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36 DAYS:

'End credits in *Indian 2* will surprise all,' says **SHANKAR**



The heirs of Veerappan (YSRCP) who pocketed national wealth through red sandalwood smuggling in Tirumala Tirupati's Seshachalam forests will be held accountable. The matter will be raised with Union Home Minister Amit Shah and a report will be sought on it. Those who did not believe in God and had no regard for dharma were in power looting the assets of Lord Venkateswara and troubling the public. Now an admin of the pious who constantly chant Govinda's name has

QUOTE OF THE DAY

the pioneer

- Bandi Sanjay, MoS Home Affairs

won in Andhra

Pradesh.

HMDA Commissioner...

Metropolitan Commissioner of HMDA Sarfaraz Ahmed, along with Gouthami, Joint MD of MRDCL and other officials inspected Kokapet Lake (Kotha Cheruvu). They enquired about the STP operated by HMWSSB, the bund area and inlets into the water body. The Commissioner also inspected the Kokapet Neopolis Layout and reviewed the development activities. During the inspection, he examined various land parcels within the layout, including those allotted or auctioned..

-PAGE: 3

British Indian MPs swear oath...

Newly elected Indian-origin MPs to the House of Commons have been pledging their allegiance to the British Crown as a symbol of lovalty to the country, choosing to swear on holy texts or to affirm their oath during the first week of a new Parliament.A new copy of the 'Bhagavad Gita' presented to Speaker Lindsay Hoyle by Shailesh Vara, former Conservative Party member of Parliament who lost his Cambridgeshire seat in last week's general election...

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Insurers expect more tax...

More tax benefits for health insurance under the new tax regime, relaxation in payment norms for MSMEs and incentives for the agri-tech sector are among the expectations of ers from the first budget of the Modi 3.0 government. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to present the full Budget for fiscal 2024-25 on July 23, which will be the first major policy document of the new government...

-PAGE: 8

I could have done better in...

Trailblazing Indian shuttler Saina Nehwal feels she would have perhaps excelled more as a sportsperson if she had picked a tennis racquet instead of playing badminton. Nehwal has an impressive resume as a badminton player. Not only she became the first Indian woman shuttler to be ranked No. 1 in the world, she was the first woman athlete from the country to win an Olympic medal. "Sometimes I feel that it would have been good if my parents had put me in tennis," Saina said..

'Realise revenue targets'

CM Revanth proposes reforms to boost tax collection



CM Revanth Reddy addressing a meeting held at the Secretariat on Thursday

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy directed officials of revenue-generating departments to work hard to achieve their annual targets and emphasised the need for implementing steps to increase revenue.

Officials were warned to act strictly to prevent tax evasion in all departments. The Chief Minister suggested that all departments must prepare monthly targets aligned with annual goals and consistently review their progress.

The CM stressed the importance of transparency regarding revenue sources and tax collections.

He directed officials to consider restructuring departments if necessary and to implement as many reforms as possible to maximise rev-

Chairing a review meeting at the Secretariat, Chief Minister Revanth expressed concern that the revenue generated until June 2018 was not promising when compared to the set target. He asked officials to set monthly targets to ensure adequate revenue collection as outlined by the government while seeking the Vote-on-Account.

enue collection.

Chairing a review meeting at the Secretariat, Chief Minister Revanth expressed concern that the revenue generated until June 2018 was not promising when compared to the set target. He asked officials to set monthly targets to ensure adequate revenue collection as outlined in the Vote-on-Account Budget.

Revanth informed officials that he would conduct a review of revenue targets in the first week of every month. In addition to the monthly review, Finance Minister Bhatti Vikramarka would hold meetings every Friday to review the progress of respective departments.

The Chief Minister specifically asked officials to immediately

implement measures to increase GST revenue. He instructed Commercial Tax Department officials to conduct field visits and ensure thorough auditing to increase GST collections.

Revanth emphasised the importance of strict tax collection without any leniency in GST payments.

He suggested exploring the possibility of revising the tax on aviation fuel as an alternative to offset the reduced VAT revenue from petrol and diesel. Despite increased iquor sales during elections, the revenue did not rise proportionately, prompting the CM to seek the reasons behind this discrepancy.

Discussions were held on preventing the transport of illegal liquor and curbing non-duty-paid liquor. The Chief Minister asked officials to monitor distilleries to prevent liquor diversion and to use advanced technology for this purpose.

The meeting also discussed the favourable environment created for the real estate business in Hyderabad due to development projects like the Regional Ring Road, Metro expansion and the Musi Riverfront Development

The Chief Minister noted that these initiatives have boosted both commercial and residence con-



Why Cong failed to get

seats on expected lines?

• Three-member Kurian panel starts probe

• Cong leaders point to BRS-BJP deal

PNS HYDERABAD

The three-member Kurian Committee started its work on Thursday to find out the reason for the Congress getting lesser number of LS seats than expected in Telangana. The AICC appointed the Kurian committee to examine why the Congress lost many seats in TG

during the Lok Sabha elections. Bhongir MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy met the Committee and said the party got only eight LS seats as the BRS had entered into a deal with the BJP to limit the Congress to just eight LS seats. Otherwise, the Congress would have got 12 or 13 LS seats, he said.

Kiran told the Committee that due to the BRS support for the BJP, the BRS got much fewer votes in the Lok Sabha elections than it got during the Assembly elections.

Apologise for comments on the jobless

Continued on Page 7

Telangana Assembly session from July 24

he Telangana Assembly session is expected to commence on July 24. Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar conducted a review on Thursday with officials of various departments to discuss arrangements for the Assembly meeting. The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari, DGP Jitender, Government Whips Ramachandra Naik, Aadi Srinivas and others. In the context of the upcoming budget session, Finance Minister Bhatti Vikramarka has been holding review meetings with officials over the past few days. On Thursday, Minister Jupally Krishna Rao reviewed the financial aspects of the Excise Department.

ENERGY SECY INSPECTS YTPS

Stresses Oct deadline



PNS HYDERABAD

Energy Secretary D. Ronald Rose who is also the Chairman and Managing Director of TGGENCO and TGTRANSCO emphasised the importance of meeting the October deadline for commissioning the Yadadri Thermal Power Station

(YTPS). After inspecting the project on Thursday, he stressed that the units must be ready to meet peak power demand during the kharif farming season.He inspected the construction and commissioning activities at the 5x800 MW YTPS and checked out all five units,

Stop throwing mud, review BRS defeat: Sridhar

PNS HYDERABAD

IT Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu asked BRS Working President KT at the Congress and to review the reasons for the BRS's defeat.Addressing the media on Thursday, Sridhar said that BRS leaders are not coming out from their make-believe world although the BRS lost power seven months ago Instead of finding out why the BRS lost elections, the BRS brass is throwing mud at the Congress government, he said.Sridhar made it clear that the government will certainly welcome healthy criticism from BRS leaders.

□ KTR demands CM Revanth Reddy

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA KT Rama apology from Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for his actions and comments about students and the unemployed during an address at a meet-

ing of BRSV student leaders."Revanth should apologise to students and the unemployed for insulting them with his derogatory comments at the Mahbubnagar

meeting," KTR said. 'Revanth described job hopefuls as fools. During elections, Congress leaders like Rahul Gandhi and Revanth Reddy went around Ashok

Nagar. So is Rahul and Revanth fools," he said. He said that Revanth had prom-

ised a Mega DSC with 50,000 jobs while in the opposition but has only offered around 6,000 additional posts after assuming power.

'Check police excesses over social media posts'

RS Working President KT Danguish over a series of incidents in Telangana in which the police hounded individuals for posting critical comments about the Congress Government on social media. KTR highlighted a particularly disturbing case involving a tribal youth named Maloth Suresh Babu who was allegedly picked up by the Thorrur police and tortured. His only offence was posting a WhatsApp message criticising the Personal Assistant of local MLA Yashaswini Reddy.

UIDAI glitch interrupts registrations

Online Aadhaar services across the country were disrupted on Thursday due to technical problems in the UIDAI networking system.

The disruption led to Aadhaar-based OTP services and registrations getting interrupted, affecting Registration Department services in Telangana as Aadhaar biometrics are mandatory for property registrations. The halted registra-



tion services have been rescheduled to Friday.

The Registration Department relies on Aadhaar-based services

Due to server issues at the UIDAI, possibly caused by the heavy rains in New Delhi, the smooth delivery of registration services was hindered. Typically, around 7,000 documents are registered daily, but a significant number could not be processed on Thursday. The Registration Department

has assured that all problems will be solved by Thursday night and pending registrations will be done

BRS MLA Prakash to join Cong today

In another setback to the BRS, one more BRS MLA, Prakash Goud, who recently met Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is set to join the Congress on

Rajendranagar MLA V. Prakash Goud met Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on April 19 but didn't join the Congress due to oppo- Revanth Reddy on January 28.

Goud had expressed his desire to join the Congress along with his associates.

Sources said that Prakash may be expecting a cabinet berth, but this is unlikely as another Gouda community leader, Ponnam Prabhakar, is already in the cabinet. The same MLA ruled out changing parties after meeting Chief Minister

PHONE TAPPING

Court decision on 4 accused's bail pleas today

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Nampally court on Thursday heard arguments regarding the

default bail applications of four accused in the phone tapping case. The arguments were held in the XII Additional

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court. The court will pass orders on

As the Nampally Court returned the charge sheet to the police on Wednesday, the accused filed for default bail in court. Praneeth Rao (A2), Bhujanga Rao (A3), Thirupathanna (A4), and P. Radha Kishan Rao (A5) applied for bail in court. For the accused, Advocate V. Surender Rao appeared in court and the police were represented by Special Public Prosecutor Samba Shiva Reddy.

During the arguments, the advocate of the petitioners allegedly raised concern over allowing police officials into the judge's chamber.The police filed the charge sheet on June 10. After that, the court returned the charge sheet to the police thrice, including on July 10.

Why sudden concern for Sircilla weavers?

Sanjay questions BRS MLA KTR

PNS HYDERABAD

Union Minister Bandi Sanjay has issued a counter to BRS working president KTR's open letter urging the establishment of a mega power loom cluster in Sircilla in the Central budget. In his response, Sanjay questioned KTR's sudden concern for weavers and pointed out the continuous problems faced by weavers during KTR's tenure as a BRS Minister.

"KTR@Ajay, are you remembering weavers only now? You ruled the state for 10 years. You have been

representing Sircilla for 15 years. Suicides by weavers continued during your tenure. Why couldn't you help weavers? Was it not you who caused power loom units to shut down by not

clearing 'Bathukamma' dues? When the Prime Minister announced a mega textile park for Telangana, did you not remember Sircilla?" Sanjay said. He promised to do everything

possible to help Sircilla weavers as the MP of Karimnagar.

PNS HYDERABAD The Electricity Employees Joint Action Committee (JAC) strongly

condemned the move to privatise SPDCL, NPDCL, Transco and Genco, declaring that these 'public assets' are not meant for Adani or Ambani. The employees warned that the

electricity department's 55,000 employees would not stand by idly if the government attempted privati-sation. The JAC also organised a protest in front of the SPDCL office in Hyderabad.

JAC representatives criticised the agreement between Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and the CEOs of the Adani Group and demanded trans-



Adani or Ambani won't be allowed to take

over public assets, warns employees' JAC

Davos and New Delhi. They emphasised that these agreements concern public assets built up by TG's four rore people.

The JAC representatives declared that electricity employees are ready parency regarding the deals made at for a struggle and urged the govern-

ment to reconsider their decisions. The employees insisted that they are ready to act upon the government's directives and warned that they can cut power supply to even

top individuals if necessary. They questioned the rationale

and NPDCL asserting that the government has no 'authority' to privatise public assets. Criticising the management for inaction, the representatives noted that while employees are issued memos for minor mistakes mega losses amounting to Rs 500 crore annually go unaddressed.

behind the privatisation of SPDCL

The employees demanded a comprehensive plan to curb electricity theft and improve bill collection involving the Electricity Minister, the CMDs of Transco, Genco, SPDCL and NPDCL, registered union lead-

ers and engineers. The JAC urged the constitution of a committee to prepare a detailed report and resolve the issue compre-

ISSUE OF DEFECTIONS

If there is no advantage, why should BRS move court?

SNCN ACHARYULU

Why the BRS worry over defections when there is no advantage with the defectors. Already seven BRS MLAs joined the Congress and some more are on their way. The BRS leadership is making all efforts to prevent the defections. The BRS went to court also against the defectors. Against this backdrop, BRS senior leader and former minister T Harish Rao commented that there will be no advantage with the defections. He said that 12 Congress MLAs defected to the

Assembly elections and in the 2023 Assembly elections, 10 of them were defeated. According to Harish Rao, with the defections the defectors and political parties also have no advan-

tage.

If the political parties give tickets in the Assembly elections, the defectors will be defeated and with this, the political party also will lose some seats. So, with the BRS MLAs' defections the defected MLAs and the Congress party also have no advantage in the coming Assembly elections if the defectors will be given the

Assembly tickets. Then the advantage will be to the BRS as it is the main Opposition party. On one side the BRS is saying that there will be no advantage with the defections and on the other side the BRS is making every effort to prevent the defections and criticising the defected MLAs.

As per the BRS theory, with the defections of party MLAs, the Congress will have no advantage and it will become advantage and it will be BRS. advantageous to the BRS. When the Congress has no advantage with the defections, the BRS need not worry over the defections of party MLAs.

with the defections, why the BRS encouraged the defections when it was in power? the political observers question. Perhaps after the defeat in the Assembly elections, the BRS might have come to know this fact, political observers feel.

Meanwhile, BRS working

president and former minister KT Rama Rao said that the Congress MLAs did not defect, but they merged with the BRS. So, if the BRS MLAs merge with the Congress, it is not wrong. The BRS MLAs also may do the same after reaching the required number.

Nirmala assumes office as TGIIC chairperson

PNS HYDERABAD

TPCC working president T Jagga Reddy's wife Nirmala Jagga Reddy assumed office as Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Limited chairperson on Thursday at its office located at Bhasheerbhagh. IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu and senior Congress leader Jetti Kusuma Kumar were present. Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy, Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, Health Minister Damodara Raj Narsimha congratulated Nirmala Jagga Reddy. Nuthi Srikanth Goud took charge as BC Finance corporation and, N Preetham took charge as SC Corporation chairman and others amidst the leaders, friends and fans.

'Will take action against those who looted national wealth'

PNS HYDERABAD

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar stated that the heirs of Veerappan, who looted national wealth through red sandalwood smuggling in Tirumala Tirupati, will be held account-

He emphasised, "There is no question of letting these criminals go," and assured that appropriate action will be taken based on the report. He noted that a regime of devotees who constantly chant Govinda's name has arrived in Tirumala. Bandi Sanjay criticised that until recently, "Those who did not believe in God and had no regard for dharma were in power, looting the assets of Lord Venkateswara and putting the public in trou-

He pointed out that during



the previous administration, the heirs of Veerappan looted national wealth worth thousands of crores through red sandalwood smuggling in the Seshachalam hills. "This issue will be brought to the attention of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and a report will be sought on it," he said. During his visit to Tirumala with his family on his birthday, Bandi Sanjay offered special prayers

to Lord Venkateswara. He expressed his happiness at visiting the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam, say-ing, "I prayed for the wellbeing of the people of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, and for the prosperity and happiness of all Indians.'

He sought blessings for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts to establish India as a global leader. Bandi Sanjay criticised the previous regime for using the TTD as a rehabilitation centre for political unemployables and for exploiting TTD for political gains. He emphasised, "We are not against any religion but opposed the looting of Lord Venkateswara's assets for personal gain and defiling Tirumala." He vowed that such an anarchic regime is over and that a regime of sincere devotees chanting Govinda's name

has taken over.

'Viksit Bharat' goal can be achieved by having smaller families: Nadda

PNS NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister J P Nadda said on Thursday that the goal of 'Viksit Bharat' can only be achieved when the health of India's families is well maintained and this can be accomplished by the smaller families, he stated.

He said the Centre and the states need to collectively work to ensure that women can exercise their right to make family planning choices and are not burdened by

unwanted pregnancy.

Nadda virtually held a meeting with the states and the Union Territories (UTs) on the occasion of World Population Day. The theme of the event was 'Healthy timing and spacing of pregnancies for the wellbeing of mother and child'.

He said the Centre and the states should also ensure that the unmet needs of contraceptives are met especially in the high burden states, districts and blocks.

Highlighting that one-fifth of global population is India's, he stressed on the need to celebrate World Population Day as a reaffirmation and recom-



population stabilisation. "The goal of Viksit Bharat can only be achieved when the health of India's families is well maintained, which can be achieved by smaller fami-

lies," he stated.

"The Centre and the states need to collectively work to ensure that women can exercise their right to make family planning choices and are not burdened by unwanted pregnancy, and to ensure that unmet needs of contraceptives are met especially in the high burden states, districts and blocks," he said.

The objective of the family planning (FP) programme needs to be 'Birth by choice and by informed choice', he

Errors in Gruha Jyothi applications can be set right

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has facilitated the correction of the USC (electricity connection) number at Praja Palana service centres.

The government is providing 200 units of free electricity to eligible household electricity consumers under the Gruha Jyothi scheme. As part of this scheme, zero bills are being issued by applying the

Kardashians to Mike

Tyson expected at

Ambani wedding

PNS MUMBAI

Top celebrities Kim and Khloe Kardashian, boxer

Mike Tyson, former UK

prime ministers and global

business tycoons are expect-

ed to attend the wedding of

Anant Ambani, youngest son of Asia's richest man Mukesh

Ambani, in Mumbai on

Friday. After four months of

celebrations, Anant Ambani,

29, will tie the knot with

Radhika Merchant, daughter

of pharma tycoons Viren and Shaila Merchant.The guest

list is a mix of Indian and

international celebrities,

politicians and corporate big-

wigs, sources aware of the

Mukesh Ambani and his

wife, Nita, in the past had lav-

ish weddings for their other

children too - Beyoncé per-

formed at daughter Isha

Ambani's 2018 nuptials that

boosted of guests like Hillary

Clinton and John Kerry, and

a year later Coldplay's Chris

Martin performed at Akash's

pre-wedding bash in St Moritz,

Switzerland and Maroon 5 at

his wedding in Mumbai.

matter said.

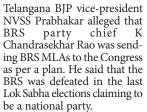
scheme to the USC (Electricity Connection) number submitted by consumers at Praja Palana programmes.

However, beneficiaries of this scheme face problems in availing benefits due to discrepancies in linking the food security card and service connection when they change houses. Considering the requests from various quarters the government has made provisions for correcting the USC (electricity connection) num-

In this context, Musharraf Farooqui, the Chairman and MD of the Southern Telangana Power Distribution Company, who was on a tour of the erst-while Mahbubnagar district, visited the Praja Seva Kendra at the Nalgonda Rural Mandal Praja Parishad office and reviewed the registration process of Gruha Jyothi bene-

KCR sending his MLAs to Cong as per his plan: NVSS

PNS HYDERABAD



be a national party.

Addressing the media at the State BJP office on Thursday, Prabhakar said that people have given a fitting lesson to KCR who said that his party is the third front. He reminded that in the recently held Lok Sabha elections, there was a contest between the BJP and the Congress and it was clear from the results that there was ership, he alleged

Continued from page 1

In an open letter to Union

Minister Sanjay, BRS Working President KTR had

urged the inclusion of a mega

power loom cluster for

Sircilla in the Central budget.

KTR said the Centre had

'ignored' Telangana in the

last 10 years in every budget.

He said that despite writing

10 letters and personally

meeting Union ministers to

request a power loom cluster,

there has been no response.

no chance for a third party. He also said that the people have shown through the parliamentary elections that there is no chance for a third party in Telangana. He complained that KCR's defeat started only after the TRS was renamed as BRS under the name of Third Front.

He said that the TRS, which started as a movement party, was politically weak for the first time, retained its existence for the second time, and then called itself the third front. He said that the BRS party has no future in the coming period. Therefore, KCR is accused of inducting BRS legislators into the Congress and keeping them as a shield to protect his lead-

He appealed to Sanjay to

use his influence as a Union

Minister to bring the mega

power loom cluster to Sircilla

this time. KTR pointed out

that establishing the cluster in

Sircilla would alleviate the

hardships faced by local

weavers as the region has

skilled labour and the

He criticized the failure of

the Congress government to

support the handloom sector

and accused it of failing to

help weavers.KTR requested

resources required.

RYTHU Bandhu funds Govt to issue

notices to owners of non-agri lands

PNS HYDERABAD

The TG government will issue notices to Rythu Bandhu fund recipients who took money for lands used for non-agricultural purposes. The government will ask them to return the Rythu Bandhu funds taken for those lands and steps will be taken to recover the money if it is not

Book on PM Modi launched

PNS HYDERABAD

The book "Power Within: The Leadership Legacy of Narendra Modi" was launched in the city Ramaswami Dr Balasubramaniam, a development scholar and author known for his pioneering work with rural and tribal communities in Karnataka. This latest book was launched at the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad campus on Thursday, with the Dean, Madan M Pillutla, delivering the inaugural

Sanjay to establish the mega

power loom cluster in Sircilla

and noted that the BJP has

been in power at the Centre

during the last decade and

that Sanjay has been an MP

the last decade to secure the

cluster for Sircilla which met

with no response from the

Centre. He also mentioned

meeting ministers like Smriti

Irani and Arun Jaitley with no

Despite repeatedly request-

He recounted his efforts in

for the last five years.

KTR is the reason for the destruction of Hyd: Ponnam

Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar alleged that the former Minister KT Ramarao was the reason for the destruction of Hyderabad. Prabhakar made it clear that the government will release job calendar certainly.

Speaking to the media at Gandhi Bhavan on Thursday, Ponnam Prabhakar said that it is not proper to BRS leaders, who alleged till fee days that the delay taking place in recruiting jobs, to demand for

examinations postponement. Appealing to students not to fall pray to political leaders, Ponnam Prabhakar assured that the government will solve the justified demands of stu-

He said that the Congress leaders won't use the language that used by the former CM and ministers.

He warned that the

Congress leaders too know such languages using by KCR. He said that there are pub-

lic representatives such as post graduates and doctors.

DSC soon, says Govt Whip Ramachandra

PNS HYDERABAD Government

there would not be any postponement of DSC and that the government will conduct another DSC as soon as pos-Speaking to the media at the

Ramachandra Naik said that

Ramachandra said the KCR Why sudden concern for Sircilla...

ing cooperation from Sanjay,

there was no support. KTR

emphasized that with Sanjay's

recent election as MP and his

ministerial role, it is the right

time to help Sircilla weavers.

ensure that the Centre

announces a mega power

loom cluster for Sircilla in this

budget and recalled that after

the Congress government

came to power in the state,

weaver suicides have resumed

in Sircilla due to lack of

employment.

KTR urged Sanjay to

family is trying to incite students. He said that KCR and KTR are creating disturbances in the state fearing that their corruption may come out.

"Once again the KCR fam-

ily is trying to incite students,

he said. Bonafide students are learning in libraries. However. BRS student union leaders are inciting students He said that BRS leaders are reading the script prepared by BJP leaders to get BRS MLĆ

Kavitha released from jail. He said that KCR helped contractors from AP by mis-

using public funds. BRS leaders are afraid of the SC exam as their very existence may be threatened if DSC exams are conducted,

EXCISE CASE

SC verdict on Kejriwal's plea today

PNS NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court is scheduled to deliver on Friday its verdict on Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's plea challenging his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy scam.

As per the cause list of July 12 uploaded on the apex court's website, a bench headed by Justice Sanjiv Khanna will pronounce the judgement.On May 17, the bench, also comprising Justice Dipankar Datta, had reserved its verdict on Kejriwal's plea.

The apex court had on April 15 sought a response from the ED on Kejriwal's plea challenging his arrest in the money laundering case. The Aam Aadmi Party

(AAP) chief has challenged in the top court the April 9 order of the Delhi High Court that had upheld his arrest in the case.

mitment to working towards Stresses Oct.

Continued from page 1

including boilers, turbines and generators and urged the speeding up of work wherever there were delays. He checked out steam blow-

ing operations in the Unit-2 Boiler in the Central Control Room and operated some blows himself.

He also inspected the boiler auxiliaries, turbine auxiliaries, natural draft cooling towers, transformer yard and the 400 KV switchvard and asked BHEL to synchronize the units of Stage-İ by August 25 or September 25.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:

Tithi: Shashthi:

Nakshatram:

Rahukalam:

Varjyam:

Yamaqandam:

Amritakalam:

Temp: 30°°

Humidity: 72% Sunrise: 5:49 AM

Sunset: 6:55 PM

Uttara Phalguni:

Sukla Paksha

Jul 11 10:04 AM

to Jul 12 12:33 PM Jul 12 12:33 PM

to Jul 13 03:05 PM

Jul 11 01:04 PM

to Jul 12 04:08 PM Jul 12 04:08 PM

to Jul 13 07:14 PM

10:44 AM to 12:21 PM

01:38 AM to 03:26 AM

08:01 AM to 09:49 AM

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:55 AM to 12:47 PM

Forecast: Scattered Thunderstorms

Updated: July 11, 2024 5:00 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

3:36 PM to 5:13 PM

7:30 AM to 9:07 AM

Ronald also thoroughly inspected the railway line, marshalling yard, coal handling plant, ash handling plant and asked concerned agencies to get ready these systems by

and related agencies to accelerate BTG works of Stage-II as they are behind schedule. Later, he reviewed activitywise equipment commissioning schedules and asked BHEL officials to coordinate with working agencies and avoid slippages.

the time of unit synchroniza-

He strictly instructed BHEL TGGENCO engineers and

'Realise revenue...

Continued from page 1

He observed that land and property rates have significantly increased in the state and recommended steps to enhance revenue from registrations and stamps accordingly.

He also directed officials to curb the illegal transport of sand and minerals and to plug leakages.

Regarding electric vehicles, the Chief Minister suggested officials should study whether the withdrawal of temporary tax subsidies and subsequent tax collection have impacted sales.

Apologise for...

Continued from page 1

KTR also accused Rahul Gandhi of exploiting students for political gain stating, "Rahul Gandhi used students to grab power." He criticised the Congress for using the unemployed as election fodder and failing to deliver on job promises. He accused Revanth of hav-

ing an autocratic mentality intolerant even of social media posts. He pointed out the police attacks on journalists and students. 'The question is whether

attacking the public is Praja Palana or the so-called Indiramma Rajyam which the Congress promised to bring back," he said. KTR warned that the

names of police officials

involved in these attacks are

being recorded by students

and they will be held accountable in future.

He criticized the Congress for cancelling welfare schemes and for failing to keep promises given to the people. He highlighted the party's permission for seven new private universities which he claimed was a move contrary to their earlier stance.

Emphasizing the achievements of the BRS, KTR said that around 1,62,000 government posts had been filled and the process to fill another 40,000 posts was launched. He highlighted that the BRS government provided 95% local reservation in government

He said that the party successfully produced many leaders who are now serving as public representatives, chairmen, mayors, and districtlevel presidents.

'Check police... Continued from page 1

"We are witnessing an alarming trend in which the police are raiding the homes of BRS cadres due to frivolous complaints about social media posts. This undermines free speech and democratic dissent," KTR

He emphasised that the Telangana Police is known for its professional conduct and urged immediate action to prevent a few overzealous officers from tarnishing the department's reputation.

"I request the urgent intervention of the Telangana DGP to halt these illegal acts. While some police officers may believe that they are serving the ruling dispensation, their actions are damaging the integrity of the Police Department," KTR noted.

Telangana Assembly session... Continued from page 1 issues like the Rythu Bharosa

scheme. Deputy Chief Minister The review meeting started Bhatti Vikramarka had earliat 11 am and continued till evening.Although the er indicated that decisions

start on July 24, the duration of the session has not been clarified. A full-fledged budget is expected to be presented during this session. There will also be discussions on

Assembly session is set to regarding policies would be made after discussions in the Assembly.

Why Cong failed to get... Continued from page 1

He said that political equations had changed during the Lok Sabha elections. During the Assembly elections, it was the Congress versus the BRS, however, it was the BJP versus the Congress during the Lok Sabha elections, he said.

He told the Kurian Committee that the BRS and the BJP decided to contain the Congress and so the BRS fielded weak candidates in some constituencies.

Reliable sources said that

the state government may

announce the job calendar

during this session.

Kiran told the Kurian committee that BRS votes went to the BJP and so the Congress won only eight LS seats instead of the expected 12.

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SABITA NAGAR SETTLEMENT TO BE RELOCATED

HMDA Commissioner inspects Kokapet Neopolis layout

PNS HYDERABAD

Metropolitan Commissioner of HMDA Sarfaraz Ahmed, along with Gouthami, Joint MD of MRDCL and other officials inspected Kokapet Lake (Kotha Cheruvu). They enquired about the STP operated by HMWSSB, the bund area and inlets into the water body.

The Commissioner also inspected the Kokapet Neopolis Layout and reviewed the development activities. During the inspection, he examined various land parcels within the layout, including those allotted or auctioned. He addressed issues with Road No. 4 of the layout, which could not be completed due to the existing Sabita Nagar settlement. He instructed the preparation of a draft map and proposal for straightening the road and enquired about the status of relocating the settlement.

The development of the Trumpet Interchange was also reviewed, including the balance works and hindrances due to existing overhead lines. He instructed the officials to enhance greenery within the



Right of Way (ROW) of roads and open spaces in Neopolis and Goldenmile Layouts. He emphasised completing pending works and making the areas ready for inauguration as soon as possible.

During the visit, the Commissioner discussed restoration and development activities around the lake, such as the construction of walking and cycling tracks, plantation, and other facilities under the CSR scheme with Raheja IT Company. He enquired about the nalas upstream and

downstream of the lakes, patrolling police outposts, CCTV cameras, and other protection measures. He also discussed tourism and sailing club activities and the estimated sewage water generated in the lake's catchment area. He stressed the need for proper sewage diversion and maintenance of existing STP capacities.

Concerns were raised about the dying fish in the lake. The Commissioner instructed officials to identify the causes in coordination with the Fisheries department and take steps to prevent untreated sewage from entering the lake. He also inspected the proposed park location at Durgam Cheruvu, suggesting eco-friendly development without harming the natural habitat. A theme park over 33 acres at Durgam Cheruvu was proposed in consultation with TGIIC.

The Metropolitan Commissioner inspected HMDA parks, lands, and development works in Raidurgam, Kokapet, and Kothwalguda of Rangareddy district. He visited the Goldenmile and Neopolis projects, reviewed the progress, and instructed engineers to complete the park work on time.

Four-month basic course on Constitution in Telugu

PNS HYDERABAD

NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad, has announced on Thursday that it offers a four months basic course on Indian Constitution in Telugu in online mode.

The course has been developed with 32 videos, which include walk the talk, panel discussion, interview

and case study.

It focuses on providing a sound theoretical footing as well as practical insights into the working of the Indian

Constitution.

It also highlights the contributions of Bar and Bench from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

The eligibility criteria for the course is 10th or SSC pass students and the fee is Rs 1,500. Interested candidates may visit www.nalsarpro.org and apply for the course.

Pioneer journalist gets Hybiz Media Award

The media industry honoured journalists at the 4th Edition of the Hybiz TV Media Awards (HMA), which took place at the HICC-Novotel in HITEC City, with a spectacular celebration.

Shikha Duggal, the Assistant Chief Editor of The Pioneer, won the award for "Best Story by a Woman Journalist" among the other categories. Minister of Irrigation & CAD, Food & Civil Supplies Uttam Kumar Reddy gave her the honour. Shikha had submitted her all-

inclusive interview with Nawab Raunaq Yar Khan, the IXth Nizam of the Asaf Jahi Dynasty, in order to be considered for the award. The conversation covered a wide range of topics, including his early years in Hyderabad, uniting cultures, living as the head of the family for a Nizam today and many more personal anecdotes.

Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy emphasised the gov-



Shikha Duggal of The Pioneer receiving the award for 'Best Story by a Woman Journalist from Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy

ernment's steadfast support for the media during the function, highlighting the media's critical role as the cornerstone of democracy.

He expressed his gratitude to the media for their noteworthy contributions at the Hybiz TV Media Awards, which honoured achievements in print, broadcast and digital

The event was attended by a number of dignitaries, including the chairman of the BC Commission, Vakula bharam Krishna Mohan Rao; M Ravindar Reddy, the director of marketing for Bharathi Cement; V Rajashekhar Reddy, the president of Credai Hyderabad; Gedela Srinu Babu, the CEO of Pulsus Group; Manepalli Rama Rao; Eenadu I. Venkat; KRP Reddy; Hybiz TV & Telugu Now Founder MD Raj Gopal; CEO Dr J Sandhyarani and others.



Ten OU students achieve Patent Examiner positions

PNS HYDERABAD

Osmania University on Thursday announced that 10 students from the Department of Biomedical Engineering at University College of Engineering (A) have been selected as Examiners of Patent and Design (Group-A) at the Indian Patent Office, Government of India. Out of the 53 positions available nation-wide, 10 have been secured by OU students, showcasing the exceptional caliber of the students from the Biomedical Engineering department.

This remarkable achievement comes after their success in the highly competitive national-level examination conducted by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Government of

Prof. P Lakshminarayana, Registrar of Osmania University, extended congratulations to the students for their outstanding accomplishment. Prof. Sriram Venkatesh, Secretary of TSCHE, also conveyed his best wishes to the students. Prof. P Chandrasekhar, I/C Principal, along with Prof. M Malini, expressed their pride in the students' success and announced that they will be honoured at an upcoming departmental event.

GCCs account for 50% of leased office space in Hyd

PNS HYDERABAD

A research by Knight Frank has revealed that Hyderabad recorded an office transaction volume of 2 million square feet in the second quarter of

The Global Capability Centres (GCCs) accounted for over 50% of the leased office space in the city. About 23% of the overall office absorption made by GCCs in the country were executed in the city's office market.

Due to the absorption by GCCs, Hyderabad's commercial market recorded 11% of the 18.5 mn sq ft of transactions across eight cities in the country during the second quarter.

Flex office spaces, leased office spaces of 0.54 mn sq ft in the second quarter of this year, attributing 25% of the leasing activities in the office market of Hyderabad. Thirdparty IT services and India facing business leased office spaces of 0.7 mn sq ft and 0.5 mn sq ft respectively in the city market.



ISKCON Rath Yatra tomorrow

PNS HYDERABAD

The International Society for Krishna Consciuosness (ISKCON) centre, Miyapur will organize Jagannath Rath Yatra on July 13, according to Ramdas Parbhu, the president of ISKCON temple, Miyapur.

Speaking to the media on Thursday, Ramdas Parbhu said, "A vibrant and cherished tradition is scheduled to take place from Chandanagar at 2 pm on Saturday and the

Ratha procession will proceed through main streets of Madinaguda, Allwyn Cross Road, Miyapur Cross Road, JP Nagar and ens at Viswanath Gardens."

The event attracts thousands of devotees from 10 countries, symbolizing unity, devotion and community spirit. Elaborate arrangements for devotees would be made for supply of drinking water and Pulihora prasadam throughout procession points, he

DCA seizes overpriced medicine

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana Drug Control Administration (DCA) on July 10 seized an overpriced medicine at Nagole.

During a raid on a medical store, officials seized 'CANDI-FACE-200 capsules' sold under brand name 'CANDIFACE-200 capsules' which was under price control as per Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 and the price of product shall be in accordance with the 'Ceiling Price' fixed by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), Government of India.

The medicine was being sold at a maximum retail price of Rs 275 for 10 tablets. The ceiling price fixed by the Central government, including wholesale price index (WPI) for the product "Itraconazole capsules 200 mg" is Rs 22.12 for one capsule (ceiling price).

Hence, maximum retail price (MRP), including GST 12 %, should not be more than Rs 24.77 for one capsule (MRP=Ceiling Price+GST). The firm overpriced the product. Firm charged excess of Rs 27.30 for 10 capsules.



GHMC Commissioner Amrapali Kata speaking to the people at Sundarayya Park

Authorities directed to solve Sundarayya Park issues

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner Amrapali Kata has directed authorities to take immediate steps to solve the problems in Bagh Lingampally's Sundarayya Park on Thursday.

Commissioner Amrapali conducted an inspection along with Zonal Commissioner Ravi Kiran. She inspected the proposed construction site of Phase 2 of the flyover from Sundarayya Park, Mother Dairy Park and VST to Bagh Lingampally. Walkers in the park asked the Commissioner to address the toilet repairs

due to stagnant rainwater in Sundarayya Park. The Commissioner immediately ordered officials to solve the problems suggested by the walkers. The officials were also ordered to complete the progress on Strategic Nala Development Programme (SNDP) works. Amrapali also suggested

that steps should be taken for the development of Mother Dairy Park. Earlier, it was decided to undertake flyover construction in two phases from VST to Bagh Lingampally. But in the first phase, the steel bridge from Indira Park to VST has become available.

IIT-Hyderabad to organise Innovation Day on July 5

PNS HYDERABAD

The Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad (IITH) announced on Thursday that it will host the second edition of the Innovation Day on July 15 where students and faculty can showcase their tech transfer ready innovations and startups. The event will feature pitch sessions, panel discussions and talks, exhibitions and networking opportuni-

With the second edition of With the second edition of Innovation Day, IITH is expanding the institution's motto of 'Inventing & Innovating in Technology for Humanity' by ensuring that the event is accessible to deaf and hard-to-hear individuals. It facilitates participation and facilitates participation and engagement for everyone with



the support of an incubated startup SignAssistive AI, which has developed a technology that translates real-time conversations into digital avatar-based gestures and Indian sign

languages.
Scheduled on the same day is the MeitY Grand Challenge 2024 finale, organised by the iTIC Incubator at IIT Hyderabad and SINE, IIT-

Bombay. This national initiative aims at fostering innovation in key areas such as Digital Twin & Simulation, Low & No Code, and Generative AI. The finale event will feature pitching from the top 10 teams across the country to win attractive cash prizes of Rs 4 lakh, grant support, access to iTIC's prototyping lab and comprehensive mentorship.

Prof BS Murty, Director IIT-Hyd, said, "While we continue to break new grounds in innovation, our dedication to accessibility means everyone can be part of our technology development, innovations and entrepreneurship journey. It's amazing to witness the impact firsthand and know that our leadership in this area is making a real differ-

CSIR-NGRI chief scientist Subash elected Global Vice-Chair of SEG

PNS HYDERABAD

Dr Subash Chandra, Chief Scientist at CSIR - National Geophysical Research Institute (CSÎR-NGRI), Hyderabad, has been elected Global Vice-

Chair of the Society of Exploration Geophysics (SEG) Near Surface G e o p h y s i c s Technical Section (NSTS) for a twoyear term starting at IMAGE'24 in Houston

Thursday. As Vice-Chair, he will be involved in developing and implementing a strategic vision and organising technical actions activities.

(2017) for his contribution to arborne electromagnetic arquifer mapping, is a member adjusting activities. cal section activities

An expert in groundwater research, Dr Chandra specialises in airborne electromagnetics (AEM), aquifer

mapping and converting geo-physical data into hydrogeo-logical models. He pioneered airborne geophysics in India for high-resolution 3D aquifer mapping, notably used in the arid northwest regions under

the Ministry of Jal Shakti. His AEM research in the Ganga plains discovered a paleo river near Prayagraj, enhancing understanding of river-aquifer interactions.

He has received National Geosciences Award

aquifer mapping, is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, India (2023), and an Associate Fellow of the Telangana Academy of

Industry experts stress Green Chemistry for pharmaceuticals

Industry experts stressed on Green Chemistry being an essential component of the pharmaceutical industry, stating it would help produce cost-competitive chemical products.

Metlapalli Srinivasu, Vice-President - Corp. EHS & ESG, Suven Pharmaceuticals Limited, addressed a session on Green Chemistry and the way forward. "At present, Green Chemistry is the buzz word across the pharmaceutical industry. It aims to design and produce cost-competitive chemical products and processes that attain the highest level of the pollution preest level of the pollution-prevention hierarchy by reducing pollution at its source, Srinivasu stressed.

He further said, "Green



Metlapalli Srinivasu addresses a gathering at the FTCCI

Chemicals are those that are less hazardous to human health and the environment are less toxic to organisations."

The pharma expert spoke at the Environment Stewardship for industry managers programme organised by Federation of Telangana Chamber of Commerce and

Industry (FTCCI).

The Environment
Committee Chair, G Bala Subramanyam "Environment now is one of the most sought-after professions. The money put into sustainability is not an expenditure, it is a reward and recog-

Free training for women in e-auto driving

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Durgabai Mahila Shishu Vikasa Kendra (DMSVK), which operates under Telangana Mahila Cooperative Development Corporation, Hyderabad, announced to offer free electric auto-driving training for women in Hyderabad on

Thursday.

The main objective behind the training programme is to empower socially and economically disadvantaged women with various types of received training as part of vocational training, as part of which, Movo Social Initiative has been appointed as technical partners to impart motor driving skills to

Women belonging to the age group 18-45 years without any driving experience can join or engage in the training programme. Interested candidates should carry the Aadhaar card.

The programme also provides assistance in obtaining a valid driving licence (including licence fee). Placement support will be provided with remuneration as per labour law in Hyderabad.

The training period is 45-60 days. Interested candidates can contact DMSVK manager 7660022507 or MOVO team at Kukatpally -8978099499.

Medical exam for Group IV candidates from July 16 to 26

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana Public Service Commission (TGPSC) has announced on Thursday that the PWD (OH) candidates, who have been picked up for verification of certificates for Group-IV services, would get medical examination by the Medical Board at Osmania General Hospital from July 16 to 26.

The OH candidates are advised to appear before the Medical Board at room number 507, old building, Osmania General Hospital, Afzalgung, Hyderabad at 09:00 am sharp with requisite medical examination fee in cash along with attested copy of original PH certificate, hall ticket of the Group-IV services examination, medical certificate in respect of OH Candidates which is made available in Commission's Website and three latest passport size photographs.

GHMC takes action on request made at Prajavani

Upon receiving a water contamination complaint from residents of Kausar Colony reported in Prajavani, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) officials responded and

Residents of Kausar Colony raised concerns about polluted water in Balkapur Nala, affecting nearby borewells. They requested the GHMC to divert drains away from Balkapur Nala to safeguard their borewells, as the drains from Jubilee Hills are also pumped into the nala.

Recognising the urgency of the situation, the GHMC officials initiated siltation work at the new pond in Balkapur Nala. According to GHMC officials, construction of box drains from the new outlet of Balkapur Nala will soon be completed to prevent water contamination and ensure the safety of residents' borewells, along with protection from flooding during the rainy season.



YouTuber sent to judicial custody over child abuse video

PNS HYDERABAD

The Nampally court on Thursday sent youtuber Praneeth Hanumanthu to a 14-day judicial custody over a child abuse video.

Hanumanthu sparked a controversy by sexualising the father-daughter relationship through remarks made by him and his friends while reacting to a video.

The Andhra Pradesh YouTuber was on Wednesday nabbed by the Telangana Cyber Crime Bureau from Bengaluru. Hanumanthu was booked under Sections 67B of the IT Act (Information Technology Act), POCSO Act (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act), Section 79 of the IT Act and Section 294 of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanahita (BNS). He has been lodged in the Chanchalguda jail. The YouTuber's reaction led to concerns over child safety and prompted a response from Telangana Chief Minister Anumula Revanth Reddy.

Man kills ex-live-in partner's parents

PNS WARANGAL

A man allegedly killed the parents of a woman he was in a relationship with in Warangal district on Thursday, holding them responsible for their separation, police said. The parents who were killed were identified as Banothu Srinivas (45) and Banothu Suguna (40).

The incident took place early on Thursday in chennaraopet mandal, the police said, adding that the accused also attacked the woman and her brother.

The police arrested M Nagarju alias bunny on charge of murdering the parents of his ex-live-in partner. The accused is a native of Gundega mandal in Mahabubad district. He is said to be an auto-rickshaw driver.

According to a senior police official, when the woman's family was sleeping outside their house, the accused attacked them with a knife resulting in



the death of the elderly victims. The accused man and the woman had eloped last year and lived together, but subsequently got separated. For the past six months the woman was staying with her parents, the official said.

Based on preliminary investigation, he added that the accused bore a grudge against the woman's parents for allegedly taking the girl away from him. The accused has been taken into custody.

The woman told media that the accused killed her parents and also attacked her and her brother. A case was registered and investigation is on.

Plans to involve retired engineers in construction of RRR: Komatireddy

PNS HYDERABAD

On the occasion of the 11th Telangana Engineers Day, Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy paid homage to Nawab Ali Nawaz Jung Bahadur, regarded as the patriarch of the Telangana irrigation sector, on his birth anniversary.

Addressing the engineers, he promised to discuss allot-ment of 2000 square yards of land with the government for the construction of the Institute of India Building. He assured the engineers that the government focuses on accountability rather than just accounts and is serious about resolving employees' issues. He also mentioned plans to involve retired engineers in the construction



Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy speaking at 11th Telangana Engineers Day in Hyderabad on Thursday

of the Regional Ring Road

Venkat Reddy emphasised that the current government operates with team work and is

Venkat Reddy emphasised that the current government operates with team work and is not monopolistic. He criticised the past administration for neglecting the needs of the southern Telangana people suffering due to the pollution of the Musi River, comparing it to the cleaning efforts of the Sabarmati under the Namami Gange initiative.

not monopolistic. He criticised the past administration for neglecting the needs of the southern Telangana people suffering due to the pollution of the Musi River, comparing it to the cleaning efforts of the Sabarmati under the Namami Gange initiative. The Congress government, he asserted, will cleanse the Musi River to protect public health. He also

highlighted the durability of the Nizam Sagar Project, built with limited technology, which still stands strong, in contrast to recent irrigation projects that face issues shortly after completion, urging engineers to introspect on this matter.

Speaking to the engineering experts present, Venkat Reddy highlighted the importance of engineers throughout history

and their contributions to sociin Telangana now officially ety. He began by acknowledgobserving Nawab Ali Nawaz ing Imhotep, the engineer of Jung Bahadur's birth anniverthe Step Pyramid in Egypt around 2550 BCE, as the world's first recognised engi-neer. He also honoured Bharat sary as Engineers Day. The Minister praised Nawaz Jung as the first indigenous Chief Engineer, recalling how British Chief Engineer AT Mackenzie Ratna Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, celebrated as India's first engineer, whose handed over his duties to Nawaz Jung, recognising his superior talent and administrative skills. Venkat Reddy expressed his honor in being invited as the chief guest for the birthday on September 15th is commemorated as Engineers Day in India. Visvesvaraya gained fame for devising a system to protect Hyderabad city from floods. Venkat Reddy 11th Telangana Engineers Day. The event also honoured then paid tribute to Nawab Ali retired engineers and featured Nawaz Jung Bahadur, whose participation from notable fig-

> Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr DN Reddy, former NIT Warangal Director PG Shastri, Dr G Venkat Subbaiah, MA Kareem, S Jaswanth Kumar

> ures such as former JNTU

12 girls bitten by rats in Medak 'model' school

At least 12 girl students in Telangana Model School at Ramayampet in Medak district suffered rat bite on Wednesday night. They were all rushed to government hospital where they were given treatment for rat bite.

The incident came close on the heel of as many as 17 girls students taking ill due to suspected food poisoning a few

The girls who suffered rat bite were Class 9 students. They were bitten on the leg by rouge rats while they were sleeping in a room at the hostel attached to the school.

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Commissioner's Task Force

(South West) Zone, in coordi-

nation with the Marredpally

Police, on Thursday arrested an

interstate drug peddler and

The accused was identified

as Doosari Naveen Goud (32),

a native of Nizamabad district,



They were all provided with treatment for rat bites at government hospital and dis-

On being alerted by students, their parents, relatives arrived at the school on Thursday morning and staged

Task Force nabs inter-state drug peddler; hash oil worth Rs 4.22 lakh seized

He was previously arrested by Nizamabad Excise SHO under

the NDPS Act for peddling

Alprazolam.
While in jail, Naveen

befriended Vanthala Yesayya, a

native of Andhra Pradesh. The

a protest. They demanded that Principal Sarala Devi give an explanation.

The school authorities claimed that they have been taking steps to eradicate rats, but in vain. They claimed to have place glue pads too to catch rats.

The students who took ill following suspected food poisoning and now suffered rat bite expressed reluctance to stay in hostel. The parents demanded that the District Collector inquire into the incident and take action against those responsible for negligence on the part of the

Yesayya. When the accused

arrived at the Jubilee Bus Stand,

to sell the drug to students. at

Ashok Nagar, RTC X Roads, he was arrested. The police seized

825 grams of hash oil from him.

Naveen was booked under

TGSRTC MD VC Sajjanar honouring Data science and machine learning expert Sarath Katipalli in Hydrabad on Thursday

TGSRTC to incorporate data science for strengthening public transport

PNS HYDERABAD

Data science and machine learning expert Sarath Katipalli said that the public transport system can be strengthened by

using data science.

Data analysis will act as a divine medicine to enhance the operational efficiency of TGSRTC, along with providing better and quality transport services as per the preferences of the people, he said, during a programme organ-ised as part of Leadership Tax at Hyderabad Bus Bhavan on Thursday.

Sarath Katipalli, a native of Telangana, did his master's degree in computer science in America Later, he studied Data Science and Machine Learning course at Stanford University. He worked as a data scientist in multinational companies like Lexmark, GAP INC, IBM Global Business Services, HSBC and Amazon. He is currently working as an advisor to Artificial Intelligence company Lucia AI. He spoke on the topic of 'Using Data Science and Machine Learning in the Public Transport System.' He said, "It is a great thing that TGSRTC

transports an average of 55 lakh people every day to their destinations in their buses. According to their travel data, better transport services can be provided in real time."

He explained how the organisation can be taken to a higher level with the 4M concept of message, messenger, mechanics and machinery. He exemplified with his experience how to provide satisfactory services to the passengers while embracing the changes coming in technology.
TGSRTC MD VC Sajjanar

said that TGSRTC is working to reach more people by using data science. He said "Data science is working like a lifeblood for corporate organisations. It is against this background that we are using data analysis to provide fast services in urban and transport needs of the people."

Company CVO Dr

Ravinder, Joint Director Apurva Rao, Executive Directors Munishekhar, Krishnakanth, Finance Advisor Vijayapushpa, CPM Usharani, CME Venkanna, RMs, Deputy RMs and DMs participated in the programme.

Sections seized hash oil worth Rs latter was jailed for selling dry 8(c) 20(b)(ii)(B),29 of NDPS Act gania and hash oil 1985 and section 3(5) of the released from jail naveen trav-Bharatiya Nyay Sanahita elled to Araku and purchased hash oil worth Rs 50,000 from

Two cybercrooks arrested for driving girl to suicide PNS NALGONDA She discontinued diploma in harassing her for the pengineering course. The police eral days On hearing.

Nalgonda police took two cybercrooks, who allegedly drove a 19-year-old girl to commit suicide. She committed suicide by consuming pesticide on July 6 after the cybercrooks threatened to post her photos on Instagram. The suspects were taken into custody, the police said.

The girl, who consumed pesticide on June 6, died while undergoing treatment at a private hospital on Wednesday.

engineering course. The police collected evidence against the two youths, identified as Siva and Madhu.

The police collected call data records of conversations between the suspects and the girl. According to the call data, the accused asked her to marry one of them and threatened to post her images on Instagram.

In her dying declaration, the girl complained against the two youths accusing him of

eral days. On hearing about the suicide of the girl, one of the culprits, Madhu, attempted suicide by consuming sleeping pills. However, he was admitted to a private hospital where doctors declared

him to be out of danger. Deputy superintendent of police P Rajasekhar said that the two suspects threatened and insulted her. They abused her over mobile phone and she took the extreme step unable to bear their harassment.

Israel's Agri Agency commends eco-realty project in Shamshabad

PNS HYDERABAD

Israel's Agency for International

It includes 110 farm units designed as heirloom proper-

SP stresses need to reduce pendency of cases PNS NALGONDA

engineering prowess is evident in the Nizam Sagar

Project. He lamented the injus-

tice done to such illustrious fig-

ures in the erstwhile com-

bined state but expressed pride

District Superintendent of Police Sarat Chandra Pawar said that police officers and personnel should work to provide better police services to the people.

At the monthly crime review meeting held with the police officers at the District Police Office, he directed the police officers to take all necessary steps to resolve all pending cases. He stressed the need to reduce the pendency of cases. He also told the police officers that the investigation into cases, whether they were grave or not, should be speeded up. He instructed them to filed chargesheets without any delay to ensure that the accused do not get bail.

He said that efforts should be made to ensure speedy justice to people who approached

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA

Revenue (Land Acquisition) Department FORM - VI (PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION)

(Under Section 11 (1) of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlem

Act of 2013 and as per the state rule 19 and sub-rule (1))
Collector's Office File No. G1/4166/2022 Date: 03-07-2024

Revenue Divisional Officer's file No. B/70/2024 Date: 21-06-2024

Gazette No. 87/2024 Date: 03-07-2024
The Government of Telangana/Dist. Collector, Siddipet has decided

to acquire Ac 6.15 ½ guntas in Ankampeta village of Siddipet Rural mandal of Siddipet district for public purpose for excavation of 6R Distributary of

RMC of Sri Komuravelli Mallanna Sagar Reservoir as part of its Package 12 and for the excavation of minor canal 2R. As the government felt tha there is a need to acquire the said land, it issued a notification as per the

Section 11 (1) of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency is

The I & CLD (LA) department of the state government, by an orde

Therefore, a preliminary notification has been issued to acquire A

6.15 ½ guntas of land in Ankampeta village of Siddipeta Rural Mandal of Siddipet district to initiate land acquisition work as shown in the following schedule.

 SCHEDULE

Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act of 2013.

GO Ms No.35 dated 30-06-2017 exempted the social impact asse

Name of the

(Enjoyer)

Kanakavva

10 179 0.20 Peddigani

11 179 0.04½ Jinka Manevva

12 188 0.03½ Vattipalli Madhu-

13 188 0.091/2 Vattipalli Yadava

W/o Yadagir

Buchavva W/o Rajaiah

W/o Yellaiah

sudhan Reddy

Reddy S/o

14 149 0.08 Vattipalli Shyamala Patta 152 188

W/o Venkatreddy

Balreddy

and food security as per the rule 10-A.



Nalgonda Superintendent of Police Sarat Chandra Pawar holding a review meeting in Nalgonda on Thursday

Reddy S/o Balredd

Reddy S/o

Narayana Reddy

Narsimhareddy

Kasireddy

Balreddy S/o

1 147 0.03 Kasireddy Nirmala Patta

Kasireddy

Venkat Reddy (E)

W/o Venkat Reddy

Kasireddy Kondalreddy S/o Raghava Reddy (Pattadaru)

16 Rastal 0.03 Road

police for help or protection. He directed the police officers to conduct a drive constantly against drunk driving and overspeeding. Action must

taken against triple driving, he said. He said that Preventive Detention Act would be invoked against hardcore crim-

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Development Cooperation, MASHAV, Uri Rubinstein, Agriculture Attache at the Israeli Embassy in India, commended the Woods-Sham shabad biophilic eco-realty project by Stonecraft Group in Hyderabad. After touring The

Woods-Shamshabad on Wednesday, Rubinstein said, "This project is breathtaking. The residents are lucky and it is truly next-generation." The three-year-old forest spans 60 acres, with 450,000 native trees and over 141 bird species.

1 2 5 6 7 8 9 10 (Enjoyer) 3 1 182 0.02 Benjaram Rejireddy Patta 181 V.B 181 179 20-Neels S/o Narsareddy (E) 182 0.04 Benjaram Patta 181 V.B 181 179 80-Neels Sugunamma W/o Bapureddy Bairi Sirisha W/o Rajireddy (E) 182 0.14 Manda Mallavva W/o Mallaiah 144 0.13% Vattipall S/o Balreddy (P) Kishtavva W/o 4 181 0.13 Vasuri Lakshmi W/o Balaiah Patta 180 182 Bal Reddy (E) Vattipalli Madhusudha 5 180 0.07 Jinka Yellaiah Venkat Reddy Patta | 179 | 181 | S/o Mallaiah 143 0.051/2 Bairi Rejireddy S/o Patta (Pattadaru) Narayanareddy Jinka Narest 8 142 0.25 Vattipall Mallareddy S/o (Enjoyer) Narsareddy 180 | 0.06 | Jinka Yellaia 29 142 0.13 Vattipalli Rejireddy (Pattadaru) Jinka Mahesh 30 141 0.04 Bairi Lavanya S/o Yellaiah D/o Kishtareddy (Enjoyer) 180 0.10 Jinka Yadagir Patta | 179 | 181 S/o Yellaiah 180 0.02 Rangu Tirupati 3 179 0.05 Jinka Devavva (Pattadaru) S/o Mallaiah

V.B 182, 181,

V.B 182

The notification is made under Section 11 (1) of The Right to Fa Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitatio and Resettlement Act of 2013 for payment of the compensation to the and owners as per the law. The plan of the land and other details can be inspected at the office of the Special Deputy Collector, Land Acquisition, Unit-1, Siddipet by

concerned personnel during working hours on any working day. The Government of Telangana/District Collector, Siddipet is pleased to authorise the Special deputy collector, land acquisition, Unit-1, Siddipe to enter and survey land, to excavate land, to dig bore wells and do a acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided an specified in Section 12 of the said Act. Under Section 11[4] of the Act, no person shall make any

transaction of land i.e. sale/purchase etc or create any encumbrance on such land from the date of publication of such notification withou prior approval of the District Collector, Siddipet. Objections to the acquisition, if any, may be filed by the person terested within 60 [Sixty) days from the date of publication of this Acquisition Officer in writing. Sd/- Addl.

179 230notification as provided under section 15 (1) of the Act before the Land 3-Vene Sd/- Tahsildar, Sd/- Spl. Dy. Collector (LA)

Drive to check seasonal diseases

programmes have been

undertaken to prevent peo-

ple from being affected by

diarrhoea. ORS and zinc

packets are being distrib-

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Collector Anudeep Durrishetty called for a drive against elephantiasis and other seasonal diseases. The drive will be conducted at government schools and Madrasas from July 15 to August 15. Durrishetty urged authorities

to take measures for prevention of seasonal diseases including dengue, chikungunya, diarrhoea and toxic fever during the rainy season. He further stressed that dry

days must be observed on Fridays across houses to ensure water is not accumulated in the flower pots, fridges, tires, coconut shells etc.

"Students in the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and



sensitised regarding the environment in the hostels, wash-programmes have been

ing hands while eating food,

Dr Venkat, an officer of the

etc. through demonstration,

the Collector said.

Hyderabad Collector Anudeep **Durrishetty says** sensitisation programmes will be taken up between July 15 and August 15

workers. Special teams are being sent to provide treatment and prevention of diarrhea only

Venkat further said, "Doorto-door fever survey is being minority hostels should be Medical and Health uted door to door by Asha conducted and a vaccine



against elephantiasis is being distributed at anganwadi cen-UPHČ, ters, UPHC, Basti Davakhanas and Comm unity Halls. Children aged 9 months to 15 years will be

Police arrest opium drug racket's kingpin from Shimla

he pioneer

he Shimla Police on Thursday here arrested the alleged kingpin of opium drug racket, a native of Nepal, they said. On July 3, a police team had arrested two Nepalese nationals with 1.5 kg opium. During investigations, the police got information about the alleged kingpin and arrested him from Narkanda, police officials said. The accused has been identified as Ravi Giri (41). Shimla SP Sanjeev

Gandhi said the accused has been arrested and booked under Section 29 (abetment and criminal conspiracy to commit an offense) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. "The total amount of financial transactions of the accused is around Rs 3.40 crore since 2022. Further investigations are underway and all illegal movable and immovable properties will be identified and seized", he said.



UP: 17 doctors dismissed over absence from work

ttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak on Thursday dismissed 17 doctors for remaining absent from duty without information. In a post on X, Pathak, who also holds the medical and health portfolio, said treating and curing the sick is a service to God and there cannot be any negligence or indiscipline in it. "It is a great fortune to get the responsibility of serving the people and providing health services.

Serving patients is like serving God. There is no place for any kind of negligence or indiscipline in this. "I have given instructions to the Principal Secretary, Medical and Health, to dismiss 17 medical officers working in various districts of the state for being negligent in providing medical services to the general public and remaining absent from duty for a long time without informing," Pathak said. He however did not share the names of the doctors who have been



13 Indian fishermen arrested by Sri **Lanka Navy for alleged illegal fishing**

he Sri Lankan Navy on Thursday arrested 13 Indian fishermen and seized their trawlers for allegedly poaching in its territorial waters, taking the number of Indian nationals apprehended this year by the island nation in such incidents to 252, an official statement said. The fishermen were arrested, and their three trawlers were seized north of the Delft Island, Jaffna, the Sri Lanka Navy said in a press release.

The Sri Lanka Navy and Coast Guard conducted the special operation leading to the apprehension of the 13 Indian fishermen, it said. Those apprehended were brought to the Kankesanthurai Harbour and will be handed to the Mailadi Fisheries Inspector for further legal proceedings. "The Navy has seized a total of 35 Indian trawlers and 252 Indian fishermen poaching in Sri Lankan waters in 2024 and subsequently handed them over to authorities for legal proceedings, the press release said.



'India pitches for infusing new energies into BIMSTEC grouping'

PNS NEW DELHI

India on Thursday called on seven-nation BIMSTEC grouping to infuse new energies, resources and a fresh commitment to bolster cooperation among the Bay of Bengal coun-

The appeal was made by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar while hosting his counterparts from BIMSTEC member states at a two-day retreat in the national capital.

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) brings together seven countries of South and Southeast Asia for multifaceted cooperation.

Besides India, BIMSTEC comprises Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Nepal and Bhutan. Jaishankar said BIMSTEC

should harbour higher aspira-

"For India, BIMSTEC represents the intersection of its 'Neighbourhood First' outlook, the 'Act East Policy' and the



'SAGAR' vision," Jaishankar said in his opening remarks on the first day of the retreat.

being proposed with a specific focus on the Bay of Bengal, where collaborative potential has long remained underrealised," he said.

"Our challenge is to change that for the better, and to do so rapidly," he added.

India has been making concerted efforts to make BIM-STEC a vibrant forum for regional cooperation as initiatives under SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) were not moving

forward for a variety of reasons. India has been cooperating with the countries of the Indian Ocean region under the broad-"Each of these endeavours is er policy framework of SAGAR

in the Region.

BIMSTEC foreign ministers' retreat is aimed at exchanging ideas openly, candidly and fruitfully.

or Security and Growth for all

We all benefited from the last such exercise in Bangkok. This one now has a particular importance as it serves to prepare strong outcomes for the summit to be held later in the year," Jaishankar said.

"Our message should be

with India PNS KATHMANDU mined to infuse new energies, new resources and a new com-

among the Bay of Bengal nations," he said. Thailand is the current chair of BIMSTEC and it is set to host the annual summit of the

mitment into cooperation

grouping later this year. Jaishankar said the first part of the discussions in the retreat will revolve around connectivity, cooperation in trade and business, collaboration in health and space, digital public infrastructure, capacity building and societal exchanges.

"I hope in the second part of our deliberations, we could focus more sharply on the possible outcomes of the forth-coming summit," he said.

BIMSTEC foreign ministers had last met in a similar format in Bangkok in July last year.

The charter of the grouping came into effect on May 20. "Global and regional developments also make it imperative that we find more solutions amongst ourselves.

Nepal can't progress without close relations

The Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) on Thursday said the landlocked Himalayan nation can attain economic prosperity only by maintaining close friendly relations with India, asserting that it will not allow any activity directed against the southern neighbour from the Nepalese soil.

The remarks by a senior leader of the party led by former prime minister K P Sharma Oli came on the eve of a confidence vote in Parliament which may see him return as the politically fragile Himalayan nation's premier once again.

"CPN-UML doesn't believe that Nepal can progress or the interest of Nepalese people could be promoted by pursuing anti-India policy," Dr Rajan Bhattarai, the Foreign Affairs Department chief and Standing Committee member of the CPN-UML, told

INDIA bloc will raise Manipur issue with full force in Parl: Rahul

PNS NEW DELHI

The Congress and the INDIA bloc will raise the need for peace in Manipur with full force in Parliament to put pressure on the government to end this tragedy, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said on Thursday, days after his visit to the violence-hit state.

He also reiterated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi should visit Manipur and appeal for peace.

Gandhi made the remarks in

a post in Hindi on X as he shared a video of his interactions with the people of Manipur during his day-long visit to the restive state on Monday.

"I have visited Manipur three times since violence broke out there, but unfortunately there is no improvement in the situation -- even today the state is divided into two parts. Houses are burning, innocent lives are in danger and thousands of families are forced to live in relief camps," the former Congress chief said.



The prime minister should personally visit Manipur, listen to the problems of the people of the state and appeal for peace, Gandhi said.

"The Congress party and INDIA bloc will raise the need for peace in Manipur with full force in Parliament to put pressure on the government to end this tragedy," the Congress leader said.

During his stay in Manipur, Gandhi had visited three relief camps in different districts of the BJP-ruled state and interacted with people belonging to both the warring ethnic groups -- Meiteis and Kukis -- who were displaced by the violence. Gandhi had also visited

public health programme for

the prevention and reduction of

suicides in India is not only

violative of section 29 and 115

Manipur weeks after ethnic violence broke out in the northeastern state on May 3 last year. He also began his 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' from the state in January 2024.

In the video, Gandhi is seen interacting with people at various relief camps. The people narrate to him their plight and fears and urge him to fight for them and raise their voice.

The Congress leader is seen in the video telling the people that his party and its MPs had raised the problems the people of Manipur were facing in the Parliament session that has just gone by and promised to raise the issues again in the upcom-



Ex-Agniveers to get quota, age relaxations: CISF, BSF chiefs

PNS NEW DELHI

The chiefs of CISF and the BSF on Thursday said 10 per cent posts of constables will be reserved in their respective forces for former Agniveers in line with a decision by the Union Home Ministry.

The remarks by CISF Director General Nina Singh and her BSF counterpart Nitin Agrawal came amid fresh spotlight on the Agnipath recruitment scheme for short-term induction of personnel in the Army, Navy and the Air Force.

The Union Home Ministry has taken an important decision regarding the recruitment of ex-Agniveers. Accordingly, the CISF is also preparing the process of the recruitment of ex-

Agniveer," Singh said. The chief of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) said 10 per cent jobs will be reserved for ex-Agniveers in all

"In physical tests also, they will be given exemption along with the relaxation on the age. In the first year the age relaxation is for five five years and in the subsequent year, the age relaxation will be three years," she told DD News.

future appointments of consta-

"Ex-Agniveer will be able to take advantage of this and the CISF will ensure that. This will be beneficial for the CISF too as the force will get trained and disciplined personnel," Singh said.

In June 2022, the government rolled out the Agnipath recruitment scheme with an aim to bring down the age profile of the three services.

The Agnipath scheme provides for recruiting youths between the age bracket of 17and-half years and 21 for four years with a provision to retain 25 percent of them for 15 more

Cong will rectify mistakes committed in LS polls: DK

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Karnataka Deputy Chief Thursday said the Congress party would evaluate and rectify the mistakes it committed in the Lok Sabha elections in the state.

He said the exercise is aimed at taking on the BJP-JDS combine.

Speaking to reporters at the KPCC office, Shivakumar, who is also the Congress state president, said the party increased its tally from one seat in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections to nine in 2024, but that fell short of the expectation of at least 14 to 15 seats.

The performance will be evaluated by the party in the presence of the AICC factfinding committee. This process is taking place across the country. We are sharing our reports for the four geographical regions of the state. We will discuss and find out shortcomings, Shivakumar said.

The deputy chief minister said though the party fielded good candidates in the recent Lok Sabha elections, it did not translate into favourable results.

"We need to understand the subtle factors which have influenced the results.

SC seeks Centre's response on rising suicide cases

PNS NEW DELHI Terming the rising number of

suicides a "social issue", the Supreme Court on Thursday granted four weeks to the Centre for filing a comprehensive reply to a PIL seeking effective implementation of a public health programme for prevention and reduction of sui-

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra took note of the submissions of lawyer and petitioner Gaurav Kumar Bansal that effective steps are needed

to deal with the rising number of suicide cases and asked the Centre to file a comprehensive affidavit.

"It is a social issue, let them (Centre and authorities) file a counter affidavit," the CJI said. The top court, on August 2, 2019, had issued notices to entre and all states and Union territories on the PIL.

The plea has also sought a direction to all the states and Union territories to start a project for providing support and advice through call centres and helplines to persons with suicidal thoughts.

Referring to data provided by



Delhi Police, the petition said 140 cases of suicides of children below 18 years were recorded

between 2014 and 2018. the authorities in "drafting, designing and implementing

of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 but is also in violation of Article 21 (protection of life and personal liberty) of the Constitution". Bansal has

provisions of the Mental The plea said the failure of Healthcare Act 2017 and they should be directed to take

plea that the Delhi government has "failed to provide a healthy social atmosphere" here. The plea said all the states and Union territories have failed to implement various

vention and reduction of suicides in their jurisdiction. It said that the authorities

appropriate steps for the pre-

should be asked to provide status report on the steps taken by them to implement public health programme for reduction and prevention of suicides.

Referring to the World Health Organization's (WHO) report 'Preventive Suicide - a Global Imperative', the petitioner has said that young people are among the most affected and suicide is now the second leading cause of death for those between the age of 15 and 29 globally.

UP court acquits Jaya Prada in 2019 poll code violation case

PNS RAMPUR (UP)

An MP-MLA court here on Thursday acquitted former MP and actor Java Prada in an election code violation case registered in 2019.

The actor was the BJP candidate from Rampur in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls and was defeated by Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan.

The MP-MLA court Judge, Shobhit Bansal, acquitted Jaya Prada in the case lodged against her at Kemri police station in Rampur under IPC section 171 G (false statement in connection with an election),



senior prosecution officer Amarnath Tiwari said. The 62-year-old former MP,

who won the Lok Sabha election from Rampur in 2004 and 2009 on a Samajwadi Party ticket, was present in the court while the judgement was pro-

Talking to reporters after her acquittal in the case, Jaya said, "I want to thank the honourable court for acquitting me in the case. I have been a twotime MP from Rampur... I never said anything wrong or made any such comment.

"I want to tell the public that I have represented Rampur and will always stay in Rampur. 'Satyamev Jayate' (Truth alone triumphs)," she said.

Senior prosecution officer Tiwari told reporters that the case against Jaya Prada was registered after she allegedly made remarks on Azam Khan.

BRICS Parliamentary meet: LS Speaker Birla pitches for reforms in UNSC, WTO

PNS NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Thursday made a strong pitch for greater democratisation of global governance structures such as the UN Security Council and the World Trade Organization (WTO)

Addressing the 10th BRICS Parliamentary Forum in St. Petersburg in Russia, Birla said India was

committed to uniting emerging markets and developing countries, affirmed its dedication to the principles of mutual respect, understanding, equality, solidarity, openness,

inclusiveness and consensus. He was speaking at the first plenary session on the theme of "The BRICS Parliamentary dimension: prospects for strengthening inter-parliamentary coopera-

Birla also welcomed the four new members -- Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates into the BRICS Parliamentary Forum.

"BRICS, largely representing the interests of the developing world, stands for

greater democratisation of the global governance system, and for reforming the international organisations such as the UN Security Council. WTO, at the global level," the

Lok Sabha speaker said. Birla stressed on the importance of enhancing cooperation among BRICS members and other multilateral forums, and cited the Indian philoso-

phy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutum bakam' -- "the world is one

family". He said parliamentarians play a crucial role in advancing the agenda of growth and sustainable development, and asserted that the BRICS Parliam

entary Forum was pivotal in this context. Birla called for the need to strengthen the BRICS Parliamentary Forum and welcomed India's stance of collaboration among BRICS parliaments to enhance cooperation and solidarity, reform global governance, improve multilateral organisations, promote economic recovery and accelerate the implemen-

sustainable development. He also met Tulia Ackson, President of the International Parliamentary Union

tation of the 2030 agenda for

British Indian MPs swear oath on 'Gita', 'Gutka', 'Bible'

PNS ■ LONDON

Newly elected Indian-origin MPs to the House of Commons have been pledging their allegiance to the British Crown as a symbol of loyalty to the country, choosing to swear on holy texts or to affirm their oath during the first week of a new Parliament.

A new copy of the 'Bhagavad Gita' presented to Speaker Lindsay Hoyle by Shailesh Vara, former Conservative Party member of Parliament who lost his Cambridgeshire seat in last week's general election, featured early on as Rishi Sunak was among the first British Indian MPs to take his Opposition on Tuesday.

Holding the text in his right hand, the former prime minister read out the customary text: I swear by Almighty God that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King Charles, his heirs and successors, according to law. So help me God."

First-time MP Kanishka Naravan, who is the first Indian-origin member of Parliament to represent Wales in the Westminster Parliament after winning the Vale of Glamorgan seat for Labour, also chose the 'Gita' for his oath, as did new Tory MP from Leicester Shivani Raja



Bob Blackman, a Tory veteran who represents Harrow East in London and has chaired the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for British Hindus, chose to hold both the 'Gita' and the 'King James Bible' for his oath-taking ceremony.

"This 'Bhagavad Gita' has been specially blessed in a temple in India and will be used by Hindu MPs entering Parliament following this General Election and those who will enter in the genera-tions to come," said Shailesh

for Krishna Consciousness Some of the British Sikh MPs such as Tan Dhesi and first-timers Gurinder Singh Josan, Harpreet Uppal, Satvir Kaur and Warinder Singh Juss chose to swear their oath to the

Sikh scriptures but without holding any text in their hands. Preet Kaur Gill, with her head covered with a red scarf, chose to hold the clothwrapped 'Sundar Gutka' prayer book during her swear-

Sojan Joseph, the mental

ed the holy text blessed at the has been elected Labour MP Mayapur temple headquarters from Ashford in Kent, chose of the International Society the 'New Testament' biblical text to swear his oath. Meanwhile, the 'King James Bible' was chosen by re-elected Conservatives Priti Patel and Claire Coutinho, as well as Liberal Democrat Munira Wilson.

MPs can opt for a non-religious affirmation, as did the two new Independent MPs with their roots in India, Shockat Adam and Iqbal Mahmood, along with many others including Tory MP Gagan Mohindra and Labour's Lisa Nandy and Seema Malhotra

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Going strong @75

The 2024 NATO summit concluded with pledges to support Ukraine and strengthen defence preparedness

eventy-five years ago, 12 nations gathered in Washington, DC to sign the North Atlantic Treaty, better known as NATO aiming to safeguard their collective defence amid the rise of communism under Soviet Union. This year, 32 NATO Allies convened once more in Washington, DC to make critical decisions on ensuring the protection of the member countries. In these 75 years a lot has changed. The Soviet Union does not exist and the Warsaw Pact has been disbanded. But NATO is alive and taking on new challenges in the emerging world order. The 2024 NATO Summit concluded after three days of high-level discussions and strategic deliberations among the member states. Basically, a product of cold war era, NATO has been pivotal in addressing pressing global security challenges, reaffirming commitments to collective defence, and exploring new avenues of cooperation among the member states. One of the primary focuses of the summit was of course reinforcing NATO's collective defence posture. In response to



escalating tensions and conflicts in various parts of the world, NATO leaders agreed to bolster their military capabilities and readiness. This includes increased defence spending by member states, the deployment of additional troops to Eastern Europe, and the enhancement of cyber defence mechanisms.NATO members reaffirmed their commitment to expanding partnerships beyond its traditional geographical boundaries.

The summit saw increased engagement with nonmember countries, emphasising the importance of global security cooperation. Key partners, including Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand, participated in discussions on shared security concerns

and collaborative initiatives. In the new world order China and Russia have emerged a formidable player in the world arena. The ongoing conflict in Ukraine remained a critical issue at the summit. NATO reiterated its unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. NATO has remained steadfast in its support to Ukraine and has supported Ukraine's war efforts but just about avoiding direct confrontation with Russia and widening the scope of war. India so far has maintained a safe distance with NATO. It has charted its own nonaligned path steering clear of either of the two blocs NATO and now defunct, The Warsaw Pact. India, though not a NATO member, has been closely monitoring the developments of the summit. As a major player on the global stage, the outcomes of the NATO summit have several implications for India's strategic interests and foreign policy. India has been increasingly engaging with NATO members on various fronts, including defence and security cooperation. The emphasis on collective defence and partnerships at the summit opens avenues for India to deepen its strategic ties with NATO countries. Joint military exercises, intelligence sharing, and defence technology collaborations could see a significant boost, enhancing India's defence capa-



Will Democrats nominate Joe Biden KALYANI SHANKAR



As the Democratic Party prepares to nominate him, questions linger about Biden's ability to lead, the party's strategy and potential challengers

S. President Joe Biden's under-PRESIDENTIAL whelming performance in the 2024 presidential debate last week raised concerns due to his apparent fatigue, forgetfulness, and confusion. This has caused uncertainty among supporters despite Biden's attempts to reassure them in the post-debate period. Even last week, during a speech in Madison, Wisconsin, he initially said he would "beat Donald Trump again in 2020" before correcting himself to "2024," which added to the uncertainty. According to the Spanish newspaper El Pais, Biden has defended himself about three things. First, his support stayed pretty much the same after the debate. Secondly, most party voters want him to continue. The last point is that other options are not better. President Biden has demonstrated resilience in the face of pressure to step down. He confidently declared at a rally in Madison that he would run and win again, which cheered his supporters and reassured sceptics.President Biden's improved performance in his public appearances post-debate has the potential to significantly reshape his chances in the upcoming election and the prospects of the Democratic

This shift in dynamics could bring a sense of hope and anticipation to the party. Next month, the Democratic Party will nominate President Biden as its 2024 Presidential candidate in a virtual convention. This event will officially confirm Biden's candidacy and establish the party's campaign strategy. If Biden stays in the race, it will be tough for any other can-didate to win the Democratic nomination. This is because the party rules give Biden a big advantage. These rules include specific guidelines for delegate allocation and superdelegate

If Biden were to resign, who would take his place? With only four months before the 2024 election, finding the right person takes a lot of work. This shows how serious the situation is. Kamala Harris, the current Vice Gavin Newsom is the President and Joe Biden's running favourite. Their potential to mate is the top contender for the run for office would have dif-

upcoming presidential election. Many believe that she has the advantage. However, her lack of popularity could be a significant challenge, as 49% of Americans disapprove of her according to polling averages. Republicans hope Harris will become the Democratic presidential nominee, believing it will benefit Trump's cam-

The Trump campaign has launched an ad with the slogan: "This November, vote Republican. Stop Kamala."A recent poll by Reuters/Ipsos showed that Michelle Obama could win against Trump in November. However, Michelle has repeatedly said she does not aspire to be President, so it's doubtful she will run.Several names are being floated to replace President

This includes at least six governors: Gavin Newsom from California, Gretchen Whitmer from Michigan, Josh Shapiro from Pennsylvania, J. B. Pritzker from Illinois, and Ro Khanna, a representative from California. Each of these potential ca

ndidates has their strengths and weaknesses. For instance,

IF BIDEN WERE TO RESIGN, WHO WOULD TAKE HIS PLACE? WITH ONLY FOUR MONTHS BEFORE THE 2024 ELECTION,

FINDING THE RIGHT PERSON TAKES A LOT OF WORK. THIS SHOWS **HOW SERIOUS** THE SITUATION IS

ferent effects on the Democratic Party and the upcoming election. After the debate, polls from CNN, The New York Times, and The Wall Street Journal showed that Biden is six points behind Trump in the country. Biden is also trailing in the most crucial states he won in 2020. Furthermore, other states he won-Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Mexico, and Virginia—now seem uncer-

In 2020, four months before the election, Biden was 9 points ahead in the polls. However, he eventually won the election with 51.25% of the popular vote, compared to Γrump's 46.8%.

This data suggests Biden may face a more challenging race in 2024 than 2020. When asked whether he could run the country for another term, he told ABC in a recent interview. "I believe so; I wouldn't be runnin' if I didn't think I did. Look, I'm runnin' again some court decisions going because I believe I under- against him. Both candidates stand best what has to be done to take this nation to a completely new new level. We're on our way."Polls reveal that voters are more concerned about whether the 81year-old President could manage another four years in the

year-old predecessor.

Biden needs to be more com-

petent to win November.Biden was confident when he said, "If the Lord Almighty came down and said, Joe, get out of the race,' I'd get out of the race," but added, "The Lord Almighty's not coming down." So, it is up to God Almighty to go down and ask him to keep out of the race. Trump quietly observes Biden's challenging position.India has had a good rapport with both Trump and Biden. There is also bipartisan support. Therefore, it is unlikely that their South Asia and India policies will change, given the growing economic influence of India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also has a good rapport with both of them.Biden is facing challenges as he moves toward November. Trump has raised a lot of money and still has support from his party despite are trying to harm each other's reputation. Elections are unpredictable, especially with four months to go. Anything could happen.

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

The synergy between culture and economy



Culture and economy are are deeply intertwined, each influencing and enhancing the other. This can lead to sustainable economic progress

ulture and economy are deeply intertwined, each influencing and shaping the other in multiple ways. This synergy can be observed through various lenses, from local community impacts to global economic trends. Cultural assets such as traditions, arts, and heritage sites can drive economic growth. Cities with rich cultural histories often attract tourism, which stimulates local businesses and generates revenue. For example, the cultural heritage of cities like Paris and Rome makes them top tourist destinations, contributing significantly to their economies.

The creative sector, including music, film, fashion, and design, is a major economic driver. These industries not only create jobs and generate income but also foster innovation and attract investments. The global success of Hollywood and the fashion industry in Milan and New York are prime examples of how culture fuels economic activity.

Governments often implement cultural policies to boost economic development. By investing in cultural infrastructure such as museums, theatres, and festivals, they create vibrant communities

that attract residents, businesses, and tourists. These investments can lead to urban regeneration and increased property values. A culturally diverse workforce

brings various perspectives and skills, fostering creativity and problem-solving. This diversity can enhance a company's ability to innovate and adapt to changing markets, making economies more resilient to shocks.

Globalisation has increased cultural exchange, leading to the spread of ideas, goods, and services across borders. This cultural exchange can open new markets for businesses and create opportunities for economic partner-ships. For instance, the glob-

Japanese anime has created vast economic opportunities for South Korea and Japan. Cultural education enhances critical thinking, creativity, and communication skills. These qualities are essential in the modern economy, where are key drivers of success. Investing in cultural education can thus contribute to a more skilled and adaptable workforce.

Maitreya Dadashri, the force behind the summit also shared this vision, "The synergy between culture and economy forms the foundation of sustainable development. We envision a future where spiritual and economic prosperity evolve hand in hand," he said.

Countries and cities often use culture to brand themselves and build soft power. Cultural diplomacy, through international cultural events, exchanges, and collaborations, can enhance a nation's global image and influence, must be the cornerstone of attracting foreign investment and tourism. Law and Justice Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal echoed this senti-

al popularity of K-pop and ment at the Maitri Cultural Economy Summit 2024. "The Modi government has been dedicated to nurturing culture to harness its economic human capital by fostering potential," he said. He emphasised that India's cultural economy is deeply rooted in the ancient wisdom of the Vedas and Puranas, making it knowledge and innovation an intrinsic part of the nation's identity. Cultural tourism in cities like Ayodhya, Varanasi, and Puri, along with major events such as the Kumbh Mela, play a significant role in contributing to the GDP

In conclusion, the synergy between culture and economy is a powerful combo that drives both societal and economic progress. By recognizing and fostering this relationship, policymakers, businesses, and communities can harness cultural assets to achieve sustainable economic growth and development. This was aptly summed up by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari when he said that importance of cultural economic governance our policies.

(The writer is a social activist and business consultant; views are personal)

USE OF DIGITAL TECH IN HEALTHCARE

Madam - Apropos the article "Transforming healthcare with digital technologies," published on July 9, this is my response. The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the urgent need for digital transformation in the healthcare sector. According to the 2018 Digital Trends report by Econsultancy, only 7% of healthcare and pharmaceutical companies have gone digital, compared to 15% in other industries. The pandemic has underscored the importance of digitizing medical services, which can

reduce costs and improve quality. For instance, Austria's e-Medication system has been running successfully for years, allowing patients to access their electronic medical records anytime and anywhere. Similarly, doctors in Sweden and Denmark send e-prescriptions to pharmacies. The UK's National Health Service is working with Google to deploy AI in healthcare. Digital transformation empowers patients to manage their treatment independently and ensures that medical histories are readily accessible in emergencies, eliminat-

ing the need for physical files. Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

RAGA AS LEADER OF OPPOSITION Madam — During the last week, Rahul Gandhi visited Hathras, Manipur, and Rae Bareilly, expressing his opinions on various incidents as the Leader of Opposition. This reflects a mature Indian democracy and raises expectations for his role in the next budget session. A 2012 government note described the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha as the "Shadow Prime Minister of India."Since becoming LoP, Gandhi has targeted Modi inside and outside Parliament.

However, with great power comes great responsibility. Gandhi must maintain the sanctity of his position, opposing questionable government policies without obstructing proceedings. He should ensure government accountability, pro-

Upgrade teaching standards in new technology



uring the IT industry boom, many engineering colleges in India emerged without updated curricula, industry linkages,

pose alternatives, and facilitate smooth functioning of the House.Gandhi's recent actions have portrayed him as a proactive leader, but he must be mindful of his conduct. The effectiveness of his maiden speech as LoP is debated, but it undeniably stirred significant responses from the Prime Minister and Union ministers. The upcoming budget session will be keenly watched to see if the Opposition can maintain its momen-

Yash Pal Ralhan | Jalandhar

ADDRESS MOB LYNCHING IN UP Madam — In 2023, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced a provision for the death penalty for mob lynching under new criminal laws. However, this commitment seems hollow in practice. In Shamli district, Uttar Pradesh, scrap dealer Firoz Qureshi was lynched by a mob, yet local authorities downplayed the incident as a mutual dispute.

When journalists Zakir Ali Tyagi and Wasim Akram Tyagi reported on the

or adequate student-faculty ratios. Except for IITs, some NITs, and a few private colleges, these institutions have failed to produce jobready graduates.

A survey by Aspiring Minds revealed that 86% of engineers are unemployable in the knowledge economy. Most private engineering colleges now focus on AI, ML, DS, and IoT, but 90% of their teachers lack fundamental knowledge in these fields. Teachers need continuous professional development through refresher courses and orientation programs to stay current. Teaching Al and Data Science requires a different approach than programming them. Addressing the gaps in teaching standards, particularly in emerging technologies, is crucial for preparing future engineers and maintaining the quality of education in

M Suresh Babu | Hyderabad

lynching, they faced FIRs for allegedly disturbing communal harmony.

The Press Club of India has rightly called for the cancellation of these FIRs, emphasizing that reporting publicly available information is a cornerstone of authentic journalism. The arbitrary use of laws to intimidate journalists violates Article 19(1)(A) of the Constitution. Upholding journalistic freedom is essential to maintaining

democratic society. Mob lynching must not be tolerated because it represents a severe breakdown of the rule of law and undermines the foundations of a civilized society. It fosters a climate of fear and impunity, where individuals take the law into their own hands, leading to tragic and often fatal outcomes. Such acts of violence erode trust in legal institutions, perpetuate communal hatred, and jeopardize the safety and rights of individuals.

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

Send your feedback to:

letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN PM MODI'S **STRATEGIC VISIT**

PM Modi's visit to Russia underscores the importance of Russia in India's foreign policy



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

his week marked several high-profile meetings amongst senior leaders around the globe, discussing primarily various conflicts and possible outcomes. PM Narendra Modi, in his first state visit during his third stint, visited Russia and Austria. The State visit by the India PM was the first since the Ukraine war and underscores the primacy of Russia in India's state of affairs. Meanwhile, all North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) leaders assembled in Washington DC to discuss global geopolitics. Ukraine and the Middel East featured prominently in all the discussions, even though the flavours were significantly differ-

The India-Russia joint statement following President Putin and PM Modis' bilateral meetings read "The Sides highlighted the imperative of peaceful resolution of the conflict around Ukraine through dialogue and diplomacy including engagement between both parties. They noted with appreciation relevant proposals of mediation and good offices aimed at peaceful resolution of the conflict by international law and based on the UN Charter in its entirety and totality. "Earlier, PM Modi during one of the televised speeches of the two leaders told his Russian counterpart "peace is of utmost importance" and solution to Ukraine could not be found on the battlefield. He expressed serious concern regarding the bombing of a children's hospital in Kyiv and said "When innocent children are murdered, one sees them die, the heart pains and that pain is unbearable." Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, with whom PM Modi has had several telephone calls in the past, called the Russia state visit by India "a blow to peace efforts."

NATO Secretary General, Mr Stoltenberg in the run-up to the NATO summit said "Allies will agree a financial pledge for Ukraine", and that he also expects more immediate military support to Ukraine." Ukraine is moving closer to NATO ". The close relationship with NATO was one of the reasons Russia came marching into Ukraine. It was a tightrope walk for PM Modi, in Russia, given the relatively new strategic relationships, he has developed in his last decade of being at the helm, crucial among them being the India-US partnership. It would be worth mentioning that



In the wake of the war in Ukraine, India has not yet verbally criticised Russia, for its aggression and has also stayed away from multilateral resolutions against Moscow. In the first few months, of Russia's attack on Ukraine, several US top leaders had criticised India's stance regarding the war, and even a threat of sanctions was discussed.

However, with deft diplomatic efforts made by both long-term partners, the high-decibel criticism was restricted to closed-door meetings. PM Modi's state visit to Russia opened some of the past heartburn regarding Ukraine in Washington. US State Department spokesperson Mattew Miller said "US has raised concerns with India regarding its relationship with Russia". He added "We would urge India, as we do any country when it engages with Russia, to make clear that any resolution to the conflict in Ukraine needs to be one that respects the UN charter, that respects Ukraine's territorial integrity," This comes at a time when the US has been seen to be one of the most important allies of India in the recent past.

Interestingly President Putin upon re-election chose to visit Beijing in one of his first official trips and followed it with a bilateral last week, on the sidelines of the SCO summit in Kazakhstan. China and Russia have mutually agreed to be friends without any limitations, and are widely seen as challengers to what they allege as the US-led democratic order. India and China are on an extremely rough patch due to the military aggression on India's borders. India managed to walk the tight rope for now, but at some point of time it will have to balance it out with more actionable statements on world conflicts.

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

A call for civility and integrity in democracy-



The elected representatives must adhere to constitutional principles and the high standards set by the framers of the Constitution



The Constitution and its makers Deserve RespectJ.S. RajputIn a functional democracy, election times could indeed become a celebration time, not only the competing candidates and their partiers, but also for the for entire country, which may involve votes, and future voters. Imagine a situation in which every candidate remains respectful to all others, and is ever conscious of his words and their usage in every interaction, interview and interpretation of the views of his competitors. Everyone who enters the election fray is duty-bound to remember that there is a generation of younger people watching closely how they conduct themselves in competitive conditions, and the extent to which they are conscious of their conduct and behaviour, both in public and private. Though it is a major responsibility of the family and school to shape the growing up of the children, the significance of the role of society and particularly those keen to lead the society could never be

It is not only the 'Acharya' whose conduct is under watch and is emulated, children in their sensitive years learn from numerous sources, and no one is out of their ambit of keen observation. Having seen, observed and participated in the elections that were just over, one may find all these 'expectations' just 'utopian, to be aspired for, but with full understanding that these would never be fulfilled! After the election results, the parliament meets, and there is only a superficial bonhomie of a few minutes, followed by the same old routine of distrust, and a sense of shyness, the creation of hurdles and ensuring that the nation must once again get ready to suffer continuous shouting in both the Houses of

parliament and regular walk-outs! Is it amazing - and sadly enough, amusing - that the elected representatives of the great Indian democracy just cannot sit together and find out ways and means to sit together, express themselves, and arrive at inferences that are for the good of their voters? How could they ignore that they are the legatee of Gandhi, Ambedkar, Rajendra Prasad, Rajagolachari, and that illustrious lot that prepared the Constitution, and had cre-

ated conditions to enable them to get elected, enjoy all the perks and privileges that have been acquirprivileges that have been acquiring bulging proportions? A veteran of the freedom struggle once told me he finds it repulsive when people go to Raj Ghat before beginning their so-called fasts, political dramas and whatever you may call it. I share his anguish Many others would also anguish. Many others would also be doing so. Those who indulge in such frivolities could remem-ber what Dr Ambedkar had mentioned in his concluding speech in the Constituent Assembly on November 25, 1949: "If we wish to maintain democracy not merely in form, but also a fact, what must we do? The first thing in my judgment we must do is hold fast to constitutional methods of achieving our social and economic objectives. It means we must abandon the bloody methods of revolution. It means that we MEN OF must abandon the method of civil disobedience non-cooperation and satyagraha." He goes on to point out that even with the Constitution in place, the nation, its people in general and those occupying constitutional positions in particular must never forget: "...however good a constitution may be, it is sure to turn out DEFECTIVE bad because those who are called to work it, happen to be a bad lot. However bad a constitution may be, it may turn out to be good if those who are called to work it,

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happen to be a good lot.... The Constitution can provide only the organs of the State such as the Legislature, the Executive and the The factors on which the working of those organs of the State depends are the people and the political parties they will set up as their instruments to carry out their wishes and their politics." Not only Dr. Ambedkar, but other stalwarts were also equal-

ly concerned oabouthow things

may take shape in future.

Speaking on November 26 of 1949, the final remarks of the President of the Constituent Assembly could be the guiding light for every member of parliament, irrespective of his party affiliations: "Whatever the Constitution may or may not provide, the welfare of the country will depend on how the country is administered. That will depend upon the men who administer it. It is a trite saying that a country can have only the Government it

If the people who are elected are capable, and men of character and integrity, they will be able to make the best even of a defective Constitution. If they are lacking in these, the Constitution cannot help the country. After all, a constitution like a machine is a lifeless thing. It acquires life because of the men who control it and operate it, and India needs today nothing more than a set of had led! honest men who will have the interest of the country before

There can be no better articulation of the anxiety and anguish that every concerned Indian citizen experiences at this juncture of history. India needs awakeners not only in every section of Indian society." The newly elected MPs could rally move towards an illustrious political career if they just internalize the thoughts, ideas and ideals of three of the illustrious Indians: Gandhi, Rajendra Prasad and Ambedkar; the ARG" This could become their tribute and salutations to the three of them, and that would equip them to plunge into the service of the people and India. Scholars and institutions must launch serious analysis of certain aspects of how the democratic process has fared in its actual practice, in sustaining its credibility amongst the voters.

They could also find out with academic fidelity - and inform the

people what has eroded Gandhian values that were supposed to become the cornerstone of the Indian Democracy after the Constitution of India was prepared with un-heard of dexterity and socio-economic and cultural comprehension by its framers, all of whom were distinguished freedom fighters, known for their sacrifice, non-accumulation, and commitment to a cause.

Not only in India, the greatness of the contributions of Baba Saheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar is acknowledged globally. It is indeed intriguing for numerous people how those who swore by his name all the time to give a zing to their political ambitions, blatantly ignore some of his basic premises which were an outcome not only of his intellectual prowess but also a precise and incisive comprehension of life he

Take the example of reservations

for the SC/SC communities. It is the responsibility of the members of the Parliament and State assemblies to fact-check the extent to which reservations have helped the target groups. How long shall the unscrupulous among the politicians shall be allowed to play the games of caste, creed, religion, region and even language? If all this is permitted to continue, it would be impossible to create an India that projects social cohesion and religious amity.

Revert back to the sixties of the last century, Gandhi had gone but had not vanished from the psyche of the people, young persons were convinced that the caste system would be eliminated during the next two to three decades. Yes, that was the spirit of the Constitution of India, that was the India of Baba Saheb's Dreams! (Professor Rajput works in edu-

cation, social cohesion and religious amity; views are personal)

India and US support for the Dalai Lama and Tibetans upsets China

India and America's identical and unequivocal stance on Tibet has rattled China, highlighting the evolving geopolitical dynamics in Asia

n a significant diplomatic move, both India and the United States have extended their support to the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan cause, provoking a strong reaction from China. The adoption of the Resolve Tibet Act by the US Congress and a recent high-profile meeting between a bipartisan American Congressional delegation and the Dalai Lama in Dharamshala have amplified the tensions between the US, India, and China. This article explores the strategic and ideological implications of these

developments. A Diplomatic Convergence: The backdrop of this development is the increasingly strained relationship between the United States and China.



The US Congress's passage of the Resolve Tibet Act, which promises comprehensive support for the Tibetan cause, marks a clear stance against China's policies in Tibet. The meeting between the American delegation and the Dalai Lama further underscores this commitment. In a related move, Indian Prime Minister Narendra

Modi met with the US delegation, who congratulated him

election victory and praised the fairness and transparency of the recent Indian general elections. Modi's subsequent Twitter post highlighted the strong bipartisan support for advancing the India-US strategic partnership. Notably, the post did not mention the Dalai Lama, though it was clear the topic was a significant

aspect of the discussions. India's hosting of the Tibetan government-in-exile in Dharamshala places it in a unique position concerning the Tibetan cause. The Indian government has historically balanced its support for Tibet with its broader strategic and economic relations with China. The timing of the meetings suggests a coordinated diplomatic effort to highon his historic third-term light shared values and mutu-

al interests in countering China's assertive policies.

Strategic Ramifications: The convergence of American and Indian interests reflects the evolving geopolitical landscape in Asia. Both nations share concerns about China's growing influence and assertive behavior, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region. By reinforcing their strategic partnership, the United States and India signal their commitment to a rulesbased international order, countering China's ambitions. In response, China is likely to intensify its efforts to strengthen alliances and expand its influence in the region. This could involve deepening ties with Pakistan, increasing engagement with other South Asian nations, and accelerating Belt and Road Initiative projects to secure strategic footholds. Additionally, China might enhance its military posture along disputed borders with India, particularly in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh, to assert territorial

claims. Beyond immediate strategic calculations, these meetings highlight the broader ideological contest between democratic values and authoritarian governance. The Dalai Lama, a symbol of non-violent resistance and spiritual leadership, embodies values resonating with global advocates of democracy and human rights. Engaging with him reinforces the US and India's commitment to these princi-

ples. to countering China's influ-China, facing scrutiny over its ence. This involves not only

human rights record in Tibet, strengthening bilateral ties Xinjiang, and Hong Kong, is placed in a defensive position. In the global influence battle, soft power and moral authority are becoming increasingly important.

The Dharamshala and Delhi meetings enhance the soft power of the United States and India, positioning them as champions of human rights and democratic values.

The Path Forward: As the geopolitical chessboard in Asia becomes more complex, the interplay between diplomacy and deterrence will be crucial. The United States and India, through coordinated diplomatic actions, are setting the stage for a more assertive and collaborative approach

but also fostering broader coalitions with like-minded countries in the Indo-Pacific

The high-level US delegation, led by Republican Rep. Michael McCaul and including prominent figures like Democratic former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, discussed the relevance and significance of the Resolve Tibet Act. President Joe Biden, a strong advocate for Tibetan rights, is expected to approve

the Act. China's reaction has been predictably strong, warning the United States against sending the "wrong signal." The Chinese embassy in India emphasized China's stance on Tibet as an internal matter, condemning any perceived

interference in its domestic

Conclusion

India and America's identical and unequivocal stance on Tibet has rattled China, highlighting the evolving geopolitical dynamics in Asia. The historical breach of trust by China in 1962, replicated in 2020 during the Ladakh confrontation, underscores the challenges in Sino-Indian relations. Prime Minister Modi's efforts to normalize ties with Beijing have not yielded desired results, reflecting the ongoing tension.

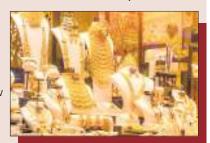
Adopting a more nuanced approach to diplomacy may help mitigate tensions while advancing China's strategic

(Writer is a political analyst; views are personal)

Gold price rises on jewellers' buying, positive overseas trend

old price rose Rs 50 to Rs 75,100 per 10 grams in the national capital on Thursday Gdriven by jewellers' buying and a firm trend in the international markets, according to All India Sarafa Association. The precious metal had settled at Rs 75,050 per 10 grams on Wednesday. Silver prices also climbed by Rs 100 to Rs 94,500 per kg. It had closed at Rs 94,400 per kg in the previous session. In sarafa markets, the yellow metal was trading at Rs 75,100 per 10 grams, up by Rs 50 against the previous close, the association said. Traders said gold rallied due to fresh demand from local jewellers and a

firm trend in overseas markets. In the global markets, spot gold was trading higher at US\$ 2,389.20 per ounce, up by US\$ 9.50 per ounce. Gold prices firmed for a third consecutive session with investors awaiting US inflation data due later in the day for more insights on the Federal Reserve's interest rate path, Manav Modi, Senior Analyst, Commodity Research at Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd (MOFSL), said.



ED arrests company promoter in Rs 25,000 cr bank loan fraud

he Enforcement Directorate on Thursday said it has arrested the director of an insolvent automotive equipment manufacturing company as part of a money laundering probe linked to an alleged Rs 25,000-crore bank loan fraud case. Arvind Dham, the promoter and one of the directors of the Amtek Group, was taken into custody on Tuesday (July 9), it said in a statement. A special Prevention of Money Laundering Act

(PMLA) court in Delhi sent him to seven days Enforcement Directorate (ED) custody after he was produced before it on Wednesday. The money laundering case against the company and its directors stems from a CBI FIR that was registered on written complaints from the IDBI Bank and the Bank of Maharashtra, the ED said. It was alleged that loans were diverted through cheating, fraud and criminal breach of trust, causing a wrongful loss of worth Rs 673.35 crore to the banks, the agency said. The Supreme Court in February, while deciding a public interest petition against the Amtek Auto group of companies, directed the ED to investigate the case.



Rupee falls 5 paise to close at 83.56 against US dollar

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ISF members add 2.20 lakh flexi jobs

PNS NEW DELHI

Industry body Indian Staffing Federation (ISF) on Thursday said it added 2.20 lakh new flexi jobs to reach 16.6 lakh

The data was shared as part of its 'Annual Employment Trends 2024' report launched by V Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Advisor to Government of India, and Ramesh Krishnamurthi, Additional Secretary, Union Ministry of Labor and Employment, ISF said in a statement.

"Flexi staffing industry witnesses 15.3 per cent year on year growth in new jobs during FY24. ISF members added 2.20 lakh new flexi jobs in FY24. ISF collectively added 2.20 lakh new flexi jobs during this period reaching 16.6 lakhs," the statement said.

ISF President Lohit Bhatia said the staffing industry added 30,000 new flexi employment opportunities in the last quarter of FY24.

'Question of change in stance on interest rate quite premature now'

PNS NEW DELHI

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday said the question of change of stance on interest rate is quite premature given the gap between current inflation and 4 per cent target.

"Given the gap between current inflation and 4 per cent target, question of change of quite stance premature...when we move towards 4 per cent CPI (retail inflation) on a sustained basis is when we will get the confidence to think about a change in stance," Das said in an interview to CNBC-TV 18.

He said the inflation journey is progressing as per expecta-tions, but added that it is the last mile of the journey towards 4 per cent, which will be the most difficult or sticky.

Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based retail inflation has been projected at 4.5 per cent with quarter-wise projecSHAKTIKANTA DAS Governor, RBI The overall economic environment globally and in India is so uncertain to talk in terms of interest rate CPI headline inflation continues to be close to 5% and according to surveys done it is expected to close 5% and I think it is too early to talk on interest RBI's research team is working on what is neutral We closely watch the position of banking sector and whenever we see some early sign of problem, we act. For instance is unsecured lending.

tions at 4.9 per cent in Q1 (April-June), 3.8 per cent in Q2, 4.6 per cent in Q3, and 4.5 per cent in Q4, RBI had said in

its June bi-monthly report. The Reserve Bank, which has been mandated to ensure

inflation remains at 4 per cent

(with margin of 2 per cent on either side), mainly factors in CPI while arriving at its mon-

He had said headline inflation softened further during March-April, though persisting food inflation pressures offset the

gains of disinflation in core and deflation in the fuel groups. Despite some moderation, pulses and vegetables inflation remained firmly in double digits.

Vegetable prices are experiencing a summer uptick following a shallow winter season correction. The deflationary trend in fuel was driven primarily by the LPG price cuts in early March. Core inflation softened for the 11th consecutive month since June 2023. Services inflation moderated to a historic low and goods infla-

tion remained contained. Concerning GDP, Das said many growth drivers are playing out their role and the growth momentum was very strong in the fourth quarter of last financial year which continues to be strong in the first quarter.

The June policy also revised the GDP growth projection for the current fiscal upwards to 7.2 per cent from 7 per cent on rising private consumption and revival of demand in rural areas.

India's oil, gas exploration offers US\$ 100 bn opportunity: Puri

Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Thursday called for stepping up the oil and gas hunt to cut India's reliance on imports and making available fuel at an affordable and sustainable way.

Speaking at the Urja Varta conference, he said the exploration and production (E&P) sector is integral in the journey towards energy self-sufficiency, which is critical for sustained economic growth.

"E&P offers investment opportunities worth US\$ 100 billion by 2030," he said.

Stating that India's exploration and production potential still lies untapped, he said, "I find it strange that India is so heavily reliant on oil imports despite the abundant geological resources available to us.

The Indian sedimentary basins hold about 651.8 million tonnes of crude oil and 1138.6 billion cubic meters of natural gas, he said. Puri said only 10 per cent of our sedimentary basin



area is under exploration, which will rise to 16 per cent by 2024end after the current bid ends.

"The focus of our exploratory endeavours must pivot towards discovering 'Yet to Find' resources," he said. India imports over 85 per cent of its crude oil needs. Crude oil is converted into fuels like petrol and diesel in refineries.

"The government is doing its part to catalyse investments in E&P. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) has instituted sweeping reforms, empowering stakeholders to contribute to

our nation's progress," he said, adding "We intend to increase India's exploration acreage to 1 million sq. km. by 2030.

The minister said since its inception in 2015, the Discovered Small Field (DSF) Policy has garnered investments of approximately US\$ 2 billion and brought in 29 new players in the field.

The opening up of the erstwhile no-go areas has paved the way for exploration activities in previously restricted zones, fostering investments, notably in regions such as the Andamans," he said.

India's veg oil imports up 18% in June to 15.5 lakh tonnes

PNS NEW DELHI

Import of vegetable oils, comprising edible and non-edible oils, rose 18 per cent in June to 15.5 lakh tonnes on higher and crude sunflower oil, according to trade data.

Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) data showed that import of vegetable oils during June 2024 stood at 15,50,659 tonnes compared to 13,14,476 tonnes in the year-ago period. Edible

oils import increased in June to 15,27,481 tonnes from 13,11,576 tonnes in the same month last year. However, the imports of non-edible oils jumped to 23,178 tonnes from 2,300 tonnes during the period under review.

During the first eight months of 2023-24 oil year ending October, the imports of vegetable oils fell 2 per cent to 1,02,29,106 tonnes compared to 1,04,83,120 tonnes in the corresponding period of the previous year.

RBI permit banks to use ratings of Brickwork Ratings India

PNS MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India on Wednesday permitted banks to use ratings by Brickwork Ratings India Private Limited for loans of up to Rs 250 crore.

The RBI, in October 2022, asked banks and other regulated entities not to obtain any fresh ratings from Brickwork Ratings India.

Registration granted to Brickwork Ratings India as a Credit Rating Agency (CRA) was cancelled by market regulator Sebi in October 2022.

After a review of the October 2022 circular, the RBI on Wednesday permitted banks to use the ratings of the

"In respect of fresh rating mandates, the rating may be obtained from the CRA for bank loans not exceeding Rs 250 crore. In respect of existing ratings, the CRA may undertake rating surveillance irrespective of the rated amount till the residual tenure of such loans," it said

claims for capital adequacy purposes, subject to certain conditions.

"In respect of fresh rating mandates, the rating may be obtained from the CRA for bank loans not exceeding Rs 250 crore. In respect of existing ratings, the CRA may irrespective of the rated amount till the residual tenure of such loans," it said.

The Reserve Bank has also issued another circular, tweaking norms related to remittances to International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) under the Liberalised Remittance



said it has been decided that "authorised persons" may facilitate remittances for all permissible purposes under LRS to IFSCs for availing financial services or financial products as per the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019, within IFSCs.

LRS to IFSCs can be made only for making investments in IFSCs in securities except those issued by entities/ companies resident in India (outside IFSC), and payment of fees for education to foreign universities or foreign institutions in IFSCs for pursuing courses

Economic vision of new govt, political theme key aspects to watch in budget

PNS MUMBAI

The new government's economic vision and management of the "political theme" will be among the key aspects to watch in the upcoming brokerage said on Thursday.

The brokerage said the second half of the year will see "muted returns" on the equities front, and reiterated its year-end target of 24,860 points on Nifty, which is only about 3 per cent higher than the current levels.

The fiscal glide path beyond FY26, when the government has committed to reduce the fiscal deficit to 4.6 per cent, will also be a key theme to look at, Nomura's India Economist Aurodeep

Nandi told reporters. Reminding of the 100-day programmes of the new government prepared by various ministries ahead of the elections, Nandi said getting some idea of the economic vision of the new government will be a key area to watch.

After the election setback. the "political theme" of the budget by the new government dependent on coalition partners will also be keenly watched, he said.

Specifically, how the new government manages the demands from Bihar and Andhra Pradesh - the home base of allies Janata Dal and TDP, respectively - will be watched, Nandi said.

Vodafone Idea seeks waiver of Rs 24,700 cr bank guarantee from DoT

PNS NEW DELHI

Debt-ridden Vodafone Idea has reached out to the Department of Telecom to seek waiver on a financial bank guarantee worth Rs 24,747 crore for spectrum payment due in September 2025, according to sources.

Vodafone Idea (VIL) needs to securitize the annual instalment one year before the due date of the payment. "Vodafone İdea has reached 🏽

out to DoT seeking waiver for financial bank guarantee (FBG) worth Rs 24,747 crore which it has to pay in September 2025. The FBG

year before the due date as per spectrum auction rules, a source, who did not wish to be identified, said.



An email query sent to Vodafone Idea elicited no

response.
The payments are for frequen-

needs to be deposited one cies that VIL purchased in auctions that were conducted before 2022. VIL in 2022 opted for a four-year moratorium to pay for the spectrum allowed under a

government relief package. The moratorium period for the spectrum payment obligations related to spectrum auctions conducted until 2016 ends between October 2025 and September 2026.

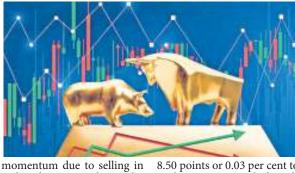
The company also opted for a moratorium on AGR payments. The moratorium ends in March 2026.

VIL is required to provide bank guarantees at least 13 months prior to the expiry of the relevant moratorium period.

Sensex, Nifty close marginally down amid profit-taking ahead of key financial results

Benchmark Sensex and Nifty closed marginally down in a rangebound session on Thursday as investors booked profits in heavyweights ahead of the announcement of key financial results for the June quarter. Retreating from early highs, the 30-share BSE Sensex closed lower by 27.43 points or 0.03 per cent at 79,897.34. As many as 15 Sensex shares closed with gains while the rest declined.

The index climbed 245.32 points to hit a high of 80,170.09 in early trade but later lost



index heavyweights. The barometer hit a day's low of 79,464.38, down by 460.39 points from the last close. The NSE Nifty edged down

8.50 points or 0.03 per cent to settle at 24,315.95. The broader index gyrated between a high of 24,402.65 and a low of 24,193.75 in day trade.

"The main indices are trad-

gling to justify its premium valuation ahead of the Q1 earnings season, which is forecast to be subdued," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said. Among Sensex shares, Bajaj

ing in a narrow range, strug-

Finance fell the most by 1.48 per cent. Mahindra & Mahindra (1.24 per cent), NTPC (1.14 per cent) and Nestle (1.05 per cent) were also among the major losers. HDFC Bank, ICIĆI Bank, Sun Pharma, Power Grid, UltraTech Cement, Bharti Airtel, RIL and Larsen & Toubro also declined.

Insurers expect more tax benefits for health insurance

PNS NEW DELHI

More tax benefits for health insurance under the new tax regime, relaxation in payment norms for MSMEs and incentives for the agri-tech sector are among the expectations of stakeholders from the first budget of the Modi 3.0 govern-

ment. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to present the full Budget for fiscal 2024-25 on July 23, which will be the first major policy document of the new govern-

Anup Rau, Managing Director and Chief Executive



costs across the country. "It would be best if the limit India Insurance Company, said for medical insurance is linked the deduction limit on health to inflation and gets revised insurance premiums under automatically every year or Section 80D of the Income Tax Act has remained unchanged once in a couple of years. Also, for the past nine years despite the benefits need to be extendthe fact that there has been a ed to the New Tax regime since significant rise in healthcare increasing health insurance

penetration is critical. So, we hope the upcoming Budget to announce some hike in the deduction limit on health insurance premiums," Rau said.

Tapan Singhel, MD & CEO of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, said reforms like offering health insurance to employees at negotiated rates, reducing GST on health insurance premiums, and offering tax benefits like increased Section 80D exemption limits would make health insurance more affordable and accessible, especially for the 'missing middle' segment of our population.

"Additionally, for senior cit-

izens, removing the limit on

deductions for health insurance premiums would significantly ease their financial burden," Singhel said. The finance minister is likely to lay out the government's economic agenda in the budget. On expectations from the

Sitharaman's budget, D S Negi, CEO of Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute & Research Centre (RGCIRC), said the focus on reforming cancer care in India is crucial and it is important to prioritise funding for advanced treatments like immunotherapy and personalised medicine, ensuring more patients can access these cutting-edge ther-

ixigo, AU Small Finance Bank launch co-branded RuPay travel credit card

PNS MUMBAI

Travel distribution platform ixigo and AU Small Finance Bank on Thursday announced the launch of RuPay variant of their premium co-branded travel credit card, offering the customers UPI-based payments and rewards.

The RuPay variant offers a range of features such as the facility to link RuPay credit card on UPI using any UPI payment app, a comprehensive insurance cover of up to Rs 2 lakh, including personal acci-



dent insurance and permanent disability cover, and reward points on UPI transactions,

ixigo said. "With seamless UPI integra-

tion and comprehensive insurance coverage, this card is designed to meet the evolving needs of modern travellers, especially those from tier 2,3 & 4 cities," ixigo quoted Aloke Bajpai, Group CEO & Rajnish Kumar, Group Co-CEÓ as In addition, the cardholders

will get 1,000 reward points, Rs 1,000 ixigo money reward on completing their first transaction within 30 days, and a fuel surcharge waiver of 1 per cent and 10 per cent reward points on train transactions.

the pioneer erabac

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Friday July 12, 2024

ALANKRITA'S FASCINATING ENCOUNTER WITH THE TERACOTTA ARMY'S CULTURE IN CHINA

TEJAL SINHA

ravelling is all about exploring and self-discovery. Well, so is it for actress-model Alankrita Sahai. Travelling, to her, is like unraveling a new chapter in the book of life. It's a journey of self-discovery, cultural immersion and connecting with the world in ways that words often fall short of expressing.

Not long ago, she was enjoying the culture of China and captivating her followers with her posts. This trip was no less than a mesmerising blend of ancient traditions and modern marvels. The bustling streets of Shanghai, the humongous studios and the technical knowledge she gained while shooting for BMW were indeed a wonderful experience. She recalls in this exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*, "The adrenaline rush while doing the skywalk at Jin Mao Tower and watching Shanghai from its peak was a takeaway. I, however, wantpeak was a takeaway. I, however, wanted to explore the most was the Great Culture. Visiting the coastal city of Qingdao was a delightful experience.

Wall of China, a monumental experience that truly resonated with the country's rich history.

The place boasts a lot of surreal and breathtaking views. And Alankrita couldn't agree much as she shares, "The panoramic views from the top of the Jin Mao and the Oriental Tower in Shanghai were nothing short of surre-al. The entire city was lit up like a Christmas treee and created a painting-like scene that will forever be etched in

my memory."
In China, she embraced a mix of traditional and modern fashion, blending elegant qipaos with contemporary street styles. As for food, the spicy Sichuan hot-pot stole her heart with its explosive fla-

vors and communal dining experience.
"Interacting with locals in Shanghai and learning about the Terracotta Army's history was a highlight," shares the *Tippsy* fame. "The warmth and hospitality of the people made me feel truly welcomed and immersed in Chinese

The golden beaches, fresh seafood and vibrant marine life showcased a different facet of China's diverse landscapes."

However, apart from her other travels, Varanasi holds a special place in her heart. With its ancient spiritual aura and mystical charm, it stands out as a place like no other in the world. The Ghats, temples and cultural vibrancy make it a must-visit destination for anyone seeking a transformative travel experience. Well, she does believe that choosing the right hotel is indeed an art form. "The luxurious palaces-turned-hotels in Rajasthan, India, with their regal décor and impeccable hospitality, always make me feel like royalty. For rejuvenation, I seek solace in the serene mountains of Bhutan, where the tranquility and natural beauty work wonders for my soul." But during one of her travels, she did experience something travelling: "While trekking in the Himalayas, I encountered a sudden snowstorm that tested my resilience and survival skills. Despite the fear, the experience taught me valuable lessons about preparedness and staying

calm in challenging situations."
Travelling to China was very liberating for her because it allowed her to step out of her comfort zone and embrace a culture vastly different from my own. "The culinary delights, vibrant my own. "The culinary delights, vibrant traditions and welcoming people opened my eyes to new perspectives and expanded my horizons in ways I never imagined," she shares, adding, "Every activity in China was a blend of adventure and serenity. Savouring the travel experience, I dived into the local markets, indulged in street food and enjoyed the moments of cultural and enjoyed the moments of cultural exchange that made each day unforgettable?

On a concluding note, she does reveal that the magical land of Iceland is the next place she desires to tick off her bucket list. "From chasing the Northern Lights to soaking in the geothermal hot springs, Iceland's raw beauty and mystical allure beckon me to embark on a journey of discovery and wonder," signs off the Namaste

Actress-model Alankrita Sahai was seen having the best of her travel times in China. Today, The Planeer shares with you some of her BTS moments from her travel diaries, through an exclusive chat. TRAVELOGUE

'Sharad in *Mirzapur 3* was mounted just as any Shakespearean hero'

AARTI SREENATH

hen we see Sharad Shukla evolve significantly throughout *Mirzapur*, it's clear that his **V** V journey has been one of intricate development and intense preparation. Anjumm Shharma, the actor behind this compelling character, shared his insights into understanding and portraying Sharad Shukla. "The journey started in season 1 and it's interesting how this role landed in the first place," shares Aniumm, who initially wanted to be a part of this show because of its content and the well-written script. "My reason for collaborating on any project has always been the quality of the content. Even with Mirzapur, the journey started with a smaller part, but I chose it because it was good on content. Back then, we didn't know anything about OTT, long formats, seasons, or frequency. Nothing was clear because it was back in 2017.'

His dedication to being part of a quality project led him to audition for several main roles in Season 1. but things didn't turn out as expected. Eventually, the producers and the director connected with him and offered a small part. They believed if at all they would have a second season, the character would be well-

developed then. As the character evolved, Anjumm prepared meticulously for Season 2. "This guy is a Baahubali, Jaunpur ka Don hai. He is very different from Munna or Guddu. I approached it with loads of

become a intelligence, ease, calmness and authority. I realised that people who are in very powerful positions are calm yet assertive, very settled and comfortable with their aura. I saw various videos of people who are at high posts in government jobs, IAS or IPS, because of the way they speak, they have authority,

they are very calm and assertive." Anjumm emphasised the importance of understanding the character's mindset and not just his profession. "You don't play the character or the profession of the character. You are not playing Don; it's a tag that people will see you in. Baahubali logon ke nazron mein hai, it's a tag. But he is actually a person. He is what he thinks, what he says and what he chooses to do. For all that, I went in a different direction as far as my referencing was concerned. I took references to people who are good orators, who think well." One of the most challenging aspects, according to Anjumm, was ensuring that the audience listened to Sharad's silence. "When he speaks, he has dialogues, but I wanted people to listen to my silence too. Only when, as an audience,

the silences of the character, that is when the character would work." Sharad Shukla's character arc in Season 3 was a significant transformation. "In season 3. he came as the borderline

vou can listen to

antagonist who had protagonist. He was the character people started rooting for; they wanted Sharad to win. He started getting the support of the people in *Mirzapur* and he

started getting the votes and all the Baahubalis were rooting for Sharad. We know that Guddu is going down with his madness and everything, and that was always the larger arc of the season since we started writing and everything." When asked if there were any aspects of Sharad Shukla that he personally resonated with, the Sultan of Delhi fame shared, "Not really! As an actor, once you create that character, you find realism just to make the audience more believable. You start looking for reasons to make it happen. I, as an actor, connect with the character to bring out the realism. That is the only connection I made with the character." Outside of *Mirzapur*, Anjumm's interests

> and passions lie in creating movies and content. Even in Mirzapur, he shares, "I'm creating something. I'm specialising in being an actor; acting is something I have been

trained to do. But yeah, there is an involvement in writing and a keen interest in editing—how the structure of the episode is made, how the edit is made, how the structure is made. Then I connect to music and then, like a student, I try and get into mixing sessions. I like being part of the entire process." Having played such a powerful character, he shares that he wouldn't want to do anything similar. However, he believes that once you gain popularity in a particular role, it has an impact on people, and you will get similar roles. "I want to explore genres and am working on different projects. I feel no two people or two characters are similar. If you put two people in a similar scenario, they would act very differently and the scenario would change. I

want to explore the lighter side. something real, two-tier, something like Bareilly Ki Barfi, subdued, relatable, calm, sweet and comforting."

The irony of his character, he says, was that you were so mindful and intelligent and at the end, you got emotional and let your emotions take over. "You became vulnerable; things changed. That guy had to have emotions. You led vour life with courage.

solidarity and strength. I would just appreciate the clarity the character has. He doesn't unnecessarily kill or spread violence. I'm happy this kind of trajectory in the world of Mirzapur came to me. It was very challenging and difficult when you already had established strong

characters.' Reflecting on Sharad Shukla's heroism and legacy, Anjumm concluded, "After season 3, the heroism, the way the character was mounted as a hero in a classical sense, it's a classic example of any Shakespearean character mounted as a hero. You don't realise when the underdog keeps growing and then everything falls into place. He gets the votes and support of the people. There is a lot of emotion around him, with the father, mother and everyone. People will remember all these things about the character, especially the fans. His performance is good; the mounting of the hero is what I saw in the character this time. Guddu had become an antagonist, and we see Sharad as the protagonist and him emerging as the hero." As Aniumm Shharma continues to explore new horizons, his portrayal of Sharad Shukla in *Mirzapur*

will undoubtedly be remembered as a defining

moment in his career and a testament to his

exceptional talent and dedication.

Anjumm Shharma, who gained notoriety for playing Sharad Shukla in the *Mirzapur* series, talks exclusively with *The Pioneer* about his experiences from Season 1 to 3, his hobbies outside of the show and the legacy of his character.

36 Days: Delectably dark and clever

TANISHA SAXENA

PLOT: Farah, played by Neha Sharma, is found dead in her home, leading us 36 days back to her arrival at Casa De Magnolia, a housing society in Goa. As we delve into the lives of the residents, we uncover a tangled web of hidden feuds, secret affairs, and simmering marital tensions

For instance, Dr. Rishikesh Jaykar (played by Purab Kohli) and his wife, Radhika Jaykar (played by Shruti Seth), appear to be the perfect couple, but their marriage is fraught with issues. Similarly, Vinod (played by Sharib Hashmi) and Lalita (played by Amruta Khanvilkar) face their own relationship struggles Then there's Tony Walia and Sia (played by Chandan Roy Sanyal and Chahat Vig, respectively), the owners of the society. However, the most mysterious and intriguing residents are Mr. and Mrs. Machados.

The story kicks off as a classic whodunnit, immediately drawing you into a mystery. As it unfolds, it shifts into a domestic noir, meticulously unraveling each character's life, exposing their flaws and secrets. The depth of the characters is compelling, and their responses to tragedy and everyday life are portrayed so authentically that you can't help

but get engrossed in their journeys. For example, Benaifer and Denzie are two of the most intriguing characters in the show. This husband and wife share a uniquely beautiful yet odd relationship. Shernaz Patel brilliantly portrays Benaifer, a woman grappling with loss. From the beginning to the end of the series, Shernaz captures Benaifer's persona

flawlessly, never missing a mark. Her eerily mysterious behavior, as she deals with her grief, adds a touch of spookiness to the show. Their son, Riyad (played by Faisal Rashid), is equally fantastic. Unlike many contemporary web series that depict anxiety with typical panic attacks, Riyad's struggles are portrayed with nuance and The ensemble truly powers this show, with each actor fully embodying their respective characters. Each family has a past, and it's fascinating to see how their paths continually intersect, driving the narrative

forward. The

recurring hint that

these characters

involved in the murder adds a compelling layer of intrigue. Special mention goes to Sushant Divgikr, who portrays Tara, a pivotal character in the show. The writers deserve commendation for crafting a well-written non-binary role

significantly to the show's depth. Divgikr's TER: Anahata Menon, Seneca performance is outstanding, bringing the character to life with PRODUCED BY: Prasoon Garg, Deepali Handa, Swati Patnaik, remarkable skill and nuance. 36 Days IATOGRAPHY: Quais Waseeq masterfully CAST: Neha Sharma, Purab Kohli, Shruti Seth, Chandan Roy Sanyal, Sharib Hashmi, Amruta Khanvilkar, Sushant Divgikar, Shernaz Patel and encapsulates the essence of domestic noir, drawing viewers

into the seemingly

tranquil lives of its

unravel their dark

betrayals.

ensemble cast

protagonists, only to

Kenneth Desa **PRODUCTION:** Applause Entertainment, BBC Studios

secrets and hidden EAMING ON : Sonyliv RATING: 3/5 The allure of having a sprawling

brimming with secrets is both a boon and a bane. With so much happening, so many characters to keep track of, and secrets unfolding at every turn, it can leave you gasping for breath. Tony Walia's character, for instance, feels underdeveloped. At times, his presence feels overwhelming and grating. Technical aspects: Vishal Furia's direction skillfully maintains suspense, balancing intricate character arcs with the

overarching mystery. Quais Waseeq's cinematography captures picturesque Goa through breathtaking drone shots and clever camera angles that heighten the tension. The sound design amplify the show's eerie atmosphere. The editing keeps the pacing tight, ensuring episodes flow seamlessly without dragging. : 36 Days is a refreshing high-concept series that feels like a page-turning thriller. Instead of a

typical whodunit with cops, investigations and forensics, this web show presents a large ensemble cast, each harboring secrets, and delivers plenty of twists and turns, making it a must-watch for fans of suspenseful

storytelling.

what's brewing?

Vijaya Sandireddy's second book launched

uthor Vijaya Sandireddy, also working as a team leader at Infosys, unveiled her second novel When The Mountains Moved with the pivotal essence being friendships, love, adventure, hope and perseverance. The book aims to delve the reader deep into the journey of protagonist, Preethi, a resilient team leader at an Indian IT firm. Arjun, Preethi's team manager, admires her for her strength, values and ideals. While holding deep feelings for Preethi, he struggles to express them. When the team decides to take a break from their tiring work schedules and plan a trek to the majestic Himalayan mountains, none of them foresee the life-altering experiences that await them all. With the trek taking them all through a transformative experience of its kind, the group faces exhilarating moments testing their perseverance and the unbreakable bonds of friendship. The journey is filled with breathtaking adventures, heartful connections and moments of laughter.

ANERAI BOUTIQUE

rt of Time, furthers its long-standing association with Panerai by taking on the retail partner role for Panerai's exclusive boutique. The further strengthening of the long-standing partnership between Art of Time and Panerai is aligned with the plan to expand Art of Time's retail market share in India. With the Panerai boutique under its belt effective from June 2024, Art of Time now further strengthens their position as a luxury watch retailer not only in Mumbai but in India as a

unger can strike anywhere and anytime. And in these moments, there's often confusion about what to eat. Presenting the perfect solution to this — the new range of KFC Rolls. These deliciously unique Rolls *ko kahin bhi khao*. No matter where you are or what time of the day it is, choose from the range of 5 exciting flavours including Thai Spicy, Korean Tangy, American Nashville, Indian Tandoori and Indian Spicy Veg. The latest menu offerings come at an unbelievable price of INR 99/- only. Consumers can pick any of the new KFC Rolls at just INR 99/-

Experience elevated living at Gachibowli

omeTown is thrilled to announce the grand opening of its brand new store, HomeTown, in Prism Mall, Gachibowli, Hyderabad. This exciting addition promises a distinctive and immersive shopping experience, perfectly catering to the modern homeowner's needs and tastes. HomeTown offers home and independent room packages at attractive price points, making home renovations and new home designs easily accessible, affordable and convenient. Their aspirational living room packages start at Rs. 44,900, living and dining room packages at Rs. 69,900 and bedroom packages at just Rs. 29,900.

Aster Health Academy announces partnership

ster Health Academy is delighted to announce its strategic collaborations with a distinguished array of hospitals across India. Currently, the academy has secured partnerships with 15 esteemed hospitals, furthering its mission to provide unparalleled practical training opportunities for its enrollees. These affiliations are integral to the Academy's curriculum, particularly for clinical programs such as Fellowships in Emergency Medicine, Diabetes, and Critical Care,

Cleartrip introduces 'Cleartrip for Work'

leartrip, announced the launch of its latest offering. 'Cleartrip for Work' (CFW). This solution, specifically Curated for business travellers, urban entrepreneurs and startup founders, provides access to exclusive corporate flight fares and additional benefits. CFW stands out for its hassle-free, one-click onboarding process and ease of use. Users can sign up using their mobile number and access its features directly from the Cleartrip home page, making it incredibly convenient, especially for frequent fliers.



Ankura Hospital in Kukatpally, Hyderabad, opened its 120-bed facility. With 50,000 square feet of space, the recently opened facility is dedicated to providing the same high-quality treatment for which Ankura is known.

The Government of India and Tour Times have partnered to open the first Tour Times Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train Customer Center at Paryatak Bhavan, Tourism Plaza in Begumpet. Customers can now schedule their upcoming departures to different parts of India with this new hub. Ramesh Ayyanghar, Head of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh Tour Times and Kishan Rao, IAS (Retd), Vice

Chairman & Chief Executive Officer of Yadagiri Gutta Temple Development Authority, led the inaugural event. Through this programme, visitors from Telangana can begin to benefit from the Bharat Gaurav Trains on August 7.





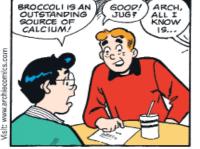




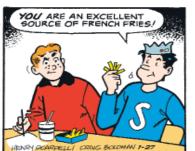


ARCHIE









I READ THAT A CHEETAH CAN RUN 65 MILES AN HOUR RUN THAT

REALITY CHECK

CALVIN AND HOBBES



SPEED BUMP

CAN'T I JUST SHAKE WITHOUT YOU MOVING IN FOR A MAN HUG?



CROSSWORD



GARFIELD











SUDOKU

NHAMAC

I'LL TAKE IT

FROM HERE



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make this

DOWN

14 Queues

ACROSS

6 Good-looking

8 Feeling cheerful

13 This many-legged

17 An animal to ride

19 People on journeys

10 One third of twenty-four

creature is the young

form of a butterfly

- 1 Come to a halt
- 2 Mix black and white to
- 3 A throbbing pain
- 4 Make music with the voice



7 Yummy brown stuff

9 A part of something

12 A gorilla is one

16 Observes

17 Fifty percent

18 Very uncommon

11 A house made of snow

15 Tidy and well arranged

GINGER MEGGS







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Each row and column can

Rules

5 Periods of a hundred years



the pioneer

Hyderabad | Friday July 12, 2024

tollywood

TOOFAN SEALS RELEASE DATE

ijay Antony's latest film, Toofan, is set to hit theaters worldwide on August 2, announced the makers on Thursday. Produced by Kamal Bora, D. Lalitha, B. Pradeep, and Pankaj Bora under the Infinity Film Ventures banner, this film follows their previous collaborations, Raghavan and Hathya, which also starred Vijay Antony. Directed by Vijay Milton, Toofan is a poetic

compelling narrative. The film tells the story of a man who transforms the future of a society that initially dismissed him. Set on an island, the movie was shot in Andaman and Diu Daman. The songs and trailer have already garnered significant attention, and the team is hopeful for a similarly enthusiastic reception upon its

Kavin, Nayanthara join forces

Actor Kavin is set to embark on his next cinematic film is slated to comjourney with a new film directed by Vishnu Edavan, an assistant director to the acclaimed Lokesh Kanagaraj.

The film's official pooja ceremony is scheduled to take place in Chennai tomorrow, marking the auspicious beginning of the promence on July 22, promising a fresh and engaging storyline. Nayanthara will star as the female lead, adding star power and anticipa-tion to the project.

Produced by 7 Screen Studio, the film is expected to be a major highlight in Kavin's



Kanguva 2 announced!

Studio Green's highly anticipated film, Kanguva, starring Suriya, is generating immense excitement among fans. The newly released teaser offered a released teaser offered a tantalising glimpse into its thrilling world, heightening anticipation for the movie. In a thrilling development, the makers have officially announced a sequel, Kanguva 2.

Producer KE Gnanvel Raja revealed in a recent interview that Kanguva will be a two-part film, with the first installment concluding on an exhilarating note that sets the stage for the sequel. Production for *Kanguva 2* is scheduled to begin by the end of 2025, with a planned release in the first half of 2027, either in January or during the summer.

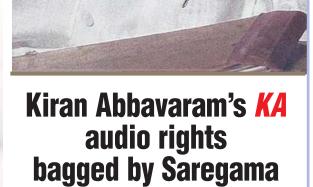
The sequel's script is currently underway, with shooting set to start towards the end of next year or early 2026. The sequel is expected to hit theaters in early 2027. likely in January or April. The teaser has already intensified excitement for the film, and fans are eagerly awaiting the trail-

In *Kanguva*, Suriya takes on a never-beforeseen avatar for his 39th film as a lead actor, showcasing multiple distinct personas. The newly released poster of Suriya has only added to the growing buzz around the

Joining Suriya in the cast are Bobby Deol and Disha Patani, making their Tamil debuts, along Natarajan

Subramaniam, Jagapathi Babu, Yogi Babu, Redin Kingsley, Kovai Sarala, Anandaraj, Ravi Raghavendra, K. S. Ravikumar, and B. S.

Studio Green has partnered with top distribution houses to ensure a massive global release for Kanguva on October 10,



♦he renowned audio label Saregama has secured the music for Gopalakrishna Ředdy under the banner of Srichakraas ing comeback. Entertainments, the film is noted for its impressive production values. Directed by the

Sandeep, KA is set in a rural backdrop and promises a gripping action-filled narrative.

The film's music, composed by Sam CS, is expected to enhance the cinematic experience with its rich soundscapes. With filming completed, the focus has now shifted

duo Sujith and

KA is scheduled for a grand theatrical release in Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, and Kiran Kannada. Since its Abbavaram's highly antici- announcement, KA has pated period thriller KA. received substantial positive Produced by Chinta attention and is marked as Kiran Abbayaram's excit-



film's visual appeal.

Fans can look forward to an official update

on the film later this month, which is expected to reveal more details about the project. Stay tuned for

progresses towards its next major milestone.

further announcements on this high-profile film as it

set to hit theaters on July 2. At a press conference for Indian 2 in Kochi, director S. Shankar teased an exciting surprise for fans—those who see the sequel in theaters might get a special preview of *Indian 3*. Shankar revealed that

preparing for the release of the highly antic-

ipated sequel to *Indian*, titled *Indian 2*. The film is

there is a possibility the

track, audiences could get a sneak peek of the next installment in cinemas. The director also shared plans to release Indian 3

ed that if the post-produc-

tion for *Indian 3* stays on

'End credits in *Indian 2* will

surprise all,' says Shankar

within six months of *Indian* 2's debut, provided everything proceeds smoothly. Shankar noted, "If the VFX work is completed on schedule, it's feasible to release within six months. trailer for *Indian 3* will be And, as a special treat, you

fter nearly 28 years, shown during the end cred-Kamal Haasan is its of *Indian 2*. He indicat- *Indian 3* at the end of Indian 2.

Indian 2 features Kamal Haasan, Siddharth, Rakul Preet Singh, SJ Suryah, Bobby Simha, and Priya Bhavani Shankar, and continues the story of Senapathy-a freedom fighter turned vigilante dedicated to combating corrup-

tion and societal ills. Kamal Haasan initially announced Indian 2 in 2017. The project faced setwhen

withdrew due to escalating production costs, and Lyca Productions subsequently took over. Filming, which began in January 2019, was disrupted by a tragic accident and the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to a twovear delay.

Red Giant Movies later joined as co-producers, and filming was completed in March 2024. Directed by Shankar, Indian 2 was produced with a budget of Rs

Mythri Movie distributors to release Darling in TG

ythri Movie Distributors LLP is set to release the upcoming film *Darling* in the Nizam region. This film, a family entertainer, is produced by K. Niranjan Reddy and Smt. Chaitanya, with debutant Aswin Raam at the helm. It stars Priyadarshi and Nabha Natesh in the lead roles.

This marks Mythri Movie Distributors LLP's latest venture following their successful collaborations on the Pan-India sensation *Hanu-Man*—which they distributed in Nizam—and major hits such as Prabhas' Salaar and Vijay Sethupathi's Maharaja in the same region. Their track record in Nizam distribution has been notably successful, and they

now bring *Darling* to this territory. Meanwhile, the film Darling was censored and the movie was awarded with a U/A certificate. The final duration of the movie is 2:20 hours, which is ideal for the movie of the genre. The core point and unique narration are the major highlights of the movie which is now capitalizing on positive censor reports. As we already saw, Priyadarshi and Nabha Natesh played their parts brilliantly. While Darshi played an innocent husband, Nabha stole the show as Lady Aparichitudu who torments her hubby with a split personality disorder. Aswin Raam's writing was remarkable, he dealt with the subject convincingly. Darling is a full-meal family entertainer with adequate hilarity and emotional climax. 3 songs and BGM scored by Vivek Sagar are an added attraction. The movie has some surprising guest roles as well. The film's theatrical trailer has already created a buzz, showcasing its promise as a hilarious and engaging

Darling is scheduled for release on July 19th.



release for Sankranti

Tictory Venkatesh, the hitmaking director Anil Ravipudi, and the successful production house Sri Venkateswara Creations are reuniting with a shared Sankranthi spirit. This trio is collaborating for the third time, aiming to deliver another blockbuster. The upcoming film, Production No. 58 from SVC, is set to hit theaters during the Sankranthi festival, as announced ments featured in the movie. This new project is an exceptional triangular crime entertain er, focusing on three key chara ters: the protagonist, his ex-gir friend, and his remarkable wif Meenakshi Chaudhary and Aishwarya Rajesh will star along side Venkatesh.

The film boasts a talente team of technicians. Bheen Ceciroleo is composing the music, Sameer Reddy is handling. Sankranthi festival, as announced

by the makers. The film was launched with much fanfare recently, and the regular shoot has now begun in Hyderabad. The main cast is

This new project is an exceptional triangular crime entertainer, focusing on three key charactr, ibedsing on three key charac-ters: the protagonist, his ex-girl-friend, and his remarkable wife. Meenakshi Chaudhary and Aishwarya Rajesh will star along-

The film boasts a talented team of technicians. Bheems Ceciroleo is composing the music, Sameer Reddy is handling the cinematography, A. S. Prakash is the production designer, and Tammiraju is the editor. S. Krishna and G. Adhinarayana are contributing as



15 is sure to be a memorable watch. BG

have brought this film to life.

Ventures and Kalyangari the forces together





STARC EXPRESSES DISPLEASURE AT BEING DROPPED FOR T20 WC GAME AGAINST AFGHANISTAN

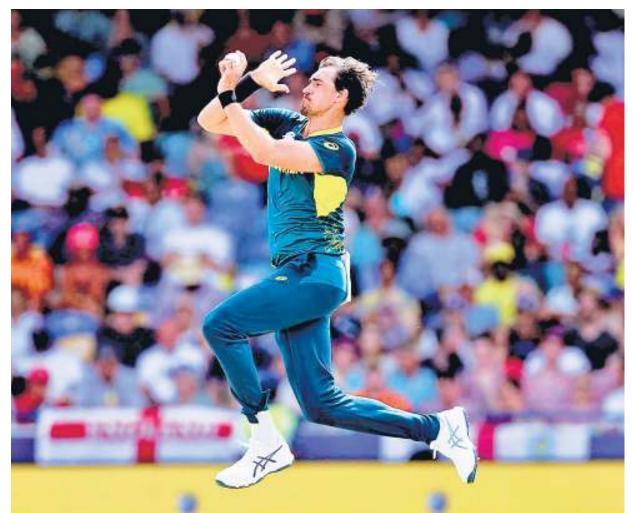
A ustralian pacer Mitchell Starc has expressed his displeasure at being dropped for the crucial T20 World Cup Super Eights match against Afghanistan in the Caribbean, saying he was not one bit amused by the team management's decision team management's decision.
The 2021 T20 World Cup champions suffered a shocking 21-run loss to Afghanistan, which dealt a massive blow to Australia's chances of entering the semifinals.

Australia had replaced Starc with Ashton Agar for the match but the left-arm spinner, despite tying down the Afghanistan batters, could

the Afghanistan batters, could not take any wickets.
"No -- two World Cups in a row," Starc was quoted as saying by Sydney Morning Herald on Willow Talk podcast when quizzed about his omission and whether he was amused by the decision.

"Just the match-up, they (team management) saw previous games on that ground in St Vincent with spin playing a part and obviously Ash (Ashton) and the left-armer enticing them to make a change," he added.

This was the second occasion in a row where the Australian pacer was dropped for a T20 World Cup match against Afghanistan, with the previous one being in Adelaide in 2022 where also the hosts failed to reach the last four stage. Agar and the two Australian



spearheads, Iosh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins, were unable to break the partnership between openers Rahmanullah Gurbaz and

Ibrahim Zadran, who ended up making 118 runs. "I think Ash bowled pretty

well in the powerplay. They probably played the spin quite

well and batting first probably assessed the conditions a little bit better than we did, and had a couple of stumbles that in the end cost us the game," said

Starc.

"It was probably the fielding that cost us again that game. That meant we had to win against India and we fell short Australia then went on to lose to India in Super Eights and were later eliminated from the competition.

competition.

Starc also expressed his displeasure with the scheduling of the tournament and pre seeding that saw them advance to the pre determined group despite topping the group stage.

group despite topping the group stage.
"We finished ahead of England (in the group stage) and end up where we were pre-seeded as the second side. All of a sudden, you're in a different group."

group."
"The argument was it was because it was so hard to get around the West Indies, so fans knew where your team

was playing.
"So then why don't you have the chock-a-block tournament at the front... And then spread it out at the back end? We had the two night games and the third was a day game, so it wasn't the best preparation. We had a delayed flight out of St Vincent, it was a 90-minute drive from the airport to the hotel in St Lucia, and then we had a 10 o'clock toss.

had a 10 o'clock toss.
He added that the travelling between venues in the West Indies is always difficult.
"I think that was probably maybe a misread [by organisers], the fact that the front half of the tournament was more spread out, and then you hit the super eights and ... travel around the West Indies is probably not the easiest thing to do, certainly not to



Shocked by that amazing catch: Avesh on Bishnoi's wonder grab in India's win against Zimbabwe

 $R_{\text{always}}^{\text{avi Bishnoi's fielding has}}$ always had a touch of athleticism but he took it to a different plane in the third T20I against Zimbabwe when he leapt to pluck a screamer off Avesh Khan to dismiss Brian Bennett, leaving his India

teammate in awe.
India defeated Zimbabwe by
23 runs on Wednesday to take
a 2-1 lead in the five-match series but the talk in the dressing room was Bishnoi's astonishing catch to dismiss the Zimbabwe top-order batter, reducing the hosts to 19 for 3 in the fourth over. The pacer said he was left

"shocked" for a moment. When he took the catch, I don't think he got the reaction time. I also did not get the reaction time (to see what happened). I was, in fact, shocked how he took that catch," said Avesh, who took two wickets as India restricted Zimbabwe to 159/6 in the

chase of 182. Avesh added that the wicket

should be credited to Bishnoi's account for the sheer effort. "He is a good fielder, works a lot on his fielding. The catch that he took, the scoreboard will show that it was taken by me, but it should be credited in his (Bishnoi's) account," added

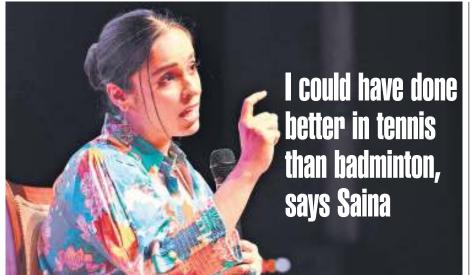
BCCI. India skipper Shubman Gill said it was a truly amazing effort from Bishnoi and showed that the leg-spinner

Avesh in a video posted by

was enjoying his fielding.
"Very happy with the team's
win to go 2-1 up in the series
and the catch that Bishi (Bishnoi) took was absolutely remarkable. It was truly delightful to watch.

'Cricket is definitely a team sport and it's more so a team sport when you're fielding. So, it's very important to have fun when you are fielding. If you are having fun then you are always in the game," added the captain.

Washington Sundar said he had the best view of the catch as he was positioned at mid-



PTI NEW DELHI

Trailblazing Indian shuttler Saina Nehwal feels she would have perhaps excelled more as a sportsperson if she had picked a tennis racquet instead of playing badminton. Nehwal has an impressive resume as a badminton player. Not only she became the first Indian woman shuttler to be ranked No. 1 in the world, she was the first woman athlete from the country to win an

Olympic medal. "Sometimes I feel that it would have been good if my parents had put me in tennis," Saina said during her "Her Story-My Story" talk at the Rashtrapati

Bhawan. "There is more money and I had more strength I think. I could have done better in tennis than badminton," she

added.

While Saina has inspired many to take up badminton, the 34year-old herself didn't have anyone to look up to when she picked the racquet at the age of

"When I started, I didn't have any role models to look up to. No one to look up to and say 'I want to be world number one or be an Olympic medallist,' I hadn't seen anvone do that in badminton before me," Saina said.

Beside the London Olympics bronze, Nehwal also won a bronze and a silver at the World Championships and Commonwealth multiple Games gold, including two in the women's singles.
She urged the youngsters

present to explore a career in

sports.
"I always tell children to never give up attitude."

concentrate on games. China wins 60-70 medals, We only get 3-4. There are so many doctors and engineers, their names don't come in

newspapers," she said.
"I want girls to especially to come forward and start getting fit and get into sports. Now we are there for the children, there are world number ones, Olympic champions and so many medallist to look up to," she added.

Reflecting on her career, she said her hard work compensated for the lack of talent.

"I loved hard work, I was not the most talented person, I need to practice a lot. If a talented player is doing something 100 times I had to do it 1000 times. But I like hard work. My coaches like my

Indian Racing Festival: Ganguly buys Kolkata Royal Tigers team PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India captain
Sourav Ganguly was on
Thursday unveiled as the
owner of the Kolkata Royal
Tigers ahead of the Indian
Racing Festival 2024,
scheduled between August and September this year.

Apart from the debutant

Kolkata racing team, the event will see participation from seven other outfits based at Bangalore, Hyderabad, Chennai, Delhi, Goa, Kochi, and Ahmedabad.

festival The racing enco

Racing League (IRL) and the Formula 4 Indian Championship (F4IC). Expressing his enthusiasm for the association, Ganguly, the former BCCI president said: "I am truly excited to embark on this journey with the Kolkata." this journey with the Kolkata team in the Indian Racing Festival.

"Motorsports has always been a passion of mine and together with the Kolkata Royal Tigers, we aim to build a strong legacy in the Indian Racing Festival and inspire a new generation of motorsport enthusiasts."

Akhilesh Reddy. championships — Indian and Managing Director of



Racing Promotions Pvt Ltd (RPPL), welcomed Ganguly to the racing fold.
"We are thrilled to announce

Sourav Ganguly as the owner of the Kolkata franchise. His visionary leadership and commitment to excellence, shaped by years of legendary cricketing success, brings unparalleled dynamism to the Indian Racing Festival," he

It may be recalled that veteran India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has recently acquired stakes in American Gambits, a team that will take part in the second edition of the Global

Mumbai City FC ropes in Greek striker Nikolaos Karelis

PTI MUMBAI

Mumbai City FC on Thursday announced roping in Greek striker Nikolaos Karelis ahead of the upcoming Indian Super League season.

The 32-year-old, also known as Nikos Karelis, is set for his maiden stint in India. He began his youth career with Ergotelis and made his senior professional debut with them

in 2007. Karelis has played for seven more clubs including stints in Perm), (Amkar Russia Belgium (Genk), England (Brentford)

Netherlands (ADO Den Haag). Mumbai City FC will be his eighth club.

Karelis has netted 103 goals in 361 professional matches along with 29 assists, while his best performance at a club came for Panathinaikos, for whom he scored 36 goals in 114 competitive games. The 2014-15 season was his

standout when Karelis scored 19 goals in 50 contests.

He won the Greek Cup with Panathinaikos in 2013-14. Later, he also won two titles with the Greek club PAOK in 2018-19 (Super League Greece and Greek Cup).

Karelis was last associated with



another Greek Panetolikos, where he was adjudged its player of the season in 2022-23.

"The team has achieved significant success over the past few years, and I am eager to contribute to its continued success in the upcoming season," Karelis said in a release.

MCFC head coach Petr Kratky said, "Nikos is a highly talented player who perfectly matches the requirements we expect from our forwards. He has experience playing in various European countries and has consistently proven his calibre in different leagues."

Carlos faces Daniil and Novak plays Lorenzo in Wimbledon's semis

Carlos Alcaraz's ability to hit any type of shot, from any position on the court, on any surface, keeps fans on the edge of their seats. Keeps other

players guessing, too. has wo.
Alcaraz delights in all of that he loves putting on a show just as much as he enjoys knowing he makes the guys on the other side of the net uncomfortable - and figures it can only help him in the Wimbledon semifinals against Daniil Medvedev on Friday. It's beneficial, Alcaraz said, that opponents need to focus on whether he'll be "able to be

back (in) the point or ... Able to hit an unbelievable shot." "For me," he said, "it's great that they're thinking about it." Alcaraz, the No. 3 seed, is seeking a second consecutive trophy at the All England Club and fourth Grand Slam title overall. His triumph last month at the French Open made him, at 21, the youngest man to collect a major trophy on hard, grass and clay courts.

Medvedev, who is seeded No. 5 and defeated No. 1 Jannik Sinner in the quarterfinals, won the 2021 U.S. Open but is just 1-5 in major finals. The other match Friday will be

No. 2 Novak Djokovic, who

has won seven of his men'schampionships at Wimbledon, against No. 25
Lorenzo Musetti, making his

debut in a major semifinal. "Against him, you are probably more stressed, because he's probably the best player ever - or one of the best players ever," said the 22-year-old Musetti, who beat Taylor Fritz in five sets on Wednesday, while Djokovic got the day off because his foe, Alex de Minaur, withdrew

with an injured hip. "You walk on court with a different mentality," said Musetti, whose 1-5 record against Djokovic includes a five-set loss at this year's French Open that ended at after 3 a.M. "If I play in a certain way, I could have my shot in the next round."



Alcaraz vs. Medvedev is a rematch from last year's semifinals, when Alcaraz won in straight sets before getting

past Djokovic in the final.

It also offers a contrast between a talented attacker (Alcaraz) and a consummate defender (Medvedev). "The most difficult thing

Alcaraz said. "Well, he is like a wall. Every ball bounces back."

about facing Daniil, or the most special thing about him, is he can reach every ball,"

Asked what Alcaraz's best quality is, Medvedev began this way: "To be honest, everything.' That sounds an

exaggeration. Might not be.

"That's where it's tough to play against him, because you know whatever shot you hit,

he can hit a winner from there. So you try to make his life difficult. You try to hit the shot as good as you can. Maybe he goes for it and he cannot make it," said Medvedev, who has won just two of their previous six encounters. "Carlos can do whatever, from any position, Medvedev said, "and that's not easy to play against."
Tommy Paul, the 12th-seeded

American who lost to Alcaraz in the quarterfinals, put something else on the lengthy something else on the lengthy list of the Spaniard's attributes. "He moves unbelievably well. He's probably the quickest player. It's very hard to get the ball by him," Paul said. "Grass suits him. He moves incredible on the grass. It's not easy to change direction the way that he does. He stays pretty low. Yeah, I mean, it's not easy." And then, in a nod to the sort

of highlight-reel material Alcaraz regularly produces, Paul added: "Half of the job when you're out there is not to let him win one of those crazy points - because when he does, he kind of gets on a roll.