the pioneer Coal will play a vital role in eliminating power shortages and I will try my best to make India free of power cuts. India is importing some coal from abroad. In future,

there is a need to produce

QUOTE OF THE DAY

adequate coal. 10 years ago agriculture, industry and IT companies faced power cuts due to coal shortage. In the last 10 years, Modi has freed the country from frequent power cuts.

- G Kishan Reddy, Union Minister

www.dailypioneer.com

he pioneer

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anchored by familial



### **Edn dept instructs** DEOs to return...

Telangana State Education department officials on Thursday instructed all the DEOs in the State to return all the textbooks which were distributed to the students as the names of former ministers figured in them. This has created tension among teachers and students as they have to wait for a month to get their textbooks. The fiasco of textbooks was discovered when the names of former chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao and ministers Kadiam Srihari and Sabitha Indra Reddy figured in them. The State ...

### 'Hot, cold exposure may...

Children and foetuses exposed to hot and cold environments impact their brain's white matter responsible for connecting various brain regions and enabling communication, a new research has found. Researchers said that children are especially vulnerable to extreme environments as their bodies' temperature regulation processes are still immature. They also found that early exposure could have lasting effects on the microstructure of white matter in the brain. These findings are



### CII wants Modi 3.0 govt to push land...

Industry body CII on Thursday made a case for pushing reforms in sectors like land, labour, and agriculture by the Modi 3.0 government to accelerate economic growth, which is estimated to be around 8 ne in the current financial year. CII President Sanjiv Puri said a lot of policy interventions in the past have put the economy on "a much stronger wicket". "The growth rate is poised to touch 8 per cent during the current year, marking the fourth consecutive year of above 7 per cent...

-PAGE: 8

### Kuldeep Yadav will be india's...

Former cricketer Piyush Chawla feels that wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav will be India's preferred specialist spinners when the Indian team competes in the Super Eight stage of the T20 World Cup in the Caribbean. India won all three matches in tough batting conditions at the Nassau County Stadium in New York against Ireland, Pakistan and USA and will now take on Canada in their last Group stage match at Lauderhill, Florida before the Super Eight stage. Chawla said while the conditions in..

# 'Godavari waters for 1.2 L acres by Aug 15'

Bhatti says Enkur Link Canal will be completed by that time, inspects SHR works

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu said the Congress government will supply Godavari waters to 1.2 lakh acres by completing the Enkur Link Canal by August 15.He inspected the Sitarama Head Regulatory works along with Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and Agriculture

Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao at Ammagaripalli in Aswapuram mandal in Bhadradri Kothagudem district on Thursday. They also saw a photo exhibition organised at the viewpoint there.

From there the team went to Sitarama Lift Irrigation Project Pump House-I, examined the works and switched on the power supply.

# KCR destroyed irrigation sector, alleges Uttam,

PNS HYDERABAD

Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy said that former Chief Minister KCR destroyed the irrigation sector without any scientific plan and caused the state great financial loss.

The BRS government spent Rs 90,400 crore on the Kaleshwaram Project and it brought only 93,000 acres under cultivation.

The BRS admin spent Rs 27,000 crore on the Palamuru- Ranga Reddy Lift Irrigation Project but did not bring even one new acre under cultivation. The BRS admin spent Rs 9,000 crore on the Sitarama Lift Irrigation Project but it could not provide water to even one acre.

The BRS admin was inefficient and it could not complete even a single irrigation project during its 10year rule, Uttam said.

He said that under the Cong

admin, the irrigation department has prepared a plan to provide irrigation to a large area at a lesser cost in the least possible time. He said that irrigation will be provided in Kothagudem, Pinapaka and Bhadrachalam.

People should understand the real intention of the BRS admin in redesigning the Rajiv Sagar that could have been completed for Rs 2,000 crore but whose cost jumped to a whopping Rs 20,000 crore without any justifiable reason, he

The Cong admin would try to bring Godavari waters to the undivided Khammam district and make it fertile, Uttam said.

The government is committed to completing the Sitarama Project although it has become a burden on the State due to redesigning. The government would try to clear the objections raised by the National

The BRS government spent Rs 90,400 crore on the Kaleshwaram Project and it brought only 93,000 acres under cultivation. The BRS admin spent Rs 27,000 crore on the Palamuru-Ranga Reddy Lift Irrigation Project but did not bring even one new acre under cultivation. Green Tribunal and Central

Environment Department. He directed officials to repair the Sitarama Lift

Irrigation canal on a war footing and assured to complete all pending major, medium and minor irrigation projects in Khammam

## Probes into scams haunt BRS brass

O Justice Ghose likely to issue notices to Harish, KCR

The Justice PC Ghose Judicial Commission appointed to probe the Kaleshwaram Project scam is likely to issue notices to BRS MLA Harish Rao who was Irrigation Minister during the BRS admin's first term.

After Harish, former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao who held the irrigation portfolio during the second BRS term is likely to be issued notices.

The investigation into problems connected with the Kaleshwaram include the subsidence of the seventh block of the Medigadda Barrage, damage to piers and gates and seepage in the Annaram and Sundilla Barrages.

The Commission's term is ending by June end but it is likely to seek an extension in July.

PNS HYDERABAD

Canteen

Telangana.

The Telangana government will be setting up 'Mahila Shakti

The Revanth admin wants to

set up at least 150 canteens in the

next two years. Studies have been

conducted regarding the func-

tioning of the canteens named

'Annapurna' in Kerala and 'Didi

As per the directions of Chief

Ke Rasoi' in West Bengal.

Services' across



### ED seeks details of SRDS, starts probe

Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari conducting a meeting on Thursday at the

Secretariat on 'Mahila Shakti Canteen Services'

Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Chief Secretariat on 'Mahila Shakti -

Secretary Santhi Kumari held a Canteen Services'.

PNS HYDERABAD

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has launched an investigation under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, into the suspected fraud in implementing the Sheep Rearing Development Scheme (SRDS).

TG plans 'Mahila Shakti Canteen Services'

On the lines of 'Annapurna' in Kerala and 'Didi Ke Rasoi' in West Bengal

meeting on Thursday at the

The ED wrote a letter to the Managing Director of M/s Telangana State Sheep and Goat Development Cooperative Federation Ltd (TSSGDCFL), the implementing agency of the SRDS on Wednesday.

# TG Central Ministers take charge

### Vital role for coal in power generation: Kishan

PNS HYDERABAD

Coal will play a vital role in eliminating power shortage, Union Coal and Mines Minister G. Kishan

Reddy said and added that he will try his best to make India gen-

erate adequate power. Speaking to the media after assuming office here on Thursday, Kishan said the He said that there is a need to produce adequate coal in the coming days.

## **Support me in service to** the nation: Bandi Sanjay

BJP MP Bandi Sanjay Kumar took charge as Union Minister of State for Home at North Block on Thursday after

performing religious rituals.Kumar was welcomed at his office by his ministerial colleague Nityanand Rai, who is also Union Minister of Bhalla and Intelligence Bureau Director Tapan

Deka, among others.

### **KUWAIT FIRE INCIDENT Bodies of 45 Indians identified**

PNS DUBAI/KUWAIT

Kuwait Thursday said authorities have identified the bodies of 45 Indians and three Filipino nation-



als killed in the tragic fire incident in a building housing foreign workers as the Gulf Kingdom vowed to promptly investigate the incident and assured full support in repatriating the mortal remains of the victims. At least 49 foreign workers were

killed and 50 others injured in the fire on Wednesday at the sevenstorey building where 196 migrant workers were staying in the southern city of Mangaf.

approximately 95 per cent of rural and 96 per cent of urban

Ayush.At least one member is

plants/home remedies/local health traditions/folk

medicine in about 85 per cent

of rural and 86 per cent of

respondents are aware of

aware of medicinal

urban households.

# Cong's 'Operation Akarsh' to net BRS MLCs?

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

Congress leaders had said the BRS will disappear after the Lok Sabha ing to attract BRS MLCs as it has to

will join the Congress. However, that has not happened but the Congress has launched 'Operation Akarsh' to make BRS MLCs join the Congress as it has only four MLCs in the Legislative Council, it is

learnt. The BRS has 34 Members in Reddy. If the BRS does it, then the Council.Congress leaders have already contacted a few BRS MLCs including Council Chairman Gutha Sukhender Reddy and Vice-Chairman Banda Prakash, it is learnt. Already, Gutha Sukhender

Reddy has distanced himself from the BRS and has made his son join the Congress. The Congress is try-

The Congress is trying to attract BRS MLCs as it has to pass Bills smoothly and ensure that there would not be any embarrassing moments in the Council.

pass Bills smoothly and ensure that there would not be any embarrassing moments in the

Council.Meanwhile, the BRS is thinking of introducing a no-confidence motion against Council Chairman Gutha Sukhender

Sukhender Reddy may lose his post and his image. However, it is not known how the Congress will tackle this. Now both the BRS and the Congress are fine-tuning their strategies regarding this.

### **NEET-UG EXAM ROW**

### **Grace marks** withdrawn, **Centre tells SC**

PNS NEW DELHI

Amid a raging row over the NEET-UG examination, the Centre told



to them for loss of time.

the Supreme Court on Thursday it has cancelled the grace marks given to 1,563 candidates who took the examination for admission to MBBS and other such courses. They will have the option to either take a re-test or forgo the compensatory marks awarded

# 'Almost every second individual used Ayush healthcare'

### Almost every second individual in India used Ayush healthcare system, as a government survey found that 46 per cent of rural and 53 per cent of urban individuals used this traditional medicine system. Ayush healthcare system includes

Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy.

The first exclusive all-India survey on 'Ayush' was conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) from July 2022 to June 2023 as part of the 79th round of the National Sample Survey (NSS), an official statement said.

According to the statement, this survey covered the entire country, excluding a few inaccessible villages in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Information was collected from

1,81,298 households, including

urban areas. As per the study, approximately 95 per cent of rural and 96 per cent of urban respondents are aware of At least one member is aware of

rural and 86 per cent of urban households.

Ayurveda is the most commonly used system across rural and urban areas for treatment. Ayush is predominantly used for

medicinal plants/home rejuvenation and preventive meas-remedies/local health traditions/folk ures. 1,04,195 in rural areas and 77,103 in medicine in about 85 per cent of

information on household expenditure for treatments using Ayush medicine systems.

A stratified multi-stage sampling design was used in the survey on Ayush in which villages in the rural areas and urban frame survey (UFS) blocks in the urban areas or sub-Additionally, the survey gathered units (SU) of villages or UFS blocks

units (FSU). The ultimate stage units (USU)

were regarded as the first-stage

were households in both sectors. Simple Random Sampling Without Replacement (SRSWOR) was used for the selection of the FSUs as well as households from the chosen

Use of the Ayush system of medicines refers to the use/adoption of one or more of the system(s) of Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homeopathy for treatment/cure of diseases/ailments or for prevention of diseases/ailments on the advice of a medical practitioner/instructor.

This will also include homeremedies/selfmedication/self-treatment used by a member of the household knowing the preventive or beneficial effects of the treatment/ medication.

### POCSO CASE

### Non-bailable arrest warrant against K'taka ex-CM Yediyurappa

PNS BENGALURU



court Thursday issued a non-bailable arrest warrant against former Chief Minister and senior BJP leader B S

Bengaluru

Yediyurappa in a POCSO case. The Special Investigation Team of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) had moved the First Fast Track court seeking

an arrest warrant against him since he failed to appear for questioning on Wednesday. Yediyurappa had sought time to join the probe.

**Continued on Page 2** 

### ED filed sheep scam case against KCR: Raghunandan

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

The BJP's Medak MP, M. Raghunandan Rao, said that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed a case against former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao and that ED officials came to Hyderabad to meet KCR.

He said that KCR, former Minister T. Harish Rao and MLC Venkatrami Reddy would face the music in the coming days.

Attending a felicitation meeting, Raghunandan responded to the ED's entry into the sheep scam.
The ED asked the ACB,

which is probing the sheep scam, to provide details of the irregularities that took place.

Raghunandan said that he is not a person of mere words but a man who gets things done and that his opponent Venkatrami Reddy lost the election even though his party had distributed money and liquor openly.

### **Grace marks** withdrawn...

Continued from page 1

Refusing to stall the counselling for NEET-UG, 2024, scheduled to commence from July 6, the top court made it clear that the admission of successful candidates to medical colleges and other insti-tutions will be subject to the outcome of the petitions which have sought reliefs like cancellation of the examination held on May 5 on grounds of question paper leak and other malpractices.

A vacation bench of justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta termed as "fairly reasonable" the decision to cancel the grace marks awarded to 1,563 candidates

on the recommendation of a panel set up to look into the grievances voiced by the petitioners. The National Testing Agency (NTA) conducts the all India pre-medical entrance test.

At the outset, lawyer Kanu Agarwal, appearing for the Centre and the NTA, said the committee set up to look into the grievances decided on June 12 to "allay the fears of the students". It was of the view that the grace marks be withdrawn and replaced with an option of re-test for these ducted on June 23.

# Different political affiliations keep guru-chela apart

**SNCN ACHARYULU** ■ HYDERABAD

chela (disciple) relationship between the two Telugu Chief Ministers? Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy considers Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu as his political guru. Revanth Reddy a few days ago personally contacted TDP supremo Chandrababu Naidu to congratulate him on his victory in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly elections. During the call, Revanth Reddy stressed om the need for good relations between the two Telugu states. Revanth Reddy had earlier said that he would attend the swearing-in ceremony of Chandrababu if he was invited. But Revanth Reddy did not attend Chandrababu's

Have the different political

affiliations alienated the guru-



happened on Wednesday Perhaps Chandrababu would not have invited the Telangana Chief Minister for this function due to TDP's alliance with the BJP in Andhra Pradesh Assembly elections. To not hurt the feelings of BJP leaders, Chandrababu would not have invited Revanth Reddy. Chandrababu invited several leaders of other states including some BJP Chief Ministers. swearing-in ceremony as it Prime Minister Narendra

Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and several union ministers including those from Telangana attended the cere-

If Revanth Reddy had attended the function, he would have been the only Chief Minister who was not from the NDA. It is a known fact that the BJP and Congress are political rivals in the national politics. At this juncture, if

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Thursday

claimed to have busted fake

news carried in 134 videos

across 12 YouTube channels,

having cumulative subscribers

running into several lakhs.

The Press Information
Bureau's Fact Checking Unit

said the YouTube channels in

question carried videos mak-

ing misleading claims such as

payouts to the tune of Rs

51,000 to meet expenses of

daughter's wedding, benefits totalling Rs 2.5 lakh to ration

card holders and fake news

NitiGyan4U, KLOnlineStudy,

Sarkari Khabar 21, Media

NewsWave\_429,

The videos were hosted by

channels

regarding Covid vaccines.

PIB's fact check unit busts

across 12 YouTube channels

fake news in 134 videos

leaders may have misunderstoond Chandrababu. To avoid unnecessary controversy, Chandrababu would not have invited Revanth Reddy inspite of having special affection for him. If the TDP had not allied with the BJP the political situation would have been different. Revanth Reddy also did not invite Chandrababu for his swearing-in ceremony as the Telangana Chief Minister. Because by that time, Chandrababu was trying seriously for an alliance with the BJP. In fact, in 2019 Telangana Assembly elections, the TDP had an alliance with the Congress. Chandrababus hard the dias with AICC leader Rahul Gandhi in the election campaign. In the 2023 Telangana Assembly elections, the TDP did not contest and directed its cadre to support the the Congress Chief Minister Congress to defeat the BRS.

onlinejobRK among others.

'The thumbnail of a

YouTube channel named

"onlinejobRk" claims that

Prime Minister Narendra

Modi has announced that Jan

Dhan account owners will

get Rs 10,000 post his win in

the 2024 General Elections.

This claim is fake. Beware of

Fake News," the PIB Fact

Check Unit said in a post on

The YouTube channel AM

News YT had claimed that the

Chief Justice of India had

snatched the elections from

YouTube channel named

"NewsWave\_429" claims that

the Supreme Court has

declared Prime Minister

The thumbnail of a

Modi.

### Theenmar Mallanna sworn in as MLC



Theenmar Mallanna alias Chintapandu Naveen Kumar took oath as an MLC on Thursday. Legislature Council Chairman Gutha Sukhender Reddy conducted the proceedings.

AICC General Secretary

in-charge Deepa Das Munshi. Excise Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, Government Whip Beerla Ilaiah, MLAs Jaiveer Reddy, Balu Naik, MLC Balmoor Venkat, Bhongir MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy and others attended the function.

It may be recalled that Theenmar Mallanna won by defeating BRS candidate A. Rakesh Reddy in the Nalgonda-Khammam-Warangal graduates MLC by-

### Sibal slams govt over J-K terror attacks

PNS NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal on Thursday attacked the Modi government over the recent terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir and called on the people to ponder over the problem of playing politics with terror. Over the past few days, terrorists struck at four places in Reasi, Kathua and Doda districts, killing nine people, including seven pilgrims and a CRPF jawan, and leaving seven security personnel and others injured.In a post on X, Sibal said, "Increasing terror in Jammu and Kashmir. We all stand by you Modiji But I wonder what you would have said about these terror attacks if you were in Opposition today?""Remember 26/11/2008 and what you said! Let the people of India ponder on the problem of playing politics with terror!" the former Union minister said.



## CM discusses investments with Japanese envoy

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy discussed Japanese investment opportunities in the state with Japan Ambassador Suzuki Hiroshi. The Ambassador visited the Chief Minister on Thursday and they discussed

investment opportunities in Telangana, government priorities and employment generation issues.

Ambassador Hiroshi, accompanied by his Secretaries, met TG Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari at the

### Massive searches continue in J-K to hunt down terrorists

DGP meets top army officer in Jammu

PNS ■ JAMMU

The search operation launched in Jammu and Kashmir to track down and neutralise terrorists after the June 9 attack on a bus carrying pilgrims entered the fifth day on Thursday, officials said, as Director General of Police R R Swain met a top army officer here to discuss the ongoing action.

Over the past few days, terrorists struck at four places in Reasi, Kathua and Doda districts, killing nine people, including seven pilgrims and a CRPF jawan, and leaving seven security personnel and others injured.
The DGP, along with

Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Vijay Kumar and Jammu zone additional director general of police Anand Jain, visited Jammu-based White Knight Corps and interacted with General Commanding (GOC) Lt Gen Navin Sachdeva, the army

"... They deliberated upon



the ongoing counter terror operations. They reaffirmed their commitment to ensure peace and security in the region," the white knight corps of the army wrote on X after the meeting.
Officials said security

forces launched a fresh search and cordon operation in Kathua's Saida Sukhal village in Hiranagar sector late this afternoon following information about the presence of two more terrorists.

Two suspected Pakistani terrorists, part of a newly infiltrated group, and a CRPF jawan were killed in the village in an over 15-hour long operation that started Tuesday evening.

# Sridhar Babu meets American Chamber of Commerce delegation



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A senior-level ministerial delegation led by Minister for IT, Industries & Commerce, D Sridhar Babu, accompanied by Special Chief Secretary, IT and Industries & Commerce, Jayesh Ranjan, and VC&MD TŚIIC, Dr´Vishnu Vardhan Reddy, interacted with the CXO's American Chamber of Commerce delegation at Washington DC.

The Minister re-engaged with the leaders and assured them of continued support in making Telangana and Hyderabad as the world class IT destination. Leaders from Boeing, Raytheon, GE Healthcare, Johnson & Johnson, Accenture, HP and Pratt & Whitney were pre-

He said focus on excel- Telangana.

lence in the quality of delivery, while supporting innovation, and upskilling. The need to reskill the talent, create a shift-left learning option, to drive change in the way the education happens, was one of the primary discussion topics. The Minister shared details on International Skills University and AI City.

The Minister reiterated support to the team of banking, financial services & insurance (BFSI) consortium and introducing a minor degree in Financial Services, for both Engineering and Non-Engineering degrees.

The session with the corporate leaders helped reiterate the government's focus on policy, infrastructure and initiatives to continue to drive

Non-bailable arrest warrant against... Continued from page 1

YouTube

The BJP veteran, who is also a member of the party's parliamentary board, is presently in Delhi, and he is likely to join the probe after he returns, lose to him

Vital role for...

Continued from page 1

Yediyurappa has been booked under the POCSO Act and Section 354 A (Sexual harassment) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) based on a complaint by the mother of a 17-year-old girl who alleged that he molested

residence in Dollars Colony

The victim's brother had filed a petition in the court earlier this week alleging that though the case was registered on March 14, no progress has tigation According to police, on February two this year, at his The petitioner prayed that investigation.

Yediyurappa should be arrested and interrogated.

After the Sadashivanagar police registered the case in March, the Karnataka Director General of Police Alok Mohan had issued an order transferring it to the

Continued from page 1

'Mahila...

**TG plans** 

The CS directed the

PR&RD Commissioner to prepare a detailed action plan irding the functio management and space required for establishing the

canteens.
The Chief Secretary said during the meeting that the Chief Minister intended to strengthen women's organisations in the state. Special canteens will be set up in all government

Collectorates, tourist spots, temples, bus stands and industrial areas with the assistance of women's organisations.A study has been done on the successful performance of similar canteens operating in Kerala and 'Didi Ka Rasoi'in West Bengal. The management of these canteens in TG will be handed over to rural women's groups and special training will be given to these groups on running them. Revenue Principal Secretary Naveen Mittal, Panchayat Rai Commissioner Anita Ramachandran, Health Department Commissioner Endowment Karnan, Commissioner Hanumantha Rao, Tourism Director Nikhila, Tourism Corporation MD Ramesh Naidu and others attended the

# ED seeks details of SRDS...

Continued from page 1

This directive, issued under Section 54 of the PMLA, 2002, underscores the urgency of the

In a bid to unravel financial irregularities, the ED has requested comprehensive details and documents from the TSSGDCFL about the execution of the SRDS from its inception.

These details include district-wise particulars of beneficiaries, sellers from whom

Sukla Paksha

Jun 13 09:33 PM

to Jun 15 12:04 AM

Jun 15 12:04 AM

Jun 14 05:08 AM to Jun 15 08:14 AM

10:38 AM to 12:16 PM 3:32 PM to 5:09 PM 01:16 PM to 03:04 PM

7:23 AM to 9:01 AM

12:06 AM to 01:54 AM

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:50 AM to 12:42 PM

Forecast: Scattered Thunderstorms

**Updated:** June 13, 2024 5:00 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

to Jun 16 02:32 AM

TODAY

ALMANAC

Tithi: Ashtami:

Nakshatram:

Rahukalam

Gulika:

**Temp:** 32°°

Humidity: 70% Sunrise: 5:42 AM

Sunset: 6:52 PM

Uttara Phalguni:

Navami:

Month & Paksham:

sheep were procured, disbursement of funds, contributions from beneficiaries, payments to transport agencies, procurement and distribution of sheep feed, expenditure specifics and any internal reports highlighting fraud. The ED said it also wanted

details of the bank accounts from which the disbursement of funds was made by TSSGD-CFL to district authorities and to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries. The ED also sought details

of the funds received from beneficiaries (as their contribution to home) along with details of the bank accounts in which the said funds were received, district-wise details of beneficiaries, district-wise details of all payments made to transport agencies along with details of

agencies for transporting sheep, district-wise details of sheep feed procured and its subsequent supply to beneficiaries. The ED also requested a copy of any internal report prepared regarding frauds committed while implementation the SRDS.It may be mentioned here that on May 31, the ACB said that this is a Rs 700 crore scam. The ACB arrested one Chief Executive Officer and one former OSD of the then Minister of Animal Husbandry, Talasani Srinivas

The arrested individuals are Sabavath Ramchander, former Chief Executive Officer of the Telangana State Livestock Development Agency and Gundamaraju Kalyan Kumar, former OSD of the Minister of Animal Dairy Husbandry, Development, Fisheries and Cinematography.

# Bodies of 45 Indians...

Continued from page 1

He said that 10 years ago agriculture, industry and the IT sector faced power cuts due to coal shortage and that even in Hyderabad industries faced power cuts. Due to power cuts crops used to wither and many farmers committed suicide. However, in the last 10 years, he said Modi made the country free of power cuts. Coal will play a vital role in eliminating power shortages and I will try my best to make India free of power cuts. India is importing some coal from abroad. In future, there is a need to produce adequate coal. 10 years ago agriculture, industry and IT companies faced power cuts due to coal shortage. In

quent power cuts. "I work under the leadership of Modi and will do my part to make India the third largest economy," Kishan said.

the last 10 years, Modi has

freed the country from fre-

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousuf Al-Sabah, serving as the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior, and Minister of Defence, said that authorities have identified 48 bodies, among which 45 are of Indians and three are of Filipino nationality, English language daily Arab Times

reported.

The efforts are still underway to determine the identity of one remaining body, said the first deputy prime minis-ter.Kuwaiti authorities are conducting DNA tests on the bodies of those killed in the devastating fire incident in southern Kuwait's Mangaf area and an Indian Air Force aircraft is on standby to bring back the mortal remains of Indians killed in the incident, officials said in New Delhi on Thursday.Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan oversee assistance to Indians injured in the fire and to ensure early repatriation of mortal remains of those killed, met Kuwait's Foreign Minister Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya who assured full support and vowed to promptly investigate the tragedy.

Singh also met some of the Indians injured in the massive fire and assured them all support from the Indian government.Later, he called on First Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Fahad, who conveved condolences on behalf of the Emir and his instructions to ensure all necessary assistance and support.Singh conveyed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's greetings to the Emir and thanked the deputy prime minister and the leadership of Kuwait for pro-active facilitation being provided by Kuwaiti authorities, the Indian mission

## Support me in...

Continued from page 1

"On taking charge as Minister of State in Ministry of Home Affairs, I would like to thank you each one of you for being on my side and my support system. These doors opened only because of support from my leader Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendramodi, Hon'ble Union Home Minister AmitShah, party chief JPNadda, BJP Telangana cadre, media, social media warriors and most importantly people of Karimnagar parliamentary constituency. I earnestly request you to continue to support me in my service for nation," he said in a

post on X. Kumar, who was elected from the Karimnagar seat in Telangana, also performed puja at his office in the presence of several priests before taking charge.

# 'Godavari waters for 1.2 L acres...

## Probes into scams haunt...

Convenor.

Continued from page 1

Meanwhile, engineers from the Hydrology and Experts Committees met Justice PC Ghosh on Thursday. The Commission directed the engineers from both committees to submit an interim report within two weeks and a comprehensive report as soon as possible.Justice Ghosh also suggested that the expert com-

mittees should file an affidavit concerning technical matters. A technical expert committee was appointed with JNTU Professor C. Kameshwar Rao as Chairman, retired engineer Satayanaryana, Warangal Professor Ramanamurthy, Professor Rajashekar and ENC Anil Kumar as

The Committee has

already visited the barrages and is reportedly of the opinion that the barrages were constructed only to divert water but instead stored huge quantities of water and due to this the Medigadda Barrage's piers

The expert committee was told to file its report in two weeks. The committee is likely to induct electrical experts.

Continued from page 1

They also went to Pump House-3 and reviewed the project's progress with offi-

officials Irrigation explained through a PowerPoint presentation the project works done so far, canal work, land acquisition, funds required for completing the project and problems encountered in completing

Later, addressing the meeting, Bhatti said the BRS admin redesigned Rajiv, Indira Sagar projects that could have been completed for Rs 2,654 crore as the Sitarama Project, hiked project cost to Rs 20,000 crore and misused public money.

The BRS government spent Rs 8,000 crore in the last 10 years on the Sitarama Project but could not provide irriga-

tion to even a single acre, he said.The Congress admin held a high-level review meeting at the Secretariat for completing all pending projects including the Sitarama Project, he said.

The government sanctioned Rs 72 crore to complete the nine km Enkur Link Canal to connect the Sitarama Project with the NSP canal, Bhatti said and recalled that the Irrigation Minister had laid the foundation for the

work at Wyra before the election code was imposed, he said. The government also sanctioned funds for supplying power to facilitate the trial run of the pumps. The trial runs are continuing, he added. He said the Enkur link canal

will be named the Rajiv canal. Bhatti said work on the Sitarama Lift Irrigation Project's Pump Houses 1, 2, 3 and the distributary package would commence soon.

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NAMES OF FORMER MINISTERS FIGURE IN BOOKS

# **Edn dept instructs DEOs** to return school textbooks

Telangana State Education department officials on Thursday instructed all the DEOs in the State to return all the textbooks which were distributed to the students as the names of former ministers figured in them. This has created tension among teachers and students as they have to wait for a month to get their textbooks.

The fiasco of textbooks was discovered when the names of former chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao and ministers Kadiam Srihari and Sabitha Indra Reddy figured in them. The State government has instructed the Education department officials to return the books immediately.

Telangana Recognised Schools Management Association leader Y Shekar Rao said, "This mistake has occurred as the current government had not appointed the education minister. Chief



Minister A Revanth Reddy is taking care of education sector along with works related to other departments. They should have appointed the minister for education during the formation of the new government. This issue arose as the education minister was not appointed. Moreover, it will take at least a month to reprint the forward in school textbooks thereby delaying the classes and wastage of money

Though the officials added the former chief minister's name as his government laid the foundation of Telangana, they didn't carry or follow the current government's name or its

minister." Prior to the State government instructions, some of the headmasters in governmentt schools in the city had torn the foreward and distributed the textbooks to the students.

With the announcement of returning of textbooks by the State government, a majority of government teachers flayed the negligence of SCERT offi-cials who failed to revise the foreword when there was change in government in Telangana.

Ravi Chava, a member of Telangana State United Teachers' Federation said, "Gross negligence of the SCERT officers penalised the education department as well as headmasters. TSUTF demands government to conduct an inquiry and take severe action against those responsible. Due to this negligence, there is a huge wastage of money on printing and transport charges.

Naresh Somaiahgari, a government teacher said, "It's clearly indicating the negligence of SCERT officials. TG government changed in November 2023 but they didn't make any changes in Telugu textbooks' preface of 1-10 classes.

# Hyd Metro to launch awareness drive to ensure passenger safety

Reviews monsoon preparedness

PNS HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Metro Rail Ltd (HMRL) Managing Director NVS Reddy led a crucial review meeting on Thursday to evaluate the Metro's preparedness for the impending monsoon season. The session, held at Metro Rail Bhavan, included L&TMRHL MD KVB Reddy and senior officials from L&TMRHL, Keolis (the Operations & Maintenance company), HMRL and Independent Engineer AECOM.

With an emphasis on uninterrupted service, passenger safety and convenience during heavy rains, Reddy called for heightened vigilance and roundthe-clock monitoring of Metro operations and installations by senior engineers. He commended the pre-monsoon maintenance efforts and safety measures implemented and reiterated several key directives.

Arrangements have been made for immediate switching to alternate electric feeders in case of Transco feeder tripping, to avoid service disruptions. Thorough inspections and sealing of expansion joints, cleaning



of rainwater spouts and pipes, and removing vegetation on viaducts are prioritised. Regular pruning of trees near the Metro viaduct and removal of foreign objects from the electric traction have been advised.

Additional housekeeping staff will be deployed to prevent water stagnation on platforms due to rains. Flexible advertisements near the viaduct will be removed to avoid disruptions, and loose nuts and bolts on electrical fittings will be tightened.

To further secure the infrastructure, additional G.I. clamps will be installed on station roofs to prevent their falling due to heavy rains and gales. Measures to prevent water-logging at Metro entry and exit points, lifts and escalators are being taken. Steps to protect against corrosion of rail tracks and steel structures are also being implemented.

Reddy also urged L&TMRHL to conduct a passenger awareness campaign on safety practices, prompted by a recent tragic incident in Delhi Metro where a passenger was fatally

The campaign will educate passengers on standing behind the yellow line until the train stops, avoiding door congestion, allowing disembarking passengers to exit first, securing loose items, using handrails on escalators, and refraining from using mobile phones while boarding or exiting trains.

Task Force nabs 9 over PDS rice scam;

### Govt asked to review vacancies for Group II exams

PNS HYDERABAD

Founder and President of Telangana Vanarula Rakshana Sena (TVRS) Bakka Judson urged Chief Secretary of Telangana government to review the vacancies of Group II exams, through a letter on Thursday. Bakka Judson said, "The Telangana government is announcing the Group II exams without any scientific evaluation of the vacancies in the govern-ment departments. The total number of vacancies is 2,67,316 lakh at various levels and these vacancies have to be filled to provide good governance and service to the citizens."

He also stated that earlier, the government had promised to fill two lakh posts. Six months have already passed till date. The government has not conducted departmental review meetings to identify the number of vacancies. It is also contemplating to hold the DSC exam, Singareni and the Group II exams in August 2024. As a result, the aspirants will not be able to prepare for both the exams at the same time. "We request you to evaluate vacancies and enhance Group 2 and 3 posts and postpone the Group II exam to a later month."

# CCS Inspector of Police in ACB net for bribery

PNS HYDERABAD

In a significant operation conducted by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), Chamakuri Sudhakar, Inspector of Police, Team-7, Economic Offences Wing (EOW), Central Crime Station (CCS), Detective Department, Hyderabad, was apprehended for accepting a

The arrest took place at 6:10 pm on Thursday. The incident unfolded when Inspector Sudhakar was caught red-handed by the AČB Hyderabad City Unit-2. He had demanded a bribe of Rs 5,00,000 and accepted Rs 3,00,000 from the complainant, Mani Ranga Swamy, a resident Bowenpally, Secunderabad. The bribe was



favour in an investigation against the complainant and to dispose of the case in his

Investigations revealed that Inspector Sudhakar initially demanded Rs15,00,000 and had already received an advance of Rs 5,00,000 from the complainant. The ACB team recovered the bribe amount from Sudhakar's solicited to provide undue shoulder bag, which tested

positive for chemicals used in

bribe detection.

Inspector Sudhakar accepted the money at the parking place opposite CCS (old CP office, Basheer Bagh). Upon noticing the ACB staff, he abandoned the bag and fled on foot towards the temple opposite. foot towards the temple opposite the CP office. Inspectors Satish and constables Munna, Govind Naik and Harikanth Reddy chased and apprehended him. Inspector Sudhakar has been arrested and will be produced before the Principal Special Judge for SPE and ACB cases at Nampally, Hyderabad. The case is currently under investigation. The ACB has urged the public to report any demands for bribes by public servants by contacting their toll-free number 1064.

# & BIG C BIGC SAMSUNG Galaxy Al\*Days



Big C founder and CMD M Balu Chowdary announcing Samsung Galaxy A1

### 46 quintal rice, 4 quintal wheat seized PNS HYDERABAD The Commissioner's Task Force, in coordination with various police units on Wednesday arrested nine persons involved in PDS rice scam and seized 46 quintals of rice and 4 quintals of wheat from them.

The accused were identified as Vishal Yadav (22), a driver and resident of Attapur; Mohammad Nasir (28), a labourer and resident of Musheerabad; Mohammed Shoaib(20), a scrap dealer and resident of Warasiguda; Mohammed Shahbaz (28) a resident of Warsiguda; Mohammed Jahangir (28), a resident of Warsiguda; Sangam Lova (24), a resident of Saroornagar; Syed Raheem (25), a resident of Patel Nagar; Syed Nazim (24), a resident of Patel Nagar and Mohammed



Mazher (28), a resident of Patel Nagar.

During interrogation, the accused revealed that they were purchasing PDS rice from local ration card beneficia-

They then stored the rice in warehouses, which have been subsequently raided and seized. The accused would sell the rice in the black market to local agents, illegally profiting from these transactions. The accused persons have been handed over to the concerned police stations for further action as per the law.

Apart from rice and wheat, the police seized a weighing machine, a two-wheeler and a truck, all worth Rs 2,50,000.

# Medical camp for reconstructive surgery for birth defects

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Police, in coordination with the Aakar Asha Hospital, Centre for Reconstructive Surgery, will organise a medical camp for reconstructive surgery for birth defects on June 15.

Cases such as burn injuries, physical deformities caused due to accidents and tumours will be dealt with from 9 am to 2 pm at Bharosa Centre, HACA Bhawan, opposite Public Garden, Saifabad.

As a part of welfare mea-sures to the staff and needy patients, i.e general public, as well as the family members or relatives of staff and officers of Hyderabad City Police can use the services free of cost and intimate to this office or contact number. 8712658700.

The patients identified will be taken up for surgical treatment at Aakar Asha Hospital, Kukatpally, Hyderabad free

of cost and the attendants will also be given hospital dormitory and food free of

Centre for Reconstructive Surgery, Aakar Asha Hospital, is tied up with Telangana, Department of Women, Child and Disability and MEPMA for the provision of free services.

People from low income background who are suffering with different health ailments (deformities) can avail the services freely until completion of treatment.

The scheduled programme is organised by the Aakar Asha Hospital with the specialist do the specialist cialist doctors in collabora-tion with the Hyderabad City Police. All the patients who are eligible can avail this free service by registering their details onphone numbers and address; Bharosa Phone No. 040-27852500 and Akar Asha Helpline No. 040-48215050.

# Min inaugurates Innovera Pharma's site in New Jersey

PNS HYDERABAD

In a step towards helping Telangana companies and entrepreneurs scale globally, Minister of Information Technology, Electronics, and Communications, Sridhar Babu, inaugurated Innovera Pharma's latest site in New Jersey, USA, during his recent

The collaboration began at a key meeting at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, where Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and IT Minister Sridhar Babu led a delegation earlier this year. These discussions led to the company deciding to invest in Telangana.

According to Innovera Pharma, within 30 days of the announcement, a groundbreaking ceremony was held on February 22, 2024, in Suryapet, Telangana. This event marked the start of a major project to enhance local manufacturing capabilities and infrastructure.

Minister Sridhar Babu's inauguration of Innovera



IT Minister Sridhar Babu seen with the members of Innovera Pharma in Nev

Pharma's new site in New Jersey is a company's global expansion. This state-of-theart facility is expected to play a crucial role in expanding Innovera Pharma's research, development and production capabilities. His presence at the inauguration highlights the importance of international collaboration and the Telangana government's commitment to supporting innovative companies in their global endeavours.

Sridhar Babu said, the part-

nership shows how regional governments can support enterprises in scaling their operations globally. By creating such alliances, Telangana continues to position itself as a leader in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology sectors, attracting investments and enhancing its global presence. This partnership strengthens Innovera Pharma's global presence and strengthens Telangana's status as a key player in the global healthcare

### Guv's call to donate blood

PNS HYDERABAD

Governor of Telangana, Jharkhand Governor of Puducherry CP Radhakri

shnan extended his wishes to the public, especially blood donors on the occasion of World Blood Donors Day on Friday and stated that there should not be even a single fatality due to non-availability of blood in Telangana State and elsewhere in the world.

The Governor said, "I extend my best wishes to all the blood donors, who are generously donating blood to save precious lives. Blood donation is a noble, humane and invaluable act. Your selfless donation has a profound impact on the lives and wellbeing of people, as well as their families. This year the theme for World Blood Donors Day is '20 years of celebrating giving'. This is the right occasion to recognise, salute and thank the voluntary blood donors for their generous service."

## **Health Min asks officials** to upgrade components of 14 blood banks

PNS HYDERABAD

A high-level review meeting on performance management and strengthening, along with upgrading the components of 14 blood banks for better performance under the government, was held at the State Secretariat on Thursday. The meeting was led by State Minister for Medical Health, Family Welfare, Science, and Technology, Damodar Rajanarsimha.

During the meeting, Damodar Rajanarsimha asked officials about the functioning and manage-ment of 63 blood banks run by the Department of Medical Health and Family Welfare of the Telangana State government.

The Minister also directed officials to celebrate World Blood Donation Day on June 14. He asked them to organise blood awareness seminars in all district centres and to set up blood donation camps and select blood reserves.



State Medical Health Department Secretary Christina Bonglu, Family Welfare Commissioner RV Karnan, AIDS Control Society Project Director Haimavathi, Director of Medical Education Dr Vani, Telangana Vaidya Vidhana Parishad Commissioner Dr Ajay Kumar, IPM Director Dr Shiva Leela and Medical and Health Additional Director Dr Amar Singh participated in the review meet-

### **TG Guv Principal Secy's** email ID hacked

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Governor Principal Secretary and State Government Education, BC Burra Venkatesham's email ID was hacked, as per the officials on Thursday.

According to officials, "The gmail ID of Burra Venkatesham - sriburravenkatesham@gmail.com has been hacked. People and other concerned officials should not respond to the mails or whatsapp messages from the hacked gmail ID and block the account, if the hackers try to contact anyone with mail.

If anyone can identify the hacker, they were asked to report it to the police immediately.

# CM Revanth to present FTCCI awards on July 5

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy will present the Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI) Excellence Awards on July 5. The FTCCI, a 107-year-old regional chamber in India, announced its next edition of excellence awards. Entries are now open for entrepreneurs in Telangana, FTCCI President Meela Jayadev shared this information at a press conference at Federation House in Red Hills on Thursday. Senior Vice-President of

TCCI president Meela Jayadev, Senior vice-president Suresh Kumar Singhal and Karunendra S Jasti release the nomination entries poster for awards on Thursday FTCCI Suresh Kumar Singhal quality production, excellent growth and contribution to the State's GDP. Jayadev said, explained that the organisation

recognises companies for

awards gain credibility when presented by respected organisations liké FTCCI. He noted that the awards

boost morale, improve quality and production, and earn recognition for companies. The jury is chaired by Karunendra S Jasti, with Ramakanth Inani as Co-Chairman. Jasti emphasised the differ-

ences of the awards, as they are given by the apex body of trade in the State which is judged by a jury including Justice Challa Kodanda Ram, civil officers M Gopal Krishna and Ajay Mishra, Uday B

Desai, Founding Director of IIT Hyderabad and Vanitha Datla, MD of Elico.

According to FTCCI, awards will be given in areas such as exports, marketing, innovation, R&D technology, information technology, employee welfare, aerospace and defence and tourism pro-

New categories include digital transformation by enterprises and ESG performance, totaling 21 categories. The committee expects 200 entries, with a nominal entry fee, which is kept aside for certain categories.

# GRITATER TYPE SAASAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION 'E' PROCUREMENT SHORT TENDER NOTICE NIT No. 61 / DD(VET) CR2/CHWC/2624-25, Name of the Work: Supply of Food & Medicine for Temporary Cattle Holding Centre, Charminar

Zone, GHMC for Baland - 2024 arrangements, Estimated Amount: Rs. 2,30,857.00, Star date/Last date & time for receipts of Bids: 13.06.2024 @ 3.00 P.M. to 14.06.2024 upto 4.00 PM Name & Address Officer Cell No.: Deputy Director, Veterinary Section, Olo Zona Commissioner, Phoolbegh, Charminar Zone, G.H.M.C., Ph. No. 9989930397. Further details Commissioner, Producegn, Crismines 2000, Week, Sender, Jelangana.gov.in Sci- Deputy Director (Vet)

R.O.No: 582-PP/CL/ADVT/10004-25, Dt. 13-86-2004

🕝 GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION 🧀

MT No. 1 SEIGCOGMMCTPOCOSAL

TENDER NOTICE

Dated: 12.06.2824

Subject: Third Platry Quality Control Services for Civil Works glouduring CRMP, SNDP, Housing & Works having PNCI) of Girldor. The Superintending Engineer, Quality Control Circle, GMMC insites tenders on behalf of the Commissioner, CHMC, for 3rd party quality control Services for Civil Works (seededing CRMP, SMDP, Housing & Works having PMCs) of Greater Hyderabad Manicipal Corporation (works cooling above Rs. 5.06 Listing from Universities? Firegineering Colleges. Research & Development (Rs. 50) Institutes. The Agencies who are writing to offer their services shall submit complete details in prescribed formats in document form within the be downloaded from the website www.ghme.goscis. The document form with all required details should be submitted to the Superintending Engineer, Quality Control Circle, GMMC on or before 18.06.2824 up to 3.00 PM. The technical bids will be opined on the same day at 3.38 PM. A pre-bid meeting will be held on 18.06.2824 at 3.30 PM. In the chambers of Superintending Engineer, Quality Control Circle, GMMC of the shows add meeting for clarification. Any further information may be obtained from the office of Superintending Engineer, Quality Control Circle, 4th Floor, 4th Floor, 4th Floor, GMMC Complex, GMMC during office workinghous (9999930020).

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3d-Superintending Engineer, Quality Control Circle, GMMC LO.No: 965-PPICLIADWT113004-25, Dt. 13.86.2024 Sd.- Superintending Engineer, Quality Control Circle, GHM

he pioneer



SHORTAGE IN SUPPLY

# Vegetable prices hit roof in Telangana

## Prices may come down when fresh crop arrives at the market

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

Household budgets are taking a severe beating with vegetable prices rising by the day in Telangana. The rise in the vegetable price is attributed to shortage in supply. Vegetable crops had been hit by heatwave in the beginning and later by unseasonal rains.

The inflationary tendency of vegetables and other essential commodities hit the poor and middle classes. Very high temporatures during the support peratures during the summer and heavy rains lashing the Narayanapeta district led to vendors selling some vegetables at Rs 100 per kg and some others at Rs 80-90 per kg. The traders have been importing vegetables from Raichur and Yadgir in Karnataka. Therefore, they pass on the incidental costs like the cost of transportation to the consumers and hence the very high price of vegetables in the open market.



The prices of the vegetables here are more by Rs 10 to Rs 20 in the open market when compared to their prices in Rytu

Bitter Gourd and green chillies sell at Rs 100 per kg, while the pries of ridge gourd and beans exceeded Rs 100 by Rs 20 (Rs 120 per kg)

Capsicum is being sold at Rs 90 a kg, while long beans have been priced at Rs 80 a kg. Cauli flower is also being sold at Rs 80 a kg. Beans seeds are being

sold at Rs 200-240 a kg. The Rytu Bazaars have no variety of vegetables. They merely sell locally produced tomatoes, brinjals and spinach. The prices will ease only when the Vanakalam vegetable crops arrives at the market. The South-West monsoon is active all over the state and farmers have been preparing the fields

for cultivation of vegetables in

The inflationary ten-

dency of vegetables

and other essential

commodities hit the

classes. Very high

temperatures during the summer and

heavy rains lashing

the Narayanapeta district led to vendors

selling some vegeta-

bles at Rs 100 per kg

and some others at

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poor and middle

In Armoor of Nizamabad district, the prices of vegetables have almost doubled in a span of just one week. The high prices are attributed to shrinking of the area under cultivation of vegetable and green and leafy vegetable crops. The con-sumers were heard commenting that the prices of vegetables have almost been on a par with the prices of chicken and meat.

In Khammam, the traders in Rytu Bazars have been selling vegetables at an exorbitant prices. Let alone speaking of high prices of vegetables in the open market.

The vegetable yield has gone down because of the high temperature in Khammam. The wholesale market imports 800-900 quintals of vegetables daily. Currently, the market imports only 400-500 quintals. The wholesale traders import some of them from Karnataka, AP

Hyderabad District Collector Anudeep Durishetty speaking at a meeting in Hyderabad on Thursday

# Officials told to facilitate smooth conduct of Civil Services exam

PNS HYDERABAD

Hyderabad District Collector Anudeep Durishetty on Thursday stated that the Union Public Service Commission Civil Services Preliminary Examination which will be held on June 16 should be conducted smoothly and calmly. He was speaking at a meeting held with supervisors and route officers on the conduct of UPSC Civil Services preliminary examination at the hall of Sarojini Naidu Vanita Mahavidyalaya at Nampally Exhibition Ground on

Thursday.
The Collector said that
45,153 candidates registered for
the Civil Services Preliminary Examination to be conducted in 99 examination centres in Hyderabad. It was ordered to conduct the examination strictly according to the UPSC regulations.

Examination for Paper 1

will be conducted from 9.30 am to 11.30 am, while Paper 2 from 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm. As per the UPSC regulations, the gates of the examination center will be closed 30 minutes ahead of the examination.

Candidates should reach the examination centres 30 minutes before the morning examination at 9 am and 30 minutes before the afternoon i.e. by 2 pm. Those who come after the said timings will not be allowed. Also, they are not allowed to carry any electronic items such as calculators, cell phones, pagers, bluetooth, pen drives, smart watches, programme devices, electronic gadgets and electronic items

into the centres. The collector advised the police to allow female candidates to be checked by female police and male police to allow male candidates to enter the examination centers. No one should be allowed in the examination center (No ID No Entry) without an identity card and unauthorized persons should be kept away from the examination centers.

Cameras should be installed at each examination center, clean toilets and drinking water should be ensured, examination center supervisors should inspect and submit a report in advance to ensure that all facilities are available in each examination center. The supervisors of the examination centers should work in accordance

with the UPSC guidelines. District Revenue Officer Venkatachari explained the conduct of UPSC examination through power point presenta-

Additional Collector Patil Hemanta Keshav, UPSC Deputy Secretary Shailesh Gautam, Ashok Joshi, RDOs Mahipal, Dasharath Singh and others were present in this

### NATIONAL SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

# OU inaugurates certificate course in fermentation tech

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Osmania University inaugurated the National Skill Development Programme's Certificate Programme in Fermentation Technology on Thursday at Prof. T Navaneeth Rao Central Facilities for Research and Development (PTNR-CFRD).

The programme is jointly run by Prof. T Navaneeth Rao Central Facilities for Research and Development (PTNR-CFRD) at Osmania University, CSIR-CSMCRI, Gujarat, and Abode Biotech India Pvt. Ltd. The CSIR Integrated Skill Initiative includes the three-day certificate programme. The curriculum attempts to teach the fundamentals and practical uses of fermentation technology to

the students. Veeraiah, Prof. Principal, UCS, Osmania University, who served as the event's chief guest, explained to the students why they should take advantage of

Additionally, during the begining of academic year 2023, the OU Department of Microbiology offered a new M.Sc. degree on Fermentation Technology. These kinds of training will help students develop their abilities and



prepare them for the future. Dr Sourish Bhattacharya, a

scientist and coordinator from CSIR-CSMCRI, Gujarat, spoke about how India was able to meet the needs of both the nation and the world for the Covid vaccine by mass producing vaccinations during the pandemic.

The directors of Abode Biotech India Pvt. Ltd., Sreenadh Ranjith Kumar, emphasised that students had to make an effort to comprehend the industrial-level components and methodologies of fermentation technology. They talked about how they started off producing probiotics

on a modest scale and how, in less than ten years, they were able to scale up various technologies.

The programme conveners, Shalini and Dr Hameeda Bee, Chairperson Board of Studies, Dept. of Microbiology, elaborated on the significance of these certificate courses for students studying life sciences.

has raised public knowledge of probiotics, fermented foods, and novel medicinal biomolecules, these programmes will advance grassroots innovations to the proof of concept stage and expand

# Nirmal Rural SI suspended for irregularities

PNS HYDERABAD

Multi Zonel IGP AV. Ranganath suspended Nirmal Rural SI K Chandramohan who tried to benefit a company by committing irregularities in the investigation of the vehicle insurance money claim

case on Thursday.

Based on the sources, a two-wheeler collided with a car under Nirmal rural police station limits and the person who drove the two-wheeler was seriously injured. The incident took place on February 2.

But the vehicle insurance for the car that was hit by the twowheeler expired on that day. However, the car owner

PNS HYDERABAD

Organisation's Society for

(SERP), SHG-bank linkage

annual loan plan for 2024-25

will be released by Minister

renewed the car insurance on February 3 and concealed the fact of the incident to SI K Chandramohan that the twowheeler hit the car on February 6 and registered the case under various Sections on February 13. The accused who was suspended has previously worked as an SI in Sarangapur police station. He was reprimanded by the top police officers after being accused of encouraging gambling houses while working as an SI. Based on the report given by the SP of Nirmal district that since there is no change in the accused and damaging the reputation of the

police department, the accused has been suspended.

Sandeep Kumar Sultania,

Corporation and Anita

Ramachandran, CEO of

Development

The Rural Development Jubilee Hills on Saturday.

of Women and Child SERP, will be present.

Elimination of Rural Poverty Principal Secretary of the

Rural

Seethakka to relase SHG-bank linkage plan

### 72.66 % of candidates qualify in TG LAWCET, PGLCET

PNS HYDERABAD

About 72.66 per cent of candidates qualified in both Telangana State Law Common Entrance Test (LAWCET) and PGLCET results that were released on

According to the officials, the total number of the candidates registered for the exams was 50,684 out of whom 40,268 appeared for the test. About 29,258 candidates have qualified.

Welfare, Seethakka, at Dr Other participants will and district officers who MCRHRD Institute in include the SLBC excelled in the SHG loan

Coordinator, the RBI

Regional Coordinator, the

CGM of NABARD, and var-

State-level awards will be

given to branch managers

According to the SERP,

ious bank officials.

Out of 40,268 candidates who appeared for the tests, 26,875 are males, 13,389 are females and four transgenders. From among the qualified candidates, males are 20,237, females are 9,017 and four transgenders.

Their qualified percentage is 75.30 per cent, 67.35 per cent and 100 per cent respec-

sanctioning plan for 2023-

Later, the role of banks

in the Mahila Shakti pro-

gramme initiated by the

State government will be

Candidates can view their ranks on the official website https://lawcet.tsche.ac.in and counselling will begin soon.

### Hyd CP conducts review meet ahead of Bakrid

**PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Commissioner of Pólice Kothakotta Sreenivas Reddy on Thursday conducted a review meeting ahead of

Reddy assured the stakeholders of full cooperation from the police department for conducting the festival peacefully. "Rules and regu-lations will be followed and no one will be allowed to take the law into their hands. Law and order and all arrangements will be made and all the community mem-Bakrid without any hesitation," the Commissioner said.

The GHMC and officials from the electricity department and water works also assured full and uninterrupted facilities for peaceful & successful conduct of the festival.

### **Government school teacher** murdered in Telangana

PNS ADILABAD

A 40-year-old government school teacher was murdered allegedly by unidentified persons in Adilabad district of Telangana, police said. The deceased was identified as Gaianand. The deceased, who was a

Telugu language teacher in Narnoor mandal, was hit with boulders when he was on his way to work at a school in Gadiguda mandal on Wednesday resulting in his death, they said.

It is suspected the teacher was murdered following "disputes" with his wife, however a detailed probe was underway



to identify the persons responsible for the killing and ascertain the reasons, a police official said, based on preliminary investigation

The father of the deceased in a complaint lodged with police suspected the role of his daughter-in-law behind the killing, police said.

A murder case was registered, the official added. Further investigation was on.

## Chided by wife, man climbs high tension wires

PNS HYDERABAD

The Saidabad Police on June 12 booked a man for climbing atop high tension wires and creating a ruckus.

The accused was identified Mohan Babu (25), a labourer. He resorted to the antics after being chided by his wife for coming home in an inebriated state. Following an argument, Babu went to a

tower at Sankeshwar bazaar road and scaled it. Passersby took note of the incident and informed the

local power department officials, who switched off the power supply. Police arrived at the spot and persuaded Babu to get down. As persuasion failed, police personnel planned to climb the

tower and bring him down. Noticing that police and power department officials were climbing the tower, Babu came down.

He was taken to the police station. Babu told police that his wife was harassing him, following which he got angry and resorted to the

the news for wrong reasons. In a recent development, a mother on Wednesday protested in front of an RTC bus as she was not allowed to help her differently-abled son board

The women broke into tears

According to reports, a woman made her two daugh-

seat to her differently-abled son In a recent development, a mother on Wednesday protested in front of an RTC bus as she was not

PNS WARANGAL

The free ride scheme in RTC buses for women has been in

the bus. The driver drove away the bus before the mother helped her son board the bus.

for not allowing her physically-challenged son to travel in

allowed to help her differently-abled son board the bus. The driver drove away the bus before the mother helped her son board the bus

Woman protests as RTC crew denies

ters board the Nekkonda-Mahabubabad RTC bus at Warangal bus station. As the woman got down the bus to assist her differently-abled son to board the bus, the driver zoomed past as she was yet to get into the bus. However, the conductor asked her to travel by another bus as there is no room for her in the bus. The

driver who was not aware of the woman's two daughters were in the bus, he drove past the bus.

The woman chased the RTC bus in a three-wheeler and forced it to stop and later staged a sit-in in front of the bus. The passengers in the bus tried to persuade her to call off her protest, but she did not

relent. She was asked to bring her son by autorickshaw so that she and her son would be able to travel by the bus. However, she did not agree to the idea and sought to know from the passengers who would bear the auto-rickshaw fare for her. She insisted that the RTC bus should go back to the bus stand so that her son would be able to travel by the bus. Meanwhile, the traffic police reached the place and persuaded her to withdraw her protest and pacified her and took steps to dispatch the bus. The passngers heaved a sigh of

# Villager gets electricity bill for Rs 21.47 crore!

The Electricity Department officials have issued electricity bill for an amount exceeding Rs 21 crore to a consumer at Khanapur village Nagarkarnool district.

On one hand the state government has been providing free power for the poor up to 200 units, but on the other the Electricity Department has been accused of issuing inflated power bills. The consumers have been complaining of metre reading errors at sever-

al places. Hitherto there were instances of hut-dwellers receiving electricity bills run-

rupees. Here is the case of a consumer receiving the bill exceeding Rs 21 crore for the month of May. The Electricity Department

personnel on June 5 took meter reading from the house of Vema Reddy in Khanapur village and handed him over a bill for Rs 21.47 crore. The shocked Vemareddy took the matter to the notice of

the electricity department offi-The officials have identified that the person who read the meter who apparently has no idea on how to take the reading calculated the power used

by Vemareddy since 1970 and



fixed the monthly electricity charges to be collected from him as Rs 21, 47, 48,569. He took the bill with effect from

Jan 15, 1970 to June 5, 2024. The electricity consumers attribute such a glaring clerical errors creeping into the elecdepartment using the services of private individuals instead of using the services of government linemen.

When Assistant Engineer Mahesh was approached for his clarification, he admitted that the bill was given to Vemareddy asking him to pay a whopping amount of Rs 21.47 crore towards electricity charges. However, the official said that the error in the bill would be rectified soon.

The callousness displayed by the private individual hired by the electricity department to read the electricity meters and prepare the bills should be condemned by all.

# Rs 73.4 cr sanctioned for schools, colleges in Kodangal

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has sanctioned Rs 73.45 crore for the construction of junior college and additional infrastructure for a school at Kodangal. Principal Secretary Burra Venkatesham issued G.O.Rt.No. 76, G.O.Rt.No. 77 and G.O.Rt.No. 78 on

Thursday. An administrative sanction of additional amount of Rs 25,00,00,000 was given for construction of a new building for MJPTBCWR Junior



College at Kodangal for execution of the works under KADA jurisdiction.

sanction of additional amount of Rs 23,45,00,000 was given for construction of additional infrastructure for MJPTBCWR School at Kodangal for execution of the works under KADA iurisdiction. Another administrative

sanction of additional amount of Rs 25,00,00,000 was given for construction of MJPT-BCWR School/College (Girls) Buranpur(V) Bomraspet(M) for execution of the works under KADA juris-

### **Gurugram man falls pray to sextortion** trap, loses over Rs 78,000

embers of a sextortion gang allegedly duped a man of over Rs 78,000 here, police said on Thursday. According to a complaint filed by the man, on April 30, he got a video call on his WhatsApp from a girl who was nude. She later convinced him to take off his clothes during the video call and recorded it. "After some time, I got a call from a mobile number who posed as a crime branch officer. He asked me to pay Rs 20,000 and threatened

me that he would circulate my nude video clip on social media," he said in the complaint. "I transferred Rs 20,000 but he again asked me that if I want to get the clip deleted, I will have to pay. After that I got scared and I had transferred Rs 58,999 again on a mobile UPI number. Later, I found myself duped and moved to the police", as the complainant said in his complaint. An FIR was registered under sections 419 (cheating by impersonation), 420 (cheating) of the IPC at cyber crime, west police station on Wednesday, said police



### SC stays release of movie 'Hamare Baarah', criticises CBFC

The Supreme Court on Thursday stayed the June 14 release of Annu Kapoor's movie "Hamare Baarah" after taking note of allegations that the film is derogatory to the Islamic faith and married Muslim women. Referring to certain "offensive dialogues" shown in the trailer, the top court expressed its anguish over the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) not removing them. "We have seen the movie trailer in the morning and all the

offensive dialogues continue in the trailer... we are convinced that the CBFC, which is the statutory body entrusted under the Act, has failed to do its job," said a vacation bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta during the brief hearing. The bench took note of the submissions of lawyer Fauzia Shakil, who represented petitioner Azhar Basha Tamboli, and asked the Bombay High Court to decide the plea expeditiously



### TN govt to operate LNG, CNG buses on experimental basis for select routes

ith an aim at reducing the environmental impact of running buses using diesel and to save costs, The Tamil Nadu government on Thursday launched CNG and LNG buses for select routes, on an experimental basis. The move to run buses using alternative fuels would enable the government to save 7-20 per cent on the total expenses, and reduce the carbon footprint of the state transport department. According to an official

release, about 1.76 crore people are served by the 20,160 diesel buses operated by the various transport corporations, every day. Nearly, 27 per cent of expenses incurred by the transport corporations account for fuels. Based on the orders of Chief Minister M K Stalin to use buses run on alternate fuels, Minister for Transport S S Sivasankar said that 14 buses using Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) would be operated by seven transport corporations, on an experimental basis.



# **Armed forces ready to face** every challenge: Rajnath

PNS NEW DELHI

The new government will focus on further bolstering national security by modernising the armed forces and significantly enhancing domestic defence production, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Thursday after taking charge of office.
Outlining his vision for the

next five years, Singh the gov-ernment will work assiduously to increase the defence exports to Rs 50,000 crore by 2028-29 from current Rs 21,083 crore.

The armed forces are being equipped with state-of-the-art weapons and platforms and they are ready to face every challenge, he told reporters after assuming charge as the defence minister for the second consecutive term.

Singh also commended the



military personnel for protecting the unity, integrity and sovereignty of the nation with valour and commitment, in comments that came amid the lingering border row with

China in eastern Ladakh. Reflecting growing salience of the Indian Ocean Region in India's defence calculus, Singh decided that he will undertake the first visit in his second term as defence minister to the Eastern Naval Command in Visakhapatnam to interact with

the officers and sailors. "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, our aim will be to further strengthen the security apparatus of the country, with focus on achieving self-reliance in defence manufacturing," he

"Armed forces modernisation and the welfare of the soldiers, both serving and retired, will continue to be our main focus," he said.

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval called on Singh and is understood to have discussed issues relating to national security.

Singh was among the senior BJP leaders including Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari and Nirmala Sitharaman who retained the ministries that they handled in the previous government.

He said the government will also focus on boosting India's defence production. "Defence exports had touched a record Rs 21,083 crore in financial Year 2023-24. It was historic. Our target will be to export over Rs 50,000 crore worth of defence equipment by 2028-2029," he said.

### Three more held in Renukaswamy murder case

PNS BENGALURU

Three people, including the close aide of Kannada star Darshan Thoogudeepa, were arrested by the police in connection with Renukaswamy murder case.

According to police sources, Darshan's aide Nagaraj was looking after all the dealings of the actor.

He was also taking care of Darshan's farmhouse in Mysuru. Nagaraj was on the run ever since police arrested Darshan, his friend and actress Pavithra Gowda and 11 other henchmen. Sources did not divulge details about his co-star Pradosh's role in the murder.

Pradosh had appeared in minor roles in some movies of territories. where Darshan was the lead actor. Another henchman identified as Ravi surrendered Deputy the Superintendent of Police on the joint statement between

## India rejects 'unwarranted' references to J&K in China-Pak joint statement PNS NEW DELHI

India on Thursday categorically rejected "unwarranted" references to Jammu and Kashmir in a latest joint statement by China and Pakistan and asserted that the Union territory and Ladakh have been, are and will always remain its integral parts.

The joint statement was issued in Beijing on June 7 fol-lowing talks between Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif

and Chinese Premier Li Qiang. India also criticised mentioning of projects under the so-called China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in the joint statement and said New Delhi rejects any moves to reinforce or legitimise Islamabad's illegal occupation

The CPEC passes through Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir. "We have noted unwarranted references to the Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir in



China and Pakistan of June 7. We categorically reject such references," External Affairs spokesperson Ministry Randhir Jaiswal said.

"Our position on the issue is consistent and well known to the concerned parties. The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the Union Territory of Ladakh have been, are and will always remain integral and inalienable parts of India," he said.

Jaiswal was responding to a media query on the joint state-

"No other country has the locus standi to comment on the same," he said.

The China-Pakistan joint statement said the Pakistani side briefed the Chinese side on the latest developments in Jammu and Kashmir.

It said the Chinese side reiterated that the "Jammu and Kashmir dispute is left over from history, and should be properly and peacefully resolved in accordance with the UN Charter, relevant UN Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements".

The MEA spokesperson also took strong note of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) that featured in the joint statement.

"The same joint statement also mentions activities and projects under the so-called China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), some of which are in India's sovereign territory under forcible and illegal occupation by Pakistan,

### 'Modi hai toh mehengai hai': **Congress takes dig at PM**

PNS NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over inflation figures for May, saying the PM has no solution to the "cri-

The opposition party's assertion came a day after government data released on lav stated that retai inflation continued its downward slide to reach a one-year low of 4.75 per cent in May due to a marginal decline of prices in the food basket.

Inflation in the food basket was at 8.69 per cent in May, marginally down from 8.70 per cent in April, according to the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

'Modi hai toh mehengai hai! Food price inflation has been over 8.5% for four months. Pulses have completed a year of over 10% inflation, with prices rising 17.14% in May," Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said on X.
"In the Congress Nyay

solutions to price rise, particularly for pulses: Legal guarantee of MSP for pulses, with price determined by the Swaminathan Commission's Formula - this would have boosted domestic cultivation of pulses by farmers, who would now have an assured price and market," he said.

# No evidence of paper leak in NEET-UG

Minister Pradhan says oppn spreading lies without knowing facts

PNS NEW DELHI

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Thursday rejected allegations of paper leak or rigging in the medical entrance exam NEET-UG, saying there is no evidence to substantiate the claims, and accused the without knowing facts.

The results of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) were announced by the National Testing Agency (NTA) on June 4.

"No concrete evidence of any kind of rigging, corruption or paper leak has been



found so far in the NEET exam. All the facts related to this are before the Supreme Court and are under consideration. The kind of politics being done on this issue is only an attempt to spread confusion and it affects the mental peace of the students," Pradhan said.

### **Candidates protest, demand investigation** into alleged exam paper leak

exam paper leak, students on Thursday voiced their concerns and demanded a re-examination and a thorough investigation. A group of students protested at Jantar Manter here with the slogan "24 lakh students want exam, not scam" and a fair investigation into the paper leak matter. The results of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) were announced by the National Testing Agency (NTA) on June 4.

Kashish, a candidate of the NEET

n the wake of the alleged NEET

UG exam, said, "I got 670 marks and I want the seat I deserve. We all want a fair investigation into the paper leak issue as we have worked hard for the exam." Speaking about the Supreme Court's decision on grace marks Kashish added, "I have no issue with the Supreme Court's decision on grace marks, but no one is addressing the paper leak issue, which is the major demand of each student here." Another student, Harsh Dubey, said, "No one is talking about the

## Modi reviews J-K situation, asks officials to deploy counter-terror capabilities

PNS NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday asked officials to deploy the "full spectrum of counter-terror capabilities" as he reviewed the sitfollowing a spate of terror incidents, including an attack on a bus carrying pilgrims.

National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and other officials attended the

meeting chaired by Modi, who also spoke to Home Minister Amit Shah and discussed the deployment of security forces and counter-terror operations,

government sources said. They said Modi spoke to Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha as well and took stock of the situation in the Union Territory. Sinha briefed him on the efforts being undertaken by the local

administration. In the meeting, the prime minister was given a full overview of the security-related situation in the region and was apprised of the counterterror efforts being undertak-

en.
"The prime minister asked them to deploy the full spectrum of our counter-terror

capabilities," an official source

Terrorists struck at four places in Reasi, Kathua and Doda districts of Jammu and Kashmir over the past four days, killing nine pilgrims and seven security personnel and several others injured.

Two suspected Pakistani terrorists were also killed in an encounter with security forces

> in Kathua, and a large quantity of arms and ammunition recovered from

On Sunday, terrorists opened fire on a 53-seater bus carrying pilgrims when it

was en route to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Katra from the Shiv Khori temple. The bus, ferrying pilgrims from Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi, plunged into a deep gorge following the gunfire, killing nine people and injuring 41 others.

On Tuesday, terrorists fired at a joint checkpost of the 4 Rashtriya Rifles and police at Chattergalla in Bhaderwah while a search party in the Gandoh area of the district was attacked on Wednesday, resulting in injuries to seven security personnel, including a policeman.

### Bhagwat likely to meet Yogi

PNS ■ GORAKHPUR (UP) Rashtriya Swayam Sevak chief

Mohan Bhagwat on Thursday attended a 'karyakarta' camp here and discussed political situation, social issues and the organisation's expansion. Bhagwat reached Gorakhpur on Wednesday and

is likely to stay here for five days. Sources said he is also likely to meet Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Gorakhpur in "a day or two". Around 280 RSS volunteers from Kashi, Gorakhpur, Kanpur and Awadh regions are

participating in the 'Karyakarta Vikas Varg' at the SVM Public School in Chiutaha area of the city. The camp started on June

Requesting anonymity, a senior Sangh office-bearer said, "The RSS chief provided suggestions to the volunteers on increasing the number of Sangh branches and expanding the organisation. He also emphasised on the expansion of various projects undertaken by the Sangh."

In his address, the RSS chief put emphasis on social responsibility of volunteers and also discussed the role the Sangh played in facing national challenges. During his five-day stay, the RSS chief will hold separate meetings with volunteers and trainers. Tight security arrangements have been made both inside and outside the venue, and only selected volunteers are permitted to enter the event site.

## 'NDA govt will fall in a year; INDIA bloc may pose as alternative'

Aam Aadmi Party leader Sanjay Singh on Thursday claimed that the coalition government at the Centre will not be able to run beyond a year and the INDIA bloc will present itself as an alternative whenever there is an opportu-

The Rajya Sabha MP also said that if any of the NDA allies puts up its candidate for the post of Speaker in the Lok Sabha then INDIA bloc parties may

consider extending support to them. The AAP leader, who was in Noida for a meeting of

the party's Uttar Pradesh unit, also slammed the BJP over the jailing of the opposition leader.

Today you have put our chief Arvind Kejriwal in jail, Manish Sisodia, Satyendar Jain, Hemant Soren in jail. I too was in jail for six months. Sanjay Rawat, Anil Dshmukh etc are in jail. The BJP will break down its ally parties. You want to do politics by suppressing the opposition, the

people of this country will not tolerate this," Singh said. The AAP leader said the way the BJP gave "token ministries" to allies, was "a clear indication that the BJP will

break its allies and this coalition government will not run beyond one year." We have seen one NDA

government fall down in 13 days, another in 13 months and now this third government of Narendra Modi will not be able to complete one year.
"We are monitoring the

political activities and whenever there is an opportunity for an alternative government, the current government, the dictatorial government, will be

told reporters. He said the AAP has appealed to TDP and other NDA partners that if the BJP does not appoint their leader as

removed," Singh

Speaker, the INDIA bloc parties "will consider extending support to them." "This is my personal opinion that if the Speaker belongs to the Bharatiya Janata Party then there will be three major

Constitution. Second, we have seen for the first time that 150 MPs were suspended and sent out of the parliament for the first time in history ... The third point is that small parties which have two or three MPs will be broken down.

losses. First, it will shatter the

## Six dead, three injured in blast at explosives factory near Nagpur

Six workers including five women were killed and three injured in a blast at an explosives manufacturing factory near Nagpur city on Thursday afternoon, police said. The incident took place

around 1 pm at Chamundi Explosive Pvt Ltd at Dhamna village under Hingna police station limits, around 25 km from here. A total of nine injured per-

sons were brought to two pri-

Children and foetuses exposed

to hot and cold environments

impact their brain's white mat-

ter, responsible for connecting

various brain regions and

enabling communication, a

dren are especially vulnerable

to extreme environments as

their bodies' temperature reg-

ulation processes are still

They also found that early

exposure could have lasting

effects on the microstructure of

These findings are published

We know that the develop-

in the journal Nature Climate

white matter in the brain.

Researchers said that chil-

new research has found.

immature.

PNS NEW DELHI



vate hospitals in the city, said Nagpur police commissioner Ravindra Singhal.

Of them, five women and a man died during treatment, he told mediapersons. Most of the victims were working in the fac-

author.

Guxens said.

Further probe was on, he added. Union minister and Nagpur MP Nitin Gadkari took to X to express condolences for the deceased. The BJP leader also appealed local party workers to cancel a program organised here in the evening to wel-

tory's packaging unit when the

explosion took place, another

police official said.

come him to the city after he again took oath as Union road transport minister following the Lok Sabha elections, his office said in a statement.

### 'Hot, cold exposure may impact brain's white matter' ing brain of foetuses and chilresearchers assessed the predren is particularly susceptible teens' white matter connectivto environmental exposures, ity by measuring how water and there is some preliminary flowed and spread in their brains, or 'mean diffusivity'. evidence suggesting that expo-In more mature brains, water flows more in one direction

than in all directions, showing lower mean diffusivity, the study said. The team found that exposure to colder-than-usual temperatures during pregnancy and the first year of life, and exposure to hotter-than-usual environments from birth until three years of age were linked with more mean diffusivity at

white matter. "The fibres of the white matter are responsible for connecting the different areas of the brain, enabling communication between them. As the white matter develops, this communication becomes faster and more efficient," said first author Laura Granés, a researcher at ISGlobal. "Our study is like a photo-

graph at a particular moment in time and what we see in that image is that participants more exposed to cold and heat show differences in a parameter -the mean diffusivity -- which is related to a lower level of maturation of the white matter," said Granes.

Previous studies have shown preadolescence, pointing to a slower maturation of their changes in mean diffusivity to be related with poorer cognitive function and mental health problems.



structural changes in the brain, The research team studied

The impacts of the exposure were measured between ninetures from birth until they 12 years of age. For this, the

such exposure can bring about turned eight years old. They used magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) brain scans. the exposure of close to 2,700 preteens to monthly tempera-

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-----

# **Looming catastrophe**

The ongoing heat and water crisis across north India is claiming lives, and there is no relief in sight

serious heat and water catastrophe that has already claimed lives and is threatening many more is plaguing the northern parts of India, including the Capital. An unfavorable weather pattern marked by extreme heatwaves and weak rainfall is making it worse. For millions of people, the situation is getting unbearable as temperatures rise and water supply becomes scarce. North India is experiencing one of the worst heatwaves in recorded history. Many locations have regularly seen temperatures above 45 degrees Celsius, with some recording considerably greater values. Many occurrences of heatstroke, dehydration and other heat-related ailments have been reported. There is an increased danger for vulnerable groups, especially for youngsters and the elderly. The number of people enduring the heat in hospitals is overwhelming, and the availability of healthcare resources is limited. Compounding these problems, the monsoon season has started abnormally slowly. Rain, which



usually provides much-needed relief, has been irregular and delayed. There are serious ramifications for both urban and rural communities from this delay. The lack of rain in cities like Delhi makes the heat unpleasant and living conditions nearly intolerable. The delayed monsoon in rural areas is disastrous for agriculture as it greatly depends on timely rainfall. Food security and livelihoods are expected to be threatened by crop failures and lower yields. There is severe water deficiency in northern India as a result of the heatwave and delayed monsoon. The levels of major rivers and reservoirs are perilously low, and groundwater has fallen.

Delhi's water supply is significantly impacted by the historically low levels of the Yamuna river; in fact, some areas get water for only a few hours a day. Concerns over waterborne illnesses have been raised, which has led to disputes over access to water and forced many people to rely on contaminated sources. Water rationing, the establishment of cooling facilities and the distribution of drinking water to communities badly impacted by the problem are just a few of the steps the administration has taken. However, because of the situation's seriousness, these actions have not seen much success. Long-term fixes are necessary to preempt disasters. This entails making investments in infrastructure for water conservation, such as effective irrigation systems and rainwater collection, as well as encouraging the groundwater resources to be used sustainably. To counter the urban heat island effect, green spaces and cooling strategies must be included in urban planning. Furthermore, raising people's knowledge of climate change and its effects helps promote a resilient culture. Millions of people are starkly reminded of their vulnerability in the face of climate change by the heat and water crises in north India. The people of this country continue to be its greatest strength as it fights this humanitarian and environmental crisis.



A boy follows the cooling water mist released by an anti-smog gun, in New Delh

# Time for BJP to set its house in order



The party must ponder Venkaiah Naidu's advice and start working towards repairing its ties with the RSS, besides looking for a proactive president

he swearing in of Narendra Modi 3.0 is over and it is now business as usual. But there is an eerie uncertainty pervading across India as the BJP Government is dependent on the life-support system provided by the TDP's Chandrababu Naidu and the JD(U)'s Nitish Kumar.

The BJP had won 282 seats on

its own in the 2014 elections (31 per cent) while the party had a dream run of scoring 303 seats in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls (37 per cent) despite Naidu's best efforts to defeat the party. This is the first time in his tenure that Modi is dependent on allies for Government survival. The old slogan "Minimum Government and Maximum Governance has been dusted out of the cupboard. The BJP's mission to enact the Uniform Civil Code, 'One Nation, One Poll' and its dream Agniveer project too would come a cropper without the support of Naidu and Nitish. The speech delivered by M Venkaiah Naidu, former Vice-President, at the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA) should be noted seriously. "There is a message in the election. I hope people understand the message. The ruling BJP failed to reach the majority mark in the Lok Sabha on its wn though it emerged as the single largest party while the Opposition put up an impres-sive performance," Naidu said. A discernible feature of this election was the absence of RSS volunteers from the campaign. What upset the RSS was the declaration made by party president JP Nadda that the BJP has no relation with the Bhagwa Dhwaj, the saffron flag that is emblematic of Sanatana Dharma. "Our flag was apparently created by lord Indra himself. The flag carries the saffron color of the lord. We chose the flag for our kingdom. The flag represents humanity and we need to ensure that we live up to its representation," Shivaji, the great Maratha emperor, told his ministers and commanders. It is time for Nadda to move out



actions. Nadda should read and learn about two gentlemen from south India, K Kamaraj and S Nijalingappa, both former presidents of the Congress who were rated as titans of Indian politics. Public memory is not that short as they remember the efforts undertaken by Naidu to topple Modi in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. The nation saw Naidu holding hands with Sonia Gandhi, Mamata THE BJP'S MISSION Banerjee, MK Stalin and, above all, the two most intel-TO ENACT THE ligent persons in the world; UNIFORM CIVIL viz, Sitaram Yechury and D Raja as a prelude to oust CODE, 'ONE NATION, Modi and Amit Shah. No ONE POLL' AND ITS political parties have absolute majority of their own to DREAM AGNIVEER form the Government though the National Democratic Alliance (also PROJECT WOULD termed as Non-Dependable COME A CROPPER Allies) has nearly 300 MPs, WITHOUT THE 27 more than the half way mark. Though the Congress, the main player in the Opposition, could not touch CHANDRABABU NAIDU three-digit mark togeth AND NITISH KUMAR er with its allies, the party has emerged as a striking force. This year presents an entirely different scenario. The charismatic, uncompromis-

SUPPORT OF

imbroglio is BJP's own mak-

ber the five-day long crisis in Maharashtra when Devendra Fadnavis, the then leader of the Opposition, was sworn in as Chief Minister in 2019 with Ajit Pawar (NCP) as his deputy, only to make an ignominious exit after two

It was Jagan Mohan Reddy, leader of YSR Congress and the outgoing Chief Minister, who forced Naidu to take refuge in the BJP camp. Reddy had launched a thorough probe into the charges of corruption against Naidu, for which he was arrested and imprisoned. When it was time for the 2024 Assembly elections, Naidu felt the need to cast his lot with BJP and Modi. Having got more than what he aspired for, Naidu is eyeing bigger rewards. We cannot expect anything better from a person who backstabbed his father-in-law NT Rama Rao, the founder of the TDP, and usurped the party proprietorship. Nitish is no different from Naidu. He is a living example of the Aaya Ram. Gava Raam politics. Naidu and Nitish are two deceiving crutches and can lead Modi to "no-man's

Even before the NDA held its

first meeting, Kumar and

Naidu have put forward a set

of demands, including con-

ducting the caste census and

scrapping of Agniveer scheme.

The current political ing. How many of us remem-

Fadnavis and the other senior BJP leaders had termed Ajit as the embodiment of corruption but they found no qualms in forming a coalition Government with him. Despite Ajit returning to the Pawar Parivar within two days of swearing in, Fadnavis solicited him again and the former is now back in the Hindutva fold. How come BJP, which claims from rooftops that it is always against dynasty politics, forge

family-run enterprise? Fadnavis' hurry forced him to commit the political harakiri. His case reminds us of the kamikaze by Chaudhary Charan Singh in 1979, ostensibly to teach the then Prime Minister Morarii Desai a lesson. Chaudhary Saheb went down with the Janata ship and could not stage a comeback even at a later stage.

an alliance with a purely

(The writer is a special correspondent with The Pioneer; views are personal)

# Al's influence on India's e-commerce industry



of party presidentship. He has

neither inspired nor enlightened

AI reshapes Indian e-commerce with personalisation, efficiency, security and stronger customer bonds, revolutionising shopping

In the bustling landscape of Indian e-commerce, the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become a transformative force, reshaping the industry in profound ways. From personalised shopping experiences to efficient logistics, AI has emerged as a cornerstone of success for online retailers in India. AI has a multifaceted impact on e-commerce and has implications for businesses, consumers, and the overall economy.

One of the most noticeable effects of AI in Indian e-commerce is the enhancement of the shopping experience for Through consumers. advanced algorithms and data analytics, online retailers can now offer personalised product recommendations tailored to individual preferences and purchase histories. This level of customisation not only increases customer satisfaction but also drives sales and fosters brand loyalty. Moreover, AIpowered chatbots and virtual assistants provide roundthe-clock customer support, addressing queries and concerns in real time, thereby improving overall customer



engagement and retention. AI has also revolutionised the way products are discovered and marketed in the Indian e-commerce landscape. Sophisticated search algorithms powered by Natural Language Processing (NLP) enable users to find products more efficiently, even with vague or misspelt search queries. Additionally, image recognition technology allows consumers to search for products using images, streamlining the search process and enhancing the experience. Furthermore, AI-driven targeted advertising helps businesses reach their target audience more effectively, maximising the return on

campaigns. In the realm of supply chain management, AI has emerged as a game-changer fits, the widespread adoption

investment for marketing

nesses. By analysing vast amounts of data, including sales trends, inventory levels, and external factors like conditions, AI algorithms optimise inventory management, forecasting, and logistics operations. This results in reduced costs, minimised stockouts, and faster order fulfilment, ultimately leading to improved operational efficiency and customer satisfaction.

Moreover, AI plays a pivotal role in enhancing security and mitigating fraud risks in Indian e-commerce transactions. Advanced fraud detecsecurity for online payments, commerce ecosystem. Despite its numerous bene-

tion systems leverage machine learning algorithms to identify and prevent fraudulent activities in real time, safeguarding both businesses and consumers from financial losses. Additionally, biometric authentication technologies, such as facial recognition and fingerprint scanning, provide enhanced bolstering consumer trust and confidence in the e-

for Indian e-commerce busi- of AI in Indian e-commerce also presents certain challenges and concerns. Data privacy and security remain paramount, with the need for weather and transportation robust regulatory frameworks to protect consumer information from unauthorised access and misuse. Moreover, the increasing reliance on AI-powered systems raises questions about algorithmic bias and fairness, highlighting the importance of transparency and accountability in algorithm development and deployment.

In conclusion, the impact of Artificial Intelligence on Indian e-commerce is undeniable, revolutionising the way businesses operate and consumers shop in the digital age. As AI continues to evolve and permeate every aspect of the industry, it is essential for businesses to embrace innovation, adapt to technological advancements, and prioritise ethical considerations to harness the full potential of AI while ensuring inclusivity, fairness, and security in the e-commerce

ecosystem. (The author is BU head at Snapdeal; views expressed are personal) Madam — Apropos the news story "Animal laws need more teeth say activists," published on June 12, this is my response. Reading about the brutal beating of a dog in Pune, resulting in a mere ₹50 fine, is both disheartening and infuriating. This case, alongside similar instances in Mumbai and Delhi, highlights the urgent need for stricter laws against animal cruelty in India. The proposed Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Amendment) Bill, 2022, seeks to address these issues by introducing harsher penalties, including fines up to ₹75,000 and imprisonment for severe offences.

ing and powerful Modi is at

the mercy of two satraps

**INADEQUATE PENALTIES FOR CRUELTY** 

This amendment is crucial, as the current laws are woefully outdated and ineffective. Strengthening these laws is not just about protecting animals; it's about fostering a compassionate society where brutality is not tolerated. It's high time for the government to act, ensuring that offenders face appropriate consequences and that we cultivate a culture of empathy and respect. Our future generations deserve to grow up in a world where cruelty to animals is met with swift and severe justice.

Devansh Khatri | Jaipur

### **SURGE IN GREEN ENERGY**

Madam — Apropos the news story "India's green energy rise, including 'Green Coal'," published on June 12, this is my response. Reading about the Reserve Bank of India's latest report brings a sense of optimism about India's economic future, particularly in the energy sector. With green energy projects worth Rs 700 billion set to start this year and projected investments reaching Rs 765.2 billion by 2025-26, it's clear that sustainable energy policies are paying off.

India's achievement of full electrification, with significant hours of power for rural and urban areas, coupled with its position as the third-largest renewable energy producer, is commendable. The innovation of green coal, which reduces CO2 emissions significantly, exemplifies India's commitment to sustainability. NTPC's ini-

### Lansdowne's rich military legacy

EDITO

propos the news story "The Garhwal Regiment's glorious military heritage," published on June 12, this is my response. The still air of Lansdowne's Bhawani Dutt Joshi Parade Ground reverberates with the historic war cry "Jai Badri Vishal Ki Jai" from the Agniveers of the Garhwal Regiment. Established in 1887, the regiment boasts a legacy of val-

Koyla Pariyojna, showcase impressive advancements. The green coal project, part of the "Make in India" initiative, symbolises a major stride towards the "Atmanirbhar Bharat" mission. MBL's success in converting municipal waste into eco-friendly coal is not just a technological breakthrough but also an effective solution to waste management, marking an important milestone in India's green energy journey.

Arya Sundaram | Chennai

### **DREAMS OF A BETTER WORLD**

Madam — Apropos the news story "Blueprint for a Better Society," published on June 12, this is my response. We all envision a world filled with peace, happiness, and harmony. Nobody desires environmental degradation, the loss of lives through violence, or the erosion of the human spirit due to crime, corruption, and poverty. Instead, we seek a life defined by health, wealth, and happiness. To achieve this, we must identify the values necessary to create a socio-politicoour, earning numerous military honours, including Victoria Crosses and Ashoka Chakras. Lansdowne named after a British Vicerov remains a testament to colonial heritage with its scenic ridge-top cantonments and hill sta-

Colonel Mainwaring's bungalow, now MES property, and the Darwan Singh War Museum reflect the regiment's storied past. The Garhwali Officers Mess, with its Victorian charm and unique artefacts like the Sun Dial and the billiards table, epitomises the regiment's historical opulence. Despite attempts to rename Lansdowne, locals cherish its colonial past and its connection to military excellence. The Garhwal Regiment's symbols—Lord Badrinath, the Unknown Soldier, and the Royal Rassicontinue to inspire courage and pride among

Aadhya Chawla | Chandigarh

tiatives, especially the Varanasi Harit economic system that fosters such a society. Most would agree that reducing wars, violence, poverty, unemployment, pollution, corruption, crime, and social injustices is crucial. Additionally, fostering freedom, reducing hunger, and promoting love and cooperation are essen-

A survey would likely reveal that people expect scientists to embrace spirituality, religious leaders to adopt a scientific approach, and doctors to treat both body and soul. Education should include moral and spiritual development and societal attitudes towards women and children need to improve. Achieving these goals requires each societal segment to fulfil expectations and contribute time and talent. Global cooperation is essential, possibly through a new kind of bank where individuals and institutions can contribute towards building a better

Rohit Kapoor | Kolkata

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## **FIRST COLUMN INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY**

Modi's G7 debut amidst global turmoil underscores diplomatic finesse

**UNDER MODI 3.0** 



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

In less than a week of assuming office as the Prime Minister for the largest democracy in the world, Mr Modi is back where he excels. He was in Italy this week, meeting the leaders from the powerful group of nations also known as the G7. On the sidelines were several bilateral meetings with leaders of African, and Arab nations, besides several clear messages to the primarily American and European groups lead-

This was PM Modi's first trip abroad, after assuming office for a third time ( a remarkable feat in itself), where nearly 670 million voters patiently waited in queues under an extremely harsh summer sun over a period of nearly two months to choose the leader of the largest democracy. PM Modi and his party, despite setting ambitious expectations, could not manage a majority by themselves and are now dependent on a bunch of pre-poll alliance political parties to lead the National Democratic Alliance government. This assumes significance at a time when several parts of Europe, not to mention the US are going their own set of democratic churns. The US goes to poll end of the year, and voices on either side of the aisle, are getting harsher and louder. Similarly, the elections to the European Parliament have thrown a resurgence of far-right parties, which is likely to have an impact on the geopolitical dynamics for a long time. What Mr Modi may be comforted by is the fact that he may not need to look around for carefully worded diplomatic statements while explaining the state of Indian democracy to the Western nations.



In the past few years, several questions have been raised across the Western nations and in the US regarding the health of the Indian democracy, its report card on minority rights, religious freedom, the existence of the press etc. The near majority verdict, by the Indian electorate, with ample scope of checks and balances to keep the party with the highest seats under leash, a robust opposition presence in the parliament would be a clear talking point for the PM and his set of diplomats to set out a gold standard for democracy when engaging with several nations. Mr Modi, with his nearly three decades of experience as head of the state and nation, is not new to diplomacy and in several interviews, leading up to the general elections, has articulated his target of enhancing India's global image. The grand spectacle around G20 ( not to forget backroom diplomatic negotiations to arrive at a joint statement), several high-level state visits, a bunch of rescue operations carried out for citizens and neighbours from war-torn areas, supply of emergency medicines during COVID are all pointers towards the focus the Prime Minister's Office attaches to global reputational management. PM's third-term visit to G7 assures continuity and explores fresh engagement strategies with current and potential allies, emphasizing continuity and innovation.

Mr Modis' visit to Italy comes at a time when the Ukraine war is unrelenting, and despite severe reluctance, there seems to be chinks in the united European approach towards the aggressor Russia. Many of them, would have, similar concerns regarding Israel's war on terror, which has refused to die down in months. It may be recalled that both Israel and Russia are close allies of India, and India has so far walked a tightrope when commenting on both of these volatile situations. The dynamics of the past relationship, while building deeper relations with recent allies such as the US are likely to be a sensitive diplomatic trope. It is no wonder, that PM Modi has picked up S Jaishankar, a seasoned diplomat as the External Affairs minister for a second term, to retain the continuity and foreign policy focus achieved during his last term. The evolving geopolitical landscape and India's role in global affairs would continue to be tested and chiselled in days to come.

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

# Populism cripples revival of discoms



The twin problems of AT&C losses and under-recoveries on sale to certain households or farmers in some States have existed for close to a quarter century

he Centre is planning to launch 'another' scheme to enable pub-lic sector power distribution utilities (discoms) to cut technical losses via "transition financing" of the required capital expenditure. The discoms stand at the core of the power supply and distribution network in the country. Mostly owned and controlled by State Governments, they buy electricity from the generating companies (call them gencos) in the public sector such as National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) etc and gencos in the private sector commonly referred to as independent power producers (IPPs) and supply to the consumers.

Technical losses to be more precise, the aggregate technical and commercial (AT&C) losses are a sophisticated nomenclature for leakage from the system or power theft. According to Union Power Minister RK Singh, AT&C's losses used to be high at 27 per cent. When, out of say 100 units of electricity that leaves the generating stations/power dispatch centre, 27 units are stolen and hence not paid for, this is bound to have a debilitating effect on the discoms' operations.

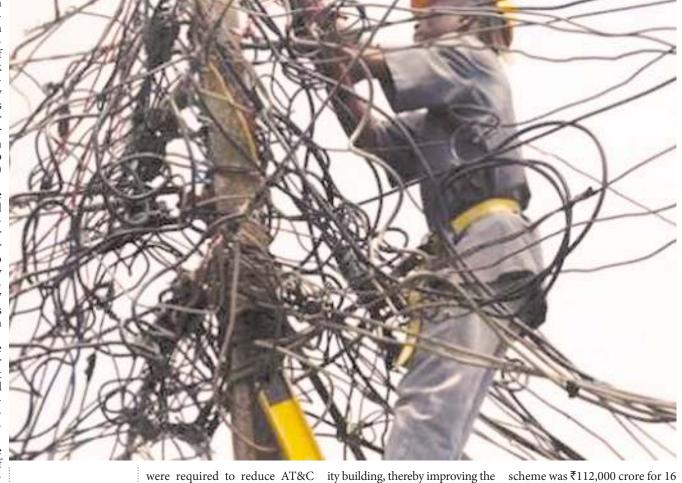
The discoms could charge more on sale of the balance 73 units to compensate for the 'nil' revenue on the 27 stolen units. But this is theoretical. So, the discoms would end up making a loss to the extent of revenue lost on stolen units. There is another potent factor that exacerbates their loss-

The Electricity Act (2003) and the Guidelines issued by the Ministry of Power require the discoms to fix the tariff on electricity supplied to consumers in a manner such that the average revenue realisation (ARR) from its sale is equal to the average cost of purchase, transmission and distribution (ACS). Yet under diktat from the State Government, either they don't bill certain households (HHs) at all (on consumption up to 200/300 units a month in Delhi/Punjab) or a flat subsidy of ₹800 on consumption (between 201 and 400 units a month in Delhi), besides free supply to farmers as in Punjab.

The discoms seek to make up for the resulting under-recoveries by charging more from industries and businesses for which the tariff can go up to a high of ₹16 per unit (this indeed is a major reason for making Indian products and services uncompetitive in both the domestic and international markets). While the States also promise to compensate for a good portion of the under-recoveries, most of them make only partial reimbursement and that too after considerable delay. This

further adds to discom losses. The twin problems of AT&C losses and under-recoveries on sale to HHs/farmers have existed for close to a quarter century. Since the beginning of 2000, the Centre has come up with four financial restructuring packages (FRPs) to help discoms. While, the first two (2002, 2012) merely sought to condone their losses, the third namely Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY) launched in November 2015 required discoms to set their house in order and achieve certain milestones in

exchange for financial assistance. Under UDAY, discoms' staggering debt of about ₹400,000 crore was condoned. Of this, while 75 per cent was taken over by the States, for the balance, they were allowed to issue bonds at a concessional rate of interest. In lieu of the FRP, discoms



WHILE STATES COMPENSATE FOR A GOOD PORTION OF THE UNDER-RECOVERIES, MOST OF THEM MAKE ONLY PARTIAL REIMBURSEMENT AND THAT TOO CONSIDERABLE

losses from 20.7 per cent during 2015-16 to 15 per cent by 2018-19. Further, they were to reduce the ACS-ARR gap from ₹0.59 per unit of electricity during 2015-16 to 'zero' by 2018-19. But, the discoms failed to deliver.

During 2019-20, their AT&C loss-

es were 18.9 per cent against the 15 per cent target for 2018-19. The ACS-ARR gap during 2019-20 stood at ₹0.42 per unit against target of 'zero' for 2018-19. During 2020-21, even these limited improvements were reversed as ATC losses zoomed to 22.3 per cent and ACS-ARR gap ₹0.69 paise per unit. As a consequence, discoms losses which had decreased from ₹52,000 crore during 2015-16 to ₹17,000 crore during 2017-18 (courtesy, FRP) increased to about ₹30,000 crore during 2019-20 and further to ₹58,000 crore during 2020-21. Correspondingly, this has led to their ballooning debt which at the end of FY 2021-22, stood at ₹620,000 crore.

This prompted the Centre to come out with a fourth package called 'Reforms-Linked, Result-Based Scheme for Distribution' (RLRB-SD). The scheme was unveiled by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech for FY 2021-22. Involving an outlay of ₹300,000 crore, it was aimed at trimming discoms AT&C losses to 12-15 per cent and gradually narrow the ACS-ARR gap to 'zero' by March 2025. This was to be achieved by upgrading the distribution infrastructure and capac-

reliability and quality of the power supply. It had a provision for compulsory pre-paid and smart metering component to be implemented across the power supply chain, including in about 220 million households.

Apart from gross budgetary support (GBS) of close to ₹100,000 crore by the Centre, implementation of the Scheme involves funding by State-run sector-specific lenders; viz, Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) under irrevocable State

Government guarantee. The funds release is subject to discoms meeting the pre-qualifying criteria and achieving the basic minimum benchmark in reforms. The RLRBSD launched in FY

2021-22 talks of achieving the targets, which should have been achieved by 2018-19, by March 2025. This by itself is laughable. What about the progress? According to the Power Ministry, the Government has so far identified 57 discoms from 32 States and Union Territories under the scheme and has prepared detailed project reports (DPRs) for these. Further, in reply to a question in Parliament given by then Power Minister RK Singh in December 2023: "Till today,  $\breve{\mathrm{D}}\mathrm{PRs}$  having total outlay of ₹120,000 crore has been approved for loss reduction works and ₹130,000 crore for smart metering works."

Beyond this paperwork, as of January 2024, the total loan disbursed by PFC-REC under the

States, while sanctioned amount was ₹133,000 crore.

As for the gross budgetary support, the release of funds by the Centre during FY 2023-24 was a mere ₹6,000 crore against budget allocation of ₹12,000 crore. That things are moving at a snail's pace may be seen from the fact that 'against the sanctioned smart meters of around 220 million, only about 0.8 million have been installed so far'. One wonders whether the money is being used by discoms to merely pay back the loans taken earlier to fund their recurring losses --- as happened under UDAY.

Now that the tenure of this scheme (launched in 2021-22) will end in just about 10 months on March 31, 2025, the Government is keen to launch its second version call it RLRBSD- II with similar aggregate outlay of ₹300,000 crore. Who knows, even the funds garnered under this scheme could end up being used to clear the continuous pile up of discoms' debt. The

vicious cycle continues. The problem is entirely political. In a bid to win elections (these are held round the clock), almost every political party promises sops which include, among others, power supply to farmers and poor households at throwaway price or even free; they even ignore theft happening in slums/jhuggis that promise votes en masse. They use discoms as 'guinea pigs' for achieving these populist goals.

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

# Govt must reboot its 'Neighbourhood First' policy

Modi's top priorities should include strengthening of bilateral ties with neighbours and herald a new era of dialogue to counter China's influence

The Narendra Modi Government must give priority to wean away neighbours who have drifted towards China. The presence of leaders from the neighbourhood and the Indian Ocean region at the inauguration of Narendra Modi's third term as Prime Minister highlights the significance New Delhi accords to these countries.

Notable attendees included Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Sri Lankan President Wickremesinghe. The swearing-in ceremony also witnessed the participation of

Bhutan Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal, Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Seychelles Vice-



KS TOMAR

President Ahmed Afif and Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu. The inclusion of President Muizzu is being interpreted as a good diplomatic move, especially when both nations currently have strained ties .It may be recalled that Modi invited leaders from the eight member States of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to his swearing-in ceremony in 2014. For his 2019 inauguration, the guests included leaders from the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIM-STEC), along with Mauritius and Kyrgyzstan.

The Modi-led Government will have its plate full of national and international issues, which will warrant



immediate attention and formulation of strategy and action plan. Experts feel that India must resolve the US threat to impose sanctions if the Chabahar Port deal with Iran was not scrapped. Interestingly, the US did not raise any objection when India took up the construction of the port because it suited the US owing to its occupation of Afghanistan. But now that the US has moved out, it has no interest in the port.

Former Prime Minister Pt Jawaharlal Nehru's Indian National Congress achieved a remarkable victory, securing 44.7 per cent of the vote and winning 361 out of 494 seats in 1962. In contrast, the BJP, under Narendra Modi, won 238 seats out of 543, with the ence. Regarding Pakistan,

NDA collectively securing 294 seats. Unlike the BJP, which relies on coalition partners like the TDP and others, the Congress under Nehru stood strong on its own. This scenario isn't unique to India. In Britain, leaders like Margaret Thatcher and Tony Blair also managed to secure three terms. However, managing a coalition Government with a thin majority presents its own challenges. The reduced strength can increase the bargaining power of smaller coalition partners.

The Modi Government's foreign policy has alienated neighbours like the Maldives, Nepal etc. Hence it needs a 'relook' as they have drifted towards China, which is using them to expand its influ-

India should respond to its initiative to have trade ties by keeping the political issues aside. The Sharif brothers may not be averse to it. China's expanding ties in the region are evident, and India needs to tread cautiously to counter its influence, as seen in the case of Nepal. The recent political shift in Nepal towards a communist Government ideologically aligned with China is concerning, especially considering China's 'Debt Trap' strat-

egy. Pakistan serves as a stark example, with China extending a massive debt of \$23 billion, a substantial portion of which is tied to the Belt and Road Initiative. Pakistan's mounting debt to China, totalling \$67.2 billion from

2000 to 2021, underscores the risks associated with this debt dependency. Regarding neighbours, India

needs to be worried as Maldives has already moved in the lap of China, and Nepal has also shown red flag communist the Government led by Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' has moved closer to China.

Modi will govern India for the next five years with a relatively weakened position but he has shown resolve to carry on economic reforms to make India a world power. In this backdrop, the Opposition is expected to play a constructive role in the interest of people of the country.

(The writer is a political analyst and senior journalist based in Shimla; views are personal.)

### **Kerala to host international Gen Al** conclave in partnership with IBM

he Kerala Government is set to hold a two-day international Gen Al conclave in Kochi, Industries Minister P Rajeev said on Thursday, describing it as a flagship event that will demonstrate the state's commitment to fostering innovation and embracing transformative technologies. The minister launched the official website of the July 11-12 event, which is being organised in collaboration with IBM. Officials said the event will bring together industry leaders, policymakers and innovators to explore the transformative potential of Al and its impact on society and the economy. This event will be a significant milestone in the advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Kerala and the country, Rajeev said. "The

International Gen Al Conclave stands as a testament to Kerala's commitment to fostering innovation and embracing transformative technologies. With IBM as the partner, this groundbreaking initiative aims to position Kerala as a hub for Generative AI innovation, catalysing economic growth and driving forward the state's vision for Industry 4.0 readiness," the



### **HPL** signs 10-yr naphtha supply agreement with QatarEnergy

ity-based Petrochemical major Haldia Petrochemicals Limited (HPL) has entered into a strategic agreement with QatarEnergy, ensuring a steady supply of naphtha for the coming decade, an official said on Thursday. The contract stipulates that QatarEnergy will provide up to two million tons of naphtha to HPL for 10 years through its Singapore-based subsidiary, HPL Global Pte Limited, commencing from the second quarter of 2024. This long-term agreement, signed by HPL Global Pte Ltd and QatarEnergy on behalf of Qatar Petroleum for the Sale of Petroleum Products Company Ltd. (QPSPP), marks the most

substantial commitment between the two entities to date, a company statement said without divulging the value of the deal. Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi, the Minister of State for Energy Affairs and the President and CEO of QatarEnergy, expressing satisfaction over the deal said, "It reinforces Qatar's dedication to contributing to India's economic expansion.



### **Gold slips Rs 50; silver** tumbles Rs 550

old prices slipped Rs 50 to Rs 72,150 per 10 grams in the local market on Thursday in line with weak trends globally, according to HDFC Securities. The precious metal had closed at Rs 72,200 per 10 grams on Wednesday. Silver also tumbled Rs 550 to Rs 90,950 per kg. It had settled at Rs 91,500 per kg in the previous session. "In Delhi markets, spot gold prices (24 carats) are trading at Rs 72,150 per 10 grams, down by Rs

50 from the previous close," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said. In the global markets, spot gold at Comex was trading at US\$ 2,313 per ounce, down US\$ 2 from the previous close. The yellow metal gave up its gains and is trading lower after the US Federal Reserve said that inflation has fallen further toward its target level in recent months. The US Fed officials also signalled to cut their interest rate just once this year, Gandhi said



# **Need to boost farm productivity** through research: Agri Minister

Stressing the need to boost agricultural productivity through research, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Thursday directed officials to assess the performance of the country's 113 research institutes and identify gaps in achieving their objectives.

Chairing a meeting with senior officials from the agriculture ministry and research bodies, Chouhan said, "We should assess whether our network of research institutes has been able to give the expected results, is it working properly or not...If there are gaps, a detailed report



should be submitted". The minister emphasised setting clear targets for increasing farm productivity and incomes by 2047, which marks 100 years of India's independence. He called for annual reviews to track progress against these targets. Chouhan highlighted the lower productivity in irrigated

and non-irrigated areas of Jharkhand compared to other parts of the country. He suggested launching a campaign to bridge this productivity gap.

'We should assess whether

our network of research

t working properly or

submitted"

not...If there are gaps, a

detailed report should be

institutes has been able to

give the expected results, is

### 'India to remain fastest growing Asia-Pacific economy'

New Delhi, Jun 13 (PTI) Moody's Ratings on Thursday said India will remain the Asia-Pacific region's fastest-growing economy in 2024, sustaining last year's domestically driven momentum.

In a report titled Credit Conditions – Asia-Pacific H2 2024 Credit Outlook, Moody's Ratings said Indonesia, the Philippines and India led the way in terms of growth in first half of 2024 and should continue to outperform pre-COVID growth numbers on the back of rising exports, local demand and government spending on infrastructure.

### India has ample wheat stocks, no plans to alter import duty, says govt ments and the price remains tonnes of the grain until June 11.

PNS NEW DELHI

India has sufficient wheat stocks to meet domestic requirements and undertake market interventions, if required, to keep prices stable, the government said on Thursday, adding that it has no plans to alter the import

duty on the grain for now. The Department of Food and Public Distribution under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, is closely monitoring the market price of wheat, it said in a statement.

duction of 112 million tonnes. "Suitable interventions, as warranted, shall be undertak-Corporation of India (FCI) has en to ensure that there is no hoarding by unscrupulous eleprocured around 26.6 million

stable," the statement said. ing season, the department

During the 2024 rabi market-

stocks vary through the year. As of January 1, 2024, wheat stocks stood at 16.35 million tonnes against the prescribed buffer norm of 13.8 million tonnes, it added.

wheat pro-

Food

"The wheat stock has at no point of time dipped below the quarterly buffer stock norms. In addition, at present, there is no proposal to alter the duty structure on imports of wheat, the statement said

relevant skills to stand out in

the competitive job market,

foundit (previously Monster

APAC & ME) CEO Sekhar

Delhi-NCR (21 per cent) hosts

the highest share of job post-

ings for freshers, followed by

tions for hiring freshers, it

The report added that

After meeting the require-

ment for the public distribu-

tion system and other welfare

schemes, estimated at around

18.4 million tonnes, sufficient

wheat stock will be available

for market interventions when

The quarterly buffer

needed, it said.

## Adani group firm Ambuja Cements acquires Penna Cement

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ambuja Cements, an Adani group firm, announced the acquisition of Penna Cement Industries Ltd (PCIL) at an enterprise value of Rs 10,422 cr.

A binding agreement for the acquisition has been signed, which will add 14 MTPA capacity to Adani group, taking the total tally to 89 MTPA (million tonnes per annum). Ambuja will acquire 100 per cent shares of PCIL from its existing promoter group P Pratap Reddy and family.

PCIL has 14 MTPA capacity

in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Rajasthan (under-construction). Besides, it has surplus clinker at Jodhpur plant which will support additional 3 MTPA cement grinding capacity, said a statement. It will also strengthen Adani group's sea transportation logistics with five bulk cement terminals at Kolkata, Gopalpur, Karaikal, Kochi and Colombo to serve peninsular

The acquisition will improve Adani group's share in the cement market pan-India by 2 per cent and 8 per cent in south India, it added.

India, the statement said.

### Freshers hiring witnesses 5% growth over last 6 months tively, it stated. als need to focus on acquiring

PNS MUMBAI

The demand for freshers has gone up 5 per cent over the past six months, aided by gradual improvement in the IT sector, according to a report released on Thursday.

The highest share of job postings for freshers was witnessed by the IT and staffing industry with over 32 per cent and 12 per cent share of jobs, respectively, dedicated to entry-level professionals, foundit (formerly Monster APAC & ME) report on fresher hiring trends.

Additionally, it revealed that the demand for freshers has increased 5 per cent over the last six months.

The report is based on an analysis of data on foundit platform from May 2023 to It further stated that IT

companies -- particularly in the hardware and software sectors -- are showing intent to hire freshers, signalling a shift in hiring strategies in India. This trend is largely driven

by ongoing restructuring efforts within the industry, focusing on adopting new technologies, optimising costs, enhancing innovation, and ensuring scalability, the report



Startups in the IT services and internet industry led in

fresher hiring, with 23 per cent and 22 per cent of jobs directed to new graduates, respec-

Need to moderate rate, widen tax base to make

While jobs in the IT industry did decline in the last quarter, engineering graduates are in demand for 28 per cent

state-run

Additionally, other roles being hired across startups are consultants (10 per cent), sales/exec manager (4 per

of jobs in startups alone, the

cent), and operations exec/manager (4 per cent), it added. "We're seeing a clear trend where startups and other

means that young profession-

Bengaluru (14 per cent). Notably, fresher hiring was the highest in metropolitan cities in India, Mumbai (8 per cent), Chennai (8 per cent), Pune (8 per cent), and Hyderabad (8 per cent) were companies are increasingly valuing skills over just academic credentials. This shift recorded as the next top loca-

Garisa said.

# No reduction in consumer market frauds despite regulatory changes

### **KPMG** in India survey

PNS NEW DELHI

The majority of the respondents feel that there has been no reduction in frauds despite multiple regulatory changes in India, a KPMG survey said on Thursday.

KPMG in India conducted a survey with more than 75 experts from the finance/ compliance domain in various organisations in the consumer markets sector (FMCG, consumer durables, agriculture, retail and e-commerce), covering questions about frauds and leakages faced by them.

As many as 79 per cent of the survey respondents said there has been no reduction in frauds despite regulatory changes, and only 21 per cent



responded by saying that frauds have been reduced due to the changes.

As per the survey, procurement, sales and distribution and e-commerce were voted as the major areas prone to fraud.

About 72 per cent of the respondents cited reputational damage as the most severe impact of fraud, whereas 16 per cent believed that financial losses would also impact

Around 61 per cent of the respondents believed that implementing a tech-based early warning signal mechanism is the most effective measure for detecting and mitigating fraud, as per the survey.

KPMG in India, Partner -Forensic Services, Mustafa Surka said the consumer markets sector is rapidly transforming and growing. Consequently, the frauds in the sector are also evolving, leading to substantial

leakages for organisations. "It is imperative for organisations to be agile and mitigate these leakages in a timely manner by investing in technology and developing a strong monitoring mechanism,"



### L&T bags 'large' offshore order from ONGC

PNS NEW DELHI

Engineering and construction conglomerate Larsen & Toubro (L&T) on Thursday said it has bagged a 'large order' from state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC). L&T has classified the order as 'large', which means the order value ranges between Rs 2,500 crore and Rs 5,000 crore.

"The Hydrocarbon vertical (L&T Energy) of Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has secured an order from the ONGC for Daman Upside Development Project-Wellhead Platforms & Pipelines (DUDP-WP), off India's west coast," the company said in a filing to the BSE.

# India developed economy by 2047: Experts There is a need for a shift in the

taxation mindset from rates to revenue by moderating tax rates and widening base in order to achieve the goal of 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047, experts said.

They underscored the need on transition from rates to revenue focused on lowering tax rates, enlarging the tax-paying base and thereby creating the means for financing of India's invest-ment and development needs. "Conventional higher tax

rates haven't resulted in significant tax buoyancy. Recognising this fact, governments in India since 1991 onwards have clearly batted for moderate tax rates leading to greater levels of transparency and compliance," EY India senior partner Sudhir Kapadia said.

Time has come to bite the bullet for reforms in direct

taxes, he said, adding, there could be one simplified rate structure for businesses and for individuals, there could be one simple three-rate structure with low or moderate rates, no surcharges and cesses and no

significant deductions. said, a lot has been spoken about the rates and clearly it is time to have a far lower number of rates in GST structure.

"It is also time

to ensure we do not have constraints related to availing of input tax credits. There has been a steady increase in income tax revenues but we need to have continued focus on taxpayer experience with tax administration, and ensure the filing process

free," he added.

India's tax to GDP ratio suffers from the presence of a thriving informal sector, which still accounts for 30 per cent to 35 per cent of the economy, Kaushik Dutta, Director,

Thought Arbitrage Research Institute, said at a seminar organised by Think Change Forum

"A simplified GST regime will enable them to

join the formal economy, take input tax credits, and become competitive. Tax evasion continues to be a big challenge along with classification issues. The inverted duty structure is also an impediment. Another area that GST has not been able

there are challenges and they need to be addressed," Dutta

According to Pulin B Nayak Economics, "India is still in the economies. Income tax payers are less because of low per capita income. Putting tax rates at too high rates is also a bad idea as it will lead to tax evasion and people will wish to reduce their work effort at the mar-

Increasing tax to GDP ratio should very much be a priority because this will enable the government to spend on public goods, infrastructure, and

the social sector, Nayak said.
"We need to widen the tax base, with the minimum of deductions and exemptions, and we need to maintain mod-

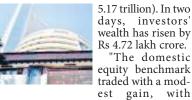
## Mcap of BSE-listed firms hits fresh record of Rs 431.67 L cr

PNS NEW DELHI

The combined market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms hit a fresh record of Rs 431.67 lakh crore on Thursday when the

benchmark Sensex also reached its new lifetime high level. Rising for the second day in a row, the 30-share BSE benchmark jumped 538.89 points or 0.70 to hit its lifetime peak of 77,145.46. It later ended at a fresh record high at 76,810.90, up 204.33 points or 0.27 per

Tracking the rally in equities, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies jumped to an all-time high of



est gain, with domestic CPI data indicating that inflation is on a slow track of decline," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

"The domestic

Retail inflation continued its downward slide to reach a one-year low of 4.75 per cent in May due to a marginal decline of prices in the food basket and remained within the Reserve Bank's comfort zone of below 6 per cent, according to government data released on Wednesday.

## CII wants Modi 3.0 govt to push land, labour, agri reforms to boost growth PNS NEW DELHI

Industry body CII on Thursday made a case for pushing reforms in sectors like land, labour, and agriculture by the Modi 3.0 government to accelerate economic growth, which is estimated to be around 8 per cent in the current financial year.

CII President Sanjiv Puri said a lot of policy interventions in the past have put the economy on "a much stronger

"The growth rate is poised to touch 8 per cent during the current year, marking the fourth consecutive year of above 7 per cent + growth.



"The growth estimate hinges critically on addressing the unfinished reform agenda on priority, in addition to improvement in world trade prospects aiding our exports, twin engines of investment and consumption doing well and expectations of a normal monsoon among other factors," he added.

ture, services and industry -- to fire and do well next year." He added that the industry body expects inflation to be in the region of 4-4.5 per cent in

the current fiscal. Addressing his first press conference after becoming CII President, Puri, the Chairman & Managing Director of ITC Ltd, said private sector investment, which has been an area of concern, was robust and

"Private sector investment has been an area of concern sometime back, but the good news today is that it is in the right trajectory... it is robust. It

broad-based across sectors.

per cent, which is more than the pre-Covid levels," Puri said

About the outlook for rural consumption, Puri said, "We certainly see green shoots of pick up in rural (demand)... the expectation for a good monsoon and better crop yields leading to improved realisations that augurs well for the rural economy.

The industry body has also suggested rationalisation of rates with three slabs and inclusion of sectors like petroleum and real estate that are presently out of its ambit, besides infrastructure status for

### GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PR CIRCLE-BHONGIR "e" Procurement Tender Notice

Fender Notice No.: TOIPRIe-Proc.IO1/20,21(1st)IO5,19(2nd)IE7,18,11,13,14,18(2nd)IO34-25, Dt.:12.86.2824 10 No's of dvi works sandioned under CDP, 19th Finance, DWF MMIDA Grants in Yadadri Bhorg District. With an Total Est. Cost. Rs. 373.50 Lakihs. Tendors Download Start & End Dt.18-06 2024 to Dt.:25.06.2024. Every NIT/Bid will be available (IT) clear working days available from the date of publishing for further details "o" Procurement Market Place Lo. www.eprocurement.gov.in Superintending Engineer, DPR R.O.No.: 19-0P/CL-AGENCY/ADVTH0924-25, Date: 13-06-3024 Penchayet Raj Circle Shonein

GREATER HVDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

'E' PROCUREMENT SHORT TENDER NOTICE

NIT No. 696E-Ox.23x82/GHMc(2004-25

Dated: 13-66-2024

Name of the Work: Providing white Pandals, Carpets, Chairs, Tables, etc. (in View of Balarid Fastival 2024) in Briggsh at Tipputhan Masjid Eldgah, Tamake ward - 143, Dv.-29, Sechad, GHMC. Estimate Amount (ECV: Rs. 2.00 lakhs. Start date fast date & Time for receipts of Bids: From 14-06-2024 @ 11.00 A.M to 15-06-2024 @ 11.00 A.M., Name & Address officer Cell. No.: Executive Engineer, Div-29, GHMC, Sechad, Cell No.: 9963550657. Further details can be seen at e-Procurement @ https://www.lender.eprocurement.gov/in Sdt. Roccutive Engineer.

R.O.No: 553-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2934-25, Dt. 13.06.2024 Div-29, Sec'bad, GHMC

# GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA

NIT No.01-13/2024-25 E-Procurement Tender Notice No. of Works (13): Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the works (13No.s) sanctioned Rs.937.67 Lakts. Tender Documents will be available in e-procurement market place from 20.06.2024 and will be available for (07) days from the date of Publishing. Further details can

be obtained from e-procurement market place on www.tendectelangana.gov.in DIPM R.O. No.: 16-DP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25, Date: 13-06-203/

Rs 4,31,67,541.81 crore (US\$









Expressing optimism regard-

ing the economy's perfor-

mance, he said, "Very clearly,

we are expecting all three sec-

had dropped to 20.7 per cent

the hospitality sector.

# the pioneer derabad

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> Friday June 14, 2024

# THRILL OF RIDING SHIKARA IN DAL LAKE **FASCINATED ZAREEN**

SHIKHA DUGGAL

ctress Zareen Khan considered Kashmir, which is tucked away in the Himalayas, to be a cultural treasure trove in addition to a stunning geographical won-

She was encouraged to discover mosaics weaved with a variety of customs, heartfelt music, and delicious cuisine on her most recent journey to Kashmir.

She made it to our travelogue because every detail, from the colourful celebrations to the exquisite handicrafts, captured the timeless essence of Veer fame and made her treasure

its rich legacy amid the beautiful beauty of its landscapes. "Kashmir is not only breathtaking-ly gorgeous, but it's also deeply spiritual. I had a very soulful experience there. I visited a variety of locations in Kashmir, and every single one of them left me in awe of its amazing beauty. To me, every second seemed like a dream! I was genuinely awak-ening to an act of divine painting," recalls Zareen.

She could see how the people of Kashmir, despite their race, religion, and language, contributed to the unique character of *Kashmiri* society. "Their culture is still very much alive," she continues, promoting the same conversation. "It shows in their cloth-ing, food, and dwellings. I noticed a lot of homes with only wooden floors! Not only do they have

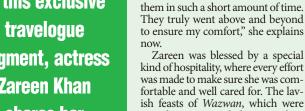
handwoven carpets and wooden frameworks, but every Kashmiri, regardless of wealth, has a garden with blossoming apple and cherry trees! What more could I want

Regarding the cuisine, she remembers, "Meat dominated my plate a lot. Even though Muslims make up the majority of the population, I observed th there also enjoyed their vegetarianism. Especially lotus stem-based meals! There, saag is highly popular, and stalls selling makki ki roti and sarson ka saag are all over the place. The other specialty was Kashmiri wazwan, which I had there as a sumptuous feast."

She observed, too, how Kashmiris embodied a cultural identity firmly anchored in the magnificence of their

The people of Kashmir still preserve their rituals, carry on ancient traditions, and exhibit an amazing sense of oneness. She participated in customary events, took part in group feasts, and observed her own observances. Zareen Khan was content amid the picturesque valleys! "Not only did the people of Kashmir wel-come me into their homes, but their hearts as well. I felt so bonded to

In this exclusive travelogue segment, actress **Zareen Khan** shares her travelogues from the seductive calm of Kashmir with The Pioneer. **Zareen Khan was** there in the magnificent valleys of Kashmir!



was made to make sure she was comfortable and well cared for. The lavish feasts of Wazwan, which were served to Zareen with the utmost love and care, mirrored this tradition as observed by her and fostered a sense of delight among the community.

Another quote from *Housefull 2* 

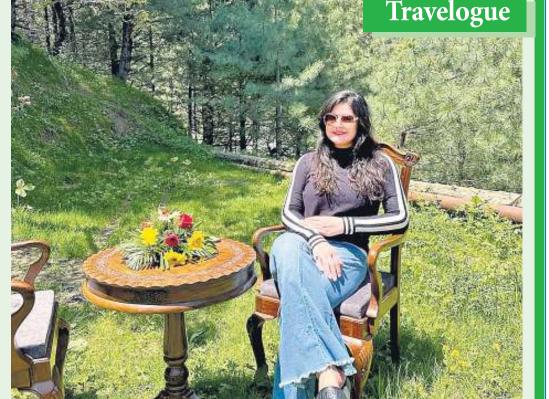
fame was, "The rivers and streams are the major part of Kashmir. Everyone is aware of Dal Lake! Like everyone else, I was enthralled by the experience of riding a shikara in the same lake. It was a picturesque sight to see how the rivers flowed from the snow-covered mountains that encircle the lake. Everything about it felt surreal, even while you are travelling over these mountains, particularly at Pahalgam. I found it impossible to resist dipping my feet into the freezing water. Videos and images also fall short of capturing the reality of what I went through in real time!"

"You should book your stay well in advance because Kashmir is always buzzing with tourism," the *Jatt James*Bond fame added. "Since this is Kashmir, most of the hotels have breathtaking views. In regards to myself, I had reserved a rental villa. My goal when travelling is to experience the destination rather than the hotel; I don't always choose to stay at five-star establishments. It seems incomprehensible to me to spend money on upscale hotels when travelling."

"Travelling is very therapeutic to me," she continues. "If I have a lot of free time, I love to go to the northern parts of the country to release my stress. If not, I can take my pals on a road trip to Goa! My preference is either Pawna Lake or Lonavala: I just want to feel wonderful." Conversely, "I was feeling a little down about my personal life when I took this trip on my birthday, so it was actually quite liberating for me. On my birthday, I just wanted to leave Mumbai and not feel depressed! Kashmir proved to be beneficial as the breathtaking scenery made my troubles seem insignificant. Still, I missed my buddies in Kashmir!"

"Houseboats were the special attractions for me," she couldn't help but say. "Without a doubt, I would return to Kashmir. I adore Sara Ali Khan's travel videos; therefore, if I had to choose one fraternity member to travel with, it would be her. She strikes me as an adventurer who isn't too picky when she travels! I adore that she doesn't restrict her travels to stay-

ing at opulent properties."



'Lads in hick towns will identify with my persona in Gullak'

SHRADDHA NEWARE

ullak season 4 has won the audience over once more after garnering a fan base after the first three seasons. Harsh Mayar, who plays Aman Mishra in this lighthearted comedy blended with family drama, has won a lot of praise for his portrayal of the likable charac-

In an exclusive interview with *The Pioneer*, the actor reflects on how his character has changed over the years and his approach to playing him. He says, "I look at the set, the scene, how the director is guiding me, and what he wants from me. Over the seasons, Aman Mishra's persona has developed; we have witnessed him being both humorous and occasionally sentimental. He has several levels, and the writers deserve all the credit for that. I'm not sure what my

real strategy is yet because I think acting is a lifetime skill."

The series effectively conveys its audience's feelings through a blend of humour and profound emotional resonance. An actor's method for switching between these scenarios is different from everyone else's. The I Am Kalam fame then says, "I sometimes listen to good music to set the tone of emotional stuff while I'm switching between

these moments. Additionally, I try to make use of the set's surroundings when I'm in a humorous scenario." "I have been doing this for a long time now, and I'd like to think that my humour is a little better in real life too," the former child actor con-

tinues. "I find inspiration in the roles played by Kader Khan, Govinda, and Priyadarshan." Since the start of the web series, its popularity has grown, and viewers are undoubtedly thrilled with the latest season. The National Award-winning actor says of the reception he has received from the public, "The feedback I'm receiving even now is crazy. People always look forward to seeing what's new and applaud each new season as it arrives. Some people compliment your acting, while others commend the

work you accomplish. However, when fans establish a personal connection with you, that's a different story. You show up on the set, follow instructions, or wing it, but you never realise how many lives these actions have impacted. While many TV shows and movies come and go, I think it's significant when something like this sticks with people and they find it relatable."
When discussing how viewers connect to the

show, the comic actor recalls that his upbringing was not as similar to his character as one might assume. "I was a mischievous child. But not too much, as my parents were kind and laid back with me. I therefore did not have to deal with the same difficulties that Aman Mishra confronts. They are much more independent and occasionally less likely to listen to authority than Gen-Z kids. I believe that young boys from small-town places in India will relate to this character," the former child actor contin-

The show has a great ensemble cast, and it's educational to work alongside seasoned actors. Especially, an actor like Jameel Khan! Among those portrayed are Gitanjali Kulkarni and Vaibhav, who each contribute something distinctive to the screen. "Gullak is a difficult role, and you must be very special to get it. And my favourite moments are always when Vaibhav plays "Anu Bhai." The set is a happy place to be, with a talented ensemble providing cameo roles and participating in jam sessions and inside jokes. Eight minutes without a break were spent filming a scene on a bus platform. It's one of the most memorable scenes for me, and it received accolades for its emotional component," the versatile actor said.

In season one, he played a young adult who was inspired by his younger sibling. He drew inspiration for the second season from those in his immediate vicinity and the way they went about their daily lives. "Aman Mishra is unpredictable because he is a combination of several people that I looked up to in my everyday life. I get to keep things interesting and changing as he goes through his arc because his age changes with the seasons," the musically famous Paighamber remarked. The energetic actor also declares, "I want to explore many roles in my upcoming endeavours. I used to do serious roles before switching to comedy a few years ago, but right now I want to try something new. Taking on personas such as Spider-Man, something in

Marvel would be fascinating for me."

After experimenting with musicals and pushing limits, Harsh made his singing debut with the song Feeling Nayi Hai, which has music by Anurag Saikia and lyrics by JUNO. With this song debut, he is entering a new genre!

# The lifeline of humanity

Blood donation stands as a beacon of hope and humanity in our modern society, encapsulating the spir-society, encapsulating the spir-society and look can prevent maternal deaths and ensure healthier scale emergencies can deplete it of giving and the unspoken bond between strangers. Every day, countless lives are saved and transformed by the simple yet profound act of donating blood. This article delves into the myriad ways blood donation has saved lives and underscores the critical importance of this noble practice.

In an exclusive

*Pioneer*, Harsh

interview with The

garnering a lot of

Mayar-who is now

attention for his role

as Aman Mishra in

Gullak—shares his

observations from

the most recent

well as some

sources of inspiration

for his comic skills as

### Life-saving impact of blood donation

Blood donation is crucial for various medical treatments and emergencies. Here are some key ways it saves lives:

### 1. Emergency trauma care Accidents and natural disas-

ters often result in severe injuries that necessitate immediate blood transfusions. For instance, a single-car accident victim can require multiple pints of blood. Quick access to donated blood can be the difference between life and death, stabilising patients until further medical treatment can be administered.

**2. Surgical procedures**Complex surgeries, such as organ transplants, heart surgeries, and cancer treatments, often require significant amounts of blood. Surgeons rely on a steady supply of blood to ensure patient safety during these critical operations. The availability of blood can greatly enhance surgical outcomes and reduce mortality rates.

### 3. Chronic conditions and dis-

Individuals suffering from conditions like anemia, sickle cell disease, and certain cancers (such as leukemia) frequently need blood transfusions. Regular blood donations ensure these patients can maintain their health and manage their conditions effectively. For example, a leukemia patient might need up to eight units of blood a week during chemotherapy.

### 4. Maternal health

Childbirth can sometimes lead to severe blood loss, making blood transfusions essential for saving the lives of mothers

### **Stories of Lives Saved** Miracle of the Marathon

post-delivery recoveries.

**Bombing Victims** In the aftermath of the 2013

Boston Marathon bombing, the rapid response from local blood banks and the flood of donations played a crucial role in saving the lives of many victims. Hospitals were able to perform numerous surgeries and provide emergency care thanks to the

scale emergencies can deplete blood supplies rapidly. Pre-existing reserves of donated blood enable healthcare providers to respond swiftly and effectively. Donating blood regularly helps build these reserves, ensuring readiness for unforeseen events.

### 3. Community Health

Blood donation fosters a sense of community and solidarity. It's a selfless act that connects donors with recipients in a profound way. Many donors find

ciated with blood donation is minimal. The process is safe, and professional medical staff ensure donors' comfort and safety throughout.

Myth: Donors Can't Give Blood Frequently
Healthy individuals can

donate whole blood every 56 days and platelets every 7 days, up to 24 times a year. Regular donation does not weaken the immune system or deplete personal health resources.

Myth: Blood Types Are Universally Needed Equally While all blood types are important, certain types, like Onegative, are in higher demand



available blood supply.

Hope for hemophilia patients Hemophilia, a rare genetic disorder, prevents blood from clotting properly, leading to severe bleeding from even minor injuries. Blood products, especially clotting factors derived from plasma, are indispensable for treating hemophilia. Regular donations help ensure that hemophilia patients live healthier, longer lives.

Importance of donating blood Despite the immense need, many regions face chronic shortages of blood. This underscores the critical importance of regular donations:

## Sustaining blood banks Blood has a limited shelf life.

Red blood cells last for about 42 days, while platelets last only five days. This necessitates continuous donations to maintain a reliable supply. Blood banks and hospitals rely on the generosity of regular donors to meet ongoing needs.

that giving blood not only benefits recipients but also enriches their own lives, providing a sense of fulfilment and civic

### 4. Encouraging health aware-

The process of donating blood includes a mini-physical examination, which can sometimes alert donors to underlying health issues such as high blood pressure or infectious diseases. This promotes health awareness and encourages donors to maintain healthy lifestyles.

### **Overcoming barriers to** donation

Despite the clear benefits, various misconceptions and fears prevent people from donating. Addressing these barriers is crucial to encouraging more donations:

### Myth: Blood donation is painful

In reality, the discomfort asso-

because they are universal donors. Knowing your blood type and understanding its specific importance can motivate more targeted donations.

### Conclusion

Blood donation is a vital lifeline that sustains the health and well-being of countless individuals worldwide. It is a simple act with a profound impact, embodying the essence of compassion and human solidarity. As communities, we must continue to promote and support blood donation initiatives, ensuring that this precious resource is always available to those in need. By donating blood, we don't just give a part of ourselves; we give the gift of life, hope, and a brighter tomor-

> (The author, Dr. Ajith Kumar B.R., is a Chief Intensivist and Head of Emergency at Prashanth Hospitals.)

Food A'Fair 2024, a threeday event featuring food and

beverage retail and modern

trade, opened at Hall No. 1 of

HITEX in Madhapur,

Hyderabad. The Telangana

Food Processing Society (TFPS) Director Akhil Gawar

and Indian former badminton

player Padma Bhushan

Pullela Gopichand opened

the fair on Thursday. Blitz

Exhibitions Pvt Ltd, in

collaboration with HITEX and

Telangana Food Processing

Society, is the primary

organiser of the trade show.

# what's brewing?

# Make this Father's Day memorable with these scrumptious treats

ather's Day is the perfect occasion to show your dad how much he means to you, and what better way to celebrate than with some delicious, indulgent treats? Whether your dad has a sweet tooth or just enjoys a good dessert now and then, these delectable options are sure to make his day extra special. Here are some mouth-watering treats that will make this Father's Day unforget-

Ferrero Moments mousse:

Celebrate Father's Day with the ultimate indulgence, the decadent chocolate ice cream, crafted to offer a velvety smoothness that effortlessly dissolves on your palate. Enriched with lavish swirls of rich chocolate ribbon, each scoop becomes a delightful dance of flavours. But wait, it gets even better. Imagine delicate pieces of crushed chocolate treats scattered like hidden treasures, adding a delightful crunch to each bite and unveiling layers of exquisite flavour. Treat yourself to this luxurious experience and make this chocolate ice cream day unforget-

**Brown Biscuit Boba Ice Cream:** Celebrate Father's Day with the delightful combination of biscuitflavoured ice cream and playful pearls of chewy brown sugar boba. It's a

Nutella Slab Sundae: Celebrate Father's Day with a gooey brownie

topped with a generous scoop of decadent chocolate ice cream, drizzled with velvety Nutella, and sprinkled with crunchy hazelnut pralines. It's a Nutella lover's dream come true, combining rich chocolate flavours with delightful textures. Treat your best man to this luxurious dessert and make this Father's Day unforgettable!



Missing the IPL season already? JioCinema Premium has you covered with its entertainment line-up for June. The roster promises a spectacular mix across genres, from unscripted reality and international content to original series, movies, and kids' entertainment, offering something for everyone.

The 'baap' of all reality shows is back

with its third season! Bigg Boss OTT 3 is all set to take the entertainment quotient a notch higher with a new host, a new theme, and a new set of contestants!

The month gets more exciting with the latest season of the international cult phenomenon, House of the Dragon Season 2, set to premiere on June 17. Staying true to its promise of providing holistic entertainment for all, JioCinema Premium gives the audience a chance to watch the latest episodes of the new season every Monday, along with the US, in six local languages, namely, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Bengali, and Marathi,

fect blend of mystery and Blackout. The crime thriller comedy features a promislovers can also look forward to series preing ensemble cast of Vikrant Massey, Mouni Roy, and Sunil Grover, amongst

> In addition, Vijay Deverkonda and Mrunal Thakur starrer action-drama film Family Star will premiere on June 28th and will exclusively be available in Hindi on JioCinema Premium.

That's not all; the line-up for the month also ensures to bring smiles all around with exciting premieres for kids and family. Look forward to the new episodes of Ábhimanyu Ki Alien Family from June 13th onwards and the exciting minimovie Chikoo Bunty: In the Haunted House on June 9th, promising endless



mieres like JoJo's Bizarre Adventure (4th June), Black Butler (11th June), The 100 Girlfriends Who Really, Really, Really, Really Love You (18th June), and Seven Deadly Sins (28th June).

Crime aficionados are in for another thrilling ride with the headlining original of the month, Gaanth. Starring the talented cast of Manav Vij, Monika Panwar and Saloni Batra, the original series explores the bone-chilling investigation of a mass suicide that rocks the nation and a police officer's quest for selfdiscovery and truth.

The sweltering summer also calls for

light-hearted entertainment, with a perentertainment for the whole family.



### Join RNC Hospital's life-saving initiative World Blood Donor Day camp

RNC Hospital is proud to announce the commencement of a two-day World Blood Donor Day camp from 14.06.2024 & 15.06.2024, aimed at fostering a culture of blood donation to everyone and making a significant impact on society. World Blood Donor Day, celebrated annually on June 14, highlights the critical role that voluntary blood donors play in saving lives and enhancing public health. This year, RNC Hospital is dedicated to amplifying this message through a comprehensive blood donation camp, encouraging young people to actively participate in this vital cause.

**Event Details:** 

: 14.06.2024 & 15.06.2024 : 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

**Location**: RNC Hospital, Plot-6, Manikya Nagar, Near ChintalBus Stop, Chintal, Quthubullapur.

### revealed their vision for the South Indian markets. A significant move has been made by them, who have now appointed celebrity Mahesh Babu as their South India brand ambassador. They are aiming to increase sales from the Southern market by around 50% this year above the present level as part of

their Vision South India plan.



### **ARCHIE**









The world was alerted to India's

thriving modern art scene by

renowned artist, philanthropist,

and businesswoman Michelle

Poonawalla, who debuted her

unique digital artwork at the Non-

Fungible Conference (NFC) in

Lisbon. With this launch, a

noteworthy partnership was

established with Sedition Art.

Sedition Director Rory Blain's

latest digital creations by

Michelle Poonawalla were

showcased in a part of the

conference devoted to Sedition

Art. The conference took place at

the Pavilhão Carlos Lopes from

May 28 to May 30, 2024.

### **CALVIN AND HOBBES** Hey,Calvin, guess What



REALITY CHECK

TIME MACHINE

RENTAL RETURNS

IN THE FUTURE? PLEASE BE KIND REWIND

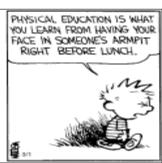


SPEED BUMP

WHAT THE ORNO ELSE AM SUPPOSED TO DO WITH AN

CLIVE BRANCH NO ONE WANTS!





### **GARFIELD**



WORRIES OF VALENTINE'S DAY FOR GROWN-UPS







# WORRIES OF VALENTINE'S DAY FOR CHILDREN A BOX ... I OK!

### **SUDOKU**

NAH, I WENT TO THE PASTURE

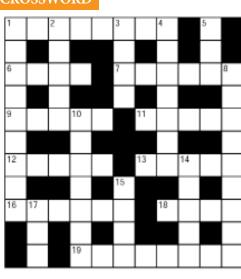
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### **CROSSWORD**



### ACROSS 4 A person who does operations in hospital

- These cover birds 6 Small animals that followed the Pied Piper
- 8 Startled 10 A day's beginning 7 Ride on these animals 9 Opposite of best 14 A book written in daily
- 11 Not as many

DOWN

- 12 Circular in shape
- 13 Below
- 16 A story in episodes

Entertaining explosives

3 Sound coming back again

watched at night 2 Change

- 18 A planet 19 Gave jobs to



5 Stuff for colouring cloth

15 Strike with an open

hand 17 A long type of fish

### **GINGER MEGGS**

WHAT DO I DO?

KNOW. HOW I

DINNER?

ROSESTA

I DON'T WANT TO COME ON TOO STRONG AND FREAK HER OUT!

BUT- I WANT HER TO



٥٠ 6



I HATE THIS FIRST VALENTINE'S DAY WITH PHIL / WHAT KIND OF CARD?





Hyderabad | Friday June 14, 2024

# tollywood

# 'Music Shop Murthy is anchored by familial bonds'

K. RAMYA SREE

Director Siva Paladugu's latest venture, Music Shop Murthy, promises to be a cinematic delight, a tale that transcends generations and resonates with audiences of all ages. As the film hit theaters today, the director took a moment to share insights and reflections on his journey and the making of this heartfelt project. heartfelt project.

Hailing from the vibrant city of Vijayawada, Siva Paladugu's trajectory into the world of filmmaking was nothing short of serendipitous. "I worked in USA, where I had the fortune of meeting Harsha, who later became a good friend was a single control of the state of the series of th and collaborator," he reminisces, adding, "My passion for storytelling led me to pursue a diploma in direction, and soon after, the opportunity to helm my first film presented itself, thanks to the unwavering support of my friendsturned-producers."

Delving into the casting choices for *Music Shop Murthy*, Paladugu reveals his rationale behind selecting Ajay Ghosh for the titular role: "To infuse a sense of novelty into the narrative, I crafted the character of Murthy as a mature individual. Ajay Ghosh's prowess in emoting raw, heartfelt emotions made him the perfect fit for this role. Despite the project being conceptualised before his breakout performance in *Pushpa*, I had unwavering confidence in his ability to bring depth and authenticity to the char-

When questioned about the significance of Chandini Chowdary's role, Paladugu emphasis-

AHEAD OF THE RELEASE OF HIS LATEST **VENTURE, MUSIC SHOP MUTHY, DIRECTOR SIVA PALADUGU SHARED INSIGHTS AND REFLECTIONS ON HIS JOURNEY AND THE** 

es the pivotal role played by her character in shaping the trajectory of the film. "Chandini Chowdary's portrayal of Anjana exudes grace and charisma, setting the stage for a transformative journey. Her character serves as the catalyst for

MAKING OF THIS MUCH-ANTICIPATED PROJECT.

Murthy's evolution, infusing the narrative with a sense of vitality and purpose," he asserts.

Addressing the simultaneous release of Chandini Chowdary's other film, *Yevam*, Paladugu emphasises the distinctiveness of Music Shop Murthy and its appeal to family audiences. "While both films may share the same release date, their thematic and tonal differences cater to disparate audience demographics," he clarifies. "Our film is anchored by themes of familial bonds and personal resilience, offering an enriching viewing experience for audiences of all

Transitioning to creative process behind the film's musical elements, Paladugu underscores the meticulous research and attention to detail that went into crafting the soundtrack. "We delved deep into the rich tapestry of musical traditions, from yesteryear

classics to contemporary trends," he reveals. "Pawan's sublime compositions add depth and resonance to each scene, enhancing the immersive experience for the audience."

He also shared a glimpse into the underlying ethos of Music Shop Murthy and hints at future endeavours. "Beyond

the confines of storytelling, this film serves as a testament to the indomitable spirit of human resilience. The journey of Murthy embodies themes of perseverance and self-discovery, resonating with audiences on a deeply emotional level," he shared.

### Shruti Haasan joins Dacoit shoot with Adivi Sesh

Shruti Haasan has joined the action-packed shoot of Adivi Sesh's ambitious pan-India action drama, Dacoit, currently underway in Hyderabad. Portraying the female lead, Haasan's inclusion in this pivotal phase of filming adds a new dimension to the project. The ongoing schedule is dedicated to capturing crucial scenes and adrenaline-pumping action sequences involving the lead cast. Sharing a candid selfie with Sesh, Haasan offered a glimpse into the camaraderie on set, hinting at the fun-filled atmosphere amidst the intense filming sessions.

Dacoit unfolds a gripping narrative centered around two former lovers compelled to join forces for a series of daring robberies, each with the hope of transforming their lives. Marking his directorial debut in feature films, Shaneil Deo, acclaimed for his work as director of photography in Telugu blockbusters like Kshanam and Goodachari, collaborates with Adivi Sesh to bring this compelling story to life. Notably, this venture serves as the first collaboration between Sesh and Haasan, promising audiences a fresh and dynamic on-screen pairing. Backed by Supriya Yarlagadda as producer, with coproduction support from Suniel Narang and presented by Annapurna Studios, Dacoit unfolds its narrative simultaneously in Hindi and Telugu, catering to a diverse audience base. Additionally, Adivi Sesh and Shaneil Deo showcase their prowess as storytellers by also penning the film's captivating narrative.

For Adivi Sesh, Dacoit marks his second venture into Hindi cinema following the critical acclaim received by his 2022 release, Major. As filming progresses, audiences eagerly await further updates and insights into this ambitious cinematic venture, poised to captivate viewers with its high-octane action and gripping storyline.

# Vennela Kishore's *OMG* releasing on June 21



(O Manchi Ghost), gears up for its theatrical release on June 21. Starring the dynamic duo Vennela Kishore and Nandita Swetha in lead roles, the film is poised to tick-le funny bones and send shivers down spines, catering to the ever-growing demand for entertainment in the

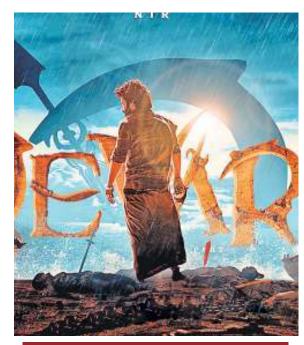
Renowned for his impeccable comic timing, Vennela Kishore promises to deliver laughs galore, while Nandita Swetha brings her trademark intensity to the table, embodying atypical characters with finesse. Directed by Shankar Marthand and produced by Dr. Abinika Inabathuni under Mark Set Networks, OMG (O Manchi Ghost) boasts a stellar ensemble cast, including Shakalaka Shankar, Navami Gayak, Naveen Neni, Rajath Raghay, and the comedic genius Raghu Babu.

Adding to the anticipation is the

→ he horror-comedy flick, *OMG* musical genius of Anup Rubens, who lends his magic to the film with foottapping tunes and spine-chilling background scores. With glimpses, song lyricals, and teasers already garnering a positive response, OMG (O Manchi *Ghost*) promises to captivate audiences with its blend of humour and horror.

Anup Rubens' remarkable music serves as a cornerstone of the film, complementing the narrative and enhancing the overall viewing experience. As anticipation mounts for the film's release, audiences can expect a rollercoaster ride of entertainment, replete with laughter and spine-tingling moments.

With a winning combination of stellar performances, gripping story-telling, and infectious music, OMG (O Manchi Ghost) is poised to leave a lasting impression on audiences, reaffirming the enduring popularity of horrorcomedy flicks.



### DEVARA PART 1

### **Release preponed to Sept 27**

he visual spectacle Devara Part 1, star-ring the Man of Masses, NTR Jr, is set to hit theatres earlier than expected. Initially scheduled for release on October 10, the makers unveiled a new poster featuring NTR Jr on Thursday evening, announcing that the film will now premiere on September 27, 2024. Talking further about the

same, the producers added,
"We are glad to announce

that Devara Part 1 directed by Koratala Siva will now release on September 27. We have planned this move keeping in mind how the film is coming together and we don't wish to keep the fans waiting any-

Devara is already making waves in the market with its recently released Fear song, which debuted on the actor's birthday and was composed by none other than Anirudh

Ravichander. Directed by Koratala Siva, Devara will unfold in two parts. The magnum opus is produced by Yuvasudha Arts and NTR Arts, and presented by Nandamuri Kalyan Ram. Alongside NTR Jr, the film also stars Janhvi Kapoor and Saif Ali Khan in lead roles. The film's music is orchestrated by Anirudh

Ravichander, and the cine-

matography is handled by R Rathnavelu.

### 'I believe *The GOAT* will soar to unprecedented heights'

ctor Thalapathy Vijay's The GOAT is making a lot of noise across the south Indian film industry. Amidst the Anoise across the south matan min inductry. Annual Afervent anticipation surrounding the project, a new development sent waves of exhilaration through the industry recently as actress Sneha, was chosen to play opposite

Speaking at an event in Chennai, Sneha expressed her excitement about being part of this project and shared, "It's truly delightful to collaborate with actor Vijay once more. His charm remains as captivating as ever." Sneha disclosed that the majority of

her scenes are alongside Vijay, with one more day of shooting left to wrap up her role. Offering a glimpse into the film's potential, she added, "I believe The GOAT will soar to unprecedented heights." As the production gears shifted into motion meticulous planning and preparation became the order of the day. Every detail, from casting decisions to shooting schedules, was carefully orchestrated to ensure a seamless cinematic experience. With shooting schedules nearing completion, the filmmakers found themselves in need of an additional day to



# **New poster of Disha Patani from**

# Kalki 2898 AD is here

unknown realms of the future.

xcitement soared as the makers of the highly anticipated sci-fi epic *Kalki 2898 AD* dropped its action-packed trailer, captivating audiences worldwide. Amidst the fervour, actress Disha Patani, who celebrated her birthday on Thursday, left a lasting impression with her dynamic presence and electrifying action sequences showcased in the trailer. In celebration of her special day, the creators of the cinematic marvel have unveiled a mesmerizing new poster, officially introducing Disha as 'Roxie' in this futuristic saga. Dressed in sleek black cargo, boots, and a bomber leather jacket, Disha exudes confidence as she stands amidst a futuristic, awe-inspiring backdrop, poised to deliver powerhouse performances as Roxie' in the film. Sharing her captivating look on social media, the production team conveyed their birthday wishes to Disha with the caption, "Wishing our Roxie, Disha Patani, a very Happy Birthday. #Kalki2898AD." Boasting an ensemble star cast featuring Amitabh Bachchan, Kamal Haasan, Prabhas, Deepika Padukone, and Disha Patani in pivotal roles, Kalki 2898 AD is helmed by director Nag Ashwin and produced by Vyjayanthi Movies. Set againt a backdrop of futuristic mythology, this multilingual sci-fi extravaganza promises a visual spectacle like never before. Mark your calendars as Kalki 2898 AD is slated to hit theaters on June 27th, 2024, inviting audiences to embark on an exhilarating journey into the

### Mammootty, Samantha, GVM project to go on floors from June 20

In what promises to be an exciting ven-ture for cinema aficionados, the much-awaited project starring Malayalam megastar Mammootty and acclaimed director Gautham Vasudev Menon is all set to kick off its shooting schedule. With cameras set to roll starting this Saturday, the anticipation sur-rounding the film is very high. Mammootty, the legendary actor renowned for his versatile performances, is slated to join the shoot on June 20, adding to the excitement surrounding the

Ádding to the buzz is the revelation that leading actress Samantha is set to make her debut in Malayalam cinema as the female lead in this yet-to-be-titled film.

## **NEE DHAAREY NEE KATHA REVIEW:**

# Exploring emotional bond between father and son

Arjun (played by Priyatam Manthini) leads a music band with his friends, aiming to establish a successful orchestra. Supported by his father (played by Suresh), Arjun confronts the challenges of pursuing his musical ambitions. When faced with a setback within his team, Shruti (played by Anjana Balaji) steps in to offer her support. Tragedy strikes as Arjun's father passes away, leaving behind unfulfilled dreams. The film delves into the complexities of the father-son relationship and whether Arjun can fulfill his father's aspirations.

### **PERFORMANCES:**

Suresh delivers a poignant portrayal of a supportive father, anchoring the emotional core of the film. Priyatam impresses with his nuanced performance, while Vijay Vikrant adds depth with his character's blend of humor and emotion. Anjana Balaji effectively conveys the required emotions, complementing the



contribute significantly to their respective roles, enhancing the film's impact.

### ANALYSIS:

Vamsi Jonnalagadda's storytelling resonates well with family audiences, providing a cohesive narrative experience. The technical team exhibits commendable teamwork, maintaining high production standards throughout the film. Notably, the music by the *Budapest* Orchestra elevates the viewing experience, enhancing emotional resonance. The seamless integration of background music adds to the film's immersive quality, keeping audiences engaged.

Nee Dhaarey Nee Katha shines with its remarkable highlights, notably the captivating performances of Suresh and Priyatam Manthini, who breathe life into their respective characters with depth and authenticity. The film's mesmerizing musical score, composed by Alberto Gurioli, and the stunning cinematography by

Suresh, Priyatam Manthini, Vijaya Vikrant, Anantha Padmashala, Anjana Balaji, Ved. Director: Vamsi Jonnalagadda Producers: Vamsi Jonnalagadda, Tejesh Veera, Shailaja Jonnalagadda Murali Kant, Vamsi Jonnalagadda Alberto Gurioli

ography: Alex Kavu

Alex Kavu add layers of beauty and emotion to the narrative, enriching the viewing experience. Moreover, the exploration of the father-son relationship brings a poignant depth to the story, resonating with audiences on a profound level. However, despite its strengths, the film grapples with pacing issues in the first half, where certain scenes may feel drawn-out, and a somewhat predictable climax, which may dampen the impact of the otherwise compelling storyline.

### **CONCLUSION:**

Nee Dhaarey Nee Katha offers a heartwarming portrayal of family dynamics, focusing on the bond between father and son. With its engaging narrative and memorable performances, the film delivers a poignant cinematic experience, making it a worthwhile watch for audiences seeking meaningful entertainment.

**Rating: 2.75/5** 

# All round Afghans eye win over PNG, Super 8 entry

fghanistan will eye another all-round effort to crush an Guinea here and enter the Super Eights of the T20 World Cup, and the result will have another underlying effect -- knock out New Zealand.

The win will carry Rashid Khan's side to Super Eight from Group 'C' alongside the West Indies, who have qualified on Thursday with a win over New Zealand.

It will also mean curtains for the 2021 finalists New Zealand who have lost two out of two.

That Rahamanullah Gurbaz (156 runs) and Fazalhaq Farooqi (9 wickets) are currently leading the chart of run-makers and wickettakers respectively is a just reflection of their fine run in this ICC showpiece.

Apart from Gurbaz, the experienced Ibrahim Zadran too has contributed well to Afghanistan's totals, making 114 runs with a highest of 70.

In bowling, pacer Farooqi has made a fine combination with Rashid, who has so far taken six

It has ensured that Afghanistan's opponents do not have any let-up either upfront or in the middle

passage.
The PNG might be a spirited side, but it looks way beyond their abilities to overcome a formidable Afghanistan.

TEAMS (FROM)

Afghanistan: Rashid Khan (c), Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Ibrahim Zadran, Azmatullah Omarzai, Najibullah Zadran, Mohammad Ishaq, Mohammad Nabi, Gulbadin Naib, Karim Janat, Nangyal Kharoti, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Noor Ahmad, Naveen-ul-Haq, Fazalhaq Farooqi, Fareed Ahmad Malik.

Papua New Guinea: Assadollah Vala (c), Alei Nao, Chad Soper, CI Amini, Hila Vare, Hiri Hiri, Jack Gardner, John Kariko, Kabua Vagi Morea, Kipling Doriga, Lega Siaka, Norman Vanua, Sema Kamea, Sese Bau, Tony Ura.

Match starts at 6AM IST (Friday).

PAK WORRY OVER USA-IRELAND CLASH: In a strange scenario, a non-playing Pakistan will be more keen on the result of USA and Ireland Group A match at



Lauderhill, Florida on Friday. A win for USA, currently second in this group with four points, will put an end to the World Cup campaign of Pakistan, who have two points from three matches.

Of course, it will also take the cohosts into the Super Eight from this group along with India. Ireland are a competitive side with experienced players in their ranks,

but they look woefully out of sync

here and the task might be heavier against the US, who are playing some very good T20 cricket at the moment.

They will be keeping an eye on the fitness of skipper Monank Patel,

who missed the match against Yasir Mohammad. India on Wednesday with a left-

shoulder injury. Aaron Jones did the duty of skipper against Rohit Sharma's men in New York.

There is also a strong rain threat to the match as per weather predictions, and even a washout can end the campaign of Pakistan. It will take the USA to five points and beyond the reach of Pakistan, who can now log a maximum of four points.

TEAMS (FROM)

Ireland: Paul Stirling (c), Mark Adair, Ross Adair, Andrew Balbirnie, Curtis Campher, Gareth Delany, George Dockrell, Graham Hume, Josh Little, Barry McCarthy, Neil Rock, Harry Tector, Lorcan Tucker, Ben White,

Craig Young.

USA: Monank Patel (c), Aaron
Jones, Andries Gous, Corey
Anderson, Ali Khan, Harmeet Singh, Jessy Singh, Milind Kumar, Nisarg Patel, Nitish Kumar, Noshtush Kenjige, Saurabh Nethralvakar, Shadley Van Schalkwyk, Steven Taylor, Shayan Jahangir. Reserve Players: Gajanand Singh, Juanoy Drysdale,

Match starts at 8 PM IST (Friday).

ENGLAND FACE OMAN: England will look to resuscitate their fast-sinking title defence with a win over inexperienced but capable Oman in their T20 World

Cup Group B match.
The situation is so grim that
England need to win both their remaining matches by a good margin to equal Scotland on five points, and also hope that the latter lose badly against the Antipodeans.
TEAMS (FROM)

England: Jos Buttler (c), Moeen Ali, Jofra Archer, Jonathan Bairstow, Harry Brook, Sam Curran, Ben Duckett, Tom Hartley, Will Jacks, Chris Jordan, Liam Livingstone, Adil Rashid, Phil Salt, Reece Topley, Mark Wood.

Oman: Aqib Ilyas (c), Zeeshan Maqsood, Kashyap Prajapati, Pratik Athavale, Ayaan Khan, Shoaib Khan, Mohammad Nadeem, Naseem Khushi, Mehran Khan, Bilal Khan, Rafiullah, Kaleemullah, Fayyaz Butt, Shakeel Ahmad, Khalid Kail. Reserves: Jatinder Singh, Samay Shrivastava, Sufyan Mehmood, Jay Odedra.

# Rampaging Rutherford powers West Indies into T20 World Cup Super 8

PTI ■ TAROUBA (TRINIDAD)

Sherfane Rutherford career-best unbeaten half-century before pacer Alzarri Joseph and leftarm spinner Gudakesh Motie ripped through the New Zealand line-up to steer West Indies into the T20 World Cup's Super Eight stage with a 13-run win here.

Rutherford came up with the innings of his life, smashing half a dozen sixes and two fours for his 39-ball 68 to lift West Indies to 149 for 9 from 76 for 7 in 12.3 overs after New Zealand opted to bowl in a virtual knock-out Group C

In reply, West Indies restricted the Kiwis to 136 for 9 with Rutherford's fellow Guyanese Motie returning with splendid figures of 3/25. Joseph turned up the heat lower down the order to become the wreckerin-chief with his 4/19.

With three wins in a row, the tournament co-hosts qualified for the Super Eight stage, while New Zealand's hopes were all

but over following back to

back losses. They had earlier lost to Afghanistan by 84 runs after being shot out for 75. The 2021 runners-up, among the most consistent sides in World Cups, have been found wanting this time.

They made the semi-final in the 2015, 2019 and 2023 editions of the ODI World Cup, and in 2016, 2021 and 2022, the Black Caps ensured a last-four appearance in the T20 World Cups. It was half past midnight in Trinidad but the locals erupted

in joy to celebrate their team's Super Eight qualification, erasing the disappointment of successive setbacks in the big event.

two-time former champions were eliminated in the Super-12 stage of the competition in UAE in 2021, while in 2022 in Australia, they failed to make the tournament proper and exited in the group stage.

"It was fantastic. I was sitting there with Nicholas (Pooran)

and it was such a beautiful night for someone to stand up and be counted," skipper

Rovman Powell said. That (Rutherford) innings gave us confidence and belief. We watched what they did well and tried to replicate it."

"It is one tick in the box, but it is only the start of something big to come. Hopefully we can continue the momentum," said Rutherford on making Super Eight.

Williamson rung in three

changes to the lineup beaten convincingly by Afghanistan and the intent was clear when

to his stumps. The Kiwi left-arm pacer ended up with splendid figures of 4-

Trent Boult dismissed Johnson

Charles (0) in the first over,

forcing the opener to chop on

Nicholas Pooran rode some luck for three quick boundaries, becoming the West Indies' highest T20I run-getter, moving past Chris

Gayle. But New Zealand took ascendancy, forcing Pooran (17) and then Roston Chase (0) to both top edge straight to catchers in successive overs The wicket of captain Rovman Powell capped off a dominant powerplay for the Kiwis --23/4 at the six-over mark --with pacer Tim Southee (2/21) picking up two of the scalps. There was more misery in store as opener Brandon King was dismissed by James Neesham (1/27) and half of the West Indies side was back in the dugout by the seventh

But Rutherford had other ideas and played one of the best innings of his career.

The 25-year-old Guyanese allrounder hung around before turning up the heat in the final five overs, blasting five fours and two sixes

Rutherford brought up his 50 off the final ball of the 19th over and pounded 18 runs of it in all, leaving Mitchell Santner perplexed. Rutherford scored all 37 runs in the closing partnership with Motie which became a new 10th wicket record in the ICC

T20 World Cup history. In reply, New Zealand got off to a poor start and lost both their openers -- Devon Conway (5) and Finn Allen (26) -- in the powerplay.

Thereafter left-arm spinner Motie foxed the Kiwi batters finishing with a match-turning spell of 4-0-25-3 before Joseph turned on the heat with his four-wicket haul. Motie dismissed Rachin Ravindra after he ended up flicking straight to Russell at deep mid-wicket.

He bowled shorter and induced a faint edge from

Williamson, who looked to cut it away. The ball went straight into the hands of Pooran. Glenn Phillips kept the Kiwi hopes alive with his 33-ball 40 before being dismissed by Joseph.

New Zealand needed 33 runs from the last over and Mitchell Santner smashed three sixes off the first four balls but eventually fell short.

can give you the batting depth

so I feel Kuldeep will get the

Chawla said the 'tricky' pitch in

New York brought the best out

"It was tricky, no doubt, but good teams have done well. Like India defended 120 runs

of 'good teams' such as India.

against Pakistan," he said.

nod," he said.



## It was special: Netravalkar on catching up with Surya, Rohit after more than 10 years

who was my senior in Mumbai. I've played with him there. I haven't played much with Virat, but he acknowledged our efforts after the game. It's good that they see potential in this team," he said.

The 32-year-old Oracle employee, who also happens to be a competent Ukelele player and a decent singer, represented India in the 2010 Under-19 World Cup before moving to the US on a scholarship to pursue higher studies in the prestigious Cornell University.

restarted once here and he is now a key player for the US team, which is an amalgamation of talent primarily from India, Pakistan and the West Indies.

living a dream. He tormented them as long as the match was on but Super Over win over Pakistan once the game was done and to dismissing Virat Kohli for a India-born American golden duck, the late bloome said he is still trying to process medium Saurabh pacer Netravalkar had a happy everything.
"I'm still digesting what is happening right now. The last reunion with his former Mumbai teammates Rohit two games have been very Sharma and Suryakumar high-profile. I'm glad we have Yadav.

The software engineer has been nothing short of sensational in the ongoing T20 World Cup and was in his elements on Wednesday too, dismissing both Rohit and Virat Kohli in the group stage match of the T20 World Cup here. But India won by seven wickets in a chase of 111 riding on Suryakumar's unbeaten half century to enter the Super Eight stage. Netravalkar has been close to

Suryakumar as the two played together for Mumbai. He was seen having a long chat with the swashbuckler and India captain Rohit after the match. "I met them after more than a decade. It was special. We were remembering old times because we played since childhood in U-15, U-17. It felt like we carried on from where we left off. Jokes from those times, casual conversations, and dressing room banter, Netravalkar, who returned with brilliant figures of 2/18 on Wednesday night, revealed in a media interaction after the game.
"I did talk to Rohit Sharma,

cricketing His At the ongoing World Cup,

whose family is based in Mumbai. "It was about being clear with our plans and executing our processes rather than thinking about who we are facing and what the result would be. I'm glad that first spell worked for me," he added about his effort last night.

done well as a unit. Always happy being myself, irrespective of the situation,"

said the soft-spoken player,

Netravalkar is quite literally

There was also assistance from the two-paced drop-in pitch and Netravalkar said it all boiled down to hitting the right areas.

The pitch plays a crucial role. Bowlers didn't have to do much, just hit the top of the stumps and let the pitch create the variation rather than us doing it. Credit to the coaching staff for giving us this clarity,

he said. Asked how he effected Kohli's dismissal, Netravalkar said: "That's my stock ball. I don't want to give too much away. The first ball, I tried to hit the top of off-stump, as simple as that. I didn't try to do anything special or get a wicket. It was a good ball and seamed nicely." He loves cricket but at the same

time, he also enjoys his job and would never give up on it.
"I love my job at Oracle, and I enjoy entering the field and bowling every ball. I'm blessed

that I get to do what I love the most. That's how it works." Asked about his journey, he said it's hard to describe it in a few sentences. "It's been a journey of almost a

decade with ups and downs. I had to take a practical call when I wasn't making it big in India due to the strong competition there," he recalled. "I got a good offer from one of the top universities, so I thought it was practical to pursue my other love and came here. I'm glad that God has given me another chance to pursue cricket again."



# Nassau Stadium, home to tense T20 World Cup matches, set for demolition

The makeshift Nassau County cricket ground, which was built specifically for the T20 World Cup, is all set to be demolished after the New York leg of the event came to an end with India's sevenwicket victory over co-hosts USA here.

Built in just over 100 days, the stadium became notorious for its challenging drop-in pitches, which were sourced from Adelaide. The massive structure sat on the edge of the 930-acre Eisenhower Park in

Long Island here. The stadium had 10 drop-in pitches, four for the main ground and six for the adjacent training facility in Cantiague Park.

"After the last match is held at East Meadow on June 12, the stadium will be dismantled, the parts shipped back to Las Vegas and another golf event, and Eisenhower Park will return to normal, but with a report had stated a few days

The stadium that "almost popped up overnight" will be dismantled over a period of six weeks. It had a capacity of 34,000 and hosted a housefull crowd during India's marquee clash against Pakistan on June 9 with some tickets sold at an astronomical price of USD 2500 to USD 10,000.

India played four matches at the venue, including a warm-up game against Bangladesh after the ground was thrown open on June 1.

The drop-in pitches hosted eight matches and produced unpredictable and occasionally dangerous bounce, resulting in particularly low scores in the first two matches where no team crossed 100 runs.

In India's match against Ireland, who were bowled out for 96, Rishabh Pant and Rohit Sharma also copped body

It led to widespread criticism prompted and world-class cricket pitch left International Cricket Council behind," a New York Times to issue a statement

acknowledging that the pitches have not played consistently".

The highest successful chase at the venue was only 111 runs by India in their win over USA on Wednesday.

Canada's 137/7 against Ireland was the highest total recorded, while India successfully defended a low total of 119 against Pakistan. In a nail-biting match, South

Africa barely chased down 103 runs against the Netherlands losing six wickets in the process, and later defended 113 runs against Bangladesh, winning by a narrow margin of four runs.

The venue was finalised by the ICC in 2023 and was built in just 106 days.

The playing field, with the rectangular pitch in the middle, was fashioned from special grass grown in Florida. "The grandstands borrowed materials most recently used at Las Vegas's Formula 1 race professional golf events," the NYT report added.

# Kuldeep Yadav will be India's preferred spinner in Super 8 stage: Piyush Chawla

Former cricketer Piyush Chawla feels that wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav will be India's preferred specialist spinners when the Indian team competes in the Super Eight stage of the T20 World Cup in

the Caribbean. India won all three matches in tough batting conditions at the Nassau County Stadium in New York against Ireland, Pakistan and USA and will now take on Canada in their last Group stage match at Lauderhill, Florida before the

Super Eight stage. Chawla said while the conditions in New York did not support spin bowling, the Indian spinners will now come into play in the tournament. India have four spin bowling options in Kuldeep, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel and Ravindra Jadeja.

"The pitch in New York was very dicey and the way India performed on that pitch and won three out of three games, so there are very good chances going forward," Chawla told media on the sidelines of IISM



Convocation Ceremony here on Thursday.

The spinners were not needed as much in New York but once vou enter the second leg for the Super Eight, the spinners have had a big role in the West Indies. Our spinners will come into play now," he added.

Chawla picked Kuldeep as his first choice even though Chahal finished the Indian Premier League (IPL) as one of the most successful bowlers. "To be very honest only one will play, and I think Kuldeep will be the first preference because of what he has done in

When they had made just 119 I do not think many people the last one and a half years.

would have given them the chance but the way the Indian bowling unit bowled, especially Jasprit Bumrah and Hardik, that was really a treat

## Kumble wants Arshdeep in side if India opt for two seamers in Caribbean Arshdeep should combine

pin legend Anil Kumble Spin legend Anil Kumble feels going by current form, Mohammed Siraj should make way for left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh if India decides to play just two specialist fast bowlers in two specialist fast bowlers in the West Indies-leg of the ongoing T20 World Cup. Arshdeep was lethal in India's seven-wicket win over USA, snaring four

wickets for just nine runs in

Jasprit Bumrah is India's

preferred choice and Kumble has no doubt that

New York on Wednesday.

with him along side all-rounder Hardik Pandya. It will help India field an extra spinner on the slow Caribbean pitches.
"I think the way he (Arshdeep) bowled that last

over against Pakistan, and also the way he can bowl in different areas in the T20 game, I think certainly puts him ahead of Mohamed Siraj," the former India coach told ESPNCricinfo. "If at all India takes that option of going with just the

two seamers and Hardik

Pandya. So yes, in that

sense, plus he also gives you an extra variety with his left-arm pace. So overall, he must be happy."
Arshdeep has done well for India in the three T20

World Cup matches so far,

picking up seven wickets at

an economy of 6.225 and strike rate of 10.28. In comparison, Siraj has managed just one wicket from three games at a strike rate of 66.

India will play Canada in their final Group A match at Lauderhill, Florida on Saturday before departing for the Caribbean.