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Cal HC allows post-poll violence 'victims' to visit **Raj Bhavan** 5

'MY HUSBAND AND I SPENT A LOT OF TIME DATING HERE'



10

'I will not be surprised if *Harom Hara* tops the list of action **MOVIES'**



P12

QUOTE OF THE DAY

the pioneer

In Andhra Pradesh, the Chief Minister increased all types of pensions immediately after coming to power. Similarly, the Chief Minister of Odisha has decided to raise the minimum support price for rice to Rs3,100 per quintal. Despite claiming on bond papers that they would implement their promises within the first 100 days of coming to power, it has been 191 days and the promises remain unfulfilled.



- Harish Rao, BRS MLA

P4

DON'T MISS...

Woman kills father with lover's help ...

In a gruesome incident, a woman allegedly killed her father with the help of her lover in Madanapalle. The incident took place at Postal and Telecom Colony. Police reported that the accused, Harita, killed her father, Dora Swamy (62), a retired teacher. Dora Swamy's wife passed away a year ago, leaving him to raise their daughter, Harita, alone. Harita, who completed her B.Sc. and B.Ed. degrees and was working as a teacher, was the sole recipient of her father's affection and love. Dora Swamy had arranged a marriage for ...

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Kashmiri Pandits celebrate Mela ...

"Faith is more powerful than fear," said a pilgrim, who was among the hundreds visiting temples across Jammu and Kashmir to celebrate the Mela Kheer Bhawani, amid heightened security following four terrorist attacks in the Union Territory. The fair -- an annual event at the Kheer Bhawani temple, dedicated to Rangya Devi, in Ganderbal district's Tulmulla -- is also celebrated in other shrines and temples in Jammu and Kashmir to mark 'Zyeth Atham', or 'Jyeshtha Ashtami'. "Everything is in the hands of ...

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Sensex, Nifty hit fresh lifetime ...

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty hit their new closing lifetime highs on Friday, following buying in market heavyweights HDFC Bank, Reliance Industries and Mahindra & Mahindra amid encouraging export data. Rising for the third straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 181.87 points or 0.24 per cent to settle at a new closing peak of 76,992.77. During the day, it jumped 270.4 points or 0.35 per cent to 77,081.30. The NSE Nifty rallied 66.70 points or 0.29 per cent to hit a ...

-PAGE: 8

Kohli's form a bothering point ...

Star batter Virat Kohli's string of low scores would be a concern for India when they square off against Canada in their final group match of the T20 World Cup on Saturday, hoping that the sky remains clear in this city even as several parts of Florida are ravaged by torrential rain. With three consecutive wins, India are through to the Super Eight stage, which will be held entirely in the West Indies. Kohli came into the T20 World Cup after setting the IPL ablaze, scoring upwards of 700 runs at a strike-rate of over 150 ...

-SPORTS

Rs 4,000 Naidu's gift to pensioners

Renames initiative as 'NTR Bharosa Pension Scheme'

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has issued orders to increase the Social Security Pension amount, effective July 1, 2024. The existing YSR Pension Kanuka has been renamed the "NTR Bharosa Pension Scheme," fulfilling a promise made during the elections.

Chief Secretary Neerabh Kumar Prasad released GO Ms No 43 on Friday, detailing the changes. The pension amount for various categories of pensioners will be increased, and the new scheme name will be implemented starting from July 1.

The order outlines the enhancement of the existing pension amount from Rs 3,000 per month to Rs 4,000 per month for categories including Old Age Pensions, Widows, Weavers, Toddy Tappers, Fishermen, Single Women, Traditional Cobblers, Transgender individuals, ART (PLHIV), and Dappu Artists. Additionally, the pension for disabled persons will increase from Rs 3,000 to Rs 6,000 for all persons with disabilities and those with multiple deformities due to leprosy.



For fully disabled persons, the pension will rise from Rs 5,000 to Rs 15,000, while those with chronic diseases such as Bilateral Elephantiasis-Grade 4, and those undergoing treatments for kidney, liver, and heart transplants, as well as certain CKDU conditions, will see an increase from Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000. The government stated that the enhanced pensions will be retroactively effective from April 1, 2024, with the arrears disbursed from July 1, 2024. This means that beneficiaries will receive Rs 7,000 in July 2024, followed by Rs 4,000 per month thereafter. For individuals with CKDU on dialysis (both private and government), Sickle Cell disease, Thalassemia, and severe haemophilia, the pension amount remains at Rs 10,000 per month without an increase.

Additionally, Sainik welfare pensions and Amaravati Landless Poor pensions remain at Rs 5,000 per month, and Abhayahastam pensions remain at Rs 500 per month.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) and the Commissioner of the PR & RD Department have been directed to implement the new pension disbursements from July 1.

Lokesh vows to do justice to his job

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Expressing his gratitude to Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu for assigning him the portfolios of Human Resources Development (HRD), Information Technology (IT), Electronics and Communication, and Real-Time Governance (RTG), Minister Lokesh stated that this allocation provides him with an excellent opportunity to serve with utmost responsibility. In a press release following the announcement, Lokesh highlighted his previous achievements as the Minister for Panchayat Raj, where he transformed rural areas, and as the Minister for IT and Electronics, where he attracted several companies to the State, generating employment for the youth.

Continued on Page 2



6 killed as 2 trucks collide

PNS ■ MACHLIPATNAM

In a tragic road accident, six people lost their lives when a container truck collided with a mini-truck at Seetanapalli village in Krutivennu mandal, Krishna district, in the early hours of Friday.

Police reported that the container truck, travelling from Puducherry to Bhimavaram, collided with a mini-truck en route to Bantumilli. The mini-truck was carrying nine people who were on their way to work in a fish pond.

Among the deceased were the drivers of both vehicles. The victims have been identified as Pesing Kanaka Raju (34) from Amalapuram, Gandi Dharma Vara Prasad (27) from Gorripudi village in Kakinada district, Chinta Lova Raju (32) from Katrenikona village, Magapu Soma Raju (30), Revu Nagabushanam (26), and Ayyappan (42), the driver of the container truck.

The accident occurred when the mini-truck driver, in an attempt to avoid hitting a tractor, collided with the container truck.

Continued on Page 2

AP Cabinet Ministers allocated portfolios

Naidu keeps Law & Order, Panchayat Raj for Dy CM Pawan and HRD & IT for







PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

After two days of intense discussions, Chief Minister and TDP chief Nara Chandrababu Naidu announced the portfolio allocations for the State Cabinet Ministers on Friday. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu will oversee the General Administration Department (GAD), Law & Order, Public Enterprises, and any other portfolios not specifically assigned to other ministers.

Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan has been appointed as the Deputy Chief Minister, responsible for Panchayati Raj, Rural Development, Rural Water Supply, Environment, Forest, Science, and Technology. TDP General Secretary Nara Lokesh has been assigned Human Resources Development, IT Electronics & Communication, and Real-Time Governance (RTG).

Kinjarapu Atchannaidu will handle Agriculture, Co-operation, Marketing, Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development & Fisheries. Kollu Ravindra will oversee Mines & Geology, and Excise. Nadendla Manohar has been assigned Food and Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs. Ponguru Narayana will be responsible for Municipal Administration & Urban Development. Anitha Vangalapudi will take charge of Home Affairs & Disaster Management. Satya Kumar Yadav will manage Health, Family Welfare & Medical Education. Dr. Nimmala Ramanaidu has been assigned to Water Resources Development. Nasyam Mohammed Farook will oversee Law & Justice, Minority Welfare Endowments. Anam Ramnarayana Reddy will be responsible for Endowments.

Payyavula Keshav will handle Finance, Planning, Commercial Taxes & Legislative Affairs. Anagani Satya Prasad will oversee Revenue, Registration & Stamps.

Continued on Page 2

OTHER KEY ALLOCATIONS



Vangalapudi Anitha
Home Affairs



Payyavula Keshav
Finance



Kinjarapu Atchannaidu
Agriculture



Anagani Satya Prasad
Revenue



Nadella Manohar
Civil Supplies



Satya Kumar Yadav
Health

Comprehensive list P3

Naidu promises to use services of senior leaders who missed berths

VIJAYAWADA: Telugu Desam Party (TDP) senior leaders and several ministers met with Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu at the Secretariat on Friday. During the interaction, CM Chandrababu explained how he accommodated them in the Cabinet and assured them that the services of those not included in the Cabinet would still be utilised in other capacities. Ministers Anita, Nimmala Ramanaidu, and Satya Kumar Yadav expressed their satisfaction with the departments allocated to them. Anita specifically thanked the CM for allotting her the Home Department. On this occasion, CM Chandrababu advised the ministers to work effectively and serve the people diligently.

Palla named new State prez of TDP

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM



In a bold manoeuvre aimed at solidifying the Telugu Desam Party's (TDP) influence in Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister and TDP national president Nara Chandrababu Naidu has appointed Palla Srinivasa Rao as the new president of the party in the State. This pivotal decision, disclosed after a crucial meeting between Naidu and Rao, marks a significant strategic shift within the party's regional agenda.

Palla Srinivasa Rao's ascent to the role of TDP president follows his commanding victory in the recent Andhra Pradesh general elections. Rao's triumph over YSRCP contender Gudivada Amarnath by an impressive margin of 95,235 votes not only highlights his widespread appeal among voters but also solidifies his standing as a pivotal figure within the TDP's leadership cadre.

Continued on Page 2

I&PR Min Kolusu assumes office

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA



Kolusu Parthasaradhi took charge as the Minister for Housing and Information & Public Relations of the State on Friday at 8:00 pm. He assumed office in the presence of senior officials from both departments.

Special Chief Secretary of the Housing Department, Ajay Jain, along with other dignitaries including B Mohammad Diwan Maideen, Katamaneni Bhaskar, L Swarnalatha, P Kiran Kumar, T Kasturibai, I Suryachandra Rao, Madhusudhana Rao, Krishna Reddy, Nagaraju, and other officials extended a warm welcome to Minister Parthasaradhi as he embarked on his new role.

Expressing his gratitude on the occasion, Minister Parthasaradhi acknowledged the trust placed in him by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister K Pawan Kalyan, and Human Resource Development and IT Minister Nara Lokesh. He emphasised his commitment to securing substantial Central and state funds to ensure the provision of permanent residential housing for the State's underprivileged.

Highlighting his agenda, the Minister pledged to complete the construction of approximately 13.80 lakh houses left incomplete during the previous administration. He also outlined plans to develop extensive infrastructure under the Amrit and NREGS schemes within urban and rural housing colonies.

Promising proactive oversight, he assured regular site visits to expedite housing and infrastructure projects.

Home Minister reviews J-K security situation; calls high-level meeting on June 16



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday reviewed the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir in the wake of several terror incidents there, including an attack on a bus ferrying pilgrims, sources said.

He called a high-level meeting on June 16, to be attended by National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha, top officials of the Army, CRPF and others to review the prevailing situation in the Union Territory and steps taken to check terror incidents. During Sunday's meeting, the home minister will also take stock of the preparedness for the annual Amarnath Yatra which will begin on June 29, sources said.

The home minister was briefed about the prevailing situation in Jammu and Kashmir and the steps taken following the terror incidents, they said.

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

Continued on Page 2

SIMULTANEOUS POLLS

Centre to get Kovind panel's report 'at the earliest'



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Law Ministry plans to place before the Cabinet the report of the high-level committee on 'one nation, one election' "at the earliest" as part of the 100-day agenda of the Legislative Department, sources said on Friday. Ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had directed all union ministries and departments to draw up a 100-day agenda for the next government.

Continued on Page 2

CHRONIC PAIN AMONG OLDER ADULTS

High hopes on newer form of psychotherapy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



Chronic pain among older adults could be better addressed through emotional awareness and expression therapy (EAET), a fairly new form of psychotherapy, according to a new research.

EAET, the initial clinical trials of which took place in the 2000s, targets the past trauma and stress experienced by people having chronic pain conditions, but can worsen their symptoms. Some of these conditions include fibromyalgia, in which one feels fatigue and muscle pain all over the body, and arthritis (joint pain).

Researchers, led by those at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), US, compared the recovery of two groups of people suffering from chronic pain conditions - one receiving EAET and the other receiving cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT).

CBT does not focus on helping people resolve past trauma or adversities, even as it is known to help them develop coping strategies in order to deal with personal problems by altering thoughts, attitudes and behaviours.

Over 120 veterans, mostly men and aged 60-95 years, with at least three months of musculoskeletal pain were included in the study, the findings of which are published in The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Network Open.

The researchers found that 63 per cent of the older adults receiving EAET experienced at least a 30 per cent reduction in pain.

Only 17 per cent of the participants undergoing CBT were found to experience a similar reduction in pain.

Further, the reduced pain was found to sustain in over 40 per cent of the older adults six months after receiving EAET treatment, compared to 14 per cent of the participants receiving CBT.

Continued on Page 2

AP Cabinet ...

Continued from Page 1

Kolusu Parthasarathy has been assigned Housing, Information & Public Relations (I&PR). Dr Dola Bala Veeranjaneya Swamy will be responsible for Social Welfare, Disabled and Senior Citizen Welfare, Sachivalayam & Village Volunteers. Gottipati Ravi Kumar will handle the Energy. Kandula Durgesh will oversee Tourism, Culture & Cinematography. Gummadi Sandhya Rani will be responsible for Women & Child Welfare, Tribal Welfare.

BC Janardhan Reddy will handle Roads & Buildings, Infrastructure & Investments. TG Bharath will oversee Industries & Commerce, Food Processing. S. Savitha will manage BC Welfare, Economically Weaker Sections Welfare, Handlooms & Textiles. Vasamsetti Subhash will be responsible for Labour, Factories, Boilers and Insurance Medical Services. Kondapalli Srinivas will oversee MSME, SERP, NRI Empowerment & Relations. Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy will handle Transport, Youth & Sports.

This comprehensive allocation aims to ensure effective governance and development across various sectors in Andhra Pradesh.

Lokesh vows to do justice to his job

Continued from Page 1

"With the lessons I've learned from my experience as a Minister in the previous government, I am confident of functioning more responsibly and efficiently," Lokesh said.

Reiterating his promise made during the Yuva Galam padayatra to bring radical reforms in the education system from KG to PG, Lokesh, a Stanford University alumnus, emphasised his commitment to strengthening education in rural areas. Lokesh also pledged to create large-scale employment opportunities for the youth by inviting IT and electronics companies to establish their units in the State.



Rajnath reaffirms India's Naval strength

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh underscored India's commitment to maritime security and regional stability during his first visit to the Eastern Naval Command since assuming office for the second consecutive term. Accompanied by Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi and Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command, Singh boarded INS Jalashwa to witness dynamic naval operations firsthand.

Singh praised the Indian Navy's pivotal role as the first responder in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), emphasizing its capability to safeguard national interests and ensure regional peace. "Our Navy ensures that no nation suppresses another in the Indo-Pacific region or endangers its strategic autonomy based on economic strength or military power," he stated, aligning with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).

The Defence Minister highlighted the Navy's recent achievements, including a daring rescue operation in March 2024 where 23 Pakistani nationals were freed from Somali pirates in the Arabian Sea. "This operation exemplifies the values of humanity and solidarity upheld by our Naval personnel," Singh remarked, emphasizing India's commitment to maritime security and humanitarian efforts.

Addressing the strategic importance of maritime security, Singh affirmed India's dedication to maintaining free navigation, a rule-based world order, and regional stability. He outlined the Government's efforts to strengthen India's naval capabilities, citing expansions in shipyards and the augmentation of aircraft carriers.

Reflecting on his previous term, Singh recalled initiatives to bolster national security along India's northern borders, while also prioritizing maritime security in the IOR. Looking forward, he pledged to further enhance the Indian Navy's presence in the region and reinforce security measures across India's borders.

The visit concluded with a traditional Barakhana, fostering camaraderie between Singh and the crew of the Sunrise Fleet at INS Dega, Visakhapatnam, where he received a ceremonial welcome with a 50-men Guard of Honour. Rajnath Singh's visit to the Eastern Naval Command reaffirmed India's commitment to maritime prowess, regional security, and international cooperation, marking a pivotal moment in India's naval strategy under his leadership.

3 workers from AP among Kuwait building fire victims

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM



Three migrant workers from Andhra Pradesh perished in a massive fire that engulfed a six-storey building in Kuwait's Mangaf area early Wednesday. The inferno, which ripped through the workers' dormitory, claimed nearly 50 lives.

The local authorities identified the deceased as Tamada Lokanadham (31) hailing from Sompeta mandal in Srikakulam district, and Meesala Eswar (45) and Milleti Satyanarayana (45) from Peravali mandal in East Godavari district.

Lokanadham's story is particularly heart-wrenching. Employed as a rolling operator helper for NBTC, he had just returned from a joyous holiday visit to his hometown on Wednesday afternoon. Exhausted from his travels, he reportedly fell asleep immediately upon arrival at the worker camp. Sadly, this rest proved fatal as the fire broke out, and Lokanadham succumbed to smoke inhalation. A bureaucratic hurdle further compounded the family's grief. Due to recently signing the camp's re-entry list, there was a delay in registering his death.

The Indian Embassy in Kuwait confirmed the deaths of Eswar and Satyanarayana on Thursday night. Eswar, a delivery worker at a highway store, was excited about an upcoming visit to India. His daughter's wedding was on the horizon, and he planned to be there for this momentous occasion. However, he was forced to postpone the trip due to a surge in airfare prices. This heartbreaking decision ultimately meant he wouldn't see his family again. He leaves behind a grieving wife, daughter, and son.

CM announces Rs 5 lakh ex gratia to fire victims

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Friday announced an ex gratia of Rs 5 lakh each to the families of three persons from the state who died in the recent Kuwait fire incident.

T Lokanadam from Sompeta in Srikakulam district and M Satyanarayana and M Eswarudu from Peravali in East Godavari district died in the incident.

"Naidu is monitoring this matter closely and instructed relevant departments to coordinate and ensure the smooth transportation of the mortal remains of the deceased (persons) to their native places," said an official press release.

Satyanarayana and Eswarudu were mistaken to be from West Godavari district earlier but they belong to East Godavari district.

Satyanarayana, another dedicated employee who had spent a decade working at a highway store, also met a tragic end. He bravely fought for his life after sustaining injuries in the blaze but succumbed on Thursday afternoon at a local hospital. His wife, son, and parents are now grappling with the immense loss.

News of the tragedy has reached Lokanadham's hometown, Jinki Bhadra village, casting a heavy pall of gloom over the community. According to reports, Union Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu has stepped forward to assist the family. He is reportedly coordinating with the Indian Embassy to expedite the repatriation of Lokanadham's remains. This devastating incident serves as a stark reminder of the inherent dangers faced by migrant workers abroad. It also shines a light on the immense challenges families endure when such unforeseen losses occur. The financial burden of repatriation, coupled with the emotional trauma, creates a devastating situation for those left behind.

TG CM outraged over Utkoor murder, Peddapalli rape

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Taking a serious note of the incidents of Utkoor murder and Peddapalli minor rape in the State, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy expressed outrage over the issues.

In a shocking incident, Sanjeev Guvva was beaten to death in broad daylight in Utkoor mandal of Narayanpet district over a land issue. Though local residents dialed 100, the police failed to turn up in time. The Chief Minister has responded strongly to this incident. He warned that no leniency will be shown to those who resort to physical attacks, anarchy or murder, regardless of their influence.

The CM instructed that immediate action be taken against the responsible police officers if found to be negligent in this case. He also issued orders to the Director General of Police to implement stringent measures to prevent such incidents from recurring.

Champion people's causes: YSRCP chief to partymen



PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

YSRCP president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy rallied his party's MPs, urging them to stand resolute in championing the people's interests. Addressing a gathering at Tadepalli, he expressed confidence in the governance his party has delivered, emphasising the need to regain public trust.

In a strategic meeting with MPs from both Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha, Jagan emphasized their role in Parliament, noting the YSRCP's strength with 15 MPs compared to Telugu Desam's 16. He reaffirmed V Vijayasai Reddy as the Rajya Sabha leader, PV Mithun Reddy as the Lok Sabha leader, and YV Subba Reddy as the parliamentary party leader.

"We must uphold our party's integrity and work collectively to strengthen our reputation," Jagan urged MPs, highlighting the YSRCP's achievements in governance, including a high rate of manifesto fulfilment and significant reforms in education, health, and agriculture.

Reflecting on recent challenges, Jagan acknowledged global adversities such as COVID-19, while criticizing opposition propaganda regarding the Land Titling Act. He clarified the Act's origins and accused rivals of misleading the public.

Despite electoral setbacks, Jagan remained optimistic about the future, attributing recent outcomes to unforeseen factors. He underscored his commitment to social inclusion, citing opportunities provided to marginalized communities.

"We will return to power with the people's support," Jagan assured party members, encouraging them to prioritize public service and uphold ethical standards. He concluded by urging unity among MPs in shaping the party's path forward.

A bright future ahead for renewable energy, says HPCL ED V Ratan Raj

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM



HPCL ED V Ratan Raj

The potential of renewable energy is exceptionally promising given the global advancements and research, according to V Ratan Raj, Executive Director of Operations at Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL). Speaking at the Seminar on the Future of Energy, organized by the Public Relations Society of India (PRSI), Visakhapatnam Chapter here on Friday, Ratan Raj delivered an insightful keynote address on the future of energy, emphasizing renewable energy and the path to net zero emissions.

Addressing a packed audience of industry professionals, academics, and media representatives, Ratan Raj highlighted the urgent need for a paradigm shift in the energy sector. He stressed the importance of adopting sustainable energy solutions to combat climate change and secure a greener future for generations to come. Ratan Raj underscored the tremendous potential of renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and bio-energy. He outlined HPCL's strategic initiatives aimed at expanding its renewable energy portfolio, detailing ongoing projects and future investments.

"Our comprehensive plan includes reducing carbon footprints across all operations, increasing energy efficiency, and investing in innovative technologies," Raj explained. "Achieving net zero emissions is a challenging yet achievable goal. It requires a multi-faceted approach involving technological innovation, strategic investments, and a collective effort from all stakeholders," he elaborated.

Ratan Raj also emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts between government bodies, private sectors, and the public in driving the transition towards renewable energy. He called for increased public awareness and participation in sustainable practices, advocating for educational initiatives to inform and engage communities. "The transition to renewable energy and achieving net zero emissions is a collective responsibility. We must work together, share knowledge, and inspire action at all levels of society. Public awareness and engagement are crucial in this journey," he concluded.

As part of the event, PRSI honored Dr. Challa Krishnaveer Abishek for his recent accomplishments, which include setting a record by publishing 175 books and delivering 1000 motivational speeches.

High hopes on newer ...

Continued from Page 1

The older adults receiving EAET treatment also reported more benefits in terms of addressing psychiatric conditions, including anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Of the study group, more than two-thirds of participants had a psychiatric diagnosis, with about one-third having PTSD.

"If there is a hurt or stressor people have a series of normal, natural emotional reactions. There might be anger, guilt and sadness. Because these feelings are painful, people often avoid them, but EAET helps people face difficult feelings with honesty and self-compassion," said lead author Brandon Yarns, an assistant professor at UCLA Health's Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences.

"In therapy, they can release anger, pain and guilt that they've been carrying and are left with self-compassion in the end," said Yarns.

Home Minister reviews J-K security ...

Continued from Page 1

Two suspected Pakistani terrorists were also killed in an encounter with security forces in Kathua district and a large quantity of arms and ammunition were recovered from them.

On Sunday, terrorists opened fire on a 53-seater bus carrying pilgrims when it was en route to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Katra from the Shiv Khori temple. The bus, carrying pilgrims from Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi, plunged into a deep gorge following the gunfire, killing nine people and injuring 41 others.

On Tuesday, terrorists fired at a joint checkpost of the Rashtriya Rifles and police at Chattergalla in Bhaderwah while a search party in the Gandoh area of Doda district was attacked on Wednesday, resulting in injuries to seven security personnel, including a police personnel. The search operation launched in Jammu and Kashmir to track down and neutralise terrorists after the June 9 attack on a bus carrying pilgrims continues, officials said.

Officials said security forces launched a fresh search and cordon operation in Kathua's Saida Sukhal village on Thursday following information about the presence of two more terrorists.

6 killed as 2 trucks collide

Continued from Page 1

The police have registered a case and moved the bodies to the Government General Hospital (GGH) in Machilipatnam for post-mortem.

Excise Minister Kollu Ravindra expressed his shock over the incident and directed officials to provide necessary assistance to the bereaved families. The Minister announced a financial assistance of Rs. 5 lakh for each family on behalf of the state government. Union Minister of State for Steel Bhupatiraju Srinivasa Varma also expressed his condolences to the affected families.

Palla named new State ...

Continued from Page 1

Formerly occupied by Kinjarapu Atchannaidu, who assumed ministerial responsibilities, the position of AP TDP president required a new leader, prompting Chandrababu Naidu to entrust Rao with this pivotal role.

Hailing from the BC-Yadava community, Rao's selection has garnered enthusiastic support from within the TDP ranks, with party members and supporters celebrating his dedication and electoral prowess.

Expressing gratitude for his appointment, Palla Srinivasa Rao affirmed his commitment to tirelessly serving the people of Andhra Pradesh. With a background deeply rooted in community service and a proven track record in electoral triumphs, Rao's leadership promises to navigate the TDP through forthcoming challenges and opportunities in the State's political landscape.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham:	Sukla Paksha
Tithi: Navami:	Jun 15 12:04 AM to Jun 16 02:32 AM
Dashami:	Jun 16 02:32 AM to Jun 17 04:43 AM
Nakshatram:	
Uttara Phalguni:	Jun 14 05:08 AM to Jun 15 08:14 AM
Hasta:	Jun 15 08:14 AM to Jun 16 11:12 AM
Rahukalam:	9:01 AM to 10:38 AM
Yamagandam:	1:54 PM to 3:32 PM
Varjyam:	05:40 PM to 07:28 PM
Gulika:	5:45 AM to 7:23 AM
Amritakalam:	None
Abhijit Muhurtham:	11:50 AM to 12:42 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Partly Cloudy
Temp: 37°c
Humidity: 59%
Sunrise: 5:35 AM
Sunset: 6:41 PM

Updated: June 14, 2024 5:00 PM

Centre to get Kovind panel's ...

Continued from Page 1

The high-level committee on 'one nation, one election', headed by former president Ram Nath Kovind, submitted its report to President Droupadi Murmu on March 15, recommending simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha and state assemblies as the first step followed by synchronised local body polls within 100 days.

The panel had also proposed setting up an 'Implementation Group' to look into the execution of the recommendations made by the committee.

Simultaneous polls will help save resources, spur development and social cohesion, deepen "foundations of the democratic rubric" and help realise the aspirations of "India, that is Bharat", the panel had said.

It has also recommended the preparation of a common electoral roll and voter ID cards by the Election Commission of India in consultation with state election authorities.

At present, the Election Commission of India is responsible for Lok Sabha and assembly polls, while polls for municipalities and panchayats are managed by state election commissions.

The panel has recommended 18 constitutional amendments, most of which will not need ratification by state assemblies. However, these would require certain constitutional amendment bills that would need to be passed by Parliament.

Some proposed changes regarding the single electoral roll and single voter ID card would need ratification by at least half of the states.

Separately, the Law Commission is also likely to come up soon with its own report on simultaneous polls, of which Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been a strong votary.

Sources said the Law Commission is likely to recommend holding simultaneous polls for all three tiers of government -- Lok Sabha, state assemblies and local bodies -- starting from 2029 and a provision for a unity government in cases like hung house or no-confidence motion.

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List of the 24 Ministers of the Cabinet of AP Government along with Ministries



Konidela Pawan Kalyan
Panchayati Raj, Environment, Forest, Science, and Technology



Anitha Vangalapudi
Home Affairs & Disaster Management



Ponguru Narayana
Municipal Administration & Urban Development



N Lokesh Naidu
Human Resource Development, IT Electronics and Communication, RTG



Nadendla Manohar
Food and Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs



Satya Kumar Yadav
Health, Family Welfare & Medical Education



Kinjarapu Atchennaidu
Agriculture, Co-operation, Marketing, Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development & Fisheries



Dr Nimmala Ramanaidu
Water Resources Development



N Mohammed Farooq
Law & Justice, Minority Welfare



Kollu Ravindra
Mines & Geology, Excise



Anam Ramanarayana Reddy
Endowments



Payyavula Keshav
Mines & Geology, Excise



Anagani Satya Prasad
Revenue, Registration & Stamps



Kolusu Parthasaradhi
Housing, I&PR



Dr D B V Swamy
Social Welfare, Disabled& Senior Citizen Welfare, Sachivalayam & Village Volunteer



Gottipatti Ravi Kumar
Energy



Kandula Durgesh
Tourism, Culture & Cinematography



Gummadi Sandhya Rani
Women & Child Welfare, Tribal Welfare



B C Janaradhan Reddy
Roads & Buildings, Infrastructure & Investments



T G Bharat
Industries & Commerce, Food Processing



S Savitha
BC Welfare, Economically Weaker Sections Welfare, Handlooms & Textiles



Vasamsetti Subhash
Labour, Factories, Boilers & Insurance Medical Services



Kondapalli Srinivas
MSME, SERP, NRI Empowerment & Relations



MRP Reddy
Transport, Youth & Sports



Youth given priority in new Cabinet: Yanamala

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Former minister and senior TDP leader Yanamala Ramakrishnudu met Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu on Friday at the secretariat. Following their meeting, Yanamala addressed the media, praising the new cabinet's composition for prioritizing youth and urging the newly appointed ministers to work with dedication. He emphasized the importance of giving opportunities to young leaders, reminiscing how TDP founder Dr. NT Rama Rao had appointed him to a ministerial position at the age of 29. He dismissed rumors circulating on social media about his potential appointment as governor.

Yanamala asserted that the people of Andhra Pradesh voted for a change in governance, confident that under Chandrababu's leadership, good governance would be delivered. He criticized the previous five-year rule of Jagan Mohan Reddy, blaming it for economic havoc, lack of development, and jeopardizing the future of the youth. He stressed the importance of a balanced approach, where senior party members play supportive roles while juniors are given growth opportunities. "There must always be a blend of experience and fresh perspectives," he said. Yanamala emphasized that the government must fulfil the aspirations of the people, promising change and discussing various points with the Chief Minister.

Yanamala highlighted the economic crisis caused during Jagan's tenure, citing an increase in debt and lack of development.

'I&PR to take all schemes to every citizen'

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA



Information & Public Relations Department officials felicitating Minister Kolusu Pardha Saradhi at his camp office at Tadigadapa near Vijayawada on Friday

Soon after allocating the Information & Public Relations and Housing portfolios to Minister Kolusu Pardha Saradhi, the I&PR officials met him at the camp office at Tadigadapa near Vijayawada on Friday. I & PR Additional Director L Swarna Latha, Joint Directors P Kiran Kumar, T Kasturibai, Chief Engineer O Madhusudana Rao and others met Minister Saradhi and felicitated him.

Speaking on the occasion, Saradhi said that as per the plans of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, I&PR officials and staff will strive to take all development and welfare schemes to every citizen in the State. For that, all officials and employees should work collectively, he added. The department should implement innovative systems to bring various schemes to the poor, middle class and backward sections, he said. Apart from the present systems, the department should use advanced technical information and publicise the government development and welfare schemes through the various broadcasting tools, he added.

I&PR RIE CV Krishna Reddy, Deputy Director B Purnachandra Rao, Assistant Directors GV Prasad, M Bhaskar Narayana, NTR DIPRO U Surendranath, DPRO SV Mohana Rao, Vijayawada Divisional PRO K Ravi, Publicity Assistant VV Prasad and other dignitaries were present.

Major shakeup in GVMC following govt formation

Officials who were previously aligned with YSRCP leaders face potential transfers and investigations

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM



In the wake of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) coalition government coming to power, a significant upheaval is underway among the officials of the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC). As per reports, officials who were previously aligned with YSR Congress Party (YCP) leaders are now facing potential transfers and investigations. Sources reveal that coalition leaders are compiling a list of officials who allegedly disregarded laws and regulations during the YCP administration. Speculation is rife that those found guilty of misconduct might face immediate repercussions, with a list of transfers already being prepared. Some officials are maneuvering to secure their positions within GVMC, while others brace for impending changes.

During the YCP government's tenure, officials were accused of executing orders that violated established rules. Notable controversies include the closure of the Tycoon intersection, which sparked public outcry, and the approval of a construction plan at the controversial Convention of Baptist Churches of Northern Circars (CBCNC) lands, near Siripuram despite pending High Court cases. Additionally, allegations have surfaced regarding the issuance of Transfer of Development Rights (TDR).

Significant irregularities have been reported in land use conversions, particularly concerning the Ramanaidu Film Studio. Despite complaints from TDP and Jana Sena leaders to the District Collector, no substantial action was taken during the previous administration. GVMC officials are also accused of favouring YCP leaders in awarding tenders and contracts, often bypassing competitive processes to benefit a select few monopolists.

TDP and Jana Sena leaders have vocally protested these encroachments in GVMC council meetings. Despite their efforts, officials reportedly ignored their arguments and continued to implement YCP directives. Complaints highlight that YCP leaders, even those who lost in elections, were given undue preference during official visits and decision-making processes. With the new coalition government in power, there is palpable tension among officials previously associated with YSR party leaders. Multiple complaints have been lodged against a key official in the Urban Community Development (UCD) department, citing misuse of resources for electoral gains. Despite prior investigations, no substantial actions were taken.

The coalition government is expected to push for thorough investigations into these allegations. There is a strong call for accountability regarding the indiscriminate approval of illegal constructions and improper allocation of tenders and development works. As the coalition government takes charge, it appears determined to address the reported corruption and misconduct within GVMC.

11,112 candidates to appear for Civil Services Prelims tomorrow

25 examination centres arranged in NTR dist

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

NTR District Collector Dr S Dilli Rao has stated that the district administration is all set to conduct the UPSC Civil Services Preliminary Examination in Vijayawada on June 16 (Sunday). For that, the district mechanism has made all necessary strict arrangements, he said.

In this connection, Collector Dilli Rao, along with UPSC observer Subrahmanyam, convened a meeting of supervisors and assistant supervisors at the Pingali Venkaiah Meeting Hall on the premises of the collectorate on Friday. He also reviewed the arrangements.

Speaking on the occasion, Dilli Rao said that as many as 11,112 candidates will appear for the examination in the district. Twenty-five examination centres have been set up. Paper-1 exam will be held from 9.30 am to 11.30 am and paper -2, from 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm, he said.

Also, 25 route officers, 25 supervisors, and 25 assistant supervisors will be monitoring the process. With the cooperation of the Police Department, strict security measures will be arranged at all examination centres. Also, he directed the electricity department to ensure uninterrupted power supply and asked the Health and Medical department to set up health camps.



NTR District Collector Dr Dilli Rao addressing the meeting that discussed arrangements for the UPSC Civil Service Preliminary Exams, on Friday

He requested the APSRTC officials to run sufficient bus services for the candidates so that they can reach their examination centres on time. The entire examination will be under the surveillance of the CC cameras to avoid the malpractices.

Joint Collector Dr P Sampath Kumar, DRO B Srinivasa Rao, officials of Revenue, Police, Electricity, APSRTC, Municipal and other departments attended the meeting.

Pawan thanks Naidu for allocating key portfolios

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Jana Sena chief K. Pawan Kalyan expressed his gratitude to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for assigning vital portfolios to the Andhra Pradesh government.

On social media platform X, Pawan Kalyan shared Chandrababu Naidu's message, which stated: "Congratulations to Pawan Kalyan Garu on becoming the Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. I congratulate all my colleagues in the Cabinet on being assigned their portfolios. Together, we have taken a solemn oath to serve the people of Andhra Pradesh in an era of people's governance. I am confident that you shall strive to deliver on our people's expectations as Ministers. My best wishes to you all as you embark on this journey of service and devotion."

Responding to Naidu's message, Pawan Kalyan said: "Thank you for your heartfelt wishes. It's indeed a privilege to serve alongside you and our esteemed colleagues in the Andhra Pradesh cabinet. Together, with the guidance of NDA leadership and the collective efforts of our cabinet, we will strive to achieve progress, prosperity, and inclusive development for all sections of society."

"I extend my heartfelt congratulations to you and look forward to collaborating closely with you in realizing our vision for a vibrant and prosperous Andhra Pradesh," Pawan Kalyan added.

Farmers, lawyers celebrate repeal of Land Titling Act

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Farmers and Advocates across the state are celebrating the repeal of the AP Land Titling Act. They thanked Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu for abolishing the dark law. In Tirupati, lawyers and local MLA Srinivas expressed happiness by distributing sweets. In Sattenapalli of Palnadu district, TDP legal cell president Maddineni Venkatachalapathy Rao garlanded the statue of Goddess of Justice.

He thanked Chandrababu for repealing the Land Titling Act and later sweets were distributed to those present at the courts.

Farmers of Rangannagudem of Gannavaram Constituency celebrated the repeal of the Land Titling Act. The farmers destroyed the survey stones placed after the resurvey during the previous government.

On the occasion, leaders and farmers anointed Chandrababu with palm oil seeds and thanked him. Copies of resurvey passbooks were burnt.

Kuna's omission from Cabinet leaves Kalingas unhappy

PNS ■ SRIKAKULAM



Kuna Ravi Kumar, known for his decisive win against YSRCP's Tammineni Sitaram in the recent elections, has long been recognised within the TDP for his leadership and accomplishments. His supporters, buoyed by his significant electoral mandate, anticipated Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's acknowledgement of his service, especially given his pivotal role in representing the interests of the Kalinga community.

Prominent leaders representing the influential Kalinga community have voiced their discontent regarding the exclusion of TDP MLA Kuna Ravi Kumar from the State Cabinet. This omission, they argue, overlooks both his substantial electoral victory and his potential contributions to governance.

Kuna Ravi Kumar, known for his decisive win against YSRCP's Tammineni Sitaram in the recent elections, has long been recognised within the TDP for his leadership and accomplishments. His supporters, buoyed by his significant electoral mandate, anticipated Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's acknowledgement of his service, especially given his pivotal role in representing the interests of the Kalinga community.

During a press conference held on Friday, prominent Kalinga community leaders Hanumanthu Krishna Rao and P Janardhana Rao highlighted the community's vast electoral influence, exceeding 15 lakh members across Andhra Pradesh. They particularly underscored Srikakulam district, where Ravi Kumar is regarded as a stalwart representative. "Kuna Ravi Kumar possesses the acumen and experience necessary to enhance governance," remarked Hanumanthu Krishna Rao. "His background in engineering coupled with his leadership within the TDP makes him an ideal candidate for Cabinet inclusion."

The leaders pointed out that previous administrations had included representatives from the Kalinga community in their Cabinets, emphasising the community's historical contribution to state governance. They expressed concern that the absence of MLA Ravi Kumar from the current Cabinet not only disregards his capabilities but also diminishes the community's representation at the highest levels of decision-making.

"The Kalinga community's influence extends far beyond Srikakulam, encompassing key districts such as Visakhapatnam, East and West Godavari, and Guntur," added P Janardhana Rao. "Our disappointment reflects broader sentiments regarding fair representation in state politics." The leaders concluded by urging Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu to reconsider the decision, asserting that MLA Ravi Kumar's inclusion would not only benefit the Kalinga community but also strengthen the TDP's governance capabilities across Andhra Pradesh.

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Revanth gets votes, farmers reap a bitter harvest

Along with crop loan waivers, the Congress party, as part of its Six guarantees, promised 15,000 rupees as input subsidy per acre and a 500 rupee bonus over MSP (Minimum Support Price) per quintal of paddy to farmers. These promises, if fulfilled, could have significantly improved the farmers' livelihoods.



KISHORE POREDDY

There is no end in sight for Telangana farmers' woes. While nature played spoilsport last season with deficit rainfall, the state government is becoming their tormentor this season. To come to power, the Congress wooed farmers with promises it knew it could not keep. Its only aim was to come to power by any means. The unsuspecting farmers, believing the Congress' promises, voted heavily in favour of it, bringing the party to power. The fact that all the 64 seats the Congress won in the last Assembly elections came from outside of Hyderabad proves that rural and agricultural Telangana powered the Congress' victory.

One of the key promises made by the Congress to farmers in the state was the waiver of up to two lakh rupees in crop loans. Rahul Gandhi first made this promise during his Bharat Jodo Yatra. Just weeks before the November 2023 Assembly election, the then Pradesh Congress chief and current Chief Minister Revanth Reddy urged farmers to rush to the banks and take crop loans, promising to waive them on December 9th, Sonia Gandhi's birthday.

Along with crop loan waivers, the Congress party, as part of its Six guarantees, promised 15,000 rupees as input subsidy per acre and a 500 rupee bonus over MSP (Minimum Support Price) per quintal of paddy to farmers. These promises, if fulfilled, could have significantly improved the farmers' livelihoods.

As suspected, the Congress government, headed by Revanth Reddy, cheated farmers across the state by not fulfilling a single promise even six months after coming to power. Even more shocking and distressing to the farmers is that the Revanth Reddy government is now examining the definitions of 'farmer' and 'crop loan' -- terms over which neither farmers and banks nor government departments have any ambiguity.

The "Congress Guarantee Card," signed by Revanth Reddy and Bhatti Vikramarka, the current Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister respectively, promised benefits to farmers, tenant farmers, and farm labourers if elected to power. While every farmer, tenant farmer and farm labourer understood who the beneficiaries would be and voted accordingly, the Congress, which never intended to implement these guarantees, says it is unclear what those words mean and will only implement those promises after it defines them.

How could the Congress leadership promise to waive off 'crop loans' to 'farmers' within a week of the election results when it did not even know the contours of the two words? What did it do over the past six months? Crop loan waivers are nothing new in this country. Both the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress governments have promised crop loan waivers and delivered on them earlier.

After first extending the deadline from Sonia Gandhi's birthday (December 9th) to Independence Day (August 15th) to get farmers' votes, the Revanth Reddy government, according to media reports, is now devising ways to exclude more than half of the state's farmers from getting crop loan waivers. In such a case, the Congress government would be reneging on its promise and sending a significant chunk of our farmers into economic distress.

Believing Revanth Reddy's words, farmers stopped paying dues to banks. Consequently, the farmers are denied crop loans at low interest (4% per annum) from the banks and credit societies for the next season. Some farmers are already categorised as defaulters, tripling the interest rate on their loans. Coupled with crop losses from last season, the lack of insurance or compensation from the government for their losses, and the uncertainty regarding input subsidies (Rythu Bharosa), farmers excluded from the loan waiver would be thrust into a precarious financial situation. They will have no other way but to approach private, unorganised money lenders who charge usurious interest rates (24 to 48% or more per year).

The tragedy is that this was an avoidable, but manufactured disaster. Revanth Reddy had multiple options that wouldn't have thrust our farmers into such a precipice. He could have levelled with our farmers before the elections and asked for more time. Or, he could have chosen to be honest, at least after getting their votes. Farmers with sufficient resources could have renewed their loans, avoiding default notices and a hit on their credit scores. But no. He deceived them repeatedly - before the Assembly elections, after the results, before the Lok Sabha elections, and even now.

Unfortunately, for the state's farmers, there appears to be no end to government deception anytime soon. Take, for example, the promise to implement crop insurance in the upcoming season. The government has yet to take a single step to make this a reality. Now that the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections are over, farmers lack any significant leverage over the government, which is the confidence of the Revanth Reddy government.

(The author is BJP TS spokesperson.)

Officials directed to take steps to curb outbreak of dengue, malaria

PNS ■ GUNTUR



District Collector M Venugopal Reddy directed the officials concerned to take needed steps to check the outbreak of seasonal diseases Malaria and Dengue and prevent the mosquito menace.

The Collector held a meeting with the officials of health, municipal and panchayat departments here on Friday and reviewed the steps being taken to check the seasonal diseases and mosquitoes.

Speaking on the occasion, Collector Venugopal Reddy said that during the rainy season, waste water stagnates and the surroundings become breeding points for mosquitoes due to unhygienic conditions which would lead to outbreaks of malaria and dengue diseases. The Municipal and Panchayat authorities should carry out the siltation works of the canals as per the plan so that the canals flow without inhibitions. The accumulation of sewage caused the spread of mosquitoes, he told the officials.

The Collector directed the officials to keep ready the Gambushia variety of fish which eat away larvae of mosques in cesspools. He also ordered the officials to carry out fogging at the vulnerable areas and drop oil balls to prevent the spread of mosquitoes.

"Measures should be taken to prevent mosquito larvae in vacant places and water stagnant areas. As Malaria and Dengue cases are being reported among school children, the District Education Officer should send a pamphlet to the headmasters of all the schools and inform the Panchayats, Municipalities and Corporation officials about the measures to be taken on mosquito control within a week," the Collector instructed the officials concerned.

In the areas where cases of Malaria and Dengue have been reported, better medical services should be provided to the victims of the disease, especially in addition to the management of sanitation programs, he said, directing the Municipal and Panchayat authorities to give utmost priority to public health and take measures to prevent the spread of seasonal diseases.

The Anganwadi workers and members of self-help groups should spread awareness among the people about cleaning of surroundings to prevent mosquitoes in the houses and the surrounding areas. DMHO Dr.K Vijaylakshmi, district malaria officer Subbaramayanam, Fisheries AD Gali Demudu and RWS SE Suresh were among those who attended the meeting.

Woman kills father with lover's help

PNS ■ KADAPA



Dora Swamy (File photo)

In a gruesome incident, a woman allegedly killed her father with the help of her lover in Madanapalle. The incident took place at Postal and Telecom Colony. Police reported that the accused, Harita, killed her father, Dora Swamy (62), a retired teacher.

Dora Swamy's wife passed away a year ago, leaving him to raise their daughter, Harita, alone. Harita, who completed her B.Sc. and B.Ed. degrees and was working as a teacher, was the sole recipient of her father's affection and love.

Dora Swamy had arranged a marriage for Harita with a young man from Kuppam and planned to celebrate the wedding grandly. He also transferred ownership of his two-storey building, worth over Rs 80 lakh, to her name. However, Harita refused to marry the man her father had chosen, leading to frequent quarrels over the issue.

Harita allegedly conspired to kill her father by hiring one of her lovers, paying him Rs 10 lakh. On Wednesday night, after Dora Swamy had consumed alcohol and fallen asleep, he was found in a pool of blood the following Thursday morning. Harita initially reported to the police that miscreants had killed her father.

Madanapalle DSP Prasad Reddy, along with CIs Valli Basu and Sekhar, sniffer dogs, and forensic teams, searched the house for clues. During questioning, Harita claimed she was at home during the murder but heard nothing. The police, suspicious of her account, detained her. During interrogation, she confessed to the crime.

Harita revealed that she had two lovers and had paid Rs 10 lakh to one of them to kill her father because he was forcing her into an arranged marriage. She disclosed that they killed her father by bludgeoning him with a wooden stick used for making chapatis and an iron rod.

According to sources, the police have detained one of Harita's lovers in Tirumala and launched a search for the second. The incident of a woman killing her father over a marriage dispute has shocked the community and created a sensation.

MoU signed with PFC for fishermen's welfare



PNS ■ MACHILIPATNAM

Krishna district officials signed an MoU with the Power Finance Corporation (PFC) for taking up various projects for Rs 5.38 Crore in the district.

Krishna district Collector DK Balaji signed the MoU with the Power Finance Corporation Limited here on Friday.

Speaking on the occasion, Collector Balaji said under the MoU, the Power Finance Corporation would take up various projects at Gullalamoda and Edurumondi villages for the welfare of the fishermen community.

The Collector said that Power Finance Corporation would spend Rs.5.38 crores for the well-being of the fishing community of Gullalamoda and Ekkemondi villages in Nagayalanka mandal by providing boats for fishing in the deep sea. They also provide vehicles for fish transport, construct a building for fishermen to repair their nets, and construct a platform for drying fish, using solar technology.

These funds would be spent for the construction of storage tanks, electricity supply, provision of health care drinking water facilities and provision of advanced equipment in primary health centres. On the occasion, the Collector congratulated the representatives of Power Finance Corporation Limited who are contributing their best to the development of the district. Power Finance Corporation Limited Chief General Manager Manikonda Prabhakar, Manager Suresh and District Fisheries Officer V Shiva Samrajyam were among those who were present.

Anitha promises changes in police system

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha has made it clear that there will be a change in the police system.

She said, "Some policemen need to change their ways. Otherwise, we will change it ourselves. We will reopen the murder cases like Chandraya in Macherla. TDP workers and leaders have faced severe difficulties for the last five years hence Illegal cases will be reviewed. I am thankful to Chandrababu, Pawan, Lokesh and NDA leaders who entrusted me with the important portfolio of the Home Ministry," she disclosed.

Achchennaidu thanks Naidu

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Minister Achchennaidu thanked Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu for trusting him and assigning the responsibility to serve the farmers by appointing him as Minister for Agriculture. He thanked the CM for the opportunity to serve the farmers who fill everyone's belly. He said that he will carry out the responsibility entrusted to him with integrity and always contribute to the welfare of the farmers and the agricultural development of the State.

In the past five years, the YSRCP government has corrupted the Agriculture Department. In the next five years, we will support the development of agriculture in the State. "We stand by the farmers in every aspect from supplying the seed and to sell the produce. Efforts will be made to increase the income of farmers. All schemes like subsidised machinery, machine tools and micro irrigation provided to farmers during the TDP government will be restored. I will do my best to make the State's agriculture sector a leader in the country," he said.

CM extends support to Arudra from Kakinada

Financial aid announced for daughter's medical expenses; assurance on property dispute

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM



In a heart-wrenching scene that highlighted empathy and decisive leadership, Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu met with Arudra from Kakinada at the Velagapudi Secretariat on Friday, responding to her long-standing struggles with a promise of substantial aid. Arudra, deeply embroiled in a relentless battle against financial hardship and bureaucratic red tape, poured out her heart to the Chief Minister, recounting the grueling journey her family has endured.

Central to Arudra's story was the agonising ordeal of her daughter, Sailakshmi Chandra, battling a severe illness caused by a back tumour. Describing the immense financial strain, Arudra narrated the painful decisions of selling assets to cover medical bills, only to face legal disputes obstructing the sale of her property in Amalapuram.

Moved by Arudra's plight, Chief Minister Naidu swiftly took action, announcing Rs 5 lakh in financial aid for Sailakshmi Chandra's treatment. Additionally, Arudra will receive a monthly pension of Rs. 10,000 to ease ongoing financial burdens. CM Naidu also assured governmental intervention to expedite the resolution of Arudra's property dispute, vowing to navigate the bureaucratic obstacles that had previously thwarted her efforts.

Overwhelmed with emotion, Arudra expressed profound gratitude and relief, contrasting her struggles under the previous administration."The Chief Minister's support overwhelms me," she shared tearfully. "His assurance gives me hope that my daughter will receive the care she desperately needs."

This encounter underscores the pivotal role of government responsiveness in addressing the personal crises faced by citizens. CM Naidu's prompt and compassionate actions not only provided immediate financial relief, but also revived hope for Arudra and her family, marking a significant turning point in their battle against adversity.

As Arudra left the Velagapudi Secretariat, she carried not just a promise of governmental assistance but also a renewed faith in the administration's dedication to its people. The meeting serves as a poignant testament to the profound impact of empathetic governance on the lives of those in dire need.

Six-year-old girl raped, killed in TG

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

A minor girl was allegedly raped and killed by a labourer at a rice mill in Peddapalli district in Telangana State, police said on Friday.

The accused has been arrested under the POCSO Act. Ramagundam Police Commissioner M Sreenivasulu said the 35-year-old accused Balaram, who hails from Madhya Pradesh, was working as a labourer in a rice mill at Sultanabad in Peddapalli district.

BRS: If AP can increase pensions why not TG ?

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



Former Minister and MLA T Harish Rao has strongly criticised the Congress government for failing to deliver on its promises. According to Harish Rao, the assurances made by the Congress party in the State are proving to be empty. "Despite claiming on bond papers that they would implement their promises within the first 100 days of coming to power, it has been 191 days and the promises remain unfulfilled," he stated.

Harish pointed out that in neighboring Andhra Pradesh, the Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu increased all types of pensions immediately after coming to power. Similarly, the Chief Minister of Odisha Mohan Charan Majhi has decided to raise the minimum support price for rice to Rs 3,100 per quintal. "The Congress government must wake up now," Harish Rao said. "As stated in their election manifesto, they should immediately increase the pensions for the elderly and widows to Rs 4,000 and for the differently-abled to Rs 6,000." He also criticised the Congress party for only promising a Rs 500 bonus for 10% of farmers growing the fine rice. "The Congress must announce bonuses for all types of rice as per their election promises," Harish demanded.

"We, on behalf of the TRS party, demand the implementation of the six guarantees and 13 promises stated in the election manifesto," he added. # Telangana Congress Failed

US Embassy officials visit Andhra University

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

In a move to solidify educational and cultural ties between the United States and India, representatives from the American Embassy in India visited Andhra University. The delegation included Gloria Berbena, Minister Counsellor for Public Diplomacy, and Alexander J McLaren, Public Affairs Officer.

During the meeting with the visiting dignitaries, Andhra University Vice-Chancellor Prof PVGD Prasada Reddy provided a detailed overview of the progress achieved by the American Corner initiative. Established as a collaborative project between the university and the US Embassy, the American Corner serves as a vibrant platform for fostering connections between the two nations through a variety of educational and cultural programmes.

Akkineni Purnachandra Rao Park to be developed with walking track, open gym

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA



VMC chief Swapnil Dinakar Pundkar giving instructions to the officials regarding the development of Akkineni Purnachandra Rao Park in the 10th Division

Municipal Corporation Commissioner Swapnil Dinakar Pundkar inspected Akkineni Purnachandra Rao Park located at Maruthi Cooperative Employees Colony in the 10th division on Friday. He was accompanied by 10th Division Corporator Devineni Aparna. The Commissioner issued instructions to the officials for the park's development.

He asked the officials to develop a walking track, install open gym equipment, add play items for children, and grow greens in the park.

He also directed the officials to take necessary action for handing over the meditation hall to the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation. Play items and beautiful paintings should be set up in the park beside the Pantakaluva Road. Furthermore, he ordered the engineering staff to lay a BT road in the HT line near Pantakaluva road.

Residents Welfare Association members Chandrasekhar Rao, Lakshminarayana, Nageswara Rao, Tilak, and other engineering staff were present.

INDIA CORNER

Three security personnel injured in IED blasts in Chhattisgarh

Three security personnel were injured after improvised explosive devices (IED) planted by Naxalites went off in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur and Bijapur districts on Friday, police said. Two personnel of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) sustained injuries in an explosion in Narayanpur district, and a jawan of the police's District Reserve Guard (DRG) was wounded in Bijapur, they said. A team of the ITBP's 53rd battalion was out on an area domination operation near Kutul village under the Kohkameta police station area when two personnel came in contact with an IED, an official said. The duo sustained superficial splinter injuries in the blast and were rushed to a hospital, where their condition is said to be out of danger. In Bijapur, the blast occurred in the forest near Bandepara village under Farsegarh police station limits. A joint team of DRG, Bastar Fighters and special task force, all units of the state police, and the CRPF were out on an operation in a national park area.



Man involved in global racket forcing youths into cyber fraud held

The NIA on Friday arrested a man from Maharashtra's Nashik who is suspected to be a key member of an international human trafficking syndicate that forces youngsters into illegal online activities, including credit card frauds and honey trapping. Sudarshan Darade is the sixth person to be arrested in the case, a statement issued by the probe agency said. Investigations have revealed that Darade was directly involved in the organised trafficking syndicate that lured and trafficked Indian youths to foreign countries on the false promise of providing them legal employment there, it said. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) said the youths were being forced to work in fake call centers in Laos, including at the Golden Triangle Special Economic Zone, and Cambodia, among other places, through elaborate syndicates, controlled and operated mainly by foreign nationals, the statement said.



Consequences will be bad if cabinet expansion is delayed: Sena leader

Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Shirsat on Friday warned that "consequences will be bad" if the cabinet expansion is delayed further in Maharashtra. The Eknath Shinde government, which took over in June 2022 after the fall of the Maha Vikas Aghadi dispensation has seen just two cabinet expansions so far, one in 2022 and the other in July 2023 when NCP's Ajit Pawar and eight MLAs joined it. Shirsat, who is one of the contenders for a cabinet post, said the chief minister and deputy chief minister must state if there is going to be a cabinet expansion or not. "Everyone wants to become a minister, but no one says it. You cannot keep it stretching for long. Time has come to make a concrete decision. If the cabinet expansion is further delayed, the consequences will be bad," Shirsat said.



PM Modi and French Prez Macron discuss ways to strengthen ties

PNS ■ BARI (ITALY)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday met French President Emmanuel Macron and discussed ways to further strengthen the strategic partnership including in areas of defence, nuclear and space, and exchanged views on key global and regional issues.

The two leaders met on the sidelines of the G7 summit here in the southern resort town of Italy.

"Taking Strategic Partnership to new levels! PM @narendramodi met President @EmmanuelMacron of France on the sidelines of the 50th G7 Summit in Apulia, Italy," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal posted on X.

It is Prime Minister Modi's first foreign trip after assuming office for a third time this month. The two leaders last met in January when the French President visited India to attend the 75th Republic Day of India.



During their last meeting, the two leaders reaffirmed their shared vision for bilateral cooperation and international partnership, outlined in Horizon 2047 and other documents from the July 2023 Summit.

Horizon 2047 Roadmap sets an ambitious and broad-ranging course for the bilateral relationship for 2047, the centenary year of India's independence.

Modi is attending the 50th G7 Summit on the invitation of Italian President Georgia Meloni and will address an Outreach session on Artificial Intelligence, Energy, Africa and the Mediterranean alongside leaders of other invited countries and Pope Francis.

'Scope to deepen ties with the UK'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday met his British counterpart Rishi Sunak and reaffirmed his commitment to further strengthen the India-UK strategic partnership in the third term of the NDA government and reviewed the progress made in the ongoing FTA negotiations. The two leaders greeted each other with a warm hug as they met on the sidelines of the 50th G7 Summit at the luxury resort of Borgo Egnazia in Apulia. "It was a delight to meet PM @RishiSunak in Italy. I reiterated my commitment to further strengthen the India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in the third term of the NDA Government," Modi posted on X soon after their meeting. "There is great scope to deepen ties in sectors like semiconductors, technology and trade. We also talked about further cementing ties in the defence sector," Modi wrote. The spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs Randhir Jaiswal described the meeting between the two leaders as "fruitful."

Meets Ukranian President

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday held talks with Ukranian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on the sidelines of G7 summit in Italy's Apulia region. It is learnt that Zelenskyy briefed Modi on various aspects of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Modi had met Zelenskyy on the sidelines of the previous G7 summit in Hiroshima in May last year as well. India has been maintaining that the conflict in Ukraine must be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy.

KUWAIT FIRE

Mortal remains of 31 Indians received at Kochi airport

PNS ■ KOCHI

The mortal remains of 31 Indians, including 23 Malayalees, who died in the Kuwait fire tragedy were received at the international airport here on Friday by Central and state ministers, including Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who paid tributes to the deceased.

An Indian Air Force (IAF) flight carrying the mortal remains of 45 Indians who died in the tragic fire incident in Kuwait two days ago, landed at the international airport here at around 10.30 am.

Of the 45 mortal remains carried by the IAF C130J aircraft, 31 were received at the airport here.

The 31 bodies include 23 Keralites, 7 Tamilians and one person from Karnataka, officials said.

Vijayan, speaking to reporters at the airport, said that 'pravasis' (expatriates) were the lifeline of Kerala and the deaths of so many Indian expatriates in the fire was a "huge disaster for the country".



The CM also said that the incident was also a huge disaster for the expatriate community.

"It is an unending loss for the families of the deceased. The Kuwaiti government has taken strong and effective action following the incident and the Indian government intervened in a good way.

"Measures need to be taken to prevent a recurrence of such an incident and it is hoped that the Kuwaiti government will take the requisite action for the same," the CM said.

He also expressed hope that the Kuwaiti government would take the initiative to provide sufficient compensation to the families of the victims.

"For this, the Indian government should get in touch with the government in Kuwait to expedite the process as those who died there had gone there to earn a livelihood. Any amount of help to the bereaved families may not be enough," he said.

Director and manager of explosives factory held day after blast kills 6 workers

PNS ■ NAGPUR

Police on Friday arrested the director of an explosives factory along with its manager, a day after a blast at the unit located near Nagpur city killed six workers, an official said.

Jay Khemka (49), director of Chamundi Explosives Pvt Ltd, and factory manager Sagar Deshmukh were arrested and later produced in a local court, he said.



Meanwhile, Union minister Nitin Gadkari visited the blast-affected factory along with officials.

Speaking on the occasion, he said, "The factory management has assured to provide Rs 25 lakh to the families of each deceased, while the state government will give Rs 10 lakh to the kin of each victim."

The factory is located in Dhamna village under Hingna police station limits, around 25 km from Nagpur city.

The blast occurred around 1 pm on Thursday. A total of nine injured persons were admitted to two private hospitals in the city, of whom five women and a man died during treatment, the police earlier said.

Most of the victims were working in the factory's packaging unit when the explosion took place, they said.

According to the Hingna police station officials, a case under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 286 (negligent conduct with respect to explosive substance), 304 (a) (causing death of any person by doing any rash or negligent act) and 338 (causing grievous hurt by doing any rash or negligent act) was registered against the director and the manager of the factory on Thursday night.

Subsequently, director Khemka, a resident of Ram Nagar in Nagpur, and manager Deshmukh were arrested, they added.

Leader of Opposition in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Vijay Wadettiwar, also visited the site. He said guidelines prescribed for such factories should be strictly implemented, and demanded Rs 35 lakh compensation and Rs 20,000 monthly pension for the families of the deceased.

Betting racket in Ujjain busted, Rs 14.58 crore recovered; 9 held

PNS ■ UJJAIN (MP)

The police in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain busted a betting racket by arresting nine persons and recovering Rs 14.58 crore cash during raids in different parts of the city, an official said on Friday.

According to the police, they received a tip-off about a racket taking bets on the ongoing T-20 Cricket World Cup and online games.

"We got a tip-off that one Piyush Chopra was involved in online betting on a large scale. We worked on the information for two days. Police teams conducted raids at two to three localities, including Mussaddipura and 19 Dream Colony, on Thursday evening," the Ujjain range Inspector General of Police (IG) Santosh Kumar Singh told reporters.

The teams recovered cash to the tune of Rs 14.58 crore and currencies of seven countries, including pound and dollar, he said, adding that more than 40 mobile phones, laptops and other gadgets were also seized.

The police arrested nine persons, hailing from MP's Neemuch and Ludhiana in Punjab, who were involved in the illegal activity, the official said.

Cal HC allows post-poll violence 'victims' to visit Raj Bhavan

PNS ■ KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court on Friday wondered whether the West Bengal Governor was under "house arrest", and said the Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari can visit the Raj Bhavan along with alleged victims of post-poll violence to meet C V Ananda Bose if permission is granted by his office.

Adhikari and another person had moved the court, claiming that despite having written permission, police stopped them from entering the Raj Bhavan on Thursday.

Justice Amrita Sinha directed that the LoP can visit the Governor House along with the people allegedly affected by violence in the state after the Lok Sabha polls, on the basis of permission granted by the Raj Bhavan.

During the course of hearing, the judge asked the state's Advocate General (AG) whether the governor was under "house arrest".

Justice Sinha said when that is not the case, why were these people not allowed to meet the governor despite having permission from his office.



AG Kishore Dutta stated before the court the allegations made by the petitioners were not true, and claimed that Adhikari's secretary did not communicate with police at the site as was requested when they reached the spot outside the Raj Bhavan on Thursday afternoon.

Adhikari's lawyer opposed the submission of the AG, claiming that Dutta had not been properly informed by his officers.

Dutta, thereafter, submitted before the high court that the governor went to Maheshwari Bhawan in Burrabazar on Friday and met the alleged post-poll victims.

The court directed that a fresh request has to be made by the petitioner, and if permission is granted by the governor's office, they may visit the Raj Bhavan.

Senior BJP leader Adhikari and a woman claiming to be a victim of post-poll violence stated in their petition that they had an appointment to meet Bose at 4 pm on Thursday along with around 200 people.

Their lawyer claimed that on the basis of the permission granted to them to meet the governor, they assembled near the Raj Bhavan, but were allegedly prevented by the police from entering the premises.

Hazare must raise voice against scams in Maha, country: Raut

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut said on Friday that anti-graft activist Anna Hazare must highlight scams across the country, including the one allegedly linked to electoral bonds.

Raut was referring to reports that said the octogenarian leader would challenge the police closure report in the alleged Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank (MSCB) in which Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar was among the accused.

The Sena (UBT) leader said



Hazare, whose anti-corruption campaign was one of the key reasons behind Congress' defeat in the 2014 Lok Sabha polls and the birth of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), must protest at the Ramlila Maidan against scams in Maharashtra and country.

In April, the Mumbai police filed a closure report in the alleged Rs 25,000-crore MSCB scam, saying there was no unfair loss to the bank due to the loan given to sugar mills and other entities.

About Hazare's apparent plan to challenge the closure report, Raut said, "I am glad that Anna Hazare has woken up. I congratulate him for that. But Maharashtra has not only seen 'Shikhar' (MSCB) bank scam. The state and country have seen scams over scams."

High-level US Congressional delegation visiting India next week to meet Dalai Lama

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Chair of US House Foreign Affairs Committee Michael McCaul and former House speaker Nancy Pelosi are set to be part of a US congressional delegation that is set to visit Dharamsala next week to meet Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama.

The high-level US bipartisan delegation will be in Dharamsala on June 18 and 19, authoritative sources said on Friday.



The visit of the influential US lawmakers to the Himalayan town is taking place ahead of the Dalai Lama's planned trip to the US for medical treatment.

Tibet's government-in-exile is based in Dharamshala and it represents over one lakh Tibetans living in around 30 countries. The US has strongly been supporting the Tibetan cause and condemning all oppression and coercion of Tibetans by China.

The US Congress this month passed a legislation calling for a peaceful resolution of the dispute over the status and governance of Tibet. The 'Resolve Tibet Act' also calls on Beijing to resume dialogue with the Dalai Lama.

American lawmakers have regularly been visiting Dharamsala in reflection of Washington's support to the Tibetan cause.

From 2002 to 2010, the Dalai Lama's representatives and the Chinese government held nine rounds of dialogue that did not produce any concrete outcomes. No formal talks have been held since then.

In its talks with China between 2002 and 2010, the Tibetan side pitched genuine autonomy for the Tibetan people in line with the Dalai Lama's middle-way policy. The Dalai Lama has been favouring resolution of the Tibetan issue through dialogue.

In April, the Sikyong or political head of Tibet's government-in-exile, Penpa Tsering said his administration has opened back-channel talks with Beijing to explore ways to find a resolution to the Tibet issue.

The remarks were seen as signs of willingness by both sides to re-engage over a decade after the formal dialogue process hit a dead end in view of anti-China protests in Tibet and Beijing's hardline approach towards the Buddhist region.

Kashmiri Pandits celebrate Mela Kheer Bhawani

PNS ■ TULMULLA/JAMMU

"Faith is more powerful than fear," said a pilgrim, who was among the hundreds visiting temples across Jammu and Kashmir to celebrate the Mela Kheer Bhawani, amid heightened security following four terrorist attacks in the Union Territory.

The fair -- an annual event at the Kheer Bhawani temple, dedicated to Rangya Devi, in Ganderbal district's Tulmulla -- is also celebrated in other shrines and temples in Jammu and Kashmir to mark 'Zyeth Atham', or 'Jyeshtha Ashtami'.

"Everything is in the hands of God. There is some fear but people have come here in large numbers. Faith is more powerful than fear," Sunny, a Kashmiri Pandit from Delhi, said as he and several others from the community congregated at Rangya Devi in the central Kashmir district for the Mela.

Terrorists struck at four places in Reasi, Kathua and Doda districts in the Jammu province between Sunday and Wednesday, killing nine people, including seven pilgrims and a CRPF jawan. Seven security personnel, 41 pilgrims and a villager were also injured in the attacks.

The pilgrims were attacked while they were travelling in a bus to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Jammu's Katra on June 9.



Strict security measures were implemented to ensure the safety of the devotees. A multi-layered security ring was established around the temple complex and along the routes.

Several Kashmiri Pandits also thronged a temple in Jammu city to mark the start of the three-day annual mela, seeking blessings and paying tributes to the victims of terror attacks.

Kheer Bhawani Peeth at Janipur area of Jammu city was constructed as a replica of the original shrine here after mass migration of the community from the valley in early 1990's.

"This is our biggest festival which we have been celebrating here for the past three decades … We prayed for the safety of our country, especially Jammu which has come on the terror radar," Anu, who visited Kheer Bhawani Peeth, said.

Sunny said that the members of the Kashmiri Pandit community felt very good to pay obeisance at the revered shrine.

"It feels very good to have come here. It has been a memorable experience," he said.

D K Kaul, another Kashmiri Pandit who visited the temple here after 20 years, said there seems to be no fear among the pilgrims.

"There are miscreants everywhere and it is their job to create disturbances and wedge between the communities. We have no fear, we have the support of our Muslim brothers. The neighbouring country does not want Muslims and Hindus to live together in brotherhood. We want to live together. We have no complaints or grudges with our Muslim brothers, they provided us shelter in their homes and kept all the facilities," Kaul said.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Growing clout

The G7 Summit provides India with a significant platform to contribute to critical global discussions

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Italy on Friday for the G7 Summit's Outreach session. This visit marks PM Modi's first foreign trip since the beginning his third term in office. India has been invited to the Summit by Italy. The Group of Seven, or G7, a coalition of the world's most happening economies --- Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and the US --- makes the world go round. India has emerged as one of the most trusted G7 partners over the years. This forum is instrumental in shaping global economic policies and addressing critical issues such as climate change, trade and geopolitical stability; in nutshell a force to reckon with. The G7 Summit is an annual gathering where the member nations discuss these pressing matters and seek collaborative solutions. India, while not a member, has a significant interest in the G7's activities and decisions due to its expanding global influence and economic aspirations. The G7 holds substantial sway over global economic and political affairs. Collectively, these nations represent about 40 per cent of global GDP and wield considerable influence over international institutions such as the IMF and the World Bank. The group's decisions can impact global markets, set economic trends and influence international policies. However, the biggest cementing factor is geopolitics. India happens to be in the frontline in G7's economic and political tussle with China. The G7 often discusses security issues, including those related to regional stability and counterterrorism with India as Indian inputs are taken seriously.



India has had a long relationship with the G7. The country's engagement with the G7 is driven by several strategic national interests. India aims to bolster its economic growth through increased trade and investment. The G7 economies are significant trading partners and sources of foreign direct investment. Engaging with the G7 helps India to advocate for fairer trade practices, access to advanced technologies and support for its economic initiatives. Besides, India is deeply invested in the global climate agenda. As a developing nation facing the dual challenges of economic growth and environmental sustainability, India's participation in G7 discussions on climate change is crucial. The G7's commitments to carbon neutrality, renewable energy and financial support for developing nations align with India's goals of transitioning to a green economy. India's participation in these dialogues is vital for addressing security concerns, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region where China's assertive actions have raised alarms. Moreover, as a country aspiring to become a global technology hub, India seeks collaboration with G7 countries on innovation and technological development. Participation in G7 initiatives can help India gain access to cutting-edge technologies, foster research and development partnerships, and support its digital economy.

PICTALK



Spotted deer drink water inside their zoo enclosure on a hot summer day, in Patna PTI

Dogs that save human lives with devotion



HIRANMAY **KARLEKAR**

On the one side is canine unconditional love and care; on the other, human beings are indifferent or cruel to animals, hurting and exploiting them



From Oregon in the United States comes the report of a dog saving the life of his owner through a combination of devotion, will and intelligence. As reported by several newspapers, a gentleman by the name of Brendan Garrett, who was driving a truck, failed to negotiate a curve in the road, went through the embankment and fell into a deep ravine. He was injured, as were two of the four dogs travelling with him. One the four, Blue, a whippet, who was obviously not injured, ran through the dense forest covering the ravine and, travelling a distance of nearly four miles, reached a campsite where a friend of Garrett was waiting for him.

On Blue's arrival, the friend, who had been worrying because of the delay in Garrett's arrival, feared that that something terrible had happened and alerted Garrett's brother, Tyree. The family mounted a search of the area and Tyree Brandon managed to see the truck lying deep inside the ravine. Brendan Garrett and the dog were rescued and treated.

Needless to say, this was one of the numerous accounts of the loyalty and devotion the canines harbour towards humans who love and care for them, going to the extent of even dying for them. In this case, Blue has survived. He, however, ran the risk of being attacked by wild animals and run over by speeding vehicles, as he raced to the campsite. Recognition of the deep and loving ties with which dogs attach themselves with humans who care for them, is one side of the story. The other is how humans treat them. There are doubtless those who care deeply for their dogs and other animals kept as pets, regarding them as family members and even dying for them. There are others who believe that all animals have to be treated with dignity and consideration. There, however, are others who are indifferent or cruel to animals, killing, injuring, enslaving and exploiting them at will.

The belief that animals are inferior to humans and are meant for their benefit, has emerged from the Judeo-Christian theological tradition and the anthropocentric world view rooted in the Humanist philosophy of the classical Greeks. Aristotle wrote in *Politics* that nature made all animals for the sake of man and that it was permissible to enslave people who did not possess reason as it was to enslave animals. Saint Augustine wrote in *The City of God*, "When we read "Thou shalt not kill', we do not understand this phrase to apply to bushes, because they have no sensation, nor to unreasoning animals that fly, walk or crawl, because they are not associated in a community with us by reason…Hence it is by a very just ordinance of the Creator that their life and death is subordinated to us." This attitude continued through history. In *Eternal Treblinka: Our Treatment of Animals and the Holocaust*, Charles Patterson points out that like Aristotle, whose work he incorporated in his theology, Saint Thomas Aquinas, perhaps the greatest exponent of medieval Scholasticism, believed that only the reasoning part of the soul survived after death.

> THERE ARE DOUBTLESS THOSE WHO CARE DEEPLY FOR THEIR DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS KEPT AS PETS, REGARDING THEM AS FAMILY MEMBERS AND EVEN DYING FOR THEM

Since animals lacked the capacity to reason, he claimed that "their souls, unlike human souls, did not survive their death".

The European Renaissance, which lasted from the late 14th century to the first half of the 16th century, and the Enlightenment, which flourished in the salons of Paris in the 18th, revived the full tradition of Greek humanism, parts of which were marginalised by scholasticism because these were not deemed compatible with Christian faith. The result was a new emphasis on rationality as the species attribute of humans as well as the affirmation of the latter's supreme position in the universe as expressed in the Greek sophist Protagoras's famous aphorism, "Man is the measure of all things." This led to a further relegation of the status of animals who are treated with unprecedented savagery in animal food processing industries, avoidable medical research, cosmetic products testing, savage torture during bullfighting and holding of jallikattu, and mindless displays of sadism. One sees the same process at work in India though its predominant spiritual heritage as expressed in the Vedas, Upanishads, the great epics, *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata,* and the Puranas, give an exalted position to non-human living beings and give them the same rights as humans. Swami Vivekananda summed up the essence of this heritage when he said in his seminal speech on Vedantism in Jaffna in January 1897.

"In every man and in every animal, however weak or wicked, great or small, resides the same omnipresent, omniscient soul. The difference is not in the soul, but in the manifestation. Between me and the smallest animal, the difference is only in manifestation, but as a principle he is the same as I am, he is my brother, he has the same soul as I have. This is the greatest principle that India has preached. The talk of the brotherhood of man becomes in India the brotherhood of universal life, of animals, and of all life down to the little ants - all these are our bodies …. as our scripture says, "Thus the sage, knowing that the same Lord inhabits all bodies, will worship everybody as such."

(The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal.)

Addressing misinformation about health supplements



BIJU **DHARMAPALAN**

Online misinformation about health supplements exploits trust and evades scientific scrutiny, posing dangerous consequences

In this digital age, people believe online resources more than fellow human beings. It's a common practice during our travel; we unthinkingly follow whatever is told by Google map rather than asking a commoner. Even if a local person gives the correct direction, we look at him with scepticism. For the present generation, Google and WhatsApp are like libraries and teachers. Even in health care, people believe in using Internet sources rather than a physical doctor.

In the age of the internet, access to information has become easy. Individuals can explore a vast array of topics with just a few clicks. However, alongside credible sources and evidence-based research, the online landscape is also rife with misinformation, particularly regarding health supplements. From miracle cures to unverified claims, the spread of misinformation about health supplements poses significant risks to public health and consumer safety. Many people fall into the trap of systematically designed marketing strategies companies employ.



Health supplements, ranging from vitamins and minerals to herbal extracts and dietary supplements, have become increasingly popular in recent years. Marketed as natural remedies to improve health, boost immunity and enhance performance, these products often attract consumers seeking quick fixes or alternative treatments for various health conditions.

One of the primary drivers of online misinformation about health supplements is the commercial interests of manufacturers and distributors. Profit-driven motives often precede scientific evidence and consumer safety in an industry valued at billions of dollars globally. Misleading advertisements, exaggerated claims and cherry-picked testimonials are commonly used tactics to promote supplements and exploit consumer vulnerabilities.

The consequences of online misinformation about health supplements can be far-reaching and profound. Individuals misled by false or exaggerated claims may forgo evidence-based treatments, delay seeking medical advice, or experience adverse reactions due to improper use or dosage of supplements. Recent studies have shown significant repercussions for young people who consume dietary supplements that are marketed to reduce body fat or increase muscle mass. Consuming excessive fat-soluble vitamins, such as vitamins A, D, E and K, can cause the body to accumulate these vitamins, which can lead to toxicity. Toxic quantities of vitamin A, for instance, can induce symptoms such as lightheadedness, nausea and changes in the skin. In more severe situations, vitamin A poisoning can also cause damage to organs, such as the liver and bone discomfort.

To counter the spread of misinformation about health supplements, it is essential to promote critical thinking skills and scientific literacy among consumers.

Education and awareness campaigns can empower individuals to question and evaluate the credibility of online sources, distinguish between reliable information and pseudoscience and make informed decisions about their health and wellness. People who share misinformation on social media should also be made accountable and dealt with severely. Social media platforms should invest in better content moderation tools, including AI and human moderators, to quickly detect and remove false information.

Furthermore, stringent regulatory measures should be enforced against manufacturers propagating such misinformation. The manufacturers propagating such misinformations should be heavily penalised. The recent Supreme Court ruling against a prominent manufacturer to halt misleading advertisements claiming false cures is a positive step in this direction, but enforcement agencies must ensure proper implementation.

(The writer is an adjunct faculty at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DELHI'S TULIP MAKEOVER

Madam — Apropos the news story "Capital to plant over 9 lakh tulips to transform it into 'City of Flowers,'" published on June 13, this is my response. As a daily newspaper reader, the initiative to plant over nine lakh exotic Tulips across Delhi is truly inspiring. This ambitious project aligns with Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena's vision of transforming Delhi into a "City of Flowers," reflecting a significant commitment to enhancing the city's aesthetic appeal. It's fascinating to note the rapid increase in the number of Tulips—from 1.5 lakh in 2022 to an impressive nine lakh this year.

The widespread enthusiasm for these vibrant flowers, which will now adorn key areas such as the Parliament House and popular parks along the Yamuna riverbed, is heartening. Moreover, the decision to sell potted Tulips through various nurseries will allow more residents to participate in this beautification effort. This initiative not only promises to uplift the city's landscape but also fosters a sense of community and pride among Delhi's citizens. It's a beautiful step towards a greener and more colourful urban environment.

Reyansh Tiwari | *Tirupati*

MIFF'S GLOBAL FILM IMPACT

Madam — Regarding the news article "Spotlight on reality: MIFF's role in documentary cinema," released on June 12, here is my feedback. As an avid newspaper reader, I find the role of documentary film festivals incredibly significant in today's cinema landscape. Events like the Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF) offer a vital platform for non-fiction storytelling, highlighting real-life events, societal issues and diverse cultures. MIFF, one of Asia's oldest and most respected festivals, has evolved since its inception in 1990, now featuring global talent and embracing technological advancements.

The upcoming 18th edition, with the innovative 'Documentary Film Bazaar,' promises to connect filmmakers with international producers, enhancing the creation and distribution of documentaries. MIFF's educational workshops, discussions and masterclasses foster professional growth and provide audiences with deeper insights into documentary filmmaking. Such initiatives ensure MIFF's enduring relevance and influence, showcasing its commitment to promoting creativity and meaningful social discussions in the ever-changing global film landscape.

Khirabdi | *Noida*

MOBILE PHONE USAGE CONCERNS

Madam — Apropos the news story "The impact of mobile radiation on children," published on June 13, this is my response. Smartphones are incredibly versatile and indispensable in modern life, keeping us constantly connected. However, the impact of mobile phone usage on children raises growing concerns among parents, educators and health professionals. While these devices offer numerous benefits—instant communication, access to information and social connectivity—they pose significant risks, particularly for children. Children's dependency on mobile phones can lead to addiction-like behaviours, impairing their engagement in other vital activities. The risks: eye strain, disrupted sleep from blue light, affecting melatonin. Excessive screen time can harm health.

The mental and emotional toll is substantial, with high mobile phone usage linked to increased anxiety, depression and loneliness. It also hampers attention spans and academic performance while reducing face-to-face interactions essential for social skills and emotional intelligence development. To mitigate these risks, parents and guardians should encourage moderate and supervised use of mobile devices, employ hands-free options, limit screen time before bed and choose devices with lower SAR values to reduce radiation exposure. Balancing technology use is crucial to safeguard children's health and development.

Ananya Gupta | *Amravati*

Challenges of biannual admissions



Regarding the news article "DU, other institutions mull implementing biannual admission system from next year," released on June 13th, here is my reply. The proposal to implement a biannual admission system by the UGC is a promising step forward, though it comes with challenges. Delhi University and other institutions in the capital are considering this change, aiming for a full roll-out in the future. While DU will start with a pilot project for a few courses in the next academic year, logistical constraints like additional infrastructure need addressing.

Jamia Millia Islamia and Jawaharlal Nehru University show cautious optimism but await necessary approvals from statutory bodies. State universities like IP University and Ambedkar University see potential benefits, including increased opportunities for students and better utilisation of resources. However, they acknowledge the need for more space, staff and faculty. Private universities like Lovely Professional University also support this initiative, highlighting its flexibility and accessibility for students. Overall, this move aligns Indian universities with international standards, potentially enhancing the educational landscape but requiring careful, phased implementation.

Siya Bhatia | *Mangaluru*

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

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Performing welfare acts ensures no downfall in this or next world



AJIT KUMAR **BISHNOI**

Is God interested in us? Yes, very much so. Because we, souls, are His parts. (The Bhagavad-Geeta 15.7) But it depends on where we are placed in the human hierarchy. From what I have learnt, we can classify all humans into six main categories. Starting from the top, devotees of God are most dear to God. Lord Krishna States, "I am similarly inclined towards all beings; no one is hateful for me and no one is dear. However, those who worship Me with devotion, they are in Me and I am also in them." (9.29) This means that devotees of God have God in their hearts and similarly, God keeps them in His heart. Good examples of great devotees of God are Adi Shankaracharya and Vivekananda. What does God do for them? He liberates them. Such persons preach what they have learnt and realised. Lord Krishna States, "No one other than him among men pleases Me more and there will be no one other than him who is dear to Me on the earth. (18.68-69)

The next category is God's *'nimitta'* (instruments), as Arjuna was. What do they do? They carry out God's instructions, as Arjuna did, by fighting to uphold dharma. What does God do for them? He becomes 'karta' (doer) in their lives. (11.33) And they are rewarded with heaven after death. But they must return to earth after exhausting their pious karmas (acts). (9.21) The third category of human beings is social workers, those engaged in the welfare of others. Lord Krishna has cited the example of King Janaka in the Bhagavad-Geeta in this connection. (3.20) There are many in the recent past like Hanuman Prasad Poddar.



The fourth category is good people, those mostly in the mode of goodness. Such persons have brightness and knowledge in all their senses; they are always doing what is right with their minds and senses. (14.11) Then come philanthropists, who are kind enough to donate. What they feel they should do is help others, who are not so blessed. Such people not only bring up the deprived but also in some ways follow Lord Krishna's instruction to not be so attached to the fruits of action. (18.9) Such actions ensure good karmaphalas in their next birth, which help them to be pleasant. The fifth category comprises common people, primarily driven by passion, living to survive. They constitute the foundational fabric of society, reincarnating repeatedly.

God is very interested in the first three categories, as detailed in the Geeta. Highly advanced devotees are freed from the painful cycle of birth and death. (12.7) Imagine being in the womb of a mother for nine long months where there is hardly any movement and of course no interaction. Exalted individuals embody God consciousness, dedicating themselves primarily to spiritual acts and preaching. God selects those inclined to serve humanity, nurturing them from youth. Such souls are protected from self-destructive behaviors, guided onto virtuous paths. Social workers follow, benefiting humanity, assured by God: "Performing welfare acts ensures no downfall in this or the next world." God empowers all those who are good and mean well. For example, if someone wishes to invent something, which will benefit mankind, God helps him, because the source is God only. Preachers are helped by providing the needed knowledge. Many famous writers have admitted that God dictates and they write. Help is extended to those aiding others, akin to *'Siddha purushas'* (exalted beings). Spiritual fundraisers also gain empowerment. How else can mortals amass billions? God, impartial yet partial to surrendered devotees, keeps them in mind. Then, dharma is very dear to God, because dharma is the bedrock upon which His creation rests.

The conclusion is: you start taking shelter from God or at least be desirous to help others. God will take note of you. Then, the sky is the limit, as detailed herein.

(The writer is a spiritual guide; views are personal)

The robustness of India's political system



VINAYSHIL **GAUTAM**

The recent Indian parliamentary elections underscore the resilience and maturity of the country's democratic processes, reflecting the electorate's nuanced choices



Civil society requires an acceptance of rules, regulations and practices for the orderly conduct of affairs. These rules, regulations and practices may or may not be documented but they are generally composed of items which everyone agrees to confirm.

A commonly referred example is the fact that the United Kingdom does not have a written constitution, yet it manages to conduct its affairs in a fairly orderly fashion. This requires a great deal of self-regulation and the ability to allow matters to function together, even in disagreement. This enables the orderly conduct of affairs with or without agreement and with mutual respect. It is a significant achievement.

Compared to this, there are some countries with written constitutions that find it difficult to conduct their affairs in an orderly manner and often have to resort to courts. Appealing to the courts itself is an acceptable method of conflict resolution, even though it may be seen as a less evolved order than working with mutual agreement.

The ability to manage oneself and manage disagreements is a significant constituent trait of civil society. In extreme cases, withdrawal from participation is known to happen, but this needs to be an exception rather than the rule. Put simply, agreeing to disagree is a gentlemanly art which only the evolved can practice.

Together with this, the use of temperate language and polite methods of disagreement are inherent parts of civil society. Loose talk and abrasive postures can, of course, happen, but they do credit to nobody and become an indicator of a lower level of evolution.

> CIVIL SOCIETY REQUIRES ACCEPTANCE OF RULES, REGULATIONS AND PRACTICES FOR ORDERLY CONDUCT, EVEN WITHOUT WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION, SHOWCASING SELF-REGULATION AND MUTUAL RESPECT

The recent elections for the parliament are a tell-tale story of the State of health of Indian political processes. On one hand, it is a resounding testimony to the fairness of the Indian electoral process and the sheer maturity of political choices.

It truly reflects the thinking of the electorate, who went to record one's views in a matter most consistent with the individual's judgement and inclination. Such large-scale observance of the peaceful exercise of political choices can and should fill with joy any one's thinking and observation.

That being said and done, there are other actions which need thought and some better understanding of the causative factors.

That some victors of the electoral process, even if they otherwise had the credentials, did not make it to the cabinet is an understandable aberration.

There is no one's 'right' to be in the cabinet and if the Prime Minister, in his inherent prerogative, did not deem it so, he exercised a conscious choice.

Similarly, the inclusion of some who lost the election in the cabinet is also justifiable under prime-ministerial prerogative. An example being cited is a former Congressman who lost the election, under the BJP ticket, taking oath as a minister.

Another interesting case is of a BJP functionary in Kerala (the General Secretary of the BJP there) without being a member of any of the two houses of Parliament, taking oath as a minister.

From a particular State, eight ministers were chosen, but two veterans, former members of the different era cabinets of the party, notwithstanding their success in the election, lost out for a cabinet berth.

Examples are many, but they all carry the stamp of prime-ministerial prerogative. A gentleman who was a minister in the outgoing Government has found a place in Modi 3.0 despite losing the election. This particular gentleman, as noted above, was not only a minister in the outgoing Government and lost the election (he has at least the redeeming feature of being a member of the Rajya Sabha).

There have been some negative press reports and commentaries on such examples. It does not help a cause.

Mounting a telescope on a microscope to detect departures and deviations from what one believes should be the norm of cabinet-making in a parliamentary system, cannot be accepted as an algorithm of decision-making. No rule or regulation can be followed 100 per cent in all exceptions and this is what judgment and prerogatives are all about.

By and large, the ministry formation of 70+ has been a remarkable achievement of balance and poise. Whether it be the case of Ravi Shankar Prasad/Rajiv Pratap Rudy/L Murugan/Rajiv Chandrasekhar, whether for inclusion in the cabinet or exclusion, not too much can be made out of such decisions.

A case can be cited of a veteran BJP leader from Gujarat who took the oath in the first and second Modi's Government and won this election but did not make it to the cabinet. Such decisions are to be taken in stride and accepted for what they are worth.

It can be rightly claimed that constituting a 70+ ministerial house is a major feat and it has been achieved with consummate artistry. It is one more testimony, if any, be needed to the maturity of the Indian political process.

(The writer is a well-known management consultant of international repute. The views expressed are personal)

Modi's third term to drive India's global diplomacy

Modi 3.0 advances India's global presence with robust diplomacy, strategic alliances and a renewed national identity focus



ABHISHEK PRATAP **SINGH**

On June 4, the results for the Indian Lok Sabha elections 2024 started coming in. For many, the results came with an element of surprise, amidst the euphoria created by our Exit polls and expectations of the ruling Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP). Despite no single party getting the majority, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) led by the BJP is set to form the next Government. Modi 3, as we may call it, led by Narendra Modi is well prepared to lead the nation once again.

In the last decade, India has well-positioned itself as an influential global player. Led by the pro-active diplomacy of the Narendra Modi Government, India has made a shift from being a 'strategically reticent' State to a 'balancing power' in global politics. As an "aspirational power", India has refused to be drawn into any great power rivalries and has remained focussed on strengthening neighbourhood relations, soft power expansion, promoting humanitarian aid, building economic cooperation, fighting global terrorism and climate change, adherence to international laws and seeking UN security council reforms. In an editorial written by the Prime Minister himself, he reiterated that India is being "acknowledged as a strong and important voice of the Global South." Modi 3.0 is likely to build on these continuities and achievements of foreign policy.

In a complex world, Modi's third term faces new diplomatic challenges and opportunities. Alliance partners may influence policy, but key trends will shape India's foreign policy under the NDA Government.

Firstly, the direction of India's Foreign policy cannot be understood without any reference to the question of our national identity which remains well aligned with our ancient past and glory. In the last ten years, our diplomacy has invested its intellectual energy and political strength embracing the importance of our civilizational identity. And this identity is well shaped by the values and culture of the glorious Hindu past. Against the backdrop of coalition partners, it would be interesting to see if this question of civilizational identity has to emulate any sub-national diplomacy chore given the TDP's role in the Government and its style of politics and pride in Telugu identity.

For the BJP and Narendra Modi, the call for a resurgent India is well shaped and defined by our core and united civilizational identity.

Secondly, the role of foreign policy will be critical in Modi 3 in terms of building political alliances and economic partnerships, that may well align with our major policy goals as we drive towards building Viksit Bharat (Developed India) by 2047.



Diplomacy is crucial for achieving Government goals in the global world. Market reforms, free trade agreements, digital infrastructure upgrades and energy security are essential for our economic resilience and global relevance.

Thirdly, it would be interesting to see India's diplomatic manoeuvring and great power engagements as we keep pushing for a multipolar world order. India's relationship with the United States is likely to deepen further, shaped by strategic convergence between both on concerns over China's assertiveness and developments in the Indo-Pacific region.

Modi 3 will focus on strong India-US ties, people-to-people connections, business, science/tech and strategic cooperation. India will assert national interests confidently, as seen with Ukraine and Doklam. Emphasising 'neighbourhood policy,' India seeks to improve regional connectivity and trade, shown by its $4 billion aid to Sri Lanka during the 2022 crisis. Leaders from neighbouring countries are invited to the NDA Government's oath ceremony, underscoring regional partnerships despite challenges.

Lastly, managing relations with China is not going to be an easy cakewalk for foreign policy under Modi 3. BJP's election manifesto very clearly pledged to "accelerate the development of robust infrastructure" along the two countries' border. Amidst the growing trust deficit, India fully recognises the potential threat of aggressive and resurgent China.

The electoral campaign also witnessed the use of a 'China card' by the opposition against the BJP. How diplomacy comes out of this pause in bilateral relations will be an enquiring concern under the new Government. We need to find a new equilibrium in its ties with China while building our defence capabilities and strengthening strategic with like-minded States.

In the given scenario, diplomacy under Modi 3 is poised for continuity and comprehensive foreign policy reforms, strengthening strategic alliances and India's leading role in the Global South. Moreover, India's role in global politics is set to expand and evolve, as India strives to be a pivotal player on the world stage.

(The author is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Delhi; his views are personal)

the pioneer
VIJAYAWADA | SATURDAY | JUNE 15, 2024

MONEY MATTERS

Minda Corp joins hands with Taiwan firm to locally produce sunroof for PVs

Auto components maker Minda Corporation on Friday said it has inked a pact to form a joint venture with Taiwan-based HSIN Chong Machinery Works Co to locally produce sunroofs for passenger vehicles. The 50:50 partnership aims to localise the production of sunroof and closure technology products."This collaboration underscores our commitment to Atmanirbhar Bharat, as we strive to deliver comprehensive system solutions encompassing product design, development, and manufacturing for passenger vehicles," Minda Corporation Chairman & Group CEO Ashok Minda said in a statement. HSIN Chong Machinery Works Chairman Roger Hsi said the company is looking forward to collaborate with Spark Minda to expand its footprint in India's growing vehicle market to develop and manufacture innovative integrated automotive sunroof and closure systems for next-generation vehicles. The company is confident that this partnership will effectively channelise the complementary strengths of both organisations and establish a strong presence in the rapidly expanding market in India, he added.



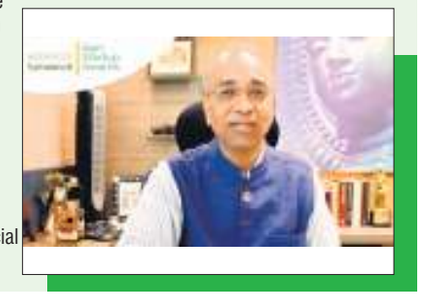
Vedanta arm WCL to invest US$ 2 bn for Liberia's socio-economic growth

Vedanta Sesa Goa on Friday said that its arm Western Cluster Ltd (WCL) is planning to pump in US$ 2 billion for the socio-economic development of Liberia, West Africa. WCL is a wholly-owned arm of Bloom Fountain Ltd, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Vedanta Ltd. "Western Cluster Ltd...a key player in Liberia's mining sector, is set to act as a catalyst to Liberia's growth trajectory charted by the new government as it plans to invest US$ 2 billion to propel socio-economic development in the region," the company said in a statement. WCL's ongoing initiatives include infrastructure development, community engagement, and generating employment opportunities for local communities. Since its inception in 2011, WCL has invested over US$ 300 million towards the socio-economic development of the region, which includes substantial contributions to community development funds and critical infrastructure projects.



Agri firm Samunnati gets Rs 133 cr debt funding from Blue Earth

Agriculture value chain enabler Samunnati on Friday said it has raised Rs 133 crore (US$ 16 million) in credit financing from Swiss impact investment firm Blue Earth Capital. This is Blue Earth Capital's first debt investment and will help Samunnati expand initiatives aimed at improving the lives of small farmers across the country through projects focused on climate adaptation, resilience and mitigation practices. The funding from Blue Earth is the single largest debt tranche raised by Samunnati during the first quarter of the fiscal year. "We're grateful for the support from Blue Earth Capital... This boost will strengthen our efforts to improve the lives of smallholders through climate and sustainability projects," Samunnati founder and chief executive Anil Kumar SG said in a statement. In the current fiscal year, Samunnati has already secured US$ 5 million (Rs 41 crore) in debt funding through external commercial borrowing from Enabling Qapital.



HEAT WAVE IMPACT

Wholesale inflation rises to 15-month high of 2.61%

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



The wholesale inflation rose to a 15-month high of 2.61 per cent in May, as heatwave conditions pushed up prices of food items, specially vegetables, and on costlier manufactured products.

The wholesale price index (WPI) based inflation has been rising for three months in a row. It was 1.26 per cent in the previous month and (-) 3.61 per cent in May 2023.

"Positive rate of inflation in May, 2024 is primarily due to increase in prices of food articles, manufacture of food products, crude petroleum & natural gas, mineral oils, other manufacturing etc," the Ministry of Commerce & Industry said in a statement on Friday.

The May WPI print is at a 15-month high. The last high was seen in February, 2023, when inflation was 3.85 per cent. As per the data, inflation in food articles rose to a 10-month high of 9.82 per cent in May.

Inflation in vegetables was 32.42 per cent in May, up from 23.60 per cent in the previous month. Onion inflation was at 58.05 per cent, while potato was 64.05 per cent. Pulses inflation rose 21.95 per cent in May.

Bank of Baroda Economist Aditi Gupta said food inflation is also likely to remain elevated due to severe heatwave in the country. Progress of the monsoon will play a key role in determining the trajectory of food inflation going forward.

Prices of *tur, chana, urad* dals likely to soften

Prices of tur, chana and urad dals are likely to soften from next month helped by expectations of a good monsoon and increased imports, Union Consumers Affairs Secretary Nidhi Khare said on Friday, stressing there is no need for panic.

Imports of these three pulses will also increase from next month, she said adding this would help augment domestic supply.

"Prices of tur, chana and urad dals have been stable in the last six months but at a high level. The price situation in moong and masoor dals is comfortable," Khare told reporters here.



On June 13, the average retail price of chana dal was Rs 87.74 per kg, tur (arhar) Rs 160.75 per kg, urad Rs 126.67 per kg, moong Rs 118.9 per kg and masoor Rs 94.34 per kg. The consumer affairs department collects retail prices from 550 major consuming centres.

"From July onwards, prices of tur, urad and chana are likely to soften," Khare said.

The secretary noted that weather office has forecast normal monsoon rains.

RBI imposes Rs 1.45 cr penalty on Central Bank of India

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank on Friday said it has imposed a penalty of Rs 1.45 crore on the Central Bank of India for non-compliance with certain directions related to 'loans and advances' and 'customer protection'.

The RBI had conducted a statutory inspection for Supervisory Evaluation (ISE 2022) of the Central Bank of India with reference to its financial position as of March 31, 2022. A notice was issued to the bank, advising it to show cause as to why a penalty should not be imposed on it for its failure to comply with the directions, the RBI said.

After considering the bank's response, the RBI found that charges against the bank were sustained.

The bank sanctioned a working capital demand loan to a Corporation against amounts receivable from the government by way of subsidies. It also failed to credit (shadow reversal) the amount involved in a few instances of unauthorised electronic transactions to the customer's account within the stipulated time.

Gems, jewellery exports fell 5% to Rs 20,713.37 cr in May

PNS ■ MUMBAI



India's overall gems and jewellery exports in May declined 4.97 per cent to Rs 20,713.37 crore compared to the same period a year ago, Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) data showed.

The exports stood at Rs 21,795.65 crore (US$ 2,646.92 million) during May 2023.

However, the total export of gold jewellery saw 13.1 per cent growth at Rs 5,507.71 crore in May 2024 as compared to Rs 4,807.71 crore in the same period a year ago.

Exports of silver jewellery also surged to Rs 1,103.72 crore last month from Rs 665.13 crore in May 2023.

The overall gross export of Cut & Polished diamonds declined to Rs 12,270.54 crore from Rs 14,190.28 crore.

"India's gems and jewellery sector has shown remarkable resilience and adaptability despite global headwinds. The growth witnessed in categories such as gold and silver jewellery underscores the enduring appeal of Indian craftsmanship and design. As we navigate through the evolving landscape, we remain committed to driving innovation and excellence to ensure sustained growth for the industry," GJEPC chairman Vipul Shah said.

As the industry continues to navigate through dynamic market conditions, GJEPC remains optimistic about the sector's long-term prospects, leveraging India's rich heritage and skilled workforce to capitalise on emerging opportunities, Shah added.

"India's gems and jewellery sector has shown remarkable resilience and adaptability despite global headwinds. The growth witnessed in categories such as gold and silver jewellery underscores the enduring appeal of Indian craftsmanship and design. As we navigate through the evolving landscape, we remain committed to driving innovation and excellence to ensure sustained growth for the industry," GJEPC chairman Vipul Shah said.

Ambuja Cements shares up nearly 2%

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Ambuja Cements on Friday ended nearly 2 per cent higher to hit the 52-week high level during the day after the company announced the acquisition of Penna Cement Industries Ltd for an enterprise value of Rs 10,422 crore.



The stock jumped 3.86 per cent to hit its 52-week high of Rs 690 during the day on the BSE. It ended at Rs 676.95 apiece, up 1.90 per cent.

On the NSE, it climbed 3.68 per cent to Rs 689 -- its 52-week high -- in intra-day trade. Shares of the company ended at Rs 673.60, up 1.36 per cent.

The company's market valuation went up by Rs 3,115.85 crore to Rs 1,66,741.14 crore.

On Thursday, Ambuja Cements, an Adani group firm, announced the acquisition of Penna Cement Industries Ltd (PCIL).

The deal will increase Adani's market share in cement in southern India and give entry into Sri Lanka, where PCIL operates a unit through a local subsidiary. Besides, this deal will also provide sufficient limestone reserves to the growth-hungry Adani group firm, which is aspiring to achieve a 140 MTPA (million tonne per annum) capacity by FY28.

Sensex, Nifty hit fresh lifetime highs

PNS ■ MUMBAI



Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty hit their new closing lifetime highs on Friday, following buying in market heavyweights HDFC Bank, Reliance Industries and Mahindra & Mahindra amid encouraging export data.

Rising for the third straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 181.87 points or 0.24 per cent to settle at a new closing peak of 76,992.77. During the day, it jumped 270.4 points or 0.35 per cent to 77,081.30.

The NSE Nifty rallied 66.70 points or 0.29 per cent to hit a record closing high of 23,465.60. Intra-day, it rose 91.5 points or 0.39 per cent to hit a fresh all-time high of 23,490.40.

Among the 30 Sensex companies, Mahindra & Mahindra, Titan, HDFC Bank, Reliance Industries, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finance, Axis Bank, Tata Motors and Asian Paints were the biggest gainers.

On the other hand, Tech Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services, Wipro, HCL Technologies, Larsen & Toubro and State Bank of India were among the major laggards.

India's merchandise exports in May 2024 rose by 9 per cent to US$ 38.13 billion, from US$ 34.95 billion in the year-ago month, according to government data released on Friday.

Imports also increased by 7.7 per cent to US$ 61.91 billion from US$ 57.48 billion in May 2023.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Shanghai settled higher, while Hong Kong ended lower.

European markets were quoting lower in mid-session deals. US markets ended on a mixed note on Thursday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 3,033 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.12 per cent to US$ 82.65 a barrel.

The BSE benchmark jumped 538.89 points or 0.70 to hit its lifetime peak of 77,145.46 on Thursday. It later ended at 76,810.90, up 204.33 points or 0.27 per cent. The Nifty rallied 75.95 points or 0.33 per cent to settle at 23,398.90.

Among the 30 Sensex companies, Mahindra & Mahindra, Titan, HDFC Bank, Reliance Industries, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finance, Axis Bank, Tata Motors and Asian Paints were the biggest gainers



Kishan Reddy to resume coal mines auction

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister G Kishan Reddy will next week launch the 10th round of commercial coal mines auction in which about 62 blocks will be put on sale.

A BJP leader from Telangana, Reddy has been allocated the coal as well as mines ministries in the Modi 3.0 government. "During 10th round of auction, about 62 blocks are likely to be offered without end user restrictions," the coal ministry said in a statement. Reddy said that complete transparency and revenue maximisation will be ensured in the auction.

Commercial coal block auction was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in June 2020. Since then, during last nine rounds, 107 coal blocks with 256 million tonne (MT) peak rated capacity have been auctioned.

So far, 11 commercial coal blocks have been operationalized. Last year, 17.5 MT coal was produced from commercial blocks.



Kolte-Patil Developers CEO resigns

PNS ■ PUNE

Realty firm Kolte-Patil Developers Ltd on Friday said its Group Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Rahul Talele has resigned from the company. He resigned on June 13, 2024.

"The resignation has been accepted by the board of directors of the company in their meeting held on June 14, 2024. "However, he will continue as a non-key managerial personnel to complete the smooth transition till August 31, 2024," Kolte-Patil Developers said in a regulatory filing. The Pune-based firm is one of the leading real estate firms in the country.

Staffer swindles insurance money

PNS ■ GURUGRAM



The police have booked a man working in a health insurance company here, for allegedly defrauding customers by collecting the money for purchase or renewal of policies into his personal bank account and forging certificates, officials said on Friday.

The accused was identified as Lakshya Gupta, working as a relationship manager in the insurance company, police said.

According to the complaint filed by Pushkar, Manager of the Fraud Control Unit of the company, Lakshya had allegedly collected Rs 2.35 lakh into his bank account from 14 customers in January and February.

"Lakshya Gupta has been working with the company in the capacity of Relationship Manager since November last year. On complaints received from the customers, it was brought to the knowledge of the company that the accused has collected insurance premium amount from the customers into his own Bank account by deceiving the customers and inducing them to transfer the amount using UPI to his UPI IDs linked to his mobile number for issuance or renewal of their policies," Pushkar said in his complaint.

"The company conducted its internal verification and found that he had collected a total of Rs 2,35,230 as premium amount from more than 14 customers in an unauthorized manner into his personal bank account", he said.

He said that during an internal investigation, the company also found that the accused had forged insurance policy certificates and gave them to the customers under the company's name.

Based on the complaint, an FIR was registered against Gupta under sections 406 (criminal breach of trust), 420 (cheating), 467 (forgery of a document which purports to be a valuable security or a will), 468 (forgery for purpose of cheating), 471 (using forged document) of the Indian Penal Code at the Sushant Lok police station on Thursday.

"As per the complaint, an FIR has been registered. We are verifying the facts. The accused will be arrested soon," a senior police officer said.

The accused was identified as Lakshya Gupta, working as a relationship manager in the insurance company, police said. According to the complaint filed by Pushkar, Manager of the Fraud Control Unit of the company, Lakshya had allegedly collected Rs 2.35 lakh into his bank account from 14 customers in January and February

Domestic air passenger traffic rises 4.4% to 1.37 cr in May



PNS ■ MUMBAI

Domestic air passenger traffic went up 4.4 per cent to around 1.37 crore in May, according to official data released on Friday.

The Indian scheduled air operators flew 1.32 crore passengers on domestic routes in May last year.

"Passengers carried by domestic airlines during January-May 2024 were 661.42 lakhs as against 636.07 lakhs during the corresponding period of the previous year, thereby registering an annual growth of 3.99 per cent and monthly growth of 4.40 per cent," the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said.

AWS commits US$ 230 mn to support GenAI startups

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amazon Web Services (AWS) has laid out a commitment of US$ 230 million to support generative AI startups, as part of expansion of its global generative AI accelerator programme.



The 10-week programme, starting October 1, seeks to help 80 founders and startups, including 20 from the Asia-Pacific and Japan (APJ) region, to "turbocharge" their growth.

Selected GenAI startups will receive up to US$ 1 million worth of AWS credits, skill development sessions, business and technical mentorship, and networking opportunities, AWS said in a statement.

The Amazon's cloud-computing subsidiary also launched AWS generative AI Spotlight Programme in APJ, a four-week accelerator programme to support 120 pre-seed and seed-stage ready startups.

The cohort participants will also have access to the AWS startup flagship AWS Activate programme and receive up to US$ 100,000 in AWS credits.

"For 18 years, AWS has helped more startups build, launch, and scale than any other cloud provider -- it's no coincidence that 96 per cent of all AI/ML unicorns run on AWS.

the pioneer
Vijayawada | Saturday June 15, 2024

what's brewing?

Sonakshi makes the leap, Shatrughan Sinha is the happiest father!

Actress Sonakshi Sinha is getting married to beau Zaheer Iqbal on 23rd June. The couple's wedding invitation got leaked on Thursday morning according to which Sonakshi and Zaheer will have an intimate wedding followed by a celebration in Bastian Mumbai.



While the family was mum over the wedding till now, finally Sonakshi's father Shatrughan Sinha has spoken over the nuptials. He said, "She will always have my blessings. Sonakshi is the apple of my eye. She is my only daughter and very close to me. I am a proud father because, over the years, she has also grown as an actor. From *Lootere* to *Dahaad* to now *Heeramandi*, she has proved to be a fantastic actor."

He also added, "If my daughter is getting married, I will support her decision. Sonakshi has the right to choose her companion, and I will be the happiest father on her wedding day. I will always wish her the best… *ek hi toh beti hai meri*."

As per the invite, it will be a simple and intimate celebration. The dress code is anything formal and festive but not in red!

First poster of Akshay's *Sarfira* shared



Akshay Kumar is set to inspire audiences once again with his latest film, *Sarfira*. An inspiring drama that delves into the dynamic world of start-ups and aviation, *Sarfira* is scheduled for a nationwide release on July 12th. The film promises to captivate audiences with its powerful narrative, motivating the common man to dream big and chase their aspirations, no matter how impossible they may seem.

The versatile actor took to his social media to release the first poster of the film. With Kumar embodying a rugged look, and the poster with its captivating phrase "dream so big, they call you crazy", *Sarfira* is a film for the hopeless dreamers and the ones who dare to chase their dreams.

Directed by National Award-winning director Sudha Kongara, *Sarfira* ensures a cinematic experience that is as inspiring as it is entertaining, making the film one of the most anticipated releases of the year.

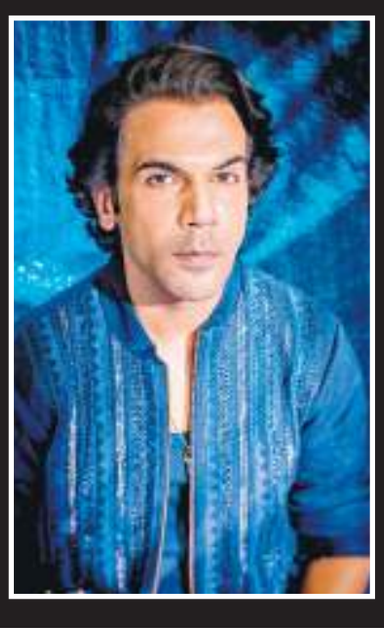
Written by Sudha and Shalini Ushadevi, with dialogues by Pooja Tolani, and a G.V. Prakash Kumar musical, *Sarfira* is produced by Aruna Bhatia (Cape of Good Films), south superstars Suriya and Jyotika (2D Entertainment) and Vikram Malhotra (Abundantia Entertainment).

Rajkummar Rao's *Stree 2* teaser out

Rajkummar Rao is back as Vicky in *Stree 2*, and his fans can't keep calm. The teaser of the much-anticipated film is out.

Interestingly, it was screened directly at the theatres along with Maddock Films' latest release *Munjya*. From the first frame, the makers make it clear that the sequel is funnier, scarier and has all the elements to become the biggest blockbuster of the year. Fans, who witnessed the teaser at the theatres, were seen rooting for the film, which is Rao's third outing this year. And going by fans' reactions, the film is set to solidify 2024 as Rao's year as it is sure to mint moolahs at the box office.

Rao has been having a great year so far with back-to-back releases. He was seen in the role of a visually impaired industrialist Srikanth Bolla in his film *Srikanth*, which received critical accolades, while in *Mr and Mrs Mahi*, he was seen playing a cricketer-turned-coach.



But the year is not over for Rao! The actor will be seen sharing the screen space with Triptii Dimri for the first time in *Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video*. He also has couple of other interesting projects in his pipeline, which he will announce soon!

Singham Again is now set to release on Diwali 2024

The new release date for *Singham Again* by Rohit Shetty is Diwali 2024. The original release date of the movie was set for August 15, 2024. Numerous actors appear in it, including Kareena Kapoor, Arjun Kapoor, Deepika Padukone, Tiger Shroff, Ranveer Singh, and Ajay Devgn.



With a new poster, Ajay Devgn announced the film's release on Friday. The film's title and the names of the actors who starred in it are displayed on the poster.

Ajay Devgn hinted at the release of *Singham Again* during the teaser for his upcoming movie, *Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha*. The actor responded, "We are not sure because the work on it is still ongoing," when questioned about the status of the movie. "It isn't finished. There's still a little bit of shooting to be done. Since *jaldbaazi mein kaam kharaab ho jaata hai*, we are not in a rush. When the time comes, we'll make a decision."

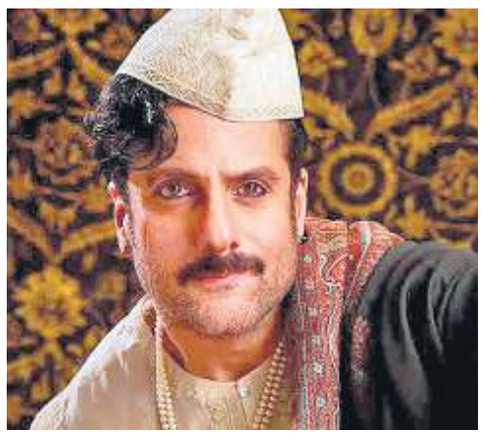
In Rohit Shetty's cop universe, *Singham Again* is the fifth movie. The releasing date of the movie has not yet been revealed.

Sharmin Segal has Fardeen Khan's backing

Sanjay Leela Bhansali: *Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar* has been immensely loved by the audience across the globe. As much as the show has garnered love from the masses, Sharmin Segal's performance has sparked some conversation on the internet. As the trolling around her performance heats up, many actors have come forward to support her, and now, her co-actor from *Heeramandi*, Fardeen Khan, has also raised his voice in her defense.

In a recent interview, Fardeen Khan said, "I think it's extremely unfortunate, the whole trolling aspect of it. Everyone has a right to like or unlike someone's performance but this whole trolling aspect is something that is simply wrong and not done and I believe she has done a very decent job in *Heeramandi*. She has a very complex challenging role and she was working with some mega talent out there. For me she came across strong and it was a great start for her career and started acting in general."

Helmed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali, *Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar* is an eight-part series streaming across 190 countries on Netflix from May 1st.



Sikandar Kher to return to hardcore comedy after 8 years

Sikandar Kher, better known for his wit and humour on social media, is set to display his comedic talent in a new full-fledged comedy drama. Having taken on more serious roles in recent years, Sikandar is excited to make his return to comedy after an 8-year break. The film is helmed by a debutant director and is currently set to go into production soon and will be shot in Mumbai.

Audiences last saw Sikandar in a comedic role in *Tere Bin Laden: Dead or Alive*, where he played surprising characters with prosthetic looks! This upcoming film offers Sikandar a chance to revisit his comedic roots and promises to bring a fresh, humorous dynamic to the big screen.

While the film's specifics remain under wraps, further information about the cast and storyline will be revealed soon. Sikandar Kher's fans can anticipate a unique and entertaining cinematic experience.

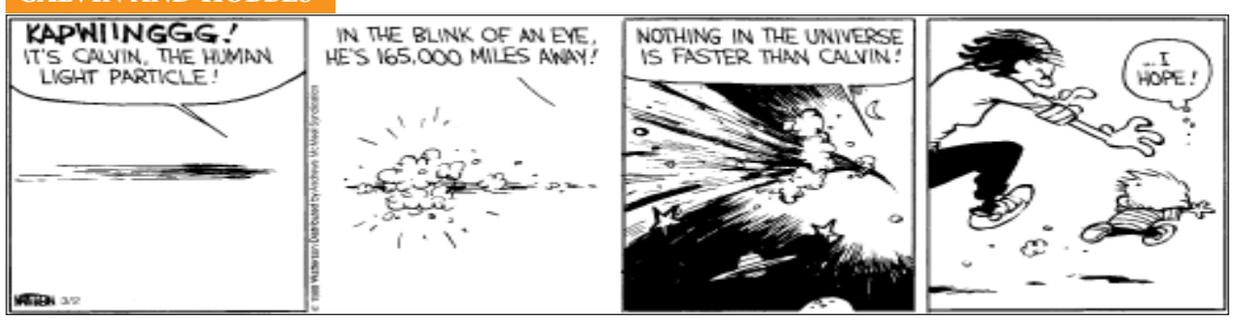
"I'm thrilled to be returning to the comedy genre after an 8-year gap, especially with such a talented team. *Tere Bin Laden: Dead or Alive* was a satirical comedy, and it's been a while since I've had the chance to explore my comedic side on film. This project is the perfect opportunity to do that. Comedy has always been a passion of mine, and I'm excited to bring this story to life in a way that will hopefully resonate with audiences and make them laugh. The comedic genre has a special place in my heart, and working on this film has reminded me of the joy and creative freedom it brings. I can't wait for everyone to see what we've been working on and to share more details about the project soon," said Sikandar Kher.

FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBES



GARFIELD



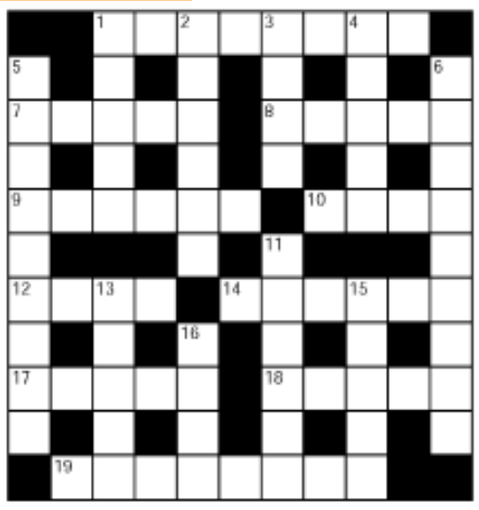
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



NANCY



GINGER MEGGS



SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Yesterday's solution

9	7	4	8	1	2	3	6	5
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Rules

- Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9) exactly once.
- The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

ACROSS

1 Wear these on the lower part of your body
7 Furious
8 A large spoon for serving food
9 Grow flowers here
10 The capital city of Italy
12 A speed competition
14 Graceful kind of dancing
17 Opposite south
18 One quarter of twenty-eight
19 A writer of music

DOWN

1 A large striped wild cat
2 We need this gas to live
3 A song for one
4 Listen to music on this
5 Used instead of butter
6 Choosing
11 Overtakes
13 Goods carried on a ship
15 A body organ
16 Buy things here

SOLUTION

F	E	A	T	H	E	R	S		D	
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the pioneer
Vijayawada

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Saturday
June 15, 2024

HYD HOLDS SPECIAL MEANING FOR ME

‘My husband and I spent a lot of time dating here’



Many people have called Hyderabad home, like Shana Susan Ninan, who is originally from Kerala and has visited many other cities. She shares her passion and affinity with the Hyderabad city with *The Pioneer* this week.

TEJAL SINHA

Today, as we look at the developments that Hyderabad has been through, one cannot ignore the fact that the hospitality sector has been growing. So why not have a much more accomplished interviewee from the hospitality industry onboard for our exclusive weekly segment of Hyderabond? Shana Susan Ninan is a hotel marketing professional. Her job in the field of marketing for several hotels takes her to various cities in India and that keeps her engaged—more reading and more people interaction.

With parents from Kerala and Coorg and having studied and worked across India, she has always loved to learn languages and making new friends wherever she goes.

She holds a great and old association with the ‘city of pearls’. Basically, for her, she’s got to live three different phases of her life in Hyderabad. And so, “This is Hyderabad 3.0 for me. I did my MA in Media from EFL University two decades ago and I loved the city then. I love the city now. After a couple of years as a journalist, I was back in Hyderabad as a language and soft skills trainer. And now, I am based in the city again, but on a different work trajectory.”

Marketing, she says, is a 24x7 job because you’re always glued on—from branding and PR to digital plans and partnerships. “Hyderabad has a lot to offer and it has a good mix of people from several countries and from across India. Perfect for networking,” she shares as she goes on to add, “Hyderabad is close to my heart as this is one city I’ve spent a lot of time dating, Terence, who is my husband now, and have made good friends during my college and previous work days. And as memories go, it brings joy. It is a growing city, economically, geographically and on other parameters. And, rightfully so, it is also one of the cities other than Delhi in the north to have a pub culture long before Bangalore became the pub capital of the country!”

Everyone who has migrated from different places has one inclination towards the city and that’s certainly the Hyderabadi food. Well, so is it with Susan, because every time she thinks of Hyderabad, she can only think of *Haleem* in the old city! Such lovely nostalgia for yum *Lamb Haleem* and not just during Ramadan but throughout the year.

Meanwhile, as we go ahead in this chat, she went on to share her fondest memory, and it was from her university days. “I love eggs in all forms. There used to be a small shack between EFL University and Osmania University back then that served bread, omelettes, and chai from midnight to early morning. As students, it was fun and affordable for us. Plus, it was a good walk with friends at midnight.”

“Hyderabad is now the second most expensive city in India,” she shares about the hospitality sector in Hyderabad. “It is also one of the top five spending cities as well. People’s ideas of celebration have changed. The celebration is no longer small. Everything is big and Instagrammable! Every event is exponentially celebrated. And it is not just about events; even small occasions are in focus, too. There are way too many restaurants, pubs and bars that have opened up in the last two years here. In fact, we even have a mini-Goa-like space right in the heart of the city. So people don’t need to leave the city to celebrate. You have everything here in Hyderabad itself.”

In the past 20 years that she has been in the city, she shares that it has grown and expanded even. “It has become more welcoming. I like the fact that it’s very metropolitan in nature. No one feels left out; you can find different communities residing here. So food, language and culture blend well.”

However, we are sure every Hyderabadi would relate to what she dislikes, and it’s none other than “how drivers and civilians (and authorities) don’t follow road and traffic rules here. That definitely needs some change.”

Well, on a concluding note, she shares that Hyderabad is like a mini-New York.

Finding muse for his stories from everyday life

SHIKHA DUGGAL

Screenwriter and filmmaker Akshay Parvatkar has a talent for writing stories that are grounded in empathy and personal experience.

His latest project, *Hanging by a Thread*, explores caste identities in great detail and starts crucial discussions on social fairness.

Driven by self-belief, inclusivity, and a vision for advancement, Akshay embodies the spirit of Walkers & Co. He is a storyteller with a desire to make a difference, not just a filmmaker. We wonder what inspired him to study this topic, and the director responds, “My goal in making films is to push the audience beyond their comfort zones by presenting a reality they are either unfamiliar with or have chosen to ignore. I noticed a pattern where conversations around caste mainly focused on reservations. Caste is, regrettably, an innate part of our identity and informs our beliefs and worldviews. However, the conversation around it is still taboo and in urban areas, it is often claimed to be nonexistent. *Hanging by a Thread* aims to demonstrate that caste is more complex than just reservations. It is crucial to comprehend the role caste plays in our daily lives if we are to truly comprehend it and engage in constructive discourse.”

Mounting the project and recruiting participants was difficult. When he approached them about finance or co-production, a lot of them told him they could not be involved with a film about caste because of how it would make them seem bad! However, he was able to begin production on the film because of funding from Goa Open Arts and UK producer Afshan D’Souza-Lodhi, who pitched in to co-produce it. Having a fantastic team that was passionate about the subject and worked tirelessly to bring the film to life made the process go smoothly after the money was obtained. His Goan friends and FTII batchmates truly made the film happen!

“I look at the world with open eyes, always wanting to learn new things and gain new perspectives,” the director goes on. “I search all around me for stories, and I find many. Everything usually falls into place when you know why are you making a film and what are you trying to express. Writing actually begins with the story I want to tell; I don’t really start by considering what problem or subject I want to write about. As I write the script, the politics and topics it addresses almost come to me naturally. I find that storytelling is a self-serving method of education. I produce documentaries about subjects and issues that I’m interested in learning more about. I made the decision to make the movie about children because I wanted it to be accessible to all audiences. Youngsters are curious beings who question everything they come across. And that gave me the opportunity to explore the most fundamental caste-related queries. *Hanging by a Thread* is an underdog tale about a young child who wants to play football but is prevented from doing so by outside forces that are out of his control. My goal is for the viewers to be moved by Rohit’s tale and identify with his path of self-acceptance.” That was Akshay’s perspective on how his stories frequently had a real-life basis and sensitivity!

He then talks to us about his method for working with the actors and crew, saying that “making a film is a collaborative medium that requires everyone’s contribution to be successful. I always make sure to discuss my ideas with my close friends, some of whom are also filmmakers, before I begin writing. Before locking in the final script, I get input from other writers after I’ve finished writing the screenplay. The procedure for working with actors varies depending on the film. Since I was working mostly with children for *Hanging by a Thread*, I sat down with them and gave them the general plot synopsis without going into too much detail. In front of the camera, I asked them to appear as natural as possible. For my earlier film, *The First Wedding*, I used an alternative strategy. We improvised a lot on set and didn’t have a screenplay, although I did explain the characters to my actors. There was no other way to make that movie, and the partnership produced a very successful result. It is critical that every member of the team embraces the concept of what we are attempting to accomplish and develops a workflow that functions. I prefer to be transparent with my team regarding my goals, methods of operation, and constraints. I perceive myself as a work in progress, and during the entire filmmaking process, I aim to pick up knowledge from everyone.”

How does he remain faithful to his artistic vision in a field that is frequently influenced by trends and economic success was our next question, and he answered, “When I’m making films, I try to concentrate on stories that speak to me on a personal level and capture the complexity of the human condition. To be honest, the likelihood of the story connecting with the audience increases with its level of personalisation. Since an artist cannot be separated from their work, I prefer to think of myself as a storyteller rather than an artist. As such, the subjects of my stories are inextricably linked to my beliefs and convictions. Despite all of its shortcomings, the film industry allows me and other filmmakers to create the kinds of movies we think are important. With short films, money doesn’t really matter all that much and artists are free to follow their creative visions. The extended format, which includes web series and feature films, is where aspects of commerce come into their own. Here’s where I admire some directors, particularly those in Tamil cinema, who are able to combine a social message with commercial components. In my opinion, in order to create an engaging tale and convey a message that is meaningful to you, you have to find a way to work within the constraints of your industry and put a lot of effort into your craft. A number of directors have recently addressed delicate subjects in very approachable and perceptive ways. Audiences will give you and the film the attention and respect they deserve if you are genuine in your storytelling and have faith in your abilities.”

He wants as many people to see the movie as possible, and he’ll do all in his power to make it happen. He wants viewers to be able to identify with and sympathise with Rohit’s experience in the movie. This movie is his modest attempt to tell a story that shows the difficulties but also shows how we can overcome them in the face of hardship. Additionally, he hopes that *Hanging by a Thread* sparks a discussion on how caste is perceived. The more we discuss it, the less taboo it will be, and ideally, we will get closer to becoming a better, more compassionate society.



In an exclusive interview with *The Pioneer*, screenwriter and director Akshay Parvatkar discusses his latest work, *Hanging by a Thread*, as well as other aspects of his craft.

How AI disc replacement surgeries are helping patients with back pain?

Back pain is a common issue affecting millions of people around the globe. With a huge population experiencing constant back pain, innovation in medical solutions has become necessary. Among all the innovations, artificial intelligence-assisted disc replacement surgeries are growing as a revolutionary approach to treating back pain.

Artificial intelligence (AI) has been making substantial differences in various medical fields, like orthopaedics and spine surgery. In disc replacement surgeries, AI plays a significant role in surgical planning, intra-operative guidance, and post-operative care. By using AI, surgeons can now achieve high precision, better outcomes, and less recovery time for patients suffering from chronic back pain.

According to a study published in the Indian Journal of Orthopaedics, around 60% of Indians face pain in their lower back at some point in their lives. Factors that contribute to this high prevalence include sedentary lifestyles, poor ergonomics, and the physical demands of certain jobs.

AI-powered disc replacement:

The process AI disc replacement surgeries include several stages where cutting-edge technologies are used to enhance precision:

Pre-surgical planning : A 3D model of a patient’s spine is created using AI algorithms to assess MRI and CT scans. AI algorithms are used to analyse MRI and CT scans to create a 3D model of the patient’s spine. This helps in comprehension of the unique anatomy and pathology of the spine and enables a customised surgical plan.

Intraoperative guidance : AI offers real-time guidance and feedback during surgery. Robotics and AI-powered navigation help surgeons in the accurate placement of artificial discs.

Post-operative care : AI is crucial for post-operative care. After examining post-operative data, its algorithms forecast possible complications and prompt action.

BENEFITS OF AI IN DISC REPLACEMENT SURGERIES

Enhanced precision and safety

AI enables a higher level of precision in disc replacement surgeries. With AI’s guidance, it is easy for surgeons to navigate complex spinal anatomies effectively and reduce the risk of human error. This precision translates into safer surgeries with fewer complications.

Reduced recovery time

Patients recovering from AI-assisted surgeries heal faster. As per a study by the National Institute of Medical Sciences Jaipur, patients who undergo AI-assisted surgeries had a 30% faster recovery as compared to traditional surgeries. This can be attributed to the minimally invasive nature of the procedure and accurate implant placement.



Improved patient outcomes

The use of AI in disc replacement surgeries has been connected with overall outcomes. A survey by the Indian Spine Association found that 85% of patients who underwent AI-assisted surgery reported pain relief within six months.

Challenges and future prospects

While AI-assisted surgeries have a positive impact, they also have a lot of challenges. The cost of AI technology and equipment is a barrier to its widespread adoption. Moreover, there is also a need for training for surgeons for efficient use of the technology.

Despite the challenges, the future of AI in spine surgery looks bright. Continuous advancements in AI technology are expected to make surgeries accessible and affordable for patients. Further, the ongoing research and development will only improve the precision and outcomes of procedures.

AI-assisted disc replacement surgeries are creating a revolution in the treatment of back pain in India. With an increase in precision, reduced recovery times, and improved patient outcomes, AI is all set to be an integral part of spinal surgeries. As there is an evolution in technology, AI-assisted disc replacement surgeries will become prevalent and offer hope to many patients who are suffering from back pain in India. With continuous advancements, AI-assisted disc replacement surgeries make way for a new era in orthopaedic care.

(The author, Dr. Ashish Dagar, is the Consultant, Spine Surgery, at Manipal Hospital.)

the pioneer
VIJAYAWADA | SATURDAY | JUNE 15, 2024

KOHLI'S FORM A BOTHERING POINT AS INDIA FACE CANADA AMID RAIN THREAT

PTI ■ LAUDERHILL (USA)

Star batter Virat Kohli's string of low scores would be a concern for India when they square off against Canada in their final group match of the T20 World Cup on Saturday, hoping that the sky remains clear in this city even as several parts of Florida are ravaged by torrential rain.

With three consecutive wins, India are through to the Super Eight stage, which will be held entirely in the West Indies.

Kohli came into the T20 World Cup after setting the IPL ablaze, scoring upwards of 700 runs at a strike-rate of over 150 for Royal Challengers Bengaluru.

Therefore, it wasn't an entirely misplaced expectation that he will continue to fire in the ICC showpiece, which is perhaps his final chance to earn India an ICC World Cup after 13 years.

But three matches have gone by, and Kohli has five runs at an average of 1.66, including a 'Golden Duck' against the USA.

His form has provided an interesting subplot to the game against tournament-debutants Canada, which is otherwise inconsequential, at least for India.

Perhaps, an 1850km trip from New York to Florida might bring with it a turnaround in fortunes for Kohli, who must be hurting after those ordinary outings.

The pitch at the Broward County stadium might not be as spiteful as the one in New York, where the uneven bounce of the tracks and the slow nature of the outfield became bigger talking points than the cricket that was played.

What would ease some pressure on him is the fact that that the lean run has not really affected the team's fortunes.

However, the premier batter's low scores, particularly since he is opening alongside skipper Rohit Sharma, has put some pressure on the subsequent batters to take the India board forward.

Creditably, Rishabh Pant and Suryakumar Yadav have more than made up for Kohli.

Pant made 36 and 42 against Ireland and Pakistan, good enough contributions for India to emerge victors.

Suryakumar overcame a diffident start to the tournament just at the right time, making a crucial fifty against the USA.

'Spin Basher' Shivam Dube has been on a tailspin since his arrival in the US, but a laboured 31 off 35 balls against the co-hosts might just have fetched him another game ahead of the waiting Sanju Samson and Yashasvi Jaiswal.

If India want to bring in Jaiswal, then it has to be as an opener and Kohli will have to return to his No.3 slot.



While India's batting might, just as other teams, has been neutralised by the drop-in pitches in New York, their bowling worked like a well-oiled machine on those very tracks.

The trio of Jasprit Bumrah (five wickets), Hardik Pandya (seven wickets), Arshdeep Singh (seven wickets) have not given anything to the rival batters. The performance of Pandya and Arshdeep would be particularly pleasing to the management.

Both of them had a torrid time in the IPL on various counts and were heavily criticised.

But here, they have put all that behind them to lead India's attack along with the ever-reliable Bumrah.

The think-tank will also hope that at some stage Mohammed Siraj (one wicket) and Ravindra Jadeja, who is yet to pick up a wicket, will join their colleagues, even though both of them have not leaked runs.

However, it will not be entirely surprising to see the big wigs bring in some changes in the bowling department. They can think of giving a chance to either Kuldeep Yadav or Yuzvendra Chahal or even both against Canada.

In that case, India might give a break to Jadeja and Axar Patel, another impressive performer with both bat and ball.

It can also help the bowling unit prepare ahead of the Super Eights in the Caribbean, where the pitches are expected to be more spin-friendly.

On the other hand, Canada are a bit green behind the ears but not short of determination, as they had manifested during their 12-run win over Ireland.

Players such as opener Aaron Johnson can spring a surprise on their day.

But stopping this superior quality Indian side on its tracks could be a task beyond the Canadians, who might be banking more on the predicted spell of disruptive rains for that.

Lauderhill is about 50km from Miami, which has been battling flash floods caused by a tropical storm, a worrisome situation for the organisers of the showpiece who are hoping to make space for cricket in the American market.

SQAUDS:

India: Rohit Sharma (c), Hardik Pandya, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant, Sanju Samson, Shivam Dube, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Arshdeep Singh, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammad Siraj.

Canada: Saad Bin Zafar (c), Aaron Johnson, Dilon Heyliger, Dilpreet Bajwa, Rishiv Joshi, Jeremy Gordon, Junaid Siddiqui, Kaleem Sana, Kanwarpal Tathgur (wk), Navneet Dhaliwal, Nicholas Kirton, Pargat Singh, Ravinderpal Singh, Rayyankhan Pathan, Shreyas Movva (wk).

England eye dominant show to stay in Super 8 contention; ousted Kiwis search elusive win

PTI ■ NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA)



Defending champions England will be eager to brush aside Namibia ruthlessly here on Saturday and stay relevant in the race to the T20 World Cup Super Eight stage.

England were living on the edge after a washout against Scotland and a loss against Australia, but the Jos Buttler-led side turned it around in style with an eight-wicket win over Oman.

After bundling out Oman for 47, England raced past the target in just 3.1 overs, a record margin of 101 balls to spare.

The result has also done wonders to England's net run rate (NRR), the crucial separating factor between them and Scotland in Group B. The Three Lions' NRR leapt from -1.8 to +3.08, going past Scotland's +2.16.

However, Scotland have five points to England's three. Hence, the former two-time champions will need to defeat Namibia to go equal with Scotland and then hope that the latter will lose to Australia, who have already qualified for Super Eight.

In that scenario, England will enter Super Eight with better NRR, but an upset win over Australia by Scotland or a washout at Gros Islet will eliminate Buttler and his wards.

But skipper Buttler sounded confident after their massive win over Oman.

"I've been around long enough to know how it works," Buttler said after their win over Oman. "We know what's going on in the dressing room. We have lots of confidence in our team and we have another huge match to come," he added.

The pitch at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium here has offered steep bounce and turn. England bowlers such as leg-spinner Adil Rashid (4/11) and the pace duo of Jofra Archer and Mark Wood, who claimed identical figures of 3/12, exploited it to their advantage while bowling out Oman for their lowest over T20I total of 47 -- the overall fourth lowest in the T20 World Cup.

Buttler will hope to win the toss again to unleash his bowlers against the inexperienced Namibia who had folded for 72 in their last match against Australia.

TEAMS (FROM)

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

Namibia: Gerhard Erasmus (c), Zane Green, Michael Van Lingen, Dylan Leicher, Ruben Trumpelmann, Jack Brassell, Ben Shikongo, Tangeni Lungameni, Niko Davin, JJ Smit, Jan Frylinck, JP Kotze, David Wiese, Bernard Scholtz, Malan Kruger and PD Blignaut.

Match starts: 10.30pm IST

EVICTED NZ SEARCH ELUSIVE WIN: New Zealand will take on Uganda at the pace-friendly Tarouba in what will be first of their two dead rubbers of this T20 World Cup. Afghanistan pushed the Kiwis out of the Super Eight race from Group C following their win over Papua New Guinea here.

It meant that the Black Caps have failed to advance from the group stage in a World Cup for the first time in a decade, across ODI and T20 formats.

The Kiwis will hope that they will head back home with their heads held high securing wins over newcomers Uganda and PNG.

Their ageing batters have looked woefully out of sorts and desperately in need of a revival, even as bowlers had their moments.

TEAMS (FROM):

New Zealand: Kane Williamson (c), Finn Allen, Trent Boult, Michael Bracewell, Mark Chapman, Devon Conway, Lockie Ferguson, Matt Henry, Daryl Mitchell, Jimmy Neesham, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Mitchell Santner, Ish Sodhi and Tim Southee.

Uganda: Brian Masaba (c), Simon Ssesazi, Roger Mukasa, Cosmas Kyewuta, Dinesh Nakrani, Fred Achelam, Kenneth Waiswa, Alpesh Ramjani, Frank Nsubuga, Henry Ssenyondo, Bilal Hassun, Robinson Obuya, Riazat Ali Shah, Juma Miyaji and Ronak Patel.

Match starts: 6am IST.

SA FACE NEPAL, AIM FOUR IN FOUR: Having already stormed into the Super Eight, South Africa will take on Nepal in a clash between Group D table-toppers and wooden spooners at Kingstown.

Anrich Nortje, who is the joint second leading wicket-taker with eight scalps, has been in splendid form, and he will look to make life tough for Nepal batters.

The Proteas would also hope that their top-order in Quinton De Kock, Reeza Hendricks, skipper Aiden Markram and Tristan Stubbs to get back their mojo ahead of the Super Eight.

TEAMS (FROM)

Nepal: Rohit Paudel (c), Aasif Sheikh, Anil Kumar Sah, Kushal Bhurtel, Kushal Malla, Dipendra Singh Airee, Lalit Rajbanshi, Karan KC, Gulshan Jha, Sompal Kami, Pratis GC, Sundeep Jora, Abinash Bohara, Sagar Dhakal and Kamal Singh Airee.

South Africa: Aiden Markram (c), Ottniel Baartman, Gerald Coetzee, Quinton de Kock, Bjorn Fortuin, Reeza Hendricks, Marco Jansen, Heinrich Klaasen, Keshav Maharaj, David Miller, Anrich Nortje, Kagiso Rabada, Ryan Rickelton, Tabraiz Shamsi and Tristan Stubbs.

Run rate manipulation would have been against Spirit of Cricket, says Cummins

PTI ■ GROS ISLET (ST LUCIA)



Insisting that Josh Hazlewood's remarks were not serious, Australia lead pacer Pat Cummins said they would have never tried to manipulate their net run rate to knock England out of the ongoing T20 World Cup, which would have been "against the Spirit of Cricket".

Pacer Hazlewood had sparked a controversy when he said Aussies would try to eliminate England from the tournament if there was such an opportunity for them in their upcoming Group B match against Scotland.

"I think when you go out and play you are trying your best every time and if you are not, that's probably against the spirit of cricket. We haven't really thought too deeply because it's (NRR manipulation) never really popped up," Cummins told reporters here.

Cummins said he had a talk with Hazlewood about the latter's comments, and said the thought about NRR never really figured in anybody's thought process.

"I was speaking to Joshy, who had a bit of a joke about it the other day, and think it (his comments) got taken a little bit out of context. We'll go there and just try and play Scotland who have had a really good tournament so far and will be tough.

"It's (NRR) something you kind of discuss as one of the quirks of the set-up but in terms of does it change the way we play, absolutely not," Cummins offered.

"I've never stepped into the field without the mindset of trying to take the game on and be aggressive, like the guys have so far," he added.

Cummins himself would know a fair bit about the Spirit of Cricket as he was in the eye of a storm during the last Ashes as Alex Carey's stumping off Jonny Bairstow paved away for heated debates.

However, the scenario of Australia manipulating their NRR does no longer exist after England's thumping eight-wicket over Oman on Friday at Antigua.

The victory has boosted England's NRR to 3.08, well ahead of Scotland's 2.16.

If England manage to go past Namibia on Saturday, and Australia beat Scotland, then the Three Lions can enter the Super Eight.

However, if Scotland (5 points) beat Australia, then England (3 points) will have to pack their bags.

Senior pacer Mitchell Starc will be available for selection after sitting out of the match against Namibia with a sore calf, but Cummins said the management has not taken any call towards the rotation of players.

"I haven't spoken to the selectors, so, I don't know what they're thinking. But I wouldn't be surprised. I know going into the start of the tournament, in a perfect world, we'd get a game into just about all the squad members," he noted.

England spinner Adil Rashid relies on mixing up deliveries to return to form

PTI ■ NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA)



England leg-spinner Adil Rashid feels the judicious use of his variations was the reason behind his excellent four-wicket burst against Oman after starting the T20 World Cup on a lukewarm note.

Rashid's 4 for 11 helped the title holders bowl out Oman for 47, and then overhaul the target in 3.1 overs to stay in contention for a Super Eight berth from Group B.

"It's always nice to get wickets three-four…whether it's against Oman or Australia or India. But I felt okay (today). I just needed to get a few wickets, spin the ball, googlies, few leggies, whatever it is, mix it up well," Rashid said the post-match press conference after England's eight-wicket victory. Rashid had conceded 26 runs in two overs against Scotland in their tournament opener which was washed out, and gave away 41 runs in four overs against Australia in England's 36-run defeat.

However, Rashid also gave credit to other England bowlers for supporting him.

"I thought we needed a win and a comprehensive one. We set the tone upfront there with the ball. I thought the seamers - Joff (Jofra Archer) and Woody (Mark Wood) set the tone there perfectly," said Rashid.

Archer and Wood had similar figures of 3 for 12 and rocked Oman upfront with quick spells.

England needed to win big to leap over Scotland on net run rate, and Rashid did not deny that a few calculators were drawn out during the innings break in his camp.

"There were talks about that (NRR). But we had to be positive and play that if you're going to a position to do that, we knew we had to take it on - to get the runs within five and a half overs (in Power Play).

"But we also knew that we can't just go out there and be slow. That's what happened, we played the way and things just started unfolding. We've got the runs within the first three-four overs," said Rashid.

Fantastic Farooqi seals Afghanistan's maiden Super 8 berth with rout of PNG

PTI ■ TAROUBA (TRINIDAD)



The pace combination of Fazalhaq Farooqi and Naveen-ul-Haq led Afghanistan's seven-wicket rout of Papua New Guinea here as the strife-torn country stormed into the T20 World Cup's Super Eight stage for the first time, knocking out group favourites New Zealand in the process.

Gulbadin Naib scored an unbeaten 49 as Afghanistan gunned down the target of 96 in 15.1 overs overcoming early jitters. Put in to bat, PNG were bundled out for 95 with Farooqi and Naveen ripping through the line-up.

The Afghans will face title favourites India in their first Super Eight clash on June 20 in Barbados.

The result also meant that New Zealand, the 2021 finalists, were knocked out of the ICC showpiece. The Kiwis find themselves at the bottom of the table with two defeats from as many matches.

Tournament co-hosts West Indies have already entered the Super Eight from Group C with six points, which is the same as the Afghans.

New Zealand will face Uganda and PNG in their remaining two matches, which will now be of mere academic interest.

On Thursday, Farooqi took two wickets in two balls in his second over and finished with 3/16 from his four overs after Rashid Khan opted to bowl.

He now has tournament figures of 11.2-0-42-12 to lead the bowling chart.

His pace bowling partner Naveen provided the perfect assistance, returning with a miserly 2.5-0-4-2 as PNG were bowled out in 19.5 overs. Semo Kamea was run out in the penultimate delivery of their innings.

It would have been much worse for PNG had Afghanistan not leaked 25 runs in extras, and 13 of them wides.

This was yet another superlative display by the Afghanistan bowlers who are yet to concede 100 runs in this tournament -- Uganada (58; 16 overs), New Zealand (75, 15.2 overs).

"Feeling great to qualify for the next round. First time for Afghanistan being in Super Eight in T20Is. The boys have done well, adjusting to the conditions very quickly and that is something very pleasing for me," said skipper Rashid Khan.

Congratulating the team, Farooqi said: "I feel proud. Before the warm-up match, I was in the IPL. I did not get any chances there unfortunately. I played just one warm-up game.

However, Afghanistan stuttered in their small chase as both their in-form openers -- Rahmanullah Gurbaz (11) and Ibrahim Zadran (0) -- were dismissed by the gritty PNG new-ball bowlers Alei Nao and Kamea inside three overs.

But Gulbadin Naib ensured that there was no further disruption as he returned to form and anchored the chase with his 36-ball 49 not out.

Naib took his time before coming on his own, hitting four fours and two sixes.

PNG kept chipping away with the wickets as Norman Vanua got rid of Azmutullah Omarzai (13, 18 balls) against the run of play, but Mohammed Nabi stayed calm and provided assistance to Naib who sealed it with a six over Chad Soper's head.

But PNG started positively and showed intent while running between the wickets before Assad Vala found himself out of his crease.

Farooqi affected the run out and he continued making impact with the ball in hand as well, picking up back-to-back wickets to commence his job of destruction.

Naveen let the ball do the talking in the powerplay, claiming a pair of wickets including the crucial scalp of Tony Ura (11 off 18).

Soper and Kipling Doriga went about rebuilding the total towards something defendable, but things went from bad to worse just before drinks.

The pair had a moment of miscommunication, leading to the second run-out of the innings and it wasn't to be the last either.

The inexperienced PNG have suffered six run outs in the tournament, the most by any team and only Doriga who went past 15.

'I will not be surprised if *Harom Hara* tops the list of action movies'

K. RAMYA SREE

Actor Sudheer Babu's *Harom Hara* hit theatres on June 14 (yesterday) and the film, directed by Gnanasagar Dwaraka, is being well-appreciated by the audience. The transition from romantic comedy to high-octane action may have caught many by surprise, but for Sudheer Babu, it was an exhilarating challenge embraced with open arms. In a candid conversation, Telugu film star Sudheer Babu opens up about *Harom Hara*, as they are expecting more numbers this weekend: "*Harom Hara* is a very authentic commercial movie. The audience gets the feeling of seeing a new world. Action scenes came out very well. I was always told by Superstar Krishna to do action films and this movie has it all. There is commercialism in the story itself. The backdrop is very fresh and I feel that no movie has come out in Telugu with such a backdrop. In this, my character has dialogue mannerism. The dialogue '*Inka seppedem ledu.. sesede*' occurs at many places in the movie."

One of the unique aspects of the film is its protagonist, a gunsmith with a penchant for crafting weapons. Describing *Harom Hara* as an "authentic commercial movie," he emphasised the importance of creating a fresh and immersive experience for the audience. With action sequences that push the boundaries of Telugu cinema, the actor is confident that the film will resonate with action lovers and casual moviegoers alike.

The film is directed by *Sehari* fame Dwaraka and to everyone's surprise, Sudheer had actually not watched *Sehari* before signing this project. He said that he went by the narration by the director. He reminisced, "When Dwaraka approached me, I thought he would narrate a love story, but when I heard this, I was completely shocked. It is the one I watched, *Sehari*. I loved the way *Sehari* was made and I told him I would do this film without even giving any other thoughts."

Set against the backdrop of the 1980s, *Harom Hara* brings a sense of authenticity to the screen. Drawing inspiration from real-life incidents of the era, the film transports audiences to a world filled with intrigue and suspense. "When the director wrote this story, he took inspiration from some incidents from the 1980s. The hero is a lab assistant. It makes sense to see that he had the knowledge to make guns in those days. 80's back drop brought authenticity," he added.

Sudheer Babu asserted that, with its technical brilliance and gripping storyline, *Harom Hara* is poised to make a lasting impact on audiences. "*Harom Hara* is among the top ten action movies released in Telugu. I will not be surprised if it makes the top 5 list. Action lovers will love it," he expressed. Not just action; Sudheer Babu says that this movie has a layer of emotion that will resonate with the audience. The title is also named that way. Having become the highest budget in Sudheer Babu's career, this movie is so far gaining positive reviews and the actor hopes this movie will have a big impact in Telugu cinema.

Sreeleela introduced as Boss Lady 'Neera Vasudev' in *Robinhood*



In the upcoming action-packed heist comedy *Robinhood*, the spotlight shines on the talented Sreeleela as she steps into the shoes of the formidable character, Neera Vasudev. Directed by Venky Kudumula and produced by Mythri Movie Makers, the film is swiftly progressing through its production phase. As a birthday treat to Sreeleela, the makers unveiled her character's glimpse on Friday, offering a glimpse into the captivating world of *Robinhood*.

In the teaser, Sreeleela makes a grand entrance, arriving on a private jet surrounded by tight security. With an air of arrogance and confidence, her character, Neera Vasudev, commands attention. The teaser features a single impactful line delivered by Sreeleela, "*Jyothi, tsunami lo T silent undaali… Naa mundu nuv silent gaa undali…*", setting the tone for her enigmatic role.

Neera Vasudev stands in stark contrast to Nithiin's character in the movie, showcasing the director's meticulous attention to character development. The visuals exude grandeur, and the production design reflects top-tier quality, promising audiences a visually captivating experience.

Joining the ensemble cast are seasoned actors Nata Kireeti, Rajendra Prasad and Vennela Kishore, adding depth and dimension to the narrative.

Backed by Mythri Movie Makers, *Robinhood* boasts a lavish budget, ensuring high production values and technical excellence. With Naveen Yerneni and Y Ravi Shankar at the helm as producers, the film features cinematography by Sai Sriram, music by GV Prakash Kumar, editing by Prawin Pudi, and art direction by Raam Kumar.

The film is set to hit the screens on December 20, just in time for the Christmas festivities, promising audiences a thrilling cinematic experience.



Sree Vishnu, Hasith Goli's *Swag Razor* unleashed

Renowned for his knack for selecting diverse and engaging scripts, Sree Vishnu, often hailed as the "King of Content," continues to surprise audiences with his versatile performances. His upcoming venture, the uproarious entertainer *Swag*, directed by Hasith Goli, promises to be another unique addition to his repertoire. Produced by TG Vishwa Prasad under the banner of People Media Factory, *Swag* is set to captivate audiences with its refreshing storyline and lively characters.

In a recent unveiling, the makers introduced a captivating clip titled "Razor," offering a glimpse into the vibrant world of the film. The video kicks off with Sree Vishnu delivering a powerful monologue, setting the stage for the character dynamics to follow. Portraying the role of Bhavabhuti, a self-proclaimed male chauvinist, Sree Vishnu's rugged charm and striking transformation leave an indelible mark, stirring both intrigue and controversy among viewers.

With his magnetic presence, Sree Vishnu's portrayal of 'Bhavabhuti' is bound to spark debates and discussions, showcasing the character's complexities and contradictions. Backed by Hasith Goli's witty writing and deft direction, the teaser promises an exhilarating cinematic experience, brimming with humor and sharp insights.

Joining Sree Vishnu is the talented Ritu Varma, essaying the role of 'Queen Rukmini Devi' in Vinjamara Vamsham, adding depth and dimension to the narrative. With Vedaraman Sankaran behind the camera, Vivek Sagar composing the music, and Viplav Nyshadham editing the film, *Swag* boasts a stellar technical team dedicated to bringing the director's vision to life.

As anticipation mounts, fans can look forward to the release of the film's teaser, offering a deeper dive into the colourful world of *Swag*. With preparations underway for its theatrical release, *Swag* is poised to captivate audiences with its infectious energy and irreverent charm, promising an unforgettable cinematic ride.



From music director, Sri Vasant turns writer

Renowned as a versatile music director, Sri Vasant, has garnered immense acclaim for his melodic compositions in numerous hit films. Known for his captivating tunes and soulful renditions, Sri Vasant has established himself as a prominent figure in the world of music.

His latest endeavour, the highly anticipated crime thriller *Maharaja*, starring the talented Vijay Sethupathi in his 50th film, has garnered significant attention from audiences. The film's gripping narrative and captivating soundtrack have left viewers eagerly awaiting its release. For this film, he turned writer by writing some dialogue and songs. Additionally, Sri Vasant's recent dubbing work for the film *Maharaja* at his own dubbing studio, "Post Pro Media Works," has been praised for its impeccable quality and precision. With a plethora of successful projects under his belt, including the widely acclaimed *Kartikeya 2*, Sri Vasant continues to enchant audiences with his musical prowess. His contributions to the Indian film industry have solidified his position as a maestro of melody, leaving an indelible mark on cinema and music alike.

Vishwambhara welcomes B-Town's Kunal Kapoor on board

As anticipation builds for Megastar Chiranjeevi's much-awaited socio-fantasy *Vishwambhara*, the team behind the ambitious project continues to unveil surprises with each announcement. Directed by Vassishta and produced by the renowned production house UV Creations, *Vishwambhara* promises to deliver a captivating cinematic experience with its stellar cast and top-notch technicians.

Director Vassishta's commitment to crafting a unique and immersive world for audiences is evident as he brings aboard the talented Kunal Kapoor to join the majestic journey of *Vishwambhara*.

Known for his commanding presence and exceptional performances in Bollywood hits like *Rang De Basanti*, *Don 2* and *Dear Zindagi*, Kapoor is set to essay a powerful character in the film. Sharing screen space with megastar Chiranjeevi marks a significant opportunity for the actor to showcase his talent on a grand scale.



Joining Kapoor in the cast are leading ladies Trisha Krishnan and Ashika Ranganath, adding further depth to the narrative.

With Vikram, Vamsi, and Pramod backing the project as producers and the acclaimed MM Keeravani handling the music composition, *Vishwambhara* promises a mesmerising auditory experience.

Additionally, renowned cinematographer Chota K Naidu is set to capture the enchanting visuals of the fantasy adventure. Set to release for Sankranthi in 2025 on January 10, *Vishwambhara* may mark the beginning of an unforgettable cinematic journey into the mystical realms of fantasy.



Rockstar DSP is the most demanded composer

Renowned composer Devi Sri Prasad, affectionately known as Rockstar DSP, stands as the epitome of musical excellence in the Indian film industry. With an illustrious career spanning decades, DSP has consistently delivered chart-topping hits, earning him widespread acclaim and a dedicated fan base. As anticipation mounts for his upcoming projects, DSP's 2024 lineup serves as a testament to his unparalleled demand and extraordinary talent.

From the highly anticipated *Pushpa 2: The Rule* to the intriguing *Kanguva*, DSP's musical journey promises to captivate audiences with its diverse range of offerings. *Pushpa 2: The Rule* has already generated significant buzz with tracks like *Pushpa Pushpa* and *The Couple Song* setting records, showcasing DSP's ability to create compositions that resonate with listeners on a profound level.

In *Kanguva*, starring Suriya, DSP is set to display his versatility by infusing powerful and traditional tunes that complement the film's narrative. Similarly, *Ustaad Bhagat Singh*, featuring Pawan Kalyan, is expected to showcase DSP's signature style of music, matching the intensity of Pawan Kalyan's performance on screen.

With projects like Ajith's *Good Bad Ugly*, Naga Chaitanya's *Thandel*, Dhanush's *Kubera* and an untitled project with Ram Charan in the pipeline, DSP continues to push the boundaries of musical innovation. His ability to connect with diverse audiences through his music has solidified his status as one of the most sought-after composers in the industry. As fans eagerly await the release of DSP's new compositions, it is evident that his musical genius will continue to shape the landscape of Indian cinema for years to come. With each project, DSP reaffirms his position as a true maestro, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts of music lovers worldwide.

Committee Kurrollu teaser: Promising innocent childhood memories

Niharika Konidela's forthcoming film, *Committee Kurrollu*, has generated a lot of anticipation, promising a heartwarming and nostalgic journey for viewers. The project, which is fully finished shooting and in post-production, is set to hit theatres throughout the world in August.



The makers are using a novel and entertaining promotional method, teasing fans with tempting glances. Following the good response to the previously released songs, they have produced a gripping teaser that effectively captures the sense of childish innocence.

The teaser brings viewers back to their carefree youth, capturing the key characters' fond recollections of sharing idlis at a neighborhood cafe, splashing under a pump set, playing cricket, and celebrating festivals together. These sequences, brilliantly shot in exotic and natural settings, provide a stunning backdrop for the film.

However, the teaser concludes with a heartbreaking question, alluding to the inevitable changes that come with adolescence, as well as the possibility of friendships shifting. While the plot details have been kept under wraps, the teaser effectively captures the young enthusiasm and joyful nostalgia that awaits audiences.

Sandeep Saroj, Yashwant Pendyala, Trinath Verma, Prasad Behara, Ishwar Rachiraju, Manikantha Parasu, Lokesh Kumar Parimi, Shyam Kalyan, Raghuvaran, Sivakumar Matta, Akshay Srinivas, Sharanya Suresh, Tejaswi Rao, Vishika, and Shanmuki Nagumanthri are among the promising newcomers in *Committee Kurrollu*. This new cast is excited to make their debut under Pink Elephant Pictures' umbrella!

Working with Sree Radha Damodar Studios, producer Niharika Konidela is excited to take her company's output from web series and short films to feature films. Yadhu Vamsi makes his directorial debut with the movie, bringing a novel and captivating storytelling technique to the screen. The writers Venkata Subhash Cheerla and Kondal Rao Addagalla are responsible for the dialogue.

Kanappa teaser out



Kannappa, directed by Vishnu Manchu, is certainly one of Telugu cinema's most anticipated films. Since its initial announcement, moviegoers have been waiting about this. Recently, during the Cannes Film Festival, the fantasy drama's trailer was revealed in a renowned screening ceremony.

In the midst of all of this, the actor announced on social media that the teaser will be officially released on all social media platforms on June 14. In a recent update, the makers officially presented the first teaser for the multi-starrer project.

In the beginning of the teaser, we see people riding horses through the jungle. As the teaser progresses, it centers on a character who goes on a rampage, easily defeating over 50 warriors. Toward the end, the teaser introduces Vishnu Manchu's character, Thinnodu. The teaser also shows Prabhas and Akshay Kumar, implying that both actors will have big roles in the film.



Soon after the glimpse became viral, some fans took to their X accounts to express their delight at seeing Rebel Star and Khiladi Kumar's spectacular shots. Someone posted, "Unexpectedly Just a 1-second eye shot of #Prabhas from *#Kannappa* is making more noise and dominating the buzz of the *#KalkiFirstSingle* announcement!" Another one said, "Akshay Kumar and Prabhas shot in *#Kannappa*." Aside from Vishnu Manchu, the period drama stars Mohan Babu, Mohanlal, Shiva Rajkumar, Madhoo, Sarathkumar, Prabhu Deva, Brahmanandam, Mukesh Rishi, and Kaushal Manda, and is directed by Mukesh Kumar Singh.

