidates with the most support from their party members will officially become the nominees during the conventions. The Trump will be 77. Biden is Republican National Convention will occur from July 15 to July 18



From August 19 to August 22, the National Convention of the Democrats will be held in Chicago, Illinois, Democrats and Independents prioritise preserving democracy and concerns about inflation and immigration. The campaign will focus on essential topics such as reproductive rights, climate change, democracy in America, and US support for Ukraine. Suppose President Trump is

re-elected for a second term; he may seek retribution against his adversaries. There are concerns about whether Trump intends to decrease the number of federal civil service employees, tighten immigration regulations, and terminate the Affordable Care Act. Trump has also vowed to make trade with China more challenging, hinting that he may not defend all NATO partners. Biden's low approval ratings and reported memory issues made it necessary to impress his supporters that he has the energy and ability to serve another four years as President.

He will be 81 when elections take place on November 5. confident that he is the only Democratic candidate capable



AMERICANS TEND TO VOTE FOR THE PARTY THAT BEST SERVES THEIR **ECONOMIC** INTERESTS. HISTORICALLY, THEY HAVE TENDED TO SUPPORT THE **GOVERNING PARTY** DURING GOOD TIMES, WHILE IN BAD TIMES, THEY PREFER THE OPPOSITION

ing democracy overseas. In the campaign, he's been focusing on the threat to democracy within the USA. United States. As for his performance, Biden fulfilled vital campaign promises, like creating jobs and restoring normalcy after COVID. Americans tend to vote for the party that best serves their economic interests. Historically, they have tended to support the governing party during good times, while in bad times, they prefer the opposition. In 1992, Bill Clinton used the campaign slogan "It's the economy, stupid" to emphasise the significance of the economy in pol-

charges under four indictments. They are: For falsifying his business records in New York; For withholding classified federal government documents in Florida; And for attempts to overturn the 2020 election in two separate cases in Washington and the state of Georgia.

Trump faces 91 criminal

Despite these serious allegations, a significant number of members of the Republican party continue to show support for him. He has the support of those who believe in

"White supremacy." It remains to be seen how Trump's potential convictions will impact his popularity. The next President will also have to deal with the unexpected and the crises.

The international community closely monitors the situation, anticipating the outcome of the country's next major democratic test. The world wants to know how well the country will fare in its next big democratic test, as President Biden and Democrats project Trump as a threat to democracy. While the November election will be closely contested, independent voters, especially in swing states like Michigan, Wisconsin, and Georgia, will decide the outcome of the polls.

America values youth, but how they will compromise with Trump or Biden is still being determined. The country has seen their performance. They have no choice except to choose one or the other. Trump hopes that a second term could deliver vindication for him, who has pushed baseless claims that the 2020 election was stolen. For Biden, it would be a chance for continuity.

(The writer is a popular columnist, views expressed are personal)

Dropshipping: The human touch in a digital era



With its low-risk, high-reward approach, dropshipping offers a gateway to success, empowering ventures to thrive in the competitive arena

s technology has become more accessible to billions of individuals, the e-commerce sector has emerged as a dominating force in today's complex and global marketplace.
According to Mordor Intelligence, India's e-commerce market size is expected to skyrocket to \$299.01 billion by 2029, with a CAGR of 21.50%, and is estimated to be \$112.93 billion in 2024. While it might seem easy to others, the truth is that succeeding in e-commerce requires significant effort. This is where to establish a trustworthy reputation in today's competitive era, dropshipping has emerged as a viable option for entrepreneurs and small businesses. The importance of Dropshipping: Dropshipping has revolutionised the e-commerce landscape, providing an entry point for entrepreneurs and small businesses with low investment and risk. Unlike traditional retail models that necessitate inventory and logistics management, drop-



focus on marketing and customer service, ultimately creating a unique brand identity that appeals to their target

Furthermore, this personal touch in the digital age sets them apart from their competitors and helps establish trust and loyalty among customers. As online shopping continues to grow, dropship-ping will become a critical tool for staying competitive in the ever-changing e-commerce market. Plus, according to IMARC, the global dropshipping market is expected to reach \$1,787.4 billion by 2032, with a growth rate (CAGR) of 23.46% from

shipping enables businesses How to craft a unique brand to collaborate with reliable identity with dropshipping: suppliers, allowing them to In an era where having a Furthermore, when business-

offers a convenient and costeffective way to achieve this. particular clientele groups. Through dependable supplipreneurs can also establish a distinctive brand identity that appeals to their intended market. This uniqueness helps firms stand out from the competition in the digital era and draws in customers while also encouraging brand loyalty. Empowering businesses to

succeed! While dropshipping uses technology and automation to streamline operations, it is ultimately the human touch that sets businesses apart in the digital age. Thus, by embracing the human touch and prioritising meaningful interactions, small businesses and entrepreneurs can differentiate themselves in a crowded marketplace and build a loyal customer base that transcends transactions.

unique brand identity is es dropship and focus their imperative, dropshipping operations, a plethora of opportunities arise that empower them to succeed in With dropshipping, companies can customise their brand image and choose continues to democratise unique products to appeal to commerce, the e-commerce sector thrives, with India's market poised for exponener partnerships and efficient marketing techniques, entre-scape, dropshipping emerges scape, dropshipping emerges as a vital strategy for entrepre-neurs and small businesses to navigate the competitive realm.

By leveraging reliable suppliers and focusing on branding, dropshipping facilitates unique market positioning, crucial for sustained success. As the global dropshipping market burgeons, embracing this model empowers businesses to craft distinctive identities, fostering customer loyalty and longevity. Ultimately, while technology drives efficiency, it's the human touch that propels businesses forward, ensuring relevance and resilience in the dynamic e-commerce sphere.

(The writer is prominent player in the Indian eCommerce industry and domain expert of dropship-ping; views are personal)

DIDI'S HOLLOW SLOGAN

Sir — The horrific events that have unfolded in Sandeshkhali have paid to Mamata Didi's vaunted slogan of Maa, Mati, and Manush. The political slogan coined by Mamata herself has turned out to be a grim joke on the state's people. Murder, Mayhem, and Molestation have usurped Maa, Mati, and Manush, going by the horror stories coming out of Sandeshkhali. The deliberate misreading of the Calcutta HC stay order on the formation of an SIT and CM Mamata Banerjee's stock response to the horrific incidents at Sandeshkhali - outsiders and BJP/ RSS people are involved - leaves nobody in doubt that the main accused, Shahjahan Sheikh, enjoys the protection and patronage of Didi. Now that the HC has rapped the West Bengal government on the knuckles, it

has promised to arrest Sheikh within a week. This sudden volte-face indicates that Sheikh is within earshot. Didi has now no option left but to arrest Sandeshkhali's bête noire and her party's henchman, Shahjahan Sheikh. Here's hoping Didi will show some spine. Avinash Godboley | Dewas

Sir — In the never-ending battle between the police and the Maoists, either in Chhattisgarh or Jharkhand, the former has almost decimated the latter. The latest was the killing of three Maoists in the Koyalibeda forest area of the Kanker district in Chhattisgarh on Sunday. Significantly, Home Minister Amit Shah in a series of posts on X on Friday had said that the Centre's holistic approach, contributing to health and educational upliftment in the tribal areas dominated by the naxals, resulted in curbing naxalism to a great extent. Familiarity with the surroundings and rapport with the locals have acted as weapons for the police. Intelligence gathering has been a

Poverty on decline

EDITO



iti Aayog has recently made an important claim about poverty in the country citing the Consumer Expenditure Survey. Poverty in the country has been reduced by five per cent. Just read the news that the National Sample Survey Office conducted the survey. For this, about one lakh seven thousand families in urban areas and one lakh fifty-five thousand families in rural areas were selected. Along with this reduction in poverty, per capita monthly expenditure has doubled compared to 2011-2012. It has been mentioned in the report that the per capita monthly expenditure in the urban section is 6459 rupees and the expenditure in the rural section is 3773 rupees. People in both urban and rural areas have

achieved economic progress. Compared to 2011-2012, the gap has reduced now. It has now come to 71 per cent from 84 per cent. Especially in the year 2004, this difference was almost 91 per cent. There have been changes in lifestyle in both these areas. As the purchasing power of both regions increases, they seem to be spending more on milk, fruits, and vegetables. Overall, this survey has brought out a big issue regarding the reduction of poverty. This is the result of the economic progress that has been going on under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi in the last ten years.

Shantaram Wagh Pune

game. Counselling the local tribals training methods including deprivation against giving in to the Maoist demands figures right on top of the agenda. Over the years, many Naxals have given up their violent ways, and the ance on small platforms are emblematcredit should go to the concerted effort of the security forces. A combination of a humanitarian touch and taking the fight into the Maoist camps has paid rich dividends. According to Home Ministry data, in the last nine years, there has been a significant decline in left-wing extremism-related violence and deaths. Fatalities among both security forces and civilians have drastically reduced, by 72 and 68 per cent respectively, and these are exceptional numbers that we can see and it shows a psotive figure.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

CRUELTY ON ANIMALS

Sir — The circus, often seen as a place of amusement and wonder, hides a darker truth behind its colourful cur-Maoist--forte; the police have succeeded in beating the opponents at their own of suffering, as animals endure brutal tains. Behind the spectacle, lies a world

and beatings, to perform unnatural tricks. Tigers forced to jump through fiery hoops and elephants forced to balic of this exploitation.

The mental and physical well-being of the animal worsens as a result of this wrongdoing. Many suffer from injuries while others endure psychological distress from social deprivation and incarceration. Despite increased cognisance, the circus industry continues to prioritise profit over animal welfare. It's time to acknowledge the pain and suffering foisted upon circus animals in the name of entertainment. By boycotting animal-centric circuses and supporting cruelty-free entertainment, we can help end the exploitation of circus animals and create a world where laughter does not come at the expense of sentient

Tanisha Gupta | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com www.dailypioneer.com

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

FIRST COLUMN

BUILDING BRIDGES WITH EMPATHY

It is incumbent upon us to ensure that every student receives vital lessons in empathy



SWAPNA MAJUMDAR

fter being constantly taunted for her height, skin colour and aca-Ademic performance by her fellow students for months, a 12-year-old girl cut her wrists in an attempt to end her mental agony. Fortunately, she was saved. But a 16-year-old student of Class 10, who jumped off the top floor of the apartment building he was living in, did not survive. It was his letter to his mother in which he wrote that the school had killed him, that revealed the shocking details of bullying he was subjected to and the school's failure to stop it. While several steps have been taken to put an end to bullying, penal action can only be a temporary deterrent and not a long-term solution especially in the present milieu of hyped social media, freely available toxic content and, peer

If children are taught to engage empathetically, can it inculcate feelings of respect, dignity and compassion for all? Project Empathy, an endeavour to bring empathy education into school curricula, believes being empathetic can nurture emotionally and mentally strong human beings. When young students understand the importance of living in harmony with one another, the 'walls of division' between them transform into 'walls of friendship'. Contrary to popular belief, empathy can be taught. While 50% of our empathic capacities are genetically inherited, research shows that the rest can be learnt. This is the biggest reason why empathy must be taught at a young age. Over the last five years, Project Empathy led by educationist Vibha Lakhera, introduced this concept and developed activities and stories that acknowledge, recognize and identify emotions and broaden the discussion around emotional health and well-being of every



Empathy education helps to enrich the emotional vocabulary of students and build their emotional and mental resilience. Introduced in about six schools mainly army schools like the Army Rifles Public Schools in North India and Kashmir and Alok Bharati Public School in Delhi, the project has been able to reach out to over 1500 students. Importantly, teachers, who lay the foundation for their values, have been recognized as

critical to the success of teaching empathy. This resource book for teachers draws from the education system and best practices in schools in Denmark and Finland, two countries among the top three happiest countries in the world according to the United National Happiness Report. Put together by Lakhera and veteran development journalist Usha Rai, the interesting manual explains the neuroscience of empathy with the help of psychologists and brain scientists sans any jargon. The mirror neurons, which light up when a person feels an emotion like sadness or joy, respond in the same way when this person sees another person also demonstrating the same kind of feelings or actions. This empathic reaction helps to understand and share expe-

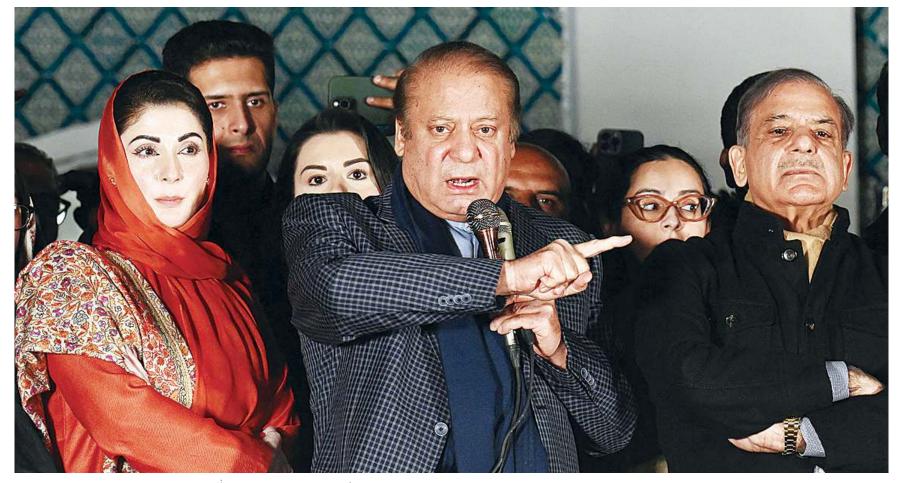
The manual also explains the types of empathy-cognitive, emotional and compassionate while differentiating between sympathy and empathy. Stories centred on children and their emotions have been innovatively used to provide practical guidelines on how to diffuse tensions, reduce stress, and strengthen understanding of each other's differences. At present, empathy is not included in teacher training programmes. Only a handful of schools have taken the initiative to introduce the concept of empathy education, There is a need to encourage all students to consider different perspectives and viewpoints. Only by being empathetic, can they understand and acknowledge differences of opinion and resolve

(Swapna Majumdar is a journalist writing on development and gender. The views are expressed are personal)

Nawaz Sharif's strategic move or military script?



Nawaz's decision to step aside from the race for premiership in Pakistan and nominate his brother Shehbaz instead has sparked intense debate



lively and geo-political issue is being debated worldwide, especially in Pakistan which pertains to the 'mysterious' decision of three-time prime minister, Nawaz Sharif to Suo moto opt out of the race for premiership and subsequently nominate his younger brother, Shehbaz Sharif for the top slot though he was a favourite of powerful military, obviously current army chief, Asim Munir, who had scripted the entire episode to enthrone him.

Foreign policy experts say that it was on the analogy of former PM, Imran Khan who was saddled in the chair due to the open patronage of Ex-Army chief, Qamar Javed Bajwa but both fell apart RIGGING' TO HELP owing to fighting for supremacy. It was a paradox and a typical case of a "servant" challenging the authority of the "Master" which may happen in this dispensation also but Nawaz as a "shadow PM" may not permit it as he has had the bitter experience of being ousted by the army from the post in 2018.

Analysts are convinced that owing to compelling circumstances, Ex PM, Nawaz played his cards well hence the choice fell on his brother which will also ensure the continuity of "Family Rule" in Pakistan. Yet, another addition will be Maryam Nawaz who is poised to become chief minister of the most important province of Punjab.

2nd, the army had meticulously planned to keep Imran Khan out of the political process hence more than 150 cases were registered against him by the previous regime and courts handed him the punishment in three cases which exceed-

3rd, due to Imran's tirade against the army, Nawaz was brought to Pakistan last year from self-exile in London which preceded the Supreme Court's decision in 2018 to sentence him to ten -years



NAWAZ'S CRITICS ALLEGE THAT THE STAGE WAS SET FOR 'MASS SCALE HIM BECOME PM, BUT THE GAME PLAN WENT HAYWIRE AS INDEPENDENTS

SUPPORTED BY IMRAN FROM JAIL WON A MAJORITY OF THE SEATS AND NAWAZ'S PARTY PML-N COULD NOT GET EVEN A SIMPLE MAJORITY, WHICH SHATTERED THE DREAM OF NAWAZ

imprisonment and a fine of \$10.6 million in a corruption case related to Panama papers of illegal properties abroad. He was dis-qualified and hence fled to London to fight his battle. Nawaz's brother Shahbaz headed the government in Pakistan which ensured the adoption of a bill in parliament on June 25, 2023, which limited the lifetime disqualification of lawmakers to

It was meant to pave the way for the return of his elder brother to resume his political activities in Pakistan.4th, Nawaz's critics allege that the stage was set for 'mass scale rigging" to help him to become PM but the game plan went haywire as independents supported by Imran from jail won a majority of the seats and Nawaz's party PML-N could not get even simple majority which shattered the dream of Nawaz who was averse to heading a minority government.

5th, Nawaz nominated Shehbaz because he had experience in heading coalition governments and was a flexible politician who could take partners along .6th, Nawaz would have found it difficult in parliament as Imran's loyalists were ready with a lot of ammunition to put him on the mat on corruption whereas Shehbaz is better placed so far. Finally, Nawaz and the army chief are on the same page which may help the new government to appease the sentiments and fulfil the aspirations of the people who are facing the problem of

It will be the most difficult task heavy loan and the Chinese

of the Shehbaz government to implement the harsh preconditions of IMF which had released USD 710 million second tranche of a USD 3 billion loan to the cash-strapped country to stabilize its debt-ridden economy. Shehbaz 's previous government had successfully negotiated with the IMF to procure the "bailout Package" which needs to be clinched. The IMF had saved Pakistan from economic collapse as Pakistan's reserves stood at \$7.8 billion as of Nov. 18, 2023, barely enough to cover imports for a month.

The people are reeling under the debt trap policy. inflation which has touched to China will be looking for the the level of 30% and prices of the capacity of consumers. The floods had caused losses of billions and thousands of lives were lost hence the new PM will have to take care of rehabilitation tasks which are in disarray.

The floods had caused tremendous losses of USD 3.3. trillion in June-October,2022 besides killing 1839 people which must be uppermost in the priorities of the new government as victims are still craving relief and rehabilitation tasks which seem to be in disarray.

China has treaded cautiously and did not touch the sensitive issue of rigging whereas the United States and EU demanded an investigation into the allegations. China has come to the rescue of Pakistan several times but the cost has been beyond the imagination of this poor country. China's debt policy has entrapped Pakistan which has procured a

investment has risen \$65 billion in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)by 2022.

China has already acquired control of Gwadar Port on 16 May 2013 which may be retained instead of a lease guarantee in

Originally valued at \$46 billion. the value of China Pakistan Economic Corridor had been worth \$62 billion as of 2020. India and the US are opposed to BRI hence Nawaz will have to tread cautiously to keep China in check to save his country from

security protection of its projects essential commodities are beyond in Pakistan hence it may develop cordial relations with the Shehbaz government. Experts say that the United States wanted to see the back of Imran who had accused it of conspiring with the army to oust him from power. It has got history of having direct ties with army generals hence it may find it easy to deal with the new government. India can expect Nawaz to influence Shehbaz to take the initiative to start dialogue with India which has already created its space in the world arena and economic ties can help the beleaguered people of this poor coun-

The new coalition government is bound to be weak hence delivery expectations on domestic and international fronts must be based on logical conclusions and limitations of new dispensation in Pakistan.

(The writer is a journalist and political analyst, views are

A roadmap for comprehensive socio-economic inclusion

The interim Budget for 2024 emerges as a crucial instrument for steering the nation towards inclusive development

s is the case with multiple developing economies across the world, India is faced with wealth inequality, unemployment, existing and persisting gaps in healthcare infrastructure and delivery, and environmental concerns. The Global Multidimensional Poverty Index based on data from 2021/22 finds that 16.4 % of India's population lives in poverty with 4.2% facing severe poverty.

The Regional Human Development Report 2024 by UNDP finds that the top 10% of the population controls 65% of the nation's total wealth, underlining stark wealth inequality. The consequences negatively impacts upward under 25 were unemployed in intergenerational mobility and 2021-22.



lowers the rate of economic growth.

Lack of jobs has been an area of concern for the country for decades now. While the current unemployment rate for January 2024 is 6.8, unemployment amongst educated youth is concerning. The State of Working India 2023 by Azim Premji University reveals that are multi-dimensional – it over 42% of India's graduates

Marked by a distinct urban- ramifications of human loss rural divide, gaps in healthcare services and infrastructure are a major obstacle for people in small towns and rural areas. A large part of India's population suffers from inaccessibility to quality healthcare - leading to delayed treatments and high out-of-pocket expenditure. A United Nations report emphasises that approximately 75% of healthcare infrastructure, medical personnel, and other health resources are predominantly located in urban

of the overall population. The impact of climate change and disasters on both people and the economy has been devastating. India experienced uninsured losses of \$32.94 billion from natural disasters between 2018 and 2022. The

regions, home to merely 27%

are even more grave and are evident in the 55.9 million displacements from 237 disasters mapped between 2018 – 2022. The interim budget addresses these issues in a big way.

It presents a comprehensive roadmap for national progress, meticulously designed to touch upon critical facets of development such as women empowerment, job creation, environmental conservation, and poverty alleviation. It aims to address the needs and aspirations of diverse social groups— 'Garib' (the poor), 'Mahilayen' (women), 'Yuva' (youth), and 'Annadata' (farmers). This inclusion is notable as it envisages the significance of marginalised social groups in achieving a Viksit Bharat – a developed India by 2047 –

marking a century of India's independence.

The budget prioritises support for the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises' (MSME) sector with necessary finances, technologies, and training to enhance global competitiveness. The rooftop solarization policy is set to offer employment and entrepreneurial opportunities in technical and supply sectors.

Additionally, the establishment of a separate Department for Fisheries and the expansion of the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) underscore efforts to double production and exports in the fisheries sector, aiming to create 55 lakh new jobs and drive inclusive economic progress. A significant step is the focus on provisions for the inclusion notable health sector

of low-income groups and women. Initiatives like the disbursement of 30 crore Mudra Yojana loans to women entrepreneurs and financial support to 78 lakh street vendors under PM-SVANidhi emphasise the government's focus on enhancing workforce participation and providing earning avenues that drive upward mobility.

The SHG model of development has also proved to be successful – enabling nearly 10 million women to achieve annual incomes of over INR 1 lakh. Capitalising on this success, the goal has been expanded to elevate the target from 2 crore to 3 crore 'lakhpati didis', showcasing a commitment to women's economic empowerment. The budget made

announcements. The focus on preventive healthcare through the provision of cervical cancer vaccinations for young girls and the integration of various maternal and child health schemes indicate a push towards addressing the specific health needs of vulnerable

The expansion of the Ayushman Bharat scheme to extend healthcare benefits to approximately 1.5 million ASHA

workers and Anganwadi workers acknowledges the crucial contribution of these frontline health workers to primary healthcare services. Leverage existing hospital structures for the establishment of more medical colleges, addresses both - the healthcare professional shortage and the surging demand

for medical education. This builds on the initiative from April 2023, when the government approved the establishment of 157 nursing colleges, allocating INR 1,570 crore, with the central government contributing INR 1,016 crore. The budget also provides a concrete pathway to achieving a net-zero economy by 2070. Key measures include funding for offshore wind energy, coal gasification projects to lessen reliance on fossil fuels, support for the electric vehicle ecosystem, and incentives for biomass collection. The budget also promotes bio-manufacturing for eco-friendly materials and climate resilience in the blue economy.

(The author is a prominent voice on social issues; views are personal)

Gold prices decline Rs 50; Silver falls Rs 300

old prices declined Rs 50 to Rs 62,900 per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday amid weak trends in international markets, according to the second the precious metal had closed at Rs 62,950 per 10 grams on Tuesday. Silver prices also the precious metal had closed at Rs 62,950 per 10 grams on Tuesday. Silver bad ended at Rs 74,200 pe fell Rs 300 to Rs 73,900 per kilogram. In the previous trade, silver had ended at Rs 74,200 per kilogram. "Spot gold prices (24 carats) in the Delhi markets are trading at Rs 62,900 per 10

grams, down by Rs 50 from the previous close," said Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst Commodities, HDFC Securities. In the international markets, spot gold at Comex was trading down at US\$ 2,029 per ounce from US\$ 2,034 per ounce in the previous trade. Going forward, traders now keep an eye on today's US GDP data, which may provide further direction for gold prices, he said. "In the international markets, spot gold at Comex was trading at US\$ 2,029 per ounce, down by US\$ 5 from the previous close." Gandhi added



Joshi to launch Coal Logistics Plan & Policy today

nion Coal and Mines Minister Pralhad Joshi will on Thursday launch the 'Coal Logistics Plan & Policy', which focusses on technologically advanced, cost-effective and integrated logistics ecosystem for coal evacuation. The Indian National Committee World Mining Congress under the Ministry of Coal is organising the event at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, the coal ministry said in a statement. "Union Coal and Mines,

and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi will grace the occasion as the chief guest and unveil the Coal Logistics Plan & Policy. "Senior officials from NITI Aayog and various Ministries, including Coal, Railways, Power, Steel, Mines, Shipping Port & Waterways along with industry representatives of Coal, Steel, Power and other sectors will participate in the event," it said. The Ministry of Coal is aiming to produce 1.5 Billion Tonne (BT) of coal by the 2029-30 financial year, as per the statement.

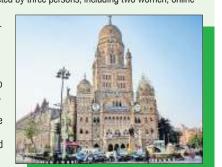


'Elderly bizman loses Rs 3.61 cr in cyber investment fraud; 1 held'

prey to an online investment fraud and ended up losing Rs 3.61 crore, police said on Wednesday. The Cyber Police have so far frozen an amount of Rs 2.20 crore and 330 bank accounts, an official said. The alleged transactions took place between May 20 and October 7 last year after the businessman was contacted by three persons, including two women, online

by promising hefty returns, the official said. "They also created a WhatsApp group, made an online agreement with the businessman, and sent it to his email ID. The agreement mentioning the returns on the investments was shared in the group to gain the trust of the businessman," he said. The victim invested Rs 3.61 crore. As he didn't get any returns on his investment, he approached the West Region Cyber Police Station in Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) and lodged a complaint.

who lured him into investing in a scheme



Restoration of WTO dispute settlement system priority

PNS ABU DHABI

India on Wednesday said that restoration of the fully functional dispute settlement system of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) is the

"top-most" priority.

The appellate body of the system had been non-functional since December 2019 due to the blocking of the appointment of its members or judges by the US and this had called into question the WTO's overall credibility and the rules-based trade order it upholds.

This was flagged by India during the working session on Dispute Settlement (DS) Reforms, at the World Trade Organization's (WTO) 13th Ministerial Conference here.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal along with a high-level official team is attending the four-day conference which started on February 26.

"India emphatically called for the restoration of the appel-

"India reiterated its long-standing position that a credible and reliable WTO DS system is the bedrock of an equitable, effective, secure and predictable multilateral trading system. As a way forward, India sought the immediate and effective formalization and multilateralization of the informal DS reform process by rectifying the procedural and substantive



late body as the top-most priority of any reform process, along for effective formalisation of the ongoing informal dispute settlement reform discussions among some members at the WTO," an official statement said. The WTO is discussing to undertake reforms in the dispute settlement system, which is described as a "Crown jewel" of the Geneva-based 166-member global trade watchdog.

India also wants formalisa-

tion of the ongoing "informal" dispute settlement reform dis-

The informal deliberations are creating hindrance for several nations to participate in the talks and such discussions made it extremely difficult for developing countries to participate effectively.

"India reiterated its longstanding position that a credible and reliable WTO DS system is the bedrock of an equitable, effective, secure and predictable multilateral trading system," it said.

India emphasized that the outcome of any reform process should provide for the restoration of the appellate body, which remains a "top-most" priority for India.

"As a way forward, India sought the immediate and effective formalization and multilateralization of the informal DS reform process by rectifying the procedural and substantive defects," it added.

Torrent Power raises Rs 700 cr via NCDs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Torrent Power on Wednesday said it has raised Rs 700 crore through Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs) issued on a private placement basis.

The NCDs are proposed to be listed on wholesale debt market segment of the NSE, a

regulatory filing said.
According to the statement, the company has issued and allotted Series 13 -- 70,000 secured, rated, listed, taxable, noncumulative, redeemable NCDs of Rs 700 crore at a coupon rate of 8.32 per cent per annum on a private placement basis.

The first coupon will be paid on February 28, 2025 and subsequent coupon payments will be made on an annual basis, the statement

Q3 GDP may slide to 6.7-6.9% on poor farm sector show

PNS MUMBAI

The Indian economy is likely to grow at 6.7-6.9 per cent in December quarter FY24 as compared to 7.6 per cent growth in the second quarter on poor performance in the farm sector, a report by SBI Research said on Wednesday.

The report comes a day ahead of the release of official GDP data for the third quarter of 2023-24 financial year.

India retained the tag of the world's fastest-growing major economy, with its GDP expanding by a faster-thanexpected rate of 7.6 per cent in September quarter on booster shots from government spending and manufacturing.

The 6.7-6.9 per cent growth forecast by SBI Research is lower than the Reserve Bank's 7 per cent growth projection for the quarter. SBI Research has projected Q4 GDP at 6.8

SBI Research said the biggest reason for the lower



growth forecast is the very poor show by the farm sector as, barring fisheries, the whole sector is badly affected.

As per the first advance estimates, the production of major kharif crops in 2023-24 is pegged at 148.5 million tonne, which is 4.6 per cent lower than that in the year-ago peri-

While the sowing season for rabi crops indicates a slight increase in overall acreage compared to the previous year, there are concerns over the sown area under cereals, which saw a decline of 6.5 per cent from the previous year, Sebi refuses to lift ban on Brightcom Group's Reddy, others PNS NEW DELHI

Sebi on Wednesday refused to lift the securities market restriction imposed on Suresh Kumar Reddy, promoter of Brightcom Group Ltd, in a case concerning irregularities in preferential allotments of shares made by

the company. Besides, he would continue to be restrained from holding the position of a director or a Key Managerial Personnel in any listed company or its subsidiaries, Sebi

said in its confirmatory order. In its order, Sebi noted that the prima facie findings that Brightcom Group Ltd (BGL) had funded its own preferential allotments and had indulged in round tripping of funds continue to sustain.

"It has clearly emerged that in case of certain noticees, personal loans advances by them abroad to Suresh Reddy and his private companies / entities were being repaid in India through the mechanism of allotment of shares of BGL, a listed company, in preferential issues for free or at partial consideration, at the cost of public shareholders of BGL," Sebi said in its 40-page order.

FACING A LOW BIRTH RATE AND MANPOWER SHORTAGE

Singapore to stay open to foreign talent

PNS SINGAPORE

Manpower-short Singapore has to stay open to foreign talent due to slower population ent, said Wong. growth and resident workforce wing and insufficient to meet the demands of the economy, Deputy Prime Minister Lawrence Wong said

on Wednesday.

workers can take on jobs in to do. Prosperous Singapore seen its resident total fertility digital economy, where there is a global shortage of skilled tal-

power includes work-permit holders, which comprise about two-thirds of the total foreign workforce, mostly doing jobs At the upper end, this means that Singaporeans do not want Parliament that Singapore has

new growth areas such as the digital economy, where there is growing so that it can make a living and take care of its people, at a time when the world Speaking in parliament on is becoming more dangerous and unpredi table he to

liament on Wednesday. Earlier in the day, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Indranee Rajah told rate (TFR) drop to an estimated 0.97 per cent in 2023, the first time it has dropped below one per cent in the country's history.

has a comprehensive system of controls to regulate the quality and number of work-pass holders across every level of the

As he laid out the Government's plans to achieve between 2 and 3 per cent growth annually over the next decade, Wong said, "The reality is that Singapore will always be a little red dot (a teaser for being small) we have no hinterland, we have no natural resources, unlike resource-rich countries like Qatar or the

Bengaluru taxpayers are giving us buoyancy: Nirmala Sitharaman

PNS BENGALURU

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday hailed Bengaluru tax payers for their contributions in building a strong and 'Viksit Bharat', and said the Department of Revenue is running its entire national faceless income tax assessment scheme from Karnataka's capital city.

Speaking after laying the foundation stone for the upcoming complex "HONGIRANA" for Income Tax officers and staff here, she said the tax payers of Bengaluru have been absolutely giving us the buoyancy, and thanked all individual and corporate taxpayers in this region for making sure for building a strong and 'Viksit Bharat'.

"Your contribution is relentless. There has never been a dip. So



thank you very much Bengaluru for keeping that momentum up",

Sitharaman also emphasised the investments that the Central government is making in

She noted that the Government has brought about the entire faceless system for income tax assessment and ease of doing business to ensure that tax assessees are not harassed and do not have

the perception that discretion of

the officer who they have to to go and sit and talk to will make their tax payment difficult. She said the Department's

entire central processing centre -- the digital processing unit which located in Bengaluru, driving the income tax system for the whole nation. The faceless system was a big step forward in ease of doing business.

"So money doesn't go away from Karnataka. It comes back as well and comes back not just like that Yes it comes back for roads, it comes back for connectivity, it comes back for metro, it comes back for rail, it comes back for the suburban railway system, It comes back for Mangaluru port, it comes back for the 'Kalyana' Karnataka (region) and so on", Sitharaman

Domestic manufacturing of semiconductors next big space'

PNS MUMBAI

Domestic manufacturing of semiconductors is the next big space and many companies are expected to venture into this segment, a senior MeitY official said on Wednesday adding that a USD 2 billion digital economy is what India seriously needs.

S Krishnan, Secretary of Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), while speaking virtually at the India Digital Summit (IDS) 2024 said the digital economy is expected to grow at a faster pace in the next few years.

other big space. More compa-



nies are likely to come into the space...Our interest in semiconductors is open," he said adding that in the next 5-10 years semiconductor manufacturing in the country is expected to come up in a big way.

About 20 lakh people are employed in the electronics "Semiconductors is the manufacturing sector in the country and the government would like these jobs to go up to about 45 lakh, he added.

"We expect the digital economy to really grow at an increasing pace in the next few years. A USD 2 billion digital economy is what India seriously needs," Krishnan said.

When asked about governance, hygiene and compli-ance with law for digital economies, Krishnan pointed out that regulators, much like the public, recognized the necessity of regulation.

While balancing consumer protection and diverse requirements, regulations are thoroughly examined to ensure safeguarding of user information, he said.

India's retail sector to more than double in next decade

UAE.

PNS NEW DELHI

India's retail sector is expected to grow at 9-10 per cent to reach USD 2 trillion in the next decade with the country's consumption story continuing to remain strong with steady growth, according to a report. Yet, organised retailers

would need to sustain performance and continue to grow shares as the sector is going through key shifts impacting the pace and shape of growth, said the report by the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and Retailers Association of India

While income growth remains steady, and consumers are optimistic about personal income outlook, consumers are increasingly look-



ing to spend on "experiences" or save more through newer or nascent vehicles, it said.

"The Indian retail sector will more than double in size to USD 2 trillion in the next decade - across categories and formats - and the successful retailers are the ones who continue to challenge the perceived growth profitability trade-off, " BCG Managing Director and Senior Partner Abheek Singhi said.

Platinum Industries IP0 subscribed 22.19 times

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The initial public offering of Platinum Industries got subscribed 22.19 times on the second day of offer on Wednesday. The Rs 235 crore-initial share sale received bids for 21,37,42,644 shares against 96,32,988 shares on offer, as per NSE data. The portion for noninstitutional investors fetched 42.85 times subscription while the Retail Individual Investors (RIIs) part got subscribed

Equity investors become poorer by Rs 6L cr as markets crash

PNS NEW DELHI

Investors' wealth eroded by Rs 6 lakh crore in a single day on Wednesday as the BSE benchmark Sensex tumbled over 790 points.

per cent to settle at 72,304.88. During the day, it slumped 872.93 points or 1.19 per cent to 72,222.29.

The market capitalisation (mcap) of BSE-listed companies eroded by Rs 6,02,338.56 The 30-share BSE Sensex crore to Rs 3,85,97,298.49

32% of India's super rich wealth in housing properties

PNS NEW DELHI

India's super rich have allocated 32 per cent of their wealth in residential properties in the country and overseas, Knight Frank said in a report on

Wednesday. As per real estate consultant Knight Frank's The Wealth Report 2024, 32 per cent of India's Ultra-High-Net-Worth Individuals' (UHNWIs) wealth is allocated towards residential real estate asset class. Nearly 14 per cent of their residential portfolio is allocated outside Îndia. UHNWIs are individuals with a net worth of USD 30

million and above. On an average, an Indian

while a sizable 28 per cent have rented out their second homes during 2023, the report said. According to Knight Frank,

about 12 per cent of the country's UHNWIs plan to buy a néw home in 2024. A similar percentage of wealthy individuals in India purchased a new home last year.

Globally, 22 per cent of the ultra-wealthy are expected to purchase a home in 2024.

Knight Frank India Chairman and Managing Director Shishir Baijal said, "The prime residential assets continue to be the mainstream investment avenue for ultrawealthy individuals in the



country.

(PIRI) index in 2023 as compared to the 37th rank in 2022, Separately, the report noted that Mumbai ranked 8th on driven by 10 per cent year-onyear growth in terms of annu-Frank's Prime al luxury residential price rise. International Residential Index

Manila (26 per cent growth) leads the rankings while last year's frontrunner Dubai (16 per cent) slipped one spot.

The Bahamas (15 per cent) comes in the third place with Algarve and Cape Town (both 12.3 per cent) completing the top five. Among other Indian cities, Delhi ranked 37th and showcased a rise of 4.2 per cent year-on-year in 2023 as compared to the 77th rank in 2022.

Bengaluru stands at the 59th rank compared to 63rd in 2022 recording a 2.2 per cent yearon-year increase in 2023.

place for Mumbai in the top 10 remains bright as Mumbai leading luxury residential marwith a 5.5 per cent prime price growth forecast, ranks second among the 25 cities globally. As we navigate the complexities of the global market, India's emergence as a prime destination for luxury real estate investment is undeniable," Baijal said. Of the 100 luxury residential markets tracked, 80 recorded positive to neutral

> annual price growth. Asia-Pacific (3.8 per cent) pipped the Americas (3.6 per cent) to the title of the strongest-performing world region, with Europe, the Middle East, and Africa trailing (2.6 per cent).

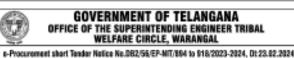
fell by 790.34 points or 1.08 crore (USD 4.71 trillion). OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT: GOVERNMENT GENERAL HOSPITAL: SIDDIPET

Seeled tanders are invited from reputed componies if firms towards supply of Drugs & Medicine including vectores. Surgical communisties, Lab dispensite kilofilospents, Orthopsede impliants Heapital Utile Niters, Medical Equipment and Surgical Instruments to Convernent General Hospital Siddipet for a period of TWO (02) YEARS from the date of finalization of landers. The tender forms along with the terms and conditions will be available at the Clo. Superintendent, Government General hospital Siddipct on any working day between 11:38 AM to 03:09 PM on payment of Re, 2500- (Rupees Twi Thousand Five Handred orbit) though BC / D.D. in hazor of Superintendent, Government General Hospital, Siddipct from any Nationalized bank from 01.03.2004 to 15.03.2024.

8dl. Superintendent R.O.Mo: 11948-PR/CL/ADVT/12023-24, Dt. 28/02/2024 Government General Hospital, Siddipe

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION "E" PROCUREMENT SHORT TENDER NOTICE NT No. 33/EE-01/29/SB2/GHINC/2023-24 Date: 28-02-2024

The details can be seen by logging https://www.tender.telangana.gov.in. The date of events detailed below: **Name of the Work:** Procurement and providing of Office Furniture in Foo Safety Wing 4th floor of Zonal Office Building in Dix 29, Secunderabad, GHMC, Estimate Amou (ECV: Rs. 1.95 lakhs. Start date / Last date & Time for receipts of Bids: From 29-02-2024 @ 4.00 P.M., Name & Address officer Cell. No.: Executive Engineer, Div-29, GHMC, Sec'bad, Cell No.: 9963550657. Further details can be seen at e-Procurement & R.O.No. 11059-PPICLIADVT11/2023-24, Dt. 28.02.2024



No. of Road works (25) Nos in Erstwhile Adilabad Districts Total Cost for (25) Nos.

Rs:1004.50 lakhs Bid Submission Starting Date: 29.02.2024 Closing Date 07.03.2024 @ 3.00 PM, Further details can be seen at "e" procurement market place @ https://tender.telangana.gov.in.0870-2957645, (7893235624TA to SE)



Follow us on @TheDailyPioneer facebook.com/

dailypioneer

Thursday February 29, 2024



Dared to be a bold 'water baby'

K. RAMYA SREE

e are in a time and age where we have to preserve our water bodies; otherwise, the coming generations are going to face a severe water shortage. Many parts of the country are facing a water shortage. Not just that, the lakes are being encroached on, and skyscrapers or big towers are being built there, leading to many issues of late. And to curb this, there is a champion in India who is popularly known across the country, and even worldwide as the 'Lakeman of India'.

Anand Malligavad is rightly called the Lakeman of India because this water conservationist and envi-ronmentalist has contributed to the revitalisation of over 23 lakes in India.

Doesn't it sound amazing? Of course yes, and which is why Sony BBC Earth announced Anand as their second Earth Champion, their testament to a commitment to showcasing and honouring real-life heroes making a significant impact on our planet.

He has been driving a positive change towards a greener and more sustainable world, and he stands as an inspiration to the coming generations. Hence, without further delay, *The Pioneer* quickly got in touch with the nature enthusiast who began by sharing his journey from engineering to environment protection. He said, "I was motivated by a variety of personal and professional reasons, one of which is my association with water and lakes from my childhood, fear of the city going zero water, and selfless desire to protect the planet and its ecosystem. Water stress seems to be a pressing issue across the country, and someone has to think about it and act as if that is an urgent issue." He dares to be bold, influence,

and impact society, which is what he says about the work he is doing now.

It wasn't as easy for him to reach this place and build the contacts as we speak now. He had his share of struggles but for good. Speaking about a significant lake rejuvenation project and discussing the challenges faced during its restoration, Anand said, "We faced numerous challenges, including fundraising, gaining senior management support, and acquiring knowledge on lake rejuvenation. We had to engage and educate local communities, address land encroachment issues, and obtain approval from local leaders. Each lake required innovative approaches within budget and time constraints, with the individual primarily working alone. Managing waste and sewage dumping was difficult. Despite these challenges, We built a strong network of supporters, enabling us to reset our goals to rejuvenate lakes across India."

He continued, "I have now built a big network of people interested in nature conservation through my projects."

While his initial mission was to rejuvenate 45 lakes by 2025, now, with the support he has been getting from all corners of the world, he says he is aiming to rejuvenate

over 100 lakes by 2025 across India.

During the conversation, he also stressed community engagement, which led to the success of water conservation. What else is 'community wise' all about? Let us hear from him: "Community engagement has been instrumental in raising awareness, mobilising action, and fostering a sense of collective responsibility for water conservation. We actively involve residents in various aspects of water management and conservation. Communities have made significant strides towards ensuring the sustainable use and protection of water resources. They join

> ecosystem. Through various campaigns, we have amplified our efforts and brought in behavioural changes to reduce water usage in their daily lives."

Collaborating with local businesses. schools, non-profits, and other organisa-tions can broaden our reach in water conservation, he added.

In his overall journey, the Sansera Foundation Malligavad Foundation have played a significant role, and his first restoration project, Kyalasanhalli Lake, was

started when he was in the Sansera Foundation heading the CSR team. He feels that without community support and encouragement, that would not have been possible. "Adaptation, acceptance, and support for each project need to come from the community, as it is also benefiting them immensely in various ways. Be it while I was in

Sansera or with the Malligavad Foundation, the community was an important stakeholder for us throughout the process," added the environmentalist. At the latest, he has clinched another height in his

life by being recognised as the Earth Champion by Sony BBC Earth. He feels it is a positive acknowledgment of the importance of environmental stewhip and the dissemination of knowledge about our planet.

'We need to promote awareness and action towards protecting the Earth's ecosystems and biodiversity, which is crucial for the well-being of all living beings on this planet, and such recognition plays an important role in the effort we are making through our work and for the country. Initiatives like Earth Champions serve as important tools for engaging and mobilising audiences in the global effort to protect the planet and its ecosystems. It helps with positive messaging amidst concerns about climate change. It demonstrates that meaningful change is possible through individual and collective action, which can be uplifting for audiences seeking solutions to environmental problems," he shared, adding, "I try to make my messages interactive and visually appealing with videos and images and make the topic more relatable. I keep it simple and share real-life examples of the entire process of lake restoration and the challenges faced in the process. This approach fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility among the students towards protecting their environment."

'The show doesn't include any futuristic elements,' utters Kaala Paani director Sameer Saxena

Raala Paani, a gripping narrative of an epidemic and the heartbreaking tale of separation, aims to transfer the viewer to the claustrophobic yet tranquil ambiance of the sadly underappreciated Andaman Islands. *Kaala Paani*, which was written by Biswapati Sarkar and directed by Sameer Saxena along with Amit Golani, is a series

Saxena along with Amit Golani, is a series full of action, painful side trips, and people who are plagued by their past.

Basically, Biswapati Sarkar, the show's writer, came up with the original concept. He had visited the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in his early years. And one of the court guides informed him that Kaal signifies 'mrityu', or death, which is why this site is called *Kaala Paani*. That comment kind of stuck with him, and it appears in the episode as well. After that, he returned, and even the director went there as well. "Our visits made us realise how breathtakingly beautiful the location is. Furthermore, you are essentially cut off from the mainland if you are stuck there. Since no one has ever been able to leave this place, we thought it might make for a

The purpose of establishing it for 2027, director Sameer Saxena says, is to convey to people that nature is not superior to humans. We have a constant tendency to move on from our experiences and forget the past. We considered scheduling Kaala Paani three to four years in advance because, in my opinion, most people have since forgotten about COVID-19. Although most people believe that nothing bad will happen, nature will always remind us that we should not take Mother Nature for granted. Therefore, the show doesn't include any futuristic elements. To sort of get those correct, though, we had to conduct a lot of research on the scientific and medical aspects of it and consult with other physicians. It is critical that we conduct high-quality research, particularly in the fields of science and medicine. We should not underestimate the intelligence of today's

audience. Maintaining the story's authenticity and plausibility was difficult." A harsh story where a mother and a young sixteen-year-old boy were killed. If you wondered what the reason was, then that was the approach the makers took in telling the tale of how some folks make it and others don't. 'That wasn't meant to be harsh; it just happened to fit the plot naturally. Additionally, if you keep telling stories of a particular kind, you eventually learn the cliches, and as a creator, you have nothing else to explore. You give it your all as soon as you discover a new genre because it fascinates you." Certainly, he says there is no formula to make a clutter-breaking show. "You can't pay attention to what other people do. All you have to do is choose the story that





Making the right choice between NATURAL BIRTH vs C-SECTION

ringing a new life into the Bworld is a momentous occasion filled with anticipation and excitement. As expectant parents prepare for the arrival of their little one, one of the most significant decisions they face is choosing between natural birth and Cesarean section (C-section). Both methods of delivery have their own set of considerations, and making aninformed decision is paramount for the health and well-being of both the mother and the baby. In general, the majority of childbirths worldwide occur through natural vaginal delivery, accounting for approximately 75 to 906% of deliveries. However, the rate of C-sections has been steadily rising globally, reaching around 20 to 25% of all births. Understanding these factors is essential for expectant parents to make an informed decision

that aligns with their unique

circumstances and preferences

MEDICAL CONSIDERATIONS

One of the primary factors to consider when choosing between a natural birth and a C-section is the medical condition of both the mother and the baby. Maternal health conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, or heart disease may influence the suitability of vaginal delivery. Similarly, obstetric complications such as Placenta Previa, contracted pelvic, fetal distress, or a breech presentation may necessitate a C-section. Consulting with healthcare providers, including obstetricians and midwives, is essential. They carefully evaluate the individual's health condition



A woman with a previous childbirth experience cansignificantly impact her decision regarding the method of delivery. Positive experiences with natural birth may lead to apreference for a vaginal delivery, while traumatic or complicated deliveries may prompt consideration of a C-section. Women who have undergone a C-section in the past may consider vaginal birth after Cesarean (VBAC) after discussion with their healthcare providers and careful assessment of their suitability for VBAC. It's essential for expectant parents to reflect on their past experiences and discuss them with their healthcare providers to make an informed decision.



DELIVERY PROCESS

Understanding the details and implications of the delivery process for both natural birth and C-section is crucial. Natural birth typically involves the onset of labour, progression through different stages of labour, and ultimately, the delivery of the baby through the birth canal. It often results in a shorter recovery time for the mother and promotes early bonding and breastfeeding initiation. On the other hand, a C-section is asurgical procedure that requires anaesthesia and involves incisions on the abdomen and uterus to deliver the baby. While Csections may be necessary in cases of medical emergencies or complications, they generallyinvolve a longer recovery period and a higher risk of infectioncompared to vaginal delivery.

PERSONAL PREFERENCES AND BIRTH PLANS

In the realm of childbirth, personal preferences and birth plans serve as guiding beacons for expectant parents navigating the intricate journey of bringing new life into the world. Some expectant parents may have strong preferences for one method of delivery over the other based on cultural or emotional factors. It's essential for them to openly communicate withtheir healthcare providers about their preferences and concerns to ensure that their birth plan aligns with their wisheswhile prioritizing the health and well-being of both motherand baby. These preferences encompass a spectrum of desires, intentions, and expectations unique to each individual, shaping the trajectory of labour, delivery, and postpartum care.

SUPPORT SYSTEM AND RESOURCES

Having a supportive birth team and access to resources such as childbirth education classes and prenatal support servicescan facilitate the decision-making process. Childbirtheducation classes provide expectant parents with valuableinformation about the childbirth process, pain management techniques, and strategies for labour and delivery. Facilities for the provision of epidural, having a supportive partner or support person can provide emotional and practical supportthroughout labour and childbirth.

PSYCHOLOGICAL AND EMOTIONAL FACTORS

The psychological and emotional readiness of expectant parents is another critical factor to consider when choosing between natural birth and C-section. Pregnancy and childbirth can evoke a range of emotions, including excitement, anxiety, and fear. It's essential for expectant parents to explore their feelings and seek emotional support from their healthcare providers, family members, or support groups as needed.

In conclusion, choosing between a natural birth and a C-section involves careful consideration of medical, obstetric, personal, and emotional factors. Expectant parents should work closely with their healthcare providers to weigh the risks and benefits of each delivery method and make an informed decision that aligns with their preferences and circumstances. Addressing issues such as anxiety and alleviating fear helps in making positive choices. By prioritizing safety, well-being, and open communication, expectant parents can embark on their childbirth journey with confidence and peace of mind.

(The author, Dr. Chandana Galidevara, is a Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist, of High-risk Pregnancy, Foetal Medicine Specialist and Laparoscopic Surgeon, at Ankura Hospital for Women and Children.)

what's brewing?



Safari Kid Preschool and Daycare announced its entry into the vibrant city of Hyderabad. Located at Financial district, this is Safari Kid's first center in a tech park in India. The Hyderabad center was inaugurated by Mamidala Yashaswini Reddy, Member of the Telangana Legislative Assembly (MLA).





Mohammed Ali Shabbir, advisor to govt, and Syed Omer Jaleel, IAS, Secretary to Minority Welfare department, along with Aisha Masrath Khanam, IAS, Secretary TMREI Society, inaugurated the paintings exhibition by Telangana Minority Welfare school students. The expo which will end today, saw over 2000 artworks of students from over 204 schools.





Ohri's announced the grand launch of Mings&Mee, a culinary haven bringing the vibrant flavours of Pan Asian cuisine. With decades of culinary excellence under its belt, the decision to evolve into a Pan Asian paradise is a testament to Ohri's commitment to catering to the diverse taste palettes of Hyderabad. Mings&Mee promises an immersive dining experience that seamlessly blends tradition with innovation. Mings&Mee unveils a menu that reads like a Pan Asian passport, offering signature dishes that promise to be the talk of the town.

L I S T I N G S On Rare Diseases Day, Hyd doctors urge action on comprehensive policy and enhanced patient care

ith Rare Diseases Day on 29 February, healthcare experts are calling for a comprehensive Rare Disease Policy as the need of the hour. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), rare diseases typically affect fewer than 1 in 1,000 individuals, and in India, around 70 million people grapple with 450 rare diseases, including the particularly debilitating Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA). Despite the introduction of the National Policy for Rare Diseases (NPRD) in 2021, specific challenges posed by SMA persist. In Hyderabad, the Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics at Nizam's Institute of Medical

Sciences (NIMS) is a designated centre for rare disease treatment. However, there are challenges in navigating the registration process for patients, particularly those from remote villages who face illiteracy and financial constraints. They say that the policy implementation faces additional hurdles, concerning the cost-effectiveness of interventions for rare diseases in comparison to other healthcare priorities. Challenges arise in determining how expenditures should be divided between the central and state governments. These factors contribute to the complexities

Samsung's PC lineup Galaxy **Book4 Series goes on sale**

Book4 Pro 360, Galaxy Book4 Pro and Galaxy Book4 360, has gone on sale in India from Tuesday. Galaxy Book4 series comes with an intelligent new processor, a more vivid and interactive display and a robust security system — beginning a new era of AI PCs that offer ultimate productivity, mobility and connectivity. These enhancements not only improve the device

but also elevate the entire Samsung Galaxy ecosystem, advancing the PC category and accelerating Samsung's vision of Al innovation — for today and tomorrow. Bringing next level connectivity, mobility and productivity, the Galaxy Book4 series redefines how users interact with their PCs, smartphones, tablets, and other devices, delivering truly connected and intelligent experiences. Price starting from Rs 114990.

Center fresh introduces lemon honey flavor in mints

enter Fresh, the flagship gum and mints brand of Perfetti Van Melle India introduced its latest innovation — the Center Fresh Mints Clean Breath Lemon Honey flavor. This new addition provides a delightful blend of intense mint and citrusy freshness offering 60 minutes of clean breath. The sweet and citrusy taste is like a refreshing dip in a lively, zestful pool, leaving a delightful aftertaste. The new Lemon Honey Lemon flavor is set to make a splash in the mint market, catering to both affordability and indulgence. The mint is priced at just Rs. 1.



IEEMA, Indian Electrical & Electronics Manufacturers' Association, formally announced the 16th edition of ELECRAMA, the world's largest electrical show. The show is scheduled from 22nd to 26th February 2025 and the theme is 'Reimagining Energy for Sustainable Future'. The event aims to foster dialogue and collaboration towards achieving a greener, more resilient energy ecosystem. The show will host industry leaders, policymakers, and stakeholders to explore cutting-edge innovations, trends, and solutions driving the sector's growth



In a bid to provide a strong sporting infrastructure and professional training, Gamepoint, the launched its new sports centre. Gamepoint Banjara at the prestigious Meridian School, Banjara Hills in Hyderabad. It will be the ninth centre of Gamepoint in Hyderabad and first in the Banjara Hills area which will also aim to promote sports among individuals apart from orchestrating a wide array of sports activities tailored to cater to all age aroups including school kids. The students can now engage in sports activities at the facility after finishing school in order to enhance



Kamineni Hospitals, has announced its strategic collaboration with QurHealth to revolutionize post-operative care for its patients. This partnership represents a significant milestone in the field of healthcare technology as both organizations combine their expertise to redefine the patient care and recovery experience. Leveraging Al-based innovations, Kamineni Hospitals and QurHealth are poised to transform post-operative care, ensuring optimal patient outcomes and reducing complications.

PARTY

ARCHIE







CALVIN AND HOBBES



REALITY CHECK





CROSSWORD



GARFIELD

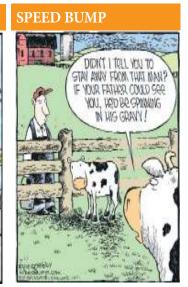








RUNO MARS HAD HTS OWN PROBLEMS LET ME GUESS YOU'VE BEEN LOCKED OUT OF HEAVEN AGAIN









SUDOKU

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

	2	7		resterday's solution									
	_	/		6	9	3	8	2	1	7	5	4	
		3		7	2	8	4	3	5	1	6	9	
		_		1	4	5	7	9	6	3	8	2	
				2	1	9	6	4	3	8	7	5	
1				5	7	6	9	1	8	2	4	3	
4				8	3	4	2	5	7	6	9	1	
	5			3	8	1	5	6	4	9	2	7	
	9			4	6	2	3	7	9	5	1	8	
				9	5	7	1	8	2	4	3	6	
				Ru	les								
_		4	Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9)										

- exactly once.
- . The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

both sides 3 Long slippery fishes

ACROSS

14 Captured

17 Foe

1 Quiet and calm

8 A narrow shelf

9 Thin soft paper 10 Opposite of false

7 A large bird of prey

12 Look after for someone

18 This travels on rails

19 Checked the size of

1 Sheets in a book

2 A road with trees along



- 6 Saying again 11 Quicker
- 13 A female relation
- 15 Someone who works on 18 across 16 See with these



GINGER MEGGS







Hyderabad | Thursday February 29, 2024

'AIR FORCE OFFICERS WANTED US TO SHOW THE CHARACTERS THE RIGHT WAY & NOT COMMERCIALISE'

rust yesterday, we informed you that Operation Valentine is a return gift to India and that 'Valentine' in this movie is the love for our country, as mentioned by the lead actor of the movie, Varun Tej. Today we have the producers of the movie, Siddhu Mudda and Nandkumar Abbineni, talk about the finances and other aspects of the movie.

What makes this interview special is that Operation Valentine was made on a budget of about Rs 47 crore, including VFX, which is an extremely tight budget for a movie like this, and we were curious how the producers made it.

Beginning with how this movie has started, Siddhu said, "We saw a short film by the director, and I told him that we will take things forward if he has a good story. At the same time, I met Varun, who also watched this short film and liked it. I told him that he was planning a full-length movie on this story and asked if we should listen to it. Since we decided to make it in Hindi and Telugu, we partnered with Sony, which was already planning to make a film with Varun. They liked the script, too. That's how it all started."

The producer says he and Nandkumar want to make good films that are rich in content. And for them, this is a very good film, and their confidence in the director's VFX background

Ahead of the much-anticipated film's release, Operation Valentine, producers Siddhu Mudda and Nandkumar Abbineni talk about the finances and other aspects of the movie.

make the movie

within the said amount,

Siddhu informed, "Our

movie's budget was Rs 42 crore and the VFX's budget

was Rs 5 crore. As we said, we

made them feel even more confident about the movie's output. He shared, The director has a VFX background. This movie has a lot of aerial sequences, which need a lot of VFX to be done. Given the director's background, we felt like he would do

got a lot of support from the Air Force. They have it. The rest we got were all senior given us a lot of technicians. Finally speaking about the budget and how they were able to

freehand in using their airbase. We shot for "When the Air Force officers watched the movie, they were very 25-40 days in Gwalior. Because of the Airbase help happy. They had only one request from they gave me, I could save a us: to bring the script to light as it is and show their characters in the right way, lot of money. Since the direcnot cinematise or commercialise them. tor was technically They apparently had a bad experience previously with a Hindi movie, so they sound."

put in this request of theirs," he added While this movie is made in both Hindi and Telugu, the producers say that there is just a half-minute scene difference between Hindi and Telugu, except that everything has been the

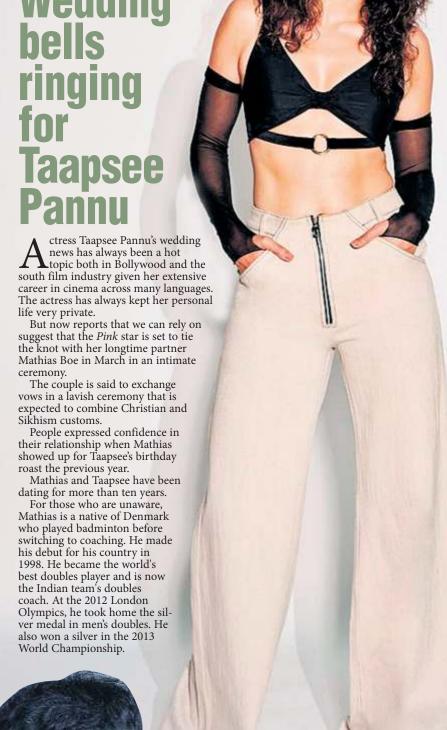
They feel that this genre has national appeal; hence, they decided to make it in Hindi as well.

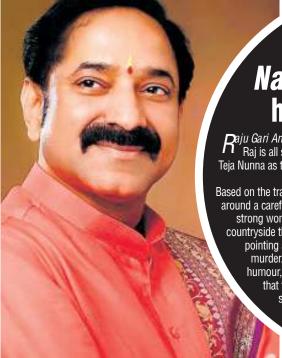
On the other hand, Nandkumar shared, "It was tough shooting in the airbase where the temperatures were very high. On top of that, every crew had to be background cleared. All the crew members must get in and out at the same time. It was a tedious





tollywood





Raju Gari Ammayi Naidu Gari Abbayi trailer has all mirchi masala

Raju Gari Ammayi Naidu Gari Abbayi, a rural entertainer, directed by Satya Raj is all set to hit big screens on March 9. Starring debutante Ravi Teja Nunna as the hero alongside Neha Jurel, the movie had its trailer released on Wednesday.

Based on the trailer, Raju Gari Ammayi Naidu Gari Abbayi revolves around a carefree, optimistic young man who falls in love with a strong woman in a picturesque village. But rivalries in the side threaten their tuture together. All hands seem to pointing at the protagonist suddenly for the woman's murder. The movie looks to be a vibrant mash-up of humour, action, romance, and thrills. The crew promised that the Raju Gari Ammayi Naidu Gari Abbayi would serve audiences nothing less than a hearty dinner with enough ingredients to satisfy both young and family audiences.

Dr Gangadhara Shastri wins India's prestigious

Renowned Bhagavad Gita singer, prophet, propagandist, and founder of 'Bhagavadgita Foundation' Dr. LV Gangadhara Shastri has been conferred with India's prestigious 'Kendra Sangeet Natak Academy' award for the year 2023 in other major traditional music category.

Along with the classical Carnatic music, he studied 108 of the 700 shlokas of the Bhagavad Gita, the spiritual essence of India, composed and sung by

Ghantasala in his honor; the remaining 594 shlokas were sung in his own music, accompanied by Telugu interpretation, and recorded with the highest technical values and created the 'Bharita Sampurna Bhagavad Gita' which was released by Viswesha Tirtha Swamy, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. For his selfless efforts, he was given the award for dedicating his life to the Gita Pracharan.



ctor Vishnu Manchu has commenced the second schedule of his dream project Kannappa. After arriving in New Zealand, Vishnu Manchu posted a video of himself and Mohan Babu together. It appears that this second schedule will have some absolutely stunning scenes. With its captivating first look poster, the film that promises a never-before-seen experience is generating a lot of attention not only nationally but internationally as well. This movie is directed by Mukesh Kumar Singh, who created the Maha Bharatham television series. Sheldon Chau, a Hollywood cinematographer, is directing this film. This movie is being produced nationwide by Mohan Babu under the auspices of 24 Frames Factory and AVA Entertainment





RGV's Vyuham to be hit screens on March 2

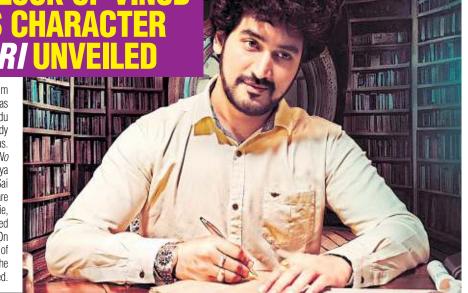
irector Ram Gopal Verma has helmed two films Vyuham and Sapadham, based on some events that happened in the political life of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan. These movies are produced by Dasari Kiran Kumar under the banner of Ramadootha Creations.

The movie *Vyuham* has completed its censor formalities and is heading for a theatrical release on March 2, announced its makers on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, the producer of the film Dasari Kiran Kumar said, "God has made everything come together for us regarding the release of the movies Vvuham and Sapadham. These two movies are going to be

released in around 500 theaters in Telugu states. We believe that these movies will become hits. The Censor Board has given permission for the release of Vyuham despite the hurdles created by many."

resented by RV Reddy, the film Ari is produced by Srinivas Ramireddy, Thimmappa Naidu Purimetla, and Seshu Maram Reddy under the banner of ARVY Cinemas. The taglines is My Name is No Buddy. Vinod Varma, Surya Purimetla, Anasuya Bharadwaj, Sai

Kumar, and Srikanth lyengar are playing key roles in the movie, helmed by Jaya Shankar, recognised for the film *Paper Boy*. On Wednesday, the first look poster of Vinod Varma's character from the movie was unveiled.



RAHUL STILL FEELING SORE WHILE BATTING IN NETS

Senior India batter K L Rahul is unlikely to feature in the fifth and final Test against England in Dharamsala as he continues to feel sore

in his right quadriceps. Rahul became unavailable after the series-opener in Hyderabad in January but as per BCCI, he was 90 per cent fit before the third Test in Rajkot earlier this month.

Rahul has now travelled to London to get an expert opinion on his injury and with the series in the bag, the Indian team management will not take the risk of playing him in the Dharamsala Test beginning March 7.
He needs to be fully fit before the IPL

where he will lead Lucknow Super Giants and is expected to bat in the middle order to bolster his chances of making the India squad for the T20 World Cup in the USA and the Caribbean.

"It is more to get an expert opinion (travel to London). He experiences a bit of pain (right quadriceps) while batting. It is to ensure that he recovers fully as he is a player that team needs long-term.

"There is so much competition coming his way -- IPL, he could also be in the T20 World Cup mix. Then we have some important Test series against New Zealand, and Australia later in the year.



So, it is better to give him time to recover properly than rushing him," an IPL source told PTI.

It is the same quadriceps injury that had sidelined Rahul for almost four months last vear.

Having got injured during the IPL, Rahul returned to action with the Asia Cup in September and made instant impact. In the more recent Test tour of South Africa, Rahul was the only century maker from India in the drawn

His absence from the final Test means Rajat Patidar will remain with the squad but the MP batter can't be sure of his place in the playing eleven, having aggregated only 63 runs in six innings. There is a possibility that Patidar will make away for Devdutt Padikkal in Dharamsala.

BUMRAH SET TO RETURN: India's premier pacer Jasprit Bumrah, who was rested for the Ranchi Test, is expected to lead the attack at the HPCA Stadium. The series is sealed but every Test match offers crucial World Test Championship points and Bumrah can play a big part in the cooler climes of Dharamsala.

India are second in the standings with five wins, two losses and a draw. New Zealand lead the table with a winning percentage of 75 but they have only played four Tests.



Jaiswal rises to 12th in ICC Test rankings

PTI ■ DUBAI

India's latest batting sensation Yashasvi Jaiswal advanced towards a top-10 spot in the ICC rankings for Test batters by climbing three spots to 12th while his compatriot Dhruv Jurel leapfrogged 31 places to 69th on Wednesday.

Jaiswal, who started the series in 69th position, continues his ascent to the top after scores of 73 and 37 in the fourth match of India's ICC World Test

Player of the Match Jurel's scores of 90 and 39 has jumped a whopping 31 places while former England captain Joe Root is back in the top three.

Root, a formerly top-ranked batter, struck an unbeaten 122 in the first innings in Ranchi to move up two places to third position. He also moved up three spots to fourth among all-rounders.

Senior spinner Ravichandran Ashwin's five-wicket haul in the second innings has helped him narrow the gap with top-ranked Jasprit Bumrah to 21 rating points at 846 after the fast bowler was rested for the Ranchi Test.

Wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav moved up 10 places to the 32nd spot and England's cricket.

Shoaib Bashir, who climbed 38 places to 80th, have also attained career bests.

Opener Zak Crawley entered the top 20 for the first time after scores of 42 and 60, while a bunch of spinners have also prospered in the latest weekly update.

The T20I Rankings see Australia batter Travis Head move into the top 20 for the first time after scores of 24, 45 and 33 in the series against New Zealand.

Championship series against Tim David's quickfire 31 off just 10 balls in the first match see him move up six places to 22nd and past the 600-point barrier for the first time in his career.

The top six bowlers are unchanged, with Josh Hazlewood the only new one in the top 10 after finishing with figures of 4-1-12-1 in Auckland.

In the ODI rankings, the biggest mover has been Namibia's Bernard Scholtz, whose hauls of four for 31 against Nepal and two for 15 against the Netherlands in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup League 2 Tri-Series in Kirtipur have lifted him to 11th position and 642 ratings points, the highest position and points tally ever achieved

Muzumdar looks to create fast bowlers pool from WPL

With just seven months left for the Women's T20 World Cup to begin in Bangladesh, India head coach Amol Muzumdar is keen to identify and build a pool of fast bowlers from the on-going Women's Premier League.
The Indian pace unit looks a bit thin after

the retirement of legendary Jhulan Goswamy and moving on from veteran Shikha Pandey. Currently, the Indian pace bowling is marshalled by Renuka Singh, Pooja Vastrakar,

Titas Sadhu and Amanjot Kaur.
"Four fast bowlers played the last series (against Australia). I want to create a pool of fast bowlers (from the WPL). It makes a lot of difference if you strengthen the bowling attack," Muzumdar was quoted as saying ESPNCricinfo. "I would want another pool of 20-25 players to create a bench



strength for the Indian team," he added. The ninth edition of the Women's T20 World Cup will be held in September-October in Muzumdar had taken over as India coach last year ahead of home series against England and Australia.

While India won the Tests against the visitors, they lost the T20I and ODI series. Muzumdar was also delighted to see frontline Indian batters such as Shafali Verma, S Meghana and Richa Ghosh among runs ahead of the marquee event later this year. 'There is an upscale movement in India's batters. The confidence from those two series against England and Australia is on display (here) because of how they performed there?

The former Mumbai batsman was also chuffed to see the presence of mind Sajana Sajeevan showed while carrying Mumbai Indians to a victory over Delhi Capitals with a last-ball six. "Sajana's six gives you an idea of the depth in Indian cricket," said



Renuka set tone for RCB by controlling Powerplay: Molineux

PTI BENGALURU

Renuka Singh has managed to control the Powerplay period by providing early breakthroughs and stopping run-flow with her swing bowling which played a significant role in RCB winning both its games, says team spin all-rounder Sophie Molineux. Molineux.

Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) are sitting on top of the table with four points. Mumbai Indians (+0.488) also have four points but they are placed second behind RCB who have better NRR of +1.665.

RCB had restricted Giants to 107 for seven on Tuesday night with Renuka returning impressive figures of 4-0-14-2. RCB overhauled the target in 12.3 overs to log their second win on the trot. "Renuka has been incredible in

both games and playing against her for India, she's just so reliable and it's great to be on the same team as her. She swings the ball beautifully at the front and I think she's really set the tone for us in both games," Molineux said.

In their opening game against UP Warriorz, Renuka did not dismiss any batter but conceded only 14 runs in her 3 overs. RCB had edged UPW by iust two runs to begin the tournament with a thrilling

"To be able to control the powerplay is a big thing in T20 cricket and she's done that twice now and I can see her continuing to do that," the Australian cricketer said.

Role clarity for every player and adaptability is part of the RCB approach under coach Luke Williams.

In their opening match against UPW, the RCB opted for swing from one end and spin from the other, while against GG, Renuka Singh and her pace colleague Sophie Devine bowled in tandem up front. Molineux, who took three

wickets herself after Renuka's new-ball burst, said her team has flexibility.

"In T20 cricket as a bowler you need to be really clear on what your strengths are and what you can bring to the team. And Í think Luke and all the staff have been really clear with each bowler with what their roles are going to be and also at the same time be willing to adapt like we did today.

"We had a completely different look to our powerplay where we were really pace-heavy. So yeah, I think that's all a part of T20 cricket, especially just being really clear on your own individual plans and where that fits in with the team and being able to change on the fly," Molineux said.

RCB will take on third-placed Delhi Capitals in their next match on Thursday.

Conway out, Ravindra in for New Zealand ahead of 1st test against Australia

AP ■ WELLINGTON (NEW ZEALAND)

Devon Conway has been ruled out but Rachin Ravindra has been cleared to play for New Zealand in the first crick test against Australia starting at the Basin Reserve on Thursday.

Conway suffered a thumb injury while keeping wicket in the second Twenty20 international between the teams on Friday last week. While initial scans suggested there was no fracture, additional tests in Wellington in recent days have found there is damage to Conway's left thumb. Conway will have further tests later in the week. Meantime, Will Young open the batting with Tom Latham in Conway's

Henry Nicholls, who was dropped from the New Zealand team ahead of its two recent tests against South Africa - both victories - has been recalled to provide

reinforcement for the batting lineup.
"It's disappointing for Devon to be ruled out on the eve of an important match," New Zealand coach Gary Stead said. "He's a class player batting at the top of the order for us and I know he was really

looking forward to this series."



Ravindra missed the second and third Twenty20s against Australia with a slight knee injury but is fit to play from Thursday. He scored a maiden double century in the first innings of the first test against South Africa. Daryl Mitchell is also available after missing the South Africa series with a foot injury.
Captain Tim Southee said New Zealand

will settle on its match lineup after assessing conditions at the Basin Reserve where the pitch usually is green at first but good for batting. New Zealand will decide whether to go into the match with four

New Zealand left Santner out of its lineup for the second test against South Africa at Hamilton jusing four seamers

allrounder Mitchell Santner.

seamers or to include spin-bowling

"I think in hindsight, we probably got that wrong the way that the pitch did behave," Stead said. "We've certainly got Mitch Santner here as that option and we'll certainly consider him as well." Australia captain Pat Cummins has named an unchanged starting XI for the test.
Cummins confirmed Wednesday there

would be "no surprises" in the starting XI, with Australia picking the same team that lost to the West Indies in the second test in Brisbane last month. 'It's always nice to have a full contingent to

pick from," Cummins said. "I doesn't feel like we need to reinvent the wheel." The two-test series against Australia will

be one of the few occasions New Zealand has a faced a full-strength Australia lineup. New Zealand and Australia only rarely meet in test series and Australia at times has not fielded its best team.

New Zealand currently is first and Australia third in World Test Championship standings.

Zaheer was someone I used to watch a lot: Anderson

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tames Anderson, England's greatest fast bowler with an unparalleled longevity and nearly 1000 international wickets, says he has learned a few elements of pace bowling, including reverse swing, from Indian great Zaheer Khan. At 41, Anderson continues to

lead the England attack and is two short of becoming the first fast bowler in the history of the sport to breach the 700-wicket mark. Spin legends Muttiah

Muralitharan and the late Shane Warne are the only bowlers with 700 plus wickets in Test cricket.

"For me, Zaheer Khan was someone I used to watch a lot to try and learn from. How he used the reverse swing, how he covered the ball when he ran into bowl, that's something I tried to sort of develop on the back of playing against him quite a few times here," Anderson told IioCinema.

Zaheer, one of India's finest seamers, played his last Test in 2014 when Anderson was

at the top of his game.
Among the current lot of Indian pacers, Anderson is most impressed by Jasprit Bumrah's ability, calling him a "great exponent" of reverse

swing. Asked about Bumrah's match-winning performance in the second Test against England, Anderson said, "With someone of his quality you expect that standard from him. You know that reverse swing can play a big part in India and he's a great exponent of it. He's got good pace and is very accurate, very consistent.

'That yorker we saw to Ollie Pope, he's got that up his sleeve as well. It's not a fluke that he's got to number one in the world. He's a world-class bowler and from our point of view we weren't surprised that he put up a performance like that."

The seasoned Englishman added, "There are not many better bowlers than Bumrah. Shami and Siraj. They're world-class bowlers. You put Ishant Sharma in there as



well, and that's a really strong

bowling attack."
Anderson's longevity in the game can be ascertained by the fact that his current England teammates such as Shoaib Bashir and Rehan Ahmed were not even born when he made his Test debut way back in 2002.

194 ODIs over the last 22 years, Anderson's desire to be competitive remains intact. On comparing his longevity

Having played 186 Tests and

to other sporting legends, Anderson said, "Yeah, I guess you do look at things like that, but to be honest, I just go with the feel of me and my body. I don't feel like I'm 41

years and 200 days old. You know, I still feel young.
"I can keep up with the young guys in training. I can still bowl the speeds that I want to, I can still deliver the skills that I want to. So, for me that's the most important thing. Age is just a number and it's pretty irrelevant from

my thought process."
When the discussion turned to reverse swing, Anderson said the art remains relevant

even in an age dominated by T20 cricket.

"I don't think it's dying. Because of the growth of white-ball cricket in recent times, the focus has moved to change of pace and different deliveries like yorkers, and things like that. "But for me, in Test cricket, we've seen throughout this series already that swing can play a big part.

The way Bumrah's bowled, I think, has been amazing to watch. That reverse swing spell in the second Test was one of the best you'll see. For me, I think there's still people out there wanting to learn the skills and it's not easy to

With star batter Virat Kohli skipping the ongoing Test series due to personal reasons, Anderson said he missed bowling to the Indian maestro with he had had some fascinating duels.

'You always want to play against the best players. And it's been a shame that he's not been a part of the series. We have had some great battles over the years.