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



'India leading in spirituality, technology and economy'

5



'GOVT WILL BE FACILITATOR FOR STARTUPS'

8



Shruti Haasan takes a trip down the memory lane as she shoots AT ST. ANDREWS

PTI

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Some chapters in our lives have to close without closure. I am happy that I am not a sad story but you gave me the most memorable moments, be it staying with me during arrests, standing by me when attacked, or laughing during moments of joy. Officially signing off as the BJP's Telangana State president



- Bandi Sanjay, BJP Leader

DON'T MISS...

Dedicated varsity for AI-led...

India's first university imparting Artificial Intelligence-led education for undergraduate and post-graduate programmes, has become operational in Karjat near Mumbai, as the Maharashtra Government's Higher and Technical Education Department has given its final nod. The university will commence its first academic year from August 1 this year and expects many students...

-PAGE: 3

Early universe flows five...

A second, in the infant universe right after the Big Bang, would take five of those of the present day universe before it passed, a new research has found, unlocking one of the Einstein's expanding universe's mysteries. "Looking back to a time when the universe was just over a billion years old, we see time appearing to flow five times slower," said lead author of the study, Geraint Lewis, University of Sydney...

-PAGE: 5

Kolkata companies...

Britain's International Trade Minister Nigel Huddleston on Tuesday said companies across Kolkata are major investors in the United Kingdom, spurring job creation and fostering a solid partnership between Bengal and the UK. He also reaffirmed the UK's commitment to bolstering economic growth in the state. Huddleston, who arrived here on Monday on a two-day visit to the metropolis, also met former West Bengal finance...

-PAGE: 8

Harmanpreet, Mandhana...

Indian women's team captain Harmanpreet Kaur and her deputy Smriti Mandhana dropped a place each to sixth and seventh respectively in the latest ICC rankings for batters in ODIs released here on Tuesday. Swashbuckling batter Harmanpreet has 716 rating points while Mandhana has 714. Sri Lanka captain Chamari Athapaththu topped the chart with 758 points, the first player from the island nation to achieve the feat. In bowling...

-SPORTS

Sensex on a record-breaking run

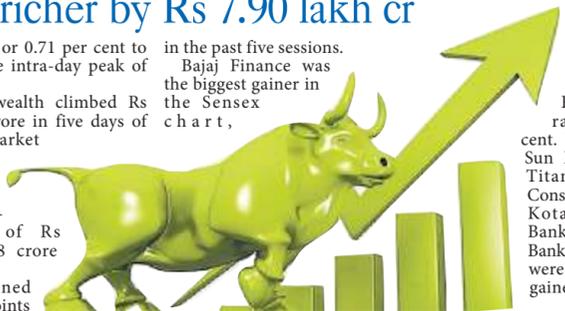
☆ Investors become richer by Rs 7.90 lakh cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Equity investors' wealth went up by Rs 7.90 lakh crore in five days of rally in the BSE Sensex, which is on a record-breaking run helped by unabated foreign fund inflows and largely bullish investor sentiments. Rallying for the fifth straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 274 points or 0.42 per cent to settle at its all-time closing high of 65,479.05 on Tuesday. During the day, the benchmark surged

467.92 points or 0.71 per cent to hit its lifetime intra-day peak of 65,672.97. Investors' wealth climbed Rs 7,90,235.84 crore in five days of rally. The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms also reached an all-time high of Rs 2,98,57,649.38 crore on Tuesday. Sensex gained over 2,500 points

in the past five sessions. Bajaj Finance was the biggest gainer in the Sensex chart,



climbing 7.17 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finserv which rallied 5.76 per cent. Tech Mahindra, Sun Pharma, NTPC, Titan, Wipro, Tata Consultancy Services, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Infosys, State Bank of India and ITC were the other major gainers.

2

No more MBBS seats for AP students in TS

◇ Govt. amends TSMCAR for admissions in medical colleges

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Government has amended the Telangana State Medical Colleges Admission Rules, bringing good news for students hoping to study medicine in Telangana. These amendments have been made in accordance with the AP Reorganization Act and Article 371D.

As per the revised rules, all seats in the competitive authority quota in medical colleges established after June 2, 2014, will be reserved exclusively for Telangana students. Earlier, only 85 per cent of the seats were reserved for local students, while the remaining 15 per cent were unreserved, allowing students from both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh to compete for them. Now, Telangana students have a greater chance of securing MBBS seats. Before the formation of Telangana, there were 20 medical colleges, including both government and private institutions. This



has now increased to 56, significantly expanding the availability of medical education opportunities. Earlier, Telangana had 2,850 MBBS seats, but this has now increased to 8,340 seats. Of the 2,850 seats available in 20 medical colleges before the formation of Telangana, 1,895 seats were allocated under the Competent Authority quota. In this quota, 15 per cent of the seats were unre-

served, that is, 280 seats. Both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh students were allowed to compete for them and this often resulted in Telangana students losing seats. The Telangana government amended the rules by restricting the unreserved quota to only 20 old medical colleges and exempted the 36 new medical colleges from this provision.

2

Will CM KCR welcome Modi on July 8?

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao has been breaking traditions and now all eyes are on whether he will welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit here on July 8. Sources said that the CM has not yet decided on whether to receive the PM or attend the foundation stone laying function of the railway wagon overhauling centre in Kazipet.

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao may receive the PM at the airport but not attend the Warangal meeting. Sources said that BRS leaders are protesting against the Centre's discrimination over setting up an overhauling centre and calling it a 'Repair Shop'. Bifurcation promises have not been fulfilled. While BRS leaders have been criticising the PM, KCR has not uttered a word against Modi for almost two months now.

KCR raises the topic of BJP only when he is touring outside Telangana in Maharashtra that too about 'Make in India.'

2

NCP factions gear up for key meets today

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Tuesday praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and asserted there is no alternative to him, while the rival NCP factions geared up for crucial meetings post-split in what is likely to be a show of strength by them. The Congress Legislature Party met on Tuesday, while the two rival factions of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) will hold their separate conclaves on Wednesday, which is expected to bring some clarity on the number of MLAs in each camp and decide their way forward.

2

BRS to bring back Rahul's 'Pappu' image in TS

NAVEENA GHANATE ■ HYDERABAD

The BRS will try to bring back Rahul Gandhi's 'Pappu' image. The mistakes committed by Rahul during his speech at Khammam are helping the BRS to strengthen the image created by the BJP. Sources in the BRS said that the Bharat Jodo Yatra which seemed to have ended the 'Pappu' narrative seems to be in force once again. Over the past two days, BRS leaders have used the term again and again to describe Rahul Gandhi. BJP sources said the Kaleshwaram corruption charges are baseless as the project cost itself was only Rs 80,000 crore. Secondly, the BRS opposed farm laws, but Rahul claimed BRS supported Modi. BRS sources said, "How silly of him to make such an allegation. Our Chief Minister is the only one who



gave compensation to the families of farmers killed protesting against the farm laws. Entire Telangana and country knows we oppose it." Thirdly, how will people believe a Rs 4,000 pension when there is no Congress ruled state where pension is above Rs 1,000. "When we go to other states, we show the Telangana model under which we implemented everything. Congress is recklessly making promises which they have never implemented anywhere," BRS sources said.

2

Alluri inspired TS movement: KCR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao said that he was inspired by the songs written on Alluri during the Telangana struggle. He said, "The 'Alluri Sitarama Raju' film starring Superstar Krishna and Mahakavi Sri Sri's song 'Thellavari Gundello Nidurinchina Vada' became popular. The fans of Alluri always listened to the song and he also played the song when he travelled in a car during the Telangana movement." During his speech KCR called Kishan as a "friend" twice. He said, "Alluri's famous dialogue that 'if one Alluri dies, thousands of Sitarama Rajus will be born' is well explained by friend Kishan Reddy."

2



Proud chapter for Indian freedom struggle: Prez

Hyderabad: President Droupadi Murmu addressed the closing ceremony of the 125th birth anniversary of Alluri Sitarama Raju in Hyderabad on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, the

President said that Alluri Sitarama Raju's struggle against injustice and exploitation is a proud chapter of the Indian freedom struggle.

2

Bird populations declining as the world is warming

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Warming climate is making birds produce fewer offsprings by advancing spring-like weather, and hence the birds' breeding season, and the birds not being ready to reproduce, according to new research. Suggesting that breeding productivity may decrease by about 12 per cent for the average songbird species, the research said that the mismatch between an early spring onset and the birds' readiness to breed is likely to get worse as the world warms. Birds produced fewer young if they started breeding too early or late into the season, the research led by scientists at University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) and Michigan State University, US, found. With climate change resulting in earlier spring-like weather, the birds have been unable to keep pace, the



Birds produced fewer young if they started breeding too early or late into the season, the research led by scientists at University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) and Michigan State University, US, found.

researchers said in their study published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS). "By the end of the 21st century, spring is likely to arrive about 25

days earlier, with birds breeding only about 6.75 days earlier," said the study's first author, Casey Youngflesh, currently a postdoctoral fellow at Michigan State. For birds, timing matters when it

comes to raising their offsprings. The harsh weather while breeding too early or late could harm their eggs or newborns. What also matters is timing regarding food sources - looking for food before or after they're naturally available could mean the birds do not have the resources to keep their young alive. In this study, the researchers calculated the timing of breeding and the number of young produced for 41 migratory and resident bird species at 179 sites near forested areas throughout North America between 2001 and 2018, using data from a large-scale collaborative bird banding program. Then, using satellite imaging, they determined when vegetation emerged around each site. The scientists found that, overall, for every four days earlier that

leaves appeared on trees, hinting spring onset, species bred only about one day earlier. They found that the majority of birds were adversely affected by variations in the start of spring, even as some non-migratory bird species - the northern cardinal, Bewick's wren and wrenit among them - were found countering the trend. However, the scientists said they were exceptions to the rule, because most non-migratory species couldn't keep up with earlier spring onsets. For migratory species, earlier spring onset conditions meant even shorter breeding timeframes as after arriving at their breeding sites, birds need time to establish territories and prepare physiologically for egg-laying and offspring-rearing, before they start breeding.

2

House prices hit record levels in Hyderabad city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Houses are getting costlier in Hyderabad. Residential prices in Hyderabad grew by 10% YoY to Rs 5,410 per sq.ft, the highest in the country. The sales of houses grew most in Hyderabad at 5% YoY. Mumbai and Bengaluru saw a fall of 8% and 2% YoY respectively. In terms of annual percentage increment, Hyderabad witnessed an increase of 5% YoY with a sales volume of 15,355 units. In its latest report, Knight Frank India noted that the residential sector recorded a sale of 1,56,640 units in H1 2023, marginally lower by 1% YoY (January - June 2023) but 1.7% higher compared to H2 2022. The demand remained consistently high in H1 2023 even though



annual growth slipped marginally. The sales volume was the second highest in almost 10 years. The industry continues to consolidate with residential developments steadily shifting into the hands of stronger developers who were able to weather the storm created by the corona pandemic.

2

Cong may fall back on YSR's legacy to handle 'T' factor

As elections to the Telangana Assembly are fast approaching, the Congress is feeling the dire need to fall back on the legacy of former undivided AP chief minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy to address the 'T' (Telangana) factor in India's newest state. As the Reddy vote bank is crucial, the Congress is leaving no stone unturned to enlist the support of YSR's family. The grand old party had extended political support to YSR when he was alive. Now it is cosying up to YSRTP president YS Sharmila Reddy, daughter of YSR. She has been banking solely on her father's legacy and has promised to bring back 'Rajanna' govern-

ment. After being part of YSRCP headed by her brother and AP chief minister Jagan Mohan Reddy, she chose to leave the party due to strained family relations. Sharmila was instrumental in taking the party forward. The rift between Jagan and Sharmila is believed to be over sharing of the family assets acquired by their father. She admitted this in a TV talk show and later exited AP politics quietly. She then took a plunge in Telangana politics. She has always criticised the Congress for doing 'injustice' to her father. Still, efforts are reportedly being made to bring her into the Congress' fold for two-way benefit. For, at the

After the formation of Telangana State, the Reddy community sailed with the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samiti (now Bharat Rashtra Samiti). Now the Reddy community's priority may be the Congress since the party's graph is rising. Should YSRTP merge with the Congress, support from the community for the grand old party could be total.



Opposition, and as the chief minister. After the formation of Telangana State, the Reddy community sailed with the ruling Telangana Rashtra

Samiti (now Bharat Rashtra Samiti). Now the Reddy community's priority may be the Congress since the party's graph is rising. Should YSRTP merge with the Congress, support from the community for the grand old party could be total. Sharmila may have reservations about merging her outfit with the Congress beyond Telangana State. For, the Congress could use her services in AP to the detriment of her brother and Chief Minister Jagan. She does not want to disturb her brother, despite differences within the family. In any case, the Congress may benefit from a possible merger with YSRTP. Since bifurcation, Jagan has been trying to be in the good

books of Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao. Jagan had handed over buildings worth hundreds of crores of rupees in the Secretariat premises to the Telangana government free of cost and has not uttered a single word regarding AP's claims of nearly Rs. 6,000 crores from TS for supplying electricity. Jagan is perhaps paying back KCR out of gratitude for the help the latter had rendered in helping Jagan wrest power in AP by unseating TDP supremo and then chief minister of AP N. Chandrababu Naidu. In fact, due to Naidu's previous attempt to unseat KCR in 2018, the latter only gave a 'return gift'. Senior leader and former

cabinet colleague of PV Narasimha Rao Dr. Chinta Mohan has commented that Sharmila should not expect leadership should she merge her party with the Congress. There are larger questions: Will she disturb her own brother and his democratic empire in AP by agreeing to the dictates of the Congress? If it is the question of strengthening of the Congress in AP; then the moot point is: at whose cost? If the situation demands, will the Congress have truck with Jagan owning him as the rightful heir to YSR's legacy? These questions will have to be answered before the possible merger of YSRTP with Congress!

BJP leader Gajjela Srinivas attempts suicide over Sanjay's removal

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BJP Khammam Urban Town Vice-President Gajjela Srinivas attempted suicide on Tuesday by trying to hang himself on a fan. However, his family saved him by responding in time. Srinivas is now being treated at a hospital in Khammam. In his suicide note, Srinivas said that he could not accept the removal of Bandi Sanjay Kumar from the post of president of the Telangana BJP unit and hence had attempted suicide. "I did this not due to anger at anyone but because of the love that I developed for Bandi Sanjay Anna. So I am committing suicide. Jai BJP.. Jai Bandi Sanjay Anna. Bye," the suicide note said. Meanwhile, Sanjay sent the bulletproof Fortuner Car that was given to him by the party in 2022, as his tenure as the TS BJP's president was over.

Seniors sore over Sanjay's removal, Rajgopal may quit

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Developments in the BJP are fuelling the flames of bitterness. Many party seniors are unable to digest the removal of Sanjay from the president's post. Many strongly oppose the decision taken by the high command. Seniors are asking the high command to explain why the president was changed in a hurry. It is learnt that former MPs G. Vivek, Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy and others are deeply hurt by the action of the BJP leadership. It is learnt that Komatireddy Rajagopal may quit any moment. However, Vivek, who is close to Kishan Reddy, may weigh the pros and cons and take a decision later. Vijayashanthi is not happy with the appointment of Eatala



Rajender as the Chairman of the Telangana Election Management Committee. She said that Eatala is not the only activist and that they too are activists. Vijayashanthi tweeted, "Although removing Sanjay, who taught the party in the state to walk on fire is painful, I believe that the party will give a better post to Sanjay and I

believe that the top leadership of the BJP will recognise the sentiments of our workers who work for the country and dharma...Jai Sriram..Hara Hara Mahadeva...Jai Telangana. Vijayashanthi, former MP, BJP National Executive Committee Member." Meanwhile, BJP leader Komatireddy Rajagopal met Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, who joined the Congress in the presence of Rahul Gandhi at the Khammam Sabha recently. Rajagopal consulted Ponguleti about joining the Congress. TPCC chief Revanth Reddy has already invited Rajagopal to the Congress. It is learnt that Rajagopal, who is deeply dissatisfied with the developments in the BJP may join the Congress. Rajgopal is not happy with

Double win for Eatala Rajender, Arvind happy

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



It was a double dhamaka for BJP National Executive Committee Member Huzurabad MLA Eatala Rajender as he got the post of Chairman of the Telangana BJP Election Management Committee and also succeeded in making the BJP leadership unseat his internal opponent Sanjay. Eatala forced the BJP to give in to his demands to change the leadership of the Telangana BJP and give him a good post. The BJP high command had earlier made him the chairman of the Telangana BJP Joining Committee. But Eatala could not attract any big leader from other parties and many BJP leaders quit. In fact, Eatala blamed the party for this as his post did not allow him to assure leaders who wanted to join the BJP.

Meanwhile, the BJP's Nizamabad MP, Dharmapuri Arvind, expressed happiness over Union Tourism Minister G. Kishan Reddy, who was president for two terms earlier, becoming the president of Telangana BJP and Huzurabad MLA Eatala Rajender taking over the Telangana BJP Election Management Committee Chairman. He said the BJP will come to power in Telangana on its own under the leadership of Kishan Reddy and that they will work as a team under Kishan.

I know KCR's weaknesses, BJP can defeat him: Eatala

Hyderabad: The Chairman of the Telangana BJP Election Management Committee, Eatala Rajender, said that he knew the strengths and weaknesses of Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao and thanked the BJP for appointing him as the Chairman. Speaking to the media with Hayath Nagar GHMC Councillor Jeevan Reddy on Tuesday, Eatala said, "I know Telangana and its problems very well. I will discharge the responsibilities handed over to me by the high command. I will work with Kishan Reddy. It is possible for the BJP to defeat KCR. We won four elections under the leadership of Sanjay."

Alluri inspired TS movement...

Continued from page 1

"On behalf of all Telugus, I would like to express my gratitude to my friend Kishan Reddy and the Central Government for taking up the birthday celebrations of Alluri Sitarama Raju as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. It is a proud moment." KCR quoted Geetacharya as saying, "Sambhavami Yuge Yuge" - "Godmen" are born when people are oppressed and exploited and it is apt to apply the same to the famous freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju, who fought against British colonial rule at the younger age of 26 and sacrificed his life. KCR said that

Alluri ignited the spirit during the struggle for self-rule. The CM said Alluri's name will be remembered forever along with those of greater heroes like Bhagat Singh who fought for India's independence. The Chief Minister felicitated the representatives of Kshatriya Seva Samiti, the organizers of the 125th-anniversary celebrations of Alluri Sitaramaraju. The closing ceremony of Alluri Sitarama Raju's 125th birth anniversary function was held at the Indoor Stadium in Gachibowli on Tuesday. President Droupadi Murmu attended as the Chief Guest and KCR as the guest of honour.

Proud chapter...

Continued from page 1

She said that all people, especially the younger generation, should be aware of his patriotism and courage. The President said that the life-character of Alluri Sitarama Raju is an example of uniting society without any discrimination based on caste and class. She noted that Alluri Sitarama Raju was adopted by the tribal society completely and he also made the happiness and sorrow of the tribal society his own happiness and sorrow. He is being remembered as a tribal warrior and it is his true identity.

Will CM KCR welcome...

Continued from page 1

During his public meetings in Telangana, the CM has spared the BJP and Modi. Even on Palamuru Rangareddy LIS, KCR criticised only Congress leaders for filing cases, but didn't mention Modi's name for not conferring national project status. Interestingly, the CM who skipped all meetings of President Droupadi Murmu, attended a meeting on Tuesday commemorating Alluri Sitaramaraju's 125th celebrations. Earlier, he had received the President twice at the airport but never attended any meet-

ings. KCR who opposed the presidential candidature of Murmu and supported the Congress candidate said on Tuesday that celebrations with Murmu as the chief guest are good. He also called Kishan Reddy his friend. But Industries Minister KT Rama Rao said that Modi should apologise for failing to fulfil bifurcation promises during his visit on July 8. Sources said that the CM may not visit Warangal but couldn't confirm if he would go to the airport. There is still time to decide, the sources said.

No more MBBS seats for...

Continued from page 1

As a result, 520 medical seats were exclusively allotted to Telangana students. It is important to note that Telangana students were already benefiting from the existing local reservation policy, which reserved 85 per cent of the MBBS B category seats for them, which came to 1,300 seats. After these two important decisions taken by the Telangana government, 1,820 MBBS seats will be available annually. This increase is equivalent to establishing approximately 20 new medical colleges. It is worth mentioning that

the All India quota of 15 per cent seats in new medical colleges will not be affected by this change. This allows students from all over the country, including Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, to secure admissions based on merit. Health Minister Harish Rao said that he was proud to say that 43% of the new MBBS seats in government medical colleges are in Telangana. He said that 900 of the 2,118 new MBBS seats in government medical colleges in India for the 2023-24 academic year belong to Telangana. "The Telangana Government has provided an outstanding opportunity for local students to fulfil their

dream of becoming doctors without having to leave the state. The decisions implemented by Chief Minister KCR have brought Telangana students closer to realizing their dreams. With the additional allocation of 1,820 medical seats exclusively for Telangana students, the government has demonstrated its commitment to medical education. After the formation of Telangana, the healthcare sector has witnessed remarkable growth, exemplified by the establishment of district-level medical colleges ensuring greater opportunities for Telangana students. I request TS students to seize this golden opportunity," Health Harish said.

Kapu, Munnur Kapu out; Kamma...

Continued from page 1

In fact, the followers of both leaders Sanjay (Munnur Kapu) and Somu Veerraju (Kapu) had believed that the high command may not remove them as elections are

very near. Telangana BJP in-charge Tarun Chugh and the new incumbent Kishan Reddy too said that the high command had no thoughts of changing Sanjay. Even Nadda too had said many times that the BJP will face Assembly elections under the

leadership of Sanjay. However, the BJP high command gave a shock to the followers of both Sanjay as well as Somu Veerraju by removing them from the president posts of the Telangana and Andhra Pradesh BJP units.

TODAY ALMANAC

Month & Paksham: Krishna Paksha
Tithi: Dwitiya to Jul 05 01:38 PM
Tritiya: to Jul 05 10:02 AM
to Jul 05 06:30 AM

Nakshatram: Shrivana to Jul 05 05:39 AM
Dhanishta: to Jul 06 02:56 AM
to Jul 06 02:56 AM
to Jul 07 12:25 AM

Rahukalam: 12:20 PM to 1:58 PM
Yamagandam: 7:27 AM to 9:05 AM
Varjyam: 06:31 AM to 07:57 AM
Gulika: 10:43 AM to 12:20 PM
Amritkalam: 05:43 PM to 07:08 PM

Ahijit Muhurtham: Nil

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Thunderstower
Temp: 28°
Humidity: 81%
Sunrise: 5:46 AM
Sunset: 6:55 PM

Updated: July 4, 2023 5:00 PM

Bird populations...

Continued from page 1

The authors stressed that conservation strategies should address bird species' responses to climate-driven shifts. "North America has lost nearly a third of its bird populations since the 1970s," said Morgan Tingley, a UCLA associate professor of ecology and evolutionary biology and the study's senior author. "While our study demonstrates that the worst impacts of timing mismatch likely won't occur for several decades yet, we need to focus now on concrete strategies to boost bird populations before climate change takes its toll," said Tingley.

KTR launches MedTech products made in TS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Medical Devices Park set up by the Government of Telangana has been producing world-class medical products for Telangana and the world. Industries Minister KT Rama Rao launched world-class 'Made in Telangana' products by three homegrown companies, Huwel Life Sciences, EMPE Diagnostics and BlueSemi. Huwel Life Sciences developed Huwel UniAmp, India's first device approved by the CDSCO with a unique amplification process and sensitivity and specificity on par with RT-PCR. They developed Hemom easure and FerriQuant, India's first Haemoglobin testing device and the Semiquantitative LFA ferritin test.

Sensex on a...

Continued from page 1

Bharti Airtel, Axis Bank, Reliance Industries, IndusInd Bank, Tata Steel and UltraTech Cement were among the laggards. In Asian markets, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled in the green while Seoul and Tokyo ended lower. Equity markets in Europe were trading on a mixed note in the mid-session deals. The US markets ended in positive territory on Monday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 1.43 per cent to USD 75.72 a barrel. Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) bought equities worth Rs. 2,134.33 crore on Tuesday,

according to exchange data. FPIs pumped Rs 47,148 crore in the Indian equities in June, making it the highest inflow in 10 months. "Buoyancy in the markets continued as benchmark indices touched new highs in spite of mixed Asian cues and weak European markets in early trades. The cushion provided by Indian markets on the back of its strong fundamentals are offsetting some of the negative catalysts seen in key developed economies, and strong backing by the FIIs in recent weeks is a testimony to it," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd.

House prices hit record...

Continued from page 1

Hyderabad, NCR, Kolkata and Chennai saw positive growth, while Bengaluru and Mumbai witnessed sales that are near decade-high. New launches were steady in all key markets. Pune and Bengaluru saw double-digit growth in the number of new project launches. Shishir Bajjal, the Chairman and Managing Director of Knight Frank India said that

residence sales have been strong in most markets during the first half of 2023. The main drivers of market momentum are mid and premium-segment homebuyers, who possess the financial capability to purchase a home. On the other hand, the fall-out of headwinds has been that the affordable housing segment saw a significant deceleration in volume as well as market share.

Some...

Continued from page 1

"A special thanks to all leaders and members of Morchas, Sangrama Sena, employees of the State party office, social media warriors, and the electronic and print media. Grateful to the people of Telangana who welcomed me with open arms during the #PrajaSangrama Yatra. Always indebted to Karimnagar voters and karyak arthas who made me what I am today," Sanjay said. "I am happy that I am not a sad story but all of you have given me the most memorable moments, be it staying with me during arrests, standing by me when attacked or laughing in moments of joy."

BRS to bring...

Continued from page 1

How can Rahul talk about family politics when his great grandfather, grandmother, father, mother and sister are in politics. Highly placed BRS sources said, "Instead of picking the common enemy BJP, he picked BRS to fight in Telangana. We are fighting against the BJP. The Congress assumed that Karnataka will repeat in Telangana. Rahul didn't think about the impact of Telangana on Lok Sabha elections." It may be mentioned here that this is not the first time

the BRS built on a narrative started by the BJP or the Congress. Earlier, the BRS used the "Tadipaar" narrative against Amit which was created by the Congress. The BJP managed to make the 'Pappu' so entrenched that people were convinced that he had nothing to offer. It may be mentioned here that BRS leaders are of the opinion that Revanth has been established as a blackmailer, was caught in the cash for vote scam and there is evidence of him being close to Chandrababu Naidu who is Andhra will ensure that people don't fall for their tricks.

NCP factions gear up for key meets...

Continued from page 1

The NCP has 53 MLAs in the 288-member House and the Ajit Pawar camp has claimed the support of 40 of them. The Sharad Pawar and Ajit Pawar factions of the NCP will hold their meetings in Yashwantrao Chavan Centre in south Mumbai and Bhujbal Knowledge City in suburban Bandra, respectively.

NCP president Sharad Pawar has called a meeting at 1pm, while the Ajit Pawar faction, which has aligned with the Eknath Shinde-BJP government will gather at 11 am. Three days after switching over to the ruling camp from the Opposition along with eight other NCP MLAs, Ajit Pawar was effusive in his praise of Modi as he inaugurated his faction's new office in south

Mumbai. "The country is marching ahead under his (Modi's) leadership. We have joined the government to support him. There is no leader like Modi. There is no alternative to him," he said. Ajit Pawar indicated the allocation of portfolios for the new entrants in the state ministry may not be announced immediately.

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ADMISSIONS BEGIN FOR TS, AP STUDENTS

Dedicated varsity for AI-led streams to start in August

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

India's first university imparting Artificial Intelligence-led education for undergraduate and post-graduate programmes, has become operational in Karjat near Mumbai, as the Maharashtra Government's Higher and Technical Education Department has given its final nod.

The university will commence its first academic year from August 1 this year and expects many students from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh to seek admissions.

Giving an opportunity to the students of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh to pursue the undergraduate and post-graduate education in AI-led streams, the Universal AI University has undertaken a massive outreach in both the states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh for inviting students for the new university's undergraduate and post-graduate programmes. In the first



academic year, Universal AI University is expecting at least 100 applications coming in from the students of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

The new university has undertaken a school-level outreach through school fairs and

meeting school counsellors in the cities like Hyderabad in Telangana, Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. The university representatives have visited the schools of Hyderabad - Johnson Grammar, Oakridge

International School, Chirec International, DPS, Hyderabad Public School, DAV, Gaudium, Meridian, Glendale Academy, International School of Hyderabad, Vizag - Delhi Public School and Silver Oaks International School.

Also in Andhra Pradesh, the school outreach has been carried out in the schools such as Sri Chaitanya Techno, VPS Public School and DPS Vijayawada.

The new Universal AI University will offer a specially designed curriculum in the field of Artificial Intelligence. The University has tailored special Undergraduate and Post-Graduate programmes in AI and Future Technologies. It has also designed other new-age courses such as Liberal Arts and Humanities, Global Affairs and Diplomacy, Law, Environment and Sustainability and Sports Sciences. The University has set up a Green campus in Karjat near Mumbai in Maharashtra.

Rail users raise demands for better amenities

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A meeting of the members of the Divisional Railway Users Consultative Committee (DRUCC) of Secunderabad Division (South Central Railway) discussed about the amenities that need to be provided to the passengers.

The meeting was chaired by AK Gupta, Manager, Secunderabad Division, who highlighted the achievements of the division in the current financial year till June. He also detailed the members on various development activities undertaken by the division and briefed the members about the developments in passenger amenity works and various ongoing projects.

The members expressed satisfaction over the developmental activities undertaken by the division and appreciated the efforts made for getting various works done. Later, the agenda items sent by the members were discussed; whose main demands were stoppage to different trains, provision of passenger amenities such as lifts, escalators, punctuality of trains, cleanliness of stations and in trains.

89 participants take part in Hyderabad Sailing Week

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The 37th edition of the Hyderabad Sailing Week was inaugurated on Tuesday at the Sailing Club in Secunderabad.

Lieutenant General JS Sidana delivered the inaugural address and declared the event open. It is to be noted that the sailing week will be held till June 9. In his address, Sidana said, "The Hyderabad Sailing Week is a significant event. While growing up in service I heard a lot about the exploits of the sailors in the Hussain Sagar. The sail of colourful boats at the Hussain Sagar is something which the city can boast off. It has been a nursery for sailing throughout; the EME sailing associa-

tion and the laser class association of India along with Secunderabad Sailing Club has been spearheading this effort through the sailing week for the past 36 years."

"The aim is not just to promote sailing but to look at all the associated activities including capability building of the sailors post their rank in the form of judging, measurement coaching, racing rules etc," the Lieutenant General added.

He further said, "Sailing is a technical sport, one may win it on the water."

However, if they aren't up to the mark with the rules, they might lose it in the board rooms. In this regard a two-day racing rules training, wherein a number of quaries were

answered and doubts were resolved. There are approximately 100 participants for this year's event."

The competition is being conducted under the aegis of EME Sailing Association (EMESA) and Laser Class Association of India, along with Secunderabad Sailing Club at Hussain Sagar Lake, Hyderabad. A large number of potential and professional sailors are participating in this Championship who have come from across India.

In all, 89 participants from 11 different clubs registered for the event, out of whom 11 are women and 17 are from the State of Telangana. This year the oldest participant is Murali Kanuri aged 72.



GUV VISIT OGH issues contradictory statement on bed availability

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In response to recent misinterpretation of bed availability at Osmania General Hospital, hospital authorities have issued a statement contradicting the misinformation. The statement clarifies that during Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan's visit, the total bed occupancy was reported as 889, while the number of available beds stood at 1,092.

The hospital administration further explained that the observation of two people on a single bed was a result of the patients' excitement to meet the Governor.

The actual breakdown of bed occupancy was as follows: 660 occupied beds in the Qaid-e-Quam Department Complex (QDC) with 592 patients, 350 occupied beds in the Outpatient Department (OP) with 254 patients, 70 occupied beds in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) area with 33 patients, and 12 occupied beds in the Life Care Unit (LCU) with 10 patients.



The hospital authorities clarified that the patients and their attendants, overwhelmed by the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see and interact with the Governor, gathered around the beds in excitement. Unfortunately, this situation was mistakenly interpreted as multiple patients occupying each bed.

The statement emphasised that there was no gap in the services provided by the hospital, and the number of admitted patients remained consistent.

JNAFAU and Design Guru sign MoU to offer UX certificate

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Jawaharlal Nehru Architecture and Fine Arts University (JNAFAU) and Design Guru, a start-up founded by its alumni Praveen Indoori signed an MoU to offer three-month advanced UX (User Experience) Certificate programme.

Disclosing this as a programme organised for the purpose at the JNAFAU campus in Masab Tank on Tuesday, Praveen said this is a three-month weekend hybrid programme.

The classes will be held on Saturday (online) and Sunday offline. It is open for JNAFAU students, professionals and design enthusiasts from any walk of life from outside the University. It is open to students from any college.

The wheel was invented



10,000 years ago. A travel bag was invented in the 14th century BC. Though the wheel was already existing, people used to carry heavy bags on their shoulders or on their heads. But only in the recent past, i.e., in the year 1970, a traditional suitcase on wheels attached to a long strap was innovated. It was patented in 1972. This saves a lot of effort for the travellers. It took so many years for the design

transformation. Are we really thinking about users' problems? Praveen asked. Designers have a bigger role to play, i.e. to think of solving users' problems. Big-button mobile phones are a popular choice for older people who are looking for a simple phone that's easy to use. But it took so many years to understand and innovate. This is what designers can do. They identify user needs,

analyse problems, and come up with innovative solutions. UX designers help make efficient, accessible, and pleasant experiences for users.

There is a transformation everywhere—manual to multi-media; sign board to flex; advertising to digital marketing. This course will transform designers into experience designers who will dramatically change the user experience. User experience is important because it tries to fulfil the user's needs. It aims to provide positive experiences that keep a user loyal to the product or brand. UX design is a process of creating thoughtful products through solutions driven by the human-centered design process and an abundance of creativity, said Prof N Kavita Daryani Rao, Vice-Chancellor of JNAFAU, speaking on the occasion.

CP imposes ban on flying drones in Gachibowli

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Cyberabad Commissioner of Police M Stephen Raveendra on Tuesday imposed a ban on flying remote-controlled drones in Gachibowli.

The restriction was imposed under Section 144. Flying of drones over Gachibowli indoor stadium has been prohibited as it hosts participants for the national aquatic championship which is being con-

ducted at the Balayogi sports complex at Gachibowli. Raveendra further said, "No flying activities of drones or para-gliders or remotely-controlled micro-light aircraft, be allowed over the area

bound by a circle of 5 km radius at Gachibowli Indoor Stadium, Ranga Reddy district and surrounding areas within the jurisdiction of Cyberabad Commissionerate limits."

Doubts on effectiveness of Pelican signal project in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The 40-odd newly inaugurated Pelican signals in May in Hyderabad will continue to function. But are they assisting pedestrians to cross the road is the question. But the actual concept of Pelican signals has been contradictory as police hope that manpower is essential to guide traffic.

A pelican signal is a manually-operated system that allows volunteers to give a window of 15-20 seconds for pedestrians to cross the road safely by turning the vehicular signal red in both directions.

Junaid, Traffic Warden at Tank Bund said, "We are explaining it to people and also creating awareness videos but unless we enter the road and show the torch light we have, they won't stop. When we notice groups of people standing to cross the road we show them the Pelican signal button and ask them to utilise it. The daily commuters on the route have understood it but manpower is a must to stop these people."

In the other video shared by a Traffic Warden of Malakpet

where a Pelican signal is installed, it is evident that he had to show his hands to stop the traffic. First, he helps the general public to cross the road and then a disabled person.

On asking what is the significance of this project in future, CV Anand, Commissioner of Hyderabad, said that the traffic wardens are being paid Rs 20,000 and without manning no one will stop. Apart from the Pelican signals we require manpower. Let's see how long it will go, as we have funding to pay them salaries it will go on.

We are also studying if Pelican signals are leading to more traffic jams. Pedestrians are of absolute-ly have nil consideration in some areas.

"Based on the success of these 40-odd signals we may look into introducing Pelican signals at other junctions but study must give us reality. We are stabilising the functioning of these signals. My officers will give the feedback. It has been a year and we know that if we don't include manning then the project will be an utter failure."

Police impose fines on vehicles parked in parking places too!

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

It may sound strange but true! The city traffic police imposed a fine of Rs 300 on a person for parking his two-wheeler in the place designated for parking.

The people who go out on work find it difficult to find suitable place to park their vehicles. They try to park even if they find a small place to park the vehicle. But the police toe such vehicles claiming them to have been parked wrongfully. The police can take action against such vehicles as it is violative of the traffic rules.

But here is a strange case of a vehicle owner fined for Rs 300 for parking the vehicle at the

right place. The shocked vehicle owner is tightening his belts to wage a legal battle against the traffic police.

According to details of the case, a person called Mohammad of Shaikpet in the city parked his vehicle near the Metro Station at Peddamma Gudi in the parking area. Later, he left the city for another place and returned only the next day.

He went to the parking place to find that his two-wheeler missing. Upon enquiries with the neighbours, it was revealed that the Jubilee Hills police toed the vehicle and took it along with them. The police also imposed a fine of Rs 300 for

posing problems to those who travel in the service road.

An irate Mohammad went to the Jubilee Hills police station and confronted with the SI on what right did the police have to confiscate the vehicle parked in the parking place and demanded the police to show him the evidence of he having parked in the wrong parking place. But, the police refused to show evidence.

Unable to get satisfactory reply from the local police, he met city traffic police additional commissioner Sudhir Babu, DCP Rahul Hegde and sought action against the SI who imposed fine on his vehicle.

Rachakonda Police book 69,420 traffic violations cases

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Rachakonda Police registered 69,420 traffic violations cases from January 2023 to June 2023 to prevent chain-snatchings and other property offences.

This was a special drive against number plate violations which started in January 2023 and booked total cases-69,420, including FIR cases-199, chargesheets against repeated offenders-407 cases, in which 13 persons were imprisoned, 55 persons awarded social service and total fine amount of Rs 1,56,82,800 was imposed.

During the period, total DD cases booked-9,991, out of 139 persons imprisoned,

242 persons awarded social service and total fine amount of Rs 2,43,10,071/- imposed.

A review meeting on traffic and road safety was convened by the CP Rachakonda DS Chauhan with traffic and road safety wing officers and decided to strengthen infrastructure by procurement of traffic safety equipment i.e., barricades, cones, bollards, advanced communication equipment and kit articles i.e., kitbags, safety helmets, sun glasses, rain coats, jungle shoes, water bottles, glucose powder, reflective jackets and LED batons.

The Commissioner of Police, Rachakonda has purchased digital cameras, traffic safety equipment worth Rs 2 crore approximately.

Telangana to receive heavy rains till July 7

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Indian Meteorological Department on Tuesday predicted that parts of Hyderabad and Telangana are likely to receive heavy rains till July 7.

As per the report, most places in Telangana are likely to receive moderate rains or thunder showers on July 4. Districts including Jagtial, Rajanna Sirsilla, Warangal, Karimnagar, Hanamkonda and Siddipet are likely to receive very heavy rains.

While Peddapalli, Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Mulugu, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Jogulamba, Jangaon, Wanaparthi,

Narayanpet, Mahaboobnagar and Rangareddy are likely to receive heavy rains. On July 5, the aforementioned districts along with Mahabubabad, Nirmal, Nizamabad, Komaram Bheem Asifabad and Macherial are likely to receive heavy rains. A few places are likely to witness thunderstorms accompanied with lightning.

The report further predicts that similar conditions are likely to prevail on July 6 and 7. Telangana weather expert, T Balaji also predicted rains in parts of Telangana and Hyderabad he took to Twitter and said, "As expected, massive rains in entire Karimnagar, Peddapalli, Mancheril mov-

ing into Warangal, Hanmakonda, Husnabad. Rains from Bhadradi, Mulugu moving into Mahabubabad, Khammam. Rains from Suryapet, Nirmal, Nizamabad, Kamareddy too activating super night ahead."

The Telangana State Planning and Development Society also predicted light to moderate rains in part of Telangana till July 6 along with thundershowers in isolated places in Telangana. The state is likely to have a maximum temperature of 33-36 degrees Celsius; while the minimum temperature is likely to remain between 22-25 degrees Celsius.

Ronald Rose is new GHMC Commissioner

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

D Ronald Rose, Secretary to Telangana Social Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society (TSWREIS) has been appointed as the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner in place of DS Lokesh Kumar, who has been posted as Additional Chief Electoral Officer with the office of the CEO, Telangana.

Speaking to The Pioneer, Ronald Rose said, "I am happy. I have received the orders and I am joining immediately. I have



no information on who will be in charge of TSWREIS." Ronald (2006) batch IAS officer was made full in-charge of TSWREIS in July 2021. In one year, along with sudden inspections to hostels, he also drafted rules to monitor mental illness of the students. Mushraf Ali Faruqi, who served as Nirmal Collector has been posted as Director of Prohibition and Excise. Sarfaraz Ahmad who served as Director, Prohibition and Excise, has been posted as Joint Chief Electoral Officer.

Experts discuss shaping future of CSR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Software Enterprises Association (HYSEA) successfully concluded ESG Conclave 2023, an event dedicated to driving positive social and environmental change. This gathering brought together industry leaders, experts, government leaders, NGOs and other stakeholders to discuss how together they can shape the future of corporate social responsibility (CSR) and environmental, social and governance (ESG) practices. Telangana Social Impact Group (T-SIG) was a key partner of the event.

Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary, ITE&C Department,



Govt of Telangana, was the esteemed chief guest, sharing his perspectives on sustainable development and responsible business practices. He requested corporates to funnel their resources through T-SIG for maximum impact and felt corporates should consider long-term investments into ESG so that impact is sustainable.

Addressing the gathering, Amala Akkineni urged people to stay minimalistic. Encouraged corporates to work towards wild life conservation and climate change.

The conclave featured two dynamic roundtable discussions, the first one titled "Shaping the future of CSR." Participants discussed sustain-

able community development, employee engagement, environmental conservation, social welfare, and shared best practices for effective CSR implementation. The CSR roundtable was moderated by Manisha Saboo, President, HYSEA &VP & Campus Head, Infosys Hyderabad SEZ and Indore.

The second roundtable, "ESG: A business imperative," focused on the increasing significance of ESG considerations as a critical business imperative. The ESG roundtable was moderated by Kishore Borra, MD, Energytech Global & Environment intervention leader, HYSEA.

Hyd Metro Rail milestone: 5.10 lakh ridership now

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited (HMRL) has achieved a milestone as the ridership soared to an impressive 5.10 lakh on Monday.

This record-breaking figure serves as a testament to the trust and acceptance of the city's commuters in the eco-friendly, efficient and comfortable travel option provided by the Hyderabad Metro, said officials.

Expressing gratitude to the HMRL passengers for this remarkable achievement, KVB Reddy, MD & CEO of L&T Metro Rail Hyderabad Limited, remarked, "This is

indeed a momentous occasion for us and we dedicate this success to our valued commuters who have demonstrated their unwavering support by choosing HMRL as their preferred travel partner. While the Covid-19 pandemic posed challenges, our dedicated teams' consistent efforts and hard work have led us to this success.

We are grateful for the continuous cooperation and support from the Government of Telangana State and Hyderabad Metro Rail Ltd, enabling us to provide a reliable and efficient urban mass rapid transit system to the people of the city."

Tributes paid to Doddi Komuraiah

PNS ■ SURYAPETA

Minister for Energy G Jagadish Reddy on Tuesday paid floral tributes to the martyr of Telangana Armed Struggle Doddi Komuraiah on the occasion of his 77th death anniversary.

At a programme held at the Collectorate here, he paid floral tribute to the portrait of Komuraiah. Additional Collector Patil Hemant Kesav and people's representatives and BC leaders also paid tributes.

The revolutionaries fought against landlords and protected the poor. He gave inspiration to the peasants' struggle against zamindars.

Komuraiah was born in Kadivelli village in the undivided Warangal district. He was the first revolutionary to launch a fight against oppressors, he said.

At the age of 19, he put fear into the hearts of oppressors. He was killed during the armed struggle.

Tension grips Gajwel as clash breaks out between two groups

Police Commissioner N Sweta said three persons were arrested
District Collector appealed to people to maintain restraint

PNS ■ SIDDIPET

Tension gripped the Gajwel town in Siddipet district following a clash between two groups on Monday night. The clash erupted after a youth allegedly under the influence of alcohol relieved himself near Shiva statue.

An organisation called for a shutdown in Gajwel on Tuesday. But the district administration and the police tactfully defused the tension by assuring the two communities that action would be taken against the culprits.

Meanwhile, Siddipet Police arrested three persons on the charge of triggering clashes between two communities in Gajwel town on Monday night. The arrested were remanded in judicial custody, according to Police Commissioner N Sweta on Tuesday. The police regis-



A few policemen persuading the rival groups to disperse in Gajwel town on Tuesday

tered five cases in connection with the clashes.

The trouble started when a person relieved himself near Shivaji statue in the town. The person was caught by some people and handed over to the police. The arrested person's relatives reportedly assaulted one of the persons who handed the youth who relieved himself near the statue.

The police arrested three persons after examining the CCTV footage.

Two groups of people pelted stones at each other when a procession was taken out by people belonging to a community. A sit-in was staged at the BR Ambedkar statue. The police arrived on the scene and assured the people belonging to the two commu-

nities that action would be taken against the culprits.

Addressing the media here on Tuesday, the police commissioner maintained that the police would not spare anyone responsible for the incidents.

The Police Commissioner said that a case had been booked against the person who hurt the sentiments of the people by relieving himself near Shivaji statue on Pichided Road on July 3.

District Collector Prashant Jeevan Patil appealed to both communities to maintain restraint. In a statement, the Collector urged the people to cooperate with the district administration in ensuring peace.

He further appealed to people not to be misled by fake news and rumours being spread on social media.

KCR made Kishan head of Telangana BJP: Congress

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress said that the appointment of Union Tourism Minister G. Kishan Reddy as the President of the Telangana BJP was done because of Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao. The Congress said that KCR finally succeeded in making Kishan the president of the BJP in Telangana.

TPCC Vice-President Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy said in his Twitter post, "Finally @BRSparty chief KCR succeeded in making @kishanreddybjp as the new @BJP4Telangana President... @JPNadda @narendramodi @KVishReddy @krg_reddy @Eatala_Rajender."

But TPCC Working



President B. Mahesh Kumar Goud said that the BJ is not a party of the BCs and so it removed BC Sanjay from the TS BJP president post.

In a video statement issued on Tuesday, Mahesh said that

Kishan's appointment shows how much regard the BJP has for BCs. He said the BJP appointed Kishan as the president of the Telangana BJP as per the wishes of KCR.

Mahesh said that BRS Working President IT Minister KT Ramarao met Union Ministers as part of a conspiracy to make Kishan the president of Telangana BJP. He said that KTR gave the advice to the BJP leaders that it is good for them if they made Kishan the president of Telangana BJP.

Mahesh said that the BJP is not a party of the BCs and this is proved by BJP removing Sanjay, who increased its vote percentage from zero to two per cent.

He said only the Congress can do justice to BCs, SCs, STs and all sections of society.

Prashanth assures all support to Podu cultivators

PNS ■ NIZAMABAD

Minister for Roads and Buildings Vemula Prashant Reddy has said that Podu farmers were given Pattadar Passbooks to the lands being tilled them and maintained that it meant that the Podu farmers got full rights over their lands.

They can confidently till their lands since there is no need for them to be afraid of anyone. With the distribution of title deeds to the Podu farmers, they can boldly cultivate crops, he said.

The Minister, along with District Collector Rajiv Gandhi Hanumanth, on Tuesday distributed the Pattadar Passbooks to the Podu lands benefiting 1,007 tribal farmers belonging to Devakkapeta, Devanpalli, karepalli, Kupkal, Mendora, Rahat Nagar, Secunderpur and Tallapalli.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the Minister said that the decision of the Chief Minister K



Minister for Roads and Buildings Vemula Prashant Reddy distributing Podu land title deeds to tribal people in Nizamabad on Tuesday

Chandrashekar Rao instilled confidence among the tribal farmers and provided security to their livelihood.

He felt happy at the distribution of pattas to Podu farmers. Distribution of Podu land title deeds gave him immense happiness similar to exhilaration he felt when Telangana gained statehood.

In an unprecedented move, the State government would distribute pattas to 1.50 lakh

farmers for over 4 lakh Podu lands.

As part of the gesture, a total of 4,300 Podu farmers of Nizamabad district would get pattas to over 8,600 acres. In Balkonda constituency alone, a total of 1478 farmers will get pattas to 4,000 acres of Podu lands worth Rs 400 crore, he said.

If the green cover increases, there will be abundant rainfall and it would ensure bumper

crops, he said. He said that he would request the Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao to take steps to construct Teej Bhavans in tribal hamlets. The tribal people celebrate Teej festival with enthusiasm.

District Collector Rajiv Gandhi Hanumanth said that the details of bank accounts would be collected from the Podu farmers so that input subsidy under Rythu Bandhu

can be credited into their accounts. He said that Rs 1.38 crore had already been credited into the bank accounts of the farmers in Bheemal mandal under Rythu Bandhu.

Nizamabad Revenue Divisional Officer Ravi, District Tribal Welfare Officer Nagurao, Bhimgal MPP Mahesh, ZPTC Choutupalli Ravi, Rythu Bandhu Samiti Mandal president Sarma Naik, Banjara Seva Sangham District president Chandu Naik, Sarpanch Chandrakala, local elected people's representatives, officials of various government departments, a large number of tribals and beneficiaries took part in the event.

The Minister laid the foundation stone in Puranipet and Pallikonda villages for restoration of BT road from Bhimgal to Muchkur at a cost of Rs 2.25 crore.

The Minister responded favourably to the requests of the locals and asked the officials concerned over phone to take steps for resolving them.

Police seize vehicles with altered silencers

PNS ■ RAJANNA SIRISILLA

On the directions from District Superintendent of Police Akhil Mahajan, a special drive was conducted in the district for the past two days and seized 55 vehicles that caused noise pollution. The motor vehicles were fixed with silences which produced ear-splitting noise. The police seized the silencers and destroyed them, besides imposing fines on the vehicle owners.

Additional Superintendent of Police Chandraiah said that the silencers were crushed by the road roller at Ambedkar Chowk and warned mechanics of registering cases against



Noise-polluting silences being crushed by a road roller in Siricilla on Tuesday

them if they were found fixing such silencers to the vehicles. If the same vehicle owner was found committing the offence again, his vehicles would be seized and cases would be registered against them and presented in court.

It is not that easy to get the seized vehicles released through

courts, he said. He asked the mechanics not to fix such silencers. The loud noise from the silencers has been creating a scare among people.

Siricilla town Circle Inspector Anil Kumar, traffic sub-inspectors Raju and Dilip along with police personnel conducted the raids.

Woman, daughter on morning walk killed as car hits them

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A woman and her daughter, who were on a morning walk, were killed and another woman was injured when a "speeding" car hit them from behind near here on Tuesday, police said.

The incident which happened on a main road near Narsingi police station limits was caught on CCTV cameras.

The trio was walking when

a speeding car hit them resulting in the spot death of two -- a woman and her daughter and injury to another woman, a police official of Narsingi police station said.

The woman who sustained injuries has been admitted to a hospital, the official said.

After the incident, the car driver fled the spot leaving behind the vehicle. Efforts are on to nab the driver, police said.

Gutha skewers Congress leaders for sullyng BRS govt's image

Telangana State Legislative Council Chairman expressed the opinion that the grand old party is not for dislodging BJP from power

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Telangana State Legislative Council Chairman Gutha Sukender Reddy on Tuesday went at the Congress leaders hammer and tongs for carrying out a campaign of calumny and vilification against the State government.

Speaking at a media conference here, Sukender Reddy expressed the opinion that "the Congress leaders are behaving strangely after winning the election in Karnataka State. He ridiculed the Congress leaders from Delhi visiting the State and criticising the State government. "There seems to be a hidden agenda to sully the image of



State Legislative Council Chairman Gutha Sukender Reddy speaking to the media in Nalgonda on Tuesday

the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) government in the State," he observed.

The Council Chairman questioned AICC former president Rahul Gandhi as to why the Congress-ruled States were not providing higher pensions

to senior citizens. He said that Rahul Gandhi promised to ensure that the Congress party if elected to power, would provide Rs 4,000 pension each to senior citizens. But none of the Congress-ruled States were extending higher pension to any section of people. He attacked the Congress leaders for spreading fake news.

The Congress leaders were averse to unity of the opposition. The Congress party was not interested in dislodging the BJP from power, he said. The grand old party was the epitome of corruption, he said. Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao is the only leader who can stand up to the BJP in the country, he added.

Upset over removal of Sanjay, BJP leader attempts suicide

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BJP Khammam Urban Town vice-president Gajjela Srinivas attempted to commit suicide Tuesday as he was upset over Bandi Sanjay being removed as the BJP State unit president.

In a note purportedly written by him, Srinivas said that he was annoyed over the decision of the party leadership to remove Bandi Sanjay as State unit president. "I did this not with anger at anyone, but out of affection for Bandi Sanjay Anna. Hence I am committing suicide. Jai BJP... Jai Bandi Sanjay Anna. Bye".

On the other hand, Bandi Sanjay returned the bullet-proof Fortuner SUV that was given by the party to him in 2022.

Make Haritha Haram success: Collector to officials

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

District Collector A Sharat on Tuesday directed the officials to complete the target of planting 100 per cent saplings in Sangareddy district during Telangana ku Haritha Haram.

The Collector reviewed the arrangement being made to ensure the success of the programme.

On this occasion, the Collector said that saplings should be planted widely on both sides of the roads, on the banks of ponds and canals, in forest areas and on vacant lands. He asked the officials to focus on the avenue plantation.

The Collector suggested that bio-fencing should be taken up around the Telangana Sports Complex, Vaikuntha Dham and Dumping Yard. They want to plant saplings in all offices from gram panchayat to district level.

He directed the officials to distribute saplings to the people in villages. He asked the



Sangareddy District Collector A Sharat holding a review meeting in Sangareddy on Tuesday

officials to enter into the registrar the number of saplings distributed in each village.

The Collector advised the officials to complete all arrangements for the distribution of pattas to the beneficiaries of Podu land in the district.

The Collector advised the agricultural officials to take all precautions to ensure that there is no shortage of fertilisers in the districts and to monitor the stocks of urea, DAP

and complex fertilizers from time to time.

Regarding the financial assistance of Rs 1 lakh to the Backward Classes, the Collector advised that the applications should be examined speedily.

In this video conference, Additional Collector Veera Reddy, ZP CEO Ellaiah, District Officers of respective departments, Mandal and Constituency Special Officers participated.

KCR to use NCP crisis to build up BRS in Maharashtra

SNCN ACHARYULU ■ HYDERABAD

BRS President Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao is planning to make use of the crisis in the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) to strengthen his party in Maharashtra.

After the splits in the Shiv Sena and the NCP in Maharashtra, there is no strong opposition there now. KCR has been concentrating on Maharashtra to expand his party's footprint and as there is no strong opposition there KCR wants to use the NCP crisis to emerge as a strong opposition party.

In Nanded, Sambajinagar (Aurangabad) and some other areas many NCP leaders have joined the BRS. As per speculations if Ajit Pawar is made Chief Minister in place of Eknath Shinde who now heads a splinter group there are chances of the crisis intensifying in Maharashtra.



NCP Chief Sharad Pawar and Shiv Sena leaders are criticising the BRS and its moves in Maharashtra. This will help the BRS to influence Maharashtra people and some political leaders to consider BRS as an alternative.

The people of Maharashtra may think that unless the BRS becomes strong stalwarts like Sharad Pawar will not target it. KCR has so far visited

Maharashtra five times to expand his party. One more advantage KCR has is that some areas of Maharashtra were in the erstwhile Nizam state and there are three districts that border Telangana.

The people of some border villages have been demanding that their areas should be merged with Telangana as they want the BRS government's farmer-oriented schemes.

After meeting Samajwadi Party Chief Akhilesh Yadav on Monday at the Pragathi Bhavan, KCR hinted that he has no objection to an alliance with like-minded parties. Once the BRS becomes strong in Maharashtra some local and other political parties may come forward to have an alliance with it.

Recently KCR said during his Maharashtra visit that his party is going to win at least 50 Assembly seats in the next Maharashtra elections. If the BRS wins around 50 Assembly seats in the 288-member Maharashtra Assembly it can play a key role.

The main political parties in Maharashtra, that is, the NCP and the Shiv Sena have become weak due to splits and the Congress is not so strong in Maharashtra. KCR thinks that in the current circumstances, there are possibilities of the BRS emerging as a strong opposition in Maharashtra.

INDIA CORNER

TN tweaks norms, directs hotels to provide accommodation for drivers

The Tamil Nadu government has amended rules making it mandatory for hotels and lodges to provide dormitory and toilet facilities to vehicle drivers of guests. A dormitory shall be provided by hotels and lodges to make exclusive accommodation available to the drivers of guests, amendments made by the government said. Space to move around the bed, one separate toilet and one separate bathroom for every eight beds have been mandated. The dormitory may be provided either within the premises of the hotel or lodge or within a distance of 250 meters radius of the premises, the government said. The Tamil Nadu Combined Development and Building (TN-CDB) Rules, 2019 has been amended mandating hotels and lodges to provide amenities such as dormitory to vehicle drivers. In this regard, two specific TN-CDB rules have been tweaked. The amendments to the rules have been made by the Tamil Nadu Housing and Urban Development Department.



Bihar: Govt colleges to not charge fees from foreign medical graduates

In a relief to foreign medical graduates, the Bihar government on Tuesday announced that government medical colleges and hospitals will not charge any fee from them for granting permission for internships. Besides, the state government also decided to provide stipends and other facilities at par with those extended to Indian medical graduates, officials said. The decisions were taken at a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar here on Tuesday. "Now, government medical colleges or hospitals will not charge any fee from the medical graduates from abroad for permitting them to do internships in the state," said S Siddharth, Additional Chief Secretary (Cabinet Secretariat). "The maximum FMG quota in internship will be 7.5 per cent of the institute's total permitted seats. Majority of the FMGs were those who returned to India after the COVID-19 outbreak and the Ukraine war with incomplete internships," he told reporters here.



Free e-rickshaw service at final leg to ease Amarnath yatri's journey

A Kanpur-based NGO has introduced free e-rickshaw services to make the final leg of the arduous journey of Amarnath Yatra comfortable for the pilgrims. The e-rickshaws have been deployed to ferry pilgrims from Dornail to the base camp at Baltal and vice-versa. Having walked 24 km on mountainous terrain to and fro to visit the Holy Cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas, pilgrims are usually exhausted by the end of their journey. After reaching the access-control gates at Dornail, they have to walk another five km to reach the parking area of the Baltal base camp. The battery-operated, environment-friendly e-rickshaws, deployed by NGO, come as a relief for the pilgrims in that regard. While ponies are available for the purpose, the rides are chargeable. The e-rickshaw service, meanwhile, is free of cost. Kanpur-based Shiv Sewak Samiti is one of the service providers of the e-rickshaw rides. With the e-rickshaws, the distance, which otherwise takes about an hour, is covered in less than ten minutes.



India leading in spirituality, technology and economy: PM

PNS ■ AMARAVATI
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said India was marching ahead in various fields, including technology and economy even as spiritual centres are reviving in the country. In his virtual address during the inauguration of Sai Hira Global Convention Centre at Prasanthi Nilayam in Puttaparthi in Andhra Pradesh, Modi pointed out that 40 per cent of the total real-time online transactions took place in India and urged the devotees to transform the entire district of Puttaparthi (Sri Satya Sai district) into a digital economy. Noting that climate change

posed a big challenge to the entire world in 21st century, Modi said India has taken up initiatives like Mission LiFE in the global platform. Affirming that the world trusts India's leadership, he said India is holding the presidency of the prestigious G-20 this year, whose theme of "One Earth, One Family, One Future" is drawn from the country's fundamental thinking. He further said that India has the third largest startup ecosystem in the world and was competing with big countries in areas such as digital technology and 5G technology. "On one hand spiritual centres are reviving in the country and simultaneously



India is leading in economy and technology. Today, India is among the world's top five economies," he said in a video. Modi also lauded the ongoing Leaders Conference of Sri Sathya Sai Global Council, terming it an effective medium to know more about India and connect with the world. India's attractiveness is on the rise globally, he said while

referring to the International Yoga Day celebrations on June 21 at the United Nations (UN) headquarters in New York, which witnessed participants from the highest number of countries. For thousands of years Indian saints have nourished the spirit of 'Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat', Modi said. Calling for support to tree plantation and make India plastic-free, the Prime Minister highlighted 'Prem Taru', an initiative to plant 1 crore trees in the next two years. I have come to Puttaparthi many times, but this time I could not. I have been invited to come and give blessings, but I will come to take blessings but not give, he said.

No artificial turf in Siri Fort Sports Complex: Delhi HC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
Observing that green area in the midst of a thickly populated residential place is of far greater value than a forest kilometres away from a human habitation, the Delhi High Court has directed the authorities to not destroy the natural grass in Siri Fort Sports Complex (SFSC) and convert it into artificial turf. Justice Najmi Waziri said the proposed introduction of artificial turf by the Delhi Development Authority on the fields of the sporting complex was not only contrary to the judicial orders but also "impermissible and illegal". "Such conversion of laying of artificial turf will have to be abandoned by the DDA."

It is time to implement UCC, says Dhankhar

PNS ■ GUWAHATI
Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Tuesday said that the time has come for implementing the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) as envisaged by the founding fathers of the Constitution. Article 44 of the Constitution clearly states that the state shall endeavour to secure the UCC for its citizens across the country, Dhankhar said while addressing the 25th convocation of the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati. "This was the thought process of the founding fathers. The time has come for its implementation and there can be no rationale for impediment or further delay", he said. The framers of the constitu-



tion were certain that the Directive Principles were fundamental in the governance of the country which reflected in the duties of the state to apply these principles in framing laws, he said. "Following this premise, I am stunned at the reaction of some people when there is an effort to implement the UCC. Political stakeholding cannot be at the cost of the nation and nationalism," he said.

The UCC is aimed at replacing personal laws based on religion, customs, and traditions with one common law for everyone irrespective of religion, caste, creed, sexual orientation and gender. Personal laws and laws related to inheritance, adoption and succession are likely to be covered by a common code. "The underlying sublimity of this has to be appreciated and understood as this will bind the nation more effectively. If there is further delay in UCC implementation, it will be corrosive to our values," the Vice-President said in his speech. Politicians can practice the politics they want but there has to be a common denominator within the frame and respect for the nation and nationalism, Dhankhar added.

Key Nitish aide alleges BJP trying to repeat Maha episode in Bihar

PNS ■ PATNA
A key aide of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Tuesday rejected demands for Deputy CM Tejashwi Yadav's resignation, following a CBI chargesheet against the RJD leader, and accused the BJP of trying to repeat the Maharashtra episode in the state. Bihar minister and senior JD(U) leader Vijay Kumar Chaudhary also taunted the BJP for having demanded the resignation of NCP leader Ajit Pawar, who has now been made a deputy chief minister in Maharashtra. "Mere chargesheet does not amount to guilt being proved. Moreover, it (CBI) is an agency which faces criticisms for its functioning. The deputy CM had himself anticipated such action against himself and

said the same in public," Chaudhary told reporters at the JD(U) office. "Don't forget that Ajit Pawar, too, was accused of corruption by BJP, which is used to demand his resignation (as deputy CM of MVA government). Now, the party has made him a government minister in its own government," Chaudhary exclaimed. Pawar had on Sunday pulled off a stunning revolt in the NCP, triggering a vertical split and joined hands with the ruling Shiv Sena-BJP alliance in Maharashtra to become deputy chief minister. Chaudhary alleged that the BJP "hates Bihar" after having lost power in the state, which is "back in the centre-stage of national politics" since the opposition meeting hosted here by Nitish Kumar.



WILDLIFE PROTECTION

Permission a must to instal electric fences

PNS ■ CHENNAI
In order to protect wildlife and safeguard farm produce, obtaining prior permission from authorities is now mandatory to put up electric fences, the Tamil Nadu government said on Tuesday. In a first of its kind initiative, the government said it has notified the Tamil Nadu Power Fences (Registration and Regulation) Rules 2023. On July 3, 2023, the rules have been notified. "This would standardise and regulate erection of power fences and for registration of already erected power fences around farm lands," an official release said. The TN government is deeply committed to protect wildlife in the state. There have been instances of wild animals especially elephants

getting electrocuted due to high voltage electric fences. "In order to protect wildlife it has become essential to bring in place a set of regulations to standardise parameters for putting up power fences. At the same time, it is absolutely essential to safeguard agricultural produce of farmers being destroyed by wildlife in areas adjoining forests. Standardised regulations would also help farmers protect their crop," the government said. The new rules make it mandatory to seek prior permission to erect power fences including solar power fences. It also has become mandatory to register already erected power fences. These rules shall be applicable only within 5 km from the notified reserve forest areas in Tamil Nadu. All companies in the business of erecting power



fences are now mandated to comply with BIS standard viz., BIS-302-2-76 (India) norms. It is compulsory for those who have already erected power fences within 5 km from notified reserve forest areas to get their fences registered with the jurisdictional District Forest Officer (DFO). In order to ensure compliance of new norms, a joint team of officials from government-run electricity corporation and forest department would take up field level inspections once in a fort-

night and they shall record relevant information in a log book. TANGEDCO (Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation) is the State-run power corporation. The DFOs, along with TANGEDCO officials, after the inspection and verification exercise, shall consider applications within 45 days for 'approval, reduction or rejection.' Those with existing power fences shall apply within sixty days from the date of publication of these rules to the DFO for obtaining registration certificate. On receipt of permission, the owner of the property may erect the power fence within ninety days from the date of permission and apply for registration of power fence along with an 'undertaking form.'

ECI lacks impartiality, neutrality: Mehbooba

PNS ■ JAMMU
PDP president Mehbooba Mufti alleged the Election Commission of India (ECI) lacks impartiality and neutrality, and accused the ruling BJP of harming institutions of democracy including the media. The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister alleged central agencies like the Enforcement Directorate and CBI are being used to target Opposition leaders. The election commission of India (ECI), which is supposed to be impartial and neutral, is actually not impartial or neutral. The ED is not neutral," she told PTI in a video interview. She also lambasted the BJP for its "surgical strike and



illegal strike" in Maharashtra where the NCP's Ajit Pawar and eight MLAs revolted against the party and joined the Shiv Sena-BJP government. The Opposition faced challenges not only from the BJP but also from various government agencies such as the ED, CBI, and the Election Commission. "They have become an agency and alliance partners of the government, so that the Opposition is browbeaten, threatened and parties are broken and aligned with them (the BJP) and new governments formed," she alleged. "They (the BJP) are destroying all the institutions and systems (of democracy). Media has been totally decimated," she said.

Kerala mulling legal option if Bills on varsities are not signed by Gov

PNS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
The Kerala government on Tuesday said it might explore legal options if the Bills passed by it regarding appointments in universities in the state are not signed by Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, "as this prolonged uncertainty is not good for the people of the state". Kerala Law Minister P Rajeev said that the bills brought by the ruling LDF and passed by the state assembly provide for a collective decision making, including the Chancellor of universi-

ties, with regard to functioning of the varsities. "If it (approval for the bills) does not come, we will have to deal with it legally. We made the laws as we are entitled and empowered to do so under the Constitution and even according to the Supreme Court. However, we have no idea why he has not signed. We expect that he will sign, but this prolonged uncertainty will not be good for the people of the state," Rajeev said at a meet-the-press held here. The minister was responding to a query on what the gov-

ernment plans to do regarding the unsigned bills amending various provisions of the University Laws governing appointments, including that of Vice-Chancellors, in the varsities and also replacing the Governor as the Chancellor of universities with eminent academicians. The Bills which were passed in September -- regarding appointments in varsities -- and in December -- on replacing the Governor as Chancellor with eminent academicians -- are still pending Khan's approval.

SC notice to Centre on plea to fill vacant posts in NHRC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought the Centre's response on a plea seeking directions to fill three vacancies at the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice P S Narasimha issued notice to the government returnable within three weeks. The top court noted the existing seats fell vacant on September 11, 2021, January 4, 2023 and April 4, 2022. "The petitioner in-person submits that there are three vacancies in the National

Human Rights Commission, namely -- Judicial Member, who has to be a Judge or a former Judge of the Supreme Court, Judicial Member, who is or was a Chief Justice of the High Court and a seat for a woman member. "Issue notice, returnable in three weeks. Liberty to serve the Central Agency, in addition," the bench said. The apex court was hearing a plea filed by lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy seeking directions to fill the vacant posts at the NHRC. "The failure of the government in appointing three members in the NHRC has been affecting the functioning of the commission.

Raj to bring Bill provisioning life imprisonment to curb paper leaks

PNS ■ JAIPUR
The Rajasthan government will bring a Bill in the next assembly session to increase the punishment for those involved in recruitment exam paper leaks from the current 10 years to life imprisonment, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said on Tuesday. In March 2022, the assembly passed a Bill providing for imprisonment of up to 10 years and a fine of Rs 10 crore for offences such as government exam paper leaks and cheating in such recruitment tests. This came a month after



the REET level-two examination held in September 2021 was cancelled due to a paper leak. "It has been decided to bring a Bill in the upcoming assembly session to make life imprisonment the maximum punishment under the law against paper leaks," Gehlot said in a

tweet in Hindi on Tuesday. "In order to bring more transparency in competitive examinations in the state, the chief secretary has been directed to prepare a better process after discussing with the Rajasthan Public Service Commission (RPSC), Department of Personnel (DOP), Rajasthan Staff Selection Board (RSSB) and other stakeholders," he added. Opposition parties in Rajasthan have been targeting the Congress government over the issue of paper leaks. Assembly elections in the state are due later this year.

Early universe flows five times slower: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
A second, in the infant universe right after the Big Bang, would take five of those of the present day universe before it passed, a new research has found, unlocking one of the Einstein's expanding universe's mysteries. "Looking back to a time when the universe was just over a billion years old, we see time appearing to flow five times slower," said lead author of the study, Geraint Lewis, University of Sydney, Australia. "If you were there, in this infant universe, one second would seem like one second

but from our position, more than 12 billion years into the future, that early time appears to drag," said Lewis. While Einstein's general theory of relativity says that the more distant the object being observed, such as an ancient universe, the slower it runs than the present day, peering back that far in time has proved elusive. Examining details of 190 quasars, or hyperactive supermassive black holes at the centres of early galaxies, over two decades, the astronomers rolled back the time horizon to a tenth of its current stage and



confirmed that the universe appeared to speed up as it aged. The study is published in the journal Nature Astronomy. "Thanks to Einstein, we know that time and space are

intertwined and, since the dawn of time in the singularity of the Big Bang, the universe has been expanding. "This expansion of space means that our observations of the early universe should appear to be much slower than time flows today. "In this paper, we have established that back to about a billion years after the Big Bang," said Lewis. Lewis and team combined the observations from quasars taken at different colours to standardise the 'ticking' of each quasar. Applying statistical analysis,

they found the expansion of the universe imprinted on each quasar's ticking. "With these exquisite data, we were able to chart the tick of the quasar clocks, revealing the influence of expanding space," Lewis said. Astronomers have previously established this slow-motion universe back to about half the universe's age using supernovae, or massive exploding stars. But while exceedingly bright, supernovae are difficult to observe at the immense distances needed to peer into the early universe.

Complainant can't be forced to undergo polygraph and narco tests

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
A complainant cannot be forced to undergo deception detection tests like narco analysis, polygraph and brain mapping to determine if a complaint is genuine and it is for the investigating agencies to uncover the truth, the Delhi High Court has ruled. The court stated this while rejecting a PIL, which sought directions for subjecting complainants to such tests to ascertain the veracity of their claims and contended that it would work as a deterrent and will

reduce fake cases. A bench headed by Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma, while dealing with the petition by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, observed that the law provides remedies to a person against whom any false complaint is made and it is well settled that courts do not interfere with the probe which is purely the domain of investigating agency. "The Constitution provides for special provisions for an accused. In case of a false complaint, there are other remedies which are available in law.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

A disturbing trend

The attack on Indian consulate in San Francisco shows how emboldened the Khalistanis have become

The recent attack on the Indian consulate in San Francisco by individuals suspected to be Khalistani separatists is an incident that demands serious attention from the international community. This brazen act of violence highlights the growing boldness of Khalistani groups and raises legitimate concerns for India's national security. It is imperative to analyse the reasons behind this escalation and recognise the potential threat it poses to peace and stability in the region. Khalistan, a proposed separate homeland for Sikhs, has been a contentious issue in India for decades. While the majority of Sikhs in India live peacefully and contribute to the nation's progress, a small faction of radical elements has sought to achieve their goals through violence. The attack on the Indian consulate in San Francisco is a stark reminder that these extremist elements continue to exist and have become emboldened. This incident marks a disturbing expansion of their geographical reach. By targeting Indian diplomatic missions abroad, these extremists aim to undermine India's diplomatic efforts and spread fear among its diaspora communities. Attacks on diplomatic missions are not only assaults on the country being represented but also undermine the principles of international diplomacy. The attack on the Indian consulate in San Francisco threatens the relationship between India and the United States.



Besides, the Indian diaspora, particularly in countries with a significant Sikh population, is now at a heightened risk due to the growing audacity of Khalistani elements. The attack in San Francisco should be a wake-up call for countries with Indian communities to enhance security measures and ensure the safety of their citizens. The attack in San Francisco may be an isolated incident, but it serves as a stark reminder of the potential for further violence and the need for proactive measures to counter such threats. Sikhism is a religion of peace and harmony, and the majority of Sikhs reject the radical ideology promoted by Khalistani extremists. The actions of a few tarnish the reputation of the entire Sikh community, leading to unfair stereotypes and discrimination. India must work closely with countries affected by Khalistani extremism, including the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom, to share intelligence and counter the growing threat. Collaborative efforts to identify and apprehend individuals involved in such attacks are crucial. Engaging with the Sikh community, both in India and abroad, is vital to counter the divisive narrative propagated by Khalistani elements. Promoting dialogue, and understanding, and emphasising the importance of unity will help isolate the extremists and ensure the peaceful coexistence of all communities. Indian diplomatic missions worldwide must assess their security infrastructure. Close coordination with host countries' law enforcement agencies is essential to ensuring the safety of diplomatic personnel and Indian citizens. The vandalism by Khalistani extremists signifies a dangerous escalation in their activities.

PICTALK



A security personnel keeps a vigil during monsoon rain at the Taj Mahal, in Agra

UCC: A tale of three promises

Is Prime Minister Narendra Modi trying to complete all the three core agenda of the Sangh Parivar?



KALYANI SHANKAR

He had overseen the other two issues in the past nine years of his regime - building the Ram Temple in Ayodhya and revoking Article 370. Implementing a uniform civil code remains on the table. The moot question is whether India needs such a law and whether this is the time to push it.

Despite the codification of Hindu laws in 1956, a consensus on the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) is yet to come in India. Many religious communities at present abide by their own distinct personal laws. The UCC is a complex issue. It has several angles, such as political, legislative, religious, gender and Constitutional perspectives, to the question.

The UCC is prevalent in many countries like France, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Australia. However, some countries like Kenya, Pakistan, Italy, South Africa, Nigeria, and Greece do not have it. Analysts see Modi's raising the issue again during his address to the BJP workers in Bhopal last week as not an off-the-cuff remark. He had measured every word. Significantly, Madhya Pradesh is a poll-bound state.

The origin of the UCC dates back to colonial India. The British government recommended uniformity in the codification of Indian law in 1835. The UCC intends to unify all personal religious laws, including marriage, divorce, property rights, inheritance, and maintenance. Article 44 of the Indian Constitution stipulates the state shall endeavour to secure a Common Code throughout India for citizens. One of the Principles of State Policy states that the UCC is essential.

Goa is the only Indian state that follows a uniform civil code. The Portuguese law of 1867 remained the same even after India annexed Goa.

The Constituent Assembly debated the issue

India's first Prime Minister, Jawahar Lal Nehru, postponed a decision claiming, "I do not think that at the present moment, the time is ripe for me to try to push



it (UCC) through". If only the framers of our Constitution had decided on the issue, the problem would not exist today. The Law Commission of India began to examine UCC afresh and sought suggestions from the public. The UCC has become more political than legal. Supporters and opponents argue on both sides. Supporters believe, sooner or later, there must be a common law that applies to all religious communities.

The BJP believes in the UCC Prime Minister Modi, while making a strong pitch for the UCC, said in Bhopal the Constitution mentions having equal rights. "If there is one law for one member in a house and another for the other, will the house be able to run? So how will the country be able to run with such a dual system?" the prime minister asked.

He argued that passing the Uniform Civil Law would provide benefits despite many differences and conflicts. It would provide gender equality and one law for all. Modi

urged Muslims to see how the Opposition provoked and exploited them.

Further, The Supreme Court highlighted the importance of a (UCC) in 1985. The apex court noted that it would maintain national unity. In 1995, the Court recommended a single law governing all citizens. In 2019, the Modi government expressed its commitment to the UCC to the Apex Court. Earlier, the Supreme Court outlawed the Triple Talaq providing gender justice.

The Opponents, led by Congress and other secular parties, oppose it. Muslims and other minorities do not favour it although some Islamic countries have adopted a common law for all, Modi's call for Uniform Civil Code has provoked sharp criticism from opposition parties.

They allege Modi was trying to divert the attention from bread-and-butter issues such as rising prices, unemployment and violence in Manipur. They note that without a consensus on the subject, there could be no UCC. The

opponents point out that Muslims perceive the UCC as infringing on their religious freedom.

In a secular country like India, UCC is significant to provide one law for all. Seventy-five years have passed, and it is time to consider it seriously in a country where 65 per cent are youth. However, it is the political will that is required. Uttarakhand has received a report from a commission led by a former Supreme Court recommending UCC for the state. Perhaps the BJP intends to replicate this in other states.

Modi would like to face the 2024 Lok Sabha elections after UCC legislation. It is a question mark whether he could push it through. The Prime Minister must convene an all-party meeting to mobilise support for the UCC. With Assembly elections in some states and the General elections scheduled for next year, there is some urgency to implement UCC.

(The writer is a well-known columnist. Views expressed are personal)



THE SUPREME COURT HIGHLIGHTED THE IMPORTANCE OF UCC IN 1985. THE APEX COURT NOTED THAT IT WOULD MAINTAIN NATIONAL UNITY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BENGAL POLL VIOLENCE

Sir — As per analysts the ongoing bloodshed in West Bengal over the July 8 rural polls has once again brought the issue of political violence into focus. This has long been entwined with state politics due to factors like economic conditions and prolonged single-party rule. In the run-up to the three-tier panchayat polls, 10 lives have so far been lost and several others injured, as clashes among political parties and attacks on rivals have become all too common, indicating the close association between politics and violence in the state. The 2003 panchayat polls gained notoriety for its death toll of 76, with more than 40 killed on the day of the elections. The 2013 rural polls, held under the supervision of central forces, and the 2018 elections recorded casualty figures of 39 and 30 respectively. The panchayat elections are not just about victory or defeat. These polls are about livelihood and the economy that keep the pot boiling.

In the rural polls held five years ago, the ruling TMC won 90 per cent of the panchayat seats and all 22 zilla parishads. The elections were marred by widespread violence, with the opposition alleging that they were prevented from filing nominations in several seats across the state. If you are on the opposite side, you are excluded from the list of beneficiaries. This trend is still on. Around 5.67 crore electorates will exercise their franchise on Saturday to choose representatives for nearly 74,000 seats in zilla parishads, panchayat samiti and gram panchayats. With this bloodshed in Bengal during the elections has become routine.

Bhagwan Thadan | Mumbai

EID-UL-ADHA AND SACRIFICE

Sir — Eidul Adha is the most important practice of Islam, known as sacrifice which is celebrated by the Muslim community worldwide as this joyous occasion commemorates the profound act of sacrifice by the prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) a s. And his willingness to offer his apple of eyes Ismail (Ishmael) an s as an act of obe-

Political tremours in Maharashtra



Ajit Pawar's alignment with the BJP including 9 MLA, underlines how the ruling party is reaching out to allies to rebuild the NDA and better its 2019 showing. Affaire NCP shows yet again that politics in India is rapidly degenerating into a purely

mathematical exercise. It also demonstrates the cynical use of enforcement agencies to achieve political ends-for nothing else can explain why charges are dropped against politicians joining the national political hegemon. It is worth repeating both because these often tend to get lost in the narrative and both lie at the core of democracy and the democratic process. Allies will be important to the BJP in 2024. It will be difficult even for the party, with its efficient and powerful election machinery, and also the biggest political brand in the country, Narendra Modi, to better its 2019 performance. Sunday's events indicate that the party is keenly aware of this.

Tauqueer Rahman | Hyderabad

dience to Allah (God). The tradition associated with Eidul- Adha has deep meaning and significance, emphasising the values of faith, selflessness and gratitude for the total submission of man and woman. It's considered seeking forgiveness and spiritual purification as well. As a result, it encompasses obedience to Allah, trust and faith, gratitude, selflessness, generosity, atonement, unity and the embodiment of important moral values.

IL Mazahiri | Hyderabad

SUNAK'S CRICKET LOVE

Sir — Maybe the British Prime Minister (PM) Rishi Sunak is a keen cricket fan and attended the fourth day of the Lord's test on Saturday but that does not mean I do agree with his accusation that Australia breaking the spirit of cricket over the controversial dismissal of England's Jonny Bairstow at Lord's Test. Actually, off the last ball of the over, Johnny Bairstow avoids a bouncer which is clearly taken by the wicketkeeper (WK). As soon as WK Carey takes the ball, within seconds he throws it at the stumps before Bairstow has started to leave the crease. When the ball hits the stumps, and the third umpire does not hesitate to declare him out. Absolutely nothing wrong

with the dismissal. The ball was still alive and Carey was sharp enough to realise that Bairstow was walking out of his crease too quickly. Let's be clear — there was absolutely nothing wrong with that dismissal, nor any question of it being against the spirit of the game (as PM Sunak believed Australia's actions were not in keeping with the spirit of cricket). Stokes was wrong to bring that up in his post-match interview. Even the dismissal triggered long and loud booring from the Lord's crowd and saw Australian players (Ushman Khawaja and David Warner) verbally abused by Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) members in the stadium's usually staid Long Room. As a result, MCC has suspended three members, and PM Sunak thinks it was right that MCC have taken swift action. Once again England's downfall was largely their own fault. Bairstow is the major culprit. Though the Bairstow controversy is unlikely to spark a diplomatic incident between the UK and Australia. Even that due to Bairstow cricket lost its gentleness.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

India is ready to produce solar panels

The current Indian environment is very congenial to produce solar panels as we have competence and a huge demand for solar panels



KUNAL SAXENA

The Indian economy has essentially grown keeping agriculture and services as pillars. At the same time, the manufacturing sector remained largely absent. Moreso, when it comes to hi-tech manufacturing like semiconductors, robotics automation etc. India, having grown tremendously in past decades, now requires the manufacturing sector to come to the forefront of economic growth. Also, India aims to become carbon neutral by 2070. It requires a mammoth task of electrification and installation of renewable energy sources. Currently, India majorly imports solar panels from China, for the domestic panel manufacturers have limited updated capacity. Also, the production capacities of upstream products like cells, and wafers are very limited. Therefore, with our dependence on foreign supplies, the net zero mission along with the GDP growth will be dependent on the vagaries of foreign equipment suppliers. In a nutshell, heavy reliance on imports for strategic products like renewable equipment and major upstream products is something we



should not accept as this may severely limit our targets. Moreover, this robs us of India's capabilities to further develop high-efficiency equipment and restricts our abilities to foray into ancillary and equipment manufacturing streams, which are critical growth enablers for an economy. Needless to state that these imports would lead to a huge chunk of foreign capital moving out of India, thus increasing the CAD (Current Account Deficit) of India.

Currently, Indian solar equipment manufacturing is not cost-competitive if we compare it with the manufacturing of Chinese players. The government of India acknowledged this shortcoming and levied numerous tariff and non-tariff barriers. E.g. BCD (Basic Customer Duty) of 25% and 40% on Solar cells and modules

respectively. However, the gap can be fundamentally filled only if India achieves scale in production, and develops the supply chain of raw materials and R&D infrastructure. To achieve scale, the Government of India made an appreciative effort to launch the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for Solar manufacturing, under which the bidders were required to bid based on the extent of integration, technology, and local sourcing.

The PLI - tranche 1 of INR 4500 cr. was concluded in 2021 with an accumulative winning capacity of ~9 GW, while the PLI - tranche 2 of INR 19500 cr. is recently concluded with a cumulative winning capacity of ~40 GW. The scheme prefers high-efficiency solar panel manufacturing. The rolling out of the PLI scheme demonstrates the government's focus on developing the full supply chain of high-efficiency solar modules, including the ancillary supply chain. However, based on the PLI scheme rollout, a full-blown ecosystem with a meaningful scale will take up to 3 years to get developed

and start production. In the meanwhile, for India to be aggressive in the solar energy installation targets, it must rely heavily on imported solar modules.

The current Indian regulatory environment is very congenial to produce solar panels domestically as the competence gap is addressed along with a huge forthcoming demand in India and other major economies. There will, however, be reliance on imports for more technical products like robotics, equipment for production, and technologically advanced raw materials like silver paste, diamond wire etc. Once the required downstream infrastructure is developed, India Inc. will have the scale and motivation to develop these elements of production to further reduce the cost of the solar panel. With this development, India can step up its R&D activities, which would build products in other economic streams thus drastically reducing dependence on overall imports.

(The writer is General Manager- Strategic Initiatives, Amp Energy India)



FIRST COLUMN CREATING A BETTER OFFICE ENVIRONMENT

To stay away from the negativity bug, one has to live an awakened life



RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

Most of us spend nearly a third of our life at work and so the quality of our life is greatly connected to our experiences there. That is why it is very important to have a wonderful workplace that can enrich our lives, provide a sense of purpose, and accomplishment, and be a source of friendships and social connections. But, very few of us are lucky to get such an environment at our offices, because today with so much competition around, offices are becoming a crazy place to be in, as a result of which we spend more time working under a highly stressful environment which is taking a negative toll on our overall well-being.

Research done over the past few years shows that positive environments at the workplace produce positive benefits specifically to engagement, relationships and health. Conversely, one of the biggest downfalls to a negative or fear-based environment is higher healthcare costs due to workplace stress and lower engagement. According to a popular analytics company, disengaged workers had 37% higher absenteeism, 49% more accidents, and 60% more errors and defects. All these figures call for a higher need to create a positive and employee-friendly environment at offices, because a positive workplace leads to increased productivity, better employee morale and the ability to keep skilled workers. However, before introducing any changes at the workplace, one needs to do a reality check first. To start with, let us see what a typical office day is like.



So, as soon as the day begins, ask someone a customary 'How are you?' and the usual reply that comes in is 'Life's just going on' as if they are just dragging through it. Many old timers who are always late, order tea as soon as they arrive in the office. The newness of the day is no kick start to them as they are always in their self-created world. As tea is served, they lavishly splurge on all the messy information of the day before and blame those who are not present there. Many employees soon pick up a distaste for such colleagues for "not doing their job properly". They are just too burdened to peacefully manage with them and succumb to being judgmental, adding more load to their already burdened minds. While criticizing things that they have little control over—the sad ways of the world, the corruption at all levels and the wrongs done by other people—they circulate so much waste and negative energy that the atmosphere in the office is hardly left with any zeal and goodwill to make a difference in areas where they really can. Amidst this whole negativity, some honest employees, bubbling with creative energy, do put in a great effort but are often disappointed for yet being reprimanded or not being recognized through gestures or perks.

On the other hand, over-ambitious and over-smart employees who are always on their toes, sneak into political discussions and play games of jealousy, hatred and animosity to win over in the race, making the air around them stink with insecurity. As a result of all these, while some employees return home tired from the sheer monotony of life, or are stressed out for never getting their due, others are drained out while climbing up the ladder by hook or crook. It is quite strange that a place that is buzzing with action should have a positive and zealous environment rather than a negative or polluting environment. The reason for this is that very few of us today are driven by simply the joy of working. It requires no external input, not even anyone's recognition. To stay away from the negativity bug, one has to live an awakened life. A life where one consciously creates happiness and pledges to secure it even when situations and people turn adverse. At our workplace, which ought to be a place of creativity and healthy social exchange, one must practise tolerance and forgiveness and turn over a new leaf each day. Remember! Workplaces have the potential of becoming an extended family if relations are nurtured with respect and the dignity of a human being is not compromised irrespective of his performance at work.

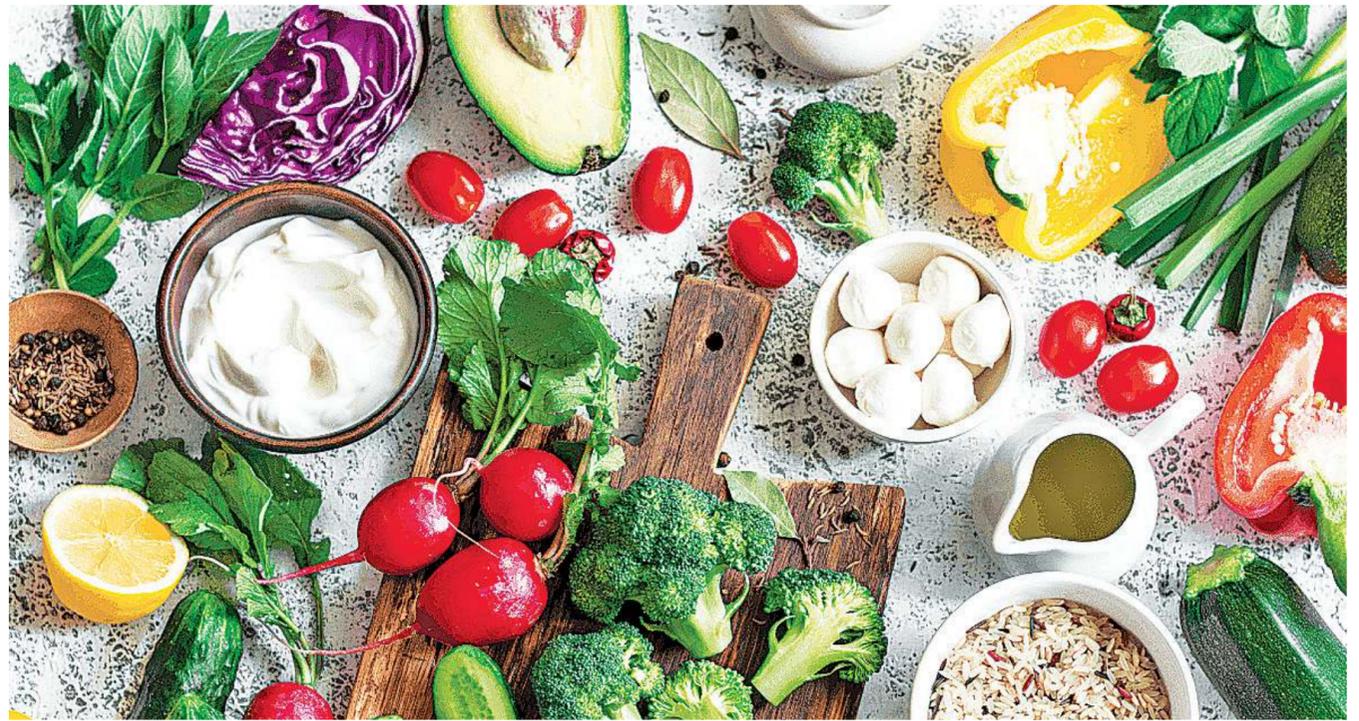
(Writer is a spiritual educator & a popular columnist)

Nutrition could ensure wholesome well-being



DINESH SOOD

An integrated approach to nutrition that focuses on health, wellness, immunity and fights malnutrition in the country is the need of the hour



Nutrition and health is an essential part of modern life. However, holistic nutrition is India's flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes, especially for malnourished children, women and the elderly. In the first category, the economically disadvantaged population is more vulnerable to malnutrition. Maintaining a healthy balance to prevent malnutrition has become more challenging for the underprivileged.

The second category is well-to-do people who have excesses or imbalances in intake of nutrients that have been rampant across all age groups in India. Due to a lack of knowledge, excess or unbalanced nutrition leads to metabolic diseases such as obesity, diabetes, and heart diseases. The double burden of malnutrition has turned India's attention to nutritional development as a national priority. Personalized, targeted or stratified nutrition for healthcare and well-being is the need of the hour.

In recent years, India has started to gain self-sufficiency in crop production and growing steadily. Despite progress, malnutrition in the country has not diminished. The 2020 National Family Health Survey shows that child malnutrition is on the rise and the situation is alarming. According to the National Comprehensive Nutrition Survey conducted by UNICEF in 2019, nearly 50% of children under the age group of five were short in height.

According to the fifth National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 2019-21, health and nutrition have not improved significantly in India, the world's most populous country. Available data show that 7.7% of children were severely underweight, 19.3% were wasted and 35.5% were stunted. Meanwhile, 3.4% of children were overweight. Anaemia among children under-5 has become significantly worse with the current prevalence as 67.1% compared to 58.6% according to



IT IS ESSENTIAL TO ESTABLISH THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE REALIZATION OF THE CONCEPT OF PERSONAL NUTRITION. WE NEED QUALITY HEALTH AND NUTRITION SERVICES AND SKILLED FRONTLINE WORKERS

(The writer is co-founder and MD, of Orane International, a training partner with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), a Network Member, of India International Skills Centre)

the NFHS-4th series and 57% of women of reproductive age are anaemic in the country.

Dietetics and nutrition have attracted attention, especially in India in recent years. Due to the rise of lifestyle-related diseases, there is a growing awareness of the importance of proper nutrition and health. To stay away from these diseases, healthy eating habits have become the norm. This has resulted in a surge in demand for the services of nutritionists and dietitians.

Nutrition-conscious Indians don't have enough nutritionists to consult for a healthy diet. A comprehensive study on the shortage of nutritionists and dietitians conducted by the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) and submitted to the Union health ministry says that there is a shortage of nearly 5.5 lakh professional nutritionists in India. The International Federation of Dietetic Societies says there is one dietitian for every 2 lakh people in India. This is comparable to 35 to 40 nutritionists per one lakh people in Denmark and Israel, and 66 per one lakh people in Japan.

Dietitians and nutritionists play an important role in promoting health and preventing malnutrition or lifestyle-related diseases. Nutritionists apply nutrition and health systems to individuals, communities and organizations to change the pattern of food, lifestyle and behaviour to meet needs for well-being.

Social media and cross-border, digital or e-commerce are developing some of their strengths as they impact the next generation of consumers. But the personalized nutri-

tion can help prolong health and reduce the healthcare costs associated with ageing. The National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) has published nutritional guidelines, but few people know what their recommendations are. Experts say that nutritionists did not receive enough attention until a decade ago, but now their presence is crucial.

In addition to India's government programs and campaigns such as "Poshan" to reduce malnutrition among the poor, the world is making the personalised nutrition service industry worth an estimated \$15 billion by 2023 and is expected to reach \$37.3 billion by 2030. India's share should be at least 4 per cent about \$1.48 billion or Rs 12,150 crore.

The future of dietitians and nutritionists in India is changing with many careers in dietetics and nutrition in the public and private sectors. India has the largest workforce in the 18-24 age group requiring a range of skills such as proven expertise, knowledge of food and food products to deal with chronic diseases.

A qualified, experienced and certified crew of nutritionists is needed to nurture nutrition as holistic at hospitals, dispensaries and gyms, personalised or corporate wellness. In the private sector as clinical nutritionist who works in health clinics, wellness centres, and food and nutrition-related industries are booming. In the public sector, general well-being nutritionists and dietitians can work in government hospitals, health departments, and research institutes. Sports nutritionist manages explicit sustenance

necessities and rules of sports players, which are needed for sports preparation, exercise centres and wellness centres.

As a nutritionist serving the wider community, there are some obvious reasons to serve, and there are also some key reasons why the area is gaining so much attention. To develop the necessary financial, social and technical tools to manage the dietary and nutrition problems facing the country.

The government is trying to create more programs to educate people about the importance of health. Judging by all the ideas provided by the government, the field of nutrition does not seem far from being one of the most important fields in India.

It is essential to establish the legal framework for the realization of the concept of personal nutrition. We need quality health and nutrition services, skilled frontline workers, and the ability to improve exercise, outreach and delivery. The lack of professional nutritionists and dietitians in government hospitals and dispensaries is disappointing and needs improvement in the quality of food for all citizens, especially children, women and the elderly.

The overall aim is to use a strategic, integrated approach to promote nutritional content, delivery, outreach and outcome, with a renewed focus on developing practices that nurture health, wellness and immunity towards various diseases and malnutrition in the country. The goal is to have a collaborative effort to improve the health and nutrition index.

The Modi doctrine is for the global good

The Modi doctrine calls for a strong India through the Atmanirbhar Bharat campaign. It works for making world a better place through reconciliation

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a tectonic shift in India's bilateral relations with the US. His summit with US President Joe Biden had the global community glued to television screens as they witnessed history unfolding in Washington DC. Heads of the states of two equal partners discussed ways to work out the good for the global community. They firmed up their resolve to work together as partners to shape the century.

PM Modi also presented democracy as a solution for the host of global challenges. Democracy runs in the veins of India, said PM Modi during a press conference with President Biden. Dialogue is the lifeline of democracy. PM Modi by underlining that dia-



TARUN CHUGH

(The writer is a General Secretary of the BJP)

logue, not war, is the way out of conflicts in his speech to the US Congress once more allowed American Congressmen and senators to witness a statesman in their midst.

There emerged a consensus view among the Republicans and Democrats that PM Modi wasn't just speaking for India or the benefits of his country, but he was giving voice to the cause of the global community. They once more understood the significance of the Indian philosophy of Vasudhev Kutumbkam, that the world is one village and in the common good lies the wellbeing of all.

Democracy delivers, said PM Modi. He asserted the thriving Indian democracy breathes in over 250 political parties in India and 20 of them

ruling states. Such diversity is not to be found elsewhere. The Americans sought endorsement for their diversity by bonding with India. The Americans also found to their great satisfaction that PM Modi is a champion of human values.

"Indian democracy functions on the Constitution, and the statute book provides for access to all the programmes and schemes run by the government without discrimination on the basis of caste, creed, religion, age, and regions. This is stated in the mantra of SabkaVikas, SabkaVishwas, SabkaPrayas," said PM Modi, as he spoke of the inclusive nature of the Indian democracy during the joint press conference with President Biden.

The leadership of the US accorded PM Modi a place of eminence with unprecedented reception to him at the White House. The Indian diaspora made a strong presence in the backyard of the White House to witness the unfolding of history. During the tech summit attended by PM Modi and President Biden, several CEOs of well-known American corporate giants were people of Indian origin. The 3.5 million strong Indian diasporas in the US have been the brand ambassadors of India. They are the vital organs of the American economy. This was evident during the visit of PM Modi to the US and richly acknowledged by the Biden administration.

"When I came here last,

India was the 10th largest economy of the world. Now, India is the fifth largest economy in the world. Soon, India will be the third largest economy of the world," PM Modi told the US Congress. The US, the largest economy in the world, laid the red carpet for the prime minister of India, who is scripting rapid economic growth of his country with eyes set on the target to become the third largest economy in the world. This is significant because India and the US bilateral trade has crossed \$190 billion, which was also stressed by President Biden.

This set up the vast scope of collaborations unveiled during PM Modi's visit to the US. From the Artemis agreement for the cooperation between

NASA and the ISRO, the deal for the production of jet engines by GE in India and setting up a manufacturing plant for semiconductors in Gujarat, besides India procuring the predator drones revealed the beginning of an era of strategic cooperation between the two democracies working for the global good.

The Modi doctrine calls for a strong India, which is being fulfilled through the Atmanirbhar Bharat campaign. In the defence sector, the collaboration between the US and India promises to accelerate self-reliance in the production of defence goods. Not only gaining self-reliance but India must also be armed with weapons, assets and technology to gain an edge. This again is in the interest of

global good, because India is looked upon by several nations in the immediate neighbourhood of South Asia, the Indian Ocean, Indo-Pacific, and elsewhere as a source of security and strength. This has been affirmed recently by the Indian Coast Guard crackdown against the trafficking of drugs through the sea routes.

Indian and the US, PM Modi said, are partners also for the clean energy transition as the global community looks upon the two countries to fight back against climate change. This is befitting the leadership role of India in climate mitigation efforts. India alone has acted decisively on Paris Accord to demonstrate the Modi doctrine for global good in action.

MONEY MATTERS

Rupee falls 11 paise to close at 82.02 against US dollar

The rupee pared initial gains and settled for the day lower by 11 paise to close at 82.02 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday amid bargain buying from oil importers and hedgers. However, a positive tone in domestic markets, wherein benchmark indices witnessed record high levels and steady foreign fund inflows, supported the rupee at lower levels. At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 81.90 against the dollar and settled at 82.02 (provisional), down 11 paise from its previous close. During the day, the rupee touched a high of 81.87 and a low of 82.03 against the greenback. On Monday, the rupee had settled at 81.91 against the dollar. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.01 per cent to 102.99. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, advanced 1.22 per cent to USD 75.56 per barrel.



SAIL selects mjPRO for all its project procurements

B2B e-commerce company mjunction on Tuesday said SAIL has selected mjPRO, its e-procurement platform, for all its project procurements. mjPRO is a cloud-based platform that comes with wide configurability and addresses key concerns of organisations such as access to new and credible suppliers, analytics and insights for decision-making, convenience of usage and integration with ERP systems, the company said without divulging commercial details. SAIL has selected mjPRO through an open tender for the implementation of an e-tendering solution for its project buys on a digital platform providing easy access to its global vendors to quote. The project is expected to go live within three months across five integrated steel plants of SAIL with connectivity with the steel major's in-house consultant, the company said. It can accommodate complex terms, multiple currencies and diverse evaluation criteria.



Govt issues draft notification on BNCAP mechanism

The government has issued draft notification on Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (BNCAP), which proposes awarding 'Star Ratings' to automobiles based on their performance in crash tests. The government aims to implement the programme from October 1, 2023. "The BNCAP shall be applicable on the type approved vehicles of category M1 of gross vehicle weight less than 3.5 tonne, manufactured or imported, as specified in the programme," the draft notification issued by Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways said. The government has sought comments within 30 days on BNCAP. The draft rules shall be taken into consideration after the expiry of 30 days from the date of the notification which is June 28, 2023, it said. Under BNCAP, manufacturers or importers of motor vehicles will have to submit an application in FORM 70-A to the agency designated by the central government.



'Govt will be facilitator for startups'

PNS ■ GURUGRAM

The government will always act as a facilitator to strengthen the startup ecosystem and not act as a regulator, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Tuesday.

He said that stakeholders of this ecosystem will do self-regulation.

Addressing the Startup20 summit here, the minister said, the message that should go out from here is the joint commitment of all the 22 nations, who have participated, that the governments will not be looking at impeding the progress of the work that startups are doing.

The best way is to be out of the startups ecosystem, he said, adding the government is not expected to start regulating or dictating or micro-managing the ecosystem.

"Our role will always be that of a facilitator and I do not see the government becoming an administrator or a regulator of this sector," he said. He added that the job of the government is to give an initial push or early stage finance to budding entrepreneurs.

The minister also said that India provides a unique oppor-



The Startup20 Summit, organized by the Startup20 Engagement Group under the India G20 Presidency, kicked off on Monday here

tunity to the world of startups. India has the advantage of skilled talent, affordability, growing startup culture, and aspirational population, Goyal said.

He invited the startups of the world to come and explore opportunities in India.

The Startup20 Shikhar Summit, organized by the Startup20 Engagement Group under the India G20 Presidency, kicked off on Monday here.

If at all there are issues, there are problems we would like to look at finding solutions to them through possibly self-regulation, he said, adding, "let them (startups) create their ecosystem that will ensure orderly growth, orderly way of accounting, way of financing, way of reporting," Goyal said. "I would personally like to commit myself not to interfere in the startup world," he said. Goyal also said that the kind

of policy recommendations that have come from the deliberations here will lay the basic foundation for this startup journey moving up from "start-up India to startup world".

The Startup20 communique, he said, "can truly be the new dawn of global startup ecosystem".

The communique agreed by the Startup 20 group has urged the G20 leaders to raise the joint annual investment of G20

nations in the global startup ecosystem to USD 1 trillion by 2030.

It has asked the leaders to facilitate the flow of public and private capital into the startup ecosystem by promoting various mechanisms such as Fund-of-Funds, Corporate Venture Funds, and University Endowment Funds.

Startup20 India Chair and Mission Director Atal Innovation Mission, Niti Aayog, Chintan Vaishnav said that Saudi Arabia has committed to be the first partner in attaining this goal.

It has also called for considering the communique recommendations, policy directives, and actions in five areas for harmonizing the global startup ecosystem while retaining the autonomy of the national ecosystems.

The main recommendation of this group include creation and adoption of a global definition framework for startups across G20 nations; setting up of an effective channels between the startup ecosystems across G20 nations; and building market access mechanisms for startups from G20 nations.

Govt plans to double turnover of automobile industry

PNS ■ JAIPUR

The government intends to double the turnover of the automobile industry to Rs 15 lakh crore from Rs 7.5 lakh crore at present, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said on Tuesday.

Speaking at a public meeting in Rajasthan's Pratapgarh district to highlight achievements of the central government in the last nine years, Gadkari also targeted Congress saying that in the name of removing poverty, Congress leaders eliminated their own poverty.

"The turnover of the automobile industry is Rs 7.55 lakh crore, and four and a half crores have got jobs in the sector. This industry gives maximum GST to the government. We have decided that we will make this industry of Rs 15 lakh crore," he said, adding that the industry will generate ten crore jobs.

He also said that India has beaten Japan in automobile manufacturing and has come in number 3 position globally after China and the US.

Laying emphasis on the importance of education, he said, "Knowledge is a great power, and converting knowledge into wealth is our future". He said that farmers today are not only food providers but



also energy providers by producing ethanol and solar electricity. From auto rickshaws to cars, vehicles will run on ethanol and India's import will reduce and farmers will prosper.

The minister said that in the last nine years, the Modi government has taken several steps to make progress.

The minister also targeted Congress in the programme. He said that Congress ruled for nearly 60 years and the slogan of eliminating poverty was given, but in place of removing poverty, Congress people got their "poverty" eliminated.

BJP state president CP Joshi, former minister Srichand Kriplani and other leaders also addressed the programme.

Earlier, in another pro-

gramme, Gadkari virtually inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 11 highway projects worth Rs 5,625 crore.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot also addressed the foundation laying and inauguration programme through video conference from his residence in Jaipur.

The chief minister urged the Union Minister to issue a gazette notification soon regarding the declaration of 50 roads in Rajasthan as National Highways.

The development of the area will accelerate with the formation of a national highway, he said, adding that construction work should be started soon on the prepared DPR of Jodhpur elevated road worth Rs 2,000 crore.

Tata Steel's NINL plant reaches 100% capacity utilisation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

NINL, a 1.1-million tonne steel manufacturing unit in Odisha, has reached 100 per cent capacity utilisation within one year of its acquisition by Tata Steel.

On July 4, 2022, the steel major completed the acquisition of Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd (NINL) through subsidiary company Tata Steel Long Products Ltd (TSLPL) for a consideration of Rs 12,000 crore.

After being shut for almost three years, operations at the

NINL unit was started by Tata Steel in October 2023.

"NINL has successfully ramped up production to its rated capacity of 1 million tonnes on an annualised basis within just nine months of its acquisition," Ashish Anupam, MD of Tata Steel Long Products Limited (TSLPL), told PTI in reply to a query on the progress in one year of acquisition.

The acquisition was efficiently implemented even though the NINL plant had been mothballed for nearly three years.



SBI Mutual Fund AUM crosses Rs 8 lakh cr-mark Eyes Rs 10 lakh cr-milestone soon

PNS ■ MUMBAI

SBI Mutual Fund, largest fund house by a wide margin in the 43-player industry, has clocked yet another milestone crossing the Rs 8 lakh crore-mark assets under management, adding Rs 90,000 crore to the asset pile during the first quarter of the fiscal. Given the current run rate in adding AUM (asset under management), the fund house expects to sniff at the Rs 10 lakh crore AUM-mark over the next 12 to 18 months too, a top company official has said.



The 43-player mutual fund industry closed May with total assets of Rs 43.2 lakh crore despite a fall in net inflows into open-ended mutual funds, which almost halved to Rs 59,879.31 crore from Rs 1.24 lakh crore in April, when the industry-wide AUM stood at Rs

41.61 lakh crore.

"We've added Rs 90,000 crore to our March 2023 AUM, when it was Rs 7.10 lakh crore, taking the total assets under our management to over Rs 8 lakh crore. In fact, we crossed the milestone yesterday," DP Singh, deputy managing director and chief business development officer, told PTI on Tuesday.

Singh further said the fund house has set an internal target of crossing the Rs 10 lakh crore-milestone over the next 12-18 months, if the market does not face any serious correction.

Kolkata companies major investors in UK: Nigel

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Britain's International Trade Minister Nigel Huddleston on Tuesday said companies across Kolkata are major investors in the United Kingdom, spurring job creation and fostering a solid partnership between Bengal and the UK.

He also reaffirmed the UK's commitment to bolstering economic growth in the state.

Huddleston, who arrived



here on Monday on a two-day visit to the metropolis, also met former West Bengal finance minister Amit Mitra. "A pleasure to speak with

@DrAmitMitra to reaffirm the UK's commitment to bolstering economic growth in this vibrant state. Also committed participation in the Bengal Global Business Summit, to which we brought the largest international delegation last year," he tweeted on Tuesday.

The UK minister also met Sanjiv Goenka, the chairman and MD of the RPG Sanjiv Goenka Group, and discussed business ties and opportunities.

Kia to launch 3 new models, including 2 EVs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

South Korean automaker Kia plans to launch three new models, including two electric vehicles in India by 2025, expecting 20 per cent of its total sales to come from EVs by 2030.

The company, which on Tuesday unveiled the updated version of its flagship SUV Seltos, has set a target of garnering 10 per cent market share in the India passenger vehicles market in the near future, up from around 7 per cent at present, under its Kia 2.0 strategy in the country.

"We have a long-term focus



on the Indian market. As we already know, the Indian market is a very high potential market, as the number third (largest

automotive market in the world)," Kia India Managing Director and CEO, Tae-Jin Park told PTI in an interview

here.

In order to keep pace with the growth trend in India, he said the company's current model line up is "not enough to maintain our market share".

"So, that is why we are thinking about new products for this market that could be happening in 2025 with some ICE (internal combustion engine) and some EV models which are locally produced," Park said.

When asked for details, he said, "two EV models and one ICE model are coming in 2025".

These are RV (recreational vehicle) models developed by Kia globally, he added.

All these will be locally assembled at Kia India's plant at Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh.

HP Enterprise, VVDN Tech to produce servers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

US-based Hewlett Packard Enterprise has signed an initial pact with VVDN Technologies under which they plan to produce high-end servers worth USD 1 billion in the next 4-5 years, union minister Ashwini Vaishnav said on Tuesday.

The memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed within 10 days of the India-US joint statement on co-production and development of technologies.

"It is a pleasure to share that HP Enterprise has agreed to produce high-end servers in India under the IT Hardware PLI scheme which was recently approved by our prime minister.

"Under the scheme, they have signed the first MoU with VVDN Technologies. They will have production worth USD 1 billion in the next 4-5 years," the union minister for IT and Telecom told PTI.

He said that the production is expected to start from November this year.

The agreement has been signed under the government's production linked incentive (PLI) scheme which has an outlay of Rs 17,000 crore over a period of five years.

Nova Agri, Netweb, EMS get nod to float IPO

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Agri-input manufacturer Nova Agritech, server maker Netweb Technologies India and sewerage solution provider EMS have received capital market regulator Sebi's approval to raise funds through initial public offerings.

The three companies, which filed their preliminary papers with Sebi between March and April 2023, obtained the regulator's observations during June 26-30, an update with the markets watchdog showed on Tuesday.

In Sebi's parlance, obtaining observation means its go-ahead to float the initial share sale.

As per the draft papers, Nova Agritech's initial share sale comprises a fresh issue of equity shares worth up to Rs 140 crore and an offer-for-sale (OFS) component of up to 77,58,620 equity shares of shareholder N u t a l a p a t i Venkatasubbarao.

The proceeds from the fresh issue worth Rs 14.20 crore will be utilised for investment in its subsidiary Nova Agri Sciences for setting up a new formulation



plant, Rs 10.49 crore for funding capital expenditure by Nova Agritech and towards the expansion of its existing formulation plant.

Further, it will also use Rs 26.69 crore for funding of working capital requirement of Nova Agritech, Rs 56.74 crore for investment in Nova Agri Sciences, for funding working capital requirements and general corporate purposes.

Server maker Netweb Technologies India's IPO comprises a fresh issue of equity shares worth Rs 257 crore and an offer for sales of 85 lakh equity shares by promoters.

Under the OFS, those selling shares are Sanjay Lodha, Vivek Lodha, Navin Lodha, Niraj Lodha and Ashoka Bajaj Automobiles Pvt Ltd.

The IPO of EMS comprises a fresh issue of equity shares worth Rs 180 crore and an offer for the sale of 82.94 lakh shares by promoter Ramveer Singh. At present, Singh holds a 97.81 per cent stake in the company.

Proceeds from the fresh issue will be utilised towards funding working capital requirements and other general corporate purposes.

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LTD.
E-PROCUREMENT / OPEN TENDER PAPER NOTIFICATION R22-042023-24
Tenders are invited from eligible contractors for tenders with Specification Nos. 05/2023-24 for Erection of 33/11kV SS with lines along with civil works at Tumkur Village in Rajendranagar Circle & Open tender for OT-05/2023-24 for Providing of House Keeping and Maintenance of Ranga Reddy Zonal office building at KPHB Colony, Hyderabad in Cybercity Circle of CGM/OPRR Zone. For further details regarding detailed notification, specification and digital certificate please visit www.tssouthernpower.com.in. Sd/- Chief General Manager
E.O.No: 3861-PPCL/ADMT/2023-24, Dt: 04/07/2023 Operation, Raaga Reddy Zone, KPHB Colony, Hyd

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LTD.
TENDER NOTICE-07/2023-24 (Paper Notification)
TSSPDCL intends to float tenders and are invited from various contractors having experiences for (1) Loading & Unloading materials at City Stores (2) Extension of supply to EMRI in SK Nagar (3) Extension of Supply to 1 No LT Cat-IX to TSREDCO in Mothnagar (4) Replacement of LT damaged broken poles in Begumpet (5) Replacement of 11kV damaged poles in Greenlands (6) Construction of Room at Banjara Hills Circle office (7) Providing of Air coolers in Banjara Hills Circle. For further details, please visit www.tssouthernpower.com. Sd/- Superintending Engineer,
E.O.No: 3861-PPCL/ADMT/2023-24, Dt: 04/07/2023 Operation, Banjara Hills Circle

Riddhi Dogra chatters about the wilds of love

SHIKHA DUGGAL

We are freer than ever, but Riddhi Dogra's character in the most recent web series, christened *Badtameez Dil*, fills us with old-world charm once again. The actress, who is all set to be seen with Shah Rukh Khan and Salman Khan in their upcoming big films, pronounced her definition of the essence of love she's sharing in the series, less expectations set on her reel partner and more.

"I would love to do romantic dramas one more time. Believe it or not, I have seen my own web show almost four times. Stealing glances every now and then added more to my novelty notion. The structure of the series may be stereotypical, but at the same time, it's messy and chaotic in its own way. Showcasing how love is much more than putting up love-struck captions for each other on your social media. Personally, I've been there and done that: love cannot be perfect ever. Even to me, occasionally, love alone doesn't make sense. So, very happily, I binge-watched my own show," she chuckled.

We all deserve people who are willing to make an effort to work things out. Don't we? But Riddhi, on an individual level, is not so indoctrinated about falling in love because: "There is no need to search for love; it cannot be found—it happens! And, when you separate yourself from an extra special relationship, your perspectives tend to change towards maintaining that love we are talking about. More than the platitudinous phrase "opposites attract", to me, it's all about a karmic connection. True love looks and feels a little different from the warm feelings we usually associate with falling in love."

Yes, there are people looking for a genuine relationship in this hook-up culture! Commenting on the dating concepts that we have at hand, the actress expressed, "Situationships are happening a lot these days; at least that's what I hear and am reading about."

Clearly, she's not living under a rock. She continued, "Among Gen-Z, situationship as a dating trend has grown exponentially, establishing this as a valid relationship status. We are trying to address this in our show! The blend of modern-day dating concepts with age-old love is our way of showing the nuanced combo. I don't like to give up on my partner or love either! Moreover, love cannot be fashionable. As I am growing older, the picture is getting wider for me, and it's now that I understand why we jump from one person to another. It's all about that one special person!"

Reconciling with Ekta Kapoor, the actress communicates a broad hint about the former as a cool showrunner in the industry. "I don't have a long association with her, unlike a few of my closest friends. Most of my contemporaries have done television with her on a large scale; I didn't have the opportunity to yet. Her conceptualisation is very creative. I found her to be one of the most gutsy women in our industry! She should be celebrated a lot more than she has. She's not celebrated enough for her metesome nature; what's the reason? The problem lies in the way the media perceives her; there's a lot more noise about the men out there! We are always labelled with tags! I remember having a discussion with her when she was irritated with the feeling that users comment on what she wears because, ultimately, she's a producer. She works like a soldier," said the actress.

Badtameez Dil was shot at various enamoring locations such as Belgrade, Serbia, and Vladimir — the cinematography needs to be mentioned, and the actress did. Riddhi told in conclusion, "Overall, I was in love with Europe. The history that Belgrade has

Actress Riddhi Dogra has brought back the old charm yet again with her recent series *Badtameez Dil*. The actress, who will soon be seen with two of the biggest Khans of the industry, shares her definition of the essence of love, situationship culture, and more.

preserved is what I am infatuated with the most. When we were there, the locals told us about the attacks that the city has endured and how they have conserved it. They didn't want to forget what was done to them; unfortunately, it was adding a lot of character to our cinematography too. Every day, after pack-up, all of us were hanging out in different corners of Europe. Regardless of how early my call time was!"



'Lesser explored genres have gained newfound acceptance among audiences'

SHIKHA DUGGAL

A storyteller, actor, and filmmaker with more than a hundred stories and successful streaming releases in his kitty, Sudhanshu Rai is known for touching upon subjects as well as genres that have rarely been experimented with, especially on our screens.

In an illuminating discourse with him, the man behind the magic begins, "The storyline is the heart of any film, which keeps the audience engrossed and helps to weave a magical tale to leave an indelible mark. In a film, the star cast is as important as the story because they bring to life the distinct characters conceived by the writer. I believe the right casting is crucial, as when it syncs with the story, the characters connect with the audience, creating a timeless tale. Thus, packaging a film in such a way that it resonates with the audience and also uses the best talent is sacrosanct in my filmmaking. For me as a filmmaker, every aspect of it is equally important.

Various departments come together and contribute towards the same vision to produce a film that is to the best of their capabilities, and such films most possibly strike the right chord with the audience."

Following the conclusion of the first season of his storytelling show on a leading radio channel, he came up with his first production, *Chaihatti*, which garnered rave reviews and positive feedback across OTT platforms.

So he continued, "Bollywood has always been about the box office, which has conventionally relied on run-of-the-mill concepts and storytelling formats. Gradually, with time, first with the advent of multiplexes and eventually through OTT, the audience's preference has evolved drastically, craving out-of-the-box storylines and ideas. The way a story was told until a few years ago is not the same anymore. Non-linear narratives and lesser explored genres such as sci-fi, detective thrillers, and horror comedies have gained newfound acceptance among audiences from all age groups, and this is encouraging enough for our generation of filmmakers to indulge in experimentation to offer something fresh." Thereafter, he directed and played the titular role in *Detective Boomrah*, a web series based on the iconic fictional character created by Sudhanshu himself a few years ago. After the success of these and his last outing as an actor and a writer, *Chintaa Mani*, Sudhanshu Rai is now set to play the protagonist in an upcoming psychological thriller Bollywood film.

"But I have been a storyteller even before becoming an actor and a filmmaker, and I have had the opportunity to engage with audiences through various mediums, especially live storytelling shows. One of my learnings as a storyteller, which is again fundamental to my work as a filmmaker, is that listeners and audiences, irrespective of their generation, strata, or age, have of late expressed great affinity for such genres. For example, at a recent storytelling show, the audience comprised kids, teenagers, adults, and senior citizens. As I proceeded with stories of choice, there was unequivocal demand for horror and supernatural stories, and this manifests the evolved preference of the audience. There is no reason why filmmakers should not cater to this growing demand, and it is wonderful that such concepts are being experimented with by the biggest of banners. With time and technology in terms of VFX getting better, we can only expect so much more."

When he took up formal storytelling over five years ago, he introduced the audience to stories and characters that were much beyond the realms of reality. While some presumed it to be ahead of time, the response from listeners

was quite contrary to that. Today, he has more than 200 stories to his credit, of which the most popular ones are sci-fi, mystery, detective, horror, and thriller stories. His first production, too, was a horror comedy, followed by a sci-fi thriller and a mix of multiple sub-genres, all of which were loved by the audience for their concepts. Both as a storyteller and a filmmaker, he always intends to bring something unseen to the audience.

To boot, "Our upcoming Bollywood thriller is the first where the premise of science fiction is set in the heartland of India. And it is not just in terms of visuals but also in terms of its culture and language. Bhojpuri has been included as a prominent element in our Bollywood sci-fi thriller. While I play the protagonist of the story, the audience would see actors like Hiten Tejwani, Sourabh Raaj Jain, Manisha Sharma, Shobhit Sujay, Deepak Wadhwa, and Siddharth Banerjee, among others, in never-before-seen and even some larger-than-life avatars."

As a writer, he loved the thrill of keeping the audience wondering what would be revealed next. A detective story is just the perfect format for that. *Detective Boomrah*, a character conceived by him in his early storytelling days, is currently among the most popular detective characters in contemporary fiction. There was a frenzy when we unveiled the look of Detective Boomrah a few years ago, and it was amplified with the release of a



Actor-filmmaker Sudhanshu Rai is known for working on rarely explored genres. In a quick chat with *The Pioneer*, he discusses the importance of various aspects of filmmaking, non-linear narratives gaining prominence, and more.

web series marking the character's on-screen debut. Most recently, his five-part story series *The Silver Man*, featuring the detective, has been liked by the audience, even as his most popular stories, such as *The Killer*, *The End of The World*, *The Missing Mr. Kwatrochi*, etc., have all featured Boomrah. As for the second season of the web series *Detective Boomrah*, all he can assure you at this point is that it is set to get much bigger.

"The foremost challenge as a writer and a filmmaker is always the execution, from the vision to the screen. Moreover, when you shoot at a remote location, there are a number of additional challenges as well. We shot most of our upcoming film in a village near Gorakhpur, and it did not come without its share of initial teething issues. However, passionate zeal and undeterred teamwork left no scope for laxity. Sets designed by local artisans also allowed us to be more authentic, and the schedule got completed without any delay."

Telling us in particular about live storytelling that he's connected with, he sheds light: "Live storytelling is for everyone who adores stories or seeks wholesome entertainment. Much like a concert or theatre-like experience, a storyteller takes the audience through diverse worlds of unhindered imagination within a span of 1-2 hours. Replete with orchestrated sound effects, ambient lighting, and voice modulation, when the storyteller narrates a situation, each member of the audience creates distinct imagery for the same in their mind. For example, if I describe a dense forest, different people would imagine different kinds of trees and locales. While it enhances the imagination of the audience drastically, it gives them a thrill that they cannot expect in any other form of entertainment. The audience hangs on to every word and lives through the story. Storytelling is now a buzz even in corporate circles as one of the most effective employee engagement activities, but it needs to be explored formally with a methodical approach to be accepted more widely as a viable form of complete entertainment."

A multifaceted personality, Rai is also a serial entrepreneur, yoga practitioner, and spiritual enthusiast who enjoys the company of enlightened saints and leaders. Instead of successful professionals, he draws his inspiration from the common masses, who, according to him, are happy, lively, and spirited inside and out.

Understanding the purpose of psychological therapy

Psychological therapy is a collaborative process between a trained therapist and an individual seeking support. It provides a safe and non-judgmental space to explore emotions, thoughts, and experiences. Therapy is not solely reserved for those facing severe mental health challenges; it is for anyone who wants to improve their overall well-being and gain tools to navigate life's complexities. In our fast-paced and demanding world, stress has become an inseparable part of our lives. The pressures of work, relationships, and societal expectations can take a toll on our mental well-being. As stress levels continue to rise, the need for psychological therapy becomes more evident. In this article, we explore the significance of psychological therapy as a crucial tool for managing stress and promoting overall mental health.

'Therapy is for everyone. It doesn't discriminate; it empowers.'

Breaking the Stigma: Unfortunately, societal stigma surrounding therapy still exists. This stigma can make individuals question their own sanity when advised to seek therapy. However, it's crucial to challenge this notion and realise that seeking therapy is a courageous step towards self-care and personal growth. It signifies a willingness to confront challenges and

develop healthy coping mechanisms.

'Therapy is an act of courage, strength, and self-love. It's a commitment to yourself and your well-being.'
Dispelling Misconceptions: Therapy is not limited to addressing mental illness. It is a multifaceted tool that assists individuals in various aspects of life. Therapy can help improve relationships, manage stress, navigate life transitions, enhance self-awareness, and develop coping skills. It offers support in exploring emotions, building resilience, and creating a more fulfilling life.

'Therapy is a journey of self-discovery, healing, and personal growth. Embrace it with an open heart and mind.'

Understanding the Impact of Stress: Stress has become a prevalent issue in modern lifestyles, affecting individuals of all ages and backgrounds. Chronic stress can lead to various mental health challenges such as anxiety, depression, burnout, and decreased overall well-being. It is essential to recognize the negative impact of stress on our lives and take proactive measures to address it.

'When stress weighs you down, therapy lifts you up, providing support and guidance.'

The Role of Psychological Therapy: Psychological therapy offers a valuable framework for understanding and managing stress. It provides a safe and confidential space to explore the underlying causes of stress, identify coping mechanisms, and develop effective strategies for self-care. Therapy equips individuals with the tools needed to navigate the challenges of modern life and build resilience in the face of adversity.

'Therapy guides us how to deal with stress, helping us find our inner strength and peace.'

Embracing Self-Care: Seeking therapy is an act of self-care, demonstrating that you prioritize your mental and emotional well-being. It provides an opportunity to gain insights, challenge negative pat-

terns, and develop healthier ways of thinking and behaving. Therapy equips you with tools to manage life's challenges and empowers you to create a balanced life.

Psychological therapy emphasises the importance of self-care and prioritising our mental well-being. It encourages individuals to engage in activities that promote relaxation, self-reflection, and nurturing our emotional health. Therapy guides us in finding balance, setting realistic goals, and fostering a positive mindset. It reminds us that investing in our mental health is essential for leading fulfilling and meaningful lives.

'Therapy is an act of self-care & self-compassion. It's taking care of your mental and emotional well-

being. Therapy teaches us that self-care is not selfish but necessary for our overall well-being. It's an act of self-love and self-preservation.'

Developing Coping Strategies: One of the key benefits of psychological therapy is the opportunity to develop personalized coping strategies. A therapist can assist individuals in identifying and utilizing healthy coping mechanisms tailored to their unique needs. These strategies may include mindfulness practices, stress reduction techniques, setting boundaries, and enhancing self-care routines. Therapy empowers individuals to proactively manage stress and cultivate a healthier mindset.

'Therapy helps us discover our own resilience, enabling us to rise above the challenges and find balance in a stressful world.'

Therapy: A path to healing, growth, and embracing the beauty of being human. A guiding light of hope, to a fresh start illuminating the path to a healthier, happier, and more fulfilling life. As stress continues to permeate our modern lifestyles, the need for psychological therapy becomes increasingly evident. Therapy provides a lifeline of support, offering guidance, coping strategies, and a safe space to navigate

the challenges we face. It empowers individuals to prioritize their mental health, develop resilience, and lead more balanced lives. Let us embrace the transformative power of therapy, taking proactive steps towards managing stress and nurturing our mental well-being.

Dr. Mazher Khan, Founder & Consultant Psychologist - True Mind Wellness Psychological Counselling Center says, "Mental health is not a mark of madness or insanity; it is the vibrant spectrum of our emotions and thoughts. It is about recognizing the complexities of the human mind, embracing empathy, and fostering a compassionate society that supports the journey towards mental healing and well-being."

Seeking psychological therapy is a brave and empowering choice, regardless of one's mental health status. It is an investment in personal growth, resilience, and overall well-being. Let us challenge the stigma and embrace therapy as a valuable resource on our journey to healing, self-discovery, and a more fulfilling life.

(The author, Meenal Luther Nühr, is the Founder Director of Mettle Rings, catalyst transformational shift, impact assessment analyst, agile skills coach, and psychologist.)



what's brewing?



Hamstech College of Creative Education organised the InteriYour 2023 - Space Stories, an interior design exhibition and aale, at the N Convention, Madhapur, Hyderabad



PARTY



Ciro Pizzeria announced the launch of its newest location in the vibrant city of Hyderabad. Located in the heart of the city, at Banjara Hills, they aim to become the go-to destination for pizza lovers, connoisseurs of Italian cuisine, and anyone seeking an extraordinary culinary adventure.



Novotel Hyderabad Convention Centre (Novotel Hyderabad) hosted a grand felicitation ceremony to honour Siddhant Murali Kumar, who recently won a bronze medal for India at the Special Olympics World Games held in Berlin, Germany.

Order food and groceries from Pincode App now

Pincode, a local shopping app developed on the ONDC platform, announced that it has now gone live in Hyderabad. Consumers in Hyderabad will now be able to purchase groceries and order food from all their favorite local shops and restaurants on Pincode. With the presence of renowned local

brands like Paradise Biryani, Behrouz Biryani, Rayalaseema Ruchulu, and Pizza Hut among others, Pincode offers consumers the opportunity to browse and order directly from their favorite local stores and restaurants, at the right price and with a wider selection of products.

Wonderla introduces exciting Wednesday offer

Wonderla Holidays Ltd., announced a special offer that is sure to bring smiles and thrills to all adventure seekers. Wednesdays have become even more fun with an incredible deal where visitors can save 25% on their park entry tickets. This offer is available on the first 1000 tickets per park every Wednesday, so be sure to book your tickets early. Wonderla encourages visitors to book their entry tickets in advance through their online portal <https://bookings.wonderla.com/>. For further information visit <https://www.wonderla.com/offers/save-25-on-wednesdays-at-wonderla-parks.html> or call on: Bengaluru: +91 80372 30333, +91 80350 73966, Hyderabad: 0841 4676333, +91 91000 63636, Kochi: 0484-3514001, 75938753107

Samsung launches digital service centre

Samsung has launched its Digital Service Center, a comprehensive platform that will provide consumers a personalized customer service experience related to their products. Consumers can access the Digital Service Center by going to the support menu on <https://www.samsung.com/in> or directly logging on to www.samsungdigitalservicecenter.com. The Digital Service Center provides personalized support basis the needs of consumers once they log in to their Samsung account. This includes a simplified user navigation journey, quick access to category-wise self-help content, category-specific DIY videos, mobile app experience, and model-specific repair and spare part prices at one page.

Insurtech company launches Pentation OnePlatform for BFSI companies

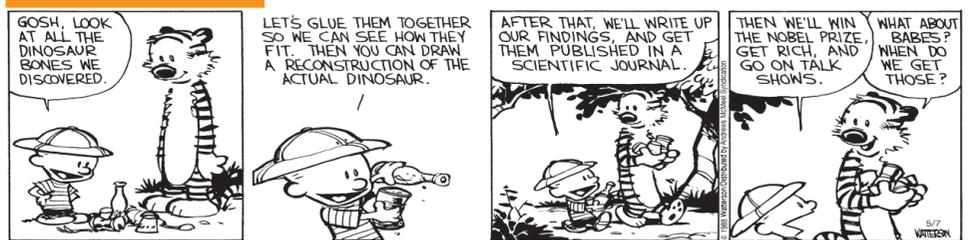
Pentation Analytics, a leading B2B Platform Analytics and AI/ML company that provides services to the BFSI industry, has launched one-of-its-kind- Pentation OnePlatform for helping financial companies to improve efficiency and achieve profitable growth. Chief Guest at the inaugural event Mrs Deena Mehta, former president of BSE Ltd and Managing Director at Asit C Mehta Financial Services Ltd said "In an era defined by rapid technological advancements, the financial sector finds itself at a crucial juncture. Traditional methods of operation are being challenged, and organizations must adapt or risk falling behind. Recognizing this need for transformation, Pentation Analytics has developed a game-changing solution tailored specifically for the BFSI industry in India"

FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



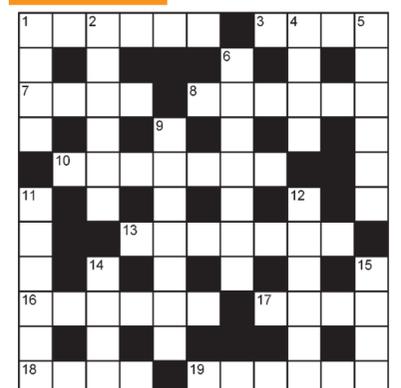
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



NANCY



SUDOKU



GINGER MEGGS



ACROSS

- Meat from a sheep
- Talk in a friendly way
- A sewed joint
- Wound someone
- Envious
- A green gemstone
- Cunning
- Moist
- Border
- Jail
- A region's weather conditions
- Save from danger
- Forever
- A long sharp animal tooth
- Twirl around

DOWN

- A face disguise
- Go on a journey
- Drag along
- Three times four
- Ask



Sri Simha is extremely street smart in *Bhaag Saale*: Producer Arjun Dasyan

PNS | HYDERABAD

M M Keeravani's son Sri Simha made an impressive debut with *Mathu Vadalaru*. He is now on a mission to entertain the Telugu audience with unique content. The actor is back with another entertainer, *Bhaag Saale*, releasing on July 7. Directed by Praniith Brahmampally, this movie features Neha Solanki as the female lead.

As the release date is nearing, the makers are busy with promotions and on Tuesday the producer of the movie, Arjun Dasyan, interacted with media about the film. He said "When I first heard the story, I was both excited and terrified because I had doubts that our director could really manage the film.

He delivered ten times more than I expected after watching the first copy."

Talking about Sri Simha's character he said, "Sri Simha wanted to do a film in this genre and he was so excited. His character is extremely street smart, and his visualisation is wonderful. He deceives himself about his own reality."

He added, "We got the blessings from MM Keeravani garu but he didn't suggest anything and they will watching with audience on July 7. Kaala Bhairava took the film to the next level with his musical score. Our whole team was impressed by his work in *Karthikeya 2*." Rajeev Kanakala, John Vijay, Varshini Sounderajan, Nandini Rai and Viva Harsha played other important roles in it. *Bhaag Saale* is produced by Arjun Dasyan in association with Yash Rangineni and Singanamala Kalyan.



Varun Tej's #VT13 wraps up its action schedule

The team #VT13 starring Mega Prince was shooting an intense action sequence in Annapurna 7 Acres for the last few days. Meanwhile, the ongoing third shooting schedule has been completed. The works related to the movie indeed are progressing at a fast pace. The poster revealed by the makers presents Varun Tej as an IAF officer standing in front of a combat aircraft.

This action drama in the significant collaboration of leading production house Sony Pictures International Productions with Renaissance Pictures will have its title announcement soon. The makers are planning to release this highly-anticipated movie in December.

Former Miss Universe Manushi Chhillar, the leading lady in the movie will be seen portraying the role of a radar officer. The shoot of this highly anticipated flick is charging ahead at lightning speed in Annapurna 7 Acres in Hyderabad. A Major breathtaking action sequence is being filmed currently on an unprecedented scale. The makers have unveiled a few stills where Varun Tej looks dashing.

The movie is produced on a large scale by Sony Pictures International Productions and Sandeep Mudda from Renaissance Pictures and co-produced by Nandakumar Abbini



'People need to be open-minded enough to take an actor'

Aditi Rao Hydari is known for her versatile performances, and recently she made her presence felt in the webseries *Taj-Divided by Blood*. Aditi Rao Hydari has been rumored to be in a relationship with actor Siddharth, as they've been seen together for a quite a while.

In a recent interview, when scribes asked about her relationship, Aditi Rao said, "Anything that is in my personal life, whether family, friends, or whoever, is very sacrosanct to me. It's not meant for general consumption. I think there's a time and place to talk about things, and I prefer to keep it that way. I'm not being diplomatic or polite, but I truly believe that."

When asked about how she feels when people write about her relationship, she said "People do what they want to do and what they think is important to them. And I do what I think is important to me - which is to do my work and protect my people and keep them away from any kind of curiosity. That's how the world is and it's fine. People are generally curious, and that keeps them occupied and it's ok."

Aditi also spoke about breaking stereotypes. She said, "As artists, we have the hunger to do different kinds of characters, genres and push ourselves to be challenged. Perception is in other people's heads. They need to be open-minded enough to take an actor, throw them in the deep end, and mold them—that's what great directors do. The stereotyping of actors doesn't happen in every film industry. I don't want to ever explain or apologize for the way I look; I am very proud of it and I see it as my strength."



PMJ Jewels launch Sitara collection, enchantingly adorned by Mahesh Babu's daughter Sitara

PMJ Jewels, impressively made a dramatic entrance onto the international stage with the launch of their much awaited signature collection, Sitara. The big launch took place on Tuesday, celebrating the United State's Independence Day in a special way. PMJ Jewels proudly announced the daughter of Mahesh Babu, Sitara, a renowned figure in the entertainment industry, as the face of their unique jewellery line. The Sitara collection was launched in New York at The Times Square on July 4 and in India it will

be launched on July 6 in Telangana, Hyderabad, followed by an event on July 13th in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, along with the biggest wedding jewellery exhibition.

This elegant collection, created with timeless designs and delicate craftsmanship, has been hand-picked from over 10,000 spectacular designs by star Sitara and renowned in-house designers of PMJ.

With the launch of Sitara, PMJ Jewels has embarked on an exciting journey, marking their foray into the global market. By presenting a fusion of timeless designs and delicate craftsmanship, the brand aims to create jewellery that will hold a special place in the hearts of families today and their future generations.

With a deep-rooted commitment to creating jewellery that holds sentimental value for generations, PMJ Jewels has crafted Sitara to evoke emotions that will resonate within families for centuries to come. Each piece in this elegant collection reflects the brand's unwavering dedication to artistry, attention to detail, and the enduring beauty of fine jewellery.

Making the world a part of their big collection launch at Times Square New York, PMJ Jewels had gone live on their social media handles at 9.30 a.m. IST on Thursday where they received immense love from the netizens.



'Every character has a priority in *Iddaru*'

Arjun Sarja, Radhika Kumaraswamy, JD Chakraborty, and Faisal Khan are the key actors in the movie *Iddaru*. It is being produced by Farheen Fatima under the banner of FS

Entertainments and presented by DS Reddy. SS Sameer is the director. The pre-release event of this film, which will be released on the 7th of this month, was held in Hyderabad. Musheerabad MLA Mutha Gopal graced the event as the chief guest and wished the film a great success.

Prasanna Kumar said, "Arjun is a good actor. He got a lot of recognition for his distinctive character. Cinema is the passion of JD Chakraborty. This film starring both of them should be a hit. Sameer is a hard worker. It is clear from the trailer that this film has been made brilliantly. Soon he is going to make a film in Bollywood as well. The industry will be good only if we play small films."

Director S.S. Sameer said, "This film connects well with the present generation. Arjun, J.D. Chakraborty has accepted this story. This is an action-packed and entertaining movie. The producer's contribution is unforgettable." Meanwhile, the producer said, "We finished the film after a lot of difficulty. Who the hero and villain in the movie can't be guessed till the end. Each character has priority. The climax is the highlight of the movie. We are releasing this film on the 7th of this month. We hope it will be a hit with good talk."



Lakshmi Manchu had a 'transformative experience' after visiting Golden Temple & Wagah border



Lakshmi Manchu recently visited the Golden Temple and the iconic Wagah Border. The visit not only fulfilled her long-standing desire but also left a lasting impact on her perspective and ignited a heightened sense of patriotism within her. Prior to her daughter's birthday, Lakshmi set a powerful intention to make the visit to the Golden Temple a meaningful pre-birthday celebration. Known for her deep appreciation of spiritual places, she eagerly sought to soak in the profound energies and tranquillity that the Golden Temple exudes.

During her visit, Lakshmi Manchu was moved by the serene atmosphere and the spiritual significance of the Golden Temple. The sacredness of the place touched her heart, leaving a profound impact on her soul. She spent time in prayer, connecting with the divine, and seeking blessings for her family and loved ones. Following that, Lakshmi embarked on a soul-stirring journey to the legendary Wagah Border. The experience at Wagah

Border, witnessing the patriotic fervour and the mesmerizing change of guard ceremony, filled her with immense pride and admiration for the brave soldiers guarding our borders. The unity of over 2000 people cheering for the same song, resonating with a shared sense of love for the country, evoked a sense of unity and patriotism in her heart. Witnessing the soldiers at the border and reflecting upon their sacrifices left a lasting impression on her. Lakshmi shared, "Visiting the Golden Temple and experiencing the Wagah Border was a profound and humbling journey for me. The serenity of the Golden Temple and the patriotic fervour at Wagah Border left an everlasting impact on my soul. It made me reflect on the sacrifices made by our brave soldiers and ignited a deep sense of admiration and respect within me. I am inspired to take on roles that depict the valour and dedication of these unsung heroes. Their selfless service to the nation deserves to be recognized and celebrated. It was truly a transformative experience that has left me with a renewed sense of gratitude and a desire to contribute in any way I can."

Pawan Kalyan makes a grand entry on Instagram

Power Star Pawan Kalyan chief of Jana Sena delighted all his fans by making his debut on social media entering Instagram. Pawan Kalyan opened his Instagram and within minutes, his account was verified, he got more than one lakh followers.

His followers are increasing with each passing second and Pawan Kalyan is creating a storm on Instagram. Pawan Kalyan's Insta debut was confirmed earlier by his brother Naga Babu.

Pawan Kalyan will be keeping in touch with his fans and followers through Instagram from now on, sharing his views on various topics.

Currently, Pawan Kalyan is busy with films like *OG*, *Ustaad Bhagat Singh*, *Hari Hara Veera Mallu*, and *BRO*.

Pawan Kalyan is currently on a mission to strengthen his party Jana Sena ahead of the upcoming elections in Andhra Pradesh. He started his Varahi yatra covering the two districts of the Godavari region and will soon resume the second phase of his yatra.



Shruti Haasan gets nostalgic as she shoots at St. Andrews

Actress and musician Shruti Haasan return to St. Andrews Auditorium for a shoot, marking a special moment in her career as she fondly recalls performing at the same venue many years ago.

Shruti was just 17 years old when she first stepped onto the stage at St. Andrew's Auditorium to showcase her incredible talent and woo the audience with her captivating performance

Over the years, Shruti has achieved global recognition for her music and performances.

As she returns to St. Andrew's Auditorium, Shruti feels a sense of nostalgia and excitement all at once.

She took to her Instagram account to share the news with her fans, saying,

"Life really does move in circles. Today I'm shooting at the St. Andrews in Mumbai but many years ago this was one of the earliest places I was performing and singing ... 17 years old with stars in my eyes and hope in my heart, still all in black nothing has changed and everything has changed. Life is beautiful .. never ignore your little dreams because one day those dreams become your everyday."

Shruti's fans have taken to social media to express their excitement and shower her with love and support. The auditorium holds a sentimental value for Shruti, not only because it marked the beginning of her journey but also because it served as a reminder of the dreams she dared to pursue.



SCOTLAND INCH CLOSER TO WORLD CUP QUALIFICATION

PTI ■ BULAWAYO

Scotland ended hosts Zimbabwe's dreams of qualifying for the ODI World Cup as they won a crucial Super Six encounter by 31 runs to inch closer towards the tournament proper in India starting October 5. Put in to bat, Scotland managed a modest 234 for 8 in 50 overs with none of the batters getting to a half-century. It was all-rounder Michael Leask's brisk 48 off 34 balls with three fours and two sixes that gave the total some semblance of respectability.

In reply, Zimbabwe lost four of their top order batters for only 37 runs inside the first Powerplay with medium pacer Chris Sole taking three wickets in his opening spell.

The home team was all-out for 203 in 41.1 overs despite a fighting 83 off 84 balls by Ryan Burl and his 54-run fifth wicket stand with Sikandar Raza (34) and another 73 with Wesley Madhevere (40).

All Zimbabwe needed from their last two games was one win but a heavy defeat against Sri Lanka followed by another



against Scotland have reduced their net run-rate to -0.099. With six points after four games, Scotland are on a healthy NRR of +0.296.

This is second edition in a row that Zimbabwe have failed to reach the main tournament

having last played the 50-over World Cup back in 2015.

"It's a very difficult pill to swallow. Throughout the tournament, we played some extremely good cricket. It's always nice to put those demons from 2018 behind us and had

we gotten over the line today, nobody would have been asking about that but unfortunately, we didn't," skipper Craig Ervine said after the match.

Sri Lanka have already qualified with eight points and all Scotland need to do is to beat

the Netherlands on Thursday in their final Super Six game and grab one of the first two spots.

The Netherlands (-0.042) are currently on four points from four games and need to win by at least 32 or more runs to cross Scotland's net run-rate if they are to have any chance of qualifying for the main tournament.

On the day, Zimbabwe just blew it away with their own hands after a good bowling performance, courtesy all-rounder Sean Williams' (3/41) left-arm spin. He got able support from Raza, who went wicketless but gave only 34 runs in his 10 overs.

When Zimbabwe batted, Sole bowled a very quick opening spell and picked up three wickets with his first four overs to give the Scots the decisive upper-hand. He got young Joylord Gumbie (0) with a fast delivery pitched back of length and it climbed to take an edge on to keeper Matt Cross' gloves.

He then bowled a fine nip backer to castle seasoned Craig Ervine (2) and another yorker got rid of veteran Sean Williams (12).

Pak to tour Eng next year

PTI ■ KARACHI

Pakistan will tour England next year to play a four-match T20 series in preparation for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 in the United States and the West Indies. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said on Tuesday that besides the men's squad, the national women's team will also tour England in May next year for three T20Is and three ICC Women's Championship 2022-25 fixtures.

Pakistan will also play three T20 internationals in the Netherlands and a similar series against Ireland before reaching England. Pakistan were beaten by England in the final of the last T20 World Cup while Pakistan also made the semi-finals of the 2021 World Cup where they lost to Australia. The matches against England will be played at Leeds (May 22), Birmingham (May 25), Cardiff (May 28) and The Oval in London (May 30).

England is ranked second on the ICC T20I team rankings, while Pakistan is ranked fourth.

The women's team tour will commence with the first T20I in Birmingham on May 11 with the remaining two matches in Northampton (May 17) and Leeds (May 19). Derby, Taunton and Chelmsford will stage the three ODIs on May 23, 26 and 29 respectively.

Harmanpreet, Mandhana drop a place each in ODI batting chart

PTI ■ DUBAI

Indian women's team captain Harmanpreet Kaur and her deputy Smriti Mandhana dropped a place each to sixth and seventh respectively in the latest ICC rankings for batters in ODIs released here on Tuesday.

Swashbuckling batter Harmanpreet has 716 rating points while Mandhana has 714. Sri Lanka captain Chamari Athapaththu topped the chart with 758 points, the first player from the island nation to achieve the feat. In bowling, left-arm spinner Rajeshwari Gayakwad (617 rating points) and senior off-spinning all-rounder Deepti Sharma are placed eighth and tenth respectively in the list headed by England's Sophie Ecclestone, who has accumulated 751 points.

As far as the all-rounders are concerned, India's Deepti is placed sixth with 322 points.

In T20Is, Mandhana is static on third place with 722 points, while Deepti moved a place up to fourth in bowling with 729 points, leaving Renuka Singh on ninth place with exactly 700 points. Deepti, however, continued to hold on to the third place in the all-rounder's list with 393 points. Meanwhile, Athapaththu has



become the first player from her country to top the women's ODI player rankings after starring in a 2-1 series win over New Zealand in the ICC Women's Championship. The left-handed opener thus emulated Sanath Jayasuriya, who is the only Sri Lanka player to top the ODI batting rankings for men, for 181 days between September 2002 and May 2003.

Athapaththu's two centuries in three matches have lifted her six places, overtaking the likes of Harmanpreet, Meg Lanning and Laura Wolvaardt and displacing Australia's Beth Mooney, who was at the top of the batting charts since May 10. Athapaththu won player of the match awards for her 108 not out off 83 balls in the first match and 140 not out off 80 in the final match. She was also named player of the series, making a rapid rise from seventh position, her previous career-best ranking.

Injured Ollie ruled out of Ashes

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ollie Pope has been ruled out of the Ashes 2023 due to a shoulder injury he picked up during the second Ashes Test at Lord's. Pope, who has had a history of shoulder injuries, has suffered two dislocations in the past. The batter will undergo surgery and will miss the final three Tests of the series before starting rehab under the guidance of England and Surrey medical teams.

Pope exaggerated his injury on Day 3 after he was forced to take the field by the umpires. England spin bowling coach Jeetan Patel was upset with the call and said that England



would have had to field with 10 players had Pope not filled in, praising the batter for his dedication.

"It's a pretty tough situation when you nearly bust your

shoulder and you're told it was an external [injury]," Patel said. "It was always going to happen. He's so committed to this team. He was always going to fall on something. And now he's back

off."

No Replacement For Ollie Pope, Confirms ECB

Meanwhile, the ECB has confirmed that the team will not name Pope's replacement. "He will work closely with the England and Surrey medical teams in respect of his rehabilitation," the ECB said. "England will not call up a replacement for the third Ashes Test, which starts at Headingley on Thursday."

Reserve batter Dan Lawrence is most likely to replace Pope in the team. Another option could be to introduce Moeen Ali back into the team or even Harry Brook can be considered to fill up the vacant slot.

Mukesh Kumar reveals life changing advice from MS Dhoni

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ruturaj Gaikwad, Yashasvi Jaiswal, and Mukesh Kumar have earned maiden Test call-ups after BCCI announced the squad for India's upcoming tour of West Indies, starting from July 12 in Dominica.

In the squad announced by the Men's Selection Committee for the upcoming two-match Test series which also marks the beginning of India's 2023-25 World Test Championship cycle, there are no places for Cheteshwar Pujara, Umesh Yadav, and Mohammed Shami, with call-ups given to Gaikwad and Jaiswal seen as potential start of transition in the Indian Test line-up.

For the three-match ODI series which follows the Test series, Ruturaj and Mukesh will



also be a part of the squad, with Sanju Samson joining in as the second wicketkeeper-batter option. India are also scheduled to play five T20Is and the squad for the same will be announced later.

Mukesh impressed everyone with his bowling in domestic cricket and the recently concluded edition of the Indian Premier League. He grabbed 7 wickets in 10 matches while playing for Delhi Capitals. The pacer revealed the advice he received from MS

Dhoni in IPL 2023.

Mukesh Kumar Reveals Advice From MS Dhoni

"I always wanted to meet Dhoni bhैया and ask him a couple of things. This happened because of the IPL. I met him and the first thing I asked him — 'What exactly do you tell your bowlers as a captain and wicketkeeper?' said Mukesh in a conversation with Times of India. "He put his hands around my shoulders and said, 'I tell this to every bowler that till the time you won't try, you won't learn.' He said - 'You need to do exactly what you want to do. If you won't, you will not learn.' He said to forget the outcome, and just go and try. He explained this thing really well to me," he added.

JONNY BAIRSTOW: MOST CONTROVERSIAL DISMISSAL IN THE HISTORY OF ASHES

Mark Taylor's brutal reply on Bairstow's dismissal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

England star Jonny Bairstow's dismissal is one of the most controversial incidents in the history of the Ashes. During the final day of the second match of the Ashes 2023, Bairstow was ducked under a bouncer from Cameron Green when he started walking out of his crease.

Every expert, former cricketer, and even fan has their own opinion on the incident, and the internet is flooded with different points of view. Even prime ministers of both countries got involved in the matter; UK PM Rishi Sunak backed Ben Stokes, whereas the Australian PM appreciated the move.

Ex-Australian skipper Mark Taylor expressed his views and reiterated that a batter's duty is to remain behind the crease. He further appreciated the dismissal and called it legit.

"The batsmen have to remember there are 10 ways to get out in Test cricket. One of



them is by being stumped, and it doesn't say in the laws it has to be off a slow bowler. If you're going to wander out of your crease doing whatever you want to do, be mindful that you can be stumped. So your job as a batsman is to get back in your crease until the ball is dead," wrote Taylor in his column for Sydney Morning Herald.

"I've got no issue at all with what Pat Cummins and the Australian team did during the last day of the Lord's Test when they stumped Jonny Bairstow. It's a legitimate form

of dismissal and has been as long as I've known the game of cricket. I've seen many wicketkeepers throwing the ball towards the stumps to try and claim an unsuspecting batsman's wicket," he added.

Long Room Controversy

The second Test had fair share of controversies as well and during the final day play a bizarre incident took place at the iconic Lord's when a few MCC members abused two Australia players. Few MCC members

abused the players when the team was on the way back to the dressing room after the first session of the final day. After Australia requested MCC to investigate the matter, MCC issued an apologetic statement to the Australian team where they revealed that the three members are suspended till further investigation and that they will not enter the venue till the end of the inquiry.

Talking about the incident Taylor expressed his disappointment on the controversy. He further appreciated MCC

for suspending all three accused till further investigation.

"I'm disappointed with the way the Australian players were treated after completing this entirely legitimate dismissal, particularly in the Long Room (at Lord's). I will congratulate Guy Lavender, CEO of the MCC, for getting onto it reasonably quickly, calming down the MCC members and suspending three of them. However, I think that's the minimum amount they need to do at this stage."

UK PM backs Stokes says don't want to win in the manner Australia did



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Australia beat England in the second Ashes Test at Lord's by 43 runs on Sunday to take a 2-0 lead in the five-Test series. During the match England's wicketkeeper-batter Jonny Bairstow was run-out under controversial circumstances which led to drama at the iconic venue.

Bairstow, who got out when he ducked under a bouncer from Cameron Green when he started walking of his crease. Australia wicketkeeper Alex Carey immediately directed an underarm throw after catching

the delivery and fired an accurate throw towards the stumps.

There have been a lot of speculations about his dismissal; on the one hand, some believe that the umpire made the correct decision, whereas others believe that it was not a fair call. England star Ben Stokes, who played an incredible innings and smashed 155 runs, expressed his disappointment and revealed that if this incident happened in Australia, he would withdraw the dismissal.

"If the shoe was on the other foot I would have put more pressure on the umpires and asked whether they had called over

and had a deep think about the whole spirit of the game. Would I want to win a game in that manner? The answer for me is no," Stokes had said in an interview with BCC moments after the defeat.

UK PM Backs Ben Stokes

UK PM Rishi Sunak also shared his views on the Bairstow's dismissal controversy. When asked if the British PM also believes that Australia's act was not within the spirits of the game, his spokesman said yes. "The prime minister agrees with Ben Stokes. He said he simply wouldn't want to win a game in the manner Australia did," the spokesman added.

"But the game did provide an opportunity to see Ben Stokes at his best and it was an incredible test match. He has confidence that England will bounce back at Headingley (in the Third Test)," the spokesman added.

Ben Stokes hit back at Australian newspaper's crybaby taunt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Australia beat England in the second Test of Ashes 2023 which was played at Lord's by 43 runs on Sunday (July 2) to take a 2-0 lead in the five-match series. During the final day of the Lord's Test, England's wicketkeeper-batter Jonny Bairstow was run-out in bizarre manner which led to a controversy.

Bairstow who was batting at 10 ducked under a bouncer from Cameron Green when he started walking of his crease. Australia wicketkeeper Alex Carey immediately directed an underarm throw after catching the delivery and fired an accurate throw towards the stumps.

There were alot of speculations, while some believed that run out was unethical whereas the others considered it as a right move.



England star performer Ben Stokes who played an incredible innings and smashed 155 runs expressed his disappointment and revealed that if this incident happened in Australia, he would withdraw

the dismissal.

"My thoughts around it is, when is it justified that umpires have called 'over'? Does the square leg umpire making some movement justify that? Jonny Bairstow was in his crease and then came out to have a chat in the middle. I'm not disputing if it was out, it was," Stokes said.

"If the shoe was on the other foot, I would've had to think about the whole spirit of the game. But it has happened, it was out. We have to move on... Do I want to win in that manner? No", he added.

After his statement, a leading Australian media outlet hit back with a 'crybabies' poster where Stokes can be seen in nappies. This poster went viral on social media.

In reply, the English batter hit back at his trolls and wrote, "That's definitely not me; since when did I bowl with the new ball".

'Same old Aussies': Aus PM reacts after UK prime minister's comment

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Jonny Bairstow's dismissal is one of the most controversial incident that took place in the Ashes 2023. On the final day Bairstow who got out when he ducked under a bouncer from Cameron Green when he started walking of his crease.

Many experts, former cricketers, and even fans expressed their different opinions on the incident. Even the prime ministers of both countries shared their different views. On the one hand, UK PM Rishi Sunak agreed with England star Ben Stokes when he said he simply wouldn't want to win a game in the manner Australia did.

"The prime minister agrees



with Ben Stokes. He said he simply wouldn't want to win a game in the manner Australia did," the spokesman added.

"But the game did provide an opportunity to see Ben Stokes at his best and it was an incredible test match. He has confidence that England will bounce back at Headingley (in the Third

Test)," the spokesman added.

Whereas Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, who is also the biggest cricket fan, backed the Australian team. He said he was "proud" of Australia's 'men's and women's cricket teams, who have both won their opening two Ashes matches against England."

"Same old Aussies, always winning! look forward to welcoming them home victorious", he added.

Aussie Will Lock Horns With England In The Third Test

Despite a heroic performance from England's captain Ben Stokes, Australia defeated England by 43 runs in the second Test of the ongoing Ashes series. The home team fell short as Australia took a commanding 2-0 lead in the series. Both teams will lock horns once again in the third Test match of the Ashes series. It will be a must-win match for England, as if they lose, then Australia will be declared the winner of The Ashes in 2023.