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



HAS GIVEN ME A NEW LIFE, **SUPPORTING ME IN MY ENTREPRENEURIAL JOURNEY**







The people declared that arrogance has no place in Telangana. The BRS government was not accessible to the common man. People found it difficult to present their grievances. Telangana put an end to 10 years of dictatorship. After the formation of Telangana, the

current government is the first one functioning in the true spirit of the Constitution.

- Dr Tamilisai Soundarrajan, Telangana Governor

Hyd Literary fest starts with...

The day has finally arrived for bibliophiles who have gathered at Sattva Knowledge City, HYTEC in the diverse knowledge, culture and arts of the authors and artists. The 14th edition of Hyderabad Literary fest, an international three-day annual event, kicked off with interactive sessions between authors and exhibitions of artists on Friday.Jayesh Rajan, Principal Secretary of Industries and Commerce, inaugurated the

India, France strengthen ...

India and France have firmed up a defence industrial partnership roadmap that would provide for co-development and coproduction of key military hardware and platforms and facilitate technology collaboration in a range of areas including space, land warfare, cyberspace and artificial intelligence. Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra, announcing key outcomes of the talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel.



Utah partners with tour operators...

In a bid to increase footfalls from India, Utah, a landlocked state in the west of the United States, is collaborating with luxury and niche tour operators to showcase its spectacular landscapes. LItah is also looking for flexible independent travellers as well as luxury group tours in order to increase the number of footfalls from India."We hosted 8,700 visitors from India in 2022, which is 5 per cent higher than 2019. We are making efforts and promoting Utah to...

-PAGE: 8

Jadeja, Rahul classy fifties...

Ravindra Jadeja's two-layered fifty and KL Rahul's mastery were at the heart of India's 421 for seven, a total which placed them several miles ahead of England after the second day's play of the first Test here on Friday. Jadeja (81 batting) and Axar Patel (35 batting), who added 63 runs for the unbroken eighthwicket stand, are at the crease at stumps. India's lead has now swelled to 175 runs, and England would find it tough to wipe that out once their turn to bat come on third day...

People ended 10-year 'dictatorial rule' in TS

O Governor lashes out at BRS govt in R-Day speech

After criticising the BRS government in her first speech in the Assembly, the Telangana Governor did the same thing again in her Republic Day speech.

The people of Telangana has ended the 10-year dictatorial government run against the constitutional spirit in the recently held elections and the new people's government is reconstituting ruined Constitutional bodies, the Governor, Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan, said on Friday. Addressing the Republic Day func-tion, she said that the people's mandate declared that arrogance and autocracy have no place in



gave people enough powers to remove rulers who run governments against the spirit of the Constitution through elections.

"We achieved a Telangana state with the inspiration of the Constitution and the rights enshrined in it.

The Constitution also provided people with the opportunity to remove governments ruling against the constitutional spirit, she said.

The Governor unfurled the National Flag at the main official function which was attended by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, ministers and top officials.



KTR dubs Guv's remarks as 'nonsense'

The Governor is answerable to the people and not Revanth Reddy, BRS Working President KT Rama Rao said. The Telangana Governor, Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan's, remarks about the BRS Government were truly appalling and is a display of her partiality towards the Congress, KTR said here on Friday dismissing them as "nonsense." The Governor in her Republic Day speech on Friday made caustic remarks against the BRS government terming it as a "dictatorial government" that was run against the constitutional spirit and that Telangana people have ended the 10-year rule.

'Dog sitting on the golden throne'

While referring to Revanth becoming the Chief Minister, KTR quoted a Telugu proverb which says that it is like "a dog sitting on the golden throne." Reacting to Revanth Reddy's comments on strangling KCR and burying the BRS, KTR said "Revanth Reddy's arrogance and cheap behaviour gives the impression that they think they are in the opposition and we are still in power."Earlier in the day he tweeted a poem from Sumathi Sathakam, 'Kanakapu Simhasanamuna Shunakam' and added that elders have said so long back. The poem

says that character cannot be corrected overnight.

CM Revanth pays tributes at TS Martyrs' Memorial

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy paid tributes to Telangana Martyrs on Republic Day. He laid a wreath at the Martyrs' Memorial at the Army Parade Grounds in Secunderabad.

The event was organised by the Telangana and Andhra Sub Area (TASA) with the military band and officers and soldiers of all three services in attendance.

The morning was marked by celebrations and the laying of the wreath by NCC cadets was followed by senior officers paying their respects. Finally, the CM placed a wreath at the memorial.



attended the event.

BRS to raise bifurcation issues in Parliament

BRS President K. Chandrasekhar Rao said that he will come to the public soon and that the BRS is the only force fighting for the rights of Telangana. BRS MPs should raise their voices for Telangana's rights during upcoming Parliament ses-

The BRS Parliamentary Party meeting was held at Erravelli on



Friday under the chairmanship of



Military might, women power mark India's 75th Republic Day parade

India celebrated its 75th Republic Day on Friday with a grand display of its women power, rich cultural heritage and military might comprising missiles, warplanes, surveillance gadgets and lethal weapon systems with French President Emmanuel Macron gracing the occasion as the chief

The Republic Day Parade at the Kartavya Path in the heart of the national capital commenced with President Droupadi Murmu taking the salute shortly after she and Macron, flanked by the Indian president's bodyguards, arrived in a 'traditional buggy'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath

leges for every one lakh population.

which have a high number of col-

leges per lakh population are --

Karnataka (66), Telangana (52), Andhra Pradesh (49), Himachal

Pradesh (47), Puducherry (53) and

"Maharashtra comes second with

Kerala (46).

The states and Union Territories

brass, foreign diplomats and senior officials were among those who witnessed the impressive show that also included a gravity-defying fly-past by helicopters and planes, with even a dense fog failing to dampen the spirits of the spectators.

Soon after Murmu and Macron left from Kartavya Path in a traditional buggy, which made a comeback after 40 years, after the end of the parade, Modi, wearing a multi-coloured 'bandhani' print safa, mingled with the excited crowd as people clicked pictures and welcomed him with claps and slogans of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai".





NDA-bound Nitish keeps Bihar ruling front on tenterhooks

The ruling Mahagathbandhan in Bihar appeared to be on tenterhooks on Friday amid strong indications the JD(U) president, may do yet another volte-face and return to the BJP-led NDA.

The trouble was out in the open when Kumar attended the high tea ceremony held at the Raj Bhavan here on the occasion of the Republic Day but his deputy Tejashwi Yadav



of the RJD skipped the function. Kumar was seen exchanging pleasantries with other visitors, including

BJP's Vijay Kumar Sinha, who is also the leader of the opposition in the state assembly. Emerging from the function,

Kumar curtly told reporters that it the RJD, including Speaker Awadh Bihari Chaudhary, to comment on why they skipped the function. The only notable attendee from the party was state Education Minister Alok Mehta.



KTR explains why no one can ally with Congress

PNS HYDERABAD

BRS Working President KT Rama Rao said that the arrogance of the Congress is the reason why no one can ally with

On the INDIA alliance, KTR said, "The arrogance of the Congress is the reason why no one can have an alliance with them. When talks about the INDIA alliance arose, we knew it was a 'chai-biscuit' meeting and there would be no result. The TMC and the AAP have proved this. The arrogance of the Congress is the reason why it cannot move ahead with others. They don't respect others. I request the people of India if you want to stop the BJP, support regional leaders like Mamata Banerjee, Arvind Kejriwal and

On a third front, he said, "Our party President KCR knew respect others. The Congress is an extremely arrogant party and does not behave well with others. One cannot work with them. This is why we wanted a non-Congress, non-BJP coalition or a third front. But unfortunately, it did not happen."



Filmmaker Dil Raju seeking Cong ticket

PNS HYDERABAD

It seems that LS ticket hopefuls are numerous in the Congress. Cine producer Dil Raju's frequent meetings with Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy indicate that Dil Raju may seek the Nizamabad ticket.

Cong focusing on Nalgonda-Khammam-

PNS HYDERABAD The Congress is concentrating on the Nalgonda-Khammam-Warangal graduates MLC seat. TPCC president Chief Minister Revanth Reddy himself directed the Congress leaders of

Nalgonda-Khammam-Warangal to speed up the graduates' voter enrolment programme as the last date for voter enrolment is February 6. The CM sent a message on

Thursday to Ministers, MLAs, con-

testing candidates and DCC presi-

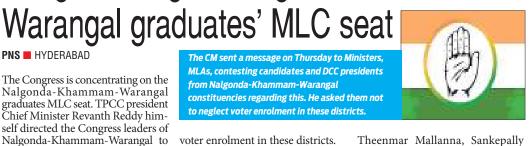
dents from Nalgonda-Khammam-

Warangal constituencies regarding

this. He asked them not to neglect

MLAs, contesting candidates and DCC presidents from Nalgonda-Khammam-Warangal

constituencies regarding this. He asked them not voter enrolment in these districts. Meanwhile, Telangana Youth



Congress President Shiv Sena Reddy ppealed to all graduates to enrol as the old voters' list is being scrapped for graduates' election. Speaking to the media on Friday, Shiv Sena Reddy said that Youth Congress activists must encourage graduates to enrol. Congress leaders Bakka Judson,

Sudhir Reddy and some others are in the race for the MLC seat. Bukka Judson and Theenmar Mallanna have launched their campaigns already and are busy campaigning.

Many more leaders may enter the fray seeking a ticket after the announcement of the election schedule.

Telugu states among India's top 10 with max colleges

4,692 colleges. Karnataka comes at

the third position with 4,430 colleges

whereas Rajasthan is at the fourth

position with 3,934 colleges. Tamil

Nadu comes at the fifth position with

2,829 colleges followed by Madhya

report said.

☐ UP has the highest number of colleges in the country, followed by Maharashtra, Karnataka

PNS NEW DELHI

Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of colleges in the country, followed by Maharashtra and Karnataka, according to the government's All India Survey for Higher Education 2021-22.

The AISHE survey was released by the Ministry of Education late night on Thursday.

The top 10 states in terms of number of colleges in India include Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Telangana and West Bengal, each having at least 30 or more colleges per lakh population.

According to the survey report, in Uttar Pradesh, there are 8,375 colleges -- up from 8,114 colleges in the previous year -- and there are 30 col-



"Andhra Pradesh is at the seventh position with 2,602 colleges and at eighth position Gujarat has 2,395 colleges. Telangana is at the ninth spot with 2,083 colleges followed by West Bengal which has 1,514 colleges," it added.

position with 2,602 colleges and at eighth position Gujarat has 2,395 colleges. Telangana is at the ninth spot with 2,083 colleges followed by West Bengal which has 1,514 colleges," it added.

The Ministry of Education has Pradesh with 2,702 colleges," the been conducting AISHE since 2011, "Andhra Pradesh is at the seventh covering all higher educational insti-

ing higher education in the country. The survey collects detailed information on different parameters such as student enrolment, teachers' data,

infrastructural information, financial information, etc.

There are 45,473 colleges registered under AISHE belonging to the 328 universities (affiliating). Of these 42,825 responded in the survey year 2021-22. The survey report pointed out that more than 60 per cent colleges are general in nature, 8.7 per cent colleges are specialised in education or teacher education, 6.1 per cent colleges are engineering and technology institutions, 4.3 per cent nursing colleges and 3.5 per cent medical colleges.



Shah to blow LS poll bugle in Karimnagar on Jan 28

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BJP General Secretary Bandi Sanjay Kumar said that Union Home Minister Amit Shah will blow the Lok Sabha poll bugle on January 28 at the SRR College

Grounds in Karimnagar. He said that Amit will also attend the public meeting being held in the Parliament constituency in which 20,000 BJP activists are expected.

at the SRR College in Karimnagar city. He also discussed matters with district officials, police officials and BJP leaders about Amit's



visit.Later, speaking to the media, Sanjay said that Amit will attend in three cluster meetings on Sanjay examined arrangements January 28 to discuss election for the meeting on Friday in management. He said that Amit which Amit Shah is participating will visit historical monuments and attend the Palamuru cluster











Cong honoured TS movement leader Kodandaram: Jagga

PNS HYDERABAD

Declaring that the BRS deceived Telangana JAC Chairman and TJS chief Prof. Kodandaram, TPCC Working President T. Jagga Reddy said that the BRS insulted Kodandaram. However, the Congress honoured him by giving him an MLC post, he

Speaking to the media at the Gandhi Bhavan on Friday, Jagga said that there is no limit to the words of BRS leaders KT Rama Rao and T. Harish Rao. He asked KTR to tell how many times BRS leaders went to Kodandaram's house during the Telangana movement.

Kodandaram was God for the BRS during the Telangana movement. But did KCR give an appointment at least once



to Kodandaram in the last nine years? he asked. He said that BRS leaders who had kept mum all these years were now making a fuss when the Congress gave an MLC post to Kodandaram.

Jagga asked BRS leaders to explain about its candidates fielded for MLC posts and said that the Congress practises value-based politics. KTR is a leader engaged in valueless

CM, bureaucrats attend 'At Home' in Raj Bhavan

Restoring conventions, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and top bureaucrats attended the 'At Home' event held at the Raj Bhavan.

For the first time after the formation of the Congress government in Telangana, the At Home programme was being held in the Rai Bhavan.

On the occasion of Republic Day, the Governor, Dr Tamilisai, hosted Revanth Reddy, Ministers and public representatives. Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka and Uttam Kumar Reddy came along with their spouses. Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari was also present.

The Governor and the CM spoke for some time. AICC leader Ranadeep Singh Sarjewala also attended the event. The Governor and the CM met Padma award

The CM met the Governor's father who is a Congress leader from Tamil Nadu. The Governor and the CM met those who took part in the Telangana armed struggle and their families.Many top bureaucrats and

police officers were also present at the event. Unlike the At Home event during BRS rule, bureaucrats sat through the event and spoke to each other.

The event lasted about an hour. Minister Seethakka, Tummala Nageshwar, Damodar Rajanarasimha and Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy were absent. Jupally

Krishna Rao is on foreign tour. Every year on Independence Day and

Republic Day it has become a tradition to invite dignitaries to the Raj Bhavan and give them high tea. However, neither BRS chief KCR nor any other important BRS leader attended the event. Only MLCs Banda Prakash and Goreti Venkanna attended the programme. Some key leaders of the BJP were present. Key BJP MLAs gave the function the miss while Armoor BJP MLA Rakesh Reddy attended it.

Give 50% of nominated posts to BCs: Krishnaiah

PNS HYDERABAD

Rajya Sabha Member R. Krishnaiah requested Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Friday that the government should fill half the nominated posts in Corporations, Public Sector Undertakings, Market Committees, Temple Committees, Committees etc with members of Backward Communities (BCs) as there are capable BC leaders in the Congress.

"In the recent Assembly elections, BCs gave their full support to the Congress. BCs were treated unfairly by the BRS government. No loans were given by the BC Corporation. Reservations for BCs, SCs and STs were scrapped in private universities," he said.

No money was given for fee reimbursement and we start-



ed protests against the BRS on a large scale which resulted in votes for the Congress. The Congress should implement Rahul Gandhi's promises to BCs and the Udaipur Declaration. None of the four government advisers appointed recently are from the backward communities, he said.

"Rs 20,000 crore should be allocated for BCs in the next budget. Full fees should be reimbursed for engineering

Will work as MLC as I worked for **TS movement:** Kodandaram

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Newly elected MLC Kodandaram said that he decided to live by constitutional values. Targeting for-mer CM KCR, Kodandaram said that some people (KCR) think that this Constitution is not useful. He alleged that KCR chose to write a new constitution. However, the values fought for are enshrined in Constitution, he said.

While speaking to the media on Friday after hoisting the national flag on the one against the British rulers. After independence, we thought that everyone is

Anurag University exhibits 75 projects to celebrate 75th R-Day

Anurag University Registrar Prof. Balaji Utla, Deans and Heads of Departments launched 'Project Expo' at the University. The varsity celebrated the 75th Republic Day innovatively by launching a unique initiative named 'Project Expo' showcasing 75 social impact projects on

After flag hoisting, the Registrar, Prof. Balaji Utla said, "Science makes life easier. What could be a better celebration of the 75th Republic Day than creating a stage for students to unveil the next best ideas to solve society's prob-

Speaking about 'Project

impossible task during the August 15 celebrations. In response to my call, they have come out with 160 plus ideas of which 120 were shortlisted. All these are now being exhibited. It has 75 major ideas. These will be showcased to the

Some of these projects are the Smart EV Campus Mobility Car, an Automatic Motorised Cover for two and four-wheelers, Smart Toilets, Anurag Operating Systems (AOS) on the lines of the Windows Operating System, Solar Smart Dustbin, Anurag GPT, an Image Caption Generator, a Smart Chair and

all the departments an almost

public from January 29."

CM calls on Speaker Gaddam Prasad, Thammineni PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy called on Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar at the New

recovering from a bout of ill health. Both leaders enquired about the condition of the Speaker on the occasion.

Meanwhile, Revanth Reddy and Minister Ponguleti called on CPM State Secretary MLA Quarters on Friday. Thammineni Veerabhadram Gaddam Prasad Kumar is at the AIG Hospital in

Gachibowli. The CM and the about the CPM's memoran-Minister enquired with the hospital Chairman, Dr Nageshwar Reddy, about the status medical Thammineni. The CM wished speedy recovery to

Thammineni asked the CM

dum which was submitted recently. The CM replied that he would solve the problems

mentioned in it soon. The CM recalled Thammineni's Mahajana Padayatra and said

PNS HYDERABAD

Two youth died of electrocu-

tion as the tragedy struck the

Republic Day function in

Telangana's Mulugu district on

in the incident that occurred

at SC Wada. They came in

contact with a live wire while

preparing for unfurling the

Another youth was injured

Thammineni.

Two die of electrocution

CPRO Boreddy Ayodhya Reddy, CPM state executive committee members S. Veeraiah, Julakanti Ranga Reddy, Pothineni Sudharshan, Khammam district leaders that the Mahajana Padayatra Naveen, Thammineni's son brought some movement in Sangamitra were also present.

national flag to mark the 75th

fied as Vijay (25) and Anjit

(35). Another youth Chakri

(25) sustained grievous

injuries and was admitted to a

State Women and Child

Welfare Minister Seethakka

consoled the families of the

The deceased were identi-

Republic Day.

hospital.

'Instal Jyotiba Phule's statue at Assembly'

PNS HYDERABAD

MLC Kavitha has demanded that the government should install Mahatma Jyotiba Phule's statue on the premises of the Assembly and that the decision should be taken before April 11.Bharat Jagruthi held a round table meeting in Hyderabad on Friday in which political parties, caste associations, intellectuals, writers and professors attended. The meeting approved nine demands.

She said that round table

meetings will be organised in every district and university. "The dates of the Mahadharna at the Dharna Chowk will be announced soon. We must get a positive response from the government before April 11," Kavitha said.

"We will fight to get implemented the guarantees given by the Central and state governments for BCs. Working for quota for OBC women inside women's reservations. The biographies of Jyoti Rao Phule and Savitribai Phule should be

included in the textbooks of classes 8, 9 and 10," she said.

"We have successfully organised many social programmes under the Bharat Jagruti banner and we fought for the installation of the Ambedkar statue on the Assembly premises of United Andhra Pradesh," she

"We submitted a petition to the Speaker to install a statue on the Assembly premises and we submitted a letter to gather the support of Telangana MLAs, MLCs and MPs," she added.

Telugu states

among India's...

Continued from page 1

are dedicated to p

While 2.7 per cent colleges

offer arts courses, 2.4 per cent

courses, 0.7 per cent science colleges and 1.4 per cent Sanskrit colleges. "Out of the

42,825 responding colleges,

14,197 colleges are offering

PG programmes and 1,063

have PhD enrolments," the

report said. Colleges per dis-

trict are widely distributed

across the country. As much

as 10.7 per cent colleges out

of total registered in AISHE

are in the top 10 districts. The

top 50 districts have 31.3 per

cent of total colleges.

Bengaluru Urban district has

maximum colleges (1,106)

followed by the Jaipur (703),

Hyderabad (491), Pune (475),

Prayagraj (398), Rangareddi

(349), Bhopal (344), Ghazipur (333), Sikar (330)

Military might...

Continued from page 1

For the first time, an allwomen tri-services contingent marched down the Kartavya Path, reflecting the country's growing 'Nari

In another first, the parade was heralded by over 100 women artistes playing Indian musical instruments such as sankh, naadswaram and nagada instead of traditional military bands kickstarting the celebrations. The first Army contingent leading the mechanised column was the 61 Cavalry, which was raised in 1953. It was followed by 11 mechanised columns, 12 marching contingents and a fly-past by advanced light helicopters of the Army Aviation Corps.T-90 Bhishma tanks, NAG missile systems, infantry combat vehicles, allterrain vehicles, weapon locating radar system 'Swathi', drone jammer sys-

tem and medium-range surface-to-air missiles were among the key displays by

the mechanised columns. The all-women tri-service

contingent, led by Captain Sandhya of Army Military Police, with three merary officers Captain Sharanya Rao, Lieutenant Anshu Yadav and Flight Lieutenant Shrishti Rao, drew applause. Another all-women Armed Forces Medical Services contingent, headed by Major Srishti Khullar with Captain Amba Samant of the Army Dental Corps, Surgeon Lieutenant Kanchana of the Indian Navy and Flight Lieutenant Dhivya Priya of the Indian Air Force, also marched down the cer-

emonial boulevard. The Army's marching contingents included the Madras Regiment, the Grenadiers, the Rajputana Rifles, the Sikh Regiment and the Kumaon Regiment.

occasion of 75th republic Day at TJS office, Kodandaram said, "Our Constitution is a symbolic

Filmmaker Dil Raju...

Continued from page 1

Rathod

As of now those in the race for LS tickets and their con- M. Sunil Reddy stituencies are:

Zaheerabad: Suresh Shetkar and Thrishala Mahabubabad: Bellaiah

Naik and Kashiram Naik Medak: T. Jagga Reddy, Jaya

Reddy, Nirmala and Thrishala Malkajgiri: Mainampally Hanumantha Rao and Singireddy Harivardhan

Secunderabad: Rohin Reddy, M. Kodanda Reddy, Anjan Kumar Yadav and Anil

Chevella: KLR, Parijatha Reddy

Nalgonda: Patel Ramesh Reddy, K. Jana Reddy and K. Raghuveer Reddy

Bhongir: Chamala Kiran Kumar Ředdy, Punna Kailash Netha, Komatireddy Pavan

TODAY

ALMANAC

Tithi: Dwitiya:

Nakshatram:

Ashlesha

Month & Paksham:

Kumar Reddy

Nizamabad: Eravatri Anil, T. Jeevan Reddy, Dil Raju and

Khammam: Sonia Gandhi, enuka Choudhary, Hanumantha Rao and Ponguleti Prasad Reddy

Mahbubnagar: Jeevan Reddy (MSN Pharma), Ch. Vamshichand Reddy, Adithya Reddy and Seetha Dayakar Reddy Hyderabad: Azharuddin,

Feroz Khan and an MBT leader if the Congress enters into a tie-up with the MBT Karimnagar: Praveen

Reddy, T. Jeevan Reddy and Nerella Sharada Warangal: Sircilla Rajaiah, Addanki Dayakar and Mothkupalli Narsimhulu

Nagarkunrool: Mallu Ravi, Charakonda Venkatesh and Manda Jagannatham

Peddapalli: Chandrasekhar and Nallala

NDA-bound Nitish keeps...

Continued from page 1

Neither Mehta nor any other leader of the RJD commented on the absence of Yaday, who is said to have gone into a huddle with close leaders of the party at his residence to chalk out a strategy to thwart the loss of power in the event of Kumar deciding to call off the alliance. RJD national spokesman and Rajya Sabha MP Manoj the leader of the Mahagathbandhan.

Kumar Jha, who interacted with journalists, said "there is a lot of confusion which is not in the interest of the people of the state. Only the Chief Minister can put an end to the confusion. We hope he will do so by this evening itself."When asked about Jha's remarks, JD (U) chief spokesperson in the state, Neeraj Kumar shot back "our leader is in the Chief Minister's residence as

BRS to raise bifurcation....

Continued from page 1

He said that the BRS is strong and let's fight hard regardless of anyone.

KCR made it clear to the MPs that strong arguments should be made on behalf of Telangana during the weeklong parliament sessions that begin at the end of this month.

He said that the BRS has a history of fighting to implement pending promises of

bifurcation along with the allocation of river waters and transfer of common assets between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

He said that the voice of the BRS should be heard strongly in Parliament. "We have to fight for the rights and interests of the state. We want to question about what should come to TS according to the Bifurcation Act. If projects are handed over to the Krishna

Board, Telangana will suffer. How can projects be taken up without operation manuals and protocol?" KCR said.

He clarified that BRS MPs are once again responsible for protecting the rights of Telangana. During the meeting which lasted for around three hours, KCR directed BRS MPs on the strategies to be adopted in both Houses of Parliament and to discuss the strategies to be followed on various issues.

People ended 10-year...

and Nagpur (326).

Continued from page 1

she said.

The Governor said that immediately after assuming charge, the new government initiated an action plan to fulfil the assurances given to the people. Two of the six guarantees have already been implemented.She pointed out that around 11 crore women have

already used the free travel

The government's main objective is to implement the four other guarantees in 100 days and see the smiles on the faces of the people. The government is introducing reforms and rectifying the derailed administrative systems, she said.

finances of the state due to the mismanagement of the BRS government, Dr Tamilisai said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's government is moving fast with determination to make Telangana compete with the world.

She said the government has already received 1,25,84,383 applications through the Praja Palana programme. Of them, 1,05,91,636 sought benefits under the five guarantees. People submitted 19,92,747 applications for other requisitions. The government is preparing an action plan to address the grievances by compiling department-wise data, she said. Stating that the BRS government has completely neglected employment and livelihoods for youth, she said the new government is paying special attention to providing jobs. The process of reforming the TSPSC is in progress. Recruitments will be taken up by the government soon after completion of the process.The Governor also revealed that the state succeeded in entering into agreements with global and domestic companies for investments worth Rs 40,232 crore during Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's visit

CM Revanth... Continued from page 1

He earlier attended the main Republic Day function held at the Public Gardens, where the Governor, Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan,

unfurled the National Flag. Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar unfurled the Tricolour on the premises of the Assembly in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and ministers D. Sridhar Babu and

Ponnam Prabhakar. The leaders offered floral tributes at the statues of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr BR Ambedkar.Legislative Council Chairman Ğ. Sukhender Reddy led the Republic Day celebrations on the Council premises. Legislative Affairs

Magha to Jan 28 03:52 PM Rahukalam: 9:40 AM to 11:04 AM 1:52 PM to 3:16 PM Yamaqandam: 02:27 AM to 04:14 AM Varjyam: 6:52 AM to 8:16 AM Amritakalam: 11:15 AM to 01:01 PM Abhiiit Muhurtham: 12:06 PM to 12:51 PM

Krishna Paksha

Jan 27 01:20 AM

Jan 28 03:37 AM

Jan 26 10:28 AM

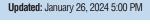
to Jan 27 01:01 PM

to Jan 28 03:37 AM

to Jan 29 06:11 AM

HYDERABAD WEATHER Forecast: Mostly Sunny **Temp:** 29^{oc} **Humidity:** 61%

Sunset: 6:08 PM



Shah to blow LS poll...

Continued from page 1

After that Amit Shah will come to Karimnagar Parliament constituency and attend a meeting of BJP activists. He will give directions to BJP activists on LS polls by blowing the LS polls bugle. Sanjay appealed to all BJP activists to attend the

Sanjay said that they are moving with a perfect strategy in the Karimnagar Parliament constituency and that the party will explain village-wise how much funds were sanctioned to them and the development programmes executed by the Centre.

He said the party is taking

up a Yatra from February 5 in

Karimnagar LoK Sabha con-

stituency and that they will

launch padayatras in all vil-

lages. The BJP activists will

use vehicles when they move from one village to another village due to time limitations. He said that they will continue the yatra for 20 days.

Sanjay said that BRS leaders are still behaving arrogantly although people oppose them. He predicted that BRS leaders would face total defeat in the LS Polls and come Meanwhile, Amit Shah's

Telangana tour schedule has been finalised. He will land at the Begumpet Airport at 1.05 pm and he will go to Mahbubnagar in a helicopter to attend the Mahbubnagar cluster meeting. He will go to Karimnagar at 3.55 pm from there and will attend a meeting of BJP activists. Later, he will come to Hyderabad and will attend a meeting of intellectuals organised by the Secunderabad Parliament

constituency party unit.

KTR dubs Guv's remarks as...

Continued from page 1

"It (the Governor's comments) is truly appalling and truly reprehensible, the kind of speech, the kind of words, the kind of nonsense that was coming out through the Raj Bhavan this morning, because for the last 10 years, there was a democratically elected government in Telangana. Every single word that the Governor said today is truly insulting and humiliating to the people of Telangana," he said.

He said that he was under the impression that the Governor is a "BJP Karyakarta (worker), but unfortunately, it seems like she has joined the Congress and suggested that she has to join the Congress and display her "brazen partiality towards that party.

facility in TSRTC buses under "The fruits of democracy, the Mahalaxmi Scheme, implemented as part of the six guarantees.

welfare and development will reach people only if the government runs the administration in tune with the spirit of the Constitution. Unilateral decisions and dictatorial approaches are against democracy. The newly elected people's government started functioning with full consciousness. The government is trying to deliver equal opportunities, rendering social justice and is granting freedom to all people,"

Referring to the precarious

Minister D. Sridhar Babu and MLCs Mahesh Goud and Surabhi Vani were also pre-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 subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers 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 advertisem of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

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Hyd Literary fest starts with interactive sessions, expos

The day has finally arrived for bibliophiles who have gathered at Sattva Knowledge City, HYTEC City to get them-selves immersed in the diverse knowledge, culture and arts of the authors and artists. The 14th edition of Hyderabad Literary fest, an international three-day annual event, kicked off with interactive sessions between authors and exhibi-tions of artists on Friday.

Jayesh Rajan, Principal Secretary of Industries and Commerce, inaugurated the event. Following the inauguration, the event began with interactive discussions, workshops, stage talks, storytelling, moving images and talkies which were held simultaneous-

Amita Desai, one of the Directors of the Hyderabad Literary fest said, "The 14th edition of the Literary Fest showcases 15 diverse streams and over 40,000+ visitors are taking part in the event. This time, over 250 authors and artists are taking part in the event to express their

PNS HYDERABAD

Drugs

Administration (DCA) offi-

cials raided a medical shop at

IS Sadan on Thursday, which was running without a drug

licence and seized medicines worth Rs 3.20 lakh.

Mohammed Iltefath Ahmed

was running the medical shop

illegally without a drug licence.

In all, 111 varieties of medi-

cines were seized during the

including habit-forming drugs,

antibiotics, insulin injections,

antiviral drugs, anti-hyperten-

sive drugs, pain killers, anti-

ulcer drugs, cough syrups, antacids and other drugs were found stocked. Habit-form-

Alprazolam, Clonazepam,

Chlordiazepoxide and Tramadol were also found on

Assistant Director D Saritha,

Malakpet Drugs Inspector G

Inspector B Govind Singh,

the unlicenced premises.

including

drugs

The varieties of medicines

Control



thoughts and to showcase their works. Also, we have collaborated or connected with various artists and authors from diverse fields such as literature, arts, science, culture and music, thereby creating an interactive platform for the audience coming from various parts of the city and across the country. Moreover, like every literary fest, this time we selected Oriya as the Indian language in Focus. I hope that people can enjoy, interact and learn a lot from the authors and

Unlicenced medical shop raided,

drugs worth Rs 3.20 lakh seized

Lakshminarayana

Amberpet Drugs Inspector A

wholesalers who supply med-

icines to such 'illegal medical

shops', which are running

without a drug licence, are also

punishable under Drugs and

Cosmetics Act. Dealers shall

mandatorily ensure that the

pharmacy holds a valid drug

licence before supplying med-

DCA Director General VB

The DCA advised that

Rashmi carried out the raid.

artists.'

Hyderabad Literary Fest first started in 2010 by Dr T Vijaya Kumar and GSP Rao as an initiative of their online ejournal Muse India. The main aim of the event is to promote the brand image of Hyderabad as a city of creative energies by featuring nearly 200 speakers every year.

This time, Norway is the country in Focus at the HLF. Additionally three independent streams - Indigenous and Endangered Languages, Climate Conservations and

public should never buy med-

icines from 'unlicenced' med-

ical shops. Risks to the public

are significantly increased

when purchasing medicines from unlicenced and unregu-

lated sources. Medicines should be purchased only from

licenced medical shops.

Public may report any com-

plaint through the Drugs

Control Administration Toll-

Free Number 1800-599-6969,

am to 5 pm on all working

functions from 10:30

edition of the **Literary Fest** showcases 15 diverse streams and over 40,000+ visitors are taking part in the event

The 14th

Science are added to the existing 12 streams in this edition.

During one of the inaugural plenary sessions, Dr T Vijaya Kumar in conversation with Amish Tripathi, one of the popular authors in the Mythology genre, discussed how society perceives Mythology, especially in India (psychology perspective), how history affects the Myths, especially during Mughal empire and British rule.

They have discussed a lot on people's perception to religion, especially gods.

TSNPDCL installed 1,445 solar rooftop plants in '23-24

Telangana State Northern Power Distribution Company Limited (TSNPDCL) chair-

PNS HYDERABAD

man and Managing Director Karnati Varun Reddy said that 1,445 solar rooftop plants have been set up for the year 2023-24 and the capacity is 12,435 kilowatts. He said that 36 electronic vehicle charging stations have been sanctioned. He unfurled the national flag at the Corporate Office, Vidyuth Bhavan, Hanmakonda for the Republic Day celebrations, on Friday. Varun Reddy said that the TSNPDCL is providing 24-hour free electricity supply to 13 lakh agricultural consumers. Electricity subsidies are being provided by the government to the SC and ST communities and 3,07,187 SC consumers and 2.06,732 vided free electricity supply

Owaisi unfurls national flag at madrasa

PNS HYDERABAD

AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi unfurled the national flag at a madrasa in the old city of Hyderabad on 75th Republic Day on Friday.

The Hyderabad MP participated in the event held at Madrasa Jamiatul Mominat, an Islamic seminary for girls. He, along with teachers and other staff members and students, sang the national anthem.

Like in the past, Owaisi also unfurled the national flag at Madina Circle in the old city. The MP also participated in another Republic Day event organised by AIMIM in Yakutpura constituency. After unfurling the national flag, he distributed free sewing

machines among women.
The Republic Day programme was also held at Darussalam, the headquarters of AIMIM.

"My solemn hope on this Republic Day is that hate is bulldozed, injustice is encountered and oppression is eliminated," Owaisi posted on 'X'. Unfurling of the national flag marked the day at the offices of other political parties.

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and ministers D Sridhar Babu and Ponnam Prabhakar celebrated the Republic Day event at Gandhi Bhavan, the Congress headquarters.

Traffic surveys, preparation of DPRs on for Metro Rail Phase II corridor

PNS HYDERABAD

NVS Reddy, Managing Director of Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited (HMRL) and Hyderabad Airport Metro Limited (HAML), said that traffic surveys and preparation of DPRs for the Phase - II corridor are going on at a brisk pace, during the 75th anniversary of Republic Day which was celebrated at Metro Rail Bhavan with patriotic fervour on Friday.

He has unfurled the national flag and greeted the staff and their family members. He recalled the struggle and sacrifices of the great freedom fighters of our country.

The MD said that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has approved the phase-II expansion of Hyderabad Metro Rail proposals of 70 kms length, including Airport connectivity from different parts of the city.

These proposals ensure

Metro Rail services to all sections of the society in the State capital and would also play an important role in the emergence of Hyderabad as an attractive global destination for investments.

Traffic surveys and preparation of DPRs for the Phase - II corridors are going on at a brisk pace. He urged the HMRL engineers and employees to rededicate themselves and work with renewed vigour in an innovative way.



Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy greeting Governor Tamilisai Soundarajan during At Home on Republic Day at the Raj Bhavar

119 stations across SCR being developed in Sec'bad zone

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Arun Kumar Jain, General Manager of South Central Railway (SCR) stated 119 stations across SCR have been taken up for redevelopment at a cost of Rs 7,000 crore as part of Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. The South Central Railway (SCR) celebrated the 75th Republic Day on Friday at Railway Sports Complex Grounds, Secunderabad.

Arun Kumar Jain unfurled the national flag and received the guard of honour present-ed by various contingents of Railway Protection Force.

He extended his greetings to the entire Railway fraternity and stated that the Indian Constitution stands as an great ideals sown by our



informed that SCR has recorded exceptional performance in the current financial year with the zone registering its best-ever earnings for the first nine months in any financial year during 2023-24. SCR achieved Rs 14, 738 crore in gross originating revenue during April -December 2023, which is higher by Rs 950 crore over previous year.

e zon ry by surpassing 100 MTs in Óriginating Freight Loading

and Rs 10,000 crore in Originating Freight Revenue within the shortest-ever time

Simultaneously, the zone carried nearly 200 million originating passengers during April-December 2023, thereby earning Rs 4,286 crore in Originating P Revenue, he added. Passenger

He stated that the exceptional performance in earnings was matched by the zone's relentless focus on infrastructure creation. During April -December 2023, SCR spent Rs 13,452 crore in capital expenditure, the highest ever in its history during the first nine months of any financial year. In the current financial year, the zone has commissioned 11 kms of new lines 105 kms of double lines and 96 kms of third line works

231 prisoners to be released under special remission

PNS HYDERABAD

On Republic Day, the Telangana government announced the premature release of 231 prisoners, comprising 212 life convicts and 19 non-live prisoners, who are having good conduct in prisons. The Governor is empowered to grant remission under Article 161 of the Indian Constitution.

The Telangana government considers the release of prisoners usually on three occasions which are on January 26, August 15 and October 2.

Since 2014, Telangana been granted on two occasions in 2016 and 2020

Praja Palana applications: GHMC meets deadline

Uppal Drugs Inspector B Kamalasan Reddy said that

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation Commissioner Ronald Rose said that the data entry of Abhaya Hastham applications totaling 19,06,137 across the city and Secunderabad Cantonment was completed and reported to the government one day before the deadline on January 17. He unfurled the national flag on Friday at the GHMC head office.

Ronald Rose said, "We had set up four counters in every ward so that people do not face any inconvenience. Praja Palana applications were received between December 28 and January 6 for five guarantees. Along with Abhaya Hastam applications, 5.73,000 pleas on other personal issues have also been received and reported to

the government for solution. He said that in Hyderabad, Assembly elections were con-

ducted peacefully, thanks to officials and the cooperation of the people. The Chief Minister has prepared plans for the city of Hyderabad to make it an internationally developed city and is moving ahead with the determination to become the fastest-growing State capital city in the country, he added.

After the inception of Telangana, the city has been developing at an unprecedented speed. In the newly formed government under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, special attention has been given to the development of the city.

As per the suggestions and advice of the Chief Minister, innovative strategic schemes have been designed and implementation of better public transport system and socio-economic schemes have been initiated to reduce the problems of the city dwellers.

SBI chief pledges innovative banking solutions

PNS HYDERABAD

The staff of the State Bank of India, Hyderabad head office, celebrated the 75thRepublic Day and Rajesh Kumar, Chief General Manager, unfurled the national Flag. He extended heartfelt greetings and wishes to all.

Addressing the gathering, Rajesh Kumar said that, on this day the Constitution of India took effect and turning the young nation from an independent dominion under the Commonwealth into a Republic. The date January 26 takes significance as this was the date of proclaiming the Declaration of Independence from British rule by the Indian National

Congress in 1930. Rajesh Kumar reminded all about the painstaking effort put in by the Constituent Assembly

chaired by Bharat Ratna Babasaheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar, who prepared the draft Constitution mindful of India's needs and conditions. The Constitution of India begins with the Preamble presenting the principles of the Constitution.

"Similar to the resolution taken by the citizens of the country to constitute India into a sovereign, socialist, secular & democratic republic, our bank has also taken 'STEPS' as their value statei.e., Service, ment Transparency, Ethics, Politeness and Sustainability. The preamble provides its citizens justice, liberty, equality and fraternity and our vision and mission is to be the bank of choice for a transforming India by committing to providing simple, responsive and innovative banking solutions.



CP calls for visible policing in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Appreciating the efforts of the Rachakonda Police in providing prompt services to the people, Rachakonda Commi ssioner of Police Sudheer Babu stated that the staff should be redeployed to serve the people, during the 75th Republic Day celebrations at Rachakonda Commissionerate, Neredmet. He unfurled the national flag and congratulated the staff and

people.

The CP said that the Constitution of India came into force on January 26, 1950 and recalled the role played by Dr BR Ambedkar and members of the Constituent Assembly in bringing completeness to the Constitution. He explained the uniqueness of the country's independence and reminded everyone of

of the government, TSRTC

will take up the recruitment of

drivers and conductors to per-

form duties in the new buses.

Minister for Transport

Ponnam Prabhakar will hand

over the appointment letters to

813 conductors under compas-

sionate appointments in Karimnagar on Sunday. In all,

80 RTC constables are being

the efforts of the freedom

He reminded the people of the backward classes, the role played by the Constitution in bringing the communities who have been discriminated and oppressed in different ways on the path of development. The Commissioner said that all the policemen should work together as a family. Visible policing should be given high priority. It is possible to maintain peace and security only through collective efforts. He advised the personnel to remember the immortal sacrifices of freedom fighters and police martyrs while performing their duties.

DCP (Admin) Indira, Additional DCP (Admin) Srinivas Reddy and other officers participated in the cere-

Expo of ancient manuscripts organised at O

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Professor D Ravinder, the Vice-Chancellor of Osmania University, inaugurated the Osmania Souvenir Store, managed by the Directorate of Corporate Social Responsibility, Alumni & Branding, beside the Arts College on the eve of 75th Republic Day celebrations.

Professor Ravinder emphasised the importance for students to embody the principles of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity in both letter and spirit. He praised the efforts of Dr BR Ambedkar, the Father of the Indian Constitution, and

those who worked tirelessly to us the bulkiest onstitution in the world.

He said that the 21-point agenda prepared by a team of senior professors at OU, when he took over as the 25th VC, has served as a rudder in guiding his services to his alma mater. The celebration of the foundation day was a wonderful initiative to express gratitude to the forefathers who contributed to the legacy of OU. He recollected the contribution and benevolence of the great Maha Laqa Bai, who donated the land for the construction of Osmania University.



Initiatives such as the Human Capital Development (HCDC) immensely benefited students and research scholars in terms of placements and training.

The establishment Corporate Social Responsibility, Alumni and Branding has facilitated connecting with alumni across the globe and raising funds for the future development of infrastructure facilities at OU. He also mentioned that during a recent Vice-Chancellors meet held in Chhattisgarh, the UGC Chairman praised Osmania University's initiatives in aligning its credit system and Academic Bank of Credit with the NEP 2020.

The launch of 18 new courses was in tune with the changing requirements of the industry. To bridge the gap between theory and practice, the initiative of the Professor of Practice and contributions from Coal India Ltd and Singareni Collieries Company Limited were worthy of praise.

TSRTC to launch 2,375 buses in phases: MD

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

TSRTC Managing Director VC Sajjanar said that the corporation has decided to provide new buses to meet the increased traffic. In all, 1,325 diesel and 1,050 electric buses will be made available in a phased manner. In addition to these, the corporation is planning to purchase more new buses. He unfurled the national flag at Bus Bhavan in Hyderabad on Friday. Sajjanar said, "With the help

trained and they will join duty in the first week of February." The Mahalakshmi scheme is successfully being implemented in 7,200 Palle Velugu,

Metro Express buses. Since December 9, more than 11 crore women passengers have been safely transported to their destinations and an average of 27 lakh women are using this scheme every day. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Deputy CM Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and Minister of Transport Ponnam Prabhakar have appreciated the officers and staff of the corporation for implementing the Maha lakshmi scheme successfully.

Express, city ordinary and



LAND ACQUISITION IN CHANDANAVELLI VILLAGE

Govt will order thorough probe into land irregularities: Bhatti

PNS HYDERABAD

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, during his visit to Chandanavelli village under Chevella Constituency in Rangareddy district, promised to order a thorough inquiry into irregularities in land acquisition.

There are allegations of irregularities in land acquisition in Chandanvelli village.

"When I came to this village while travelling from Adilabad to Khammam, the landowners brought to my attention that the names of the landless peo-

PNS NALGONDA

District Collector Dasari

Hari Chandana on Friday said

that all efforts would be made

for the development of the dis-

On the occasion of the 75th

Republic Day celebrations, the Collector unfurled the nation-

al flag and took the salute at the Parade Ground here.

Speaking on the occasion,

she said Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R.

Ambedkar was the architect of

the Constitution for the world's

largest socialist, secular, demo-

cratic and republican nation.

The Constitution of India was

adopted by the Constituent

Assembly on January 26, 1950.

homage to the martyrs who

fought for India's indepen-

dence and those who framed

the Constitution of India. I am

happy that the new govern-

ment has launched two

schemes within two days of its

formation. As part of the

Telangana government's plan

to make girls Mahalakshmi

scheme, free bus travel for

women has been provided.

The State government has

"On this occasion, I pay



ple were included in the land acquisition and compensation was not given to the real

for development of Nalgonda

Day parade in Nalgonda on Friday

increased the Rajiv Arogyasri scheme from Rs 5 lakh to Rs

A public outreach pro-

gramme was launched to

receive applications from the

public for the six guarantee

schemes announced by the

government. Through this

programme, 5,27,492 appli-

cations have been received

and registered online for the

implementation of six guaran-

Mahalaxmi, Gruhajyoti, Rythu

Bharosa, Indiramma Houses,

and Cheyutha. Construction of

schemes, namely

Collector assures all steps

He said that the landowners demanded an inquiry into the land acquisition. Bogus beneficiaries were paid compensation, the villagers said.

"As per the request of the landowners, I will conduct a comprehensive investigation to give compensation to the real beneficiaries. We will investigate the role of middlemen who stole the compensation due to the real beneficiaries and bring out the facts. I will take steps to provide employment opportunities to those who gave their land for

Government General Hospital,

Nalgonda at a cost of Rs 23.75

crore is in progress. Under the

electricity department,

2,29,838 agricultural consumers in the district are get-

ting free electricity. In the

financial year 2022-23, 8,235,

and in the financial year

2023-24, so far, 6,439 new

agricultural electricity con-

nections have been given.

Construction of 15 power sub-

stations at a cost of Rs 30.18

crore is at various stages of

progress, she said. She listed

out several other programmes

developmental works", he said. Bhatti said that if the industries do injustice by not giving jobs to the locals, the government would take action.

He said that during the visit of the Ministers, no restrictions would be imposed

in the Indiramma Rajyam.

He said that the government aims to ensure that the people enjoy freedom. "Gaddar Anna came to Chandanavelli with me in the People's March Padayatra. A true tribute to Gaddar Anna, who advocated justice for the

TS is 1st runner-up at Khelo India Youth Games

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana State won the first runner-up trophy in the Boy's category (Cycling Track) at Khelo India Youth Games 2023 on Thursday. Telangana State was chosen for the trophy because of Aashirwad Saxena's performance, who won two gold and one bronze medals in the Khelo India Youth Games 2023.

Later, winner Ashirvand Saxena met Principal Secretary Jayesh Ranjan on Friday and the latter assured him of all help from the government. The trophy was presented to Ashirwad Saxena's coach Vijay Bhaskar

Voter awareness rally flagged off

PNS NALGONDA

District Collector Dasari Hari Chandana on Thursday exhorted the youth who have crossed 18 years of age to register as voters without fail.

In connection with observing National Voters' Day on January 25, she flagged off a January 25, she flagged off a rally at the NG College here on Thrusday. As part of the rally, the participants displayed placards displaying the message "I am proud to be a voter" and "I vote without fail" and the rally proceeded to Clock Tower via Ramagiri. Additional Collector J Srinivas, former IAS officer Cholleti Prabhakar, ZP CEO

Cholleti Prabhakar, ZP CEO Prem Karan Reddy, RDO Ravi, RTI national chairman B Kesavulu and district officials and college students, NCC, NSS, Scouts students and others took part in the rally in

large numbers. Addressing the rally which culminated into a public meeting, the Collector said that the people of the largest democracy like India were part of the democratic system. The Election Commission of India has initiated steps to ensure that every voter exercise his or her right to vote fearlessly by conducting the elections in a

free and fair atmosphere. Therefore, he appealed to voters to exercise their franchise as a responsible voter.

She called for creating awareness among urban voters so that the urban voting increases. She said that the Election Commission provided the home voting facility for the octogenarian voters. Explaining the significance of the right to vote, she said that the Constitution of India, drafted by the committee headed by Dr BR Ambedkar, vests the right to vote among the people.

She appealed to voters to check the list of voters whether their name is included in it or not. All eligible persons who enrolled as new voters would be given a photo voter identity card.

She appealed to the eligible new voters to register their names as a voter to exercise their right to franchise in the forthcoming Nalgonda-Warangal-Khammam Graduates' constituency of the Legislative Council. The voters list for the MLC polls is being prepared afresh and those who have registered as voters earlier can also do so now, she

BRS will fade away after Lok Sabha polls: Úttam

confidence that by winning 13-

a significant role in forming

the next Congress-led gov-

be headed by Rahul Gandhi.

looting public wealth, and

pushing Telangana into a mas-

sive debt crisis, Uttam Kumar

Reddy stated that the claims of

development under the KCR

regime were mere hype and

fake publicity. He asserted,

"After the formation of the

Congress government 50 days

ago, we held reviews of all

departments. The findings in

each review meeting were shocking." He revealed that all

departments, especially Irrigation, Civil Supplies,

Energy, Mission Bhagirathi, and others, were ensnared in

Accusing the previous BRS regime of cheating the people,

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Friday asserted that the BRS party has lost its relevance and will gradually fade away from the political land-scape of Telangana after the Lok Sabha elections.

Addressing a press conference after participatiing in the annual Urs celebrations of Jan Pahad Saidulu Dargah in Palkaveedu Mandal in Suryapet district, Uttam Kumar Reddy predicted that the Congress party would secure 13 to 14 Lok Sabha seats in Telangana, while the BRS would be secure only one or two seats.

He emphasised that the main contest in the Lok Sabha in Telangana was between the Congress and BJP with little to no relevance to BRS. He claimed, "The future of BRS will be in doubt after the Lok Sabha, and its existence itself will be questionable after the Parliament elections. It is bound to diminish significantly from the political scene in the next few months."

He disclosed that Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge had addressed booth-level workers of the Congress party at LB Stadium in Hyderabad on Thursday, providing guide-lines for the upcoming Lok

Sabha elections. He expressed substantial debts.

Jan Pahad Saidulu Dargah in Palkaveedu Mandal, Suryapet district on Friday

He added, "The Congress 14 seats, Telangana would play government has already initiated a probe into all the irregularities, and it would take seriernment at the Centre it would ous action against those involved in the scams.'

Highlighting specific instances of financial mismanagement, Uttam Kumar Reddy pointed out that over Rs 94,000 crore were spent on the Kaleshwaram Project, creating an ayacut of not even a

lakh acre. Similarly, Rs 25,000 crore spent on Palamuru Rangareddy and Rs 7,000 crore on Sitharama projects resulted in no irrigation. He assured that the Congress Government had initiated investigations into irregularities in the construction of Bhadradari and Yadadri power

Police Department holds Republic Day celebrations

The 75th Republic Day celebrations were held with patriotic fervor across Police department

The celebrations at the Director General of Police office were marked by a formal ceremony where Additional DGP Railways and Road Safety, Mahesh M Bhagwat, receiving the salute from police personnel. The national flag was unfurled, followed by a rendition of the national anthem.

DIG Coordination Gajarao Bhupal, along with employees from various departments and other staff, actively participated in the event.



At the headquarters of the Intelligence Department, Intelligence Chief, Additional OGP B Shivadhar Reddy, hoisted the national flag and took the salute. The ceremony was also attended by DIG Karthikeya, SSP Bhaskaran, Sridhar, and other officials.

a 50-bed critical care block at **KOHEDA FRUIT MARKET**

Nalongonda Collector Dasari Hari Chandana taking the salute at the Republican

Minister directs officials to acquire 50 to 100 acres additional land

PNS HYDERABAD

Agriculture and Marketing Minister Tummala Nageshwara Rao on Friday directed the officials to acquire 50 to 100 acres of additional land for the Koheda fruit mar-

The Minister directed the officials to complete the Koheda Market works with a comprehensive plan keeping the future needs. He felt that the present Koheda market area is not enough when compared with the national and international fruits and vegetable markets.

Nageswara Rao was holding a review meeting on Koheda Fruit market on Friday with Marketing and Agriculture Departments officials. The Marketing Department the market's development. He



PowerPoint presentation on the development of Kohed market that took place till date. As part of it the department proposed the developmental works worth Rs 399.69 crore as part of first phase

Speaking on this occasion, Koheda Project Management Consultant JS Yadav outlined Director G Laxmi Bhai gave a said that the Koheda Market proposals were in tune with the future needs. He explained about the international fruit markets performance-- Rungis Market in France, Mercado De La Paz in Spain and Sydny Market in Australia.

Agriculture Department secretary Raghunandan Rao said that the Kothapet Market was in 22 acres, however, Koheda Market is located in 200 acres. He expressed opinion that the proposal of the market construction should be in view of future needs and the total construction of needful to be completed by 2047.

After examining the proposals and layout of the Koheda Market, the Minister said that the Phase-1 construction should be completed within in one year from the work started. He suggested the officials to provide all the facilities for

farmers and businessmen and customers and start market activities.

The Minister said that the benefits come from the market after the construction of Koheda market to be used to repay the loans. The Minister directed the officials to send the proposals to the government regarding expansion of the 33 feet road that was towards ORR exit.

Agriculture Department Director Gopi, Cooperative Director Haritha, Additional Director R Laxmanudu, Superintending Engineer B Radhakrishna Murthy, Gaddiannaram Market Secretary Ch Narsimha Reddy, Lingojiguda corporator D Rajashekhar Reddy, DEE Ravinder and others participated in the review meeting.

Ex-Home Minster faints at R-Day fete



PNS HYDERABAD

Former Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mahmood Ali fainted during Republic Day celebrations at Telangana Bhavan on Friday. He was rushed to a private hospital by the party workers and he regained consciousness.

After he recovered Ali said, "I was busy on 26 January, I attended celebrations at Telangana Bhavan after I participated in a few other programmes. At the flag hoisting at Telangana Bhavan, I fainted for a minute and I recovered with the blessings of people", he said.

KRMB CONTROL OF KRISHNA RIVER PROJECTS

BRS Parliamentary Party delegation to meet Jal Shakti Minister

PNS HYDERABAD

Bharat Rashtra Parliamentary Party delegation will meet Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Sing Shekhawat to urge him not to hand over the control of joint projects in the Krishna river basin to Krishna River Management Board (KRMB), said former Minister T Harish Rao on Friday.

Speaking to the media per sons after attending the BRS Parliamentary Party meeting at Yerravalli, Harish Rao said that the Congress and the BJP had done injustice to Telangana at the time of the bifurcation of combined Andhra Pradesh. Now, the Congress government in Telangana had failed miserably in protecting the interests of the State.

The State government threw the interest of the people to the winds. The handing over of

It's 'Gram Swaraj' in AP: Guv



Former Minister T Harish Rao speaking to the media at Yerravalli on Friday

Nagarjuna Sagar and Srisailam, along with other outlets, to the KRMB would harm the interests of farmers. The State government should demand that the Centre first decide the share of Telangana out of the water already allocated to Andhra Pradesh

The KRMB, he said, had released the minutes of the meeting with the officials on the control of the joint projects of the Krishna river basin. Meanwhile, the Centre had failed to deliver on the promises incorporated in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act. He demanded that the Centre order

Harish Rao demanded that the State government fulfil all its promises before the model code of conduct comes into force after the schedule for Lok Sabha elections is announced.

a Backward Classes census.

PAWAN'S REMARKS ON SEAT-SHARING

An indication of TDP-JSP alliance falling flat?

Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan's remarks over regarding seat-sharing within the alliance partners made waves on social media platforms on Friday, underscoring apparent divisions within the Jana Sena-Telugu Desam alliance.

Pawan Kalyan expressed dissatisfaction with TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu's announcement of candidates for constituencies such as Mandapeta.

In response, Pawan Kalvan declared that his



upcoming elections. "Since they have announced candidates for two seats, I am also announcing the contest for these two seats, considering the letter 'R' as an auspicious sign on Republic Day," he stated.

The Jana Sena chief said that the TDP had unilaterally announced candidates party would contest two in certain constituencies seats - Razole and even before finalising seat-Rajanagaram - in the sharing between the two the Jagan government.

alliance principles, the TDP should not have declared the seats, but they did. It has led to confusion," he remarked, offering an apology to party leaders and members for the TDP leadership's oversight. While this development

has caused some concern among Jana Sena Party leaders, Pawan urged not to overly dwell on the issue, asserting that it would be resolved.

Pawan also recalled instances where TDP general secretary Nara Lokesh openly discussed the next chief minister, but Pawan chose not to react, prioritising the goal of bringing down

Says State govt is committed to upholding constitutional values PNS VIJAYAWADA Governor S Abdul Nazeer

conveyed warm greetings to the citizens of Andhra Pradesh on the commemoration of the 75th Republic Day, emphasising the government's steadfast commitment to upholding constitutional values.

Speaking at the Indira Municipal Gandhi Corporation Stadium in Vijavawada, where he unfurled the National Flag to mark the 75th Republic Dayer, joined by Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, highlighted the journey undertaken in the past 56 months, bringing administrative reforms to every village in the of Gram Swaraj (village selfgovernance).

As a symbolic tribute to the 75th year of the Republic, Governor Nazeer pointed to the recently unveiled 206foot-tall statue of Dr. BR Ambedkar, underscoring the state's commitment to the values of secularism, socialism, democracy, and republic. Over the same period, the government has executed a direct benefit transfer of Rs execution of welfare schemes, 2,52,943.48 crore and a non-reflecting the state's commit-

1,68,151.08 crore, aggregating to Rs 4,21,094.56 crore through DBT and non-DBT.

Governor Nazeer emphasised the government's adherence to the manifesto, akin to revered texts such as the Bhagavad Gita, Bible, or Quran, having implemented 99.5% of the promises made in the manifesto. A welfare calendar, released in advance each year, ensures the timely state and realizing the concept DBT transfer of Rs. ment to social well-being.

aimed at promoting education equality, English medium education has been introduced from the primary level in all government schools. Aligned with the CBSE syllabus and moving towards IB, this initiative aims to elevate educational standards and prepare students for national and international competitions.

Efforts to enhance spoken English skills from the primary level include training programs across the state, with the introduction of TOEFL exams in collaboration with Educational Testing Services (ETS), providing internationally recognized English proficiency.

Governor Nazeer highlighted the state's commitment to healthcare through a vast net- kins to adolescent girls.

In a noteworthy initiative work of YSR Village Health Clinics, Primary Health Centres, Community Health Centres, and other medical facilities. The YSR Aarogyasri scheme, covering a wide range of medical procedures, has benefitted approximately 1.48 crore families

Acknowledging Andhra Pradesh as the 'Best Marine State' for 2023, Governor Nazeer highlighted the state's leadership in total fish production and seafood exports, providing livelihood opportunities to 16.50 lakh population.

The "Nadu-Nedu" initiative focuses on building special toilets in schools to preserve the dignity of adolescent girls, while the "Sweccha" scheme distributes free sanitary nap-

HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | JANUARY 27, 2024

Punjab farmers take out tractor rallies to 'remind' govt about its promises

armers in Punjab led by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha on Friday took out tractor rallies in support of their various demands and to remind the government about the promises it had made during the repeal of the three contentious farm laws. Among the several demands that the Samyukta Kisan Morcha -- an umbrella organisation of farmer unions -- is pushing for is the legal guarantee for Minimum Support Price (MSP)

for crops. Tractor rallies were taken out in Sangrur, Jalandhar, Mohali and other places. The farmers also paid homage to those who died during the protests against the three now-repealed farm laws. "We have been demanding the enactment of a law guaranteeing MSP for crops," farmer leader Harinder Singh Lakhowal, who took part in one of the rallies, said. The farmers are also demanding justice for victims of the violence in Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur



ISRO successfully deploys magnetometer boom on board Aditya-L1 spacecraft

SRO has successfully deployed the magnetometer boom on board the Aditya-L1 satellite to measure the low intensity interplanetary magnetic field in space. The six metre-long magnetometer boom is deployed in the Halo orbit at the Lagrange point L-1, on January 11, the space agency said, noting that the boom had been in stowed condition for 132 days since the Aditya-L1 launch.

According to ISRO, the boom carries two state-of-the-art, high-accuracy fluxgate magnetometer sensors that measure the low intensity interplanetary magnetic field in space. "The sensors are deployed at distances of 3 and 6 metres from the spacecraft body. Mounting them at these distances minimises the impact of the spacecraft generated magnetic field on measurements, and using two of them assists precise estimation of this



Light snowfall ends two-month long dry spell in Kashmir

ight snowfall in higher reaches of Kashmir brought to an end nearly two-month long dry spell in the valley as minimum temperatures rose significantly on Thursday night, officials said. Snowfall was reported from Gulmarg, Pahalgam Sonamarg, Gurez, Macchil, Karnah Doodpathri and Shopian areas of the valley and was going on intermittently, the officials said. There was slight drizzle in some parts of

Srinagar city before day-break but bright sunshine followed after dawn. Srinagar city recorded a minimum temperature of minus 0.5 degree Celsius on Thursday night, up three degrees from the previous night's minus 3.6 degrees Celsius, the officials said. Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, which serves as one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath Yatra, recorded a minimum temperature of minus 0.4 degree Celsius



MODI-MACRON TALKS

India, France strengthen defence industrial roadmap

PNS NEW DELHI

India and France have firmed up a defence industrial partnership roadmap that would provide for co-development and co-production of key military hardware and platforms and facilitate technology collaboration in a range of areas including space, land warfare, cyberspace and artificial intelligence.

Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra, announcing key outcomes of the talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron in Jaipur last night, also said the Tatas and Airbus Helicopters have entered into a partnership for production of H125 choppers with significant indigenous

At a media briefing Friday, Kwatra said the India-France defence industrial roadmap would also facilitate cooperation in areas of robotics, autonomous vehicles and

He said an MoU was sealed between New Space India Ltd and France's Arianespace for cooperation in satellite launch-

cyber defence.

Modi and Macron also deliberated on the conflict in Gaza and its various dimensions including that of terrorism and humanitarian aspects,

Kwatra said.

The two leaders also exchanged perspectives on the evolving security situation in the Red Sea including the potential disruptions and actual developments, he said.

Macron began his two-day trip to India with a visit to

The French president was the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations at the Kartavya Path on Friday.

King Charles says he looks forward to working with India to tackle world's most pressing challenges

influence.

King Charles III on Friday congratulated the people of India on its 75th Republic Day and said he looks forward to the UK and India working together to tackle the world's most pressing challenges.

In a message to President Droupadi Murmu, the British monarch said he cherishes the "close bond" shared between the two countries and added: "I am confident that our ties will continue to flourish in this very special seventy-fifth anniversary year of the Commonwealth — a fitting reminder of the enduring values and aspirations that unite us."

Incidentally, King Charles III is the same age as the Indian Republic. It was on January 26, 1950, that the Constitution of India came into force replacing the Government of India Act 1935, a legacy of the British Raj from the colonial times.



Congratulating India on a successful G20 presidency last year, King Charles III said, "I look forward to our countries continuing to work together to tackle the world's most press-

ing global challenges."

He also said he looks forward to all Commonwealth members coming together in Samoa later in the year, the message posted by the British High Commission in India on its official X handle said.

His message to President Murmu came on the same day when he was admitted to a hospital for treatment for an enlarged prostate. The plan for King Charles to have a "corrective procedure" for his enlarged prostate was revealed



PNS ■ JAMMU

Jammu and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday expressed the government's commitment to stamp out terrorism and its ecosystem and said efforts are underway for a final assault to eradicate the unholy proxy war sponsored by a neighbouring country in the Union Territory.

Sinha underlined the significance of the successful G20 conclave and said it has given a befitting reply to the enemies of humanity and sponsors of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir by showcasing to the world the region's economic strength, business potential, cultural richness and tourism opportunities.

The efforts are going on for the final assault on terrorism, its ecosystem and unholy proxy war being sponsored by a neighbouring country. We



Govt determined to stamp out

Jammu and Kashmir which has the power, strength of spirituality, modern and scientific facilities and response," the LG said while addressing the Republic Day function here.

Sinha paid homage to police, army and paramilitary personnel who laid down their lives for the security of the nation.

"While remembering their sacrifices, we reiterate our commitment to stamp out terrorism and its ecosystem from the soil of Jammu and Kashmir. I congratulate the police forces who have bagged 113 gallantry medals - highest among other forces. The police's fight against terrorism

Sinha underlined the significance of the successful G20 conclave and said, "It has showcased to the world Jammu and Kashmir's economic strength, business potential, cultural richness and tourism opportunities. On the other side, it has given a befitting reply to enemies of humanity and sponsors of terrorism."

The LG pointed out the region's victories over various challenges in the last five years. emphasising the goal of creating a new social setup for the younger generation.

"The major resolution of 2024 is to create a new social setup for the younger generation. The new society will give impetus to India in knowledge, skill and infrastructure to secure its place among the developed nations," he added.

He further said during the last four years, there has been a sea change in all aspects, particularly in social setup and economic empowerment.

BJP-led govt implemented several initiatives for systemic changes in Haryana, says CM Khattar

PNS CHANDIGARH

Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Friday said the BJP-led government has implemented several initiatives for systemic change in Harvana since 2014 and said his government is inspired by Lord Ram's principles of gov-

He said the benefits of welfare schemes are being delivered to the peo-

doorsteps. Address gathering in al after hoisting the tricolour, Khattar mentioned the

ple at their

construction of the grand Ram temple Ayodhya. He said his taking inspiration from the principles of governance set by

Lord Ram, as he spelled out various initiatives including steps taken towards women empowerment and empowering rural panchayats.
"We are doing work in a transparent manner and tak-

ing steps to uplift the weaker sections with the spirit of Antyodaya," he said. Khattar also took on oppo-

sition for grinding their axe by spreading falsehood on various issues.

Khattar said his govern-

in corruption and a stern message has been sent across that corruption will not be tol-

erated. We ended caste-based politics, he said.

On the occasion, he also made a few announcements. He said Atal canteens have been opened for the poor and being run in 25 mandis.

These canteens will be opened in 15 more mandis and will be run

throughout the year unlike five months at present, he said. Khattar said there was a demand from

various quarters that instead of a two month billing cycle for power government has also been bills these should be made monthly.

Under the first phase, in districts Hisar, Karnal, Mahendergarh and Panchkula monthly bill system will be started, he said.

During his speech, Khattar also took on the Congress and said for years the country's governance was trapped under one family.

"The dominance of that family continued by virtue of rule. However, during the Emergency period, people became aware... Congress' dynastic rule tradition started

Ajit Pawar says son should not have met history-sheeter

PNS PUNE

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Friday said his son meeting a history-sheeter, photographs of which went viral on social media, was wrong and should have been avoided.

He said he would gather all details of the meeting between Parth Pawar and gangster Gajanan Marne, though he added that party workers may have take his son there.

"After the incident I categorically told police such elements should not come near him. It can happen to any political leader," the senior Nationalist Congress Party leader claimed.

What happened was wrong. I am gathering all the details. It seems party workers took Parth there. It should not have happened. I will speak to him," the Baramati MLA added.

Pawar said a history-sheeter was once inducted into the party but was removed immediately after his past came to light. Photographs of the meeting between Parth Pawar and Marne along with several NCP workers was widely circulated on social media.

Queried about MLA Rohit Pawar of the Sharad Pawar faction of the NCP being questioned by the Enforcement Directorate, the deputy chief minister it was the job of probe agencies to summon people for inquiry and it was the duty of people to answer truthfully

Andaman's 'Nariyal Amma', chosen for Padma Shri

PNS PORT BLAIR

Kamachi Chellammal, a 67year-old woman of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, was selected for the Padma Shri award for her outstanding contribution to organic coconut plantation.

known as 'Nariyal Amma' hails from Rangachang in South Andaman.

She said she uses coconut leaves and husks as mulching on the plantation to preserve moisture in the soil during the post-rainy season.

Mulching is the act of covering the soil with mulches such as bark, wood chips, leaves, and other organic materials in order to preserve moisture and improve the condition

The district magistrates of all 11

districts will stay overnight in

selected villages on January 27

and January 28 to draw up spe-

cific plans for the restoration

and development plan for the

villages, Raj Niwas officials said.

district magistrates will be stay-

This is the second time the



of the soil.

Chellammal said her method not only helps in minimising moisture loss from the soil but also reduces the weed population which is extremely important for a healthy coconut plantation.

She also adopted Integrated Pest Management strategy, instead of harmful chemicals, in which she opted for 'trap plants' (which varies from one plantation to another) to

DMs of all districts in Delhi to stay overnight

in selected villages, hold talks with residents

directions and following

encouraging results from the

exercise earlier this month, all

district magistrates of 11 dis-

tricts will visit and stay

overnight in selected villages

over the coming weekend on January 27 and 28," an official

During the stay, district mag-

istrates will hold 'Samvaad'

attract insects to release pheromones (in the air) which disrupt the natural mating cycle of pests. This helped her control the pest population.

"I also did coconut-based

multi species cropping by effectively utilising interspaces in my 10 acres of land. This helped me to overcome the challenges of the low market price of coconut (before the implementation of MSP). This also helped me in generating more revenue," Chellammal

For multi species cropping, she uses various plants such as elephant foot yam, banana, groundnut, pineapple, sweet potato, green chilly, tube rose, gladiolus, marigold and green vegetables.

villages and prepare the plan under "Dilli Gramodaya

Abhiyan" to be implemented by

the Delhi Development

The exercise aims at chalking

out the restoration and develop-

ment plan for Delhi's villages, in

consultation with the villagers

under the ambitious "Dilli

Gramoday Abhiyan", being exe-

cuted by DDA at a cost of more

Authority (DDA).

than Rs 800 crore.

Hema Malini, Anup Jalota among 100 artistes to offer 'Rag Seva' to Lord Ram

PNS AYODHYA

Hema Malini, Malini Awasthi, Anup Jalota, Anuradha Paudwal and Sonal Mansingh are among artistes who will perform at the newly-constructed Ram temple in

Rag Seva". The 45-day devotional music festival dedicated to Lord Ram that begins on Friday will con-

clude on March 10. "In line with classical tradition, 'Rag Seva' will be organised at the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple January 26. This event will be organised in the 'gudi mandap' before the

Lord in which more than 100 well-known artistes from different provinces and art traditions from across the country will offer their 'Rag Seva' at the feet of Lord Ram for the next 45 days," a member of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra said.

The 'gudi mandap' is located in front of the 'garbha griha (sanctum sanctorum)' where the new idol of Lord Ram was consecrated in a grand ceremony led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday.

"The architect and coordi-

nator of this programme on behalf of the trust is Yatindra Mishra and the curation has been supported by the Sangeet Natak Akademi in Delhi," the

trust member said.

"Rag Seva' is a classical tradition. First in the series is Awasthi from Uttar Pradesh whose rendition will include 'sohar', 'badhawa' and 'mangal gan'," the member

Among artistes who will perform 'Rag Seva' Vyjayanthimala, Sikkil Gurcharan, Mishra, Jasbir Jassi, Aruna Sairam, Swapna Sundari,

> Suresh Wadkar, Darshana Jhaveri, Uday Bhawalkar, Jayanth Kumaresh, Purna Das Baul, Rajani and Gayatri and Devaki

Rahul Deshpande,

Pandit. Basanti Bisht, Prerana Shrimali, Sunanda Sharma, Meeta Pandit, Padma Subrahmanyam will also per-

form during the 45-day festi-Yatindra Mishra also orchestrated the 'Mangal Dhwani' that reverberated during the consecration ceremony. Fifty traditional musical instruments from across

the country were part of the

grand musical rendition.

(talks) with the residents of the ing overnight at selected villages. ment took several steps to rein to end then," he said. "On Lt Governor V K Saxena's village and its neighbourhood 1950 R-Day fete had turned Delhi into 'fairlyland'

PNS NEW DELHI

The maiden celebrations marking the birth of the Republic of India were not held on Rajpath (now Kartavya Path), the historical avenue that has over time become synonymous with the ceremony, but it was a 1930s-era amphitheatre that became the venue for the festivities after the country got its first presi-

Iconic public buildings, parks and railway stations dazzled with lights on the night of January 26, 1950 turning the capital city into a "fairyland".

As the Republic turns platinum, it also encompasses an eventful journey of a nation that won independence from

The country erupted in celebration soon after Rajendra Prasad was sworn-in as India's first President on the historic day and the very first Republic Day function was held at Irwin Stadium here.

India celebrated its 75th Republic Day on Friday with a grand display of its women power, rich cultural heritage and military might comprising missiles, warplanes, surveil-lance gadgets and lethal weapon systems with French President Emmanuel Macron gracing the occasion as the chief guest.

According to Google Arts and Culture website, the stadium was built in 1933 as a gift to Delhi from the Maharaja of



Bhavnagar and named after former Viceroy of India, Lord Irwin, who had inaugurated the new British capital 'New Delhi' in February 1931 during

his viceroyalty. Designed by Robert Torr Russell, also the architect of the iconic Connaught Place in central Delhi, the amphitheatre was renamed to the National

Stadium in 1951 just before the Asian Games was hosted. In 2002, Major Dhyan Chand's name was affixed in

honour of the hockey legend. On the historic day of January 26, 1950, hours before the celebrations at the Irwin Amphitheatre, India, after having thrown off the British colonial yoke in 1947, assumed

the mantle of a "Sovereign Democratic Republic".

"At the most solemn ceremony, held in the brilliantly lit and high domes of Durbar Hall at Government House, India was declared a Sovereign Democratic Republic exactly at 18 minutes past 10 on the morning of Thursday, January 26, 1950. Six minutes later, Dr Rajendra Prasad was sworn in as president," reported Fauji (now Akhbar Sainik Samachar) in its article titled 'Birth of a Republic' on

February 4, the same year. "The birth of the Indian Republic and the installation of its first president were announced by a salute of 31 guns shortly after 10:30 am," reported the publication.

Nyay Yatra facing problems in getting permission in WB

PNS ■ SILIGURI (WB)

West Bengal Congress presi-Adhir Chowdhury on Friday said that his party was facing problems in getting permission for organising some public meetings as part of the Bharat Jodo

Nvav Yatra in West Bengal. Speaking to reporters in Siliguri, Chowdhury said the schedule of the Yatra was submitted to the administration in the state long back.

"In some places, we are facing roadblocks as we are not getting permission to organise public meetings, citing exams. The Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra

has faced problems in the Northeast, including Assam, and now it is facing problems in TMC-ruled West Bengal as well," he said.

"We were denied permission to hold a public meeting in Siliguri. We expected better cooperation from the state

government. Anyways, the route and the itinerary of the Yatra remain the same except for a few

changes," he added. Asserting that the Rahul Gandhi-led Yatra was a movement to safeguard Constitution, Chowdhury claimed that it had nothing to do with the Lok Sabha elec-

Speaking of the issue on Thursday night, he had said that they thought they would get "relaxations" in some places in West Bengal for the public meetings but the administration "is saying that they can't give it".

Manipur on January 14, entered West Bengal from Assam on Thursday, and took a two-day break. It will resume on January 28.

The Yatra, which began in

The ruling Trinamool Congress, however, claimed that the administration in West Bengal is free of political influwww.dailypioneer.com

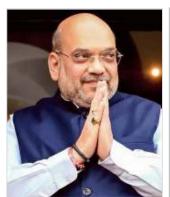
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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Peace in paradise

The decline in number of terror incidents in J&K is a good indication to initiate the electoral process

here is an overall decline in terror activities and related fatalities in Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has pointed out. There has been a notable 66 per cent reduction in terrorrelated incidents and an 81 per cent drop in civilian deaths in the region, he said. Though this data has triggered a debate on the connection between the abrogation of Article 370 and its implications on the security situation in J&K, it can be safely said that the war on terror is far from over. The number of civilian deaths and terror incidents may have fallen but the figure is still rather large to call it the 'Heaven on earth', as it is often referred to. Article 370 granted special autonomy in governance and decisionmaking to the State of Jammu and Kashmir, even allowing it to have its own Constitution and flag. However, on August 5, 2019, the Narendra Modi-led Government decided to abrogate Article 370 and reorganise the State into two Union Territories – Jammu



& Kashmir and Ladakh. One of the primary arguments for revoking Article 370 was the anticipation of improved security conditions in the region. The reported 66 per cent decline in terror incidents suggests that normalcy is slowly but surely returning to J&K. Ending terrorist activities is crucial for restoring peace and stability not only in Jammu and Kashmir but also in the broader context of national security.

However, it is essential to critically analyse the factors contributing to this decline. Some argue that the increased presence of security forces, coupled with strict counter-terrorism measures, has played a pivotal role in curbing extremist activities. Civilian casu-

alties have been a deeply concerning aspect of the conflict in J&K, often causing widespread unrest and protests. The reduction in civilian deaths suggests a positive shift towards protecting the lives of innocent civilians caught in the crossfire. While the reported decline in terror incidents and civilian deaths is promising, it is important to acknowledge that challenges persist. Critics argue that the restrictions imposed on communication and movement in the aftermath of the Article 370 revocation have led to a stifling environment for the residents of Jammu and Kashmir. Concerns about human rights violation and their impact on daily life remain significant issues that need careful consideration. Now that things are returning to normal as per the Government's claim, it is time to reinstate the political process in J&K and allow political parties to restart their activities. Besides, the recent Supreme Court directive to the Election Commission of India to conduct Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir by September 2024 poses a major challenge for the security agencies. To hold free and fair elections there poses yet another challenge as the trouble-makers would like to disrupt the process with all their might. But only after a democratically elected Government is installed in Kashmir can we call it peaceful.



Artistes perform during the 75th Republic Day celebrations in Kullu

Pakistan faces bitter fallout with Taliban



Pakistan deserves little sympathy for the violence it is suffering. Sowing the wind in Afghanistan, Pakistan is reaping the whirlwind

he bitter falling out between Pakistan and Afghanistan's Taliban rulers is one of the striking ironies of contemporary history. Islamabad could not have done more for the Taliban. It was instrumental to their establishment. Its support in the form of the training and arming of their troops, and stiffening of the latter's ranks with the deputation of Pakistan Army's officers and men, enabled them to establish their first regime over most of Afghanistan in September

During the US-led campaign against the Taliban in 2001, Pakistan airlifted, with American consent, a large number of its army personnel and agents of the Directorate-General of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), along with top commanders and fighters of the Taliban and Al-Qaeda, from Kunduz in November 2001. It, of course, did not, in keeping with its usual duplicitousness, tell Washington DC that Taliban and Al-Qaeda leaders and rank-andfilers would also be evacuated. Pakistan's support continued in an enhanced and expanded form after an alliance, spearheaded and guided by the United States, post 9/11, ousted the Taliban from Afghanistan in December 2001. Pakistan harboured their leaders, allowed them to function freely in its territory, and, besides arming and training their troops, provided them with sanctuaries in

the border areas from where they could foray into Afghanistan. The Taliban would not have survived without Pakistan's support. All this, of course, should not obscure the fact that relations between the latter and Afghanistan were bitterly hostile until Islamabad's provision of support to the Afghan mujahideen following the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979. The hostility became manifest immediately after Pakistan's independence in August 1947 when Afghanistan was the only nation to oppose Pakistan's entry into the United Nations. It also actively supported armed separatist movements in the Pashtun inhabited territory and Balochistan in Pakistan.



between the two countries has been the Durand Line, which was drawn by Sir Mortimer Durand, a British diplomat and civil servant, and Abdul Rahman Khan, emir of Afghanistan, on 12 November 1893, as the official boundary between India (of which Pakistan was then a part) and Afghanistan. Subsequent to Abdul Rahman Khan's death, Afghanistan ceased accepting it as the legal border as more Pashtuns, the dominant Afghan ethnic group, lived on the Pakistani side. Kabul wanted the line shifted eastward towards the Indus River to bring Pashunmajority areas in Pakistan within its fold, and free movement of people across it till then. To this end, it had supported armed ethnic Pashtun and Baloch secessionist elements in Pakistan. The latter, on its part, has persistently tried to have an Afghan government that was subservient to it and allowed it to use Afghan territory to gain strategic depth in its confrontations with India.

The antagonism had infected the populations of both coun-There were attacks on tries. their respective diplomatic establishments on the soil of the other, leading to a break in their diplomatic ties between 1961 and 1963, and border clashes. It is now clear that the Taliban share their country's

become a bigger source of tension and conflict than perhaps at any time earlier. There have been armed clash-

es between the border forces of the two countries leading to periodical closure of border crossings including the principal ones at Torkham and Spinboldak. The clashes have been caused not just by the border dispute but an overall deterioration of the relations between the Taliban and Pakistan resulting from Pakistan's allegation that Kabul was supporting the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) which has been carrying out violent terror strikes on its soil. At a press conference on November 8, 2023, Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister, Anwar ul-Haq Kakar, launched a scathing attack on the Taliban saying that their support to TTP had contributed to a major increase in violence in his country, causing the death of 2,867 Pakistanis since the Taliban captured power in August 2021.

TOLO news, the Taliban ing. The monster it has creatadministration spokesman, ed is striking back. As the Old Zabiullah Mujahid, has denied the allegation and stated, "We will not allow anyone to use Afghanistan's soil to threaten other countries. Pakistani authorities should understand their responsibilities." Not sur-

prisingly, the dispute continues, aggravated by cross-border terror strikes in Pakistan and the latter's airstrikes against the TTP's bases in Afghanistan. Things have worsened by Pakistan's campaign to deport what it describes as foreigners without valid visas or registration documents as refugees. The principal victims are Afghans, numbering nearly four million, who have poured into the country since the Soviet Union's invasion of their country. According to reports 450,000 of them out of a total number of 1.77 million such people (according to the Pakistani authorities) have left Pakistan. The condition of those who have been forced to leave is miserable, and the uncertainty of those living in the shadow of deportation must be nerve-wracking. The inhumanity of Pakistan's campaign is unpardonable, particularly given the horrible human rights situation and the gender apartheid prevailing in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan. Pakistan deserves little sympa-According to Afghanistan's thy for the violence it is suffer-Testament (Hosea 8.7) says, "For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirl-

> (The author is a Consulting Editor, at The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal)

LINE, WHICH WAS DRAWN BY SIR MORTIMER DURAND, AND ABDUL RAHMAN

THE PRIMARY BONE

BETWEEN THE TWO

BEEN THE DURAND

OF CONTENTION

COUNTRIES HAS

KHAN, EMIR OF AFGHANISTAN, IN

E EDITO

Climate emergency in the time of military conflicts



The primary bone of contention

There must be concerted global action towards restoring peace, and thereby climate, as both are intricately linked

Tf we don't end the war, war will end us, the quote from H. G. Wells summarises the realities of Climate Emergency, exacerbated by today's military politics. On the one hand, we have companies adapting their business operations, farmers shunning environ-mentally harmful farming, innovators finding ways to reduce emissions and policymakers trying to channelise finance for addressing climate change. On the other, we have wars erupting in unforeseen corners of the world that have the potential of reversing any positive impact created by efforts towards climate restoration. The enormity of the carbon footprints of a war is evident in a cursory look at data.It is estimated that the carbon footprint of the Iraq War was 141 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent emissions, 21 EU member states emitted less CO2 equivalent in 2019, to put the numbers in context. Only the first year of the Ukraine war generated ~120 million tonnes of CO2, roughly the equivalent of the emissions of Belgium. The emissions from restoration



is estimated that the carbon cost of rebuilding the conflicttorn West Asia could be higher than emissions from many countries taken together. Even if reporting of military CO2 emissions is excluded from climate treaties citing implications on national security, however UNFCC advocates for fixing up the responsibilthe resulting emissions.

ity of warring parties towards Managing conflicts during energy transition: It is obvious that as the dominance of fossil fuels wanes; the economies dependent on it may get anxious. Take the example of Russia, which has been the top exporter of coal, oil and gas all these years, the Arab and the Middle East's prosperity thrived on oil. So that the fact that places are conflict efforts post-war are worse. It hot spots in the times of an

energy transition, can't be

ignored as a mere coincidence. There are a few things the world can learn from history in this regard, especially the Cold War era as against the Hot wars, that can boil up the planet;Diplomacy and Multilateralism: Allies and Multilateral dialogue was one of the powerful soft weapons deployed during the Cold War. The war against climate change cannot be effective until the military wars are diffused through tactful intermediation. All parties need to demonstrate shoulders broad enough to shrug off short-termism and channel their efforts towards the larger collective good.

Leadership: Emerging global powers like India have now demonstrated the ability to

influence the political leadership of the most powerful nations of the world due to interlocked economic interests as well as its credibility of a history of peaceful co-existence and engagement with the world.People-to-people connect: The world is far more interconnected today than the Cold War era during which concerted efforts for people-to-people connect through exchange programs were made. Mobilising public opinion through technology forces leaders to prioritise climate over power. The efforts by large corporations to carbon proof their value chains, incremental expenses from individuals to shift to electric vehicles, austerity in lifestyle - be it flying less or eating less meat or taxes imposed on cross border trade as contributions towards keeping the temperature rise below 2°C and further reduce it to 1.5°C, will go down a hungry bottomless pit unless there is concerted global action towards restoring peace and thereby climate.

(The writer is a novelist an international development advisor and a Chevening scholar; views are personal)

PRADHAN MANTRI SURYODAYA YOJNA Sir — India's solar power has an installed

capacity of 70 GW today, 15% of the total installed power. The aim is for 400 GW of solar power capacity by 2030 or half of the total power capacity. Riding on this overall plan, the PM Suryodaya Yojna of Jan 2024, envisages Roof Top solar power for 10, mln homes now and to reach 40 GW capacity by 2026 from 11 GW on date. This is the first scheme to set a target for the number of households rather than the amount of electricity to be generated. A report by the Council on Energy, estimates 250 million households across India have the potential to deploy 640Gw of solar ener-

gy capacity on rooftops.
We gained some experience in programmes for toilets, drinking water and cooking gas and yet rooftop solar power to less affluent households requires initiatives. Incentives such as subsidies, tax holidays, quicker depreciation, and duty concessions can promote unconventional energy setups, but these can not continue forever. The solar sector needs improved technologies, both for cost reduction and effective scaling up. Such high-quality research backup is not with us today and we depend on others for upto-date technical plants. With dated know-how, we can produce power at an unviable cost while we keep spending on subsidies. We need to be pragmatic in obtaining collaborative technologies in such futuristic endeavours, while we set

up our research institutions. R Narayanan | Mumbai

FASCINATING URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Sir —To propel urban development in India, prioritize the establishment of ecofriendly infrastructure in cities. Implement smart waste disposal systems, invest in sustainable public transport networks, and promote green building practices. Accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles by developing a robust charging infrastructure, providing finan-cial incentives, and integrating EV-

Republic day pledge



n a nation significance of the Constitution can never be undermined. It serves as a backbone of laws and principles that guide a nation's citizens, shape identity and provide a framework for governance. Drawing inspiration from it why doesn't every individual draft a personal constitution as well?Drafting a personal constitution profoundly impacts one's life at a per-

friendly urban planning. Enhance waste management across cities under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan by encouraging community participation in recycling, enforcing effective waste segregation, and deploying technological solutions for streamlined waste collection. Foster collaborations between public and private sectors to ensure the successful implementation and scalability of these initiatives for a greener and more sustainable urban andscape.

Mahi Khandelwal | Ujjain

BLOW TO INDIA BLOC

Sir — Putting an end to the rumour Mamata Bannerjee clearly stated that Bengal to go all in for the 42 seats in the upcoming 2024 Lok Sabha elections. This news comes after Punjab Chief minister and AAP Leader Bhagwat Mann's decision to go solo and win all 13 LS seats in Puniab.

INDIA bloc seems to receive a blow as slowly the winds turn with the regional

sonal level. The personal constitution outlines values, goals and commitments that form the foundation of an individual's identity. The process of drafting a personal constitution involves personal inspection, self-discovery and personal growth.

It catalyzes self-discovery and empowerment. It is not just a set of rules but a roadmap to a purpose-driven life. Rules like prioritising well-being, building meaningful connections, staying loyal to friends, and challenging comfort zones should be in everyone's constitution as per situations and circumstances. This Republic Day let's pledge to draft a personal constitution and encourage others to do so. This will ensure that everyone becomes a better version of themselves and lives harmoniously.

Gourja Soni | Delhi

parties opting out. Nitish Kumar's dissent in Bihar, Shashi Tharoor's disagreement of seat sharing in Kerala between Cong and CPI(M) clearly shows the Bloc's lack

of structural cohesion. This turmoil continues as it is rare that the regional parties are going to let go of their seats where the congress has lesser seats. The major being Bihar and Bengal where the congress had just two and one seat respectively. Usually, it's unnatural that the regional parties are going to pay heed. Congress's position seems to be downhill as majorly all big regional parties are looking at the elections and then decide on what could be necessary. During the selection of the Chairman of the bloc there was a dissent among the congress insiders while TMC and AAP stressed on Kharge to be the

Sumit Saha | Dhenkanal

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FIRST COLUMN

ATTAINING INNER BLISS AND SPIRITUAL FULFILMENT

Getting into samadhi is difficult but not impossible. And all the effort is worth it



SWAMI CHARNASHRIT

n the hustle and bustle of our daily lives, finding moments of tranquillity and inner peace can seem like an elusive quest. However, ancient spiritual practices offer a path to achieving a state of profound concentration and tranquillity known as samadhi. Derived from Sanskrit, samadhi translates to "union" or "absorption," and it is considered the pinnacle of mental focus and spiritual realization in various Eastern philosophies.

The Significance of Samadhi:

Samadhi holds immense importance in spiritual traditions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, and yoga. It is often described as a state of deep meditation where the practitioner experiences a profound connection with the divine, the universe, or their inner self. In this heightened state of awareness, the mind transcends ordinary thoughts and distractions, leading to a sense of unity and oneness.

One of the primary goals of attaining samadhi is to overcome the fluctuations of the mind and achieve a sustained state of inner peace. This state is believed to bring about a profound transformation, fostering a deeper understanding of the self and the interconnected nature of all existence. Practitioners often report feelings of bliss, clarity, and a heightened sense of purpose after experiencing samadhi. How to Attain Samadhi:

Attaining samadhi requires dedicated practice, discipline, and a sincere commitment to the spiritual journey. Here are some key steps that can guide seekers on the path to achieving this transcendent state: 1. Meditation Practices: Engage in regular meditation sessions to calm the mind and cultivate mindfulness. Concentration techniques, such as focusing on the breath or a mantra, can gradually lead to a heightened state of awareness.



2. Yoga and Breath Control (Pranayama): Incorporate yogic practices and pranayama (breath control) into your routine. These practices help harmonise the body and mind, creating a conducive environment for experiencing samadhi.

3. Self-Reflection and Contemplation: Take time for self-reflection and contemplation. Explore the nature of your thoughts, emotions, and desires. Understanding the workings of the mind is a crucial step on

4. Mindful Living: Extend mindfulness beyond meditation by practising it in your daily life. Cultivate awareness in every action, whether it's eating, walking, or interacting with others. This continuous awareness gradually deepens the meditative state.

5. Guidance from Spiritual Teachers: Seek guidance from experienced spiritual teachers who can provide insights and support on your journey. Learning from those who have traversed the path to samadhi can offer valuable wisdom and encouragement.

Samadhi is not merely a destination but a transformative journey towards self-realization and spiritual fulfilment. By integrating meditation, yoga, mindfulness, and guidance from seasoned practitioners, individuals can inch closer to the profound experience of samadhi. As the mind transcends its ordinary state, the seeker discovers a sublime connection with the infinite, paving the way for a life imbued with inner peace and purpose.

(The writer is a spiritual guide, views are personal)

Holistic learning for student growth



The focus needs to be on nurturing and strengthening students' individual abilities, which will help them strengthen their mental and emotional well-being

he time spent in school is a cru-cial period for every individual, marked by dynamic growth and development. This period is also important as children and adolescents steer through the student life, encountering numerous experiences that shape them as individuals. This journey of school life also poses several challenges that are both unique and demanding, especially in the present-day context, where students face many challenges related to developing skills in academics, educational and career choices, and dealing with the stress and anxiety related to examinations and competi-

They also need to stay updated about technological advances and adapt to the rapidly evolving world of work. These concerns affect the overall development of the students, impacting not only their academic performance but also their mental health and well-being. Along with the cognitive aspects, holistic development also focuses on the affective aspects, which include an individual's social and emotional skills, attributes, positive social interactions, support perceived, adaptability and perspectivetaking, among others, which serve as protective factors against stress. The purpose of any education system is not only to foster academic learning but also the all-round development of children.

As students go through their academic journeys, they also lay the foundations of a progressive society. Thus, the focus on this period and on ensuring the holistic development of the students is a concern of national importance. Consistent efforts are being made by the country to bring about awareness and support in this regard with a special focus on the younger population. An initial step in this direction was taken by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, who addressed these concerns through 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' and 'Mann Ki Baat' talks with citizens and students. He inspired the students to become AatmaNirbharor self-

With a focus on socio-emotional concerns during interaction with students, the Hon'ble Prime Minister emphasised taking responsibility for oneself and overcoming difficult situations through individual efforts. In one such interaction, he motivated the young listeners, "We have to face temporary setbacks in life but always remember— the capacity to overcome them resides within us." The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020), emphasises the uniqueness of each student and the need to nurture their individual strengths and abilities towards making them selfreliant. With a holistic approach to education, the policy also focuses on the socioemotional aspects along with academics. The policy further outlines the aim of education as not only 'cognitive development, but also building character and creating holistic and well-rounded individuals equipped with the key 21st-century skills'. It lays emphasis on building the skills of the students in the areas of social, ethical, and emotional capacities and dispositions including personal competencies. This will prepare students to deal with all life situations. In attempts towards supporting students to become self-directed and resilient in their approach, under the 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' the Ministry of Education launched 'Manodarpan' on 21st July 2020 (https://manodarpan.education.gov.in). The prime objective of the initiative is to provide psychosocial support to students,



National Toll-free Helpline (844-844-0632) and 'Sahyog' live sessions telecast on PM e-Vidya channels and 'NCERT Official' YouTube Channel(https://www.youtube.com/@NCERTOFFICIAL/streams). As students progress from the foundational to secondary stages of schooling, they need a secure, warm, caring, and nurturing environment in order to develop and strengthen their competencies and skills. Hence, the role of parents and

health and emotional well-being.

Students' holistic development and

well-being are addressed through

teachers is crucial in making stu-

dents 'AatmaNirbhar' so that they

can deal with various challenges in

However, external support, although crucial, is not sufficient to overcome difficult life situations. It is also WHILE SCHOOL important to empower students so PLAYS AN that they are able to take charge of their own learning, set goals, make IMPORTANT ROLE, decisions and take responsibility for their own educational journey. A SUPPORTIVE Resourcefulness is crucial for stu-AND NURTURING dents to utilise a variety of educational materials and platforms for independent learning. Self-reliance ENVIRONMENT IS encourages students to be innovative in their approach to learning. ALSO CRUCIAL It promotes critical thinking, problem-solving, and the ability to adapt FOR BUILDING

to new challenges. self-discipline, as it supports stupline helps in gaining confidence in one's abilities and is a source of reinforcement to achieve the goals.

Apart self-discipline, what else do **children need to practise?:** It is the understanding of one's own strengths, areas of development, emotions, and thoughts. Taking care of oneself, enhancing skills, adopting a growth mindset, and maintaining social relationships and family interactions are some of the ways of building resilience. All children need to understand that resilience helps in adapting to challenging situations in life by showing behavioural and emotional flexibility. Especially in the context of examinations where students come across many challenges, resilience acts as a critical attribute that impacts their ability to overcome academic struggles and setbacks. It helps them maintain a positive

Schools are spaces where students spend the majority of their formative years and provide opportunities to develop a wide range of skills. In addition to academics, schooling also involves appropriate nurturing of socio-affective development, i.e. self-reliance, self-discipline, taking initiative, independence of thought, understanding relationships with people and the environment, responsible action, etc. To foster academic learning and socio-emotional development, schools need to understand their students and ensure that all of them are treated fairly, valued, and exposed to a wide range of personal and social learning experiences. Teachers can also help in building peer support amongst students by facilitating open communication and cultivating empathy. Positive relationships with peers contribute to a student's sense of belonging and emotional well-being. While school plays an important role, a supportive and nurturing family environment is also crucial for building self-reliance and resilience among students. Examinations are often seen as a

major cause of concern among students at all stages of education across the country, sometimes evoking extreme anxiety and stress

related to the fear of evaluation and results. Various measures have been taken by the government towards tackling this pertinent concern. In 'Pariksha Pe Charcha', the Hon'ble Prime Minister has often discussed creating a stress-free environment for youngsters facing the exam years. The much-acclaimed book Exam Warriors (2018) tackles examinations in terms of student mental health in our country's context. In continuing the efforts towards reducing the fear of evaluation among students, the NEP, 2020 has introduced a holistic perspective in assessment with the Holistic Progress Card, a 360degree, multidimensional report that reflects in great detail the progress as well as the uniqueness of each learner in the cognitive, affective, and psychomotor domains, including aspects of self-

What is the reason behind this stress?: While it is difficult to identify any one reason behind the stress experienced by students, it is important to recognise that examinations bring with them a sense of being evaluated. However, one must try to not take them as the criteria that define our capabilities. Evaluations and assessments are integral components of life that provide valuable opportunities for growth, self-reflection, and improvements in various dimensions of life.

We often focus on external criteria of assessment and evaluation, using them as our benchmark for progress. Self-reflection, often overlooked in this context, helps us identify our personal progress and hindrances more effectively. Going beyond the traditional academic evaluations, through thoughtful introspection, one can discover valuable insights about self. The more one knows about oneself, the lesser dependence one has on the external criteria of evaluation. By recognising the reciprocal relationship between selfreflection and personal growth, we not only enhance our cognitive capacities but also cultivate emotional intelligence.

(The writer is Director NCERT; views are personal)

SELF-RELIANCE AND RESILIENCE

Our teachers need to create opportunities for students to practise dents in making conscious choices that are aligned with their set goals. Students also need to realise that self-discipline encompasses perseverance, persistence, focus, a sense of responsibility, and the ability to manage time optimally. It helps in achieving goals despite challenges or distractions. But how does one build self-discipline? Although it seems like a daunting task, small steps in the right direction such as setting clear goals, identifying and prioritising tasks, distancing one from distractions, following a routine of proper sleep, nutrition and exercise and maintaining an organised learning space, can lead us to our final goal. Practicing self-disci-

Effective airshed management can curb pollution

For reaping benefits from airshed management, the Government must fast-track the compilation of emission source data at all levels supported by adequate funding

ntensive multi-pronged strategies to fight pollution have come to a nought as is evident by worsening environmental conditions and climate change. Currently, 60 per cent of Indian cities have air that is over seven times more polluted than the permissible limits and is routinely ranked among the world's worst when it comes to air pollution. According to the 2023 World Air Quality Report by IQAir, 39 out of 50 of the world's most polluted cities are present in India, with high 2.5 particulate matter (PM) levels. Worse still, According to the Air Quality Life Index Indians, on average, lose 5.3 years of their life, because of air pollution. Given these conditions, a all. A report by the University broad initiative that can of Surrey in association with



KOTA SRIRAJ

geographical areas is the urgent need of the hour. Airshed management is one such concept that has the potential to resolve the pollution crisis on a large scale by addressing the issue on a regional rather than local basis. Airshed is defined as a common geographic area where pollutants get trapped, creating similar air quality for

Committee (DPCC), CSIR-NEERI underlined the importance of Airshed management in tackling pollution. Air pollution by nature is

never local but transcends borders and regions. The annual problem of air pollution faced by Delhi NCR on account of crop burning by neighbouring states of Punjab & Haryana is an apt example. The University of Surrey report pointed out that specialappointed Airshed councils can help local, regional and central agencies coordinate efforts in fighting air pollution. In order to demarcate Airsheds, India must assimilate emission quantification with the help of the network of 438 continuous air quality monitoring systems aided by the 883 address air pollution in large the Delhi Pollution Control manual stations set up by the

Central Pollution Control Board across various cities. This will help establish an accurate multi-pollutant inventory and enable the division of cities into Airsheds of various sizes. This must be followed by analysing meteorological data to evaluate variations and similarities at the local and regional levels and finally air quality modelling must be done to understand the pollution dispersion. Once delineated in this manner, based on Airshed size, the city administrators can manage the Airshed locally and if the size is bigger interstate collaboration can be resorted to manage the Airshed effectively. Airshed management has paid rich dividends across the world. For instance, Airshed management practices in



AMONG

STUDENTS

Mexico and Los Angeles combine scientific evidence with innovative governance in addition to effective coordination between various agencies to reduce vehicular and other emissions. The Airshed management in California is yet another example wherein the partnership between California Air Resources Board and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) helps monitor and reduce air pollution across the districts in the

India can emulate these examples and manage Airshed effectively in order to control pollution levels in areas where the AQI is critical such as the non-attainment cities (NACs). Cities are declared NAC if over a 5-year period, they consistently do not meet the national ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for PM 10 (Particulate matter that is10 microns or less in diameter) or N02 (Nitrogen Dioxide). India currently has 131 NACs.To tackle the air pollution in NAC, the government launched the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in 2019 for nonattainment cities. The NCAP aimed to reduce

PM levels by 20-30 per cent by 2024, compared to 2017 levels, but so far progress under the

programme has been underwhelming – only 39 out of the 131 cities have done apportionment studies to track down sources of pollution and less than 50 per cent of the total funds allocated under the NCAP (Rs 652.61 crores) have been utilised. With the pollution source data collection on a slow track, the design of the airshed too is lagging behind. India must bolster collective motivation and incentives to promote airshed air quality management. Currently, states are designing their own action plans for air pollution management that are essentially citylevel based and not at rural, district and regional levels. India is mostly collecting urban emissions data which is inadequate if effective Airshed management is to be imple-

mented because it requires regional data. The bigger challenge however is ensuring collaboration and coordination between state governments when an Airshed constitutes multiple states. To ensure that India benefits from Airshed management, the government must fast-track the compilation of emission source data at all levels. Besides this, India must also establish effective Airshed Committees that can help in interstate and interdepartmental coordination. These committees would be the first port of call to resolve any issue of jurisdiction, regulatory overlap or any other form of dispute relating to planning or regulation relating to air quality in the region.

(The author is a policy analyst. The views are personal)

BLS E-Services IPO opens Jan 30; price set at Rs 129-135/share

135 per share for its initial public offering (IPO), that will open for bidding on January 30. The issue will open for public subscription on January 30, and close on February 1, 2024, a company release said. The firm is offering up to 2.3 crore equity shares, excluding pre-IPO placement in the offering. Anchor investor bidding will be on January

29, it added. Investors can bid for a minimum of 108 equity shares and in multiples of 108 thereafter, the company said. "The company proposes to utilise net proceeds from fresh issue of equity shares to strengthen its technology infrastructure to develop new capabilities and consolidate its existing platforms; funding initiatives for organic growth by setting up of BLS Stores; achieving inorganic growth through acquisitions; and general corporate purposes," it said.



Mumbai's energy, pace of growth inspiring: UNGA chief Inited Nations General Assembly (UNGA) president Dennis Francis on Friday said he

was inspired by the liveliness, energy and pace of development in Mumbai and shared that he has watched Hindi movies. The visiting dignitary made the comments during his meeting with Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, a release from the CM Office said. UNGA is the main policy-making organ of the United Nations.

Francis lauded the pace of infrastructure and housing development in Mumbai. Mumbai played an important part in India's industrialisation, he said. He recalled his country Trinidad and Tobago's close ties with India. He said the speaker's chair in the Trinidad assembly has been gifted by India, according to the release. The UNGA chief said he was a geography student and India was part of his studies. He said he has watched Hindi movies



Foxconn Chairman Young Liu conferred with Padma Bhushan

Liu was conferred with the Padma Bhushan, the third highest civilian award, on the eve of 75th Republic Day. As per an official announcement made on Thursday, Liu is the only foreigner among the list of 17 Padma Bhushan recipients

Under his leadership, Foxconn started making iPhones in India in 2019 after he took over the reins as CEO and chairman from Terry Gou in June 2019 Apple started making iPhones at the Wistron plant in Bengaluru which has now been acquired by Tata Group. Foxconn employs over 40,000 people and has plans to double its workforce this year. The group has a turnover of over USD 10 billion in India and it has invested over USD 8 billion in the country till date. Under Liu's leadership Foxconn has joined India.



Oxford nixes deal with TCS

Students faced technical glitch in admission test

PNS NEW DELHI

The Oxford University has terminated its deal with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) after students experienced technical glitches while taking online admission test for the institution.

"Following the technical problems experienced by some candidates during the delivery of this year's online admissions tests by a new provider, TCS will not be involved in the delivery of Oxford admissions tests going forward," a spokesperson for the university said.

Thousands of students from across the world appear for test to get admitted to Oxford every year. The university offers undergraduate and postgraduate programmes through 30 colleges across the UK.



Thousands of students from across the world appear for test to get admitted to Oxford every year. The university offers undergraduate and postgraduate programmes through 30 colleges across the UK

Prominent Indians who studied at Oxford include former prime ministers Indira Gandhi and Manmohan Singh. In April 2023, the UK-based institution selected TCS iON,

the learning and assessmentsfocused unit of TCS, for conducting the admission tests, Cambridge replacing Admissions Assessment Testing.

The university attributed complaints by candidates about technical issues faced while taking online tests for calling off the handover.

"This decision has been made following careful consideration of the issues, as well as feedback from candidates, teachers, and test centers. Our priority is to ensure a high-quality experience for all candidates and those involved in supporting them, and we are grateful to the stu-dents and their teachers for their patience during this process. Details of the new arrangements will be communicated in the Spring, at the start of the next admissions round,"

Akasa Air, CFM International sign pact

PNS MUMBAI

Domestic carrier Akasa Air and engine maker CFM International on Friday announced an agreement, under which Akasa Air will purchase over 300 CFM LEAP-1B engines for its 150 Boeing 737 MAX airplanes.

The agreement also includes spare engines and a services contract, Akasa Air said in a statement.

The airline, however, did not disclose the deal size. On January 18, Akasa Air had announced an order for

150 Boeing 737 Max planes. The Mumbai-based air operator launched its operations in August 2022 and had previously ordered a total of 76 LEAP-1B-powered 737-8

Utah partners with tour operators to increase footfalls from India

In a bid to increase footfalls from India, Utah, a landlocked state in the west of the United States, is collaborating with luxury and niche tour operators to showcase its spectacular landscapes.

Utah is also looking for flexible independent travellers as well as luxury group tours in order to increase the number of footfalls from India.

"We hosted 8,700 visitors from India in 2022, which is 5 per cent higher than 2019. We are making efforts and promoting Utah to attract the well travelled people who are looking for off-beat attractions and activities and target to welcome 11,840 visitors from India in 2027," Utah Office of Tourism Global Markets Director Rachel Bremer told PTI.

Bremer further said, "to reach out to our target audi-



ence from India, we are collaborating with luxury and niche tour operators. We are also working with other states in the US to include a few attractions from Utah in their group tour itinerary.

Utah, she said, has been home to many large-scale movie productions in Hollywood and will be happy to collaborate with Bollywood to showcase its spectacular landscapes to Indians.

Movies including The Searchers, 2001: A Space Odyssey, Planet of the Apes, Easy Rider, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, Indiana Jones, High School Musical are among many movies and series that were filmed in Utah.

"We will be happy to assist and subsidise production houses to be part of a movie or series to showcase the amazing scenic beauty of Utah.

75,000 patents granted in last 10 months: Goyal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Patent Office has granted a "record" 75,000 patents in the last 10 months and it reflects India's ability to innovate, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goval said on Friday.

Interacting with innovators and entrepreneurs on the eve of the 75th Republic Day here, the minister also said that 40,000 compliances have either been eliminated or

on entrepreneurs. 'The Indian Patent Office has granted a record 75,000 patents in the last 10 months," he said, adding the government is making it easier to do business and make it less burdensome to meet the requirements of the law and comply with rules and procedures.

There has been a significant push to reduce the burden of criminalisation of many laws regarding business in India and the Jan Vishwas law was the first step in that direction and gave the comfort to people and businessmen that the government trusts them,

French aerospace giant Thales plans to set up avionics MRO in Delhi

As New Delhi and Paris looked to expand strategic partnership, French defence major Thales on Friday said it is bringing its "trusted" high-tech capabilities to India and plans to set up an avionics MRO in Delhi to provide world class services to its airline customers.

Vice President and Country Director of Thales India Ashish Saraf said the company is fully support the modernisation and indigenisation efforts that are underway in the Indian aerospace and defence sector.

In their talks in Jaipur on Thursday night, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron resolved to further shore up bilateral strategic cooperation, especially in areas of defence, security, trade and clean energy.

Macron was the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations at the Kartavya Path on

Saraf described the decision to set up the avionics



and operations) in Delhi as a "key initiative" and asserted that Thales would fully support India's domestic defence man-

ufacturing. 'We are actively bringing our trusted high-tech capabilities coupled with decades-long experience and working closewith the local industry to support Make-in-India for India and for the world," he told PTI.

Asked whether India's planned procurement of 26 Rafale-M fighter jets (marine version) and three Scorpene submarines from France would open new pathways for defence MRO (maintenance, repair, ties, Saraf did not give a direct

reply but said Thales is proud to be a member of the Rafale

"We are proud to be a member of the Rafale team of which Dassault Aviation is the lead. Thales provides a number of state-of-the-art equipment and systems aboard the Rafale including the radar, the electronic warfare system, optronics, the communication navigation and identification system (CNI), the majority of the cockpit display systems, among others," he said.

India has already procured 36 Rafale jets from France for the Indian Air Force (IAF).

'We see huge potential to tap and to further build incountry capabilities across all our key markets including defence, aerospace and digital identity and security in India," Saraf said.

'We have shifted gears and have been taking numerous initiatives to expand our local footprint. One such initiative is our second state-of-the-art facility in Bengaluru that we recently inaugurated," he said.

major has been engaged with the Indian military for over the past seven decades. 'We are also further build-

ing on our defence foothold by developing local services capacity to better support our Indian defence customers to achieve their operational readiness," Saraf said.

'Apart from presenting immense business potential, India is also an excellent hub for research and development, backed by abundance of its engineering talent," he added. The Thales executive said

the company is ramping up its engineering centres and teams in Bengaluru and Noida.



Scindia meets Airbus Global CEO

PNS NEW DELHI

Civil aviation minister met Airbus Global CEO Guillaume Faury and discussed collaboration opportunities for manufacturing and designing of aircraft.

India is one of the key markets for Airbus, which received orders for more than 700 planes from IndiGo and Air Îndia last year.

Also, IndiGo, the country's largest airline, has only Airbus aircraft in its fleet.

In a post on X, Scindia said he met "Guillaume Faury, Global CEO, Airbus today and discussed further opportunities of collaboration for aircraft manufacturing and

Disney Star mulls legal action against ZEEL for backing out from deal

PNS NEW DELHI

Disney Star is mulling legal actions against Zee Entertainment for backing out from a USD 1.4 billion sublicensing agreement for TV broadcast of international cricket matches in India, according to industry sources.

This could brew another egal trouble Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEEL), which is already facing an arbitration plea by Sony Group at the Singapore International Arbitration Centre, claiming USD 90 million for breach of conditions of

their merger agreement. Disney Star, an Indian subsidiary of media conglomerate The Walt Disney Company, is working on its strategy over the development, said indus-

try sources. If the rescinded agreement contained an arbitration clause, then Disney Star would have to resort to arbitration proceedings for the resolution

of the dispute and if the agree-



Disney Star, an **Indian subsidiary** of media conglomerate The Walt Disney Company

ment is short of the arbitration clause, then Disney could initiate legal proceedings to sue Zee for damages.

ZEEL, which has already missed the first instalment of around USD 200 million, has informed Disney Star that it does not intend to move ahead

INVESTING IN EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS

What do I need to know; what are the risks?

(The Conversation) Exchangetraded funds (ETFs) are tradeable units that have different types of investments all bundled by a professional fund manager into a single invest-ment. In the "bundle" you might have shares, bonds, property investment and other types of investments.

That means people who hold ETFs are investing in a diverse collection of assets across various sectors, markets, companies and regions. With a single ETF you can own a piece of multiple companies or bonds.

They are issued by financial services companies, such as Blackrock, Vanguard, and State Street, and managed by professional fund managers. You can buy and sell units in an ETF fund through a stockbroker; many people use an online broker such as CommSec, CMC Markets, eToro or others.

ETFs can be traded on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX), or another exchange. The market price of an ETF, which is disclosed daily, will typically follow other benchmarks in the market such as the

By Angelique Nadia Sweetman McInnesAcademic in Financ



ASX200 or the S&P500.

ETFs have grown very popular over the last two decades, especially among younger investors. But what are the potential benefits and risks of

What are the potential benefits?

In traditional shares investing, you might research one company and if you believe it will do better, you buy shares in it in the hope its share price

With ETFs, you buy a "bundle" (a number of units) of shares and other securities, that is put together and manmanager. If the market goes up, the value of the ETF should

This means investing in ETFs can allow you to spread your risk across a lot of different regions and different markets (such as shares, bonds, property, companies and so

You aren't putting all your eggs in one basket. And you can let a professional fund manager worry about selecting the various investments and managing them. You don't need to be an expert on one particular company or indus-

ETFs also offer flexibility to respond to market trends. They are usually easier to sell quickly than many other types of investments, such as property. This offers freedom to adjust your investment portfolio often and as you like.

Many ETFs that distribute dividends allow the investor to reinvest these dividends automatically to benefit from compound growth over time. ETFs can also be cost-effective, because the administra-

tion is handled by the exchange (such as the ASX). Like any investment, ETFs carry risk. A lot depends on the type of ETF and underlying

assets in the "bundle". If you aren't careful, you can end up buying a higher-risk ETF without realising it. So it pays to know what types of investments and in what proportions are in your "bundle" (which is known as your asset allocation).

Asset allocation should be aligned with your risk tolerance. Investors have different

tolerances for risk depending on their age, financial goals, investment time horizon, preferences and personal comfort with market volatility. Knowing your risk tolerance helps you manage your emotional reactions during market down-A retiree with a likely low

tolerance to taking risks might choose an asset allocation that exposes them to low-risk assets. Someone saving for retirement might have more riskier share investments as they aim to grow their nest egg.

Just like shares, ETFs are subject to market fluctuations. If the market experiences a downturn, then the value of the ETF may decline too (depending on what's in your ETF). Much of the risk depends on what type of assets the ETFs hold. And in times of market stress, ETFs may not be as easy as they normally are to convert into cash.

Some financial products bought and sold every day on the market include debts or derivatives (futures and options investments). If your ETFs contain in the "bundle" some debts or derivatives.

'Demand for indl, warehousing spaces in Delhi-NCR falls 42 %'

PNS NEW DELHI

Delhi-NCR witnessed a sharp 42 per decline in demand for warehouse and industrial spaces last year on high base effect and lower new supply, according to Colliers.

A industrial & warehousing spaces fell to 5.1 million square feet in 2023 from 8.8 million square feet in the previous year. As per the Colliers India data, the gross leasing across five major cities rose 2 per cent

The gross leasing of Grade-

to 25 million square feet last year from 24.5 million square feet in the 2022 calendar year. The share of Delhi-NCR in the total demand across five cities came down to 20 per cent from 36 per cent in the 2022

calendar year. Giving more details about the Delhi-NCR market, Colliers India said the third party logistics (3PL) firms contributed 26 per cent to the total gross leasing of spaces in 2023, followed by FMCG and electronic companies which accounted for 17 per cent each to the total demand.

The new supply fell 12 per



cent to 6.9 million square feet in 2023 from 7.8 million square feet in the previous year.

The total stock of industrial & warehousing space in Delhi-NCR touched 51.5 million square feet at the end of the 2023 calendar year.

The average monthly rent stood at Rs 17-35 per square feet, a marginal increase from 2022.

"Farukhnagar and Faridabad micro markets of the region saw the bulk of industrial and warehousing demand during 2023, accounting for about 75 per cent share in demand,"

Colliers India said.
During 2023, 3PL players were the key demand drivers for the region having leased

around 1.3 million sq ft of area. Key logistics firms including DHL and Delhivery actively leased warehouse spaces during the last year.

On the demand outlook for this year, Vijay Ganesh, Managing Director, Industrial & Logistics Services, Colliers India, said, "With increasing footfalls in malls and physical stores, retail consumption is likely to increase, which in turn would spur higher demand for

warehousing spaces."
"Overall, backed by rising manufacturing output, capital investments, demographic consumption patterns and supportive government poli-

the pioneer erapad

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Saturday January 27, 2024

'HYD HAS GIVEN ME A NEW LIFE,

supporting me in my entrepreneurial journey

Dr. Krishna Prasad Rao Vunnam, who today has become a wellcelebrated face in the medical fraternity, gets candid with *The* **Pioneer**, sharing his association with Hyderabad and his journey here so far, for our weekly segment of Hyderabond.

TEJAL SINHA

nkura Hospitals is one of the leading healthcare institutions committed to providing exceptional medical care and improving the well-being of women and children. The man behind the institution, Dr. Krishna Prasad Rao Vunnam, is a seasoned, self-driven professional with the ability to balance strategic decisions with financial discipline and a hands-on approach to leadership. He is an engaging communicator and relationship builder with expertise in organisational planning and managing multimillion-dollar capital projects. For our special weekly column of the Hyderabond, the founder and managing director recalls, "I had come back to India in 2011, and since then I've been here in Hyderabad itself. Previously, I was in Australia. For a year, I worked as a consultant at Lotus Children's Hospital, and then we came up with Ankura Hospitals in 2012."

Ankura Hospitals in 2012."

Previously, he came as a visitor to the city; now he calls himself a proper Hyderabadi. Popularly known as KP, and as a medical practitioner, he specialises in premature delivery baby management, advanced ventilation in newborns, and parental nutrition. Basically, during his days as a consul-



in KPHB Colony, which was a big success. And so further, they had also opened a branch in Begumpet. But unfortunately, it didn't work there due to multiple issues, including administrative issues, major doctors unable to give time to the branch, and also the location. However, this let his morale down, and takalso the location. However, this let his morale down, and taking it up as a learning experience, he went on to open much more branches in A.S. Rao Nagar and Uppal, to name a few. And since then, there has been no looking back. Today, they have over 14 centres across Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Maharashtra, and they are now opening one in Bhubaneshwar. There are 10 in Hyderabad itself. Well, "It's been an amazing There are 10 in Hyderabad itself. Well, "It's been an amazing journey since the time I shifted to Hyderabad. Hyderabad, I would say, is the best place to live in India at this point in time. Even for the medical fraternity and entrepreneurs, this is the city that helps you explore what you believe in. You get the right kind of support from the government and also from the public. It's a more pro-active city, I would say."

Their mission since its inception has been to serve women and children and strive to be an iconic leader in space, globally. We deliver high-quality healthcare with a patient-centred approach. We understand that each individual is unique, and we strive to personalise our care to meet the specific needs and

approach. We understand that each individual is unique, and we strive to personalise our care to meet the specific needs and preferences of every patient. With a multi-disciplinary team of skilled healthcare professionals, state-of-the-art facilities, and advanced medical technologies, we are committed to delivering outstanding outcomes and improving the well-being of our community. Ankura Hospitals, the entrepreneur reveals, began initially account a children leader to be sented and then letter becomes

ing outstanding outcomes and improving the well-being of our community. Ankura Hospitals, the entrepreneur reveals, began initially as just a children's hospital. "In Ankura, as compared to the rest, we cater to people of all the classes, just not the upper ones. We keep the cost more affordable for the rest of the population. And also the quality of care. We try to give the best and always try to maintain that."

Recently, they launched 9M by Ankura Hospitals, premium birthing centres of Ankura, one in Hyderabad and one in Pune. They are also coming up with one in Bhubaneshwar. They had also launched their 9M Fertility Center. "Earlier, we were not in the fertility business. However, now that we were catering to women as well, we wanted to provide 360-degree care for them."

Hyderabad, according to him, has the best health infrastructure in the country and can also be compared to any of the Western world in terms of the availability of diagnostics or even super-specialty services. "Hyderabad is considered one of the best global healthcare hubs. Here, the medical facilities are very affordable. Hyderabad, in that way, is very uniquely positioned as compared to the rest of the world. The Government of Telangana and the Government of India have come up with multiple schemes, particularly in the women and child segments, which are certainly making a lot of difference to the healthcare of women and children, particularly in reducing female mortality and infant mortality. These schemes have also been helping expected and would-be mothers in terms of providing the right kind of nutrition, medication, and financial support. The risk has come down to expectant mothers."

Personally, we are sure many would relate to our interviewee because one thing that he really likes about Hyderabad is Biryani. Apart from it, "people and the Hyderabad is Biryani. Apart from it, "people and the Hyderabad is culture make it worth living here. It has become more cosmopolitan," he says, but again, the traffic and the pollution levels, he

he says, but again, the traffic and the pollution levels, he feels, are some-

thing that needs to be really worked "Hyderabad has given me a lot. It's

he place where I began my entrepre neurial journey, so certainly, it is very close to me. My kids are growing up here, and I'm very happy with Hyderabad. Hyderabad has given me a new life, supporting me, and so I'll always have respect and be thankful for the city," signs off the entrepreneur and mental health professional.

Ayurvedic remedies for common baby ailments

class society, which was kind of lacking.

Back then, some places catered mostly to

the upper class."
They began their first branch

Becoming a parent completely transforms your entire existence and offers great enthusiasm. But at the same time, it also introduces new challenges, particularly in terms of taking care of your child's delicate health. Today's parents are well aware of the side effects associated with conventional medicines so they are looking for a safe and natural way to treat common baby ailments like colic pain, teething, and diaper rash. Ayurvedic remedies appear to be the safest and side-effectfree solution as its gentle and natural approach complements parent's devotion to their child's wellbeing by providing a comforting choice in the parenting journey.

COLIC PAIN

Colic pain is a condition that includes constant crying and abdominal discomfort in infants in the first few months of their life. The possible causes include digestive difficulties, which are often related to what a breastfeeding mother consumes and it usually happens in the evening. Natural remedies such as ajwain, peppermint, and hing can help to get rid of colic pain.

AJWAIN

Ajwain is known for its digestive properties, which not only relieve gas and bloating but also have anti-inflammatory and antibacterial qualities, which makes it a comprehensive herb for supporting overall digestive health. Prepare a basic extract by boiling a teaspoon of ajwain in water and allowing it to cool. Use a few drops of this effective water to relieve your baby's colic pain.

Hing, also known as asafoetida, is well-known for its antiflatulent properties. Mix a pinch of hing with warm water and apply it around the baby's navel in a clockwise direction. This traditional remedy can provide relief from colic symptoms.

PEPPERMINT

Peppermint is another valuable ingredient that is renowned for its soothing properties that provide a calming effect on the digestive system. Crush a few fresh peppermint leaves and mix their extract with some oil.



Gently massage your baby's abdomen with this mixture in circular motions to ease colic discomfort.

The teething journey is a unique experience for every child, as some of them are born with their first teeth, while other babies experience it later on. It usually begins when the child is around 6 to 8 months old and is a distinctive challenge for both parents and kids, marking an important phase in a child's growth. Ayurvedic herbs like babool and clove can reduce the pain associated with teething.

Babool, also known as acacia, has natural analgesic qualities that help reduce teething pain. Gently massage the baby's gums with a small amount of babool powder mixed with water. This can provide relief and reduce inflammation.

Clove is a traditional remedy for dental issues and can

be used to relieve teething discomfort. Make a clove-infused oil by boiling a few cloves in coconut oil and allowing it to cool. Apply a small amount of this oil to the baby's gums for a sooth-

DIAPER RASH

Diaper rash is a common problem in parenting newborns, it appears as inflamed skin patches on the buttocks, thighs, and genital area. It is commonly caused by not changing the diapers frequently, staying in long-term contact with vector distributions or due to the sensitive to the sensitive to the sensitive to the sensitive distributions or due to the sensitive to the sensitive distributions or due to the sensitive distributions of the due to the sensitive due to with wet or dirty diapers, or due to the sensitivity of the skin. Ayurveda offers natural ingredients like aloe vera and neem for treating diaper rashes in newborns.

Aloe Vera is well known for its cooling and anti-inflammatory properties from ancient times and can be used directly to treat diaper rash. You may extract the gel from a fresh aloe vera leaf and gently apply it to the affected area or can also opt for a lotion that is enriched with aloe vera. This effective gel not only provides relief but also helps in healing the rashes.

Neem is considered as a highly beneficial remedy with its powerful antibacterial and antifungal properties that offer a natural solution for numerous skin issues. Prepare a neem oil solution by mixing a few drops of neem oil with coconut oil. Apply this mixture to the affected area to help with healing and protect against further irrita-

Incorporating these ayurvedic remedies into vour baby's routine offers a comprehensive and gentle treatment for reducing your child's discomfort. From colic pain to diaper rash and teething discomfort, nature's therapeutic ingredients provide a safe and effective solution to nurture your baby's well-being during these forma-

(The author, Riddhi Sharma, is the Founder and CEO of BabyOrgano.)



Being safe & secure to protect your own data & privacy

PNS| HYDERABAD

ata privacy, also known as information privacy, is a type of data protection that deals with the proper handling of sensitive data, particularly personal data, but also other confidential data, such as certain financial data and intellectual property data, in order to meet regulatory requirements while also protecting the data's confidentiality and immutability.

Data protection is divided into

three major categories: traditional data protection (such as backup and restoration copies), data security, and data privacy, as illustrated in the figure below. Ensuring the privacy of sensitive and personal data is a result of best practices in data protection and security, with the overarching goal of guaranteeing the continuous availability and immutability of vital business data.

Security becomes a crucial factor in not only protecting data from exter-nal and internal dangers, but also establishing what digitally stored data can and cannot be shared with whom. In practice, data privacy refers to components of the control process that involve sharing data with third parties, how and where that data is held, and the specific regulations that apply to those activities.

Almost every country in the world has passed legislation governing data privacy in response to the needs of a specific business or segment of the population.

Every year, Data Privacy Day is an annual international event held on January 28, which aims to raise awareness and encourage privacy and data protection best practices. And on the occasion of the same, Dr. Aakansha Natani, Assistant Professor, Human Sciences Research Centre, IIIT Hyderabad shares exclusively with *The Pioneer*, "The number of daily internet users in constantly rising all over the world. The average amount of time spent on the Internet is also rising significantly. With every single click and digital activity, users are creating valuable data which is becoming an asset in digital economy. The digital footprints of users are now being used to influence their needs, choices and preferences. The targeted advertising based on users' profiling has become a successful marketing tool but it has emerged as a serious challenge in democratic political systems due to formation of echo-chambers in social media platforms. Digital surveillance by public sector authorities in this regard has also emerged as a crucial concern all across the world."

Furthermore, she explains that due to the rapid advancement in artificial intelligence and machine learning in the last few years, data processed by algorithms is becoming a tool of power in global politics. The big-tech platforms now have the capacity to influence dominant values of art, literature, culture, morality and ethics in society. Concerns are also emerging on their capacity to control the public discourse by restricting the access to specific kind of information or providing counter information in excess. At the same time, dilemmas are emerging over digital sovereignty and data ownership specially in the global south.

"Personal data protection concerns cannot be ignored anymore as the lack of legal mechanisms in this regard might cause threat to human and fundamental rights of citizens. Several incidents have occurred all across the world where data breach of sensitive data such as health and banking have caused substantial harm to users specially in the societies with lower digital literacy. Since India is building wide-scale Aadhar based digital public infrastructure, we must

focus on building high quality mechanisms to secure its data. The focus should also be on to develop appropriate digital awareness programmes for people," highlights the assistant

IMPORTANCE OF DATA PRIVACY

Protection of your personal information: Data privacy protects individuals' personal information from unauthorised access, maintaining the protection of sensitive data such as social security numbers, financial records, and health information. Individuals who keep control over their personal data can reduce their risk of identity theft, fraud, and other negative behaviours.

Trust and Confidence: Data privacy is critical in building trust between individuals and organisations. When businesses prioritise data privacy and demonstrate their dedication to preserving personal information, they establish a reputation for dependability and honesty. This, in turn, boosts customer confidence, resulting in stronger relationships and longer-term loyalty.

Legal and Regulatory Compliance: Under various data protection laws and regulations, such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the California Consumer Privacy

- Generate strong passwords.
- Avoid oversharing on social media.
- Use free WiFi with caution.
- Watch out for links and attachments.
- Check if the website is secure.
- Consider additional protection.



Act (CCPA), organisations must establish safeguards to protect individuals' data privacy rights. Compliance with these regulations protects organisations from legal consequences, large penalties, and reputational harm.

Ethical Data Practices: Maintaining data privacy is an ethical obligation. Organisations that handle data must obtain proper consent for data collection, usage, and dissemination. Businesses that adhere to ethical data practices demonstrate their commitment to protecting individuals' rights and fostering openness in their oper-

Data-driven Innovation: Data privacy is more than just security; it also drives innovation. When people believe that their data will be treated appropriately, they are more likely to give information. This data, in turn, may be utilised to gain important insights, create personalised experiences, and promote research and development in a variety of businesses.

Preserving Individual Autonomy: Data privacy allows people to keep control of their personal information. It lets them control how their data is collected, utilised, and shared. Data privacy protects individuals' autonomy and ensures that personal information is not exploited or misused without their consent.

what's brewing?

ditizens Specialty Hospital in Hyderabad has successfully performed a transformative Reverse shoulder arthroplasty procedure on a 62-year-old female patient suffering from persistent pain and swelling in the left shoulder. Dr Vasudeva Juvvadi, Orthopedic Surgeon, diagnosed the patient with left shoulder osteoarthritis, a condition becoming increasingly prevalent in India.Dr Vasudeva Juvvadi, commenting on the diagnosis, stated "Osteoarthritis is a debilitating condition that can severely affect mobility and daily activities. In this case, the patient's persistent pain was indicative of shoulder joint degeneration, necessitating a comprehensive approach to alleviate her suffering. We opted for Reverse Shoulder arthroplasty for its specific design and functionality, tailored to address the challenges posed by

performs left reverse shoulder arthroplasty

CoinDCX earmarks \$1M fund to aid investors in asset transfers

announced that it is earmarking \$1 million Treasury Fund to facilitate asset transfers for investors from non-FIU compliant offshore exchanges. The \$1 million Treasury Fund will be utilized to offer an exclusive 1% bonus on all crypto deposits made between January 9 and 18, 2024. CoinDCX aims to stand in solidarity with the community at a time when users wish to safely migrate their crypto from non-compliant offshore exchanges to FIU registered entities. The platform urges all investors to prioritize compliance-first platforms, ensuring a safer and more sustainable crypto journey. In response to recent developments, CoinDCX reaffirms its commitment to delivering a secure and compliant investment environment. With unmatched user safety measures, steadfast adherence to regulations, and a dedicated support system CoinDCX stands out as the preferred choice for investors seeking a secure and forward-looking crypto exchange in India.

CoKarma sets new benchmark in Hvd's co-working arena

oKarma, a leading community-driven co-working space, is revolutionising the landscape of workspaces in Hyderabad with its Innovative approach and strategic expansion initiatives. Offering a holistic environment for businesses to thrive, it aims to bolster entrepreneurship and growth within its vibrant co-working community. With a focus on supporting enterprises, it currently offers private cabins, event spaces, and meeting room solutions in strategically located centres across Hyderabad. These include Hitech City, Madhapur, Kondapur, Begumpet, Kokapet, and Himayatnagar. Over the past 15 months, CoKarma has experienced significant growth, expanding from 500 seats to 2,400 seats across eight centres. The recent signing of their ninth centre in Hyderabad marks another milestone in their remarkable journey.

Vengala Nikhila triumphs as Mrs. **Golden Heart of South India 2024**

engala Nikhila, esteemed title holder of Mrs. India Vivacious, Mrs. Telangana, and Mrs. Hyderabad 2023, has added another prestigious accolade to her list by securing the title of Mrs. Golden Heart of South India 2024. The crown was presented by the esteemed Rubaru Mr. India, Gopinath Ravi. He bestowed the title upon Nikhila as a recognition of her exceptional dedication to philanthropy. GFSI 2024 had hit the ramp for it's grand finale. This pageant is organized by Wyndow Entertainments in association with ACTC. The event had the epitome of grace and charm, the chief guests – the dazzling model and actress Amy Jackson and the radiant actress Shreva Saran with many other celebrities.

Resonance Educational Institutions in Hyderabad. hosted a creative and inspiring Republic Day celebrations, with Girl students forming a long human chain and conducting a parade of students carrying a 75-meterlong India flag aloft, to mark the 75th Republic Day of India, at the Resonance Dundigal Campus, Dundigal. The event was graced by Bharatheeyam Satyavani, Motivational Speaker; Founder, Bharateeyam Ammamma of Andhra Pradesh and Nanamma of Telangana, among the rest.





Mohammed Azharuddin, former Indian cricket Captain along with Telangana working President, Iftekhar Shareef, Ashfaq Sharief and representatives of all political parties of Shamshabad attended the 75th India's Republic day celebrations at Begums India Garden in Shamshabad.



Citizens Specialty Hospital successfully

complex shoulder conditions. The procedure aims to alleviate pain, enhance mobility, and restore functionality to the affected shoulder, particularly in cases where conventional treatments may not offer optimal results."

CoinDCX, India's leading and first FIU registered Indian exchange

Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao inaugurated the handloom exhibition organized in the name of Indian Silk Gallery at Sathya Sai Corporation in Srinagar Colony. Handloom artisans from prominent cities of the country have displayed their products in about 80 stalls. Different rare sarees from Chenderi, Ikkat, Nanayanpet, Benares and Kolkata have been arranged. Ministry of Textiles Enforcement Director Arun Kumar and Dr. Praveen Kumar participated in the program. The exhibition will be available till February 3.

Habibs hair & beauty salon launched its new salon at Road

inaugurated by Tollywood actress Sravanthi Chokarapu in

the presence of Habib Ahmed & Aman Habib, founders of

no 1, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad. The Salon, formally

Habibs, marks its 18th salon in the Telugu states.



ARCHIE









CALVIN AND HOBBES LOOK AT DAD, CALMLY EATING HIS DINNER AS



REALITY CHECK

DON'T FORGET, CALVIN ... YOU'RE

ALLERGIC TO PEANUTS

APOLOGIES TO PEANTTS & CHLVIN AND HORRES!



SPEED BUMP

SHOULDN'T HAVE EATEN

THE WHOLE HAMSTER WHEEL. MY STOMACH'S BEEN CHURNING ALL MOONING



CROSSWORD



GARFIELD

NANCY



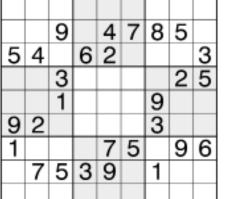








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- The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

DOWN

Actor or singer

of sides

18 A stinging insect

ACROSS

9 Frequently

13 Sneak

16 Baby's toy

1 Expecting a baby

6 Scraps of material

11 A row of metal rings

fastened together

12 Jumble together (3,2)

19 A newspaper employee

7 Weigh yourself with these

- 2 An octagon's number

5 Use your eyes

with this

8 Rub wood smooth

10 An imaginary line

of the Earth

17 A chopping tool

14 Precise

15 Jump

around the middle

GINGER MEGGS

NANCY, I KNOW YOU'RE NOT THRILLED

ABOUT ROBOTICS

CLUB, BUT I'M SURE

YOU CAN MAKE







Rules

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3 As well 4 Instructor

Hyderabad | Saturday January 27, 2024

TANISHA SAXENA

Jung main sirf haar ya Jeet hoti hai, koi man of the match nhi hota, says Group Captain Rakesh Jaisingh (Anil Kapoor) in *Fighter*, an aerial action thriller that strikes a commendable balance between conveying a sense of national pride and avoiding jingoistic tropes. With a nuanced approach, it navigates the intricacies of conflict, steering clear of overwought melodrama. The narrative unfolds at a measured pace, allowing viewers to contemplate the essence of patriotism without ing viewers to contemplate the essence of patriotism without succumbing to sensationalism.

The best combat aviators in the country came together to

form the elite Air Dragons after the Pulwama incident in February 2019. The team consists of Meenal Rathore, also known as Minnie (Deepakone), Shamsher Pathania, also referred to as Patty (Hrithik Roshan), Taj (Karan Singh Grover), and Basheer (Akshay Oberoi). The team is commanded by veteran Rakesh 'Rocky' Jay Singh (Anil Kapoor), who plays a crucial role as their commander.

In a poignant exchange, Rocky admonishes Patty, highlighting the inherent challenge of playing solo. Jo akela khelta h, vo team k khilaf khelta, are his exact words, emphasising that such an approach goes against the essence of teamwork. Both characters carry the weight of troubled pasts, with Patty being an only child. The film adheres to stereotypical portrayals, depicting single children as prone to loneliness, egotism, and impulsiveness. Throughout the nearly three-hour runtime, a tangible tension persists in Rocky's demeanour towards Patty. Rocky, in his frostiness, pins the responsibility for previous mission casualties on Patty's daring lone-wolf approach. Nevertheless, pointing the finger solely at Patty fails to acknowledge the nuanced facets of his humanity and the compelling inner forces that steer him. This understanding gradually unfolds for Rocky as the poignant conclusion of the film draws near.

In a nutshell, *Fighter* revolves around seeking retribution for the Pulwama attack, serving as a tribute to the valour of our fighter pilots. What distinguishes this film from other warthemed productions is its comprehensive packaging. Fighter encompasses a rich mix of elements, including masala, drama, impactful dialogues, subtle romance, dance, visually stunning sequences, high-octane action, and a pervasive sense of patriotism. All these facets seamlessly blend with an enticing musi-

Director: Siddharth Cast: Hrithik Roshan, Deepika Padukone, Anil Kapoor, Akshay Oberoi, and Karan Singh Grover Music: Vishal and Sheykhar **Cinematographer:**Satchith Paulose Editor: Aarif Shiekh

Fighter is a pulse-pounding **SALUTE TO THE SKIES!**

cal backdrop, contributing to the film's distinct appeal.
Hrithik Roshan plays Patty, a daring and self-assured fighter pilot. He fearlessly navigates peril with unwavering confidence. His charm effortlessly persuades a lady at the airport to assist him in securing a seat on a fully booked flight. Postmission triumphs call for his impeccable dance moves, seamlessly blending celebration with accomplishment. Yet, when the stakes escalate, he seamlessly transitions into close-quarters com-

bat with the enemies. Minnie, portrayed by the captivating Deepika Padukone, embodies a resilient woman who has weathered challenging times. Yet, it's the on-screen chemistry between Minnie and Patty that truly captivates. Their exchanged one-liners add an extra layer of charm. For instance, Minnie humorously remarks, 'Das ghante air-borne to kya, kuch log take-off hi nahi kar paate!' Patty, with his enchanting green eyes and fluttering eyelashes, responds

to Minnie's witty lines with equal vigour, asking, *Tumhara Ex Jammu se hai kya?*' To which Minnie playfully retorts, 'Ex to nahi, next zaroor ho sakta hai.' This pair truly did wonders on screen. However, it's worth noting that Padukone's role could have been more substantial. Here, her character arc primarily focuses on introducing a romantic angle to the film.

Noteworthy are the impactful supporting characters that etch a lasting impression on the audience, even when momentarily absent from the scene. Grover's portrayal of Taj is particularly outstanding, with his heartwarming camaraderie with the rest of the team leaving a poignant impact. Similarly, Akshay Oberoi and Sanjeeda Sheikh contribute commendably to the ensemble, further enriching the overall narrative.

The antagonist in Fighter takes the form of Azhar Akhtar, portrayed by debutant Rishab Sawhney. With kohled eyes and sombre cheeks, Sawhney aptly embodies the role of a terror-

tollywood

ist. His authoritative screen presence prevents the character from descending into a mundane caricature, adding depth and intrigue to the portrayal.

Flying high in technical prowess, Fighter earns top marks in various departments. Satchith Paulose's brilliant camera work, especially during jet fights, provides an exhilarating visual experience. The film's biggest strength lies in its well-executed VFX, which serves as a standout feature. The editing, too, is commendable. Though it doesn't need to be watched

Director Siddharth Anand delivers an engaging movie by adhering to his signature style of storytelling with a familiar plot. The aerial combat scenes envisioned by Siddharth showcase excellence, with special recognition for the skillful action choreography. The dogfights among Air Force soldiers, coupled with their intriguing exchanges with the enemy, prove to

be captivating highlights.

Fighter scrupulously upholds authenticity at Air Force stations, and a remarkable aerial sequence in the second half resonates long after the credits roll. While certain sequences evoke memories of the finest moments in Top Gun films, Fighter elevates itself by infusing a breath of fresh air into the narrative.

At the end of *Fighter*, the lead character maneuvers a jeep onto an inclining ramp and makes a deft leap to hang gracefully from a helicopter that is being piloted by Deepika Padukone's character Minni. It's a breathtaking display of real aerodynamics. Although this is an engaging moment, there is a significant flaw in the form of pointless talks that occur in the air. The chats in the cockpit don't appear to fit the realistic tone that is required of the pilots.

The Fighter's soundtrack leaves an indelible mark, with Sher Khul Gaye and Heer Asmaani carrying their own emotional resonance. However, the most impactful song, Mitti, stands out. Whether it's Hrithik unfurling the Tricolour against the backdrop of *Sujlam Suflam* or delivering a fervent monologue, enlightening the antagonist on the significance of "Jai Hind" for every Indian, the film strongly echoes themes of nationalism. Yet, patriotism is just one of the compelling reasons why Fighter is a worthwhile cinematic experience. Lines such as "Duniya mein mil jaenge aashiq kayi, Par watan se haseen sanam ni hota" add an extra layer, evoking a sense that upon leaving the theatre, one is compelled to head to the borders and join the army (albeit metaphorically, embracing a profound sense of nationalism).



Viewers had been anticipating Siddhu Jonnalagadda's return to the big screen in

Tillu Square, the sequel, ever since it was announced. Song titles like Ticket eh Konakunda and Radhikaa from Ram Miriyala's

album for *Tillu Square* are proof of this; they have already gone viral and hit

the charts. Because they were unwilling to sacrifice quality, the creators took their

time creating a deserving sequel that is even better than the first. The film's release date was originally scheduled for February

9, but due to unanticipated circumstances, it was rescheduled to March 29, 2024, in time for the

summer holidays. The makes have conveyed a

great deal of confidence that Tillu Square will amuse everyone in the audience, not simply

DJ Tillu aficionados. They claim to have

taken steps to ensure that the film

would be yet another iconic

work of Tillu franchise

entertainment.

ero Nithiin and filmmaker Venky Kudumula teamed up once more for a larger project that is being produced on a grander scale with the support of eminent production company Mythri Movie Makers. On the day it was unveiled, this insane project in the blockbuster combo attracted notice. The creators created a title reveal teaser in honor of Republic Day.

honor of Republic Day.

According to the trailer, the film is titled *Robinhood*, and it's a fitting moniker given that Nithiin, the main character, views all Indians as his brothers and sisters and believes this gives him the right to rob them of their money.

His demeanor and behavior are equally captivating and entertaining. Enter Nithiin as Santa Claus, carrying a satchel full of gold and cash. The bike's back side says, "I'm aware that I'm rare," while the front says, "I'm an Indian." At last, he conceals the cash in a secret location

conceals the cash in a secret location.

Nithiin had a chic makeover, and he looks really good in a

modern outfit. Director Venky Kudumula used his trade-

mark amusing manner to portray a somber scene. Venky, who tackled two distinct topics in his first two films, is developing a new and exciting project, and the title teaser cut showcases his talent. Undoubtedly, the concept video is a novel idea, and he has portrayed Nithiin in a manner that is unprecedented. This amazing tease of the title announcement leaves a lasting impression. The production design

appeared impressive.

The film, which is being produced by Naveen Yerneni and Y Ravi Shankar, features an amazing cast in key parts and sellent technicians handling various crafts. National Award winner GV Prakash Kumar wrote the intriguing sound-

track for the film's trailer. Day and Rayi Teja's birthday. Raam Kumar is the art The Davzand-composed director, Prawin Pudi is the editor, and Sai song reveals the brutal side of Ravi Teja's persona Sahadev, also known as Eagle. Georgina Matthew wrote the English words and provided the



EAGLE'S ROCKING NUMBER

Eagle, the much awaited unusual action thriller starring Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja and Karthik Ghattamaneni, is almost here. In a few weeks, on February 9th, the movie, which was produced by People Media Factory, the top production company in Tollywood, will have its official premiere Eagle's for The Way, a rock song, was released by the movie's producers as part of their musical promotions for Republic

song. Eagle receives sufficient altitudes in this theme number. Ravi Teja appears in the images as a lethal avatar. When we see this song in theaters with the original graphics, the impact will be greater. In the film, Ravi Teja has a multifaceted part. The two main heroines are Anupama Parameshwaran and Kavya Tha Madhubala and Navdeep make up the other key cast members



Utsavam, which stars Regina Cassandra and Dilip Prakash in the key parts. The film is being produced by Suresh Patil under Hornbill Pictures. The movie's creators released the first look poster for the film The lead character, Dilip Prakash, is seen sitting on the floor with a number of theatrical props surrounding him. He is seen holding a crown in one hand and the Nataraja idol in another. His excitement and passion for the art are evident in the smile on his face. The initial impression is favorable and pleasing. There are narrative spoilers in the caption, "The Show Must Go On." The teaser for Utsavam, The Rehearsal of *Utsavam*, will debut on January 28 at 11:34, according to the film's creators. In actuality, the film chronicles the revival of theater plays. The film immerses viewers in the life of Krishna (Dilip), a tenacious force committed to reviving cinemas, with an excellent ensemble cast. He tackles difficult obstacles, motivated by a deep regard

for the arts and an enduring affection for his father, Prakash Raj (Abhimanyu Narayan), together with the captivating presence of his ladylove Rama (Regina). Navigating his feelings for Rama, Krishna becomes the steadfast ray of hope for the rebirth of theater and stage performances, thereby controlling the fate of thousands of artists. Utsavam is a full-fledged family show that is full of passion, feelings, and fun. Nassar, Rajendra Prasad, Bramhanandam, Ali, Prema, L.B. Sriram, Anish Kuruvilla, Priyadarshi, Amani, and Sudha make up the ensemble cast. With music composed by Anup Rubens and cinematography by the esteemed Rasool Ellore, the film

boasts a highly skilled technical crew. The editor is

Kotagiri Venkateswara Rao.

appearances in feature films including *Neerja* (2016), *A Death in the Gunj* (2017), Padmavat (2018) Gangubai Kathiawad (2022), and Mrs. Chatterjee vs. Norway (2023). His roles in the web series *Rocket Boys* (for which he was nominated for an International Emmy Award) and Made In Heaven propelled him to international fame. Produced by Narayan Das and Puskur Ram Mohan Sree Venkateswara Cinemas and Amigos

Kannada and Malayalan

ersions of the movie will

Jim Sarbh is

in Dhanush's

trilingual flick

Director Sekhar Kammula's forthcoming trilingual film, #DNS, starring Jim Sarbh,

Dhanush, and Nagarjuna, is

expected to release soon. Jim

is acting in Telugu and Tamil

for the first time on this

production, which began

Sekhar Kammula

JADEJA, RAHUL CLASSY FIFTIES TAKE INDIA TO 421/7

Ravindra Jadeja's two-layered fifty and KL Rahul's mastery were at the heart of India's 421 for seven, a total which placed them several miles ahead of England after the second day's play of the first

Test here on Friday.
Jadeja (81 batting) and Axar Patel (35 batting), who added 63 runs for the unbroken eighth-wicket stand, are at the crease at stumps.
India's lead has now swelled to 175

runs, and England would find it tough to wipe that out once their turn to bat come on third day.

But India's ascendancy to the top on a slightly tacky pitch was more tectonic and Jadeja's risk managing abilities played a huge role in it. In one sense, the situation was ideal for the left-hander, who loves a scrap in the middle. When Jadeja came to bat, Rahul was in full flight and he joined the party with

a few blows of his own. In fact, the initial 40 balls he faced produced 35 runs as India first closed the gap with England and then swiftly moved into the lead.
But Rahul's dismissal for a 123-ball 86 forced Jadeja to transform his approach. India's lead was still only 42 then, and the home side needed him to bat long to construct more

Jadeja did precisely that. He slowed down indeed, but not to that extend of confining himself into a shell and opened up whenever England bowlers erred in their lengths. A daring hoick off left-arm spinner

Tom Hartley over long-on for a six and a flowing off-drive off leg-spin-ner Rehan Ahmed for a four showcased his power and touch.

England bowlers were all in spirit and optimism while bowling and appealing throughout the day, but they lacked consistency in hitting the right spot, except Joe Root, who is more than a part-timer in these conditions.

It came as no surprise then that it was Root who put Jadeja in the most unpleasant situation during his knock. The spinner wrapped Jadeja's pads and umpire Paul Reiffel upheld the shout for leg-before.

But the DRS found a massive inside edge as Jadeja survived at 49. He duly completed his 20th Test fifty in 84 balls when he peeled three runs off Root.

The only sore point during his otherwise assured stay was a calamitous mix-up which resulted in the run out of R Ashwin, as Jadeja sold a dummy, jogging a few steps before turning his back only to find his spin



bowling partner standing right next to him.

The effortless partnership ended when Rahul pulled a half-tracker by to him.
Though KS Bharat (41, 81 balls)

failed to kick on, the wicketkeeper batter helped Jadeja make 68 runs off 141 balls for the sixth wicket, which expanded India's lead.

which expanded Indias lead.
But regret will linger inside Bharat, who recently made a hundred against England Lions for India A, for he could not make his maiden Test fifty when the team was in a strong position and there was no real pressure on him. real pressure on him.

However, Bharat will not be the only India batter who will be nursing that feeling once they glance back at the day's proceedings at the RGI

Rahul, Shreyas Iyer and Shubman Gill all could have registered a more substantial score against their names here.

names here.
Rahul will be particularly disappointed as he was primed to score a hundred in his 50th Test.
Nonetheless, his innings was marked by imperious timing and meticulous shot selection, which made it oh-so-pleasing to watch. His fifth-wicket alliance with Jadeja produced 65 runs in just 74 balls during the middle session of play, pinning England on the back-foot. Overall, India made 87 runs during that period, losing two wickets.

Hartely to pick Ahmed, the lone fielder in the deep at mid-wicket. Iyer (35) scratched around for a good part of his 63-ball stay and seemed to have weathered the storm, especially against pacer Mark Wood who tested him with a slew of short-pitched deliveries.

of short-pitched deliveries.
But Iyer let the opportunity to build on it slip away when he played a slog sweep of Ahmed to give a simple catch to Hartley at deep mid-wicket and the Mumbaikar will need efforts with more substance to fight for his place once Virat Kohli rejoins the squad from the third Test.

In the first session, Yashasvi Jaiswal could only add four runs to his overnight score of 76 before offering a lame return catch to Root, and had he shown a bit of patience to settle down the left-hander could have notched his second Test cen-

Shubman Gill, the other overnight batter, reached 23 but a rather reckless slog sweep off Hartley ended in the hands of Ahmed at deep midwicket. Fortunately for Indian team, it had the collective will to tide over those occasional setbacks to move ahead of England and push for a win from hereon.



India A close in on victory over Lions

SAURABH GRABS 22ND FIVE-FOR

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

eft-arm spinner Saurabh Left-arm spinner saurum.

Kumar continued his brilliant run for India A with his 22nd career five-wicket haul, putting India A on the cusp of a big win against England Lions at the end of day three in the second 'unofficial Test' here on Thursday.

England Lions did perform far better in the second innings, ending the day at 304 for 8. They still need 37 runs to avoid innings defeat and only have two wickets in hand.

It was seventh wicket stand of 102 runs between keeper Ollie Robinson (84 batting) and Brydon Carse (38) that enabled Lions to stretch the proceedings to the fourth day. England were 156 for six at one stage and the end seemed near before the Robinson-Carse pair stemmed the rot.

However other than India A win on fourth day, any other result looks improbable unless the heavens open up on Saturday.

The third day belonged to Saurabh, who is nearing 300 wickets in first class cricket, after ending with figures of 5/104 in 29 overs. He can add two more to his 289 wickets on Saturday.

The pint-sized UP spinner is one of the most distinguished performers among India's fringe players and has taken five-wicket hauls against most 'A' including from New Zealand A and Bangladesh A.

The 30-year-old is also a handy lower middle-order batter with two first-class hundreds and a near 27 average. However it is sheer bad luck

that his career coincided with Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel Starting the second innings and hence it has been difficult with 341 runs in arrear. to fit him into the squad.

Saurabh did get a few call-ups for senior India but had to warm the bench on all occasions. Someone, who is an old school

left-arm spinner, happy to flight the ball and put a good amount of loop to deceive the batters in the air.

He first got left-handed opener Keaton Jennings, caught by Sarfaraz Khan, then bowled an arm ball to trap right-handed Oliver Price in-front of stumps. He also removed Carse at the nick of time just after he had completed a century stand with Robinson, drawing him forward only to be stumped by Upendra Yadav.

He got a good support from Bengal speedster Akash Deep (3/57 in 18 overs), who dismissed rival skipper Josh Bohanon (48), who looked in ominous touch.

BRIEF SCORES: England Lions 152 and 304/8 (Ollie Robinson 84 batting, Saurabh Kumar 5/102).

'No pressure on domestic Mumbai Indians players in WPL 2'

Not too many Indian players shone in the inaugural Women's Premier League, but Mumbai Indians' batting coach Devieka Palshikaar coach Devieka Palshikaar believes that they will not be under pressure to perform when the second season gets underway on February 23. Only Harmanpreet Kaur and Saika Ishaque were impressive among the Indians for the Mumbai team in the WPL last year. Kaur (281 runs) was the most prolific scorer while Ishaque (15 wickets) was the best bowler for MI. Overseas players Nat Sciver-

Overseas players Nat Sciver-Brunt and Hayley Mathews of England were the all-round performers for the title-winning Mumbai side.
"I can talk about MI players

because I don't think the kind of atmosphere we have, our players will take any pressure," Palshikaar told PTI during a MI Juniors event here.

"Our Indian domestic players also perform at par with international players, so for MI, I can say there is no pressure at all," she added.

Meg Lanning (345 runs) of finalists Delhi Capitals dominated the batting charts, followed by her Australian compatriot Tahlia McGrath of UP Warriorz. Among bowlers, England's Sophie Ecclestone (16 wickets) was the joint-highest wicket-taker with West Indies' Mathews.

Mumbai Indians and India wicketkeeper-batter Yastika Bhatia said opening the innings alongside Mathews was partic-ularly a learning experience for

"I got to learn a lot from the international stars. They have performed so well for their



countries and now they are doing it for MI team in WPL,"

"I batted alongside Hayley Mathews in the opening (slot). We used to talk a lot in between overs how we have to approach the next over or how the power play has to go and then after that," she added. "She used to help me a lot and

calm me a down lot, like asking 'are you doing fine'. Even Nat Sciver (Brunt) had really impressed me in the last tournament and the last two innings which he played for us that really inspired me," Bhatia

Coming off a long home season against England and Australia in which India defeated both the visiting teams in Tests, Bhatia said her side will continue to show improvement since they lost all three white-ball series. "As a team we did really well.

Especially in Test series, we beat both the teams and there was a really good atmosphere which was created by the support staff. There were a lot of positives and in the next series you will see some different results," she said.

Palshikaar, who played one Test and 15 ODIs for India, said the MI Juniors' camp will help discover more players who will

get a chance to play.

Definitely, working with pro coaches will help them, even that can increase their confidence that we are working with MI coaches. Technically and mentally also that will give them the extra boost," she



West Indies commit to gender pay equity among cricketers

PTI ■ KINGSTON

Cricket West Indies (CWI) on Friday committed to gender pay equity among its players having signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the West Indies Players Association (WIPA). The MoU is for the period from October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2027 and covers all agreements in respect of player remuneration and updated terms and conditions across the West Indies system. "The MOU outlines plans to achieve parity in international and regional match fees, international captain's allowances, international team prize mone and regional individual prize money for all West Indies cricketers by 1 October 2027," the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) said in a statement. India, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa and England have

put steps in place in recent times for pay equity among the

ty at ICC tournaments for men's and women's teams. WICB President Kishore

Shallow said the announcement was a significant moment in the region and major step for all parties in reaching pay equity in the future.

significant step towards creating a more inclusive and progressive cricket framework. This step reflects our unwavering commitment to gender equality and acknowledges the immense contributions of female players to West Indies cricket," he said.

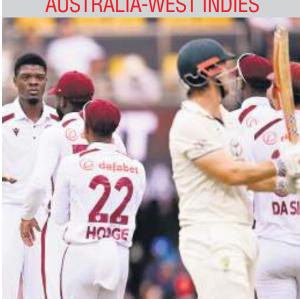
Australia in trouble after Malik denies match **losing 4 quick wickets**

C teve Smith failed again as an Opener and Australia collapsed to be 24-4 at tea Friday after West Indies posted 311 on Day Two of the day-night test at the Gabba.

Smith shuffled across his crease too far and was given out lbw on review to the last ball of Kemar Roach's first over. Marnus Labuschagne (three) was then caught in the next over by a diving Kevin Sinclair at fourth slip off Alzarri Joseph. Smith replaced the retired David Warner as an opener for Australia but scored just 12 runs in his first innings in that role in the first test at Adelaide won by Australia by10 wickets. The last two balls before the break by Roach (3-13) brought more celebration for the West

Cameron Green (eight), who returned a negative COVID-19 test before play, drove straight to captain Kraigg Brathwaite at cover. Travis Head was well caught down the legside next





ball by Joshua Da Silva to leave Roach on a hat-trick. Earlier, a half-century on debut by offspinner Sinclair lifted

first-innings total. Sinclair (50) and veteran paceman Roach (eight) added 31 for the ninth wicket after the visitors West Indies to a competitive resumed at 266-8 on Friday.

fixing claims in BPL

Former Pakistan skipper Shoaib Malik has vehemently refuted allegations of match-fixing in the Bangladesh Premier League and unsubstantiated claims that his contract with Fortune Barishal was terminated.

The rumours stemmed from social media handles insinuating that Malik's contract with the franchise was terminated due to suspicions of match-fixing.
The speculation arose after he

bowled three no-balls in the opening over during a match against Khulna Tigers on January 22. Despite the allegations, Malik

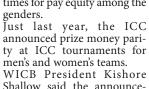
went on to play another game for the franchise before the Dhaka leg of BPL 2024 concluded.

"I want to emphasise the importance of exercising caution when it comes to rumours, especially those circulating recently," Malik wrote in his 'X'



strongly refute these baseless rumuors. It's crucial for everyone to verify information before believing and spreading it. "Falsehoods can harm reputations and create unnecessary confusion. Let's prioritise accuracy and rely on credible sources to ensure a clear understanding of the facts. Thank you for your understanding and diligence," he added.

Malik also clarified that he had a discussion with the team captain, Tamim Iqbal, and together, they planned his temporary departure from Bangladesh for a "pre-committed media engagement in Dubai."



"This is a historic day for West Indies cricket...We are taking a

Davis Cup: Indian team frets over visa denial to reserve player Prajwal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Captain Rohit Rajpal worked on Saketh Myneni's volleys while N Sriram Balaji was getting used to not hitting in the alleys as the Indian Davis Cup team continued its preparations for the upcoming tie against Pakistan here Friday.

Coach Zeeshan Ali threw more balls on Myneni's body and Rajpal advised him to keep his head a bit down and still.

"Do not go up on your toes, keep your feet grounded when you make contact," said Rajpal. Myneni applied and immediately felt the difference. This was because it is a bit difficult

for taller players to move sideways, and rivals feed a lot of ball on the body. Myneni has been peppered with such balls on the Tour and Rajpal wanted his player to be ready for the challenge.

Ramkumar Ramanathan's grunts echoed around Delhi Gymkhana. He first played sets with Balaji and then also practiced with Niki Poonacha, who is also being prepared for the singles matches.

BALAJI TO PLAY SINGLES: Most

likely it will be Balaji who will do the singles duty along with Ramkumar and the team is working hard to prepare him for the chal-

Balaji is being forced to play singles since the country's top two singles players, Sumit Nagal and Sasikumar Mukund, opted out of the February

"While switching from doubles to singles, the challenge is to avoid that backhand cross-court, targetting the alleys. You also have to curb your instinct of going for the lines. But grass suits me. When I used to play singles, I was a serve and volley player," said Balaji.

Ashutosh Singh, assistant coach at the camp, said getting the rhythm of a singles player is key for Balaji, who is a doubles specialist.

"In doubles, the ball does not come to you all the time. So, getting that rhythm of the singles player is sig-nificant," said Ashutosh, who him-



self was one of the better Indian "It really came as a surprise. I have serve and volley players in his playing days.

Since the courts are expected to be fast in Islamabad, Rajpal and Zeeshan had asked the groundsmen not to leave any water on the courts and also advised against rolling the surface.

That way the ball stays low, and that is exactly what the Indian team is going to contend with in Islamabad. While on-court preparations are in full swing, the denial of a visa to Dev is keeping the team management worried. All the Indian players, except Dev, received their visas on Thursday.

"If an injury happens to any player, we will be one-man short. We need Prajwal in the team. We are sending his papers again to the High Commission. We are waiting and watching. They have rejected his visa without any reason; this is really disappointing," Rajpal told

Dev is surprised that he has been denied a visa.

travelled to so many countries, and I have never been denied a visa. Even I have a valid US visa. This is really disappointing. It is not in my hands. I am just hopeful that they reconsider the decision and issue

me a visa."

CAPTAIN DELAYS DEPAR-

TURE: The Indian team will leave for Islamabad on Sunday but captain Rajpal will join the side a few days later due to a medical emergency in his family. His mother has been hospitalised. "It's my mother who gave me the

first lesson of patriotism. Even today she told me that I should go with the team but I have to make sure that she is okay before I finally take the flight for Islamabad," said Rajpal. The captain also thanked his players for agreeing for a long preparatory camp ahead of the tie. Playing on grass is completely different. It's better to prepare in best possible manner. I am glad the players skipped playing days on Tour and came here," he said.