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'Singing in a movie is a dream for any artist, and I am no EXCEPTION

the pioneer I saw a video which said 10 lakh phones were tapped by KCR. Yes, a few calls might have been tapped. They might have done -- of thieves, the police might have done. That is the job of the police, right? Like Nagarjuna in Greeku Veerudu, Revanth Reddy is 'leaku veerudu' giving leaks to YouTube channels

QUOTE OF THE DAY

- KTR, BRS MLA

CEO reviews MCC implementation...

Chief Electoral Officer Mukesh Kumar Meena has directed the District Election Officers to refrain from removing existing hoardings of political advertisements in the permanent offices of political parties at the state and district levels, as per local laws and regulations. On Wednesday, the CEO held a video conference with election officers from all districts and reviewed the arrangements being made in advance for the elections and the strict implementation of the code of conduct. During the meeting, the CEO mentioned..

Biodiversity conservation can...

Pandemic prevention plans should centre around conserving nature and biodiversity which would secure the food and shelter needs of animals, limiting contact and the transfer of pathogens to humans, researchers have advocated in a new study. Pandemics, or zoonotic diseases, are considered to begin with a 'spillover' event, involving the transfer of disease-causing pathogens circulating among wild animals to humans, livestock or other animals in close proximity. The international team of researchers has..



'Investment of 2.2% of GDP can...

Direct public investment of 2 per cent of India's GDP can potentially generate 11 million jobs, nearly 70 per cent of which will go to women, according to a report released by Ficci Ladies Organisation (FLO) on V The FLO also unveiled a roadmap for transforming India's care economy, including five key areas, leave policies, care service subsidies, investment in care infrastructure, skill training for care workers, and quality assurance mechanisms. "In India, the Ministry of Labour..

-PAGE: 8

Pant aims to shake off rustiness...

Skipper Rishabh Pant will look to overcome his rustiness as Delhi Capitals aim for an improved batting display in their bid for a first win of the IPL season when they take on Rajasthan Royals here on Thursday. Pant's muchanticipated return to action 453 days after he suffered grievous injuries in a horrific car accident lasted just 13 balls (18 runs) with Punjab Kings winning by four wickets at their new home ground in Mullanpur. Pant, though displayed his usual lively demeanour behind..

50 seats already in YSRCP's kitty

BY B KRISHNA PRASAD VI.JAYAWADA

With the finalisation of almost all the candidates by the ruling YSRC party and the Telugu Desam Party-led opposition alliance, the political landscape in Andhra Pradesh seems to be in favour of Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy's party. Interestingly, YSRCP already has in its kitty 50-odd seats, if we consider the relative strengths of the contesting candidates.

In the 175-seat AP Assembly, 29 seats are reserved for the Scheduled Castes and 7 for the Scheduled Tribes, with the reserved seats totaling 36. In these 36 seats, YSRCP candidates look formidable when compared to their rivals.

As per The Pioneer's ground survey, out of these 36 seats, the YSRCP is in a very strong position in 30 seats. In spite of intensive campaign by rivals, they seem to be unbeatable. So, out of the 36 reserved seats, the YSRCP is likely to win at least 30 seats! Similarly, there are 20-plus Assembly seats where Muslim vot-

ers are nearly one lakh or more. Ground reports from these 20 seats indicate clear edge for YSRCP. The Muslim population in Andhra Pradesh is 80.82 lakhs (9.56 per cent) of the total 8.46 crore as per the 2021 Census. Muslims, spread over 50 to 60 Assembly segments across the state with nearly 10 per cent vote share, are crucial for both YSRCP and TDP-JSP-BJP alliance. A major chunk of Muslims, considered a Selection of candidates gives a boost to the ruling party

 Differences between TDP and JSP leaders may halt vote transfer

Minorities to vote en bloc

As per *The Pioneer's* ground survey, out of these 36 seats, the YSRCP is in a very strong position in 30 seats. In spite of intensive campaign by rivals, they seem to be unbeatable. So, out of the 36 reserved seats, the YSRCP is likely to win at least 30 seats!

close-knit community with an en bloc voting behaviour, completely sided with Jagan in 2014 and 2019. Jagan's father and former chief minister late Y S Rajasekhar Reddy endeared himself to Muslims by providing 4 per cent reservations for them in education and jobs. This had immensely helped the YSRCP to garner the support of Muslims.

Naidu's alliance with the BJP in $2014\ was$ the reason for YSRCP's win in many Muslim-dominated Assembly constituencies, while Naidu's TDP could win that election with the support of BCs. The scene changed in 2019 when large groups of BCs turned against TDP to give YSRCP a record-breaking 151 seats in the 175-seat Assembly. Four Muslim candidates got elected on YSRCP ticket in 2019. They are

Abdul Hafeez Khan (Kurnool), Shaik Amjad Basha (Kadapa), Nawaz Basha (Madanapalle) and Mohammed Mustafa (Guntur East).

In this backdrop, ground reports indicate that Jagan's YSRCP has already gained 50-plus seats and needs only 38 more seats to retain power in the state.

Then it comes to TDP-JSP-BJP alliance, nothing is going in the anticipated way. There is widespread discontent among the three parties and all three parties are unhappy over seat sharing. Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan played a key role in cementing the alliance, but ended up with 21 seats less than what his party and cadre had expected. Similarly, many bigwigs of BJP could not get tickets due to pressures in the alliance. This has left the party

cadre in disarray.

After the announcement of tickets, based on the candidates' strength, nearly 30 seats in north coastal, Godavari, Krishna and Guntur districts are in favour of the TDP-JSP-BJP alliance.

While undivided Guntur district is fully supporting the opposition alliance, Krishna, Godavari, Visakhapatnam districts are giving slight edge to TDP-JSP-BJP group. While Prakasam, Nellore districts are evenly poised, Rayalaseema region is still strongly behind YSRCP. Except Ananthapur, remaining districts are set to give good numbers to YSRCP this time too. In Ananthapur, TDP is likely to spring some surprises, while in undivided Chittoor district, the Opposition set

to receive major setbacks.

Vote transfer between TDP-JSP appears limited to Godavari districts, while in all other districts, the differences between leaders belong to two parties are yet to be resolved. With BJP joining the alliance, the Opposition has lost minority votebank in total.

Elections are happening after the announcement regarding notification of amendments to rules under CAA, and there is a clear indication that the minorities are set to vote en

As per the analysis, results in 90 seats are clear, in which majority are going in favour of YSRCP and keen contest is witnessed in 85 seats. Whoever gets 88 seats will form the next government in June.

No relief to Kejriwal

PNS NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday refused to grant interim relief to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, arrested by the ED in a money laundering case linked to the excise policy 'scam', saying the matter raises important issues that cannot be "summarily" decided without seeking the agency's stand.

Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma issued notice on the Aam Aadmi Party leader's petition challenging his arrest and the subsequent remand granted to ED and asked the agency to file its response, including on interim relief, before April

The judge, in the order, stated that the matter would be taken up for final disposal on April 3 and no adjournment

shall be granted.

Seeking relief for Kejriwal, senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi said he was arrested based on "uncorroborated" statements of two co-accused and called them "Jaichands and Trojan horses" for their "betrayal".

"Democracy itself is involved. Basic structure is involved. Level playing field is involved. Even an hour spent in custody is far too long if arrest is illegal," he contended and alleged that Kejriwal was arrested just before the Lok Sabha elec-

Oppn stands for lies & deceit: Jagan

tions to "disable" him and his party

The court, however, rejected his contention that no reply is required to be filed on behalf of the respondent. "This court deems it appropriate to issue notice of the main writ petition as well as application for grant of interim relief, returnable on 03.04.2024," the court said.

Kavitha spends one night at Tihar jail

Served prison food



Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader K Kavitha arrested in connection with the Delhi excise policylinked money

laundering case spent her first night in Tihar jail and was served prison food, official sources said on Wednesday. According to the sources from Tihar jail, she spent her first night in a cell shared by two other female inmates in iail number six. which is a dedicated women's prison. Continued on Page 2

Records tumble as SRH outmuscle Mumbai Indians

ng a 31-run victory in a power-hitting contest that left bowlers on both sides befuddled. SRH opener Travis Head (62 off 24)

and number three Abhishek Sharma (63 off 23) came up with a sensational display of power-hitting that saw the latter snatching the franchise record for the fastest fifty from the

Australian within Heinrich Klaasen (80 not out off 34 balls) provided the fireworks in the end to help SRH break an 11-

year-old record. The previous highest total in IPL was 263 for five achieved by Royal Challengers Bangalore back in 2013. It was also the highest total recorded in a T20 league. Mumbai bowlers were left shell-shocked by SRH's six-hitting spree but their batters came out with a purpose and made a match out of what looked like a one way traffic at the innings break. Eventually, they ended at 246 for five in 20 overs.

A record 38 sixes were plundered in the game and it was the first time 500 runs were scored in a T20 match.

PNS ■ HYDERABAD "The wicket was good but 277, no matter how good or bad you Records tumbled as Sunrisers bowl, if the opposition get 277 that Hyderabad went on a rampage to post the highest ever IPL total of tough out there for bowlers. Close 277 for 3 against Mumbai Indians to 500 runs were scored so the wicket was helping the batters skipper Hardik Pandya said after

> Chasing a mammoth 278, Rohit Sharma (26 off 12), in his 200th

game for the franchise, played some sublime strokes and was well complemented by Ishan Kishan (34 off 13) who got some much needed runs. Tilak Varma (64

off 34 balls) took the game deep with a high-quality knock, comprising half a dozen sixes. At 182 for three in 14 overs and seven wickets in hand, Mumbai Indians were on course for something special before succumbing to constant scoreboard pressure.

Tim David (42 not out off 22) tried his best towards the end but it was not enough. Earlier, it was raining fours and sixes as Head and Sharma toved with the Mumbai Indians attack after being put in to bat.

Head, who was surprisingly left out of the playing eleven for the opening game, reinforced his status as one of the most dangerous batters in the game with a whirl-



Uphold alliance

PNS GUNTUR

Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan has stressed the need to uphold the principles of alliance cooperation and strive collectively for the success of alliance candidates. "In the spirit of our alliance, let us commit ourselves to its principles and work tirelessly for the victory of our alliance partners," stated Þawan Kalyan.

Addressing the party workers at the Jana Sena State office in Mangalagiri on Wednesday, he expressed satisfaction with the adherence to alliance principles among Jana Sena members, Kalyan stressed the need for all three parties to progress harmoniously, devoid of errors or shortcomings.

'dharma', Pawan exhorts cadre

He underscored the rationale behind allying, emphasizing its objective of securing a prosperous future for Andhra Pradesh. Stressing the significance of the JSP's contribution to the alliance's objectives of restoring law and order, protecting citizens, and fostering state progress, Kalyan reiterated his long-standing call for adhering to alliance principles.

Seeks votes based on promises kept

PNS PRODDDATUR

Describing the TDP, Jana Sena, and the BJP alliance as conspiratorial, deceitful, and prone to falsehoods, Chief Minister and YSRCP has called upon the people to bless the ruling party with a clean sweep victory of 175 assembly and 25 Lok Sabha seats to teach a fitting lesson to the opposition in the forthcoming elections. Launching the party's poll cam-

paign at a mammoth public meeting 'Memantha Siddham' in Proddatur on Wednesday, the Chief Minister said that unable to withstand the backing of crores of people for YSRCP, the TDP and Jana Sena have directly joined hands with a national political party and indirectly roped in another national As if that is not enough, they have

instigated his two sisters besides launching a malicious campaign against him on the murder of his uncle YS Vivekananda Reddy and the seizure of a drug container by the CBI at the Visakhapatnam Port, he said, adding that they have ganged up to malign him with the support of their friendly media.

They want to make political gains by politicising deaths and character assassination against Jagan while openly encouraging the proclaimed killer with the support of their media, but people know who the real culprits are, as Chandrababu



- Jagan urged the public to support the ruling YSRCP with a significant victory in the upcoming elections, aiming for 175 Assembly seats and 25 Lok Sabha seats.
- The YSRCP chief accused the opposition of instigating familial discord and launching malicious campaigns against him, including allegations related to the murder of his uncle and a drug seizure
- Jagan asked the people to press two buttons for YSRCP in the May 13 polls, one for the Assembly seat and the for the Lok Sabha seat.

Naidu and his foster son have no political credibility or ethics.

It is an open fact that the relatives president of BJP State Purandheswari and Chandrababu owned the company that imported the seized material, but they want to blame Jagan for making political gains, the Chief Minister said.

'Memanta Siddham' bus yatra begins

PNS IDUPULAPAYA

Chief Minister and YSRCP pres-Wednesday commenced his 21day 'Memanta Siddham' bus yatra from here, following prayers at the Samadhi of his father and former chief minister, Dr YS Rajasekhara Reddy.

Accompanied by his mother, YS Vijayamma, close relatives, and senior party leaders, Chief Minister Jagan paid homage at the YSR Ghat. The ceremony included religious prayers, with Vedic pundits offering blessings to the Chief Minister.

During the 'Memantha Siddham' (We are Ready) bus yatra, the Chief Minister will address public gatherings in 21 Lok Sabha constituencies, excluding the four constituencies where Siddham public meetings were previously held.
Throughout the route from

Idupulapaya to Proddutur, crowds gathered along key thoroughfares to welcome the yatra with chants of 'Jai Jagan,' showering flower petals on the Chief Minister. Chief Minister Jagan reciprocated by waving to the crowds and offering greetings with folded hands as he stepped out of the bus.

783 million people face chronic hunger: UN

PNS NAIROBI

The world wasted an estimated 19 per cent of the food produced globally in 2022, or about 1.05 billion metric tons, according to a new United Nations report.

Environment Programme's Food Waste Index Report, published Wednesday, tracks the progress of countries to halve food waste by 2030.

The UN said the number of countries reporting for the index nearly doubled from the first report in 2021. The 2021 report estimated that 17 per cent of the food produced globally in 2019, or 931 million metric tons (1.03 billion tons), was wasted, but authors warned against direct comparisons because of the lack of sufficient data from many

The report is co-authored by

SAYS YET THE WORLD WASTES 19 PERCENT OF ITS FOOD



Action Programme (WRAP), an international charity.

Researchers analyzed country data on households, food service and retailers. They found that each person wastes about 79 kilograms (about 174 pounds) of food annually, equal to at least 1 billion meals wasted worldwide daily.

Most of the waste 60 per cent UNEP and Waste and Resources came in households. About 28 per



cent came from food service, or restaurants, with about 12 per cent

from retailers. "It is a travesty," said co-author Clementine O'Connor, the focal point for food waste at UNEP. "It doesn't make any sense, and it is a complicated problem, but through collaboration and systemic action, it

is one that can be tackled." The report comes at a time when 783 million people around the world face chronic hunger and many places facing deepening food crises.

Food waste is also a global concern because of the environmental toll of production, including the land and water required to raise crops and animals and the greenhouse gas emissions it produces, including methane, a powerful gas that has accounted for about 30 per cent of global warming since pre-industrial times

Food loss and waste generates 8 to 10 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions. If it were a country, it would rank third after China and the US. Fadila Jumare, a Nigeria-based project associate at Busara Centre for Behavioral Economics who has studied prevention of food waste in Kenya and Nigeria, said the problem further disadvantages many people who are already food insecure and cannot afford healthy diets.

BJP announces 10 **Assembly nominees**

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The BJP has unveiled its candidates for 10 Assembly constituencies, confirming earlier speculations. Names were disclosed from Delhi, featuring notable figures like ex-MLA P Vishunukumar Raju and former ministers Kamiineni Srinivasa Rao and C Adinarayana Reddy.

THE LIST

Etcherla: N Eswara Rao P Vishnu Kumar Raju Vizag North: Araku Valley (ST): Pangi Rajarao M Shiva Krishnam Raju Anaparthy: Kamineni Srinivas Rao Kaikalur **YS Chowdary** Vijayawada West: Badvel (SC): Bojja Roshanna Jammalamadugu: Adinarayana Reddy Dr. P.V. Parthasarathi Y. Satya Kumar Dharmavaram:

YSRCP opposes screening of biopic on Vivekananda

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) has demanded the stopping of the screening of the movie 'Vivekam', a biopic on YS Vivekananda Reddy's life, citing ongoing CBI investigations into his mur-der. The Andhra Pradesh Chief Electoral Office has forwarded this request to the Election Commission

Congress Party.

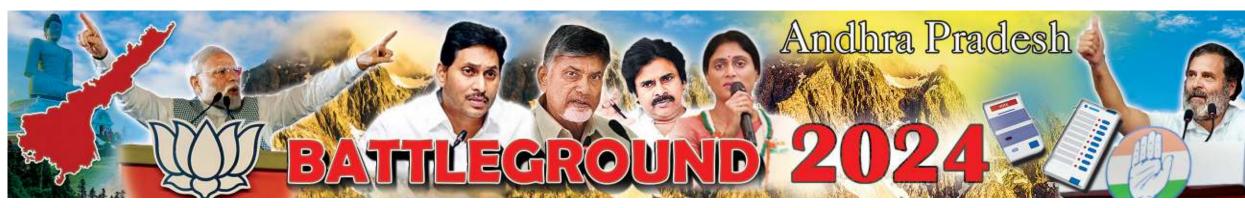
Concerns are raised about the film's potential to influence voters, especially as investigations

into Ředdy's death are ongoing. The YSRCP references past ECI decisions, such as the ban on a biopic of Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the 2019 elections, to support their case. Objections are also

raised against Instagram content allegedly targeting YS

of India (ECI) for action. Allegations Bharathi, Jagan's wife, and Avinash claim that the movie's trailer, shared Reddy, potentially impacting voter on YouTube, depicts scenes that perceptions negatively. The YSRCP potentially defame Chief Minister urges the ECI to intervene and halt YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and the YSR the film's release to maintain electoral integrity.





Naidu has taken a U-turn on **Volunteer system: Kodali**

PNS VIJAYAWADA

YSRCP Gudivada candidate and former minister Kodali Sri Venkateswara Rao (Nani), has once again made serious allegations against the TDP supremo and former CM N Chandrababu Naidu, claiming that he has taken a U-turn on the issue of Gram/Ward Volunteers. Nani stated that whenever Chandrababu Naidu mentions the Volunteers' name, he appears fearful.

The sitting MLA Nani commenced his election campaign from the first ward in Gudivada town on Wednesday. During his campaign, he highlighted the development activities undertaken in the Gudivada constituency over the past five years, amounting to approximately Rs. 2,000 crore. As part of his electioneering, Kodali Nani criticised former chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu for alleged-ly spreading falsehoods. He accused the TDP leader of reversing his stance regarding the Gram/Ward Volunteers, who have diligently served the people by facilitating access to govern-

Nani remarked that, in light of the elections, Chandrababu Naidu is making promises to the volunteers, assuring them that their jobs will not be terminated and that they will receive higher wages. Nani pointed out that these assurances from the TDP are likely to be false and



ment welfare schemes.

Nani said that his party does not need to depend on the Volunteer' system in the upcoming elections, asserting that their members are well-educated and possess a clear understanding of right and wrong. He alleged that over the past five years, both Chandrababu Naidu of the TDP and Pawan Kalyan of the JSP have mistreated these volun-

Furthermore, Nani remarked

that, in light of the elections, Chandrababu Naidu is making promises to the volunteers, assuring them that their jobs will not be terminated and that they will receive higher wages. Nani pointed out that these assurances from the TDP are likely to be false and may not be fulfilled after assuming power. He also expressed doubts about the TDP's potential reintroduction of the 'Janmabhoomi Committees' if they were to come into power.

Moreover, Nani stated that after June 4, the day of ballot counting, nobody would be concerned about Chandrababu Naidu. He alleged that if the TDP were to field a candidate independently, they would be defeated, which is why they allied with the BJP. Despite Chandrababu Naidu expressing regret about aligning with the communal BJP, Nani added, he ultimately yielded to the demands of Union

CP inspects police stations in Gajuwaka ahead of polls

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Commissioner of Police Dr A Ravi Shankar took charge on Wednesday to ensure a seamless electoral process in Gajuwaka. Conducting a thorough inspection, Commissioner Shankar inspected key police stations, polling stations, and booths in the region. The primary objective of his visit was to evaluate readiness levels and issue essential directives to officials, aiming for a hassle-free voting experience.

Commissioner Ravi Shankar meticulously surveyed polling centres in Gajuwaka and neighbouring areas, engaging in dis-cussions with pertinent authorities to devise strategies for maintaining peace during the voting process. Emphasis was placed on bolstering security measures, particularly through the swift installation of CCTV cameras across all polling centers.

Delving into the list of individuals with criminal records associated with critical polling stations, CP Ravi Shankar personally visited certain resi-

Role of presiding officers in poll process stressed

District Collector Nagalakshmi has emphasised the crucial role of Presiding Officers (POs) in ensuring the seamless conduct of elections, underlining the need for flawless execution. Nagalakshmi issued orders for adherence to electoral processes, highlighting the importance of training programmes. This emphasis comes as part of efforts to bolster confidence in the electoral process ahead of upcoming elections.

This was followed by a comprehensive training programme held at the Collectorate meeting hall, in which Presiding Officers and Assistant Presiding Officers from various constituencies participated. The session aimed to equip participants with an in-depth understanding of election protocols, including the intricacies of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verified Paper Audit Trails (VVPATs). Through presentations and a specially prepared video by the Election Commission, attendees were briefed on their roles and responsibilities.

During the gathering, Collector Nagalakshmi reiterated the authority vested in POs during

polling, stressing the imperative of their readiness to fulfill duties effectively. Zero tolerance for errors or the necessity for repolling was emphasized, with Nagalakshmi urging swift comholders. pletion of the voting process. POs were instructed to maintain

and refrain from exhibiting personal biases. Further directives from Nagalakshmi included the mandatory conduct of a mock poll 90 minutes prior to polling, with arrangements at polling centers to be finalized the night before. POs were advised to maintain essential handbooks, checklists, and adhere to prescribed protocols diligently.

Highlighting the importance of

impartiality, strictly adhere to

Election Commission directives,

such training initiatives, Nagalakshmi disclosed plans for similar programs across three phases, ensuring widespread understanding among all stake-

The event witnessed the presence of key officials including Joint Collector K. Karthik, Assistant Collector Sahadith Venkata Trivinag, and other notable figures such as DRO SD Anitha, Trainings Nodal Officer Sudhakara Rao, and Municipal Commissioner M. Mallaiah Naidu, alongside their respective staff. As anticipation for upcoming elections mounts, the rigorous training and meticulous planning led by authorities like District Collector Nagalakshmi serve as crucial pillars of confidence in the integrity of the electoral process.



Bhuvaneswari unveils CD of special campaign song

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Nara Bhuvaneswari, the wife of Telugu mer chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu, unveiled a CD of a special video song titled 'Egire Pasupu Jenda

released the video song CD at the K

Eduruleni Agenda' at Jangareddygudem in Eluru district on Wednesday. The video song was created by the party's women's wing state general secretary, Mulpuri Sai Kalyani. During her visit to Jangareddygudem, Bhuvaneswari

Convention Centre. She expressed her happiness with the song and encouraged party leaders and members to promote it to enhance the party's standing in the upcoming elections. After the event in Jangareddygudem,

she visited the Abhanjaneya Swamy temple in Hanuman Junction, Krishna district, where she performed special poojas. TDP MLC Panchumarthi Anuradha, Telugu Rythu state general secretary K Nani, and other party leaders attended.

Krishna Paksha

Mar 27 05:06 PM

Mar 28 06:57 PM

Mar 27 04:15 PM

Mar 28 06:38 PM

to Mar 28 06:38 PM

to Mar 29 08:36 PM

1:52 PM to 3:23 PM

6:17 AM to 7:48 AM

12:41 AM to 02:25 AM

9:19 AM to 10:50 AM

08:58 AM to 10:43 AM

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:56 AM to 12:45 PM

Updated: March 27, 2024 5:00 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Mostly Sunny

to Mar 28 06:57 PM

to Mar 29 08:21 PM

TODAY

ALMANAC

Tithi: Tritiya:

Nakshatram:

Chaturthi

Vishaka:

Rahukalam

Varjyam:

Yamagandam:

Amritakalam:

Temp: 39°°

Humidity: 53% Sunrise: 6:05 AM

Sunset: 6:20 PM

Month & Paksham:

It's official: Sujana to contest from Vja-West, Kamineni from Kaikaluru

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leadership has formally announced the candidatures of Yalamanchili Satyanarayana Chowdary, popularly known as Sujana Chowdary, for the Vijayawada-West Assembly segment and Kamineni Srinivasa Rao for Kaikaluru Assembly segment. These nominations come as part of the BIP's seat allocation agreement with the TDP and JSP, segments in the former Krishna district.

In a statement released on Wednesday, the BJP unveiled a list of six candidates for Andhra Pradesh's upcoming elections. Among the 16 Assembly constituencies in the combined Krishna district, the BJP has secured Vijayawada-West Kaikaluru, while Avanigadda

Former Central minister Sujana Chowdary, making his electoral debut under the BJP banner after parting ways with the TDP, is poised to contest from Vijayawada-West. Chowdary had played a pivotal role for the TDP in New Delhi post the state's bifurcation.

has been allotted to the JSP.

Meanwhile, the TDP has finalised 13 candidates for this district, but the announce-







Meanwhile, the JSP is contemplating nominating former legislator Vangaveeti Radhakrishna from Vijayawada-East for the Avanigadda constituency, a move not sanctioned by the TDP. With a significant Kapu voter base in Avanigadda, the JSP sees Radhakrishna's candidacy as a strate manoeuvre to sway voters in their favour.

ment of the Avanigadda candidate by the JSP is still awaited. Dissatisfaction among TDP cadres persists over the seat allocation to the JSP. Former Deputy Speaker Mandali Buddha Prasad, aspiring for this segment, has seen protests by his followers against the decision to allocate the seat to

Similarly, within the JSP, there's discontent voiced by Pothina Venkata Mahesh, the party's Vijayawada President, regarding the candidature selection process. Mahesh had hoped to contest from Vijayawada West, but the BIP's endorsement of Sujana Chowdary's candidacy has altered the dynamics.

Political analysts predict widespread discontent within both the TDP and JSP ranks due to the allocation of segments to the BJP, potentially leading to electoral setbacks for the latter. Additionally, there are concerns about cooperation between the TDP and JSP in the Avanigadda segment.

Meanwhile, the JSP is contemplating nominating former legislator Vangaveeti Radhakrishna Vijayawada-East for the Avanigadda constituency, a move not sanctioned by the TDP. With a significant Kapu voter base in Avanigadda, the ISP sees Radhakrishna's candidacy as a strategic manoeuvre to sway voters in their

LS, ASSEMBLY POLLS

Women get raw deal in combined Krishna

TDP's Tangirala Sowmya is the only lucky woman to get Assembly seat

In the 2019 elections, the YSRCP didn't

give any seats to women, and it looks

like they're doing the same for the 2024

elections. Even though Chief Minister YS

Jagan Mohan Reddy and opposition

leader N Chandrababu Naidu talked

about helping women, they didn't do

anything to give women more seats.

DASARI SRINIVASA RAO

Women in the combined Krishna district are feeling let down by the main political parties in the state, like the YSRCP and the TDP, which didn't keep their promises about helping women gain more power. Sadly, neither MP and MLA seats to women in the combined Krishna dis-

Out of 16 Assembly and two Lok Sabha parts, the TDP gave one Assembly part to a woman, but the ruling YSRCP didn't give any. Compared to the YSRCP, the TDP did slightly better by giving a part to a woman in Nandigama.

The YSRCP and the TDP recently announced their candidates for MP and MLA seats in the combined Krishna district. The TDP gave a seat to a woman named Tangirala Sowmya in Nandigama for the second time in a row.

Last time, the TDP gave two Assembly seats to women, Pamarru (Uppuleti Kalpana) and Tangirala Sowmya (Nandigama). But this time, they only gave one seat to a woman.

In the 2019 elections, the YSRCP didn't give any seats to women, and it looks like they're doing the same for the 2024 elections. Even though Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and opposition leader N Chandrababu Naidu talked about helping women, they didn't do anything to give women more seats.

In Krishna district, there Vijayawada man, and Machilipatnam is

are two Lok Sabha seats: and Machilipatnam. The YSRCP gave these seats to men. The TDP gave Vijayawada to a

likely to go to a man too. The

TDP's ally, Jana Sena Party (JSP), got the Machilipatnam seat, but they haven't found a candidate yet.

There are also 16 Assembly seats in the combined Krishna

The YSRCP didn't give any seats to women. But the TDP gave the Nandigama seat to Tangirala Sowmya, a former woman legislator. This made some people in the opposition party happy about women getting more seats.

It's worth noting that the BJP state unit is led by a woman, Daggubati Purandeswari, a former Central minister. Her party will be contesting in two

seats: Vijayawada West and Kaikaluru. But they are very unlikely to pick any women candidates for these seats.

TDP's Tangirala Sowmya

As for the Congress party, they haven't announced their candidates yet. They might join forces with the left parties CPI and CPM. After they decide who gets which seats, they'll announce their candidates.

The Congress party is led by YS Sharmila Reddy, the daughter of former Chief Minister Dr YS Rajasekhar Reddy and the sister of current CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. They're looking for women candidates to join the contest.

Oppn stands for lies...

Continued from Page 1

Cautioning the people that the slew of welfare schemes will continue only if Jagan remains Chief Minister, he said that the opposition parties have come together and are implementing their conspiracies by creating dissensions in his family.

In the 2014 elections, these three parties came together and distributed signed copies of an election manifesto promising the waiver of farmers' loans, women's self-help groups' loans, jobs for every family unemployment allowance in the absence of a job, Rs. 25,000 for the birth of a girl in the name of the Mahalakshmi scheme, three

cents of house site for the poor, and a host of other promises but threw the manifesto into the dustbin after coming to power, he said.

The issues on which they came together in 2014 remain unresolved. TDP and Jana Sena have ganged up and fallen at the feet of Delhi leaders for fighting

"What happened to the promise of special status to the State?" he said. "It is a war between

YSRCP that stands for credibility and political values and a combination of political parties that stands for deceit and lies," he said and cautioned people that a vote for the opposition will result in the winding up of welfare schemes and the loss of hap-

piness for the poor.
While Naidu threw the

election manifesto into the dustbin and cheated people after winning the 2014 polls with the support of Jana Sena and BJP, the YSRCP fulfilled 99 per cent of its election promises and spent a whopping Rs. 2,70,000 crore on welfare schemes by pressing the button 130 times in the last 58 months transparently, with Rs. 1,90,000 lakh crores of it going to women alone.

Asking the people not to be misled by the false promises of Naidu who has a proven track record of backstabbing all sections, he asked them to press two buttons for YSRCP in the May 13 polls, one for the assembly seat and another

'Memanta Siddham'...

Continued from Page 1

At several stops, Chief Minister Jagan climbed atop the bus to greet the enthusiastic crowds, despite the swelter-

ing heat. În Veerannagattu Palli, the crowds assembled in large numbers and presented him with a Gajamala. On the first day, the bus yatra covered 64 km in the YSR district, passing through Kumarampalli, Vempalli, Sarvarajupeta, VN (Kamalapuram), Gangireddypalli, Urutur, Yerraguntla (Jammalamadugu),

Potladurthi, and Proddatur. Throughout the Bus Yatra, the Chief Minister will engage with various groups of people and intellectuals in the morning hours, receiving representations from them on improving government functioning.

Kavitha spends one...

Continued from Page 1

"She ate dal and rice, which was also served to other inmates on Tuesday night, and Wednesday morning, she had tea with snacks," a jail source said.

Kavitha was taken to Tihar jail on Tuesday evening after a Delhi court sent her to judicial custody till April 9 on the ED's plea that if released, the "highly influential" arrestee was likely to influence witnesses and tamper with evidence.

"Following her medical examinations, she was directly sent to her cell. Her blood pressure was slightly low during the medical checkup but later it went back to normal," the source said.

Kavitha was given a mattress, slippers, clothes, a bedsheet, and a blanket as per the jail rules, the source said, adding she was also provided with her medicines.

cific", and she will be provided with things as per the court order and the jail rules. According to the court order, she is permitted to have home-cooked food, a mattress, slippers, clothes, a bedsheet, a blanket, books, pen and paper, and medicines.

An official said she did not demand anything "spe-

The BRS leader is also allowed to wear jewellery. However, she was not wearing any jewellery when she came to the jail, the official said.

Uphold alliance...

Continued from Page 1

Warning against any attempts by party members to exploit the alliance for personal political gain, Kalyan affirmed his readiness to take strict action. He clarified that the Party Affairs Central Committee continuously monitors adherence to alliance

principles among party leaders. Subsequently, addressing Jana Sena's women leaders, Kalyan assured them of the party's recognition of their contributions. He applauded their frontline role in various struggles and reiterated the party's commitment to supporting women leaders irrespective of caste, religion, or regional affiliations.

In an interesting turn of events Telugu Desam Party leader and Ongole MP Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy visited Pawan Kalyan at the state office on Wednesday. BJP's Tirupati LS candidate Vara Prasad also paid a visit to Kalyan.

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NTR DIST COLLECTOR TELLS CEO

'Poll code being enforced strictly'

NTR District Collector Dr S Dilli Rao has informed Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Mukhesh Kumar Meena that his administration is effectively implementing the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) and addressing all election-related complaints received through cVIGIL after thorough verifi-

Andhra Pradesh CEO, Mukhesh Kumar Meena, conducted a video conference with district collectors, including NTR District Collector Dr Dilli Rao, Joint Collector Dr P Sampath Kumar, Vijayawada Municipal Commissioner Swapnil Dinakar Pundkar, and KRC Special Deputy Collector

During the conference, Dr Assembly constituencies.



Dilli Rao mentioned receiving In Krishna district, Collector P Raja Babu 188 complaints through informed CEO Mukhesh Kumar about intensified cVIGIL, which are being addressed in line with CEO border checks to prevent illegal transportation of guidelines. Besides, 198 cash, liquor, ganja, and other goods. The district requests for permissions were administration is focused on enforcing the Model received, with 23 about Lok Code of Conduct, Home Voting, Postal Ballot, and Sabha and the rest to other election-related matters.

strict implementation of Election Seizure Management through coordination with Enforcement Department

In Krishna district, Collector P Raja Babu informed CEO Mukhesh Kumar about intensified border checks to prevent illegal transportation of cash, liquor, ganja, and other goods. The district administration

is focused on enforcing the Model Code of Conduct, Home Voting, Postal Ballot, and other election-related matters. Joint Collector Geethanjali Sharma, DRO K Chandrasekhar Additional SP G Venkateswara Rao, ROs, and other officials also participated in the confer-

Vizag Airport runway resurfacing project completed ahead of schedule Flight operations set to resume 24/7 from April 1 PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

The Visakhapatnam Airport runway resurfacing project, overseen by the Indian Navy, has been completed ahead of schedule. The final layer of surfacing has been applied and approved by the runway inspection agency. This accomplishment has been praised for its quality and

timely execution.

Operations at the airport are set to resume 24/7 starting April 1, coinciding with the upcoming summer schedule. This achievement is significant for INS Dega, which has been a vital part of Visakhapatnam's aviation infrastructure since

The project was initiated to meet the increasing demand for air travel services in Visakhapatnam. The goal was to improve the efficiency and safety of the airfield to accommodate both domestic and international flights. The 10,000-foot runway, which was opened in 2007, needed upgrading due to over 15 years of use and a rise in daily movements exceeding 75-80 flights.



The project was initiated to meet the increasing demand for air travel services in Visakhapatnam. The goal was to improve the efficiency and safety of the airfield to accommodate both domestic and international flights.

Despite initial delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the project was completed ahead of schedule, thanks to the efforts of the ENC headquarters. Careful planning ensured minimal disruption to commercial flights by scheduling the resurfacing work during the winter schedule of civil aviation. Closure windows were limited to 9:00 AM and 8:00

PM, with flexibility to accommodate over 30 flights outside these hours during emergencies such as Cyclone Michaung.

The early completion of the runway resurfacing project highlights the Indian Navy's commitment to maintaining operational readiness and ensuring a safe aviation infrastructure for Visakhapatnam.

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Preventive Detention Act was evoked against a rowdy sheeter Konduri Manikantha (KTM Pandu) and shifted him

to Rajahmundry prison. Krishna District SP Adnan Naeem Asmi has warned that those who act to disturb the public life, cause harm to people and create insecurity, will not be ignored and the police will initiate stern action against the law violators.

He said that on the request of the police, PD ACT (Preventive Detention) was implemented against the criminal Manikantha who was inciting gang wars in Krishna district's Penamaluru Police

PD Act invoked against rowdy-sheeter



Station and he was handed over to Rajahmundry Central Jail on the orders issued by

of Sanath Nagar of Kanuru village in Penamaluru mandal on the outskirts of Vijayawada city is habitually committing bodily offences, committing crimes like murder, attempted murder, instigating gang wars and disrupting normal public life and disturbing public peace. A rowdy sheet was opened against him in the year 2020 and four cases were registered against him in the year 2023 and one case in the year 2024.

KTM Pandu, 26 years, resident

YSRCP flays TDP's 'drama' over container near CM's camp office

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

YSR Congress Party's (YSRCP) North Andhra regional coordinator YV Subba Reddy has strongly criticised the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) for what he calls 'unnecessary drama' surrounding a container that was seen at the Chief Minister's camp office. Addressing the media during an election campaign in Visakhapatnam South Constituency on Wednesday, Subba Reddy dismissed the claims made by TDP leaders regarding the contents of the container. He clarified that the CM camp office houses several government departments, suggesting that the container may have been carrying routine goods for these offices.

Subba Reddy particularly refuted allegations made by TDP's national general secretary Nara Lokesh, who had insinuated the presence of narcotic drugs or illicit money in the container. He emphasised that the



people are well aware that the container in question belongs to the relatives of Lokesh.

The remarks from the YSR Congress Party come in response to a recent controversy stirred by the TDP's allegations regarding the contents of the container intercepted in Visakhapatnam. The incident has injected a fresh wave of political tension in the region ahead of the upcoming elections. The YSR Congress Party's stance suggests a firm dismissal of the TDP's claims, positioning the incident as an attempt to create unnecessary sensationalism during the election season.



Durga temple richer by Rs 3.78 cr

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam atop Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada received a hundi collection of Rs 3.78 crore for 25 days. The average collection per day is Rs.15.14 lakh.

On Wednesday, the temple authorities conducted the hundi counting at the Sri Mallikharjuna Maha Mandapam. Temple Executive Officer KS Rama Rao supervised Besides, the devotees also offered 900 grams of gold ornaments and 7.820 kg of silver ornaments to the presiding deity goddess

Sri Kanaka Durga.
Additionally, Rs 1.22 lakh was earned from

The temple also received foreign currency including 3,633 US Dollars, 100 Oman Riyals, 20 UK Pounds, 30 Australian Dollars, 135 Euros, 138 Singapore Dollars, 30 UAE Dirhams, 2.5 Kuwait Dinar, 104 Qatar Riyals,

District Collector P Rajababu. The police explained that Konduri Manikantha alias

Special days in Tirumala in April

PNS TIRUMALA

The following are the details of the special days to be Sri Krodhinama Samv Ekadasi and April 21 to 23-Salakatla Vasanthotsavams.

IIM Vizag shines bright with 100% placement record

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

In a testament to its unwavering commitment to excellence, IIM Visakhapatnam, affectionately known as the sunrise IIM, has once again achieved a emarkable feat in the realm of high-quality management education. The Institute proudly announces the successful conclusion of both the final and summer placements for the batches of PGP 2022-24 and PGP 2023-25 respectively.

The Institute achieved a stel-

its 8th graduating MBA batch 2022-24. Witnessing four international offers for the first time, the Institute set a new benchmark with an average salary of Rs 19.50 LPA. Notably, stood at Rs 15.64 LPA, with recruiters recognizing exceptional potential by offering packages reaching up to an impressive Rs 43.25 LPA, marking a 25% increase from the previous year. The top 10%, 25%, and 50% of students

lar 100% placement record for



secured average packages of Rs 28.60 LPA, Rs 24.62 LPA, and Rs 21.05 LPA respectively, showcasing outstanding performance despite market chal-

Equally successful were the dents experiencing exciting opportunities during their internships. The highest stipend offered reached Rs. 2.40 lakh, reflecting recruiters' confidence in the talented pool. The average stipend stood at Rs. 0.69 lakh, with notable fig-

ures such as the top 10% and 25% of students receiving average stipends of Rs. 1.58 lakh and Rs. 1.17 lakh respectively. A total of 177 companies participated in the placement process, with 117 new various domains, including Consulting, Strategy, Finance, and IT among others. Prominent recruiters such as Accenture, Deloitte, Goldman Sachs, Infosys, and Tata Communications among oth-

talent pool, contributing to the grand success of the placement seasons.

Expressing jubilation at the outcomes, Director Prof. M Chandrasekhar commended batches exceeding expectathe students and Career tions, emphasizing the Services team for their exemplary performance. He highlighted the Institute's Pedigree, Pride, Passion, Purpose, and Potential as driving forces behind its high performance and position.

Prof. Deepika Gupta extenders, vouched for the Institute's ed her gratitude to all recruiters

for their faith in the Institute and students. She acknowledged the challenges posed by global uncertainties but celebrated the triumph of both the Institute's systems, people and processes. Amidst global economic uncertainties, IIM Visakhapatnam continues to shine brightly, setting new benchmarks and reaffirming its status as a beacon of excellence in management education.

celebrated in April in Tirumala April 5 - Sri Annamacharya Vardhanti, April 7-Masashivratri April 8 - Sarva Amavasya, April Ugadi Asthanam at Srivari Temple, April 11- Matsya Jayanthi, April 17 - Sri Ramanavami Asthanam, April 18- Sri Rama Pattabhishekam Asthanam, April 19 - Sarva

'Run for Jesus' rallies at 370 places in AP

PNS VIJAYAWADA

For Christians, Good Friday and Easter are very important and on March 30 at 5.30 am 'Run for Jesus' (RFJ) rally will be organized at about 370 centres across Andhra Pradesh, said Rev Bellamkonda Sivajiraju Wednesday through a release.

Protestants, the Federation of

Telugu churches and other 500 centres. Christian organisations jointly will organize the Run for Jesus

on March 30. He recalled that in the year 2011, this Run for Jesus was organized for the first time by Aradhana TV in 30 various places successfully. Later on every year they have been organizing it in both the

Telugu states includ-He said that Catholics, ing Karnataka, Maharashtra and other places in more than

He said that fir this year Run for Jesus programme will be organized in about 370 places across Andhra Pradesh and Bishops, Priests, Pastors, RFJ coordinators, youth, believers and others will participate in the programme and a plan has been made to organize the programme successfully. He said that for the rally permissions have been taken from the concerned police in those places and appealed to participate in the rally in large numbers and

make it a grand success.

Vij railway division earns record freight revenue of Rs 3,975 cr

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Vijayawada Railway Division, South Central Railway has achieved its highest-ever freight revenue of Rs 3,975 crore, with a record 36.2 Million Tonnes of Originating Freight Loading during the current financial year, as announced by Narendra A Patil, Divisional Railway Manager. This milestone reached on March 26 2024, marks the best-ever performance in freight revenue since the division's inception. Notably, this achievement surpasses the previous best of Rs 3,968 crore recorded during

FY 2018-19. Patil highlighted that the Division had already exceeded last year's earnings of Rs 3,875



crore by March 16, 2024, with a year-on-year growth of Originating Freight Loading at

Patil expressed confidence in Vijayawada Division's potential to surpass the Rs 4,000 crore mark in freight earnings, with a monthly average of Rs 331 crore and a strong loading trend. Additionally, the Division aims for another significant milestone of earning Rs 5,500 crore for the first time in its history. Notably, Adani Krishnapatnam Port remains the highest earning avenue, followed by Kakinada Sea Port, with coal being the top commodity transported across the Division, amounting to 19.36 MT, along with 6.68 MT of fer-

TIGER TRIUMPH 2024

Indian Army takes part in second exercise

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM-KAKINADA

The Indian Army is actively engaged in the second iteration of the Tri-Services India-US Amphibious Exercise, codenamed "Tiger Triumph 2024." This large-scale exercise, which commenced on March 18, 2024, signifies a major development in the strategic partnership between India and the United States. The 14-day wargame unfolds in two distinct phases: a harbour phase recently concluded in Visakhapatnam and an ongoing sea phase currently underway in Kakinada. The primary objective of the exercise revolves around enhancing interoperability between Indian and US forces, fostering stronger bilateral relations, and refining critical skills in Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations alongside sub-conventional warfare tactics.

The Indian Army's contribution to the exercise manifests in the form of an integrated battalion group exceeding 700 personnel. This contingent serves as a platform to show-case India's recent advancements in military technology and weaponry. The composition of the group encompass-es diverse branches such as Infantry, Mechanised Infantry, Parachute Special Forces, Artillery, Engineers, and supporting arms. Additionally, the Indian Army has deployed a range of sophisticated equip-



ment, including unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), counter-unmanned aerial systems (C-UAS), Infantry Combat Vehicles (ICVs), and an assortment of support sys-

The harbour phase prioritised establishing robust communication channels to ensure seamless cooperation between participating forces. Soldiers from both nations engaged in reciprocal visits aboard each

other's vessels, fostering a deeper understanding and collaborative spirit. These interactions not only strengthened personal bonds but also facilitated the exchange of best practices and combat tech-

The ongoing sea phase has transitioned the focus to a simulated scenario involving a strategic deployment towards a hypothetical island nation. This sets the stage for a series of





intricate operations, with the initial major exercise being a ship-to-shore movement. This critical manoeuvre will evaluate the precision and coordinated effort required for amphibious assaults. The exercise will assess the troops' ability to swiftly disembark and establish a secure beachhead, highlighting their professionalism and reparedness to operate in challenging environments. A pivotal aspect of the exercise involves the establishment of an Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp. This scenario underscores the unwavering commitment of both Indian and US forces to providing humanitarian aid. Setting up such a camp necessitates exceptional logistical skills and coordinated efforts, emphasizing the importance of efficient planning and execution during disaster relief operahe pioneer



CEO reviews MCC implementation

Chief Electoral Officer Mukesh Kumar Meena has directed the District Election Officers to refrain from removing existing hoardings of political advertisements in the permanent offices of political parties at the state and district levels, as per local laws and regulations. On Wednesday, the CEO held a video conference with election officers from all districts and reviewed the arrangements being made in advance for the tures for safety reasons. In elections and the strict implementation of the code of con-

During the meeting, the CEO mentioned that in a previous meeting with representatives of all political parties on ical party programmes, with Tuesday, many issues were raised regarding the removal of hours in advance through the hoardings in permanent party offices. The parties expressed their desire to retain the hoardings that have been approved in party offices for an extended period. However, they were advised to reinforce weak struc-



preparation for the general electemporary party offices. The CEO emphasised that prior approval is necessary for politapplications to be submitted 48 Suvidha portal. However, in emergencies where parties cannot apply in advance, emergency applications should be accepted offline, with all details recorded in the Encore portal for timely permissions.

The political party representatives appealed for a review of tions, a 4X8 feet banner and a the rule requiring prior permisplacard should be permitted in sion for door-to-door campaigning. The CEO assured them that this matter, along with the procedures followed by various states, has been brought to the attention of the Election Commission of India, and a decision will be made soon.

Furthermore, the CEO advised District Election Officers to grant permissions in accordance with guidelines from the Election Commission of India, as well as relevant state laws,

regarding political advertisements. Current rules prohibit political advertisements, hoardings, posters, and banners in commercial areas and government/public sector offices. Hoardings along national and main highways should be allocated equally among all political parties, with no new permissions granted. Wall paintings on private buildings are prohibited, and existing ones must be removed promptly. Hoardings and cut-outs on private buildings require government permission

and must undergo safety checks.

to local laws and regulations.

■ Hoardings are permitted in state and district-level party offices according to law and regulations.

■ A 4X8 feet banner and one placard are allowed in temporary offices.

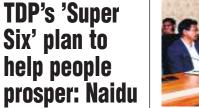
A proper decision on the matter of issuing permits for door-to-door campaigns will be made soon, according to CEO Meena.

Small banners and flags may be allowed with prior permission in private premises.

Additionally, the meeting addressed issues such as the timely resolution of complaints received through C-Whistle and the effective implementation of Election Seizure

Management System. The meeting was attended by Additional CEOs P Koteswara Rao, MN Harendhira Prasad, Joint CEO A Venkateswara Rao, Deputy CEOs K Visveswara Rao, S Mallibabu, and other election officers from all districts.

Naidu urged the public to unite against the YSRCP gov-



PNS PALAMANER

TDP's 'Super Six' plan to

help people

TDP chief Nara Chandrababu Naidu has criticised Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing him of neglecting the irrigation sector, particularly in Rayalaseema. Naidu highlighted a lack of irrigation water supply over the past five years and alleged an increase in the distribution of illegal substances like liquor and drugs under Jagan's tenure. Naidu voiced concerns about Jagan's alleged focus on personal gain at the expense of the public.

Speaking at a public gathering in Palamaner, he pledged to enhance revenue for citizens through initiatives like the 'Super Six' programme. Naidu expressed worry over the detrimental effects of substance abuse, especially on the youth, attributing it to Jagan's admin-

ernment, citing grievances such as delayed salaries for employees and irregular pension disbursements. He promised improved water supply and employment opportunities if the NDA came to power, mentioning plans to utilize Godavari waters for irrigation in the region. Naidu reiterated his commitment to welfare schemes, including financial aid for women and farmers, free gas cylinder distribution, and job creation initiatives. He emphasised his dedication to providing employment opportunities for the youth, proposing monthly unemployment allowances until they secure jobs.



Ensure 24/7 power supply in summer: CS

In a bid to ensure uninterrupted power supply across the State, particularly during the summer months and amid student examinations, Chief Secretary to the Government, Dr KS Jawahar Reddy, has issued directions to officials of the Energy Department. These measures aim to prevent any disruptions in power distrib-

The Chief Secretary chaired a review meeting with Energy Department officials at the State Secretariat on Wednesday to assess the current power supply situation.

Addressing the officials, Dr Jawahar Reddy emphasised the importance of maintaining stable electricity provision, especially in rural and urban areas. He underscored the need to safeguard essential services like fresh water supply schemes from any potential interruptions. Prompt action on complaints lodged via the toll-free number 1912 was also stressed by the Chief

Secretary,
Furthermore, Dr Jawahar Reddy directed officials to ensure the uninterrupted provision of nine hours of free electricity to agricultural sectors. He emphasized the significance of vigilance through Load Monitoring Cells (LMCs) to continually assess power supply conditions. The and other officials.

Chief Secretary mandated a thorough review of actions taken by electricity distribu-tion companies to address any negative media reports regarding power supply.

Encouraging public engagement, Dr. Jawahar Reddy

urged citizens to utilize the toll-free helpline for reporting electricity supply interruptions or any related issues. He instructed Customer Care Centers to promptly respond to complaints and take necessary actions. Additionally, he called for enhanced public awareness campaigns by distribution companies to prevent electricity-related accidents.

During the meeting, K Vijayanand, Special Principal Secretary of the Energy Department, provided insights into the state's power supply situation. He highlighted the continuous monitoring of power stations and districtlevel control rooms to swiftly address any breakdowns or interruptions. Vijayanand outlined the rigorous monitoring mechanisms employed by the state's three power distribution companies across various formats daily.

The meeting was attended by Directors Bhaskar Reddy, APCPDCL MD Santosh Rao, EPDCL MD Prithvi Tej, Finance Principal Secretary Sourava Gaur, Finance Secretary KVV Satyanarayana,

BJP Narasapuram LS candidate accorded warm welcome

PNS BHIMAVARAM

BJP candidate of Narasapuram Lok Sabha constituency Bhupatiraju Srinivas Varma was accorded a warm welcome when he arrived in West Godavari district on

Wednesday.
When the BJP candidate reached Akividu, he was accorded a rousing welcome by a large number of BJP, TDP and Jana Sena activists. He was taken to Bhimavaram from Akividu in a huge rally. When navaram h ϵ prostrated before the BJP's port to him. He revealed that WG district.

lotus symbol at the BJP party office with emotion.

Speaking on the occasion, Srinivasa Varma said that his three decades of service to the BJP yielded results today in the form of being allocated a ticket to contest to the Lok Sabha from Narasapuram con-stituency. He said that he was overwhelmingly happy with the allocation of a ticket by the BIP to contest from the

Narasapuram constituency.

He said that he would be grateful forever to the BJP

ed to carry out election campaigns jointly with the TDP

Srinivasa Varma recalled that he had striven for the election victory of BJP MPs Krishnamraju and Gokaraju Gangaraju previously and this time he is himself contesting from Narasapuram constituency. He exuded confidence that the alliance candidates would win not only in the Narsapuram Lok Sabha constituency but also in all

BJP picks ex-serviceman for Anaparthi Assembly seat

PNS RAFJAHMUNDRY

The BJP has picked up an ex-army Mulagapati Shivarama Krishna Raju as its candidate to contest from the Anaparthi Assembly constituency. Shivarama Krishna Raju belongs to Rangapuram village in Bikkavolu mandal. He worked in the Indian Army and RSS background, the BJP selectworked in 9 states in the military intelligence wing. After his

retirement in the army, he joined

the RSS and worked as Prachar Pramukh for a long time.

He was appointed as constituency coordinator and district media panellist by the BJP leadership. He orga-nized the 'Mana M o d i - M a n a Gramam' programme efficiently. Considering his Hindutva ideology and

ed Shivarama Krishna Raju as its candidate to contest from Anaparti, a BJP leader said.

Officials told to purchase paddy from farmers

PNS RAJAHMUNDRY

East Godavari District Collector K Madhavi Latha has directed the officials to take steps to procure rabi paddy from farmers by paying MSP.

The Collector inaugurated training programmes for the marketing, civil supplies, agriculture and revenue department staff on purchasing paddy of rabi season from the farmers here on Wednesday.

Speaking on the occasion, she said that 3.20 lakh metric tonnes of paddy of rabi season would be ased through 231 padd procurement centres in the district. She said that Rs 2,183

would be paid for a quintal for the ordinary variety and Rs 2,203 would be paid for the 'A' variety of paddy.

The Collector said that in the current 2023-24 Rabi season, the authorities should work in a coordinated manner to purchase paddy from the farmers in the district. She said that a plan should be prepared to bring the harvested paddy produce from the agriculture fields to the pro-curement centers and from there to the millers.

She directed the officials to ensure that there would be no the rice millers. The officials should monitor the paddy pur-



officials to take steps to ensure target. no scarcity for gunny bags and labourers.

Joint Collector N Tej Bharat

chase process constantly, she said that 3.20 lakh metric tonnes told them. She also directed the of paddy procurement is set as a

> centres should be held transparently without interference of

mediators, the IC told the officials. The paddy procurement process should be completed as ment centres, the Joint Collector directed the officials

YS Vijayamma prays for CM Jagan's success again

PNS VIJAYAWADA

YS Vijayalakshmi (Vijayamma), mother of YSR Congress party president and chief minister YS . Jagan Mohan Reddy, stood by him as a towering support when the latter visited Idupulapaya to pay homage to his father and begin the election campaign on Wednesday taking everyone by surprise.

It can be recalled that the opposition parties in the state often accuse Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy of neglecting his mother and ignoring her in difficult times. Jagan also came under sharp criticism, when he stripped Vijayamma of her post of honorary president of YSRCP two years ago, thereby keeping her away from all the party activities. On the other hand, Vijayamma stood by her daughter YS Sharmila when she launched the YSR Telangana Party and even addressed a few meetings with her, requesting the people to bless her daughter.

To the surprise of all the opposition parties in the state, on Wednesday, Vijayamma accom-



panied Jagan to Idupulapaya, where he paid floral tribute to his father late YSR before kickstarting the "Memantha Siddham" bus yatra. She blessed Jagan and kissed him on the forehead in her typical fashion, wishing him all the best in his campaign. She also prayed to Lord Jesus to bestow him with power for a sec-

She prayed to God to bless Jagan with success and make him the chief minister for a second time, which was widely cir-

culated among the media. Vijayamma's prayer for Jagan is understandable, but one wonders what she would be wishing for her daughter YS Sharmila. She is going all guns blazing against Jagan and has given a call to the people to end Jagan's dictatorial rule. She also accused Jagan of shielding culprits in the murder of her uncle YS Vivekananda Reddy five years ago. She is going to contest the coming parliament elections

If that is the case, will Vijayamma support Sharmila and conduct similar prayers for her is to wait and see.

'Health officials must check maternity deaths'

West Godavari District Collector Sumit Kumar has directed the health officials to ensure that no maternal death takes place in the

The Collector held a meeting with the government and private doctors, ICDS officials, ASHA workers and ANMs and reviewed the deliveries in the government hospital and maternal deaths.

Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that maternal deaths should not take place under any circumstances and he ordered that the health conditions of pregnant women should be thoroughly examined and appropriate treatment should be

The Collector directed the ICDS Project Director to review with the İCDS staff once every 15 days the nutrition the pregnant women get since the day of conception and take appropriate action.

He said that it has come to his

notice that the ambulance rates

porting a pregnant woman to

petter medical care in an emer-

are very high in the case of trans-

gency and a meeting would be



The Collector held a meeting with the government and private doctors, ICDS officials, **ASHA** workers and ANMs and reviewed the deliveries in the government hospital and maternal deaths.

held to control these and determine the rate per kilometre.

Collector Sumit Kumar said an inquiry was conducted and orders were issued in connection with six maternal deaths during the meeting. DMHO Dr D Maheswar Rao, DCHS Dr P Suryanarayana, district immunisation officer Dr D Sudhalakshmi, district Arogyasri coordinator Dr S Keerthi Kiran and district ICDS officer B Sujata Rani were among those who were present.

One killed as lorry knocks down bike

One person was killed and his wife was critically injured when a lorry knocked down their motorcycle at Ashok Garden on the outskirts of

Wednesday. Police said that a lorry knocked down a motorcycle killing Burusu Harikrishna (22) instantaneously. His wife Srilekha was critically injured in the mishap and was admit-

Annamayya district on ted to the GGH in Rajampet. The deceased and injured belonged to D.Vaddepalli village in Chitvel mandal. The police registered a case and shifted the body to the GGH for postmortem. The lorry driver is absconding.



Cops may have tapped a few phones: KTR

Bharat Rashtra Samithi working president KT Rama Rao has conceded that cops "may have tapped a few phones". He said, "I saw a video which said 10 lakh phones were tapped by KCR. Yes, a few calls might have been tapped. They might have done -- of thieves, the police might have done. That is the job of police, right?"

KTR said that Congressmen had been making a lot of fuss around phone tapping as if it was an international scam. KTR dubbed Revanth Reddy as 'Leak-Veerudu' for giving leaks to YouTube channels about phone tapping. He said that Revanth Reddy could probe the

contest from Malkajgiri. He emphasised that should Revanth Reddy step down from his chief ministership and decide to enter the electoral fray, he would confront him in the Lok Sabha elections. KTR criticized Revanth Reddy for his reluctance to accept a direct challenge thrown at him.

Speaking at the Malkajgiri parliamentary segment meeting held at Telangana Bhavan, KTR highlighted Revanth Reddy's avoidance of his challenge to contest from Malkajgiri and pointed to the 'silence' maintained by the Chief Minister on

this matter.

Furthermore, KTR criticized Revanth Reddy's political affil-

Minister Revanth Reddy to switch parties. He reiterated that Revanth Reddy would align with the BJP along with several Congress MLAs after the Lok Sabha elections, considering his history of changing alle-giances like ABVP, TRS, TDP, and Congress.

KTR reiterated his allegation that Revanth Reddy's actions resembled those of a BJP leader and cited the Chief Minister's stances on BJP and Modi in contrast to those of Rahul Gandhi and the Congress party.

KTR also commented on Etela Rajender's candidacy in Malkajgiri. He pointed out that, after facing rejection in Gajwel in Huzurabad, Etela Rajender was now contesting in Malkajgiri.

51 red sanders logs seized, 1 arrested the directions of task force AP alias Basha. During the ques-



The police seized 51 red sander logs at Attivaram village in Naidupet mandal in the forest area.

DSP Chenchubabu told the media on Wednesday that on a tip-off that red sanders logs

Srinivas and led by Kadapa sub-division RI Chiranjeevulu, conducted a combing. The police team noticed

three persons moving suspiciously in the area. When the police team approached, two of them fled the scene. to arrest two red sander were dumped at a place in the forest area, a police team on one person Sayyad Muktiyar and Rangaiah.

red sander logs were con-cealed behind bushes in the forest area. Task force police SI Rafi seized the 51 red sander logs and registered a case. A search was launched

tioning, he revealed that 51

Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev discharged from hospital after brain surgery

piritual leader Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev was discharged from a private hospital here On Wednesday, days after he underwent an emergency brain surgery after suffering "life-threatening" bleeding in the skull, the Isha Foundation said. The foundation issued a statement that quoted joint managing director of the Apollo Hospitals Group Sangita Reddy as saying that doctors have expressed satisfaction with his recovery and healing

"Even as he is recovering, Sadhguru has maintained the same spirit. His commitment to the global good, his sharp mind, and his sense of humour are all intact. I think this is good news for all the millions of people who have been inquiring about his health," Reddy said in the statement. According to the Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, the surgery was carried out on March 17. Several of Sadhguru's followers gathered at the hospital gate as he was being discharged.



Daylight theft of Rs 50 lakh from private vehicle in Kerala

n a huge daylight robbery, Rs 50 lakh in cash was stolen from the vehicle of a private agency at Uppala near Manjeshwar here on Wednesday. An officer of Manjeshwar police station said that the incident occurred due to a security lapse on the part of the private agency's staff. "There was no grill on the rear windows of the vehicle. The staff had to fill Rs 20 lakh in a bank ATM, but they took out two bundles of Rs 50 lakh each.

They took one bundle to the ATM and left one on the back seat of the vehicle. "Though the vehicle was locked, there was no one inside it, the officer said. The thief broke the right side rear window and took away the cash bundle kept there, he said. A man wearing blue pants, white-soled sports shoes and a light khaki coloured shirt was seen leaving the site carrying a bag, police said, adding that the person is suspected to have committed the robbery



Temperatures cross 40-degree mark in parts of K'taka, Gujarat

emperatures crossed the 40-degree-Celcius mark in parts of Karnataka, Gujarat and Rajasthan on Wednesday, with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) warning of heatwave conditions over these places for the next two days. The mercury touched 41.6 degrees Celsius in Bhuj, 41.1 degrees Celsius in Rajkot, 41.5 degrees Celsius in Akola and 41.4 degrees Celsius in Washim. An IMD official said the maximum temperatures

were two to three notches above normal over these regions on Wednesday but did not meet the criteria for heatwave conditions. The threshold for a heatwave is met when the maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40 degrees Celsius in the plains, 37 degrees Celsius in coastal areas and 30 degrees Celsius in hilly regions, with a departure of at least fourand-a-half notches from normal. In a statement, the IMD said heatwave conditions are very likely in isolated pockets over North Interior Karnataka



Jaishankar calls on Malaysian PM; discusses cooperation

PNS KUALA LUMPUR

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday called on Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and the two leaders exchanged views and discussed cooperation in the areas of trade, science and technology, education, agriculture, tourism, defence and also on regional issues including Myanmar.

Jaishankar, who is here on a two-day official visit, met Anwar at the Prime Minister's Office and the meeting lasted about an hour, the official Bernama news agency reported.

In a statement issued after the meeting, the Prime Minister's Office said that Anwar and Jaishankar exchanged views and discussed cooperation in the areas of trade, science and technology, education, agriculture, tourism, defence and digital, and also on regional issues includ-

Anwar gave his commitment



to facilitate the establishment of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) branch campus in Malaysia, it added.

The Prime Minister also expressed appreciation to his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi for assisting Malaysia when the country was hit by a shortage of rice and hoped for further facilitation on the import of agricultural produce from

"May the Malaysian-Indian

Minister @anwaribrahim of Malaysia. Conveyed the warm greetings of PM @narendramodi," Jaishankar said in a post on

Praising the Malaysian prime minister's vision for a stronger bilateral relationship, he said, "His vision for stronger India-Malaysia ties, both in traditional and new-age areas, will help us craft a more ambitious agenda for the relationship."

"Benefitted from his guidance and insights on regional developments," he added.

Earlier, Jaishankar met his Malaysian counterpart Mohamad bin Haji Hasan.

The two foreign ministers held a "productive and frank discussion, including exchanging views on the multifaceted dimensions of Malaysia-India bilateral affairs as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest," the Malaysian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in an official statement.

Ex-IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt convicted in drug seizure

PNS PALANPUR

A sessions court in Palanpur town of Gujarat's Banaskantha district on Wednesday convicted former IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt in a drug seizure case dating back to 1996.

The court is expected to pronounce the quantum of punishment on Thursday afternoon.

The sessions court held Bhatt guilty of falsely implicating a Rajasthan-based lawyer by claiming that in 1996 police had seized drugs from a hotel room in Palanpur where the lawyer was staying.

Bhatt, who was sacked from the Indian Police Service in 2015, was then serving as the superintendent of police of Banaskantha district.

The district police under him had arrested Rajasthan Sumersingh lawyer Rajpurohit, claiming they had seized drugs from a hotel room in Palanpur where he

Delhi govt will not be run from jail, says Lt Governor

work order from ED's custody

on Tuesday instructing Health

Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj to

ensure that medicines and

tests are available to people at

all government hospitals and

Earlier on Sunday, the Aam

Aadmi Party supremo gave

instructions to Water Minister

Atishi to solve water and

sewer-related problems in

In an apparent attack on the

AAP dispensation, Saxena

said, "As kids, we all have heard

the proverb 'lohe ke chane cha-

some areas of the city.

Mohalla Clinics.

TAKES A DIG AT AAP DISPENSATION

PNS NEW DELHI

The Delhi government will not be run from jail, Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena said on Wednesday in the backdrop of statements by AAP leaders that Arvind Kejriwal will continue as chief minister even if he is behind bars.

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Kejriwal was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate on March 21 in the Delhi excise policy-linked money laundering case and subsequently remanded in the agency's cus-tody till March 28 by a court here.

AAP leaders on several occasions ruled out Kejriwal's resignation, insisting that he will run his government from inside the jail.

Replying to a query at the Times Now Summit, the Delhi LG said, "I can assure the people of Delhi that the government will not be run from jail." Kejriwal issued his second

RK Mission chief Swami Smarananda passes away

bana' (to face great difficulty). After coming to Delhi I actually realised the meaning of this proverb. "In this city to get any work done it feels like 'lohe ke chane chabana'. Whatever you try to

do, there are some forces that put their e entire strength into stopping that work. And if you are able to successfully complete that work, then these forces try to take credit." After Kejriwal's arrest on March 21st, Delhi Cabinet minister Atishi said that he would continue as the chief

minister and run the city gov ernment from prison if needed. Kejriwal's Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Mann also said that the party's supremo cannot be replaced. Meanwhile, AAP and the

Bharatiya Janata Party leaders have been holding protests with Kejriwal's party demanding his release while the latter

is pressing for his resignation. Kejriwal has challenged his

PMLA NA if charge not related to scheduled offence

Says SC dismissing review plea

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has dismissed a petition seeking review of its verdict which held that a the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) by invoking Section 120B of the IPC if the alleged criminal conspiracy was not related to a scheduled offence under PMLA.

Section 120 B of the IPC provides for punishment for a criminal conspiracy.

A bench of justices Abhay S Oka and Pankaj Mithal dismissed the petition seeking review of the November 29, 2023 verdict that also said it is not necessary that a person against whom the offence under Section 3 of the PMLA is alleged must have been shown as the accused in the scheduled

"Applications seeking hearing

PNS NEW DELHI

Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

the development of Punjab

especially Jalandhar, and

accused the Aam Aadmi

Party (AAP) government in



of the review petitions in Open Court are rejected. Delay condoned. We have perused the judgement and order dated November 29, 2023, which has been sought to be reviewed. There is no error apparent on the record. Even otherwise, there is no ground for review. Review petitions are dismissed," the bench ordered in its recent order.

On November 29, the top court held, "The offence punish-

AAP's Ione MP Rinku joins BJP

able under Section 120 B of the IPC will become a scheduled offence only if the conspiracy alleged is of committing an offence which is specifically

relationship continue to grow

and blossom for the benefit of

the people of both friendly

The Prime Minister looks for-

Jaishankar, who is in Kuala

ward to visit India soon, the

Lumpur on the third and last leg

of his three-nation tour to

Singapore, the Philippines and

Malaysia, conveyed the warm

greetings of Prime Minister Modi.

countries," Anwar said.

statement said.

In the verdict, the top court had interpreted the provisions of the PMLA and said while giving effect to the legislature's intention, if two reasonable interpretations can be given to a particular provision of a penal statute, the court should generally adopt the interpretation that avoids the imposition of penal consequences.

In other words, a more lenient interpretation of the two needs to be adopted, it had said. "The legislative intent which can be gathered from the definition of the scheduled offence under clause (y) of subsection (1) of section 2 of the PMLA is that every crime which may generate proceeds of crime need not be a scheduled offence.

PNS KOLKATA

Ramakrishna Mission president Swami Smaranananda died on Tuesday night due to agerelated ailments, doctors treating him said. Swami Smaranananda, 94,

was the 16th president of Ramakrishna Mission, which was founded by Swami

"Srimat Swami Smarananandaji Maharaj, most revered President Maharaj of the Ramakrishna Math Ramakrishna Mission attained Mahasamadhi today at 8.14 pm," said a statement issued by the organisation.

The monk was admitted to the Ramakrishna Mission Seva Pratishthan in Kolkata on January 29 with an existing urinary tract infection. He later developed respiratory failure for which he was put on a ventilator on March 3, doctors said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee paid rich tributes to Swami Smaranananda. In a post on X, PM Modi said, "He left an indelible mark on

countless hearts and minds compassion and wisdom will continue to inspire generations." "I had a very close relationship with him over the years. I

recall my visit to Belur Math in 2020 when I had interacted with him. A few weeks ago in Kolkata, I had also visited the hospital and enquired about his health," he added.

The chief minister said the



monk would remain the source of solace for millions of devotees across the globe.

"This great monk during his lifetime has given spiritual leadership to the world order of the Ramakrishnaites and remains the source of solace for millions of devotees across the globe," she

and spirituality. Swami last in Kolkata on Tuesday evening. He was the 16th Swami Vivekananda. "Countless

RSS pays tributes to **Swami Smaranananda**

PNS NEW DELHI

The RSS on Wednesday paid tributes to Ramakrishna Mission president Swami provided outstanding leadership to the organisation with his exemplary dedication to "sewa" Smaranananda, 94, breathed his president of the Ramakrishna Mission, which was founded by

devotees of the Ramakrishna Math and innumerable followers of Shri Ramakrishna and Swami Vivekananda are left with deen sorrow on hearing the attainment of Brahmalok by Shrimat Swam Smaranananda ji," Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat and its general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale said in a joint statement. Shrimat Sanghaguru, with his exemplary dedication to "sewa" (service) and spirituality, had provided outstanding leadership to the Ramakrishna Mission.

Ukraine Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba to visit India today: MEA

PNS NEW DELHI

Ukraine's Minister of Foreign Affairs Dmytro Kuleba is slated to arrive here on Thursday for a two-day official visit during which he will have meetings with his Indian counterpart and others to discuss matters related to the bilateral relationship. His visit comes at the invi-

tation of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement. During his visit, Kuleba will

have "a number of engagements, including official meetings with External Affairs Minister and Deputy NSA to



discuss matters pertaining to the bilateral partnership and cooperation on regional and global issues of mutual interest," the statement said.

He is also expected to interact with the business commu-

Kuleba's visit comes amid the Russia-Ukraine war.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 20 had held separate conversations with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and asserted that dialogue and diplomacy were the way forward for the resolution of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Modi had spoken to Putin over a telephone call to congratulate him for winning a fifth term in office in the recent elections, and followed it up with a phone call to Zelenskyy to convey India's "consistent support" for all efforts for peace and bringing an early end to the ongoing

Garba's global popularity on the rise: PM Modi

PNS NEW DELHI

Garba is a celebration of life, culture and devotion and it is gladdening to note that its global popularity is on the rise, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday.

The traditional dance form of Gujarat was inscribed on the 'Representative List of was also held in Paris, which the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity' in December.

"Garba is a celebration of life, culture and devotion. It also brings people together. It is gladdening to note that Garba's global popularity is on the rise!

'Some time ago, Garba found a place in the @UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list. I am glad that the Certificate of Inscription was presented a few days back in Paris.

memorable Garba Night was attended by the Indian community in large numbers," Modi posted on X.

At the same time, a

He also shared some photographs of people enjoying garba and a copy of the UNESCO certificate.

Biodiversity conservation can prevent pandemic

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Pandemic prevention plans should centre around conserving nature and biodiversity which would secure the food and shelter needs of animals, limiting contact and the transfer of pathogens to humans, researchers have advocated in a new study.

Pandemics, or zoonotic diseases, are considered to begin with a 'spillover' event, involving the transfer of disease-causing pathogens circulating among wild animals to

humans, livestock or other animals in close proximity. The international team of researchers has outlined its

"evidence-based approach" in the study published in the journal Communications and based it on case studies, including research on how horses and humans become infected with the fatal Hendra virus in Australia.

A "rare emerging zoonosis", Hendra virus infection causes severe, often fatal, disease in both infected horses and



humans. It was identified in the first recorded outbreak of 1994 in Brisbane that affected 21 stabled racehorses and two

"As of July 2016, 53 disease incidents involving over 70 horses have been reported," according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

Referring to the previous studies, Alison Peel, a wildlife disease ecologist from Australia's Griffith University said the results showed that the Hendra virus was "most likely to pass from bats to horses in places where habitat destruction has left bats without reliable natural food sources", further worsened by climate cycles causing abrupt food shortages

for the bats.

These changes bring about closer contact of the bats with horses and people, and more stress, thereby increasing the viral load that the bats shed, Peel said. The effect was, however, found to have reversed when adequate food was available in native forests, the wildlife disease ecologist said.

"This shows how we can prevent new spillovers if we protect where bats eat, protect where bats roost, and reduce land-use changes that increase contact with bats," Peel added.



new trains to Jalandhar. "I have no greed for power. I am doing a new experiment for the betterment of Jalandhar," Rinku told reporters at his joining ceremony

ing the boost in flight services and launch of

The lone Lok Sabha member of the AAP, Sushil

Kumar Rinku, joined the BJP on Wednesday

along with Punjab MLA Sheetal Angural,

dealing a blow to the party that is already fac-

ing a crisis following the arrest of Delhi Chief

ed to join the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for

Rinku, the MP from Jalandhar, said he decid-

He and Angural, who was elected to the Punjab Assembly from Jalandhar West, joined the BJP in the presence of Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri, the party's national general secretary Vinod Tawde and Punjab unit chief Sunil Jakhar.

Rinku quit the Congress to join the AAP last year to contest the bypoll to the Jalandhar Lok Sabha seat. He was a vocal critic of the BJP in the Lower House of Parliament. Rinku was even suspended from the Lok Sabha for his unruly

The BJP is likely to field him in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls as it inducts a number of influential leaders from different political parties in Punjab to

> mentary constituencies. Puri and Tawde said the oining of the AAP leaders will boost the BJP following its decision to go it alone in Punjab, which is set to a witness a four-cornered poll

> emerge as a strong force in the state that has 13 parlia-

contest, with the AAP, Congress and Shiromani Akali Dal being the three other main forces. Jakhar slammed the AAP, alleging that the

excise scam in Punjab is many times bigger that

the one in Delhi in which Kejriwal has been

arrested. The AAP has failed to fulfil its promises made to people, the BJP leader said. He said Rinku resigned from the Lok Sabha and AAP before joining the BJP. While Angural has quit the AAP, he will tender his resignation from the Assembly, Jakhar added.

Nature

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Political zealotry

Leaders indulge in blabbering and frenzied talk as election fever grips the nation

n avoidable political controversy has erupted after certain derogatory remarks against Kangana Ranaut, the BJP nominee from Mandi, Himachal Pradesh, were attrib-Luted to two Congress leaders. Supriya Shrinate, one of the two offending Congress leaders, has pulled down the X post and apologised, pleading that somebody with access to her Meta account had written the "extremely inappropriate post". Kangana, meanwhile, is breathing fire: "... Mandi is being used in sexual context everywhere, just because it has a young woman candidate...". In response to the controversy, it is encouraging to see condemnation from across the political spectrum, with many leaders calling for restraint and civility. This collective outcry underscores the broader recognition of the need to uphold standards of respectful dialogue in politics. In the age of digital communication, words carry immense weight and have the potential to shape public perceptions; naturally, political leaders need to exercise caution and mindfulness. Therefore,



the leaders involved in making disparaging remarks against others must be held accountable. As public personalities, they bear the responsibility to uphold standards of decorum and refrain from engaging in language that is inflammatory or derogatory. Political differences should be debated based on ideas and policies, rather than resorting to personal attacks.

Though not the first such occurrence, the latest incident underscores the delicate balance between freedom of expression and the responsibility to maintain respectful dialogue, especially during poll campaigns. A quick recap of similar incidents will take us back to 2005 when the then Railways Minister Lalu Yadav

famously likened the good condition of roads in Bihar to Hema Malini's cheeks (though he later claimed the simile was wrongly attributed to him!). During campaigning for the 2009 Rampur Lok Sabha elections, BJP candidate Jaya Pradha alleged that her former colleague and SP leader Azam Khan was circulating her morphed photos and proclaiming that she "wears khaki underwear." His rebuttal: "Tell me, if I entertain this 'naachne gaane wali', how will I concentrate on politics?" In 2012, Congress leader Sanjay Nirupam had this to say to Smriti Z Irani during a TV debate: "Aap to TV pe thumke lagati thi, aaj chunavi vishleshak ban gayi!!!" Another senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh was praising his party colleague Meenakshi Natarajan in Mandsaur in July 2013: "Main puraana jauhari hu, ye 100 tunch maal hai." During the 2018 Rajasthan elections, JD(U) leader Sharad Yadav fat-shamed the BJP leader: "Let Vasundhara rest, she is too tired. She has become fat." Former Madhya Pradesh CM Kamal Nath said about then BJP Minister Imarti Devi during Dabra bypoll campaign in October 2020: "Yeh kya item hai!" So, the lesson is that while individuals have the right to express their opinion, such expression must remain within the boundaries of decency. Also, fostering a culture of empathy and understanding can contribute to a more conducive environment for political discourse.



Transforming Indian higher education



The proposed binary accreditation system is set to revolutionise the assessment, accreditation and ranking of higher education institutions

ndian education system saw a revolutionary change with the arrival of New Education Policy 2020 also known as NEP 2020. While the previous education systems i.e. Sarva Shiksha were based on numbers, the Samagra Shiksha gave more attention to inclusivity and equitability. Along with it ighlighted quality over quantity thus extending its support towards universal and holistic education. The concept of "Access, Equity, Quality, and Affordability & Accountability" under this was also applied as a pillar for NEP 2020 for implementation in higher educational institutions (HEIs).

The motto is to enhance the quality of education in HEIs and to compete Indian HEIs with the best institutions in the world. Based on this notion another transformative reform has been done by the Ministry of Education, Government of India through the formation of Dr. Radhakrishnan's committee for revisiting the NAAC accredita-

Dr. K. Radhakrishnan who is the Former Chairman of ISRO and Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the IIT Council proposed a new binary accreditation system for assessing HEIs where the assessment will be more technology-driven. It is a trust-based, transparent, and integrated 'Unified Elicitation Tool' where higher academic institutions will provide their information on the "One Nation One Data" platform. It will reduce the annual visits of the teams in HEIs and validation of the data will be transparent over the digital portal.

A system of high penalties is also proposed for those providing wrong information. Besides, two major features of this accreditation report were Binary Accreditation and Maturity-Based Graded Accreditation. While the Binary Accreditation will segregate the HFIs based on Accredited" "Awaiting Accreditation" and "Not accredited", the Maturity-Based Graded Accreditation will customise it in five different levels i.e. Level 1 to Level 5 where the HEIs have to cross each level to go up to Level



providing them with a centralised database.

The new accreditation system has suggested various categories of HEIs including Multidisciplinary Education and Research-Intensive Institutions, Teaching-Intensive Institutions, Specialised Institutions, Vocational and Skill-Intensive Institutions, Community Engagement & Service related Institutions, Institutions of Rural & Remote location under its "one-size-fits-all model" where the levelling will be done on the orientation of the particular HEI. Further, the aim is to convert the present Score-based, Multiple Grade Accreditation with Binary Accreditation, Portal Self-Disclosure with Public Self-Disclosure, Single Accreditation institutions with Approved Accreditation institutions, One-Size-Fits-All **PROCESS** Model with University-Type-Based process, and Input-Process-Limited-Outcome



SINCE THE DR RADHAKRISHNAN COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS **WERE PUT** TOGETHER TO **IMPROVE THE** CALIBRE AND REPUTATION OF INDIAN HIGHER **EDUCATION** INSTITUTIONS, THEY REPRESENT A PARADIGM SHIFT IN

from a Generic policy to a Universal policy. Since the Dr. Radhakrishnan

Committee's recommendations were put together to improve the calibre and reputation of Indian higher education institutions, they represent a paradigm shift in the accreditation process. The Committee while preparing the report has gone through numerous procedures from putting the suggested draft on the 'MyGov' portal and 'MoE' website for soliciting public opinion/stakeholder engagement. The workshop featured 34 panellists, more than 250 diverse HEIs and 950 participants from HEIs around the nation.

This report discusses establishing criteria and policies for these accrediting organisations, choosing specialists, creating self-assessment report formats, and growing the Accreditation Network to reach the HEIs located in rural areas, remote areas, tribal areas, and other smaller territories. To achieve its goal the report has also done a comparative analysis of the existng accreditation system and the visions of NEP 2020. It has also studied the best global practices of education to understand their model of education and to establish the Indian education system on the same platform.

Based on the suggestions received while formulating the draft, the committee has also classified the accreditation system into three different parameters. They are Pre-Accreditation, Accreditation Process, and Results and Post-Accreditation Incentives. The Pre-Accreditation includes processes like training the institutions, data collection, uploading the self-disclosure guidelines, etc, the Accreditation Process and Results as the name suggests focuses on validation and credit given to the HEI by the peer team. The Post-Accreditation Incentives are important for providing priority status to the institutional body. Care has been taken for step-by-step reforms to ensure the creditability of the system.

Thus, the vision is to implement the new accreditation policy proposed by Dr Radhakrishnan's committee by December 2024. This new policy is aimed at creating futuristic universities for future generations. It will bring a transformative change the HEI-Approva Accreditation and Ranking System to make Bharat Vishwaguru.

(The writer is Vice-Chancellor at Central Tribal University of Andhra Pradesh; views áre personal)

The dilemma of an arrested Chief Minister



The arrest of a Chief Minister presents a formidable challenge not only to the leader but also to the principles of democratic governance

he recent arrest of Arvind Kejriwal, Chief Minister of the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi, has thrust into the spotlight a complex web of legal, constitutional and ethical considerations. As pundits dissect the ramifications of this unprecedented event, one question looms large: should an arrested Chief Minister resign? This inquiry delves deep into the heart of democratic governance, probing the delicate balance between legal accountability and executive authority.

At the heart of this debate lies the presumption of innocence, a fundamental tenet of any democratic legal system. Yet, the recent legislative amendments in 2019, which shifted the burden of proof onto the accused, have muddied the waters of legal discourse. Amidst these changes, media attention has swirled around the fate of Kejriwal's tenure, overshadowing discussions on the intricacies of his legal case and the broader issues of electoral integri-

Historical precedents offer some insight into this conundrum. The resignations of the necessity for resignation, tall liberties and uphold the

Lalu Prasad and Hemant Soren in Bihar and Jharkhand, respectively, following legal proceedings, illustrate the complex interplay between executive authority and legal accountability. However, the absence of explicit constitutional provisions or precedents regarding the resignation of an arrested Chief Minister necessitates a nuanced examination of parliamentary conventions

and legal principles. Central to this discussion is the concept of holding office at the pleasure of the appointing authority. In the case of NCT Delhi, where the Chief Minister is appointed by the President, Kejriwal's refusal to resign may jeopardize the pleasure of the President, potentially leading to his removal from office. However, the possibility of legal reprieve through bail proceedings could mitigate

President and the Governor, a Chief Minister is not shielded from criminal proceedings during their term in office. This underscores the imperative for ethical conduct and accountability in public office, even in the face of legal challenges. The constitutional mechanisms available, including the appointment of a new Chief Minister by the President or the suspension of legislative functions, underscore the flexibility of our democratic framework in addressing such exigencies. Nevertheless, the overarching principle of constitutional propriety and democratic norms suggests that an arrested Chief Minister should consider resigning from office. While innocence, until proven guilty, remains a cornerstone of jurisprudence, the spectre of prolonged legal battles and the potential disruption to governance war-rant careful consideration. The recent legislative amendments empowering law enforcement agencies necessitate vigilant judicial over-

sight to safeguard fundamen-

albeit temporarily. Unlike the immunity enjoyed by the resignation of an arrested Chief Minister reflects not only a commitment to democratic values but also a recognition of the practical challenges inherent in governing amidst legal controversies. As constitutional custodians, both the judiciary and the executive must uphold the principles of equality, liberty, and justice in such sensitive

In the broader context of democratic governance, the arrest of a Chief Minister poses profound questions about the interplay between legal accountability and executive authority. While the presumption of innocence must be upheld, the practical realities of governance demand a delicate balancing act. Ultimately, the decision to resign in the face of legal challenges is not merely a matter of individual choice but a reflection of our collective commitment to the rule of law and democratic princi-

(The author is a former Additional Secretary of Lok Sabha and a practising advocate, views expressed are personal)

KEJRIWAL SHOULD RESIGN

approach with Majorly

Outcome-Based approach. All

these actions will convert HEIs

Madam — Apropos editorial "Much ado about nothing," published on March 27, this is my response. Kejriwal has been taken into custody by the ED in the Delhi Liquor scam. He was a crusader against corruption in the corridors of power. He participated with Anna Hazare many times. He ignored the latter's advice to frame the liquor policy. ED had issued nine summons already. He kipped all. Two of his ministers and a BRS lady MLC are in Custody. Without any prima facie evidence, the ED cannot frame charges. Now he is officiating as CM of Delhi from jail. Is it not constitutional too?

First Germany now the US had asked to give Kejriwal a fair trial. It is our internal affairs and law will take its course and they must restrain from interfering in the internal affairs of other countries. This big brother attitude needs to be condemned. Secondly, Lalu and Jayalalitha resigned from their posts soon after being imprisoned. Decency demands his resignation. How long will he officiate from prison? In the best interest of things and upholding constitutional moral ethics, Kejriwal must resign from his post and prove his inno-

N R Ramachandran | Chennai

CONGRESS CAN BE WIPED OUT

Madam — Apropos news article "A showdown of arch-rivals," published on March 27, this is my response. Every general election is no-holds-barred election in the country but this one is going to be crucial because INDIA bloc has realised that if they do not succeed in throwing the BJP out of power on 4th June, then it is going to be a serious uphill battle for them going ahead. If Congress leader Supriya Shrinate's obnoxious and misogynist remarks against BJP candidate from Mandi, Kangna Ranaut are any indication then we know that both sides will not know any boundaries in pursuit of winning the elections.

The fact that Congress is no longer the glue around which opposition revolved and sadly it has not been able to keep region- a significant increase from 12 per cent to

Mumbai beats Beijing



propos news article "Mumbai surpasses Beijing as billionaire hub," published on March 27, this is my response. The report by Hurun Global Rich List 2024, brings evangelism for every Indian as two Indian cities book their place in the top 10 cities of holding the maximum billionaires. This time New York topped the list followed by London and Mumbai at the second and third position respectively. Mumbai managed to beat Beijing with just a small margin of one billionaire, as Mumbai held 92, whereas Beijing had a count of 91 billionaires. It is a moment of

al parties tightly under the umbrella of the INDIA bloc and show a united front has not lost on anyone, TMC in West Bengal is the best example of this. Gandhis still seem to be living in the 80s when their surname used to attract voters in throngs. BJP is not called an electoral machine for anything, they are always ready to fight elections be it, local, state or national elections. would not be an exaggeration if we say that for Congress this election is a battle for survival so they are up against a strong force and they will have to up their game to prove that they still have it in them to

Bal Govind | Noida

NARCISSISTS DON'T HAVE A SOUL

Madam — Narcissism is a matter often neglected, but it demands discourse and recognition. Narcissism is not only an individual concern; it influences a wider society. In the United States, the tendency of narcissism among adolescents saw

extreme pride that Indians today are no longer afraid of putting their hand in entrepreneurship. The start-up ecosystem in India today is so supportive that Indian start-ups are ending up becoming unicorns and clinching worldwide populari-

Now that Mumbai has beaten Beijing and secured the third rank with the most number of billionaires, we can estimate us to be on the right path of economic development and entrepreneurial enthusiasm. New Delhi also stood at the month position with the most billionaires. This positive shift from an employment seeker population to an employment generator category will give a thrusting push to our economy. And we hope that more and more Indian cities add themselves to this Rich list ranking of billionaires. Meanwhile, the beating of Beijing by Mumbai despite a small margin is a point of celebration and pat for India, as we are facing better than China as well as other

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

80 per cent from 1962 to 1990, respectively. When someone starts perceiving themselves as incomparable and equates themselves to God, they are experienc-

ing narcissistic disorder. A narcissistic person commonly starts with love bombing, then progresses to gaslighting. During this process, they induce unwarranted guilt in their partner and unjustly accuse them. If narcissism is in control of an individual and is related to social goals, it is healthy narcissism, but if a person has no sentiments for others, it becomes sadism. They are resistant to hearing anything about themselves when faced with criticism. 'Narcissists don't have a soul. That's why they try to kill yours. Your beautiful personality is the very core of your being, and they will try to steal as much of it as they

Shreeya Acharya | Ujjain

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FIRST COLUMN

CHALLENGES TO THE HOLISTIC IDEAL

We often overlook the crucial dimensions of social and moral well-being



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR **NIKUNJ JI**

ince ancient times, the medical profession has been considered a noble profession, for its members render a valuable service to mankind by preventing, alleviating, controlling or eliminating disease, pain and suffering. Through the knowledge of the physical body and the laws of health and hygiene, doctors provide patients with measures of great relief and recovery when they are passing through a great physical or mental crisis, are facing the worst of physical troubles or mental tensions or are fighting for life. So, the members of the profession truly needed to be complimented by the society.

However, it has been observed lately that many members of the medical profession in this era of increasing urbanisation and the spread of industrial civilisation and technological culture also face the great pressures of materialism and are hard-pressed for time. Being always in a hurry and with the object of providing medicine to the largest possible number of patients within the set time limits, they are now more and more preoccupied with only the physical well-being of their patients, almost overlooking the changes required in the outlook or personality traits of the patients.

Even though they know that most diseases are psychosomatic and that the lifestyle, personality traits and behavioural patterns of a person also play a major role in causing stress or trauma or in aggravating the disease, they, for various reasons, do not or cannot pay adequate attention to the social and moral dimensions of health and dis-



The reason for this is that their main attention is on the symptoms and

on prescribing suitable medicines.

But, if we think deeper, we find that, without controlling, reducing or eliminating the psychic or the behavioural causes, there cannot be any lasting cure for many diseases. Another serious thing that occurs as a result of moral or social ill-health of a person but which is not given serious attention is that not only does the person himself suffer from its evil effects on his body but, as a result of these psychic factors, he causes ill-health to many others also who live with him, work with him or deal with him. For example, a person of an irritable nature, or one who easily loses his temper or is prone to anxiety, not only suffers from avoidable worry and tension but often causes mental tension and anxiety to others also. Worse still is the social strife, family turmoil or political upheaval the moral and social ill-health of a person creates. Hitler, for example, was socially and morally ill and men-

Most of our present-day problems are due to the moral and social illhealth of our citizens, most of them generating a chain reaction and contributing peacelessness to the total atmosphere. So, while doctors talk of holistic health, hypertension, psychosomatic diseases, drug addiction or AIDS, we wish that due attention is also paid to the turmoil caused by one's moral sickness or social illness in the socio-political or socioeconomic atmosphere of society.

> (The writer is a spiritual educator and popular columnist; views are personal)

Mechanisation needed to tackle farm issues



The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing underscores the importance of mechanisation



he Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Food Processing insists on the urgent need to increase the mechanisation of farms for small and marginal farmers in India. Their recent report highlights that wholesome mechanisation is not only essential but crucial to overcoming the multifaceted chal-lenges faced by the farming sector, which plays a pivotal role in the coun-

Despite India's accounts for only 2.4 per cent of the world's geographical area and 4 per cent of its water resources, its farming sector supports 17 per cent of the global population and 15 per cent of the livestock, contributing 20 per cent to the nation's GDP and creating employability to 65 per cent population. Therefore, there is a dire need to enhance productivity and profitability through increased mechanisation among small and margin-al farmers and in low mechanisation areas to revitalise Indian agriculture and boosting farmers' incomes requires moving beyond traditional practices to advanced mechanisation.

Status of Mechanisation: Our country's agriculture mechanisation level is below 40 per cent lower than developing nations such as China 60 per cent and Brazil 75 per cent. It is worth noting that agrarian states like Punjab and Haryana had led the green revolution having mechanisation levels around 40 per cent, while in other areas such as the north-eastern states of India, it is neg-

The Committee has pointed out that 86 per cent of the total land holdings are in small and marginal size groups, which require special efforts for their mechanization. They have emphasized that small farmers face significant difficulties in purchasing machinery unless machines appropriate for small holdings are made available or farmland consolidation takes place. It is expected to take another 25 years to reach the level of 75 per cent mechanization. A Catalyst for Growth: The imperative



THE AGRICULTURE AND ALLIED SECTORS, LIKE LIVESTOCK FARMING.

DEMAND CONTINUOUS MODERNISATION. THE DIVERSITY IN FARMING, LARGE SCALE OR SMALL SCALE, AND RURAL LABOUR SCARCITY NECESSITATE A BROAD SPECTRUM OF

AGRICULTURAL **EQUIPMENT**

role of farm mechanisation is instrumental in reducing cultivation costs and enhancing productivity through efficient resource utilisation.

Experts and committees have highlighted that agricultural mechanisation in India contributes to making judicious and cost-effective use of inputs, leading to savings in seeds by 15-20 per cent, in fertilisers, an improvement in germination rate by 7-25 per cent, savings in time by 20-30 per cent, in weed by 20-40 per cent, in labour by 20-30 per cent, an increase in cropping intensity by 5-20 per cent, and an increase in crop yield by 13-23 per cent. This also helps in the conservation of natural resources like water, soil nutrients, etc.

Farm Machinery Landscape: The agriculture and allied sectors like livestock farming demand Third, Full-fledged Schem continuous modernization. The diversity in farming, whether large-scale or small-scale and rural labour scarcity necessitates a broad spectrum of agricultural equipment. From basic tractors to sophisticated combine harvesters, the sector requires a nuanced WHETHER understanding of the equipment's specific applications and requirements, spanning feeding equipments, spanning equipments, span ment, poultry tools, corral systems for cattle and more attributed to the Indian agricultural machinery market is estimated to be worth a whopping US\$16.73 billion in 2024 and is projected to reach an impressive US\$25.15 billion by 2029.

Steps to Propel Mechanisation: First, Establishment of the Directorate of Agricultural Engineering: The parliamentary Committee recommends that to monitor and implement the Government's mechanisation policy effectively and efficiently, a Directorate of Agricultural state. Currently, it only exists in Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, but the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) is working towards establishing it in all states. Agricultural Engineers are also needed at Block and District Levels as there is no engineering manpower to demonstrate, train, help in repairs/maintenance and guide farmers at

their doorstep. Second, Farm Machinery Banks: Since farm machinery is expensive, small farmers find it difficult to purchase it. To address this issue, the Government has introduced custom hiring centres and farm machinery banks in almost all states, where farmers can share machines. However, the benefits of these schemes have not reached

September 2022, the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation was merged with Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, which diluted its mandate. Therefore, the Government should establish a full-fledged Agriculture mechanism scheme to speed up the process.

Fourth, Funding for R&D: The budget allocation for the Research and Development (R&D) of the Farm Mechanisation Scheme has been declining steadily over the past four years, with a significant decrease of 30 per cent from 2019-20 to 2023-24.

Fifth, Tax and Duty Incentives: To promote low horsepower tractors, which are mostly used by small and marginal farmers and orchard growers, the tractor and its components attract 12 per cent GST. This means a small tractor costing about Rs 5-7 lakh leads the farmer to pay Rs 60-84 thousand as GST. GST can be reduced to nil or 5 per cent to make it more

Engineering is needed in each affordable for small farmers. Tax and duty incentives are also essential to support manufacturing units in low-mechanisation areas for sustainable growth.

In conclusion we can only agree with the Standing Committee. The Parliamentary Standing Committee stresses the urgent need for enhanced farm mechanisation to support India's small and marginal farmers. Despite its significant agricultural contribution, India's mechanisation levels lag behind global counterparts, hindering productivity and prof-

With 86 per cent of land holdings in small and marginal categories, targeted efforts are crucial. Mechanisation not only reduces costs but also enhances productivity and conserves resources. To drive mechanisation, the committee recommends establishing agricultural engineering directorates, expanding access to farm machinery through banks, revitalising existing schemes, boosting funding for research and development, and offering tax incentives. These measures are essential for revitalising Indian agriculture, increasing farmers' incomes, and ensuring sustainable sectoral growth. By embracing comprehensive mechanisation, India can overcome multifaceted agricultural challenges and secure its position as a global agricultural leader while empowering its farming

-The Author is Vice-Chairman of Sonalika ITL Group, Vice-Chairman (Cabinet Minister rank) of the Punjab Economic Policy and Planning Board, Chairman of ASSOCHAM Northern Region Development Council and President, of Tractor and Mechanisation Association (TMA). Views expressed are personal.

From addiction to artistry: Painting a new future

Decorative wall painting is transforming the lives of substance users in Manipur and beyond, giving them a purposeful life to the fullest extent

anglemba Ningombam was 29 when he started experimenting with drugs like many of his friends in his village in Imphal, Manipur. When it started to impact their lives, some of them were able to give it up. Ningombam wasn't one of them. Over the next 15 years, this addiction would spin his life into a vicious cycle of highs and lows. Personal crisis and the death of his parents exacerbated his loneliness, leading him to Fortunately, a local NGO was able to reach out in time addiction and rehabilitation centre. This was to change

his life forever.



SWAPNA MAJUMDAR

bilitation centre provided the medical and counselling support to wean him off drugs, it was an innovative intervention conducted here that catalysed the transforconsider ending his life. mation. Implemented jointly by Makers Foundation, a Manipur-based not-for-profand admit him to a drug it working to empower the alcohol and drug user community, and CADAP, a com-

to provide training in decorative wall painting has opened new doors. This skilling has given them a source of livelihood and income and the confidence to overcome stigma, a big barrier to recovery. Most importantly, it has brought hope and belief that a meaningful life without drugs is possible, thus also reducing the chances of drug abuse relapse.

Ningombam, who was a part of the first batch of 400 trainees of this decorative wall painting programme started in 2022, is now its salaried lead trainer. Just how life-saving this journey has been can be gauged by the fact that there are more munity-based organisation than 1.2 lakh psychoactive While admission to a reha- of drug users, the initiative substance dependants in began exploring ways to and coatings company, to training in decorative wall

Manipur. The state's proximity to the Golden Drug Triangle (Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam) and its large-scale poppy cultivation means easy availability of drugs. It has given Manipur the dubious distinction of having one of the highest prevalence rates in opioid use and an increasing number of drug addicts in the state's rehabilitation centres. Internal conflict and lack of employment opportunities have compounded the problem, leading to a high percentage of relapse among those undergoing rehabilitation.

It was this challenge that led to the focus on skill-building as a means to break the chain. Makers Foundation



build the capacity of the substance-dependent community to become economically empowered once they had completed the treatment course. It hit upon the idea of decorative wall painting and partnered with AkzoNobel, a leading paints

provide the training. Besides providing the monetary resources for the programme, AkzoNobel, which also runs paint academies for training in decorative painting, joined hands to provide the necessary skills. At the end of the 16-day

advanced course of 30 days at AkzoNobel Training Centre in Kolkata.

It is not just the self-confidence that this intervention has been able to restore among the trainees. It has also been accepted by their families. For Bhimo, 37, learning a new skill and get-ting a job as a trainer at Makers Foundation helped him not only to stay off his addiction to alcohol but also helped regain the trust, respect and support of his family. When positive impacts like this and the encouraging feedback from the community led to the scale-up of the intervention to Assam last year, Bhimo was sent as a trainer. This

painting, those with potential are selected for an their Therapeutic Therapeutic Community Model based on the premise that a rehabilitated alcohol/drug user was better equipped to inspire other users to achieve their potential.

Though it has been challenging, with 44 per cent of the 6.7 million substance users being adolescents, the initiative has so far trained 200 persons admitted to rehabilitation centres in Assam's Tinsukhia Hopefully, this initiative will now be able to empower the many invisible substancedependent women and girls in need of a helping hand.

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

Renault to launch four products, expand product portfolio

and France headquartered Renault would launch four new products in the near future, a top official said here on Wednesday. Renault Nissan Alliance Chairperson Jean-Dominique Senard said India is at the heart of the alliance and every part of car manufacturing happens at the India plant. Renault Nissan Automotive India Pvt Ltd is a

joint venture company between Nissan and Renault in India and currently retails five products with two being sold under the Nissan platform and three with the Renault badge. On a short visit to the city, Senard, flanked by Nissan Motor Corporation President and CEO Makoto Uchida and Renault Group CEO Luca de Meo, said March 27th marks the 25th anniversary of the alliance in India. "This is our first visit to India and India will continue to have a major role in our alliance. The alliance has invested USD 1.8 billion so far", he told.



Gold rises Rs 150; silver declines Rs 250

old price rose Rs 150 to Rs 67,000 per 10 grams in the local market on Wednesday in line with firm trends globally, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade the precious metal had closed at Rs 66,850 per 10 grams. However, silver prices declined by Rs 250 to Rs 77,250 per kg. In the previous close, it had settled at Rs 77,500 per kg. "Spot gold prices (24 carats) in the Delhi markets are trading at Rs 67,000 per 10

grams, up by Rs 150 from the previous close," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst -Commodities at HDFC Securities, said. In the international markets, spot gold at Comex was trading at USD 2,180 per ounce, up by USD 7 from the previous close. Gold fluctuated within a range as traders avoided fresh directional bets prior to the release of US inflation data later this week, which could potentially influence the country's trajectory towards monetary policy easing, Gandhi



Crizac files draft papers for Rs 1,000 cr IPO

Student recruitment solution provider Crizac Ltd has filed preliminary papers with markets regulator Sebi to garner Rs 1,000 crore through an initial public offering (IPO) is entirely an offer for sale (OFS) by promoters, Pinky markets regulator Sebi to garner Rs 1,000 crore through an initial public offering. The Agarwal and Manish Agarwal, with no fresh issue component. The OFS consists of sale of equity shares worth Rs 841 crore by Pinky Agarwal and up to Rs 159 crore by Manish

Agarwal. The offer includes a reservation for subscription by eligible employees, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) filed on Tuesday. Since the issue is an OFS, Crizac will not receive any proceeds from the IPO. The Kolkata-based company offers international student recruitment solutions to global institutions of higher education in the United Kingdom, Canada, the Republic of Ireland, Australia and New Zealand. Crizac has established partnerships with leading universities in the UK.



'India can push growth by implementing more reforms'

PNS NEW DELHI

India can realistically push its economic growth close to 9 per cent from the current 7 per cent or so, by implementing a few more reforms in the next five years, Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission Arvind Panagariya said on Wednesday.

Panagariya said Prime Minister Narendra Modi worked hard over the past 10 years to make India a friendly place for businesses, so investment is coming in.

Today, the economy is open. In the next 2-3 decades, we can sustain a very rapid growth," he said, while speaking at the Times Now Summit.

India's economy grew at better-than-expected 8.4 per cent in the third quarter of FY24 -- the fastest in the past one-and-a-half years.

"India is currently growing in real rupees at about 7 per

"Certainly with a few more reforms in the next five years,



"Certainly with a few more reforms in the next five years, we can realistically push it to close to 9 per cent, certainly somewhere at 8-9 per cent and that can be sustained easily for a couple of decades."

Panagariya said the methodwe can realistically push it to ological change for calculating close to 9 per cent, certainly somewhere at 8-9 per cent and GDP during the Modi government was recommended by that can be sustained easily for bodies appointed by the previous administration (UPA gova couple of decades," the economist said. Responding to a question on former chief ecoernment). "Nobody... has questioned the integrity of those who nomic adviser Arvind Subramanian saying India's latest gross domestic product actually do these (GDP)num-(GDP) numbers are 'absolute-

bers. This is a new kind of phenomenon, which I don't understand," he said. Panagariya said if critics are

saying there is some fault with the methodology of calculating GDP, "they have to come in

and point out out the fault so that we can talk about how to make the improvements".

Subramanian had recently said India's latest GDP numbers are "absolutely mystifying" and difficult to comprehend. "I want to be honest with

you that the latest GDP numbers, I just simply can not understand them. "I say that with genuine

respect and things. They are absolutely mystifying. They don't add up. I don't know what they mean," Subramanian

DLF plans to raise Rs 600 cr through issue of debentures

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Realty firm DLF Ltd is raising Rs 600 crore through issue of non-convertible debentures (NCDs) to investors for refinancing of its existing debts.

In a regulatory filing on Wednesday, DLF informed that the company's wholly owned subsidiary DLF Home Developers Ltd has raised this amount. The Securities Allotment Committee of the Board of Directors of DHDL has approved the allotment of 60,000 NCDs, having face value of Rs 1 lakh each, for an aggregate principal amount of Rs 600 crore on a private placement basis to eligible investors. DLF, the country's largest real estate developer in terms of market capitalisation, did not mention where the amount would be utilised. Sources said the amount will be utilised for refinancing its existing debts.

DLF Group has 215 million square feet of development potential across residential and commercial segments. The group has an annuity portfolio of over 42 million

Govt plans to borrow Rs 7.5L cr from market

PNS NEW DELHI

The Centre is planning to raise Rs 7.5 lakh crore through market borrowing in the April-September period of 2024-25 to fund the revenue gap to push economic growth, the finance ministry said on Wednesday.

Out of gross market borrowing of Rs 14.13 lakh crore estimated for 2024-25, Rs 7.5 lakh crore, or 53 per cent, is planned to be borrowed in the first half (H1), an official statement said.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in interim Budget proposed to borrow Rs 14.13 lakh crore by issuing dated securities to meet revenue shortfall in the next financial year.

This is lower than last year's gross borrowing estimate of Rs 15.43 lakh crore, which was the highest ever.

"The gross and net market borrowings through dated securities during 2024-25 are estimated at Rs 14.13 lakh crore and Rs 11.75 lakh crore, respectively. "Both will be less than that in 2023-24. Now that private investments



The gross and net market borrowings through dated securities during 2024-25 are estimated at Rs 14.13 lakh crore and Rs 11.75 lakh crore, respectively.

are happening at scale, the lower borrowings by the central government will facilitate larger availability of credit for the private sector," she had said. There are signs of private investment picking up in the steel and cement sector due to massive capital expenditure by the government.

Against the estimate of Rs 10 lakh crore for 2023-24, the government has earmarked Rs 11.11 lakh crore during

2 new platforms for retail. e-commerce players

PNS MUMBAI

Retail software firm ETP Group on Wednesday announced the launch of two new platforms Ordazzle and ETP Unify- in the retail and e-commerce spaces.

Built for both online-only and online-offline retail businesses of all sizes, the two platforms offer capabilities to streamline multiple operations for seamless and consistent customer experiences to drive business growth, the company said.

Stating that the platforms are aimed at tapping the global retail and e-commerce market, ETP Group said it plans to make Ordazzle and ETP Unify a key contributor to the USD 3.22 billion global retail and e-commerce software.
"Ordazzle and ETP Unify are

being simultaneously launched in India. The cloud-native, AIpowered SAAS platforms are built for scale. The platforms offer unmatched scalability and an intuitive user interface that ensures rapid adoption with minimal training time." said Naresh Ahuja, the Chairman and CEO of ETP Group.

REC board approves overall borrowing of Rs 1.6 lakh cr

PNS NEW DELHI

State-owned REC Ltd on Wednesday said its board rowing limit of Rs 1,60,000 crore for 2024-25.

The board in its meeting held on Wednesday approved a borrowing limit of Rs 1.6 lakh crore, including Rs 1,45,000 bonds and term loans, Rs 5000 crore of shortterm loans and Rs 10,000 crore of commercial papers, REC said in a filing.

Funds under the proposed borrowing programme for 2024-25 shall be raised for different maturities, through different instruments, depending upon the actual requirement of funds, assetliability position and prevailing market conditions, with the approval of Competent Authority, the filing stated.

The Board has approved the amendment in 'Policy on Criteria for determining Materiality of Events or Information for disclosure

to Stock Exchanges'. REC, a non-banking finance company, provides financing to power infrastructure projects in the country. It meets the funding requirements through bor-



Sensex rises 526 pts, Nifty ends above 22,100

PNS MUMBAI

Benchmark Sensex climbed 526 points while Nifty closed above the 22,100 level on Wednesday following buying in banking, auto and oil shares after positive macro data. The 30-share BSE Sensex

ly mystifying' and difficult to comprehend, Panagariya said,

"If you are mystified, then first

you have to check, (whether)

mist is on your own glasses...

or somewhere else.

climbed 526.01 points or 0.73 per cent to settle at 72,996.31 with 18 of its stocks advancing and 12 closing lower. During the day, it jumped 668.43 points or 0.92 per cent to 73,138.73. The broader Nifty of NSE rebounded by 118.95 points or 0.54 per cent to close at 22,123.65. As many as 22 Nifty shares gained while 27 declined and one closed

unchanged.
Auto, banking and energy shares supported the recovery while FMCG and IT shares declined due to profit taking. Among Sensex shares, Reliance Industries rose the

most by 3.6 per cent, adding

more than 312 points to the

upside. Maruti, Bajaj Finance,

Titan, Kotak Mahindra Bank,

healthy economic growth forecast led the market towards a positive closure.

HDFC Bank, IndusInd Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra and Larsen & Toubro were among the major gainers.

Stock-specific actions

and positive

undercurrents due to a

Wipro, HCL Technologies, Nestle, Tata Consultancy Services and Tata Motors were among the laggards.

Stock-specific actions and positive undercurrents due to a healthy economic growth forecast led the market towards a positive closure. However, due to the holiday-led truncated week, investors are now focusing on US GDP data tomorrow and next week's RBI policy announcement to gauge market direction.

90% of employees in **India highly** motivated

PNS MUMBAI

With work seen as a source of meaning and fulfilment, 89 viewed in India claim to be highly motivated by challenges and extra responsibility, claims a study.

Over 89 per cent of respondents in India claim to be highly motivated by challenges and extra responsibility at work while 84 per cent believe that their managers care and have empathy for them, according to a global study by HR think tank UKG Workforce Institute.

The study was conducted across 10 countries, including India, surveying more than 4,000 employees, including managers and C-suite (toplevel) executives.

In India, about three in four employees (72 per cent) respondents say their manager's support, encouragement, and their leadership directly motivate them to go above and beyond in the workplace, the study stated.

Two-fifths of employees (40 per cent) say having a good manager - one who's accessible but doesn't micromanage - makes them feel the most productive at work, it

'Growth in range of 7% good for India'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India should be satisfied with the current growth rate unless the external environment improves, Member of Economic Advisory Council to the PM, Sanjeev Sanyal, said on ic expansion in the range of 7 per cent perfectly good.

Sanyal further said it was necessary to protect the hardearned macroeconomic stability. "Now look, it is possible for us to hit double-digit growth, but I would actually be rather careful about it. This whole game is about compounding growth," Sanyal said while speaking at the Times Now Summit.

India's economy grew at better-than-expected 8.4 per cent in the final three months of 2023, logging the fastest pace in the past one-and-a-half years. The growth rate in cember helped take the estimate for the current fiscal to 7.6 per cent.

"We should not attempt to grow this economy by anything more than what it is growing now. "If the external environment does not dramatically improve, because what will happen then, is that our external accounts will begin to overheat, our inflation will



begin to overheat and so on,' Sanyal said.

He noted that the key is not to lose control of macroeconomic stability as it was a very hard-earned thing. "You can only generate very high

environment is conducive, otherwise we should be satisfied with what we are doing or even something in the range of 7 per cent is perfectly good," Sanyal According to him, India will

rates of growth if the external

because this game is about compounding this growth rate over 25 years and in fact, 8.4 per cent in the final three months of 2023 is a wonderful surprise.

"Our own forecast was 6.5 per cent to 7 per cent. And if it grows at 7 per cent, we would have been perfectly happy," he

DPIIT plans to engage consultant to prepare logistics report for 3 yrs

PNS NEW DELHI

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is planning to engage a research firm to prepare the Logistics Ease Across Different States and Union Territories for the next three years.

Every year, the department releases a

Logistics Ease Across Different State (LEADS) report, ranking states and Union Territories (UTs) on the basis of their logistics ecosystem and highlights the key logistics-related challenges faced by stakeholders and includes suggestive recommendations.

The index is an indicator of the efficiency of logistical services necessary for promoting exports and economic



growth. The DPIIT has floated a request for proposal for the appointment of consultant for ranking of states on the basis of their logistics efficiency (LEADS report for 2024, 2025, and 2026). "The DPIIT intends to engage a research organisation/consulting or market research firm/academic institution (Consultant) with experience in preparing national/international level reports

based on robust data based analysis in the logistics/transport/infrastructure sector for the period of 36 months to prepare, LEADS reports for 2024, 2025, and 2026," according to the request for proposal document.

The objective of the current assignment for the consultant is to prepare the reports taking into account the methodology developed in the previous versions

of LEADS. The consultant, it said, is expected to review the LEADS methodology, identify potential enhancements, and propose a plan for data collection; and conduct perception-based surveys across the logistics ecosystem in India, developing a sampling frame, survey instruments, and objective data sets.

FLO REPORT ON TRANSFORMING INDIA

'Investment of 2.2% of GDP can generate 11 mn jobs'

PNS NEW DELHI

Direct public investment of 2 per cent of India's GDP can potentially generate 11 million jobs, nearly 70 per cent of which will go to women, according to a report released by Ficci Ladies Organisation (FLO) on Wednesday.

The FLO also unveiled a roadmap for transforming India's care economy, including five key areas, leave policies, care service subsidies, investment in care infrastructure, skill training for care workers, and quality assurance mechanisms.

"In India, the Ministry of Labour and Employment can consider supporting MSMEs and startups financially for maternity leave, revising parental leave policies, and promoting care work leave and flexible work options. This could include introducing market-based financing for leave, such as parental leave insurance. Employers are encouraged to adopt genderneutral care work leave and flexible work options," Ficci Ladies Organisation (FLO)

It said collaboration between government agencies and



Labour

these initiatives, especially among smaller businesses, with a focus on monitoring and sharing success stories.

"Evidence from the

International

Organisation suggests that increasing investments in the care services sector have the potential to generate 475 million jobs globally by 2030. For India specifically, direct public investment equivalent to 2

per cent of GDP can potentially generate 11 million jobs, nearly 70 per cent of which will go to women," the report said. In India, care service subsi-

dies and incentives are typically offered through government schemes like Mission Shakti, focusing on women's safety, security, and empowerment. Enhancements to these schemes could involve wider financial support for childcare, elderly care, and long-term care services, particularly in rural and under-served areas.

Underlying the importance of the paid care sector, FLO President Sudha Shivkumar

said, "The paid care sector has to be regularised, it has to be organised, it has to be institutionalised. We need more skilled workers in that space, we need policies, we need very fair norms that govern them, we need insurance to support them".

According to her, the undervaluation and invisibility of care work, predominantly performed by women, has resulted in a market failure, where skilled and talented women are unable to realise their economic potential, leading to a misallocation of resources at the macroeconomic level.

RBI announces MPC schedule for FY25, first rates decision on April 5

PNS MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday announced the schedule for the bimonthly monetary policy committee meetings for the

new fiscal. The first meeting will be held from April 3-5, while the next will start on June 5, as per an

official statement. Typically, the six-member panel votes on a resolution on the third day of the meeting and the governor announces the decision in

the first half of the day after

the vote is completed. The first two days of the meeting are devoted to deliberations and presentations by sub-

> to the panel.
> The second bimonthly policy review meeting will end on June 7, the statement said,

adding that this will be followed by three-day meetings in August, October, December, and February.

ject matter experts

The six-member panel headed by the governor has three external members.

Vijayawada | Thursday March 28, 2024

¬he recent nuptials of actors Kriti Kharbanda and Pulkit Samrat have captivated hearts worldwide, not only for their undeniable chemistry but also for the heartfelt symbolism woven into Kriti's choice of attire. As images from their wedding festivities continue to go viral, each moment captured reveals a story of love, remembrance, and celebration.

Amidst the resplendent hues and intricate designs that adorned the couple throughout their wedding journey, it was Kriti Kharbanda's stunning pink lehenga that garnered particular admiration. However, the significance behind this choice runs deeper than aesthetics alone. Close sources reveal that Pulkit's late mother held a cherished wish for her son's wedding: to see his bride adorned in a pink lehenga, her favorite colour. "Pulkit's mom's favorite colour was pink; she wanted to see Pulkit's bride in a pink lehenga and shared this wish with Kriti," the source disclosed. It was a heartfelt desire rooted in honoring the memory of Pulkit's beloved mother.

Kriti's involvement in the attire selection process further underscored the personal significance of their wedding ensembles. Embracing Pulkit's late mother's wish as a heartfelt blessing, Kriti meticulously ensured that every detail resonated with Indian ethnic charm, guided by the beloved pink hue from the very inception of the planning stages. This thoughtful touch not only paid homage to Pulkit's family legacy but also added a profound layer of meaning to their union, symbolising love, remembrance, and the

blending of past and present.

As the world celebrates the union of Kriti Kharbanda and Pulkit Samrat, their wedding serves as a poignant reminder that love transcends boundaries. intertwining with cherished memories to create an everlasting tapestry of joy and affection.

which co-star Henry Cavill saved his life while they were filming The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare. The film, which was directed by Guy Ritchie, tells the story of the valiant actions of the first British special forces squad during World War II. Pettyfer conveyed his admiration for Cavill's modest demeanour and diligent work ethic

while on set. Notwithstanding obstacles, Cavill is committed to giving a memorable performance in the movie and solidifying his status as a powerful actor in Hollywood. This endearing story not only high-

Actor Alex Pettyfer recently opened up about a touching incident in

HENRY GAVILL SAVED

ALEX PETTYFER'S LIFE!

lights Cavill's bravery both on and off screen, but it also builds excitement for the upcoming film, which will allow fans to experience the chemistry and friendship

as a kind and considerate coworker, since he went above and beyond to make sure Pettyfer was safe while filming. Pettyfer's comments demonstrate Cavill's professionalism and regard for his fellow actors and crew members, providing a model for all those engaged in the show. Cavill is hoping to bounce back from a string of box office setbacks in recent years, so his next role in The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare is important to him. He narrated a story in which, when they were filming a scene together, Cavill prevented him from drowning. Pettyfer expressed his gratitude for Cavill's presence on the shoot while praising Cavill's

between Cavill and Pettyfer for themselves. The information clarifies Cavill's persona

bravery and fast thinking.

what's brewing?

Adarsh Gourav 'overwhelmed' collaborating with legendary director **Ridley Scott**

Acclaimed actor Adarsh Gouray,

Tiger, is currently basking in the

exhilaration of a once-in-a-lifetime

Aknown for his standout performances in films like *The White*

opportunity. Adarsh is currently shooting in Thailand for the highly anticipated international series Alien, under the direction of the legendary filmmaker Ridley Scott. For Adarsh, collaborating with Ridley Scott is akin to a dream come true. "Ridley Scott is a maverick filmmaker; collaborating with him for Alien is something like a dream come true," Gourav expressed with excitement. "Working with the legendary filmmaker is every actor's dream. It's overwhelming, and sharing the same spot with him is a lifetime opportunity. Alien marks a significant milestone in his acting career, showcasing his versatility and talent on a global platform. Amidst expressing his gratitude for the opportunity to work with Ridley Scott, Adarsh also shared his enthusiasm for the series, hinting at the thrilling journey ahead. Beyond *Alien*, Adarsh Gourav is gearing up for the second season of Guns and Gulaabs, further solidifying his presence in Bollywood. Additionally, he has recently completed shooting for Malegaon ka Superman, adding yet another feather to his cap.



100% of his time and attention to every project he has made." Timothée, in a statement, said of *De Luca and Abdy*: "These are studio heads who believe in real movie making, and I'm so grateful for their support as an actor, producer, and collaborator. This partnership feels like a natural next step. Let's go!" The 28-year-old recently became the first star in over four decades to be in two top-grossing films released within eight months of each other with Dune: Part Two, which has a running box office total of \$575.5 million, and Wonka, which made over \$632 million globally. The previous record-holder was John Travolta with Grease and Saturday Night Fever, Timothée was a producer on Luca Guadagnino's Bones and All and is also producing and starring in the upcoming



Following the success of *Wonka* and the *Dune* movies, Warner Bros. is staying in the Timothée Chalamet business. The star signed a first look deal with the studio to collaborate on future projects as an actor and producer, Warner Bros. said on Tuesday.

This doesn't mean that Timothée can only make movies with Warner Bros., just that the studio is entitled to a right of first refusal. The terms of the deal were not released, but it is a "multi-year" agreement. Warner Bros. Motion Picture Group co-chairs and CEOs Mike De Luca and Pam Abdy said in a statement that they've admired his "commitment to his craft" and his "unwavering dedication to give

Bob Dylan biopic, A Complete Unknown, which is currently filming.

ARCHIE





KARTIK AARYAN TRANSFORMS

HIMSELF INTO CHANDU CHAMPION WITH

14 MONTHS OF BOXING TRAINING

suit of perfection.

over 14 months. He is stepping into such a role for the

first time, and is leaving no stone unturned in his pur-

Alongside intense training in the middleweight cat-

egory, Kartik meticulously tailored his

diet, completely eliminating sugar and shedding an impressive 20 kg

to embody the physique of a boxer.
To enhance the film's authentici-

ty, Kartik immersed himself in

the world of professional box-

ing, sharing the ring with real-world champions.

ing Chandu Champion is palpa-

ble, with its compelling storyline, grand scale, and intriguing

premise captivating audiences'

Khan,

imaginations.

The anticipation surround-

Jointly produced by Sajid Nadiadwala and Kabir

Champion is poised for a June 14, 2024

release, poised to

leave an indelible

mark on the hearts

of audiences

worldwide.

Chandu

Presenting an extraordinary tale, the collaboration between two cinematic powerhouses, Sajid Nadiadwala and Kabir Khan, *Chandu Champion*,

emerges as the cinematic spectacle of the year. At it's

forefront is the charismatic Kartik

Aaryan, who has embarked on a

relentless 14-month boxing journey to impeccably portray this remarkable narrative to the world.

Kartik's dedication to his role

in Chandu Champion is evident

in his remarkable transforma-

tion, one that was far from easy,

demanding rigorous

boxing training







CALVIN AND HOBBES









GARFIELD



SLUGGO IS A TRUE-BLUE FRIEND ---

TOUGHEST TIMES

GINGER MEGGS



I SAID ... HOW

MY PLAYING

I'VE BEEN PRACTICING

YOU LIKE MY PLAYING?





REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP





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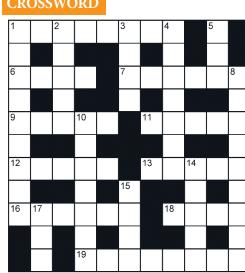
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- shell
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- 13 A hot drink 16 A medical professional
- 19 Inspected closely **DOWN**

3 Takes part in a play

18 Lengthy

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2 Go in



WHO CAN NAME A RIVER IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY? HANDS UP!



Tilayayada

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Thursday March 28, 2024

SHIKHA DUGGAL

s the globe struggles with environmental issues, Goodeebag steps forth as a trailblazer detersteps forth as a trailblazer determined to transform garbage management and encourage environmentally friendly living. It was founded with a deep vision and steadfast dedication, and is a movement that speaks up for the voiceless people and creatures impacted by toxic waste, including our planet, animals, and the air we breathe.

The founder, Abhishiek Agarwal, is a

visionary leader guiding this toward meaningful and sustainable trash management. With a degree from Hyderabad's G. Pulla Reddy Degree College, his journey demonstrates his spirit of entrepreneurship! "Our sustainability movement was born out of a deep-seated desire to solve the urgent problem of waste management in our neighbourhoods in Hyderabad and across. Having seen the harm that traditional garbage disposal techniques cause to the environment and public health, we were motivated to come up with a novel solution that reduces waste while also promoting a sustainable lifestyle. Our approach to garbage manage-ment mixes convenience, community involvement, and envi-ronmental conscience, setting us

ronmental conscience, setting us unique from traditional waste management options. We want to bring about a paradigm change towards responsible waste management practices by offering educational activities, and doorstep rubbish pickup services."

The goal, he says, is to lead the sustainability movement and speak for the voiceless. Informing all the citizens about the dangers of plastic and simplifying the disposal of waste by raising awareness and providing a digital platform is what the founder is trying to do. Beyond waste management, their vision looks platform is what the founder is trying to do. Beyond waste management, their vision looks forward to a day when people understand that their garbage can be used as a valuable raw material by industry! "Through community-focused programs, we elevate the voices of those impacted by toxic waste and are translated into concrete actions. By means of seminars, awareness campaigns, and collaborations with grassroots organizations we orations with grassroots organisations, we proactively involve ourselves with local communities, equipping them with the necessary knowledge and resources to address waste-related issues. Furthermore, we put inclusion first by making sure that under-

ENABLING COMMUNITIES TO TAKE UP THE MANTLE OF ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

As the Goodeebag steps forward to transform garbage management and encourage environmentally friendly living, we have the founder Abhishiek Agarwal, sharing about their sustainability movement, their programs, and more.



access to our resources and networks of support, which encourages a feeling of community owner-ship and shared accountability for environmental stewardship."
Passionately, Abhishiek ventured into the

waste management industry in 2022, hoping to reach important milestones in his mission to teach one crore families about sustainability! "There were several obstacles, such as cultural quirks to overcome when we decided to expand from Hyderabad to other major cities. However, we were able to overcome these obstacles and reach important benchmarks by using flexible management techniques. We collaborate with a wide range of stakeholders, including public and corporate organisations, through advocacy campaigns, policy discussions, and cooperative collaborations. To solve systemic difficulties in waste management, we encourage informa-

waste management, we checutage mornation exchange, resource sharing."
Goodeebag, which is now having a big impact in Hyderabad, plans to expand to three major cities in the next eight months.



research and teaching is one noteworthy example. We can empower upcoming sustainability leaders

and reach new people by forming such coalitions."

Although there have been few official reactions Although there have been few official reactions from the government, private organisations recognise the importance of the program. The challenge is not so much in comprehending the issue as it is in turning aspirations into concrete action! The organisation is unfazed and continues to pursue it's goal of bringing about significant change. "We use a combination of community empowerment, and educational programs to solve behaviour change obstacles and encourage eco-conscious behaviour. This includes distributing educational materials, launching campaigns to alter behaviour, and setting up incentive schemes for people and groups who embrace sustainable lifestyles. In order to promote positive behaviour change and establish a sustainable culture, we also use peer-to-peer learning networks, gamification components, and social norms marketing strategies."

As they look to the future, they want to revolutionise waste management on a broader scale and spark a fundamental shift toward sustainable living patterns! In additional designations and social materials.

damental shift toward sustainable living patterns! In addition, they hope to enable communities to take up the man-tle of environmental stewardship. In the end, they see a time when trash is seen as a precious resource that can be recycled, repurposed, and reused within the framework of a circular economy, rather than as an issue that needs to be controlled.



'Oo Antava''s feminist take roused Nachiket to design Samantha's costume

TEJAL SINHA

ou name a celebrity, and Nachiket Barve would have worked with them. But he has certainly had an exciting iourney, of course

Being grateful for all the steps that have come his way, he had absolutely no fashion background to kind of speak with—not one of those kids who grew up with privilege and luxury or exposure to fashion. It was a very different upbringing. But fashion was something that he had a deep interest in. With luck and hard work, a lot of opportunities opened doors for him. We're also talking about a time about 15-16 years ago when fashion was not so prevalent, but today it is much more ubiquitous, and there is much more understanding and acceptance. "My family was very supportive of my choices," he recalls as he further adds,

'There were many steps along the way—whether it was showcasing at Fashion Week for the first time, the conception of the launch of the label, or being able to work in Paris before the big international boom happened in India. It was a bit of risk-taking and a lot of hard work. I think what has helped me along the way is to stick to my own signature and discover and hone my style. The national award was a very big moment because, you know, there are plenty of wonderful awards, but to get one from the President of India herself is a memorable and very proud moment.

But again, at the same time, he feels this is just the beginning of a journey in a certain way because India is changing rapidly, the future is changing rapidly, and one will have so much more to offer to the newer generation, whether they are young millennials or Gen Z.

To our surprise, he revealed that he has been very privileged because his first day ever on a film set was with Amitabh and Jaya Bachchan. "I think once you've gone to deal with people who have 100 years of cinematic experience together, it really teaches you a lot. I've learned a lot from them, and it sets you up for the road ahead because you learn from the best. I've been very lucky because all the big stars that I've worked with, whether on *Tanhaji* or with Prabhas, and so many others, have all been wonderful professionals and very warm human beings. Whether it is the biggest task or the smallest, I believe in approaching both with the same level of commitment and

National award-winning fashion designer Nachiket Barve, who has worked with several celebrities, right from Amitabh Bachchan to Saif Ali Khan, Kriti Sanon, Prabhas, and Samantha, gets candid with *The Pioneer* about his journey and more about mastering the skills in the films.

attention to detail," adds the national awardwinning fashion designer. As a designer, the journey that he has had

with his label is what he showcased at the recent Blenders Pride Glassware Fashion NXT Festival. His career began to gain momentum after

he designed for the senior Bachchans, a Tanishq advertisement! Something that we informed you about earlier in this interview. But you know what? There has been another connection to the work he has had with Big B. His father was the personal physician of the Shahenshah of B'town. Thus, there was added pressure on him: "You don't want to disappoint and underperform at the task given to you, and for any creative professional, when you're working with stars of a certain stature, there is definitely added pressure, especially on a costume designer,

because on a set, if that doesn't work, then the whole shoot stalls, so it's a lot of expectation, but it's also wonderful because you step into it as a student and you learn so much about the craft, angles, lighting, and what works on camera with the best teams available and also with stars of such magnitude. I kind of treat that as my introduction to costume design and my first step there. Nachiket's fashion philosophy is all about

timely yet timeless fashion. It's about clothes that you can wear today and clothes you can wear perhaps 10 years later, and he sustainable. In fact, Samantha Ruth Prabhu wears his design in the iconic Oo Antava

song. She looks stunning, and it's a far cry from what he did in *Tanhaji* or *Adipurush*, for that matter. The team of *Pushpa*, he reveals, reached out to him and asked if he'd like to do something for Samantha. Who'd say no, after all? "I

feels that is a wonderful way to make fashion

think that's been the attitude that has kept me in good stead. I was inspired by the song and the lyrics. It was about a feminist take on an special song and how you empower women in that way. So, the inspiration started from a peacock, which is strutting around proudly, taking the colours of that and exploring them on the screen. I am a firm believer in the philosophy of the Gita that says, 'Karm karo fal ki iccha mat karo (Do your job, but don't do it expecting a certain benefit out of it).' When you're doing a costume for a big star, an outfit for a bride, or something for a song shoot, it's with the intention of doing that job to the best of my ability, as opposed to what I would get out of it. You can't do a job working backward, saying this is the appreciation I'm going to get out. Also, a song like this lets me explore a more 'filmy' side of my personality, which otherwise would not have been brought to the fore with the work I do in the fashion imdustry," shares the courtier, adding that fashion can empower you, strengthen you, and can also be a mood lifter. True that! Moving ahead, Nachiket was fortunate to work not only in the Hindi film industry but also in regional industries. He feels that when we talk about something being a turning point, each of them has been turning points in their own way. But to name one, "I'd say Tanhaji and the national award that came home because of that film was

definitely a turning point, especially for a designer who has been trained in international fashion or working with a brand like Celine. It's been a very different take, and it really helped me explore a side of me that was untapped till then."

"I think what I do for the fashion label is one part of my brain, and what I do for costumes in films is an entirely different part," he goes on further to explain in this exclusive interview. "A film like *Tanhaji* required, I think, 2 years of pre-production research, so I went across museums all across the country and even abroad. So, whether it was the Salarjang Museum in Hyderabad, the craft museum in Delhi, the Chhatrabati Shivaji Vastu Sangala Museum in Bombay, the Victorian Albert Museum in London, or the

Kelkar Museum in Pune, extensive research—in fact, even raiding the collections of private families and collectors who had textiles from that era recreated jewellery using original moulds that were over 400

> family who actually designed jewellery for the court of Chatrapati Shivaji. So, it was recreating all of that. It was a lot of work because I was very clear that I wanted the film to look cinematically beautiful

but also authentic."

years old. From the

Aging gracefully: Safeguarding kidney injury in the elderly

ney injury increases. Kidneys play a pivotal role in overall health and wellbeing. An in-depth understanding of the factors that increase the risk of kidney injury and adopting proactive preventive strategies for prevention is paramount. Discussed here are the multitude of risk factors associated with kidney injury in the elderly and comprehensive tips for prevention.

Diabetes control: Regular screening for diabetes is essential to detect and manage the condition effectively. Achieving good control of blood sugar levels is crucial for preventing diabetes-related kidney complications.

Hypertension control: Regular home blood pressure monitoring aids in the early detection and management of hypertension. Following a DASH (Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension) or a diet low in sodium (salts) and is rich in fresh fruits, vegetables, beans, and legumes, and fat-free or with hearthealthy oils and consistently taking prescribed medications is vital for maintaining optimal blood pressure levels.

Hyperlipidemia management: Annual lipid profile screenings help in monitoring cholesterol levels. Consistent use of prescribed medications assists in controlling lipid levels, reducing the risk of kidney injury.

Combatting obesity: Weight loss strategies,

regular exercise, and lifestyle modifications are instrumental in preventing kidney injury associated with obesity.

Polypharmacy awareness: Consulting physicians to identify potential drug interactions and nephrotoxic medications is crucial for minimizing the risk of kidney damage. Addressing ischemic events: Seeking medical

attention for symptoms indicative of ischemia helps preventing kidney injury.

Management of anemia: Monitoring for symptoms of anemia and undergoing relevant

tests enable early detection and management,

safeguarding kidney health.

Smoking and alcohol cessation: Quitting smoking and alcohol consumption reduces the

Identification and management of nephrotoxic medications: Identifying and discontinuing nephrotoxic medications are vital steps in kidney injury prevention.

Avoidance of alternate medicines containing heavy metals: Avoiding of alternative medicines containing heavy metals is essential to prevent kidney damage.

Pre-existing CKD management: Monitoring pre-existing chronic kidney disease and adhering to prescribed treatments are crucial for preventing further renal deterioration.

Cardiovascular disease management: Proper management of cardiovascular diseases through medication adherence and lifestyle modifications preserves kidney function.

Liver disease management: Ceasing alcohol consumption and treating associated infections is vital for kidney health in individuals with

liver disease. Early detection of obstructive symptoms: Early detection and management of obstructive symptoms prevent kidney injury.

Vigilance for Myeloma: Suspicion of myeloma in unexplained kidney injury underscores the importance of thorough evaluation for

timely intervention. Minimising radiocontrast dye usage: Reducing the amount of radiocontrast dye used and opting for safer alternatives mitigate the

risk of kidney injury. Post-procedural monitoring: Vigilant monitoring for kidney injury post-cardiovascular

and vascular procedures is crucial for timely intervention. Addressing dementia and social factors: Addressing medication compliance issues in individuals with dementia and seeking famil-

ial support are essential for maintaining kid-

Nutritional awareness: Detecting signs of malnutrition and addressing nutritional deficiencies are vital for overall health, including kid-

> (The author, Dr Krishna Reddy, is a Consultant - Nephrologist, at Manipal



PANT AIMS TO SHAKE OFF RUSTINESS

Skipper Rishabh Pant will look to overcome his rustiness as Delhi Capitals aim for an improved batting display in their bid for a first win of the IPL season when they take on Rajasthan Royals here on Thursday.

Pant's much-anticipated return to action 453 days after he suffered grievous injuries in a horrific car accident, lasted just 13 balls (18 runs) with Punjab Kings winning by four wickets at their new home ground in

Mullanpur.
Pant, though, displayed his usual lively demeanour behind the stumps and also effected the stumping of Jitesh Sharma. Having overcome the early jitters and nervousness in his first game, Pant would be eager to regain his mojo quickly as his match-up against the likes of Trent Boult, Ravichandran Ashwin and Yuzvendra Chahal would be the highlight of the contest.

our leader and heartbeat of this franchise and having him back is going to make this team a lot stronger," head coach Ricky Ponting had said of Pant ahead of the IPL.

ie pioneer

Ponting chose David Warner and Mitchell Marsh to open the innings in the hope that the duo would score enough runs to take the pressure off Pant lower down the order. But the two failed to capitalise on good starts and the pressure soon came on Pant. Wicketkeeper-batter Abhishek

Porel's unbeaten 32-run cameo was the only bright spot in DC's batting, which lifted them to a respectable 174/9 from a precarious 138/7 at one stage. Porel was used as an impact player as Delhi were a bowler short. The problem was worsened further after Ishant Sharma twisted his ankle. The lanky pacer could miss a few matches as well.

Delhi's spin duo of Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel will have a bigger role to play after what "It's exciting to have your was witnessed on a dry surface captain back in the team. He is at the Sawai Mansingh



Stadium the other day when Rajasthan Royals' opening duo of Jos Buttler and Yashasvi Iaiswal faced some early hiccups against Lucknow Super Giants.

However, Sanju Samson struck an unbeaten 82 as the Royals won by 20 runs. By scoring a fifty in his team's first match of the season for the fifth successive time, Samson has become an early contender for the hotly-contested spot for the wicketkeeper-batter's slot in the upcoming T20 World

Cup.
With Riyan Parag also among the runs, the Royals top-four will pose questions to the Delhi bowling lineup, and here's where Kuldeep and Axar's overs will be crucial in the middle.

The Royals' bowling has also hit the right notes with Trent Boult leading the charge with the new ball. Sandeep Sharma has also been superb in the death overs.

The rookie Indian dismissed KL Rahul at 58 in the 17th over and also stymied Nicholas Pooran in the penultimate over as RR restricted Lucknow Super Giants to 173/6.

Rajasthan Royals: Sanju Samson (c), Abid Mushtaq, Avesh Khan, Dhruv Jurel, Donovan Ferreira, Jos Buttler, Kuldeep Sin, Kunal Singh Nandre Burger, Rathore,

Navdeep Prasidh Saini, Krishna, Ravichandran Ashwin, Riyan Parag, Sandeep Sharma, Shimron Hetmyer, Shubham Dubey, Rovman Powell, Tom Kohler-Cadmore, Trent Boult, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Yuzvendra Chahal and Tanush Kotian.

Delhi Capitals: Rishabh Pant (c), David Warner, Prithvi Shaw, Yash Dhull, Abishek Porel, Axar Patel, Lalit Yadav, Mitchell Marsh, Pravin Dubey, Vicky Ostwal, Anrich Nortje, Kuldeep Yadav, Jake Fraser-McGurk, Khaleel Ahmed, Ishant Sharma, Mukesh Kumar, Tristan Stubbs, Ricky Bhui, Kumar Kushagra, Rasikh Dar, Jhye Richardson, Sumit Kumar, Swastik Chikara and

Shai Hope.

Want to remain fit to play all three formats for Windies: Shamar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

He is only 24, has endured a tough life growing up and is currently raising two toddlers with a young partner. One can't possibly blame Shamar Joseph for wanting the best of both worlds — "play all three formats for the West three formats for the West Indies" and also remain fit enough to ply his trade across the globe in franchise cricket.

Joseph has logged woods in the nondescript Guyanese village of Baracara, worked as a construction labourer at building sites before spending half a day as a security guard, a secure future for his family is all that he desires.

So, like a lot of West Indies players, who crisscross the globe playing IPL one day and Big Bash the next, Joseph too wants the best of both worlds. "Look I haven't made up my mind (if preference given)," the pace sensation, who has come in as a replacement for He has played only two T20 England pacer Mark Wood in Lucknow Super Giants team, told PTI in an interview.

The hero of West Indies' recent Test win in Australia, who played through pain with a broken toe, feels that in the next few years, it his fitness will determine the workload he can

"I will like to play around the world to enhance my skills but if there are other opportunities (T20 Leagues), I will make myself available," Joseph said, adding, "..And I have confidence in my fitness and that won't be a problem for

"Definitely my fitness will be important since I have a long career ahead of mine, I would definitely like to play all three formats for the West Indies

whenever I am available. I will definitely make that time for them," said the youngster. matches for Guyana Amazon

Warriors in his short and eventful career so far but IPL will give him an opportunity to learn the tricks of the trade. "It is a transformation from red ball to white ball cricket. There

will be other (technical) changes and I get to learn from every opportunity that I get. I enjoyed playing Tests and now I will look to improve my white ball game. "I am talking to all the

experienced players, who are seniors and have played a certain amount of IPL, learning from them and enjoying being in the moment," said the soft-spoken fast bowler.

His senior Kemar Roach, who

previously, did give him an idea of what to expect in January but back then, he had gone unsold.

But after the Australia series, even legends like Courtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose have said good things about

"Definitely, Kemar and I had a lot of conversations about IPL when we were in Australia. Ambrose, after the (Australia) Tests, also gave me some good advice.

"Courtney Walsh, there have been words of encouragement from all these greats which will help me going forward," he

Having seen extreme poverty in Baracara to enjoying the financial windfall that comes with the IPL, Joseph has indeed come a long way.

"Life has been great so far. There has been all sorts of kind

comments. It is my performance that brought me here. Happy to be here." However e remains a co

boy at heart. "I am always aware where I came from. I still remain a country boy and nothing changes for me. Yes, I will go with the flow but being a superstar doesn't change anything for me and it has been the same life," Joseph said. Joseph is happy to have Justin Langer around, someone who has taken keen interest in his

Australia. "It is always great to be among legends and players who inspire you like KL (Rahul),

exploits since the tour of

Dhoni advised me to play my natural game: Rizvi

Chennai Super Kings batter Sameer Rizvi has credited Mahendra Singh Dhoni for his brief but impactful knock in his first IPL match, saying the talismanic former India skipper advised him to play his natural game when he went out to bat against Gujarat Titans.

Against GT here on Tuesday night, Rizvi played a cameo of six-ball 14-run knock, which included two sixes against Rashid Khan. "Bhaiya (Dhoni) told me to

play how I generally play since it is all about the actual gameplay. He (Dhoni) said, There is nothing different. Skills remain the same, and it's all just about mindset. Never take any pressure or be

PTI CHENNAI



nervous, and play as per the situation," he said in a video on

IPLT20.Com. Rizvi recalled the moment he was picked up by the franchise during the auction ahead of the season for a whopping Rs 8.4 crore, as he felt that his dream meeting Dhoni will eventually come true.

"When I was picked up during

defends against short ball

Dube no longer ducks.

the auction by CSK, my greatest happiness was my dream to meet Bhaiya (MS Dhoni) would be fulfilled. We also had net sessions together and got to learn a lot from him and the (support) staff. I intend to learn more and perform to the fullest."

Having played cricket for Uttar Pradesh, he has decent T20 numbers, scoring 309 runs in 10 innings at a strike rate of 137.33, including two half-

centuries. Speaking about his jersey number, the 20-year-old Meerut batter said, "My jersey number is seven, which is currently worn by Bhaiya and I can't get it. So, I liked the number 1, and I took it." Rizvi also talked about the

positive atmosphere in the CSK dressing room.

tirelessly against the short ball,

an area he needed to improve on.

Hats off to him, and he is playing

with confidence now. He is also

"As the teams bowled short balls

at him a few years ago, he would only duck and defend. Now, not

only he can play the short ones, but he is also able to find

dangerous against the spin.

Any team is bound to miss a bowler like Shami: Mohit

PTI ■ CHENNAI

ujarat Titans pace bowler Mohit Sharma conceded it was hard to replace a bowler of the calibre of Mohammed Shami as his team succumbed to a massive 63-run defeat at the hands of reigning IPL champions Chennai Super Kings here.

India's premi sitting out of the IPL as he is recuperating from an ankle surgery. He is expected to make his comeback with the home Test series against Bangladesh later this year after missing the five-Test series against England. Shami will also miss the T20 World Cup to be jointly hosted by the West

Indies and the USA in June. "Any team is bound to miss a bowler like Shami, and you can't replace him with anyone. But injuries are uncontrollable, and you must see how to move ahead with it," said Sharma, who played for CSK between 2013 and 2015 and has been with the Titans since 2022, during the post-match press

conference. 'As for GT, it's the first year for Spencer (Johnson) and Azmatullah (Omarzai). They haven't played much cricket yet. Therefore, we must be patient with them and not become too result-oriented. "We must not bother about the

runs leaked or the result of the contest, but how successful we are with our plans and how we are working on it backstage. These things would come in handy in the second half (of the event)," opined Sharma. CSK posted a huge 206 for six, with openers Ruturaj Gaikwad (36) and Rachin Ravindra (46) being the stars alongside Shivam Dube (51). GT bowlers took a lot of beating with Umesh Yadav going for 27 in two overs, while the crafty Afghanistan ace spinner Rashid Khan went for 49 in four overs although he took a

couple of wickets. Sharma added that CSK milking runs in powerplay also contributed to the big loss.

"Not much of a difference (in CSK's strategy). It used to be the same when I used to play for CSK, and we usually tried to get the maximum out of the powerplay overs," he said. CSK were 69 for 1 after powerplay overs. "We knew it was going to be a similar scenario, especially with Rachin (Ravindra's) batting of late. However, we failed to execute our plans properly and also failed to judge the width and

length during our bowling. "We failed in executing our plans properly. We began to bowl the slower ones too early and too wide off the off stump, leading to them scoring freely. It happens that the plans always don't get executed

properly every time.
"But it's a big tournament, and we have ample time to go back to the drawing board. our mistakes and start afresh.

"We had a target of 200 as the par score on this wicket, and CSK played just the way we had thought. They were on course for 225-230 before settling for 206, but since we failed to implement our plans, we believed we gave away 15-20 runs extra."

Sharma also defended the visitors' decision to bowl first, stating that dew is always a factor in night games, though, interestingly, there was hardly any dew on Tuesday night.

"Don't think the pitch has a role to play. Generally, if we win the toss and decide to bowl, it's because we know that the dew might play a factor later during the game.

"But, there was no dew (Tuesday). As usual, we decided to bowl and restrict them to a par total, while dew would have been an added positive for us.

Had the wicket been drier, CSK would have moved in with two spinners. But, had the (GT) pacers bowled in the right areas, it would have been tough for them to hit," he considered.

'WON'T SAY WE FAILED TO SCORE RUNS, BUT CREDIT TO CSK

BOWLERS': Despite the 63-run loss, Mohit refused to blame the batters for the poor CSK show. implemented their plan to perfection to restrict GT to 143/8 with Sai Sudharsan (37) being GT's top scorer.

"I won't say we failed to score runs, but credit to the CSK bowlers for bowling brilliantly. Deepak (Chahar) started well, and at the end of the day, it all boils down to the number of variations you possess and when and how to use them. "Don't think it was a pressure

scenario for us. The wicket was good, and 200 was a gettable total here.

"But the wickets that we lost initially, leading to lack of partnerships, followed by CSK bowlers bowling the right length, led to our inability to up the run rate, and we began lagging in every over," he signed off.

captain and team talisman boundaries. Mahendra Singh Dhoni. "So, that's a testament to the The 30-year-old Dube was the work that he has put in and has our skipper and Justin Langer top-scorer for CSK on Tuesday, striking a 23given it back to the bowlers, forcing them to try our head coach, he is an amazing person. He has talked something new. It will benefit him in the IPL, ball 51 that included two fours and five sixes at a strike rate of 221.74. The side won by 63 runs and also if he gets a chance to play for his country, it will do him a lot of good," said to me and advised me from the against Gujarat Titans. "Got to give a lot of credit to Dube for working Australian series. has played a few seasons of IPL

Chennai Super Kings batting Coach Mike Hussey is in awe

transforming into a batter who

no longer ducks or defends when

faced with the short ball, an

improvement that has been

monitored personally by former

Shivam Dube for

PTI MUMBAI

Former India cricketer Manoj Tiwary expects Mumbai Indians captain Hardik Pandya to be booed a "bit louder" when the team plays its first home IPL game here on April 1 but he feels that the flamboyant allrounder has the temperament to deal

Pandya, who replaced Rohit Sharma as MI captain before the start of the season, was booed by fans in Ahmedabad when the side played against his former franchise Gujarat

Titans on Sunday.
MI lost the match by six runs and will take on Rajasthan Royals in their first home game at the Wankhede Stadium

here on Monday next week. "...You have to see how he gets welcomed here in Mumbai because I think he is going to get booed a bit louder here...Because as a fan, Mumbai fan or a Rohit Sharma fan, nobody expected that captaincy will be given to Hardik," Tiwary told PTI

Videos in an interview.
"And despite Rohit giving five trophies to Mumbai Indians, he has to lose the captaincy. I don't know what are the reasons but I think it has not gone down well with the fans. And that is the reaction which you see on the field," he explained. Tiwary is, however, impressed with how Pandya has dealt with fan backlash.

"...Knowing him, whatever I have been observing of late through television, that despite getting booed, he kept his calm, he kept his nerve, which is the sign of a good

Pandya will be booed louder in Mumbai but his temperament impressive: Tiwary



temperament," he said. The 38-year-old, who is the sports minister of West Bengal, said Pandya will have to cut out the noise and focus on his performance so that he is in good shape for the T20 World Cup starting June 1 in the Americas.

"I believe even if he was not booed, he

has to perform well to get into the Indian team to play the World cup. Because it is important for all the players to perform well and be fit as well to be available for selection. "And him being the number one allrounder...Obviously he has to be in

form and to be in form he has to

perform," he said. Tiwary competed for the Delhi franchise in the IPL and he is keenly observing how his former team is handling Rishabh Pant's comeback from a life-threatening car accident in

He believes the big-hitter would be

back to his devastating best very soon thanks to the unflinching support of the franchise.
"First of all, he's not going to be any

burden. In fact, it's going to be more positive impact which he brings along with him because as a player, he's one of the most talented cricketers in India, in fact in the world cricket right now," he pointed out.

"Obviously in the first game, he did not look at his fluent best but that is obvious because it's not easy after coming back from injury...But the intent was good from him. With a few more matches, he will be back in his elements as a match-winner," Tiwary

Tiwary said the backing of coach Ganguly has been a key factor in aiding Pant's comeback.

"From last year itself, the coach of the team, Ricky Ponting, brought him into the dugout...If we all can recollect, two months ago, Sourav Ganguly said that he's going to be the captain.

"So when the mentor and the coach wants him in the team from very early, that means they are not thinking him as a burden. Even if he doesn't score runs, he is still their captain, he is their leader," he said.

SINGER **ANURADHA** JUJU,\WHO

RELEASED HER **LATESTISINGLE** MITWA, GETS

CANDID WITH

THE PIONEER

SHARING ABOUT

THE SONG, HER

SOUTH STINT

AND MORE

tollywood

K. RAMYA SREE

orn into a South Indian family and having started her journey Bas a playback singer in the Kannada film industry, Anuradha Juju has done a solid amount of work in the South Indian film industry before doing some independent music. Her independent music scene is very lit now, with many successful songs to her credit. Speaking to *The Pioneer* after the release of her latest single

Mitwa, starring the late legendary Ustad Rashid Khan and Anuradha herself, the singer confessed to us that it was legendary actor Rajkumar who first heard her voice and encouraged her to pursue her music career. Narrating her journey in south Indian music, Anuradha shared, "I'm a South Indian, but I grew up in New Delhi. In 1988, I started my journey as a playback

singer in a Kannada movie called Rana Ranga, composed

by Hamsalekha. The legendary actor Rajkumar heard me sing and encouraged me to pursue playback singing in South Indian movies. Unfortunately, we left India in 1989 due to my husband's entrepreneurial journey. However, I returned to singing when I sang for a Telugu movie called Ashta Chamma, composed by Keeravani's brother. Afterward, I focused on South Asian music, incorporating my Carnatic music training into various performances and events.' There was a break in her career in singing for South Indian films, but Anuradha expressed that she is still willing to work in the South Indian music industry. "I'm open to opportunities if approached. However, I

believe music is evolving beyond cinema, with

many independent artists creating original content. While I cherish the experience of singing for movies, I also enjoy performing live and collaborating with renowned artists like Vijav Prakash. In India, many artists are producing their own music, akin to the Western trend. This diversification is fantastic, and I encourage it. Music shouldn't solely be associated with cinema. If anyone approaches me to sing for a movie, be it Indian or South Indian cinema, I would be thrilled. I had the opportunity to perform with Vijay Prakash on stage last year, and I would love to sing for a South Indian movie. Singing in a movie is a dream for any artist, and I am no exception. So, absolutely, I am open to it," she added. Taking us back to the 1990s and early 2000s, she recalled, "When it comes to memorable moments in the South Indian industry, recording my first playback song for a Kannada movie stands out. Initially, I was supposed to sing with SPB Bala Subramaniam, but during the recording, actor Dr. Shivaraj Rajkumar, a prominent figure in the Kannada film industry, expressed his desire to join me, despite not being a singer himself. It was quite interesting to record alongside him. Despite feeling nervous at the age of 20 or 21, I found comfort in the support of legends like Raikumar and his son. Dr. Shivarai Kumar. Singing in a recording studio for the first time was truly a memorable experience for me." She continued. "When it comes to South Indian directors, the top name that comes to mind is A.R. Rahman Saab, who is brilliant. Additionally, there's Arun, who directed the song Tamma Tamma, and he also worked on the recent Shah Rukh Khan movie Jawan." She strongly believes that music shouldn't be associated with just cinema, and that is why she began doing independent music with

some of the finest vocalists we have in India. The interviewee

other times, really good films don't do well at

Malvika, too, has made her debut as a heroine

Speaking of it, he shared, "Malavika, my

well-known. Her

daughter, has become

name is not one I've

suggested for a film. If you believe doing

so would be incor-

demonstrate her act-

ing ability. Malavika's

improve thanks to

rect. She must

reputation will

all." The cinematographer's daughter,

in Tollywood. She also worked with Pa

Ranjith for Thangalan.

shares her experience with Ustad Rashid Khan, a talented Indian

last year when he performed in Boston for Mithaz, an MIT nonprofit organisation promoting Indian classical music from South Asia, and I invited him for this song. Despite my background in semi-classical and Bollywood styles, Ustad was open-minded and appreciated the song, which was based on the classical raga Bhin Nishadhai.

While the very talented Ustad is not around now, his memories will live with us. It was very shocking for Anuradha as well to process the death of Ustad, and she reminisces, "Although I never imagined he would leave us so suddenly. We were eagerly anticipating the release of the song with him. He was like a bright sun shining upon me, and I felt immensely honoured and privileged. As a relatively small artist, I hoped to share in his glory. Sadly, he's no longer with us, which is the most crushing part. However, I find joy in knowing that I was part of his final project. It's now my responsibility to ensure that his last work reaches the world, and I feel the weight of this responsibility on my shoulders."

Speaking about the song, "Mitwa means "a friend." The song evolved to incorporate a love aspect, focusing on finding a soulmate. I aimed to depict a mature love story, not centered on voung protagonists, but on dedicated artists consumed by their craft. The song's rhythms inspired the inclusion of a classical dancer and vocalist, portraying a story of how two artists meet, bond over their art, and discover love. Anuradha is next doing a project called He Shaarde, a prayer dedicated to Goddess Saraswati, the deity of education and art, a fact that seems to be fading from people's memory. I aim to have this prayer sung by children and others in Indian schools to ensure the teaching of Indian classical music basics up to middle school. Another significant project of mine is an operatic movement depicting the story of 'Jatayu', focusing on his brave stand against Ravana during Sita's kidnapping, along with

FAMILY STAR DOP: I'VE NOT REFERRED MY DAUGHTER MALVIKA FOR ANY FILM

n Wednesday, Vijay Deverakonda and producer Dil Raju performed a 'homam' at Dil Raju's office ahead of Vijay's Family Star release, on which the actor pinned many hopes.

Meanwhile, we have with us DOP KU Mohanan of Family Star speak about the making of the film. For those unaware of Ku Mohanan, he is the man behind the lens of films like *Don*, *Talash*, and Andhadhun. He also provided cinematography for Mahesh Babu's Maharshi.

He has now come on board with his cinematic prowess for Family Star, directed by Parasuram Patla, starring Mrunal Thakur as the female lead. And according to him, *Family Star* was a beautiful movie. "This is the story of a man from the middle class's tale. He sent a positive message with what he did for the family. The colony set is where we shot. I tried to capture the naturalness of the tale and the people in the images. Absent drone footage. For the family star, no superfluous photo shoots were shot. Additionally, the lighting is natural. However, the images appear as stunning as they should when viewing the film. It seems like our house when we watch a middle-class home on TV. The backdrop of this demonstrated business fea-

film was produced by director Parasuram using a straightforward setup. Mrunal and Vijay gave me a lot of support. Filmmaking requires collaboration, therefore, crew members and artists assist one another," shared the DoP, who learned the art of cinematography from watching World Cinema. "We all watched commercial, larger than life movies. That's why we want the visuals to be more natural in terms of cinematography. I use new equipment for films only if it is necessary," he added.

Speaking of *Family Star*, he added that it is a movie that talks about family values, which we are neglecting. "India has transitioned to a nuclear family society. In this day and age, this film explores the relevance of our traditional family values. A familial tale from India. It contains a lovely love tale as well. This film was directed by Parasuram and has a distinct concept. attempted a novel approach. In it he al

DoP KU Mohanan, ahead of the release of the much-awaited *Family Star*, gets candid as he shares some interesting insights about the shooting of the film, some deets about the film, and more.



powerhouse said she wants to be part of actioners, where she gets to "transform through intense physical training and learn some amazing fight choreography." Raashii's wishlist doesn't stop here, as she also wants to play a mythological character on screen! "I would love to play a character like Anushka Shetty from Baahubali," shared Raashii, adding, "With Yodha, I got to be a part of an actioner but didn't get an opportunity to perform action on-screen. So, I want to be a part of an action team where I get to go through intense physical training to get the physicality of my character right. I also want to learn and perform some amazing fight choreography on-screen. I am waiting for one such opportunity to

> Aller receiving a heap of praise for he portrayal of a government official in Yodha, it looks like Raashii is gearing up to deliver performances that will establish her as a rising superstar. The versatile actress, on the work front, is currently looking forward to several interesting projects. The young pan-India star will be seen in The Sabarmati Report and TME with Vikrant Massey. She also has the Tamil film *Aranmanai 4* and the Telugu film Telusu Kada to her credit.

come my way. I am sure it will be very



'Those who don't like movies will also like Kaliyugam Pattanamlo,' says Producer

Vishva has come on board the project Kaliyugam Pattanamlo, directed by Ramakhanth Reddy. The film, releasing tomorrow, is very busy promoting itself.

Speaking at one of the promotional events on Wednesday, producer Dr. Kandula Chandra Obul Reddy said, "I'm running engineering

rust yesterday, we were colleges as an educationist. I founded Nani Movie Works with the intention of providing a platform for the passion of talented people. I wanted to show the town where I grew up. I really liked the story told by Ramakhanth Reddy. But the director said that the budget would be high. However, we have come forward to produce the movie. Even those who don't like movies were sur-

prised when they saw our teaser and trailer. After this movie, many producers will give a chance to Ramakhanth and such newcomers. Vishva Karthikeva always thinks about cinema. This is Avushi Patel's first movie. I said that she would fit the role well when I saw her. All the best to the entire team. Everyone should watch our film in the theater on March 29.

backs Gopichand's film with Sreenu Vaitla

 $R_{production}^{enounce}$ distributor and exhibitor Venu Donepudi's first production is the high-octane action entertainment #Gopichand32, directed by Sreenu Vaitla and starring Macho Star Gopichand. Chitralayam Studios is spearheading this massively multi-trillion dollar project, which is being produced to the highest

production and technological standards. For the film, Chitralayam Studios and People Media Factory, work together. TG Vishwa Prasad becomes a producing partner in the film. The film's new shooting schedule commences on March 27. In this schedule, some crucial sequences involving the lead cast will be canned. With this, the entire talkie part will be completed.

■ Sreenu Vaitla is presenting Gopichand in a new avatar in the movie. Gopi Mohan, who was associated with various ■ blockbusters in Sreenu Vaitla, has written the screenplay. KV Guhan will crank the camera, whereas Chaitan Bharadwaj will helm the music department. The film's heroine and other details will be revealed soon.

Naveen Chandra: I spent around 100 days working on *Inspector Rishi*

ctor Naveen Chandra, a renowned figure in Tollywood, is back to entertain the south A in Tollywood, is back to entertain the sound.

Indian audience with his Amazon Pime original series, Inspector Rishi, also starring Sunaina, Kanna Ravi, Srikrishna Dayal, Malini

Jeevaratnam, and Kumar Vale in key roles. Directed by Nandini J.S. and produced by Sukh Dev Lahiri, the series is available for streaming tomorrow in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, and Hindi. Promotions for the film are in full

Hero Naveen Chandra said, "It's been a long time since I created any scary content. I was intrigued to see why not to cre-

ate the *Inspector Rishi* web series after hearing about its plot, which I believed had elements of horror, thriller, suspense, and action. Do you think you're lucky to have met someone like that? In addition to this tale, my character has other facets. This horror-thriller series is going to be unique. I spent around 100 days working on this series. Because I had so many combo sequences



with the devil in this series, it seemed like the ghost was in the bedroom after I got home from filming every day. I want to express my gratitude to Make Believe, the producing company, for entrusting our director Nandini with such a big project."

Ínspector Rishi is a 10episode series, and according to Naveen Chandra, at the end of each episode, there is curiosity about what will happen next.

Siddarth, Aditi Rao Hydari

Actors Siddarth and Aditi Rao Hydari's relationship has been talked out for a long time, despite no confirmation made about their relationship. Having been spotted several times together, the duo never made their relationship official. They have always kept their relationship official. Meanwhile, according to a tweet made by a Tollywood PRO, it has been learned that the actor duo have tied the knot in a temple in Telangana

A Tollywood PRO tweeted, "Congrats to Siddharth and Aditi Rao Hydari on tying the knot today! Wishing you both a

lifetime of love and happiness." On the set of the Telugu-Tamil movie *Maha Samudram*, where Siddharth and Aditi



Rao costarred, love began to blossom between them. Their bond did not deteriorate, even if they did not appear on screen together again following the movie. Fans can't help but be in awe of the couple whenever they are sighted together, since they both exude happiness and However, at the time of writing

this report, no official

confirmation has been made

A DIVINE TREAT ON **RAM CHARAN'S B'DAY**

Celebrating actor Ram Charan's birthday, the makers of his upcoming film *Game Changer* released a song from the film, Jaragandi. The song has gained a lot of attention on social media, as his film has long been pending after the inception of the Ram Charan-Shankar film. The song's viral success on social media has added to the excitement surrounding the film.

The song is a captivating blend of passion and excitement, expertly performed by Sunidhi Chauhan and the renowned Punjabi pop vocalist Daler Mehndi. The song has a vibrant dance

rhythm thanks to Thaman's catchy sounds, which are expertly matched by Prabhu Deva's amazing choreography—also referred to as the Indian Michael Jackson. With their incredible dancing skills, Ram Charan and the gorgeous Kiara Advani are sure to enthrall spectators

Meanwhile, the celebrity couple Ram Charan and Upasana Kamineni Konidela have visited Tirumala to seek the blessings of Lord Venkateswara. The heartfelt lyrics, penned by Ananth Sriram, combined with the vibrant visuals and Prabhu Deva's choreography create an enchanting visual experience for fans. The star-studded cast of Game Changer, including Kiara Advani, Anjali, SJ Suryah, Jayaram, Sunil, Srikanth, Samuthirakani, and Nassar, further amplifies the excitement surrounding the film.

