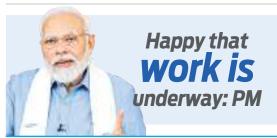
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#### Two more guarantees will...

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka has categorically stated that the two more guarantees promised by the Congress will be implemented very soon. He was taking part in a series of development programmes in Nidhanapuram and Chilukuru villages of Bayyaram mandal in Khammam district on Saturday. Addressing meetings in villages, the Deputy Chief Minister made it clear that the Congress would give a befitting reply to the BRS leaders who are ..

#### Film industry held responsible for...

Megastar Amitabh Bachchan on Saturday said that the film industry is often held responsible for change in nation's morality, arguing instead that society has always served as an inspiration for cinema. During his address to the students at the Symbiosis Film Festival here, the 81-year-old screen icon spoke about the criticism the film industry receives as well as the advantages and disadvantages of technological advancement in cinema. He attended the inauguration ceremony of the festival, organised by Symbiosis..

-PAGE: 5

#### Tax benefits, support to women...

An increase in income tax exemption limits support to women entrepreneurs, a long-term taxation policy and steps to boost consumption and savings are among the expectations of experts rim hudaet v be presented by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1 ahead of Lok Sabha elections. They also demand for parity in taxation among companies, partnerships and limited liability partnerships. "This is going to be an interim budget but at least there may be some indications of...

#### One in twenty people has no...

During the pandemic, a lost sense of smell was quickly identified as one of the key symptoms of COVID. Nearly four years later, one in five people in the UK is living with a decreased or distorted sense of smell, and one in twenty have anosmia the total loss of the ability to perceive any odours at all. Smell training is one of the few treatment options for recovering a lost sense of smell but can we make it more effective? Smell training is a therapy that is recommended by experts for recovering a lost sense of smell. It is a simple process that involves sniffing a set of different odours usually essential oils, or herbs and spices every day. The olfactory system has a unique ability to regenerate sensory neurons (nerve cells). So, just like...

## Expert panel to examine Kaleshwaram barrages

CM prefers all-party meet on Krishna waters



NAVEENA GHANATE

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has decided to set up an expert committee to check the quality of the Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla Barrages coming under the Kaleswaram Project.

The CM ordered a thorough study on the strength of the barrages and the steps to be taken in case of pillars sagging.

The CM warned the Irrigation Department not to rush things and make mistakes. After taking into account all technical issues, a decision should be taken on repair measures, he said. He reminded that Telangana has already suffered huge losses due to the mistakes made by those in power earlier.

He said that if Rs 8,000 crore–Rs 10,000 crore are required for repairing this huge project which was executed at a cost of around Rs 1.5 lakh crore, then there is no

need to think about the cost or compromise to protect the interests of Telangana.

Chief Minister Revanth along with Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy conducted a review at the Irrigation Department in the Secretariat on Saturday.

The CM suggested that an expert committee should be set up with experts from the Central Water Corporation, the National Dam Safety Authority and state Irrigation Engineers.
He said that they should arrange

a meeting with them again within two or three days and that the Irrigation Minister would also attend the meeting along with

Regarding Medigadda Barrage, he said that whether it is enough to repair the sagging pillars or to remove them and build new ones will be studied by this committee.



# Caste census soon in TS

#### □ CM Revanth Reddy holds review on BC, SC and ST welfare

- Integrated Education Hub in every Assembly Constituency
- Suitable lands to be identified for permanent Gurukul buildings
- Payment of diet and cosmetic charges through Green Channel
- Addl assistance for students studying in foreign universities

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said that a caste census will be conducted in the state soon. The Chief Minister said that the government is committed to fulfilling the promise to conduct a caste census made during the Assembly elections. Officials have been asked to do the things necessary to launch the caste census, he said. The CM conducted a review of the BC, Minority and Tribal Welfare Departments at the Secretariat on Saturday.

The CM ordered officials to provide complete details of Gurukul schools functioning in rented build-

The Chief Minister asked officials to submit proposals to construct



officials were directed to identify places for constructing buildings fast. Budget proposals will be prepared after estimating the cost to construct schools. The Chief Minister said that the

food charges, cosmetic charges and cooking bills of Gurukul schools should be cleared immediately. Payments will be made through the green channel.
The Chief Minister directed offi-

cials to implement the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Overseas Scholarship Scheme effectively. Officials have been asked to ensure that more students availed benefits of the scheme.

A framework has to be prepared to identify top foreign universities based on their rankings. Students who go to pursue higher education in top universities abroad should be given priority in availing benefits of

Gurukul institutions should be established in an integrated education hub instead of being set up in different places. The CM said that proposals should be prepared to build inte-

grated education hubs in all Assembly constituencies. The hubs will help in efficiently managing the schools. The CM said that students would develop a competitive spirit and

improve their skills by studying on the same campus. Officials were told to identify places for constructing educational hubs in all constituencies immediately The CM asked officials to identify sites in towns or mandal head-

quarters in case lands are not available in the centre of the Assembly

PNS NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday

launched a 'Donate for Nyay'

crowdfunding campaign for the

ongoing Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra

under which people will get a

Rahul Gandhi-signed letter or

merchandise in return for their

donation.Launching the cam-

paign at the AICC headquarters

here along with Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh,

Congress treasurer Ajay Maken

said the idea behind this initia-



**'DONATE FOR NYAY'** 

Congress launches

crowdfunding campaign

Donors to get Rahul-signed merchandise

#### 'TS will be the capital of social entrepreneurship'



PNS HYDERABAD

The Minister for IT and Industries, D. Sridhar Babu, said that the government is committed to developing the State.He said that the government is determined to do what is best for society focusing on creating a social impact that is inclusive in terms of technology and overall development of the State.

"We want everyone in the state to be billionaires in thinking and social welfare. This is possible with the support of organisations like Bala Vikasa who are committed to development level," he said.

Industries Minister Sridhar Babu participated as the chief guest and inaugurated the Social Start-up Expo.

Addressing the gathering, Sridhar assured that the government will take action to support social entrepreneur-ship.He added that the service will soon come up with a new MSME policy and we will try to focus on integrating the growth of social entrepreneurship in it to make Telangana the capital of social entrepreneurship in coming years.

DUNAIL

tive and the earlier wider crowd-

funding campaign of the party,

Donate for Desh', was not to get

money but to motivate workers.

Nyay' campaign, any person who

donates Rs 670 or more will get

a T-shirt signed by Rahul Gandhi

as a gift, Maken said."Those who

donate Rs 67,000 or more will get

a 'Nyay Kit' which will contain a

T-shirt, bag, band, badge and

sticker," he said.

Under the party's 'Donate for

Continued on Page 2

#### TRANSCO & GENCO DIRECTORS

# Govt flags irregularities in postings

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has decided to take up the appointment of the Directors in TS-GENCO and TS-TRANSCO afresh citing irreguand the extended tenures of sever-

Around six directors of TRANSCO and GENCO have occu-

their places violating the provisions regarding extension.

Energy Department, the Directors rules. should be appointed initially for a

Thus, the tenure of the Directors shall be a maximum of four years and two months. As per the rules to be followed for le appointment of Directors on the Transco, has been serving for two Boards of organisations under the years and eight months violating

Five directors of TRANSCO, that term of two years and their tenure is, G. Narasing Rao, B. Narasinga

pied their posts for more than nine years. 11 Directors in both TRANSCO and GENCO are in TRANSCO and GENCO are in Sions.

may be extended for one year at a time up to a maximum of two extensions.

Rao, Jagat Reddy, J. Surya Prakash Reddy and C. Srinivas Rao are in service. Jagat Reddy and G. Narasing Rao have been serving for nine years

In TSGENCO, C. Venkatrajam. Sai Chandanam an have been Directors for nine years







# Kodandaram,

PNS HYDERABAD

Khan – made a courtesy call on Chief Minister Revanth also issued on Saturday.

It may be recalled that the Governor, Dr Tamilisai Sounderarajan, accepted the names of Kodandaram and Amer Ali Khan immediately after it was proposed by the

-PAGE: 10



# Amer Ali Khan call on CM

The newly elected Governor Quota MLCs – Prof. M. Kodandaram and Amer Ali Reddy at the Secretariat on Saturday. The official order regarding their election was

state government.

# Govt 'bulldozing' Muslims' self-respect: KTR

PNS HYDERABAD

BRS Working President KT Rama Rao has accused the Congress Government headed by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of "bulldozing" the self-respect of minorities, especially Muslims, in

Addressing a meeting with BRS minority leaders at the Telangana against minorities. While BJP gov-Bhavan on Saturday, KTR said that the Congress government has adopted the BJP's "bulldozer" policy



ernments are demolishing the properties of minorities in their States, in Telangana, the Revanth Reddy government is "bulldozing" the selfrespect of Muslims, he said.



#### Giant killer's exemplary act

Katipally allows officials to demolish his house

K VENKATESHWARLU

There are some MLAs who irrespective of political affiliations grab lands near their residences or elsewhere. Not only MLAs but all public representatives (from ward members to MPs) eye vacant lands and grab

However, the BJP MLA representing Kamareddy, Katipally Venkat Ramana Ŕeddy, who is well known across the state for defeating Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao in one go in

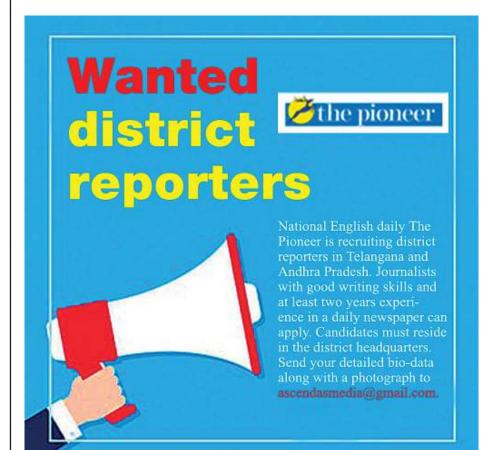
the Assembly elections, gained attention on Saturday by allowing officials to demolish his house in Kamareddy. The house was demolished not because it was built illegally, but for road widening. Kamareddy officials decided to widen

narrow roads and decided to demolish some houses that came in the way. They issued notices to the owners of houses located by the sides of the road from MLA's House to the Old Bus Stand.



However, giant killer Venkat Ramana Reddy allowed offi-cials to demolish his house first. Officials demolished Venkat Ramana Reddy's residence on Saturday and he became a role model for others. Shabbir said that his house is on the

same road where MLA Venkat Ramana Reddy's house is located, but he did not respond when reporters asked him about Venkat Ramana Reddy's decision to allow officials to demolish his house.It may be recalled that Venkat Ramana Reddy had said that he would develop his constituency with his funds if Telangana Government Advisor necessary.



# OBTUSE ANGL OME MOR

# Are scribes lesser beings than praja?

public representatives running for elective offices, they do not make promises that can influence various communities. Today media persons in Telangana wince whenever they are reminded of the pre-poll Congress slogan 'Maarpu kavali, Congress ravali' (meaning, 'Change required; Cong must come'). For, there is no palpable change in how newshounds are treated even at what happens to be their beat. For reporters who regularly cover 'At Home' in Raj Bhavan, the get-together this Republic Day came bundled with a nasty surprise. Initially, they were asked to stay away. When indignant reporters decided en

masse to either boycott the event or hold an impromptu protest; sen-

sitive cops took up the matter with the late for taking his oath-taking ceremoauthorities at the Raj Bhavan. Finally, they allowed the restive reporters inside. Matters are hardly different at the Secretariat, where, despite the much-publicized boast of 'dismantling walls between praja and the government', media persons are treated as suspects who are out to paint the government in a bad light. As a special category among praja, they need to take visitor passes and only then go inside. Besides, their official time can be wasted without any compunction. The other day a Minister's presser was scheduled at 5-00 pm, but postponed without prior notice to 6:00 pm. Invited reporters were made to wait near the gate, though the delay, and consequent rescheduling, was from the Minister's side.

#### **CONG LEADERS TRIGGER TRAFFIC** CHAOS IN HYDERABAD

It is easy to announce hugely popular steps to ease traffic across the city, but difficult to walk the talk when it comes to movement of VVIPs in their official or customized convoys. Ever since the Congress came to power, Hyderabad has been witnessing traffic hold-ups and

 $R^{eporters \ normally \ work \ in \ the}_{interests \ of \ praja, \ though, \ unlike} \quad \text{snarls with chaotic movement of vehicles.}$  Let alone Chief Minister Revanth Reddy (who has famously slashed the number of vehicles in his official convoy and specifically directed cops to not stop people for his movement); every day even Ministers are stopping traffic at their will and pleasure. The height of these holdups was seen during the recent boothlevel agents' meeting; for which, even after 10:00 pm, the city traffic police could do little to restore normalcy in traffic. Denizens of Hyderabad have begun to feel the pinch of gross mismanagement of traffic, which, quite symbolically began from the day of swearing in of the Chief Minister, who happened to come

ny. Movements of VVIPs across the city

have increased tremendously and cops

CONG DRAWS THE LINE, REGARDLESS OF BRS' WAYS

change when elections come. Yet, the

fortunes of reporters on political beat

cannot (and ought not to) change follow-

ing a regime change. A seasoned jour-

nalist, who had kept tabs of the Congress

party for 10 years, went gleefully to Chief

Minister's advisor Vem Narender Reddy

seeking his intervention in getting some

work done. Vem thanked the reporter

for his long association with the

Congress as part of his beat, but polite-

ly told him to refrain from bringing such

works or making indecent proposals. For good measure, the CM's advisor added:

We will help journalists with health-

and education-related requests, and nothing beyond that. We will also work

with providing concessions to your children in schools". Then he subtly told

the reporter not to expect anything out

of the way. The mortified reporter observed: "What's the big deal about the

Congress in helping with 'health and

The fortunes of political parties may

are blind to aam admi's agonies.

parting shot, Vem replied: "There is no greatness; this is it".

#### TIRED CM FIGURED OUT SOURCE OF INTELLIGENCE LEAK

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's security personnel were reshuffled following information leak'. Interestingly, the Chief Minister himself identified the source of information leak. Few people, barring his family members and the cream of the intelligence wing, know when the Chief Minister will come home. Upon his return from Davos, the Chief Minister reached home. Some people wanting to meet him had assembled

at his residence by the time he reached home. The exasperated Chief Minister chose to give them audience, though he badly wanted rest to

overcome his jet lag. It did not take long for the CM to realize how the information relating to his arrival had leaked.

#### DO LEADERS GET BETTER IDEAS WHEN THEY ARE IN THE OPPOSITION?

MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha's newfound love for Mahatma Jyoti ba Phule is not going down well with people as well as in her own party. Kavitha wants Phule statue on Assembly premises, but her intra-party detractors want her to stay out of it to obviate negative publicity. For, the BRS government did not do it for 10 years. Besides, just one month into the new government, the issue has been raked up by Kavitha, who is seen as the primary reason for BRS' loss in the Assembly elections, particularly due to her name figuring in the liquor scam. She was an MP, but then lost in the elections and was politically rehabilitated as an MLC. Emboldened party leaders say it is OK if someone else from the party takes up this issue. In a similar vein, BRS MLC Deshapati Srinivas asked the new Congress government to remove the fencing around the Assembly. A wag commented: 'Why couldn't the BRS government do

# 'Cong, BRS DNAs are same'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress and the BRS are one and that is why the Congress is stepping back from probing BRS's corruption, Telangana BJP President G. Kishan Reddy said.

He reiterated that voting for the BRS is nothing but dumping the vote in the Musi River. The Union Minister said that there is a BJP wave in Telangana and that the Modi government will certainly come back at the Centre once

Addressing the BJP's Chevella Parliament constituency preparatory meet-ing held on Saturday, Kishan said that the Congress is not trying to implement the assurances it had given to the people during the Assembly polls.

He said that development is possible only through the BJP

and appealed to BJP cadres to take the matter to the people. He asked booth-level leaders to work hard to ensure the victory of the party. He also asked them to create awareness among farmers, farm labourers, youth and women.

Kishan said that nothing could be done by the BRS and the Congress and added that he was confident that the BJP would win LS elections in Telangana. He said that the DNA of the Congress and the BRS are the same as both are

"When you see the Congress government stepping back from taking action against BRS corruption, it is clear that these two parties are the same. We have been saying that the Centre is ready to order a CBI inquiry on the Kaleshwaram project scam, but the Congress government does not want a ČBI inquiry.

He said the Congress is trying to hide the corruption of the BRS and it is not doing anything to implement its promises.

Kishan said the Modi government gave lakhs of crores to Telangana in the last nine and a half years. The Modi government built National Highways, new railway lines, a tribal varsity, the Turmeric Board, Vande Bharat trains and modernised railway stations in

#### Shah's TS tour cancelled due to **Bihar developments?**

PNS HYDERABAD

Union Home Minister Amit Shah's Telangana tour has been postponed. Telangana BJP President G. Kishan Reddy announced this in a statement issued on Saturday.

It is learnt that Amit Shah's tour was cancelled due to the political developments in Bihar.

However, as per the schedule announced, Amit Shah has to participate in the three Parliament cluster meetings in Mahbubnagar, Karimnagar Secunderabad.

BJP General Secretary Bandi Sanjay Kumar had announced that Amit will blow the poll bugle for the coming Lok Sabha elections on Sunday at Karimnagar.

#### Will soon identify Rahul's 'body double': Himanta

PNS GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday said that he will share the name and address of the 'body double' purportedly used by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in the state. Sarma had brought up the

allegation of the Congress MP using a 'body double' during the Yatra at a press conference on Thursday, during which he quoted a media report claiming that the person sitting and waving at people from the Yatra bus was "probably not Rahul Gandhi at all".

#### JD(U) HINTS AT PARTING WAYS

# 'No implosion' in INDIA bloc: Cong

PNS NEW DELHI

Crisis gripped the INDIA bloc as JD(U) chief Nitish Kumar indicated a switch to the NDA and his party said on Saturday that the opposition alliance was collapsing, with the Congress alleging that the BJP is doing its best to cause a "mini implosion" in the coali-

The Congress, however, also exuded confidence that both Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee, being coarchitects of the INDIA bloc, would remain a part of the alliance and said efforts were



on by the Congress president to reach out to both of them. Earlier, West Bengal Chief Minister Banerjee had announced that her party TMC will fight the Lok Sabha elections "alone" in the state, and if Kumar decides to return to the NDA fold, it will be another big blow to the opposition front formed to take on "Personally, yes the optics

could have been better. There is no implosion. But the BJP is working overtime to ensure there is a minimum implosion if not a maximum implosion," Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said when asked about the developments.

He also claimed that no one is unhappy, but admitted that the seat-sharing talks are difficult as everyone wants more seats.

"We expect INDIA to move forward. The situation could be better. I won't say it is tense,"

KTR can't become

big leader by

criticising Cong

# ISRO to launch meteorological satellite

PNS ■ BENGALURU

ISRO on Saturday said its meteorological satellite INSAT-3DS has been flagged off to Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR at Sriharikota for the launch onboard GSLV F14.

ly completed satellite assembly, integration and testing activities at U R Rao Satellite Centre, Bengaluru.

ed project with the Ministry of ty. cience (MoES), confi

mary objective to provide continuity of services to the existing in-orbit INSAT-3D and 3DR satellites and significantly enhancing the capabilities of the INSAT system," ISRO said.

It was flagged off to SDSC-SHAR launch port in Andhra Pradesh on January 25, it said,

Krishna Paksha

Jan 28 03:37 AM

Jan 29 06:11 AM

Jan 27 01:01 PM

Jan 28 03:52 PM

to Jan 28 03:52 PM

to Jan 29 06:57 PM

4:41 PM to 6:05 PM

12:29 PM to 1:53 PM

12:54 AM to 02:42 AM

01:11 PM to 02:59 PM

12:06 PM to 12:51 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Partly Cloudy

Temp: 29°° Humidity: 56%

Sunset: 6:09 PM

3:17 PM to 4:41 PM

to Jan 30 08:54 AM



with the participation of members from the user communi-

satellite is designed for enhanced meteorological observations and monitoring of land and ocean surfaces for weather forecasting and disaster warning, with state-ofthe-art payloads: 6 channel Imager & 19 channel Sounder meteorology payloads, communication payloads viz., The Data Relay Transponder (DRT) and Satellite aided Search and Rescue (SAS&R) transponder.

The DRT instrument receives meteorological, hydrological and oceanographic data from automatic Data Collection Platforms or Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) and augments the weather forecasting capabili-

Continued from page 1

The possibility of con-

circles will be examined.

BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, ST Welfare Minister Seethakka, Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari and other top officials attended the review

Declaring

"In the coming parliament elections, the Congress will try to make BJP candidates win by

voting for the BJP. The Congress and the BJP are working together. Before the election, Revanth criticised Adani. After coming to power, he went to Davos and struck deals with Adani," KTR said.

He said that the BJP tried to help the Congress in the MLC elections.

"Opposition parties are dumping the Congress because of its arrogance. In the end, Rahul Gandhi is the only one left in that alliance. If you want



to stop Modi from conquering New Delhi, please understand that the Congress cannot do that. In Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan the Congress has already lost its strength to take on the BJP. The people of Telangana should support KCR in Telangana like Mamata Banerjee in West Bengal, Nitish Kumar in Bihar and the Aam Army Party in Punjab," KTR

He recalled that it should be remembered that KCR is the strongest regional leader ever.

"People should remember that it was the BRS which defeated BJP leaders like Sanjay, Aravind, Soyam Bapurao, Eatela Rajender and Raghunandan Rao.

#### govt: Mallu Ravi PNS HYDERABAD The Telangana government's

Special Representative in Delhi, Mallu Ravi, said whether KTR will become a big leader if he criticises the Congress government daily.

"We condemn the hostile comments made against the Chief Minister. The secretariat was like a prison under the BRS. Hundreds of people are coming to the secretariat Congress Praja Palana," he said. Speaking to the media, Mallu Ravi said that the Fevicol bond is between the BJP and the BRS but not between the Congress and the BJP. He said the BJP and BRS votes were transferred in the Assembly elections held

He said Kavitha was not arrested because of the BJP-BRS bond. The MLAs purchase and Kavitha cases were neutralized as per their agreement. Of the promises given by the BRS in 2018, not even one was fulfilled.

KCR took away the freedom of people just like a tiger takes away the freedom of other animals in the jungle,

Referring to a prediction

The satellite had successful-

The satellite is a user-fund-

ured around ISRO's I-2k bus platform with a lift-off mass of 2275 kg. Indian Industries have significantly contributed in the making of the satellite. According to sources, the

space agency is said to be aiming for a mid-February launch. 'INSAT-3DS, is an exclusive meteorological satellite realised by ISRO with the pri-

adding that Pre-Shipment wea Review (PSR) was also held ties.

TODAY

**ALMANAC** 

Tithi: Tritiya:

Nakshatram:

Purva Phalguni

Rahukalam:

Varjyam:

Gulika:

Yamagandam:

Magha:

Month & Paksham:

# Caste census...

structing new buildings on already existing school premises which have an area of around 20 acres and promoting them as educational hubs must be examined, the CM said. The CM said that the cooperation of corporate bodies and companies will be sought for constructing education hubs. CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) funds will be mobilised and the construction of buildings should be taken up by accepting donations from donors. through CSR for providing infrastructure and supplying blankets, notebooks, uniforms and books for stu-

dents in government hostels. The CM ordered officials to prepare budget estimations to provide scheme benefits including gold to the beneficiaries of Kalyana Mastu and Shaadi Mubarak.The Chief Minister said that establishing BC Study Circles in all Parliamentary constituencies in place of the existing study

#### Only regional parties can stop BJP: KTR Voting for the Congress in Parliament elections is like

PNS HYDERABAD

Congress-BJP bond is a Fevicol bond, BRS Working President KTR said, "Rahul Gandhi is saying Bharat Jodo, but his alliance partners are saying 'Rahul Ko Chhodo' and are leaving him."

KTR was attending a meeting of BRS activists from the Jubilee Hills constituency.

fielding dummy candidates.

Govt flags

irregularities in...

# Congress launches...

Continued from page 1

Continued from page 1 B. Lakshamaiah, A. Ajay Rao and Dr TRK Rao have been directors for five years and four months.

The government after careful examination decided to take up the process of appointments of Directors for TSTRANSCO and TSGEN-CO afresh as per procedure.

As per the GO issued by SAM Rizvi, the Chairman and MDs of TSTRANSCO and TSGENCO must take action to initiate the process for the appointment of Directors as

"For anything that one donates, he or she will get a letter signed by Rahul ji and a certificate of donation," said Maken, flanked by Ramesh, joint treasurer Vijay Inder Singla and Congress minority cell head Imran

Pratapgarhi. He said that under the party's 'Donate for Desh' crowdfunding campaign launched on December 18 last year, Rs 20 crore has been

collected. Within two hours of launching the 'Donate for Nyay' campaign, Rs 2 crore reach even Rs 1 crore.

Expert panel to examine ....

had been collected, the Congress treasurer said. Asked about funds col-

lected through the crowdfunding campaign being lower than expectations, Maken said, "We can't contest elections by raising money through our workers. If someone thinks we will get all our funding for the elections through this crowdfunding, he is wrong and this is something we did not intend."It is much more than the crowdfunding by any other political party as both the AAP and the BJP had started it but they could not

"You cannot undermine the efforts of 3 lakh Congress people who have given money, the idea is to motipolitical platform and not a money generation programme, Maken stressed. The

money. The idea is not to get vate the workers. Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra will be going through one part of the country. The rest of the party workers in other parts will be able to participate by giving Rs 67," he said.So, it is a Rahul Gandhi-led yatra is on a two-day break from January 26 to 27 and will restart from West Bengal's

## Jalpaiguri on Sunday. Govt 'bulldozing'...

Continued from page 1

"The Congress is taking revenge against Muslims for supporting the BRS in the Assembly elections," he said. For the first time after 1953 there are no minorities in the cabinet, KTR said.

He said that communal tension has resurfaced after the Congress returned to power citing the incidents in Sangareddy, Nalgonda and

other places on January 22. He criticised the Congress Government for failing to handle these incidents 'appropriately, highlighting a case in Daulatabad where a Muslim family, including a 5-year-old,

was allegedly attacked.

He accused the Congress Government of wrongly booking cases against innocent youths and not taking action against troublemakers

made during a press conference held on November 28, 2023, KTR said that the BRS had foretold communal tension if the Congress came to power.Asserting that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, holding the Home Portfolio, has not launched an inquiry into the incidents, KTR criticised the lack of direct communication with SPs to tackle the violence.KTR stressed the 'secular' nature of the BRS and thanked voters who supported them. Presenting statistics, he highlighted BRS's success in winning TS constituencies with substantial Muslim populations.KTR accused Revanth of emulating Modi and added that Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi have no guts to oppose Revanth as he may ioin the BIP.

# 'TS will be the...

Continued from page 1

The Entrepreneurship Summit - Impulse 2024 - the annual flagship event of the Bala Vikasa Center for Social and Responsible Business (CSRB) organised in partnership with the Telangana State Innovation Cell (TSIC) had over 500 Social Entrepreneurship practitioners who come together to celebrate the spirit of Social Entrepreneurship and strengthen the sector making it a huge success at the Bala Vikasa Campus in Keesara, Hyderabad on

The event was supported by innovation and incubation leaders like the T-**Updated:** January 27 2024 5:00 PM Hub, Upaya Social

Saturday.

Ventures, AgHub, Caspian, Impact Hub Hyderabad Social Candidate, Action for India along with leading Institutions like the TISS, KG Reddy College of

Engineering and CBIT. Smile Digital Health's Duncan Weatherston, based in Canada, and Roy Hussain from SRA Information Technology Company met D. Sridhar Babu on

The company representatives expressed their interest in investing in the state for health data-driven initiatives and also to set up their unit in Hyderabad, creating 500 to 1200 jobs in the state. The minister assured them that the government will support their investments.

#### Continued from page 1

The CM ordered irrigation officials to prepare a comprehensive report on all meetings held since the formation of Telangana till date, that is, the KRMB agendas, details of discussions, minutes, decisions and agreements. The CM said that all these things will be discussed at the all-party meeting.

The CM gave instructions to officials to complete some projects through the Green Channel. He said that projects that can be completed in a short time at low cost should be identified.He said that the Kalvakurthy, Nettempadu, Bima, Koil Sagar, and Narayanapet Kodangal lift irri-gation projects in Mahbubnagar district should be prepared along with a list of projects planned to be completed at low

water share in the United AP state, it was agreed to give 512 TMCs to AP and 299 TMCs to Telangana. He clarified that the government will accept suggestions that are good for the people of Telangana.In this meeting, there was a discussion on allegations that the Nagarjuna Sagar and Srisailam projects were handed over to KRMB. The officials explained to the CM that no project was hand-

Of the 811 TMCs of Krishna

were signed. "It has been 45 days since the Congress government came to power in the state. When were meetings held with the Krishna Board in these few days? Who attended? What decisions were made? Have any officials made decisions without our knowledge? What are you doing if the opposition is talking about

ed over and no agreements

your department as they like?" Revanth said

"What are they doing if they are levelling accusations against the government on a department basis? How much water is going to Rayalaseema? Don't they know how much share we have in the waters of Krishna?"

Revanth said that there is some confusion in the details of ayacut project-wise. It was ordered to prepare details of the projects by villages and mandals and details of pending projects were reported by the officials to the CM. He ordered to prepare plans to complete pending projects

according to priorities. The CM inquired about the current status of the Palamuru Ranga Reddy project. Officials were asked why land acquisition is not progressing for the Kalwakurthy project.

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.

# **Chief Minister seeks Eol** for TS Master Plan 2050

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Saturday said that the State government will call for Expression of interest for Telangana Master Plan 2050 soon. He was speaking at the 31st All India Builders Convention on Saturday at the Hitex exhibition in Madhapur

He said that Musi is the biggest asset for Hyderabad. The government is considering launching various projects on the Musi riverfront. The projects include the metro connecting corridor, sports, hotels and other entertainment pro-

"A few years ago, the city of Hyderabad was known as the Lake City with its chain of ponds. The government is taking forward the Musi riverfront project", he said.

He said, "I might not have experience in governance but one good thing I can do is not repeat the mistakes done by the previous rulers'

Builders have a role in leading the country on a path of

.uers Convention **New Resilient India** 

N Uttam Kumar Reddy at the All India Builders convention in Hyderabad on

development. There is no doubt that the State will develop only if you are economically

All of the builders should cooperate to rebuild the Telangana. Builders should support the development of Felangana and Hyderabad, particularly the Musi riverfront development. The government is always ready to strengthen builders' hands.

Minister for Information and Public Relations Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy pointed to the defects in the Kaleshwaram project. It was a sheer waste of lakhs and crores of rupees of public money.

"The richest state has been pushed into Rs 7 lakh crore

"A few years ago, the city of Hyderabad was known as the Lake City with its chain of ponds. The government is taking forward the Musi riverfront project", he said

debt and it was imposed on our heads by the previous government. Around Rs 1,20, 000 crore worth of bills, and employees' salary bills are pending only in the irrigation sector. If the government makes a Rs 30,000 crores budget, it will clear the previous irrigation debt only", said the

#### TOMCOM to conduct recruitment drive

The Telangana Overseas Manpower Company Limited (TOMCOM) is organising a special programme to train and recruit qualified nursing staff for working in Japan under specified skilled workers (SSW) scheme of the Government of

#### HMDA ex-director in ACB net: Property worth Rs 8 lakh seized

PNS HYDERABAD

Following his arrest, former Director of the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) and secretary of the Telangana State Real Estate Regulatory Authority (TS RERA), Shiva Balakrishna, is now facing bribery charges as the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) seized property worth Rs 8 crore during investigation.

In its remand report, the ACB said that the properties which include cash worth Rs 99, 60,850; gold jewellery weighing 1,998 grams and silver ornaments weighing 6 kg were seized from Balakrishna's residence and other locations linked to him.

Apart from these, documents of movable and immovable properties worth Rs 55,048,272. Total value of the property stood at Rs 8,26,48, 999. The officer demanded bribes and made profits out of errors in application. The report further revealed that he accepted villas for construction of plots. The ACB would investigate bank accounts of the officer and question those who backed him. It said.

# KTR travels in auto-rickshaw; supports drivers' demands



PNS HYDERABAD

BRS Working President KT Rama Rao travelled in an auto-rickshaw Yusufguda to Telangana Bhavan in Jubilee Hills. After the Jubilee Hills meeting, KTR left in an auto-rickshaw instead of a car and reached Telangana Bhavan. His security team also travelled with him in the autorickshaw.

Responding on the problems of auto-rickshaw drivers he said that their condition has become miserable after the introduction of the free bus service facility for women by the Congress government.

KTR expressed his support for auto-rickshaw drivers by travelling in an autorickshaw. MLA Maganti Gopinath was also with him. KTR inquired about the problems and difficulties faced by auto-rickshaw drivers on the way.

"Auto-rickshaw drivers are facing a lot of problems. One driver said that it would be good if the government extended the free travel facility for women to auto-rickshaws and reimbursed them

We will pressure the government to implement the promises given to auto-rickshaw drivers," KTR said.



# Certificate course on Export & Import management launched

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

The Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and industry in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Saturday launched a certificate course on export and import management.

The course is being sponsored by The Ministry of Commerce and Industry under the Market Access Initiative for Capacity Building, is to equip 67 entrepreneurs from the Leather and knowledge in international trade.

The programme is being hosted at the FTCCI Pokarna Skill Centre. It is part of FTCCI's commitment to fostering growth and competitiveness in the export and import sectors.

The inauguration ceremony held on Saturday was graced by FTCCI's President, Meela Jayadev, who emphasised the significance of capacity building in the current economic

landscape.
Jayadev stressed the importance of the Leather Industry and urged businesses in pritors such as GI Products, carpets, leather,

sports goods & toys, silk, wool, jute, and minor forest produce to actively participate in such capacity-building initiatives. He emphasized the role of training programs in enhancing expertise and ensuring success in global

This training program is just the beginning of FTCCI's broader initiative to organize four similar programs in Medak, Guntur, Khammam, and Mahabubnagar Districts. By expanding its reach, FTCCI aims to empower businesses items, handicrafts, handlooms, in the dynamic world of international trade.

# for nurses

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

The TOMCOM has successfully placed 31 nurses of first and second batch in reputed hospitals in Japan. The recruitment agency is inaugurating third batch and also conducting screening tests for the selection of candidates for subsequent batches on January 29 at National Institute of Skill Training (NSTI), Shivam Road, Vidyanagar from 10am - 5

Fresh BSc Nursing graduates or GNM diploma holders from registered colleges in the age group of 22-30 years program. No prior work experience is required.

# Builders accused of using explosives, throwing debris on residents

PNS HYDERABAD

Aditya community residents in Gandipet accusing the Hallmark apartment builders of throwing the dust from 25th floors and using explo-

The residents alleged that the stones and dust was strewn all over the place. Residentse filed a case on Saturday against Hallmark builders for not taking any precautions to ensure the safety of residents. Resident Mohan Reddy

said, "When the builders are throwing the waste on a net from the 25 floor, that debris landed into presmises of the residents". "My community residents went and filed a case against

the builders and I filed a separate case on Saturday. When my driver was reaching my car from my home, a huge stone landed very close to him.

If that stone hit him, he rould have died. If they have not booked a criminal case, we will approach higher offi-



"Our community members filed around six complaints for the last two months but police authorities have not taken any action against them. Community president Bhaskar Reddy filed a case against the builder and on Saturday also I met ACP and complaint against them on Saturday", he said.

"They are constructing around 32 storied buildings. We met the constructors but still they are not taking any precautions to stop it. Our cars and houses are filled with the coated dust and stones are all around the com-

munity.", he mentioned. The Aditya community is Sunday at 5 PM against the constructors.

#### Driver booked for dragging man on bonnet in Panjagutta

PNS HYDERABAD

The Panjagutta police on Friday booked a person for dragging a man on his car's bonnet.

The incident went viral on social media. The driver who seemed to be in a rush, dragged a man on his car's bonnet for a few meters at the Punjagutta

Passersby chased the vehicle with a yellow number plate in an attempt to intercept it. People managed to stop and car, apprehend the driver and thrashed him before handing him over to police.

The Panjagutta Police stated that sobriety tests were not conducted to determine if it was a case of drunk driving. Panjagutta Station House officer took suo moto cognisance of the incident and registered an FIR against the accused for reckless driving. The accused received four stitches after he was injured while attempting to escape, he said.

#### **AIMIM donates Rs 1 lakh to Sangareddy** vendor whose shop was set ablaze

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) on Saturday donated Rs 1, 75, 000 to a vendor whose shop was set ablaze in Sangareddy district.

On the night of January 22, Abdul Qadeer, a fruit vendor, lost his source of income after his shop was set ablaze by an angry mob in Hathnoor Mandal in Sangareddy district. It is alleged that the situation got out of control when two minors threw stones at the

According to the police, the situation was brought under control as pickets were arranged across Daulatabad and Hathnoora villages.

The Police also registered an FIRs against the miscreants. The incident happened on the same day when Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the Ram temple

consecration in Ayodhya. AIMIM MLA Kausar Mohiuddin on January 23, Sanga Reddy Superintendent of Police, Ch Rupesh and demanded strict action against culprits.

#### **ANNIVERSARY FUNCTION**

# Mallareddy Medical College questioned for inviting quacks

The Telangana State Medical Council (TSMC) has sought explanation from the Mallareddy Medical College for inviting quacks during anniversary celebrations and the New Year Calendar inauguration Programme on January 29.

In a letter to the Director of the Mallareddy Medical College, TSMC chairman Dr Mahesh Kumar K said, "This is to inform to you that the Telangana State Medical Council has noted that an information was circulating in social media i.e. by whatsapp / phone messages and in other media stating that in your Medical College i.e. Malla Reddy Medical College, Jeedimetla, Hyderabad con-



ducting 16th Anniversary and New Year Calendar Calendar Inauguration Programme on January 29 at 11am, inviting PMP's and other illegal medical practitioners.

In this connection, it is stated that in a recognised teaching institute allowing the unqualified persons to take part in programme is illegal, which showed that the unqualified persons were encouraged to practise modern medicine. It is illegal as

per the National Medical Commission Act, 2019 and also as per the TSMC Act.

"I am herewith enclosing a copy which is circulating in social media. Hence, in view of the above, you are hereby directed to submit your explanation & stop the programme which is to be conducted on January 29, failure of which the Telangana State Medical Council will take appropriate actions as per law," the notice said.

#### Man, wife arrested for cheating woman of Rs 6 lakh

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A man and his wife were arrested by Cyberabad police on Saturday for their alleged involvement in a matrimonial fraud.

Accused Maddugari Chandrakanth, 48, and Maddugari Bhavani, 32, were been arrested for cheating a woman of Rs 6 lakh.

Cyberabad police, in a press note, said that multiple cases were registered in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka States against them.

The victim approached Chandrakanth through the Telugu Shaadi.com app in December 2023 and later continued communication on WhatsApp. Chandrakanth posed as a doctor planning to set up a hospital chain business in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Karnataka, and claimed he was facing income tax issues because his bank account with Rs

25 crore was frozen. Chandrakanth blackmailed her emotionally, showing forged SBI ATM slips and images of a hospital under construction. He persuaded her to lend him money to resolve alleged income tax and settlement issues. Victim borrowed money from friends and took out a loan. After receiving the money, Chandrakanth cut off communication, providing excuses like COVID-19 and a fake accident.

## Warangal District Gazette No.05/ WGL/2022, Dated 19-01-2024 GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA Revenue (LA) Department FORM-VII (See sub-rule (1) of rule-25 and Section -19 (1) of the Act 2013 (30/2013)

octor File No.G/958/2021 RDO File No.B/1036/2021 Dated: 16-01-2024 Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangani / Collector that an extent of Ac.0-18 gts of land is required out of Sy.Nos.367, 415, 417 and 426 situated at Khilla Warangai village and Mandai, Warangai District to be acquired public purpose namely for construction of Railway Third Lind with Electrification between kazipel and Kondapalli stations. Therefore, declaration is made that a piece of lan

DECLARATION

easuring, more or less Ac. 0.18 gts standard measure ment under acquisition for the above said project in the Urus Village of Khila Warangal Mandal, Warangal Distric whose detailed description is as following: Khila Warangal (V) Khila Warangal (M) Khila Warangal (V)

| _ |     |           |                        | Warange  | al District   |    |   |   |   |       |                    |
|---|-----|-----------|------------------------|--|---|----|---|---|---|-------|--------------------|
|   | Nu  | Type      | Type<br>of<br>La<br>nd | Area<br>under<br>Acqui-<br>sition<br>(in Sq.<br>Yards) | Name and<br>Address<br>of person<br>Interested  | Γ. |   |   |   | Trees | Structures, if any |
| 1 | 2   | 3         | 4                      | 5  | 6   | П  | 7 |   |   | 8     | 9                  |
| 1 | 367 | Pa<br>tta | Dry                    | 892 Sq.Yds<br>(0.071a)                                 |   |    |   | - |   | -     | -                  |
| 2 | 415 | tta       | Dry                    | 319 Sq.Yds<br>(0.02:1a)                                |   |    |   |   |   | -     |                    |
| 3 | 416 | tta       |                        | 363Sq, Yds<br>(0.03)                                   |   |    |   |   | - |       |                    |
| 4 | 417 | Pa<br>tta | Dry                    | 302.5 Sq.Yds<br>(0.02:10)                              | Open<br>Plots   |    |   |   |   | -     | -                  |
| 5 | 426 | Pa tta    | Dry                    | 302.5<br>Sq.Yds<br>(0.02:a)                            | Open Plots<br>(165 Sq.<br>Yds)<br>Bukkala<br>Rajender<br>S\o Venka<br>talah (58<br>Sq. Yds)<br>Unknown<br>(79.5 Sq.<br>Yds) |    |   |   |   |       |                    |
|   | To  | tal       |                        |  |   |    |   |   |   |       |                    |
|   |     |           |                        | on is made<br>ed and due                               |   |    |   |   |   |       |                    |

#### the Act No.30/2013. The number of families likely to b resettled due to Land Acquisition is NIL.

The Mines of Coal, Iron-stone, Slate or another miner-als lying under the said or any particulars portion of the said land, except such parts of the mines and minerals which may be required to be dug or removed or used during the construction phase of the project for the purpos of which the land is being acquired, are not needed. A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of th

District Collector, Warangal and Land Acquisition Officer Revenue Divisional Officer, Warangal on any working da during the working hours. Sd/-Sd/-

Land Acquisition Officer & Additional evenue Divisional Officer, Warangal

District Collector DIPR Ro.No.859/LA-PP/Agency/advt-1/2023-2

# PG students stage protest as two men break into women's hostel

PNS HYDERABAD

Osmania University postgraduate hostellers protested as two men intruded into the hostel on Saturday.

Around 200 women students were panicked when two unidentified individuals broke into the women's hostel at Secunderabad and one person was caught on Saturday.

On Saturday morning at 12:30 am, they saw two men in the hostel and caught one of them, while the other one escaped. Students staged a day at 9 am.

Mess in-charge and masters

of social work (MSW) second year student Kummari Mounika said, "At around 12:30 am, one of the students named Anusha saw an intruder, thend she shouted. After that we searched for intruders. We saw two people on the terrace and one person was on the ground floor. But we are

not sure that they are two or three people". 'After we spotted the intruders in the hostel, we

protest from 1 am to the next called the police at 12.30 am and we caught one of the intruders at around 12.50 am,"

she said. The students demanded that the height of the the compound wall be increased, CCTV be increased cameras and increase the security in

the vicinity of the hostel.

"We are suspecting that they entered the campus by scaling the compound wall.

Begumpet police filed a case against the accused under 364, 461, 509, and 323 sec-

# Choutuppal Police arrest 3; ganja worth Rs 32.30 lakh seized

PNS HYDERABAD

The Choutuppal police in coordination with the Special Operations Team of Malkajgiri zone on Friday arrested three interstate drug peddlers and seized 64 kg of ganja worth Rs 32, 30,000 from them.

The arrested are PH Favas (29), Ananthu Mohan (25) and Sayed (39), all natives of Kerala. Apart from the contraband, the police seized two vehicles used for transportation and three mobile phones

Favas, a native of Thrissur district



worked as a fish transporter, while Mohan native Thiruvananthapuram worked as labourer at construction sites and Sayed a native of Malappuram district worked as a mechanic. The

accused for transporting drugs from Araku in Andhra Pradesh to Bangalore. On January 24, the three accused traveled to Araku and handed over the car to a supplier. They left Araku in another car and were traveling to Bangalore via

accused got in touch with a drug

peddler from Bangalore and he

offered huge money to the three

Hyderabad. They were apprehended by the police at Panthangi toll and seized the drug. The accused were booked under sections 420 IPC, and 8 (c) r/w 20 (b) (ii) (C), Sec. 29 OF NDPS ACT-1985

# Two more guarantees will be implemented soon: Bhatti

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka has categorically stated that the two more guarantees promised by the Congress will be implemented

very soon.

He was taking part in a series of development pro-grammes in Nidhanapuram and Chilukuru villages of Bayyaram mandal in Khammam district on

Addressing meetings in villages, the Deputy Chief Minister made it clear that the Congress would give a befitting reply to the BRS leaders who are critical of the Congress gov-

The cleansing of the TSPSC has begun to ensure the transparent process of holding examinations and recruitment.

camp opens

A programme to check

haemoglobin level among the

high school and junior college

students has begun in the

district. The district adminis-

tration set a target of tesing least 28,059 students as part of

the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya

Karyakramam (RBSK) to

make Telangana free from

anaemia. The screening of

students for anaemia began on

January 24 and will continue

till January 27. The Medical and Health

officials identified 28,059 stu-

dents of class 8 to

Intermediate in 59 high

schools and 11 junior colleges,

two model schools and 15

KGBVs, social welfare hostels,

tribal welfare hostels, BC,

Minority residential educa-

District in-charge immuni-

sation officer Siddhardha

appealed to the students to

undergo blood tests without

The blood tests on students commenced from

tional institutions.

any hesitation.



The Chairman of the Commission and its members had been appointed. The recruitment would take place transparently without giving

room for question paper leaks. As part of the Mahalakshmi scheme, announced by the Congress, within two days of it coming to power, free RTC travel for women has been provided. In fact, over 10 crore

al measures to check the

go the blood tests.

een constituted.

normal.

These teams would conduct

blood screening tests in

schools at least on 100 stu-

dents. If the haemoglobin

level is eight, it is regarded as

is found to be 6 or 7, the stu-

dents will be given multi-

vitamin tablets, iron and

If the haemoglobin level

Anaemia screening

free of cost. The upper limit of the Rajiv Aarogyasri scheme has been doubled to Rs 10 lakh for the poor.

Plans are underway to create wealth by the people's government, he said, adding that the government would prepare detailed plans for the compre-hensive development of the state and place them before the people. The government will strive hard to develop agricul-ture, irrigation, information technology, and industrial sectors as part of the comprehensive development, he added.

The people's government gave priority to the INDI-RAMMA rule which gave importance to medical, health, employment and infrastructur-

The BRS, which inherited a wealthy state for development, pushed Telangana into debt, he alleged and maintained that the Cong government released a White Paper on the floor of the State Legislative Assembly to expose the financial havoc created in Telangana.

The BRS regime looted the states and pushed the state into lakhs of crores of debts, he said. However, the Congress government has been forging ahead boldly to wriggle the state from the financial crisis.

Everyone in the government of the state of the stat

ment organisation, official and system should be accountable to the people. Every citizen should feel convinced that all these facilities are for him or her alone, he He assured the people that

the Congress government will live up to the expectations of

# State & Centre to squeeze KCR

BRS President K. Chandrasekhar Rao is likely to get cornered by both the State

and Central Governments. The Telangana High Court's direction to the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) to file a case against KCR has come in handy for the Congress government headed by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy which is digging into the misdeeds of the BRS gov-

This case is related to 11 acres of land in Kokapet which the KCR government allocated for constructing the BRS Excellence Centre. At the same time, the CBI has come

forward to investigate the alleged irreg-ularities in the Kaleshwaram project and has indicated its willingness to probe the case to the Telangana High

When the Congress government decided to order a judicial inquiry into the Kaleshwaram Project, state BJP leaders demanded that the government should ask the CBI to probe the matter.

But the state government said that a judicial inquiry by a sitting High Court Judge is enough and that there is no need

The state government has written to the High Court to allot a judge to probe the alleged irregularities in the Kaleshwaram

There is a general impression that the CBI came forward to probe the Kaleshwaram scam as per the direction of the Centre.

It appears that TS government headed by the Congress and the Central Government headed by the BJP won't let go of any opportunity to take revenge against KCR.

It is interesting to note here the MLAs' poaching case. When

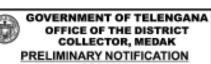
the BRS government asked the TS police to probe the case BJP leaders demanded a CBI probe. Finally, the Telangana High Court directed the CBI to probe

the case.

BJP leaders hope that the court will allow the CBI to probe the Kaleshwaram case too. If that happens, the Central Government will come into the

The TS Government and the Central Government will

After the Assembly elections, the Centre reopened the case against BRS MLC Kavitha in the Delhi liquor scam



FORM VI Sub-rule(1) of rule-19 and Section -11(1) of the Act-30/2013)

District Collector, Medak File No. No. G1/327/N2019

RDO, Narsapur/LAO, Lr.No. B/682/2019 Date: 06-01-2024 Date: 12-01-2024 Gazette No. 287

Collector that a total of about Ac. 4-16 Gts land is required for Publi purpose, namely, "for construction of Konda Pochamma Sagar Sangareddy Main Canal Reach II in the Limits of Lingojguda villa of Shivempet Mandal, the Notification issued U/s 11(1) of the L. A. Ac 30/2013 Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.

The Government exempted the project "for construction Konda Pochamma Sagar\* Sangareddy Main Canal Reach II in the Limits of Lingojguda village of Shivempet Mandar\* from the applications of provisions of Chapter-III and chapter-III of the RFCTLA & RR Act, 2013, in accordance with the provisi contained in section 10 A(e) in chapter-IIIA of the RFCTLA & RF (Telangana Amendment) Act, 2016 (Act. No. 21 of 2017).

Therefore, it is notified that for the above said project Shivampet Mandal, Medak District a piece of land measuring more or less Ac. 4-16 Gts in Lingojiguda village of Shivampet Mandal

# Medak District, Whose details are as follows are under PATTA LAND. SCHEDULE nosyn Perfilus Parthula Rich Lambod Blabbit Lambod Share Kamalas- Lole Sib Water Sib Kamelu Kara, nma Wo Jamela Negy Perfilus Wo Jamela Nayak 36 Parts Dry 0.01 Waloth Rupla 38 Parts Dry 0.02 Maloth Kishan S/o Ristan Bujii Sis Wo

# Sogal Buji Wio Kishan Ste Dargyo Sio Gopal

Rekya Rekya Panthulu Rekya Rokya Total 0.08 Buji S/o

Vittal Sio Kishan Jiffember Lolsing Bujii Burya Bis Sio Bio Dhan Bio GOVERNMENT LAND (ASSIGNED/UN-ASSIGNED) 2 Peta Dry 0.01 Lambedi 2 Peta Somala Raju Sib Somala Lalu Mathiam Sib Sib

Patta Land Total 4.10 Complete Total 4.16 This notification is made under the provision of section-11(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Central Act No. 30(2013), as amended by the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement

Tanya

Rethre-mma mma S/o W/o VIIo Rekya

Raju S/b Mothi-

(Telangana Amendment Act, 2013 (Act No. 21 of 2017) to all whom i A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Distric Collector, Medak and office of the Revenue Divisional Officer Nersepur on any working day during the working hours. The District Collector, Medak-cum-Appropriate Government has authorized the Revenue Divisional Officer, Nersepur to discharge the functions of the Land-Acquisition Officer and also authorize his staff to enter upon and survey land, take level of any land, dig or bore into the subso and do all other acts required for the proper execution provided and specified in section 12 of the said act.

Under section 11 (4) of the act, no person shall make an transaction or any transaction of land i.e., sale/purchase etc., o create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the District Collector.

Objections to the acquisition if any, and claims from all person interested/affected for settlement by negotiations of the compensation may be filed by the person interested in the land within (50) sixty days from the date of publication of this notification provided U/s 15 of the

Act before the District Collector, Medair The Land Acquisition Office 8 Revenue Divisional Officer, Nansapur. Sdi- Revenue Divisional

# BRS will upset Congress' apple cart in LS polls

health complications they might face during teenage.

The District Educational Former Minister and Suryapet MLA G Jagadish Reddy on Saturday exuded confidence Officer, Ashok, said that the that his party would emerge victorious in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. He screening of students for anaemia has begun from students of classes 8 plus two levels. The tests help diagnose expressed the hope that the anaemia and other health Telangana society would be ready to correct the mistake complicatinsamong students. committed in the recent elec-Therefore, parents should encourage students to undertions. As per the party's decision to hold constituency-wise Under the programmes of meetings from Saturday given Rashtreeya Bal Swasthya and the upcoming Lok Sabha elec-Rashtriya Kishore Swasthya tions, a meeting was organised programmes, 10 teams have in the Nalgonda Assembly

constituency on Saturday.

He alleged that the ruling party leaders were threatening to attack farmers with slippers if they demanded that the government fulfil its promises. He demanded that the Congress government fulfil its promise of a farm loan waiver up to Rs 2 lakh without any delay.

He recalled that he had

folic acid tablets. If the dared the government to order anaemia level is serious, the a judicial inquiry into the allepatients will be hospitalgation related to the Damaracharla power plant. ized and will have to undergo blood transfusion. Tests for blood cancer, "In a democracy, power is not permanent," he said. Before the If the students found Thalassemia, sickle-cell anaemic they will be admitted anaemia will also be conformation of Telangana, the ducted on the patients then Chief Ministers \



Former Minister G Jagdish Reddy speaking at Nalgonda constituency meeting in Nalgonda on Saturday

Rajasekhara Reddy and N Chandrababu Naidu were diverting Krishna waters illegally to Andhra Pradesh.

He accused Congress and the BJP of entering into an unholy alliance. He said the BJP's alliance with the Congress had started from Survapet. The Congress and the BJP allied at the state and national levels. The BRS cannot to be cowed down by Congress threats, Jagadish Reddy said.

Former MLA of Nallagonda Kancharla Bhupal Reddy, District Party President former Ravindra Kumar, agonda Bho

Chairman Banda Narendra Reddy, YMC Kotireddy, former MLAs Gadhari Kishore Kumar, N. Bhaskar Rao BR present in this program.BRS

leaders Kancharla Krishna Reddy, Chada Kishan Reddy, Borra Sudhakar, Thandu Saidu Goud, Sahadeva Reddy, Karim Pasha, Pankaj Yadav along with Tipparthi, Kanagal, Nallagonda mandals, Nallagonda town presidents Pal Reddy Ravinder Reddy, Venkat Reddy, Bhonagiri Devender along with women leaders Sharanya Reddy, Yata Jayaprada Reddy, Padma, Swaroopa, Vanaparthi

PNS ADILABAD

a gap of few minutes.

In a tragic incident, a newly-wed woman, who attempted to die by sui-

cide by consuming pesticide, died

while undergoing treatment at RIMS

in Adilabad on Saturday. Her hus-

band also ended his life on the

premises of RIMS after learning

about the demise of his wife within

attempted to kill herself by consum-

ing pesticide on Friday. She breathed

her last while undergoing treatment

on Saturday morning. Her 28-year-old husband Vijay resorted to the drastic

step by taking some pesticide on the

premises the RIMS when he came to

Police said that Pallavi from Gurja

know about the death of his wife.

A 20-year-old Shevade Pallavi

#### Farmers inclined to sell cotton to CCI at MSP

PNS JAMMIKUNTA

Farmers have been selling cotton to the Cotton Corporation of India as the private traders are refusing to procure cotton from them at the MSP, which is Rs 6920 per quintal.

At the beginning of the procurement season, some private traders procured cotton at the MSP. However, during the past three months, no trader was procuring the cotton at the MSP in undivided Karimnagar district, forcing the farmers to sell their produce to the CCI.

Since November last year, the CCI has been procuring cotton at MSP from the market yards and some ginning mills with which it entered into an agreement.

The private trders procured 65,387 quintals of cotton from Jammikunta, Karimnagar and Choppadandi procurement centres, as against the procurement of 1,10,334 quintals of cotton by the CCI from these centres.

Jammikunta Agriculture Market Yard secretary G Reddy Naik made it clear that the CCI, for the past 20 days, procured more cotton when compared to the cotton procured by the market yard.

The fluctuations in price of cotton are directly proportional to the international market prices. In 2021-22, the Jammikunta market yard procured cotton at the record price of Rs 14,000 per quintal. However, the MSP dropped to Rs 9100 in 2022. In last November, the MSP offered was Rs 7600. However, it dropped to the current Rs 6920 a quintal. At the beginning, the

# Projects built sans quality during BRS regime: Komatireddy

PNS NALGONDA

Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Saturday said that the projects built by the KCR government are collapsing before they are completed. The BRS government has focused on commissions rather than the quality of projects, which is why not a single project is strong. He said that when YS Rajasekhar Reddy was the Chief Minister for the second time, he had sanctioned Rs 1.500 crore for water through the Srisailam under the tunnel

Drinking water through AMRP will be available for two days and the main canal lining work will be completed at a cost of Rs 510 crore. Tenders would be called for the work



Minister for Roads and Building Komatireddy Venkat Reddy laying the foundation stone for the Skill Development Centre in Nalgonda on Saturday

and the work would begin in a month, he said.

Widening and strengthening of Nalgonda, Musampally, Dharmapuram, Kannekal and Tipparthi roads at a cost of Rs 99.80 crore would be taken up. He said that the leaders in the previous government had

looted thousands of crores of

Bhagiratha. However, clean drinking water was not provided in schools. The Minister laid the foun-

rupees in the name of Mission

dation stone for the Skill Development Centre in Nalgonda town. He said that this is not a building but a lamp that illuminates the lives of many unemployed youth and families.

He laid the foundation stone for a new children's home to be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 1.35 crore at Panagal in Nalgonda town, an old age home to be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 50 lakh and

reconstruction of Mahabubnagar-Nalgonda road high-level bridge at Darveshi Puram village in Kanagal mandal of Nalgonda district at an estimated cost of Rs 12.40 crore.

(opposition) side Kauravas.

Ì am not Abhimanyu who

was entangled in the

Padmavyuham. I am

Arjuna who was supported

by you people like Lord Krishna," he said, adding

"This is a war between

truth and lies. This is a war

between cheating and cred-

ibility The target is 175 out of 175 Assembly seats...25

village was married to Vijay on May 23. The couple had no disputes and



was leading a happy married life. However, Pallavi was not interested in living in Kolhari. She came to the village on Friday. She took a bottle of pesticide and fell unconscious, police

# BRS can overcome thorny hurdles, says Harish

Man ends life minutes after

wife's suicide in Adilabad

PNS SIDDIPET

Since the movement for separate Telangana, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi successfully crossed several thorny hurdles, said former Minister and MLA Harish Rao.

Addressing a meeting at Konda Mallaiah Gardens here on Saturday to convey gratitude to the people of Siddipet for having elected him as MLA, he said the BRS can counter threats and attacks successfully.

The BRS leaders did not buckle under pressure in the combined Andhra Pradesh though the party had



Former Minister T Harish Rao speaking at a meeting in Siddipet on Saturday

just 10 seats in the Assembly then, he recalled. The party leaders and activists continued to fight for the rights of the people

in the Telangana region. What stopped the Congress from implementing a Rs 2 lakh loan waiver to the farm-

ers, Rs 50,00 bonus for procurement of paddy, paying Rs 4,000 pension to senior citizens under the Aasara scheme and implementation of free power up to 200 units a month to households, he questioned.

The ruling party leaders should exhibit a lot of patience, he said, while accusing the Congress of trying to find ways to not imple-

ment six guarantees. He categorically stated that the BRS alone can protect the interests of the people of Telangana, but not the BJP and the

# FROM ANDHRA PRADESH

## YSRCP 'Siddham' for polls This side Pandavas. That

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Saturday sounded the poll bugle for the YSR Congress party (YSRCP) for the upcoming Assembly and Lok Sabha polls saying it is a Kurukshetra war' comparing himself with the Pandavas while the opposition TDP with the Kauravas (from the epic Mahabharatha).

party workers 'titled said the YSRCP "Siddham" (Ready) at Government has fulfilled



99 per cent of the poll promises, unlike the TDP which has allegedly 'dumped its manifesto in the dustbin."

Seeking votes for the YSRCP in the coming elections, the CM said his government has disbursed Rs 2.53 lakh crore through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) without giving any scope for corruption and as many as 2.13 lakh government jobs were given in the past 56 months of his

"This a Kurukshetra war. Sabha seats

out of 25 seats is our target," the YSRCP chief said. Andhra Pradesh has 175 Assembly and 25 Lok

# Happy that work is underway: PM

'One nation, one legislative platform'

PNS MUMBAI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said he was happy that Parliament and state legislatures were working towards realisation of the goal of 'one nation, one legislative platform'.

Addressing the 84th All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC) here virtually, he also rued that some political parties defend their members even if they violate the rules of the House, and warned that it did not augur well for Parliament and state

legislatures.
"In 2021, during discussions with you, I spoke about 'one nation, one legislative platform.' I am happy that our Parliament and state legislatures are now working towards this goal through E-Vidhan and Digital Sansad platforms," the prime minister

that in future he did not repeat the mistake and break the rules of the House.

Notably, the 'one nation,

one legislative platform' project

aims at making available the

proceedings of all legislatures

on a single digital platform.

depends on the conduct of its

members, the prime minister

any member in the House

broke the rules and action

was taken against that mem-

ber, senior members of the

House would talk to him so

The image of a legislature

There was a time when, if

"But these days, some political parties stand in support of such members and defend their mistakes. The situation is not good for Parliament or

state legislature," Modi said.
Reflecting on the changing norms in public life, he said in the past, allegations of corruption against a member of the House would lead to his or her ostracisation from public life. But now we witness public

glorification of convicted corrupt individuals. This is an insult to the executive, the judiciary and the constitution," Modi said.

Referring to the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (legislation on women's quota in legislatures), Modi said discussions on suggestions aimed at enhancing women's participation and representation should be encouraged in legislatures.

#### 'You are architect of developed India'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday highlighted a host of measures taken by his government to assert that it has empowered the youth and women and that a developed India will fulfil their dreams. "You are the architect of a developed India," he told youngsters at the annual NCC-PM rally here. Women were earlier confined to cultural programmes but his government has opened up various sectors, including all three services, to them and they are making a mark everywhere, he said, noting that the Republic Day parade this year was dedicated to them. The number of women in central security forces has doubled in the last 10 years, Prime Minister Modi said and added that states are

also being encouraged to follow

a similar path. A digital revolution has been taking place and it benefits the creativity of the youth the most, he said. People were struggling for 2G and 3G infrastructure a decade ago while 5G and optical fibre network is now reaching every village, Modi said. In a swipe at previous dispensations, he said they deliberately neglected the development of border villages and called them the last villages of the country. Prime Minister Modi said his government has taken up their development in a big way and they will emerge as big tourist centres, noting that these villages are now seen as the "first villages" of the country. The government has launched a 'vibrant village' programme for their development, he said.

# Padma awardees are 'jewels in rags' says Dhankhar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday described the Padma awardees as "jewels in rags" whose talent has been recognised by the government. He also said that meritoc-

racy has replaced autocracy and nepotism in the country, adding the youngsters today have more opportunities to achieve their goals.

Interacting with distinguished artists who participated in the Republic Day here, he referred to the recently-announced Padma awards.Jagdeep Dhankhar Dhankhar said the people, who have been selected for

these awards had never expected to receive it.
"But they were discovered, their talent was recognised

and everyone appreciated it," he said while referring to them as "Gudri ke Lal" (jew-



Former vice president M. Venkaiah Naidu, actors Vyjayantimala Bali and Chiranjeevi, Sulabh International founder -- the late Bindeshwar Pathak -and Bharatanatyam dancer Padma Subrahmanyam were on Thursday conferred with the Padma Vibhushan, the

second-highest civilian hon-

Earlier, interacting with the National Service Scheme (NSS) volunteers, the vice president said that equality before the law has now been truly established, unlike in the past where some people hought they were above it.

The ecosystem of corruption and middlemen has been dismantled and youngsters have immense opportunities to realise their potential, Dhankhar said.

"The autocracy of corruption has been replaced with meritocracy of democracy," he said.

The NSS volunteers were part of an all-women contingent that participated in the Republic Day parade on

Describing youngsters as the foot soldiers who will help India become a developed country by 2047, he urged them to be innovative and focus on research and entre-

### Will make all efforts to keep INDIA bloc united, says Cong prez Kharge

PNS KALABURAGI (K'TAKA)

Congress President M Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday said his party expects that those who have the desire to protect the country's Constitution and democracy, will definitely not take any hasty steps, amid indications that JD(U) was planning

to revert to the BJP-led NDA. He said the Congress will make all efforts to keep the INDIA bloc united, while maintaining that he has no clarity as to what is in the JD(U) leadership's mind.

Responding to a question on the possibility of JD(U) going out of the INDIA alliance, Kharge said, "Are they (JD(U)) going out? I have not got any information about it so far. I have written a letter to them (JD(U) leadership) and have tried to talk to them. I don't know clearly what is in their

There are strong indications that JD(U) chief and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar was planning to quit the ruling 'Mahagathbandhan' in the state and revert to the BJP-led NDA.

Some JD(U) leaders like K C claimed that the INDIA bloc is on the verge of collapse. Speaking to reporters here, the Congress president said, "I'm going to Dehradun tomorrow and from there to Delhi. Once I go there, I will gather complete information about it and talk to you, otherwise it may lead to confusion....Let's see what happens.'

#### **Seeks safety** of yatra

PNS NEW DELHI

Apprehending trouble by Miscreants during the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in West Bengal, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has written to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee seeking appropriate directions to ensure its smooth passage through the state and safety of the yatris, including Rahul Gandhi. In his letter, Kharge expressed fear that some miscreants may try to show the state administration in bad light or disrupt the yatra, as had happened in some neighboring states. He said the Congress has embarked on the "Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra" from Manipur to Maharashtra to spread the message of justice to heal and unite the nation Kharge said Rahul Gandhi, who is leading this vatra had earlier walked from Kanyakumari to Kashmir in the Bharat Indo Vatra and has always maintained that the yantras serve a larger purpose of uniting people who stand divided today by the BJP in the name of religion, caste and creed and to ensure that the weakest are assured

of justice social, economic and political.

# Hand over Gyanvapi structure' to Hindus: VHP

PNS NEW DELHI

The VHP on Saturday claimed the ASI survey report has "reconfirmed" that the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi was constructed after demolishing a "magnificent temple" at the site and demanded that the structure be declared `a Hindu temple and handed over to the community.

It also demanded that Hindus be

permitted to offer "sewa puja" to the 'Shivlinga' found in the "so-called Wazukhana area" at the disputed site.

"The evidence collected and the conclusions provided by the ASI do prove that the religious character of this place of worship existed on the 15th day of August, 1947, and as at present is of a Hindu Temple," VHP working president Alok Kumar said in a statement. "Thus, even as per Section 4 of the Places of Worship Act,

1991, the structure should be declared as a Hindu temple," he also demanded. The VHP also called upon the Intezamia Committee that manages the mosque to agree to "respectfully shift" the Gyanvapi mosque to another appropriate place and to hand over the original site of Kashi Vishvanatha to the Hindu society.
"The VHP believes that this right-

eous action shall be an important step towards creating amicable relations between the two prominent communities of Bharat," Kumar said.

The VHP's demands came after the ASI survey report on the Gyanvapi mosque complex was made public two days ago, with the lawyer representing the Hindu litigants claiming that the mosque was built after demolishing a pre-existing temple.
"Hand over the Gyanvapi structure

to Hindus," Kumar said. He claimed the evidence collected by ASI "recon-

firms that the mosque had been constructed after demolishing a magnificent temple". A part of the temple structure, particularly the western wall, is the remaining part of the Hindu temple, he further claimed.

The ASI report also proves that parts of the pre-existing temple including pillars and pilasters were reused with modifications to extend the span of the mosque and in the construction of the 'sahan', he added

# POEM-3 ISRO's unique and inexpensive space platform

Achieves all payload objectives

PNS BENGALURU

ISRO said on Saturday its space platform, POEM-3, has successfully achieved all its payload objectives. POEM-3 (the PSLV Orbital

Experimental Module-3) uses the spent PS4 stage of the PSLV-C58 rocket that launched XPoSat on January 1 this year. ISRO said POEM-3 flew

with nine payloads from Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Physical Research Laboratory academia, and space start-ups. By the 25th day in orbit, POÉM-3, which the space agency described as a unique and inexpensive platform, completed 400 orbits.

Over this period, each payload was put into operation, as planned and performance was demonstrated.



POEM-3 is a three-axis-attitude controlled platform with power generation and telecommand and telemetry capabiliwas noted.

It is predicted that POEM-3 will continue orbiting for approximately 73 more days before re-entering the Earth's atmosphere.

"With the likely re-entry of POEM-3 in the next 75 days, the PSLV-C58 XPoSat mission will be leaving zero debris in

The experiments of ARKA200 (Xenon Based Electric Propulsion) and RUDRA (HAN based Green Propellant Thruster) from Bellatrix, and LEAP-TD (Satellite Bus with VHF/UHF Downlink & UHF Uplink Tested using IIST ground station) from Dhruva Space were completed.

Payload data is collected regularly for WeSAT (Solar irradiance and UV Index study) from LBS Institute of Technology for Women, BeliefSat0 (Amateur Radio satellite) from K J Somayia Institute of Technology, RSEM (Radiation Shielding experiment) from TakeMe2Space, and DEX (interplanetary Dust particle experiment) from PRL

#### Gujarat govt razes houses. 150 huts to clear temple land

PNS GIR SOMNATH

A mega anti-encroachment drive was undertaken to clear around 3 hectares of land behind Somnath temple in Gujarat's Gir Somnath district that belonged to the temple trust and state government, officials said on Saturday.

As many as 21 houses and 153 huts that had unauthorisedly come up were being demolished to clear the land belonging to Shree Somnath Trust. which manages the activities of and the state government, said Collector Harji Vadhvaniya.

The mega demolition drive began Saturday morning in the presence of five mamlatdars' and around 100 revenue officials, Vadhvaniya said. Heavy police presence was also maintained to ensure that it went off peacefully, he said.

### INDIA CORNER

#### **Court acquits man accused of** sexually harassing teenage girl



A court in Thane district of Maharashtra has acquitted a man accused of sexually harassing and threatening a 15-year-old girl in 2016 citing lack of evidence. Special court judge D S Deshmukh passed the order on Monday, but it was made available on Saturday.

Accused Swapnil Shrikant Kambale, 32, was booked under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty). 354A (sexual harassment of the nature of unwelcome physical contact and advances, 354D (stalking), 506 (criminal intimidation), and under the Protection of Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) Act. According t prosecution, the incident had occurred in 2016 and the first information report (FIR) was filed that year on October 14 at the Shreenagar police station in Thane. The victim, who was a school student at the time, accused Kambale of stalking her, making advances, and threatening her family. The charges were framed on May 4, 2018. In the judgment, the court said there was a lack of substantial evidence to prove the guilt of the accused and acquitted

#### Centre extends Z+ security to Kerala 'Oppn leaders' presence at Ayodhya Guv after SFI black flag protest PNS KOLKATA

RAM/KOLLAM

The Centre on Saturday extended Z+ security cover to Arif Mohammed Khan, on a day of dramatic events that saw the Kerala Governor face yet another protest from the Leftleaning SFI as he lashed out at Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan for "promoting lawlessness.

A visibly irked Khan, on his way to Kottarakkara for an event, got out of his car at Nilamel, took on the agitating members of the Students Federation of India and sat on the roadside demanding police



action against the activists of the CPI-M-affiliated SFI for staging a blackflag protest against him.

While the BJP threw its weight behind Khan, State General Education Minister

V Sivankutty said that no Governor of any state in the country has behaved in this manner.

The Congress-led UDF on the other hand said that this was all part of the ongoing

political drama of the state government and the Governor. Accusing Vijayan of "promoting lawlessness in the state", Khan said, "as head of the state, lawlessness shall not be tolerated".

The Governor also said that the "attacks" against him were being organised "to divert attention from the Left government's failures and provoke some drastic action (from

"I am not going to oblige them," he said

Governor also termed the SFI activists as "goondas" and "daily wagers" of the Marxist veteran and the Left party.

# placed them in role backing PM'

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor on Saturday asserted that the presence of opposition leaders at the consecration of Ram Mandir in Avodhya could have relegated them to a supporting role in a programme which, he claimed, belonged to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Supporting the Congress leadership's decision to skip the January 22 event, Tharoor expressed willingness to visit the temple after the general elections are over when all the political focus on the shrine dies down.

"The Congress' position is very very clear. The Congress party members are free to have their own religion and religious beliefs, and everyone's religion is respected by the party. So I go to temples to pray, and not to political events," Thiruvananthapuram MP said

"This particular event (consecration of Ram temple) was essentially going to relegate the opposition invitees to a kind of supporting role for a prime ministerial starring spectacle. I did not think that Congress needed to play such a support-

ing role," he told reporters. Senior Congress leaders including party president Mallikarjun Kharge, former chief Sonia Gandhi and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury have 'respectfully declined' the Ram Temple consecration ceremony

#### Man kills wife, minor son; attempts suicide in Jharkhand



A 29-year-old man allegedly strangled his wife and threeyear-old son to death before attempting to die by suicide in Jharkhand's East Singhbhum district, a police officer said on Saturday. The incident happened in Kokmara village, around 90 km from here, under the iurisdiction of Baharagora

police station of the district, late on Friday night. The accused, Subhendu Bera, who tried to hang himself from a tree after committing the crime, was taken into police custody and admitted to a hospital, the Officer-in-Charge of Baharagora police station, Santan Tiwary, said. Family sources said that Bera was not well mentally. and plans were on to take him to a Ranchi hospital for treatment. On Friday night, the accused strangled his wife, Parvati Bera (25) and son to death following an altercation over a petty domestic issue, the police officer said. Other family members woke up on hearing a hue and cry and spotted that he was trying to die by suicide

#### **Indian Diaspora celebrates 75<sup>th</sup> Republic Day in Texas with pride**



howcasing cultural diversity and pride, dressed in their best vibrant ethnic outfits, Indian Americans on Friday celebrated India's achievements and aspirations at the 75th Republic Day here at various events. Despite heavy rains, they flaunted

prosperous India with their enthusiasm and patriotic fervour. Consul General of India, D C Manjunath, at a Facebook live event Friday morning, unfurled the national flag and addressed the community to convey the speech of Indian President Droupadi Murmu. In another well-attended event at the India House early noon, he unfurled the Indian flag amongst a huge gathering of Indian Americans and interacted with them. In the evening, the Consul General organised a reception to commemorate the Republic Day, which saw the attendance of various dignitaries from Texas and adjoining states including elected officials, business leaders and professionals from a range of areas, and members of the Indian expatriate community.

their heritage and commitment to building a stronger and more

# Film industry held responsible for 'changing morals'

Megastar Amitabh Bachchan on Saturday said that the film industry is often held responsible for change in nation's morality, arguing instead that society has always served as an

inspiration for cinema. During his address to the students at the Symbiosis Film Festival here, the 81-year-old screen icon spoke about the criticism the film industry receives as well as the advantages and disadvantages of technological advancement in cin-

He attended the inauguration ceremony of the festival, organised by Symbiosis International, along with wife Jaya Bachchan.

"Many times the film industry comes under a lot of criticism and all kinds of accusations that you are responsible for changing the morals of the country and changing the attitude of the people.

"I'm sure that you know Jaya, who has studied formally at the Institute (FTII), would endorse the fact that stories and films are made from experiences that we noticed in nature, in the world, in everyday life,



and that is what becomes our inspiration," the actor said. Bachchan recalled how his

late father, noted poet and writer Harivansh Rai Bachchan,

would watch the repeat telecast of many Hindi movies. The actor said his father loved the poetic justice aspect of cinema. "Cinema in itself has its own

power. During the last years of my father's life, every evening he would watch a film on television on cassette. Many times the films that he saw were

not get to see poetic justice in

repeated.
"I asked him every evening, 'You have watched the film, don't you get bored? What do you find in Hindi cinema?' He look beautiful. said, 'I'd get to see poetic justice in three hours. You and I will

a lifetime.' And that is the learning that cinema gives to all." Bachchan also lauded Malayalam and Tamil films for their authenticity but said it is incorrect to say that South cinema is doing better than Hindi film industry.

"Regional cinema has been doing very well. But when we talk to them, they say they are making the same kind of films that we do in Hindi. They just change the dressing so that they

"A lot of the people I've met said, 'We are remaking your old films, there's Deewar', Shakti'

and Sholay' somewhere in all our stories.' Malayalam and some of the Tamil cinema is authentic and aesthetic. This whole idea of pointing fingers at a particular region and saying that unki aachi chal rahi hai humari nahi (they are better

than us) is not right," he added. On a query about the technological advancements in the industry, Bachchan recalled the times when actors were compelled to give their best in the first take as filmmakers could not afford to use film celluloid because of budget con-

# **'Every partner needs to collaborate'**

#### FM on India becoming third-largest economy by FY28

PNS NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said the initiatives of Customs department like Faceless Assessment and Single Window Clearance need to evolve with the overall objective of growth of trade as every partner needs to collaborate to help India's GDP surpass USD 5 trillion by 2027-28.

In a written message on the occasion of 'International Customs Day 2024', Sitharaman said with a common purpose of ease of doing business for nation building during India's 'Amrit Kaal', all the stakeholders need to come together and contribute for benefits to citizen of India.

She said this year's theme of International Customs Day

PNS KOLKATA

Saturday.

the occupants.

SEZ and DTA spaces.

The government is working on

reforms in the Special

Economic Zone (SEZ) domain

so that movement of goods

between domestic tariff area

(DTA) and SEZ space is car-

ried out smoothly without

affecting the competitiveness

of goods in the export mar-

kets, Commerce Secretary

Sunil Barthwal said on

During the pandemic two

years ago, many office spaces

in the SEZ areas had been

vacated due to 'work from

home' practice initiated by

Barthwal said this had led to the demarcation of SEZs into

"Scale economies have

n the SEZ are

become very important nowa-

in the offing so that movement

of goods from SEZ to DTA

and vice-versa are not affect-

ed rendering goods produced

become less competitive",

Barthwal said at a symposium

Chamber of Commerce.

value chain.

he added.

organised by the Bharat

The official said that the for-

eign trade policy (FTP) of the

government had been framed

keeping in mind the global

designed for exporters to take

advantage of the global value

chain. The industry, which had

always sought protection in

the past, will now have to inte-

grate with the global value

chain and look at where the

competitive advantage lay",

Stating that the target of

Our FTP has been

Govt working on

SEZ reforms: official

**During the** 

pandemic two years

ago, many office

areas had been

vacated due to

the occupants

'work from home'

practice initiated by

achieving USD two trillion exports by 2030 is possible,

Barthwal said that USD one

trillion will be forthcoming from merchandise exports and

another USD one trillion from

services. "Services appear to be

intangible, but there is a huge scope to grow. We should look

at the impediments which are

preventing the growth of the services sector", he added.
Barthwal said with externa

trade becoming an important

part of the growth engine,

both the industrial and foreign

trade policies are now inter-

increasing demand by coun-

tries to ink free trade agree-

ments (FTAs) with India. In

bilateral and multilateral agree-

ments, the most important

aspect is to understand the pol-

icy of 'give and take'. If one has

to take something, he also has

and the US are raising the

standards by bringing in san-

itary and phytosanitary issues

in imported goods.
"We will have to adhere to

these standards which are

becoming increasingly diffi-

cult", he said...

Barthwal said both the UK

to give something, he said.

He said that there is an

twined.

spaces in the SEZ



She said this year's theme of **International Customs Day which is 'Customs Engaging Traditional and New Partners with Purpose**" resonates with the Motto of 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas' given by PM Modi

Traditional and New Partners with Purpose" resonates with the Motto of 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas' given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Every partner needs to collaborate to put India on course to becoming the third-largest economy by 2027-28, with a GDP surpassing USD 5 trillion," Sitharaman said.

Many initiatives taken by Customs such as Faceless Assessment, Direct Port Delivery, Single Window Clearance, AEO Scheme need to evolve with overall objective of growth of trade and business, she added.

Special focus on MSMEs, new startups and inclusivity will align with the vision of the prime minister, Sitharaman added.

# Youth should job rice to be providers

PNS MUMBAI

The youth should focus on becoming entrepreneurs and create employment opportunities as envisioned by the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 instead of job seekers, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Saturday.

"The youth must not be satisfied by becoming job seekers, but strive to be job providers, as envisioned by the NEP 2020.

"This is an opportune time to focus on entrepreneurship and creating new unicorns, Union Minister for Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan said while addressing the first convocation of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM)

The minister said the youth must not be satisfied by becoming job seekers, but strive to be job providers, as envisioned by the NEP 2020.

"This is an opportune time to focus on entrepreneurship and creating new unicorns," he added.

Pradhan urged everyone to work towards creating an ecosystem to facilitate ideas that will transform into unicorns of the future.

The 'GenZ' are the catalyst of socio-economic change and have the responsibility to be the solution providers on global and societal issues for the next 25 years, Pradhan said.

Further, the minister added that a record improvement has been witnessed in the participation of poor.

He said the systems

division in Customs is preparing for a Customs 2.0 to ensure that all processes in customs and with all stakeholders will be automated

Customs 2.0

PNS NEW DELHI

ranking.

in offing: secy

Revenue Secretary Sanjay

Malhotra on Saturday said

the customs department is

developing a fully automated

trade interface system,

Customs 2.0, which would also help in improving its

score in the World Bank's

Speaking on the International Customs Day

2024 celebrations, organised

by the Central Board of

Indirect Taxes and Customs

(CBIC), Malhotra said tech-

nology is going to be the main driver in improving

The World Bank's Logistics

Performance Index 2023,

last year, had ranked Customs

processes at 47th spot, down

from 40th position in 2018.

become the third largest econ-

omy surpassing GDP of USD

5 trillion. Yet we are ranked

47th out of 139 countries in

the World Bank report'. There

is a huge scope for improve-

ment for us not only in terms

of score but also in terms of

He said the systems divi-

sion in Customs is preparing

for a Customs 2.0 to ensure

that all processes in customs

and with all stakeholders will

faces with trade need to be

automated so that everything

is available with the click of

a button," Malhotra said.

"All payments, all inter-

be automated.

ranking, Malhotra said.

"India is on course to

customs processes.

#### **MONEY MATTERS**

## Yes Bank posts Rs 231 cr profit for Oct-Dec qtr



the October-December quarter of 2023-24 on Saturday. The cityheadquartered private sector lender had reported a post tax net profit of Rs 52 crore for the year-ago period, heavily impacted by money it had to set aside following the transfer of sour loans to an asset reconstruction

company. In the preceding September quarter, the bank's net profit was Rs 225 crore. Its core net interest income grew 2.3 per cent to Rs 1,971 crore in the reporting quarter on the back of 11.8 per cent growth in advances and a 0.10 per cent narrowing in the net interest margin at 2.4 per cent. The non-interest income grew 12.1 per cent to Rs 1,195 crore. Total net income grew by 5.8 per cent to Rs 3,211 crore in the third quarter of FY24 against Rs 3,036 crore in the yearago period. The deposit growth came at 13.2 per cent for the quarter. However, echoing peers who have been flagging risks on the deposits.

# Pakistan seeks US\$



has sought financial Cassistance of USD 2 billion from its close ally China for a year, according to a media report on Saturday. Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar, in a letter, has requested his Chinese Premier Li Qiang to roll over the debt as soon as the deposit time for the loan from China is completed on

March 23. In his letter, Kakar expressed gratitude to China for its financial assistance to Pakistan during its economic crisis as the cashstrapped country has secured a safe deposit of a total of USD 4 billion in loans from China, reducing the country's mounting pressure on external debt payments and stabilising its foreign exchange reserves The Express Tribune newspaper reported. Earlier this month, the UAE rolled over Pakistan's maturing loan of USD 2 billion. Apart from the UAE, Saudi Arabia has deposited USD 5 billion with the State Bank of Pakistan. Following the loan rollover by the UAE, the interim government requested the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to dispatch a new mission this month for talks for the last loan tranche of USD 1.2 billion. The IMF's next mission is critical for not only securing the last loan tranche but also for beginning negotiations for a new long-term programme. While speaking to a private TV news channel recently, former finance minister Ishaq Dar said in case his

# ash-strapped Pakistan



all help for the development of the cooperative sector in Maharashtra. The Union minister of state for cooperation was Conference (MSUCBC) 2023-24 being held here. "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and quidance of Union government will provide all help for development of the



party the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) won the elections.

#### **Centre will give all help** to Maha coop sector

speaking at the Maharashtra State Urban Cooperative Banks Minister for Cooperation Amit Shah, many steps have been taken for development in the country through the medium of cooperation. The cooperative sector in Maharashtra," Verma said.



# 2 billion loan from China



nion minister BL Verma on Saturday said the Centre will provide

#### (see sub-rule(1) of rule - 19 and Section - 11(1) of the Act 30/2013) **GOVERNMENT OF TELENGANA** REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION No.G1/5497/2022 Date: 19.01.2024

No.E1/4221/2019 Date: 27.10.2023 Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana / Collector that: total of Ac. 2.22 gts of land is required in the Chityala Village of Adavidevulapally Mandal in Nalgonda District for Public purpose, namely acquisition of land under Submergence of Nagarjua Sagar Tailpond Dam.

The Government of Telangana Energy (Budgeti A1) Departme have issued G.O.Ms. No. 26, Dated: 09:11.2022 exempting the Provision of chapter III and chapter III under section 10 A, Act No. 21 of RFCTLARRAct, 2013 to this project.

There it is notified that for the above said project in the Chityal Village of Adavidevulapally Mandal in Nalgonda District land measuring more or less Ac. 2.22 gts of standard measurement, whose detail

g, is proposed for acquisition: SCHEDULE SI Sw Type Type Ans Name of the person interested

|     | No. |        | of<br>Land   | uspisitor<br>(Acgts) |  |   |      |  |
|-----|-----|--------|--------------|----------------------|--|---|------|--|
| No  |     | title  |              |                      | Patteder                                 | Enjoyer   | res  |  |
| 1   | 2   | - 3    | - 4          | - 6                  | - 6                                      | 7   | -8   |  |
| 1   | 19  | Patta  | Dry          | 2.22                 | Jalleda<br>Thirapetheiah<br>Sio Narsalah | Jaileda Thirapathalah<br>Silo Nansalah<br>Kurakuta<br>Venkateahwariu<br>Silo Kotsahwariao | -    |  |
|     | 7   | Total  | Ac. 2.22 gts |                      |  |   |      |  |
| Rig |     | to Fai | r Con        |                      | on and Transp                            |   | ian, |  |

amended by the Right to Compensation and Transparency in Lan Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Telangana Amendment) Act 2016 (Act No. 21 of 2017) loall whom it may concern.

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the District Collector, Natpondisand Revenue Divisional Officer, Mirpalguda on any working day during the working hours. The Government of Telengana / Collector-cum-Appropriate Government is pleased to authorize officer and his staff to order your and survey land, take heles of any land, dig or bore into the sub-soil & do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in section 12 of the said Act.

Under Section 11 (4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land i.e., sale J purchase, etc., or challe any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the Collector.

se filed by the person interested in the land within 60 (sixty days) from the dat of publication of this notification as provided under section 15 of Act before District Collector, Nalgonda / Revenue Divisional Officer, Wryalguda.

Revenue Divisional Officer, Collector, Nalgonda, Nalgonda, DIPR No.867/LA/PP-Pub/2023-24



Objections to the acquisition if any, and daims from all the person terested / affected for settlement by negotiation of the compensation, may

Sd/- Land Acquisition Officer & Sd/- Additional Sdl-Dist. Collects

#### Domestic investors pumped in USD 1,511 million (USD 1.5 billion) last year, as against

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
PUBLIC HEALTH & MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING DEP
TENDER NOTICE
NT No. 27/SE/PH/WGL/AMRUT-2.0WS&SP/2023-24\*1173

Name of the work: MA.8 UD - PHINED - Water Supply Projects in 39 ULBs and Sewerage Projects in 04 ULBs under AMRUT 2.0 under the Jurisdiction of Adilabad, Karimnagar Khammam and Warangal PH Divisions in Package-I, Total Cost: Rs. 2306.02 Crore; Bid submission Start Date: 26.01.2024 @ 11.00 AM; Bid Submission Closing Date: 09.02.2024 @ 04:30 P.M. For details visit https://tender.telangana.gov.in, Contact No: 9704601864, 9642868526.

# APAC businesses to nearly triple spends on GenAI

PNS NEW DELHI

Asia Pacific businesses are sprucing up investments in generative AI (GenAI) and projected to nearly triple spends on this technology to USD 3.4 billion in 2024 across Australia, New Zealand, China, Japan, India, and Singapore, according to Infosys Research.

While the spending trails North America, APAC's adoption, effectiveness, and growth are among the highest globally,

"Companies across Asia-

Pacific are quickly ramping up

investments in generative AI and entering a higher stage of maturity," the IT major's research arm, Infosys Knowledge Institute (IKI), said in the research. While APAC companies currently lag behind their North American counterparts in

GenAI spending, the research forecasts a bigger increase than in any other region, that is 140 per cent. This translates to an estimat-

ed USD 3.4 billion to be invest-

ed across Australia, New Zealand, China, Japan, India, and



Singapore," it said.

Infosys' Generative AI Radar APAC report includes insights from interviews with business leaders and AI practitioners and a survey of 1,000 respondents from Australia, New Zealand, China, Japan, India, and

Enterprises across APAC are investing heavily in GenAI. China leads the region, with investment expected to grow by more than 160 per cent to ÚSD 2.1 billion, and Australia and New Zealand growth close

behind. "ANZ (Australia and New Zealand) investment is expected to grow by more than 150

per cent, from USD 60 million

to USD 151 million in 2024," the research findings showed. The biggest obstacles to APAC adoption are caution around responsible AI, concerns about the impact on

Responsible AI (data privacy, data usability, ethics and bias) is a concern for APAC countries, though ANZ is less concerned about data usability.

reputation, and employee

"APAC is more cautious about GenAI's business impact than North America and Europe; almost 10 per cent expect a negative impact on reputation versus less than 5 per cent for North America and Europe, it said.

# Macrotech Developers profit rises to Rs 505 crore

PNS NEW DELHI

New Delhi, Jan 27 (PTI) Realty firm Macrotech Developers on Saturday reported a 25 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit to Rs 505 crore in the December quarter and said it could raise up to Rs 5,000 crore, if needed, for expan-

Mumbai-based Macrotech Developers is one of the leading real estate developers in the country. It has a major presence in Mumbai Metropolitan Region and Pune. The company markets its properties under Lodha brand.

Its net profit stood at Rs 405 crore in the year-

Total income rose to Rs 2,958.7 crore in the



October-December period of 2023-24 financial year from Rs 1,902.4 crore in the corresponding period of the previous year, according to a regulatory filing.

The board also approved an enabling proposal to raise up to Rs 5,000 crore by issuing securities through public issues, private placement or any other mode in

Organisation (Kolkata chap-

ter), advocated tax relaxations

for women entrepreneurs and

more paid holidays for work-

"Increasing the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana

allowance and enhancing edu-

cation benefits for girls are cru-

cial steps. Strengthening finan-

infrastructure along with pri-

oritising education, particu-

larly for girls, is vital for a more

mjunction services MD and

CEÓ Vinaya Varma, in his

expectations, said, "I think the

role of export on e-market-

places will become important

with the government's focus on

inclusive Bharat," she said.

cial inclusion and healthcare

one or two tranches.

"Strong underlying demand on the back of rising incomes, ample job creation, as well as enhanced consumer confidence, enabled us to achieve our best Q3 pre-sales performance of Rs 34.1 billion," Abhishek Lodha, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Macrotech Developers, said.

ing mothers.

#### **BUDJET EXPECTATIONS**

# Tax benefits, support to women entrepreneurs

PNS KOLKATA

An increase in income tax exemption limits, support to women entrepreneurs, a longterm taxation policy and steps to boost consumption and savings are among the expectations of experts from the interim budget which will be presented by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1 ahead of Lok Sabha elections.

They also demand for parity in taxation among companies, partnerships and limited

liability partnerships.
"This is going to be an interim budget but at least there may be some indications of full-budget benefits. There may be some concession to be offered to individual taxpayers under section 87A under which the overall tax exemp-



They also demand for parity in taxation among companies, partnerships and limited liability partnerships

Bharat Chamber of Commerce president N G parity in taxation among companies, partnerships and lim-

MSMEs, which have a huge contribution to the country's GDP and employment generation, are subjected to higher taxation, he said.

Khaitan also expects some actions to mitigate the burden ation front and boost consumption and savings. Bengal Chamber of

Commerce's fiscal affairs and taxation committee chairperson Vivek Jalan expected that a simplified "single hybrid scheme" for personal income taxation incorporating certain deductions could be rolled

The government needs to prioritise its 'Vasudeva Kutumbakam' (the whole world is one family) roadmap and India's leadership role in green manufacturing, the expert said.

Jalan hoped that customs duty on capital goods and raw materials like lithium-ion cells for electric vehicles to propel green energy initiatives could be reduced. A government-facilitated

settlement mechanism for customs disputes and a dedicated tribunal for handling GSTrelated cases may see the light Radhika Dalmia, chairperson of FICCI Ladies

Therefore, a regulatory framework that acknowledges e-marketplaces as responsible

Made in India.

players in facilitating cross-border payments, potentially granting them specific roles in the release or holding of funds based on pre-defined criteria and agreements, will be wel-

#### 30% dip in fund inflow in real estate from foreign investors

PNS NEW DELHI

The inflow of funds in Indian real estate from foreign investors fell 30 per cent to USD 2.73 billion last year, but the influx jumped more than two times from domestic players to USD 1.51 billion, according to real estate consultant Vestian.

According to Vestian data, the total institutional investments in real estate declined 12 per cent to USD 4.3 billion in 2023, from USD 4.9 billion in the previous year.

The consultant highlighted that investments from foreign funds fell 30 per cent annually because of their cautious approach, but rose 120 per cent from domestic investors.

USD 687 million in the 2022 calendar year. However, the inflow from foreign funds stood lower at USD 2,733 million last year, as against USD 3,926 million in 2022. Accordingly, the share of domestic

investors increased to 35 per cent in 2023 from 14 per cent in 2022.

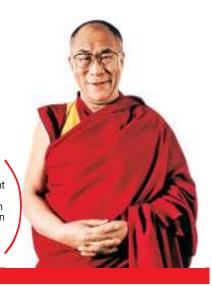
R.O.No: 802-OPICL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2023-24

tion limit may be increased to Rs 8 lakh from now Rs 7 lakh. inclusive of rebates," All India Federation of Tax Practitioners national president Narayan Jain said

#### Khaitan said there is a need for a long-term taxation policy and ited liability partnerships (LLPs) for a level playing field on salaried persons with a for small and medium firms. reduction in the personal tax-

# the pioneer

"People take different roads seeking fulfilment and happiness. Just because they're not on your road doesn't mean they've gotten lost"











when asked where I planned to spend the New Year, I would promptly reply Somewhere the mobile doesn't work". It has become increasingly difficult to locate such a place, although I did manage to herald 2006 at a resort near Ranaqpur in Rajasthan where the mobile, somewhat unexpectedly, did not catch

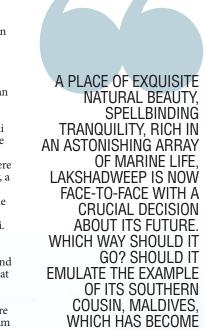
the signal. I thought it would be the same when I planned a trip to Lakshadweep this year. As it transpired, connectivity is no longer an issue even in these far-flung islands that lie between 300 and 500 kms west of the Kerala coast. I had been told that BSNL provides a cellular service to Agatti, the island that has the archipelago's only airfield. What is instantly striking about Lakshadweep is its pristine serenity, untouched by civilisation. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, globally celebrated for creating the world's most famous fictional detective, Sherlock Holmes, also wrote a gripping novel, The Lost World — an imagined account of a plateau in the wilds that survived the ravages of man and time to remain home to prehistoric species that were lost to the rest of the world. Purely fictional, it chronicles Sir Doyles's vivid imagination that can be traced to modern-day science fiction films like Steven Spielberg's Jurassic Park.

A snorkeling or scuba diving expedition in the marine wilds of Lakshadweep would have definitely spurred the author's powers of imagination. If the phrase "out of this world" could truly be applied to a place very much a part of our Earth, it must be the bountiful marine life throbbing with vitality and variety all along the coral reefs of Lakshadweep's myriad islands. The sheer remoteness of this group of 62 islands, only 10 of which are inhabited, has allowed pristine marine life to prosper in splendid isolation. The sheer tranquility of the tiny islands encircled by emerald blue lagoons and peopled more by swaying coconut palms than humans, makes for a therapeutic holiday for metro rat-

A place of exquisite natural beauty, spellbinding tranquility, rich in an astonishing array of

to-face with a crucial decision about its future. Which way should it go? Should it emulate the example of its southern cousin, Maldives, which has become one of the world's most sought after destinations with tourism emerging as the backbone of its economy? Or, should Lakshadweep resist the temptation of mindless prosperity, choosing instead to retain its millennial lifestyle quaint but comfortable? It's a tough call. Lakshadweep is not too easily reached. There is only a 15-seater Dornier turbo-prop aircraft of Indian Airlines that aerially connects the island to Kochi on the Kerala coast. The plane commutes between Kochi and Agatti six days a week and is the lifeline of the Union Territory Administration and its officials. There is also the option of taking the ferry, a daily service that connects different islands to the mainland, covering the 404-km distance between the UT's headquarters at Kavaratti and Kochi. Adventurous travellers sometimes hire private boats for inter-island travel: We were told on Kadmat island that some people left for Bangaram at 2 am, intending to make it to the tourist resort by 7 in the morning. Journeys by such motorised boats are exciting; we were ferried to Bangaram from Agatti this way, but it could prove a trifle dangerous if the seas are choppy. One should not forget that Lakshadweep lies directly on the route of the monsoon as it advances towards the Indian Peninsula from the centre of the Indian Ocean. Having spent four magnificent days in these quaint islands, my understanding of marine life and empathy for ecology has multiplied manifold. I cannot ever forget that momentary glimpse of a turtle, which I suddenly found staring at me questioningly as it bobbed up from below while I was swimming in the lagoon at Bangaram. It seemed to ask what right I had to invade its privacy without so much as by your leave!
It was the same feeling I got diving deep in the lagoon off Kavaratti as thousands of enchantingly multi-hued fish swarmed around me. I put out my palm at some of them; innocently, they came towards me assuming I was

offering food and darted



MOST SOUGHT AFTER **DESTINATIONS WITH** TOURISM EMERGING AS THE BACKBONE OF ITS ECONOMY? OR, SHOULD LAKSHADWEEP RESIST THE TEMPTATION OF MINDLESS PROSPERITY, CHOOSING INSTEAD TO RETAIN ITS MILLENNIAL LIFESTYLE QUAINT BUT COMFORTABLE? IT'S A **TOUGH CALL** 

will take

decades,

ONE OF THE WORLD'S



snorkelling in the deep seas beyond the coral reef, although diving instructors everywhere assured us that even those (like my wife Shobori) who could not swim had nothing to worry once a life jacket was worn. Apparently, the walls of coral that constitute the reef offer fantastic glimpses of marine life. After a couple of days familiarising with the idiom of deep-sea diving, it's worth stepping into the open sea beyond the reef. At Bangaram, we snorkelled close to A good diving instructor is one who points to all these facts of underwater the reef on which a ship had run aground 70 years ago. The sights we saw were reminiscent of underwater documentaries you watch on Discovery or National Geographic. Apart from thousands of small, colourful fish, many giant-sized fish have also made the wrecked hull of the ship their home, elegantly sashaying in and out of the protection it offers. A visit to the shipwreck at Bangaram is highly recommended as the water is shallow and one can always stand up in case of any difficulty. It is indeed a lost world waiting to be discovered in the warm, tropical waters of Lakshadweep. Living corals are rarely seen anywhere in the world today, but the waters off these islands are brimming with them. Islanders, however, mournfully point out that the El Nino of 1997 that brought swirling currents of warm water caused widespread death and destruction of corals. "It's only now that the corals are regenerating once again. But it once you are in water,

at Kadmat. Interestingly, it could be dangerous at

times to provoke live coral. Clampcorals, for instance, close their apparently inert mouths tight if you happen to put your finger into them. Unless uprooted (which means killed), it isn't possible to make them let go. Moral of the story: Let sleeping corals lie. Similarly, the multifinned Lionfish can release sufficient poison if touched, to disable a human arm for around three hours.

life even as he expertly guides you through the depths. We had to learn sign language to communicate underwater even for snorkelling. Making an 'O' by joining your thumb and forefinger is an exclamation of joy, putting your palm out and shaking it as if indicating 'so-so' actually conveys you are not okay, while the thumbs up sign means you aren't comfortable and wish to go up to the surface. Although scuba diving requires some detailed instructions to be carefully followed and carrying a lot of equipment like air cylinders on your back, it is actually quite simple once you get the hang of it. Personally, I found it easier than snorkelling, which entails pulling air from the surface through a nozzle into your lungs while floating close to the surface. While diving on the other hand,

buoyancy

ensures you



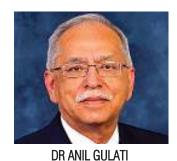
weight of the air cylinders; in fact, a belt studded with metal weights has to be worn so that you can reach the sea floor to get the best view of fish, Government-run Dolphin Dive Centre at Kavaratti boasts some of the best trainers, with Sikandar, Taha and Shaukat making us feel comfortable in no time. For the less adventurous, there is the option of travelling into the sea in glass-bottomed boats. I had done that in Maldives and Mauritius, but having experienced the real thing now, that seems rather amateurish.

Our first halt in Lakshadweep was at Bangaram, reached by a 90 minute flight to Agatti from Kochi and thereafter another 90 minutes by boat. The day we arrived, the Pawan Hans chopper, the lifeline between the islands, got grounded due to a technical snag. Hence the boat-ride, which in fact, we quite enjoyed. Bangaram is Lakshadweep's most frequented destination, mainly because of a much publicised resort comprising 29 thatched cottages. Running for 17 years it now provides a model for similar development of other uninhabited islands. The Government facility, the Dak Bungalow with four independent cottages, shares the beach with this resort.



#### **BUDGET EXPECTATIONS 2024-2025**

Expectations from the healthcare sector in a budget are significant, particularly in the context of public health and well-being. Industry players share some common expectations:



Chairman and CEO, Pharmazz

The pharmaceutical industry in India has seen unprecedented growth in recent years and has to be prepared for increased growth in the coming years. It will be necessary to improve manufacturing quality while reducing costs. Innovation is essential to industry growth; therefore, the adoption of novel technologies to discover drugs from new chemical entities needs to be incentivized. In this upcoming budget, the government could advance policies that promote improved drug manufacturing quality and modernize regulations to aid new drug discoveries.



DR ANSHUL GUPTA Director, of Medical & Haemato-Oncology, Medanta Hospital, Lucknow

In 2023-24, the Union Health Ministry had allocated Rs 89,155 crore. This was an increase of 13% over revised estimates for 2022-23. So it is but natural that in the current fiscal, we expect the to further Government increase the health budget allocation so as to improve health care facility in the country. The proposed areas where this budget allocation should be done are: insurance health

Bharat scheme should be revised / increased for cancer patients as the cancer care including cancer drugs and supportive care are expensive and the patients despite being the scheme's beneficiary could not afford the anti cancer care. •For patients having their personal health insurance, additional benefits (over and above existing) under section 80 C should be given.

• Non-Governmental organizations including private hospitals and institutes should also be made eligible for Government funding for research projects.

**ULTIMATE GOAL** 

# FOR ALL

Ahead of the budget, the HEALTH PIONEER catches up with the stakeholders in the Indian Pharma/Health sectors to get a glimpse of their wishlist. The Interim Budget will be presented on February 1, 2024.

#### DEMANDS

NATHEALTH: Healthcare Federation of India, an organisation that involves leading healthcare service providers, medical technology providers (devices & equipment), diagnostic service providers and other stakeholders is seeking:
INCREASING HEALTH BUD-

**GET ALLOCATION:** India's public healthcare spending remains low, at only around 1.6-1.8 % of GDP, insufficient to tackle the magnitude of healthcare chal-lenges. NATHEALTH recommends increasing budget allocation to 2.5% of GDP to augment the social insurance schemes, boosting healthcare reforms and infrastructure and fast-tracking digital health services across India. RATIONALIZATION OF GST: Although increased budget allocation has been a longstanding request from the sector, there remains another persistent issue concerning the healthcare credit chain through GST. Indirect tax-

•Artificial Intelligence based

software should be installed in

the areas of paramedical services such as pathology,

•Separate budgetary allocation should be made for organ

transplant patients across the

country as transplant is a niche area where Government

DR MAYANK SOMANI

CEO & Managing Director, Apollomedic

As we look ahead to the 2024

Budget, we foresee major

advancements in fortifying the

hospital industry. The Budget is not merely a fiscal plan but

financial assistance is meager.

radiology etc.

ation and lack of input credit for providers poses a significant challenge for the healthcare industry. NATHEALTH strongly recommends outlining a reform agenda in the Finance Bill aimed at restructuring the healthcare GST framework. BOOSTING THE VALUE

CHAIN: The focus should remain on augmenting local capabilities to extend care to the most remote areas, while concurrently emphasizing the localiza-tion of the value chain. Additionally, harmonizing global best practices necessitates integrated budget allocations for effective execution as well safeguards for quality and patient BOOSTING MEDICAL VALUE
TRAVEL: Medical value-added

services and Travel is expected to be USD 10 billion. To further aid the growth of this segment the issue of MAT credit needs immediate government attention. It is

an opportunity to shape a

anticipates increased funding

for healthcare and pharma,

emphasizing innovation, R&D,

and digitalization.
Expectations include favorable

policies, reduced taxes on high-

end equipment, and incentives

for Public-Private Partnership

(PPP) model hospitals which

health

will help leverage the private

Encouragement for health

insurance promotion is sought,

with a focus on extending

benefits to non-metro areas

through strategic hospital

projects. The industry looks

forward to comprehensive

advancements, accessibility,

and sustainability in healthcare

The MedTech industry in India

holds high expectations from

the Budget. With an alarming

80-85% dependence on

imports, resulting in a massive

system.

advanced

ecosystem

services.

supporting

robust, inclusive,

technologically

healthcare

healthcare

crucial for individuals to benefit from exports. This move will give them an opportunity to offset it. It will create a more significant value proposition to focus on MVTs and boost capacity.

SEPARATE BUDGET ALLO-CATION FOR SKILLING AND

**HEALTHCARE WORKERS:** While the government announced the establishment of 157 new nursing colleges in the previous budget, strengthening health workforce situation in India is one such area that needs continuous government and policy focus. India's doctor-to-patient ratio is lower than WHO recomthreshold.

CAPACITY BUILDING OF

mended NATHEALTH recommends that the government should allocate funds for training and development programs for doctors, nurses, and allied healthcare workers, putting special emphasis on digital learning stack and smart certification standards.



CHANDRA GANJOO Group Chief Executive Officer, Trivitron

import bill of over Rs 63,200 crore, it's crucial for the government to catalyze domestic manufacturing. This not only reduces the financial strain but also propels India towards self-reliance in medical technology. The industry advocates for a

comprehensive strategy: incentivizing R&D production, indigenous streamlining regulatory processes for faster product approvals, and enhancing infrastructure and skills. Tax incentives for investment in advanced technology,

streamlining procedures, bureaucratic and fostering collaboration can stimulate domestic manufacturing. This approach should align with global standards and ensure a stable regulatory environment to attract investments.



**RAJIV NATH** Forum Coordinator, Association of Indian Medical Device Industry (AiMeD)

As per GTRI report of August

2023, the Indian medical devices industry can expand from USD 12 billion to USD 50 billion by 2030, reducing import reliance to 35% and boosting exports to USD 18 billion. Supporting policies are needed so that Indian Medical Devices Industry can make quality healthcare accessible and affordable for the common masses, aim to place India among the top five medical devices manufacturing hubs worldwide and help end the 80-85 per cent import dependence forced upon us and an everincreasing import bill of over 63,200 Crore.

We have the following Budget the ever-increasing import

nominal 10%-15% Duty and a predictable tariff policy

Correction of Inverted Duty by levying Health Cess of 5% custom duty on balance Medical Devices (this was not earlier applied to all HS Codes). Cess is used for Ayushman Bharat.

• Trade Margin Capping by monitoring MRP of Imports (if over 10 - 20 times of CIF)

• Income Tax benefits for project investments in Medical Devices Manufacturing.



PAVAN CHOUDARY Chairman of the Medical Technology Association of India (MTal)

In recent years, the Medical Device industry has benefited hugely due to noteworthy initiatives by the government, such as the National Medical Device Policy (NMDP), the Promotion of Research & Innovation in the Pharma Innovation in the Pharma-MedTech sector (PRIP) scheme, the establishment of medical device parks and elevation of branding and promotional strategies for the growth of the sector.

That said we must also be cognizant of the nuances of the medical device sector which comprises mechanical and engineering complexities. Unlike other sectors, most medical devices have a high value but are produced in low volumes. It may therefore not be

economically viable to manufacture all devices in a single geographical area. Even countries with highly developed medical manufacturing hubs like the USA, Japan, Germany, etc. also healthcare needs of their

• Increase in Custom Duty to a India's current tariff duty structure on medical device imports is very high. This high customs duty regime adversely impacts the costs of medical devices which contradicts the government's efforts to provide low-cost healthcare available to the masses through schemes like the Ayushman Bharat program (PMJAY). Therefore, we request the government that for products where the ability to import substitutes is still some time away, the customs duty rate should be reduced

#### **DOCTORSPEAK**

#### **TIPS TO KEEP YOUR NEWBORN SAFE DURING WINTER**

Winter months can be harsh everyone, especially newborns. These delicate little beings require extra care and protection to ensure their safety and comfort during the cold weather. Here are some essential pointers to follow when it comes to your little In India, it is a



Senior Director Neonatolgy, Fortis la femme, New delhi

common practice to over wrap or over clad babies during the winter months. However, it is important to remember the golden thumb rule dress your baby in one layer of clothing more than what you are wearing, regardless of the season. This ensures that they are adequately warm without the risk of overheating.

Room Temperature: Maintaining the right

room temperature is crucial for your baby's well-being. Resist the temptation to keep the room excessively warm as overheating can be more dangerous than the cold. Aim for an ambient room temperature of around 22-23 degrees Celsius, which most babies find comfortable. If you decide to use room heaters,

do so sparingly.

Avoid keeping them on for extended periods and limit their usage to specific tasks such as bathing, changing clothes or diapers, or during exceptionally cold spells. Continuous use of heaters can lead to dry skin, irritation of breathing passages, and even discomfort in their eyes. Winter air tends to be dry and arid, which can

cause discomfort for your baby. Consider using a humidifier to add moisture to the air, making it easier for your little one to breathe and ensuring a comfortable environment. Keeping your baby's vaccinations up to date is

crucial, especially during the winter months. Vaccinations protect your baby from dangerous respiratory infections that are more prevalent during this time of the year. Consult your pediatrician to ensure your little one receives the necessary vaccinations. Practicing good hygiene is essential to

minimize the transmission of viruses during winter. Regularly wash your hands before handling your baby, and avoid taking them to crowded places where the risk of contracting infections is higher. Breastfeeding provides your baby with both

hydration and protection against infections. It is essential to continue breastfeeding during winter months to ensure your little one stays healthy and well-nourished. Cold weather can cause dryness and discomfort for your baby's delicate skin. Use

baby moisturizers to keep their skin hydrated and prevent dryness.

Contrary to some beliefs, it is perfectly safe to warm baths even during winters. Just remember to keep the bathroom warm and cozy, ensuring your little one enjoys a soothing experience. A warm bath and massage before bedtime can promote better sleep as well.

If your baby develops a fever or cough, which are more common in winters, it is important to consult a paediatrician immediately. Prompt medical attention will help identify and address any potential health concerns.

Winter may pose challenges for newborns, but by following these guidelines, you can provide them with the extra protection they need. Remember, your little bundle of joy deserves a safe and comfortable winter experience. Stay attentive, prioritize their well-being, and cherish the precious moments with your newborn during this beautiful season.

BOOK REVIEW

# Fostering Collective Prosperity Through Cooperatives

This coffee table book is not just a collection of stories but a testament to the resilience, empowerment, economic growth, and social embeddedness achieved by cooperatives across India. It also serves as a guidepost for the future as India strives to become a global leader

#### **BY ARCHANA JYOTI**

The coffee table book 'Collective Prosperity: The Legacy of Indian Cooperatives', is all about recognizing and celebrating the achievements of Indian cooperative societies over the 75 years, taking readers on a tour of as many successful cooperatives from diverse

Recently unveiled by Union Home and Coperation Minister Amit Shah in the national capital, the book is compiled by Pune-based Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management (Vamnicom), a national institute under the aegis of the National Council for Cooperative Training (NCCT) and promoted by the Union Cooperation Ministry.

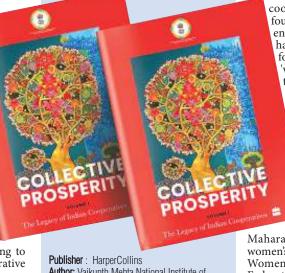
The volume is the maiden effort by the institute highlighting the best practices in the sector to help the other aspirants to take a cue.

One is therefore little surprised, as we delve into its pages, we embark on a journey treaded by historic cooperatives to the likes of India Coffee House, lesser known gems Looms of Ladakh to the Uralungal Labour Cooperative and iconic ones including Amul, IFFCO, Krishak

Cooperative Consumer Federation (NCCF) to name a few. Spread throughout the landscape of the country, these entities are silently working to bring prosperity while opening new opportunities for the individual and for the group to reach their individual and common goals, aligned with the vision of "Sahakar se Samriddhi " as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as also has been pointed out by Vamnicom's Director Hema Yadav who has played a significant role in the book's preparation. is a valuable resource for

individuals and communities looking to actively participate in cooperative endeavors

The remarks of Union Cooperative Secretary Gyaneshwar Singh in his Foreword rightly emphasize the significance of the Indian cooperative system which is one of the biggest in the world particularly in supporting agriculture and allied sectors with almost 30 crore members forming the backbone Bharati Cooperativm and National of the rural ecosystem serving mainly



Author: Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management team Pages: 217 | Price: ₹799

small and marginal farmers, landless labourers, handloom weavers, fishermen, rural and urban poor, SCS, STs and other backward classes. It needs to be mentioned here that India

is home to staggering 8.5 lakhs such

fourth of the total number of such entities in the world. Cooperation has undoubtedly been a way of life for our forefathers who advocated vasudhaiva kutumbakam' from times immemorial. Some of the world's best known cooperatives in various sectors are in India which are continuously transforming the lives of our local communities. Asia's instance, cooperative sugar factory, Padmashri Dr Vithalrao Vikhe Patil Sahakari Sakhar

small village Pravaranagar, Ahmednagar district Maharashtra. Similarly, India's first women's federation, the Gujarat State Women's SEWA Co-operative Federation Limited was formally established with an aim to support its members in capacity-building for management, marketing and policy and

Karkhana Limited is at a

The Dhundi Solar Pump Irrigators' Cooperative Enterprise (SPICE) established in 2016 at Dhundi, in Anand district, Gujarat is the world's first-ever

advocacy interventions with key

stakeholders.

cooperatives- comprising one- enterprise to use solar power to run their irrigation pumps while SWaCH is country's first wholly-owned cooperative of self-employed waste collectors in Maharashtra. Kerala-based AYCOOPS is India's first cooperative media production house in the cooperative sector which, unlike the traditional cooperatives, operates like a New-age Eco-friendly start-up

Commendably, these cooperatives belong to different parts of the country, which is an indicator of a fair distribution of development across the

land even though a lot still remains to be done in this respect.

For instance, as the book extends its reach to highlight cooperative hospitals in India, it is revealed that most of them are located in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, and Andhra Pradesh. this calls for spreading in populated States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Odisha to fill the widening demand-supply gap in the

In tough times like those during the Covid-19 crisis when the entire world was swept by economic slowdown painting a gloomy future, AMUL, MILKFED, NAFED, MARFED, and other organizations provided necessary services

to the people and the farmers despite the supply chain being disrupted by the lockdown. The narrative also touches upon the

significance of cooperative banks, exemplified by the Saraswat Bank, and health cooperatives, providing a holistic view of the diverse roles cooperatives play in India's economic and social landscape. The impact of cooperatives on poverty alleviation, food and nutritional security, social integration, and employment generation is acknowledged, portraying them as social instruments of development, complimented by the recent initiatives of the Ministry to fortify the sector's growth.

For instance, by expanding the scope of cooperative activities and integrating them into various facets of the economy, the aim is to create a dynamic ambience that resonates with the aspirations of the younger generation while drawing their energy and ideas. In essence, this compact collection not

only shines a spotlight on the past achievements of Indian cooperatives but also serves as a guidepost for the future, as India strives to become a global leader. No doubt, the cooperative sector can be a springboard propelling India towards

'Atmnirbharta' (self-reliant).



# Balochistan trapped in geopolitical flames of Pakistan, Iran

The Baloch crisis once again came to the limelight this month. It all happened because of crossborder military strikes by Pakistan and İran in each other's territories. However, the military intervention in their neighbours' boundaries is largely termed as simply targeting Baloch terror targets. What surprises the international community is that, with a bloody war between the state of Israel and Hamas entering more than three months since October 7 last year, the emerging conflicts between Iran and Pakistan might trigger a new zone of tension in Asia.

Iran launched a missile attack on Syria, Iraq, and Pakistan on January 16. Iran attacked the alleged strongholds of the militant group called Jaish al-Adl (Army of Justice) in Baluchistan. Precisely, a wider war in West Asia does not guarantee security to Iran. However, it may happen that Tehran gets some temporary locally defined interests. The outlets to flex its military muscles and warn its counterparts at the same against Israel's ongoing war time. The day before the strikes on Pakistan, Iran also launched ballistic missiles at Syria and Iraq. Sources confirmed that Iran was only targeting anti-Iran groups and active spy bases for Israeli forces in these countries.

Meanwhile, Washington is trying to prevent Iran-backed Houthi attacks on ships terror groups and their passing through the Red Sea. This occurred shortly after the Israel-Hamas war started, with the aim of stopping ships heading towards the ports in Israel. The Houthi rebels, who now control more than half of Yemen and the capital city of Sanaa, are a Shia Muslim group fighting against the in the deaths of nine people, Saudi-UAE sponsored Hadi Government in exile since 2011, at the onset of the historic Arab Spring. Their conflict with the Saudibacked Yemeni Government Ministry has brought them closer to asserted that they have Iran. However, it is not already informed Iran about entirely accurate to say that the presence of Baloch the Houthis are direct proxies separatists and their activities of Iran, as they are largely in the country, but no actions dominated and guided by have been taken against the in use. Unfortunately, it is the



Houthis are attacking ships in the Red Sea as retaliation against the Palestinians.

Pakistan's retaliatory military

strike inside Iranian territory has heightened regional tension in West and Central Asia. Pakistan states that it conducted military strikes in Sistan and Baluchistan provinces of Iran solely to target the bases of two Baloch camps. The separatist groups that the Pakistan Army focused on were the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) and Baloch Liberation Front (BLF) based in these areas. According to reports from Iranian media houses, the Pakistani operation resulted including women and children. However, Islamabad claims that it targeted and killed a few Baloch terrorists. The Pakistani Foreign officials have

rebels so far. Consequently, Pakistan justifies its military actions in Sistan and Baluchistan provinces of Iran. What do these separatists want? The main aim of the Baloch separatist groups is to break their province away from Pakistan. This separatist insurgency has been ongoing for more than 75 years since 1948. To them, the central government based in Islamabad exploits their resources, and in return, the Baloch people are not adequately rewarded. Initially, BLF cadres targeted gas projects, infrastructural projects, and central security agencies, but now they have expanded their operations beyond Baluchistan. They also attack Chinese projects and their workers in the province, despite the security guarantee offered to China by the Pakistan military.

Baluchistan has a long history of resistance and is not aligned with what Islamabad and Rawalpindi do. It is the largest province of Pakistan located in the western part, significant resources both in reserve and

least developed area of the country, comprising almost 44 per cent of the total landmass of Pakistan. However, the reality is that most of its lands are arid and largely uninhabited. It has a distinct cultural and historical identity within and outside Pakistan. Its people are spread across three sovereign nations

Afghanistan, and Iran. Thus, the problem lies in the coordination and realisation of these three nations about the future of the Baloch people and their continued struggle to maintain their distinct regional identity. The very identity Baluchistan stems from the

Baloch tribe, which has inhabited the area for centuries. Nearly 10 million Baloch people reside in the region, encompassing lands in Pakistan, Iran, and Afghanistan. The majority of them live in Baluchistan, with some residing in the Sindh province of Pakistan. Although clear data is not readily available, historically, areas traditionally claimed as indigenous lands by the Balochs were either occupied

or under the control of the Persians and the British Empire.

The real tragedy is that the southeastern part of Iran and the western areas of Pakistan, where the Baloch people inhabit, are the most impoverished parts of both countries. Another potential threat on both sides of the border is that they live in a porous and dangerous territorial tract, which automatically facilitates unhindered movements of the ordinary Baloch people and especially their separatist groups. Of course, strict surveillance systems are installed by Iran and Pakistan in these borderlands.

The crucial question is whether the Baloch people will receive justice. A highhanded military, known as the "Deep State" of Pakistan and often referred to as a "state within a state", is well aware of the intricacies of the issue. Politicians in that country will likely play a minimal role in resolving the Baloch crisis. For decades, it has been the all-powerful Rawalpindi that has dominated the Baloch incident gained global University, Greater Noida.)

The relationship between the Baloch people and the ruling military and political elite of Pakistan has been fraught for a long time. For over two decades, Pakistan has been engaged in fighting Baloch Islamabad insurgents. frequently blames Indian intelligence agencies for funding and monitoring terror groups and their activities in Baluchistan. The Government of Pakistan has even presented documents to the UN regarding India's alleged support for Baloch separatists in Pakistan. However, Delhi vehemently denies any involvement in Baluchistan.

Clearly, Baluchistan and its people's desire for a homeland are misunderstood by successive regimes Islamabad. For the Pakistani military and the majority of its elites, Baluchistan is seen as a dark war zone. Mere Chinese investments in the province, under the banner of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as part of Xi Jinping's vast Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), will not be sufficient to quell the separatist tendencies among the Baloch insurgents. Since 2022, the Baloch people

living in Iran's Sistan-

Balochistan province have

faced particular issues from Iranian authorities and security services. The main reason behind this is that many of its residents participated in a nationwide protest against the death of a young woman in police custody named Mahsa Amini. She became a victim of Iran's religious police for not wearing the veil in public places. While the protest gained international attention, authorities cracked down heavily on the protesters and selectively targeted groups like the Baloch in Iran. According to International's Amnesty report, security forces killed about 80 people on September 30, 2022, in the city of Zahedan in Sistan-Balochistan Province. This

The reality is that Iran and its proxies must be stopped without any Simultaneously, Israel must facilitate immediate dialogue to prevent further hostilities in Palestinian territories. As of now, more than 24,000 Palestinians have lost their lives since the offensive against Hamas began in October. It is time for Washington to convince Tel Aviv to draw a thin red line and come to the negotiating table. Otherwise, considering the ongoing unrest in Syria, Iraq, and Yemen involving major world powers, West Asia should not be pushed further into a wider war. Despite fears of the Iran-Pakistan conflict escalating into a new war zone and spreading to South Asia, both countries are currently maintaining a calibrated response.

recognition as Black Friday.

Currently, the Israel-Hamas

war is taking a troubling turn.

Now, Iran has its hands full on many fronts — fighting ISIS at home, backing Hamas and the Houthis in two foreign lands, and, above all, sponsoring its proxies across West Asia to counter the US and its allies. On the other hand, Pakistan is in a dire economic situation. It is facing a significant threat from its homegrown Islamic jihadist factory and engaging in constant frontier battles with once-friendly Taliban forces. The ruling mullahs in Afghanistan are literally shaking its caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar ul Haq Kakar until the new election results are out.

Hopefully, both nations will understand their limits and control their military might for now to avoid a larger regional catastrophe. In the midst of this, the genuine concerns of the Baloch people, spread across three neighbouring countries, should not be sidelined.

(The writer is a Senior Faculty at the Department of Political Science in the School of Liberal Education,

The Baloch crisis has recently gained global attention due to crossborder military strikes between Pakistan and Iran. The Baloch people's identity is rooted in the Baloch tribe. with a history of resistance. Amid geopolitical complexities, the Baloch people's desire for justice remains a significant challenge in the

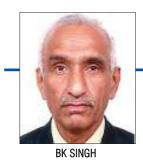


region

#### PERSPECTIVE -

# Human impact on earth's vital systems

In the throes of a climate crisis, the convergence of El Niño, surging global temperatures, and humaninduced factors paints a dire picture. With El Niño intensifying impacts worldwide, from disrupted weather patterns to water shortages, urgent collective action is paramount



2023 was the second warmest year in India, following 2016. Last year, i.e., 2023, missed breaking the 2016 record by 0.07 degrees Celsius. Climate scientists and researchers express no surprise that unabated emissions of greenhouse gases are the cause for the highs. Furthermore, these indicate warming. Carlo Buontempo, Director of the EU's Copernicus Climate Change scientists combine their geological evidence of the

> 100,000 years." Niño creates warmer winters and drier, hotter summers. While 2022 was a La Niña year. The weather pattern, especially between July and impacted by El Niño

2023 appears to be among the

warmest years in at least

monitor rainfall deficit across the announced on Tuesday that country. The impact of El 2023 is globally the warmest Niño conditions in 2023 will year on record, and the also be felt in 2024, at least in average global temperature is the first quarter of the year. 1.48 degrees Celsius higher The deficient rainfall has led than the average temperature to nearly half-empty recorded in the second half of reservoirs across the country, the 19th century. The Indian thereby impacting Rabi crops Meteorological Department like wheat, potato, etc., and a had previously declared on drop in production is the eve of the New Year that predicted. El Niño occurs every 2 to 7

years, lasting for nearly 9 to 12 months. El Niño conditions are likely to continue until the first quarter of 2024. Secretary-General Petteri Taalas said, "The onset of El Niño will greatly increase the likelihood of breaking temperature warming trend reaching new records and triggering more the world and the ocean."

extreme heat in many parts of acceleration of the planet's During La Niña years, cold sea surface temperatures (SST) in the eastern Pacific and warm temperatures in the Service, stated during the west create a strong east-tonews briefing, "When west SST gradient, and the wind blows strongly from east satellite readings with to west. In El Niño years, the eastern Pacific is warmer than climate's more distant past, normal, and the western Pacific tends to be cooler, with a rainfall deficit over Indonesia and Australia. The El Niño and La Niña are El Niño pattern weakens the climate patterns in the Pacific east-to-west SST gradient and Ocean that influence climate further weakens the wind. It conditions worldwide. While enhances warming in the east La Niña benefits India, El and cooling in the west, which is critical for the development of El Niño.

Despite El Niño, we year, 2023 was an El Niño experienced heavy monsoons in the northwestern part of the country and the Western December 2023, was heavily Himalayan States that breached infrastructure and

The European Union's conditions, resulting in a disrupted the lives and monitor rainfall deficit across the livelihoods of last liveliĥoods communities. National and international tourists also faced the brunt. Raghu Murtugudde, a professor of atmospheric and oceanic science and earth system science at the University of Maryland, explained in one of his columns the cloud bursts and unprecedented rainfall in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Rajastĥan Gujarat, and during June 2023.

His analysis revealed that the El Niño pattern was superimposed by global warming, producing a relatively flat east-west SST gradient, resulting constructive interference and heavy downpour in the region. The professor further adds that there are few examples of this pattern and phenomenon of constructive interference between global warming and El Niño, and hence it is not fully understood.

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology in Pune have found, in their studies, that an increased level of tiny pollution particles known as sulfate aerosols contributes to intensifying El Niño conditions and further decreasing rainfall. These aerosols result from the increased levels of sulfur dioxide emissions, especially in South Asian countries.

Regarding the issue of depleted reservoir levels, the agencies responsible for water towns, and cities face a

resources during the summer months. They must navigate conflicts between the requirements for drinking water, crop irrigation, and

power production. The Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewage Board (BWSSB) have already expressed concerns about the upcoming summer and have urged the Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Limited, Water Resources Department Karnataka, to prioritise water requirements for Bengaluru city and reserve it at the KRS and Kabini reservoirs. Currently, both reservoirs have 30 tmcft of water, and BWSSB has requested the reservation of 12 tmcft to maintain the present level of water supply at 1450 MLD.

It is understood that several other agencies across the country have expressed similar concerns to their

respective governments. While the plains in north India are experiencing cold temperatures, states in the Western Himalayan region, such as Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, are facing a deficiency in snowfall and dry weather. The winter rains that were previously experienced are absent this year, adversely affecting crop production. Agriculture in these regions relies on rainfall, and farmers are currently in distress. Gulmarg, an international

tourist destination renowned its snow-covered for landscapes and white-peaked supply to municipalities, mountains during this time of year, has lost its charm. The

tightrope walk in managing hills in the background tower," and all rivers appear barren, dampening originating there are the enthusiasm of tourists. sustained by the melting of Adventure sports like skiing, typical during this season, are also absent.

Chilling climate is crucial for the production of crops such as wheat, peas, and potatoes, as well as for the flowering and fruiting of apples. Apples significantly contribute to the economy of the farming community, as well as that of the states and Union Territory. This year's winter temperatures have been nearly 3 degrees Celsius higher than last year, and in the absence of the chilling climate, agricultural and horticultural crops are suffering. To attain the appropriate

chilling climate, apple farmers have been abandoning their farms and relocating to higher altitudes, establishing new farms for nearly two decades. This process incurs environmental and economic costs. The twigs from old plantations are burned, akin to stubble burning by farmers in Punjab and Haryana, leading to a surge in the Air Quality Index-a health hazard for the community due to the inhalation of poisonous gases trapped in the lower atmosphere. When vertical circulation of air is restored, these gases escape into the upper atmosphere, increasing the concentration of carbon dioxide equivalent. The more carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere, the greater its impact on our lives and livelihoods.

The Himalayas are often referred to as the "water

snow. In El Niño years, there is a deficiency in snowfall, which ultimately depletes the flow of water in streams, tributaries, and rivers. This has the potential to impact life in regions along the foothills of the Himalayas.

The dryness of the climate and the deficiency of rainfall and snow lead to prolonged forest fires in the hill region. As the planet warms, forests are subjected to frequent and destructive fires, creating a vicious cycle: the more the warming, the more the forest fires. Forest fires constitute a double whammy; the destruction of trees in the fire results in a loss of the carbon sequestration potential of the forests, and the burning releases more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Forest burning also adversely affects flora and fauna, with the young regeneration of many tree species disappearing, leading to the degradation and fragmentation of forests. Damage is inflicted on reptiles, amphibians, as well as the cubs and young ones of

large mammals. Another disturbing trend is observed in the Himalayas, where anthropogenic pressures on Oak forests have led to their degradation and subsequent replacement by pine forests. A study by Uma Shankar Singh of Vanashakti NGO in Nainital forests, published in "The Applied Biology and Chemistry Journal," reveals that Oak, an important component of hill

forest ecosystems with the potential to conserve water, is being replaced by pine forests. This is an irreversible and undesirable change in the ecosystem, and forest managers are held responsible for hastening the process. The author concludes that temperatures are rising rapidly, and rainfall is receding in Nainital, thereby impacting its flora and fauna. The impact of warming on Earth's boreal forests, which encircle the northern reaches of the planet just south of the Arctic treeless Tundra, covering areas such as Alaska, Canada, Scandinavia, and Siberia, has been studied by Ronny Rotbarth and others from Wageningen University. As the planet warms, these forests are shrinking. Vast expanses of forests pull carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and use it to grow roots, trunks, and leaves, enriching the soil with carbon when the trees decay. Studies using satellite data

reveal evidence of tree cover in some pockets of the region north of the tree line, but there are no expansions in other pockets. In the southern, hotter, and drier regions, tree growth has been reduced, and trees have been killed as a result of the planet's warming. There is thus a net loss of tree cover in these forests. Wildfires and logging account for additional loss in the southern region of boreal

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

# Extreme heat can be risky during pregnancy

#### HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR BABY



s we face the continued effects of climate change, the frequency **L**and intensity of heatwaves is increasing. We've recently learnt 2023 was the hottest year on record.

Extreme heat presents a major public health threat. It can be especially dangerous for people who are socioeconomically disadvantaged, and people who have reduced physiological ability to adapt, such as older adults and those with certain medical conditions.

Pregnant people are also more vulnerable, with evidence showing exposure to extreme heat is associated with increased risks for the baby.

#### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Globally one stillbirth occurs every 16 seconds and 15 million babies are born preterm (before 37 complete weeks of pregnancy) every year. Complications of preterm birth are the leading cause of death and disability for

children aged under five years old. A systematic review which included studies from 27 countries showed that for every 1 C increase in ambient (environmental) temperature, the risk for preterm birth and stillbirth increased by 5%. The risk of stillbirth and preterm

until the end of their pregnancy.

Within high-income countries the risk is greater in disadvantaged populations. Recent Australian research has also suggested a mother's exposure to extreme temperatures may influence a baby's birth weight. Pregnant people are thought to be at increased risk of heat stress due to changes in their body's capacity to regulate temperature. THESE CHANGES INCLUDE:

- increased body mass and body fat which reduces a pregnant woman's ability to dissipate heat to the environment.
- decreased ratio of surface area to body mass can make sweating less
- additional energy produced from the baby increases the mother's core body temperature.

#### THE EFFECTS ON THE BODY AND BABY

When the ambient environment is hotter than the pregnant woman's core body temperature (that is when the air temperature reaches around 38 degrees or above) blood flow is diverted to the skin to allow sweating. This can decrease blood flow to the placenta, meaning less nutrition and oxygen to the baby.

If dehydration occurs, hormonal changes can include the release of prostaglandin and oxytocin, potentially triggering labour prematurely.

Heat exposure can also release heatshock protein (a family of proteins produced by cells secondary to stressful conditions) which can damage placental cells and placental function. This can contribute to poor fetal nutrition, leading to low birth weight. However, actual thermo-physiological data from pregnant women during beat exposure is nant women during heat exposure is sparse. Our recent review showed no study has assessed thermoregulatory function in pregnant women at temperatures higher than 25 C.

Our subsequent climate chamber study with pregnant women showed their bodies regulate temperature up to 32 C as well as non-pregnant women.

#### **5 WAYS TO BEAT THE HEAT** WHILE PREGNANT

Evidence of the effectiveness of interventions that address acute heat exposure during pregnancy specifically are limited. Air-conditioning is exceptionally protective, however it is unaffordable for many in Australia and globally.

More evidence of the effect of extreme heat on pregnancy outcomes at a population level in both low and high income countries will help us develop ways to protect pregnant people and the community. In the meantime, with the threat of more very hot summer days, simple strategies to beat the heat when

- pregnant include:

  1) Drink enough water take a water bottle with you when out and about
- 2) Plan your day avoid the hottest part of the day if you can. Take a hat or umbrella with you for shade
- 3) Stay cool use fans or air-conditioning if possible, close blinds and curtains, visit a cooled public environ-
- 4) Dress down wear lightweight, longsleeved, light-coloured, loose-fitting clothes made from natural fibres, such as cotton or linen
- Go to sleep on your side at night and for daytime naps to allow the best

# The Doomsday Clock is still at 90 seconds to midnight

# **BUT WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?**

nce every year, a select group of nuclear, climate, and technology experts assemble to determine where to place the hands of the Doomsday Clock.

Presented by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, the Doomsday Clock is a visual metaphor for humanity's proximity to catastrophe. It measures our collective peril in minutes and seconds to midnight, and we don't want to strike 12.

In 2023, the expert group brought the clock the closest it has ever been to midnight: 90 seconds. On January 23, 2024, the Doomsday Clock was unveiled again, revealing that the hands remain in the same precarious posi-

No change might bring a sigh of relief. But it also points to the continued risk of catastrophe. The question is, how close are we to catastrophe? And if so, why?

#### **DESTROYER OF WORLDS**

The invention of the atomic bomb in 1945 ushered in a new era: the first time humanity had the capability to kill itself.

Later that year, Albert Einstein, along with J. Robert Oppenheimer and other Manhattan Project scientists, established the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, in the hope of communicating to the public about the new nuclear age and the threat it posed.

Two years on, the Bulletin, as it came to be known, published its first magazine. And on the cover: a clock, with the minute hand suspended eerily only seven minutes from midnight.

The artist Martyl Langsdorf sought to communicate the sense of urgency she had felt from scientists who had worked on the bomb, including her physicist husband, Alexander. The placement was, to her, an aesthetic choice: "It seemed the right time on the page it suited my eye.

Thereafter, Bulletin editor Eugene Rabinowitch was the gears behind the clock's hands until his passing in 1973, when the board of experts took over.

The clock has been moved 25 times since, particularly in response to the

fight antisemitism as the

country marked the 79th

Since 1996, Germany has

day to remember the hor-

'Never again' is every

'January 27 calls out to us:

against racism, against mis

On that day in 1945,

Soviet Red Army

Stay visible! Stay audible!

rors of the Holocaust.

day," Scholz said in his

weekly video podcast.

Against antisemitism,

anthropy and for our

democracy.'

of the Nazi death camp

World War II.

nological advancement and geopolitical dynamics during the Cold War. Nuclear risk did not abate after the

collapse of the Soviet Union, even as the total number of nuclear weapons shrank. And new threats have emerged that pose catastrophic risk to humanity. The latest setting of the clock attempts to gauge this level of risk.



IT IS 90 SECONDS TO MIDNIGHT

#### A PRECARIOUS WORLD

In the words of Bulletin president and chief executive Rachel Bronson: Make no mistake: resetting the Clock at 90 seconds to midnight is not an indication that the world is stable. Quite the opposite.

The Bulletin cited four key sources of risk: nuclear weapons, climate change, biological threats, and advances in artificial intelligence (AI).

Two ongoing conflicts Russia and Ukraine, and Israel and Palestine involve nuclear-weapon states. Longstanding bulwarks of nuclear stability, such as the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty between the United States and Russia, are barely functional. North Korea and Iran retain their nuclear ambitions. And China is quickly growing and modernising its nuclear

German Chancellor warns of

arsenal. The impacts of climate change are worsening, as the world suffers through its hottest years on record. Six of nine planetary boundaries are beyond their safe levels. And we are likely to fall short of the goal set by the Paris climate agreement keeping temperature increase to no more than 1.5 C above pre-industrial levels. Dramatic climatic disruptions are a real possibili-

The COVID pandemic revealed the global impacts of a biological threat. Engineered pandemics, created

using synthetic bioengineering
(and perhaps soon aided by AI
tools), could be more viral
and lethal than any natural
disease. Add to the challenge the continued pres-

ence of biological weapons programs around the world, and the shifting disease risk due to the effects of climate change, and biothreats will be a regular battlefront for many

countries.
Finally, the Bulletin recognised the risk that comes with advances in AI. While some AI experts have raised the prospect of AI itself being an existential threat, AI is also a threat multi-

plier for nuclear or biological weapons. And AI could be a vulnerability multiplier. Through AI-enabled disinformation, democracies might struggle to function, especially when dealing with other catastrophic threats.

#### SUBJECTIVE AND IMPRECISE, **BUT DOES THAT MATTER?**

The Doomsday Clock has its detractors. Critics argue that the setting of the clock is based on subjective judgments, not a quantitative or transparent methodology. What's more, it is not a precise measurement. What does "90 seconds to midnight" actually mean?

With the clock now set at its highestever level, it naturally brings into question why we face greater risk than, say, during the Cuban Missile Crisis. What would it take to get closer than 90 seconds to midnight?

Fundamentally, these criticisms are accurate. And there are plenty of ways the clock could be technically

humanity." He stressed that

the fight against any kind of

that can be done by the gov-

ernment only, but needs the

'Ñever again" demands

the vigilance of everyone,"

cy is not God-given. It is

man-made." "It is strong

when we support it,' he

added. "And it needs us

when it is under attack."

Scholz referred specifical-

ly to the threat posed by the

rise of far-right populists in

Europe and worldwide "who

Germany, elsewhere across

are stirring up fears and

At the same time, the

chancellor praised the mil-

joined pro-democracy

zens are taking to the

protests in recent weeks.

right now. Millions of citi-

streets: For democracy, for

respect and humanity," he

solidarity "that makes our

said, adding that it was their

democracy strong. Showing

it confidently in public as is

tion of millions of

immigrants, including

some with German

citizenship trig-

demonstra-

tions across

the coun-

lions of Germans who have

"Our country is on its feet

sowing hatred.

Scholz said. "Our democra-

support of all Germans.

antisemitism and for

# Al-model developed to detect extremist users, ISIS-related content on X

rsing tweets from 2009-2021, researchers have developed a predictive model that can detect extremist the militant group 'Islamic State' (ISIS)

Their work could help social media companies identify and eventually restrict such accounts in a timelier manner and abate their impact on online communities, they said.

The researchers from the Pennsylvania State University, US, identified potential propaganda messages and their characteristics and developed an image classifier to find the most frequent categories of images attached to tweets about ISIS.

"The Islamic State group and its affiliates, sympathisers and followers continue to manipulate online communities to spread extremist propaganda," said Younes Karimi, a graduate student at the university pursuing a doctorate in informatics and the first author of the paper published in the journal Social Media Analysis and Mining. Apart from the ISISlinked tweets they used for analysis, the researchers further collected a dataset of tweets from potential ISIS supporters to investigate their recent activities.

According to Karimi, the Islamic State group is increasingly relying on social media to spread propaganda, under mine its rivals

the tified as one of the key

ing with a decreased or distorted sense of smell, and one in twenty have anosmia the total loss of the ability to perceive any odours at all. Smell training is one of the few treatment options for recovering a lost sense of smell but can we make it more

effective? Smell training is a therapy that is recommended by experts for recovering a lost sense of smell. It is a simple process that involves sniffing a set of different odours usually essential oils, or herbs and spices every day. The olfactory system has a unique ability to regenerate sensory neurons (nerve cells). So, just like physiotherapy



recruit sympathisers, despite countermeasures by websites like X (formerly Twitter) to restrict its online activities.

For the study, the researchers used artificial intelligence (AI) techniques machine learning and natural language processing - to dif-ferentiate the users sharing ISIS-related content. While machine learning makes predictions based on the past data, natural language processing involves manipulating textual data. ISIS accounts identified before 2015 served as

demic, a lost sense of smell was quickly iden-

symptoms of COVID. Nearly four years later, one in five people in the UK is liv-

where exercise helps to restore movement

labelled data for the study's ISIS users, while for identifying potential ISIS supporters, the researchers built a user classifier using the old dataset. The users in the dataset included known members of the Islamic State group and those who retweeted, quoted or mentioned ISIS, said Karimi. "We

believe that users function following an injury, repeated exposure to odours helps to recover the sense of smell following an infection, or other cause of smell loss (for example, traumatic head injury). Several studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of smell training under laboratory conditions. But recent findings have suggested that the real-world results might be disappointing. Make bet-

> experts think. One reason for this is that smell training is a long-term therapy. It can take months before patients detect anything, and some people may not get any benefit at all. In one study,

ter decisions - find out what the

who retweet or quote Islamic State group content are more likely to be affiliates or sympathisers, while those who just mention the content are However, tweets posted by mentioners are still very likely related to ISIS and contain topics similar to ISIS tweets, which make mentioners suitable to be considered as our non-ISIS users and non-trivial counterparts to ISIS users,' said Karimi.

The researchers then analysed the tweets to identify what they referred to as "candidate propaganda." They compared topics used by known Islamic State group accounts prior to 2015 in the old dataset to the content posted after 2015 by potential affiliates and supporters in their recent dataset.



for sensory cues from

Recent research has shown

In one study, participants were asked to



troops liberated some 7,000 prisoners at Auschwitz in German-occupied Poland. The Nazis murdered more than a million people in Auschwitz, most of them Jews. In the days before the liberation, the Germans had evacuated tens of thousands of other inmates on foot in what is

that the sense of smell is influenced by a combination of different sensory inputs not just odours. Sensory cues such as colour, shape, and pitch are believed to play a role in the ability to correctly identify and name odours, and can influence perceptions of odour pleasantness and intensity.

complete a test that measured their ability to discriminate between different odours while they were presented with the colour red or yellow, an outline drawing of a strawberry or a lemon, or a combination of these colours and shapes. The results suggested that corresponding odour and colour associations (for

called the Death March, because many inmates died of exhaustion and cold in the sub-freezing tempera-

Altogether, they killed six million European Jews during the Holocaust. On Saturday, as people in Germany put down flowers and lit candles at memorials for the victims of the Nazi terror, the German chancellor said that his country would continue to

> carry the responsibility for this against

happening now is a good thing." A report that righta recent wing extremists recently study that met to discuss the deportaaimed to investigate whether the effects of smell training could be improved with the addition of cross-modal associations, participants watched a guid-

ance video containing sounds that matched the odours that they were training with. The results suggest that cross-modal interactions plus smell training improved olfactory function compared to smell training alone.
The results reported in recent stud-

ies have been promising and offer new insights into the field of olfactory science. It is hoped that this will soon lead to the development of more effective treatment options for smell recovery.

In the meantime, smell training is one of

the best things you can do for a lost sense of smell, so patients are encouraged to stick with it so that they give themselves the best chance at recovery

# One in twenty people has no sense of smell HERE'S HOW PEOPLE MIGHT GET THEIR SENSE OF SMELL

#### researchers found that after three months of smell training, participation dropped to 88 after six months. The reason given was that

per cent, and further declined to 56 per cent these people did not feel as though they noticed any improvement in their ability to

To remedy this, researchers are now inves-

**CROSS-MODAL ASSOCIATIONS** 

ent sensory systems to be matched. For example, brightness tends to be associated with loudness. Pitch is related to size. Colours are linked to temperature, and softness is matched with round shapes, while spiky shapes feel more rough. In previous studies, these associations have been shown to have a considerable influence on how sensory information is processed. Especially when it comes to olfaction.

example, the colour red and strawberry) were linked to increased olfactory performance compared with odours and colours that were not associated (for example, the colour vellow and strawberry).

While projects focusing on harnessing these cross-modal associations to improve treatments for smell loss are underway, research has already started to deliver some promising results.