

DON'T MISS...

Model flower market proposed in V'wada

District Collector Dr G Lakshmisha has announced that proposals are being prepared to construct a model flower market in Vijayawada under a government-private partnership model. The new market aims to serve both wholesale and retail flower traders as well as consumers. Chairing a meeting at the Collectorate on Wednesday with representatives from the Marketing, Horticulture and Municipal departments, as well as the Wholesale Flower Market Traders' Welfare Association, Dr Lakshmisha said the ...

Modi holds talks with Namibia Prez

-PAGE: 3

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday held talks with Namibian President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah and discussed ways to bolster bilateral cooperation in areas such as digital technology, defence, security, agriculture, healthcare, education and critical minerals. \During the delegation-level talks the two leaders reviewed the full range of India-Namibia relations. "Cooperation in areas such as digital technology, defence, security, agriculture, healthcare, education and critical...



Gold declines Rs 700 to Rs 98,420/10 g

Gold prices declined by Rs 700 to Rs 98,420 per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday in line with weak global trends, according to the All India Sarafa Association. The precious metal of 99 9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 99,120 per 10 grams in the previous market session. Gold of 99.5 per cent purity depreciated by Rs 600 to Rs 98,000 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes). It had settled at Rs 98,600 per 10 grams on Tuesday. dditionally, silver prices plunged by ... -PAGE: 8

CM: Technology must serve people, not just progress

SAYS CHALLENGE LIES IN ENSURING THAT TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS REACHES THE GRASSROOTS

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has reiterated that technology must be used to transform lives meaningfully, particularly for the underprivileged. Chairing a review meeting with repre-sentatives from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation at the State secretariat, the Chief Minister stressed that the ultimate purpose of innovation must be citizen welfare, not just advancement.

Naidu stressed that while Andhra Pradesh is embracing digital governance, the challenge lies in ensuring that technological progress reaches the grassroots. "In today's world, digital tools are plenty, but what matters is how meaningfully they are used. By August 15, 95–97 per cent of government services will be delivered online. But people must be equipped to access and benefit from these services," he said.

The Gates Foundation is partnering with Andhra Pradesh on a range of citizen-centric initiatives covering healthcare, agriculture, education, environment, infrastructure, RTGS and capacity building. "Their global expertise and tested models are a valuable asset. But we must ensure these tools serve the real needs of our citizens," the CM



Affordable healthcare and education non-negotiable

With rising medical costs pushing families into financial distress, the CM outlined his vision to integrate technology into the healthcare system. Regular diagnostics, digital health records, early detection of diseases, and lifestyle monitoring will form the foundation of a new, proactive healthcare model. Technology will help us deliver continuous, preventive, and personalised healthcare. We aim to align our system with the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission," he added.

He stressed that quality education should be accessible to every family, especially the economically weaker

sections. "Technology can help reimagine classrooms and reduce the cost of delivering high-quality education. Our focus is on building strong foundations to secure every child's future."

Empowering farmers with real-time support

Naidu highlighted the importance of supporting farmers throughout the agricultural cycle — from seed to sale. Accurate soil testing, real-time data, and market intelligence will empower farmers to make the right decisions and fetch better prices. We must move towards demand-driven farming," he noted.

Skills, AI university, innovation The Chief Minister also announced plans to scale up capacity-building pro-

grammes beyond government staff. "Our aim is to upskill citizens and make them future-ready. Andhra Pradesh is already a leader in MedTech manufacturing. We now plan to establish an Artificial Intelligence University in Amaravati with Gates Foundation's support to build the next generation of AI professionals," he said.

To ensure progress, CM Naidu pro-posed holding bi-monthly review meet-ings with the Gates Foundation.

Senior government officials and Foundation representatives participated in the session, which set the stage for deeper collaboration in transforming Andhra Pradesh into a technologypowered, people-first State.



for selling out Telangana's water rights and staging shows behind closed doors with your MLAs and BRS defectors. Your actions are not just shameful, they are a violation of

- Harish Rao, BRS MLA P3

coordination from various depart-

ments including Water Resources

The Cabinet cleared the continu-

ation of 71 irrigation works under

various Chief Engineers and approved ₹22.5 lakh for urgent

repairs to sluices on the Right Main Canal under the Rallapadu Project in

Nellore district. These repairs aim to

ensure uninterrupted water supply for crops during the cultivation stage. Airports and infrastructure devel-

To strengthen aviation infra-

tinued on Page 2

Irrigation and water projects

Cabinet approves key projects

Focuses on infrastructure, agriculture and welfare

511520

and Mines.

PNS VIJAYAWADA

In a significant move towards strengthening infrastructure, welfare, and economic development, the Andhra Pradesh State Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, approved a series of key proposals in its 27th e-Cabinet meeting held at the State Secretariat. The Minister for Information, Public Relations, and Housing, Kolusu Parthasarathi, briefed the media on the decisions. Amaravati infrastructure gets major boost

The Cabinet approved allocation of ₹524.70 crore for the speedy comple-tion of residential quarters for MLAs, MLCs, and All India Services officers in Amaravati. The complex, comprising 432 residences in 18 towers, will be executed on a lump sum basis with a two-year defect liability period. In addition, land allocations in the CRDA region will be reviewed as per the Amaravati Land Allotment Rules and Regulations of 2017. Desilting of Krishna River

structure, the Cabinet approved a ₹1,000-crore loan from HUDCO to An administrative sanction of ?286.20 crore was approved for be availed by AP Airports desilting of sand from Krishna Development Corporation Ltd. with River and the foreshore of the a government guarantee. The funds Prakasam Barrage. APCRDA has will support development at been authorised to undertake the Kuppam, Dagadarthi, Srikakulam, work in compliance with environand Amaravati airports. mental and legal guidelines, with

opment

Govt should buy mangoes from farmers: Jagan



PNS BANGARUPALEM

Former Chief Minister and YSRCP president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has demanded that the State Government buy the entire mango ice from kg. He also warned against the 'repressive measures', reiterating that he would be questioning time and again on behalf of the people.



Jagan's tour was a staged drama: Atchannaidu

Agriculture Minister Kiniaranu

PNS VIJAYAWADA



India captain Shubman Gill on Wednesday broke into the top-10 of the ICC men's Test batting rankings for the first time in his career after a record-breaking performance against England at Edgbaston. Gill smashed 269 and 161 in the game -- becoming only the second player in history to score more than 150 in both innings of a Test -- as India thrashed England by 336 runs to level the five-match series 1-1. This was also his first win as Test captain. The 24-year-old, who was ranked 23rd before ... -SPORTS

Union Ministers, senior Central Govt officials and industry leaders expected to attend

PNS VIJAYAWADA

remarked.

The 30th edition of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Partnership Summit will be held in Visakhapatnam on November 14 and 15. Chief Secretary K Vijayanand, on summit. Wednesday, chaired the first preparatory meeting with officials from various departments at the State Secretariat to review the

arrangements. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary stressed the importance of leveraging technology for registrations and event logistics. He directed officials from the Industries Department, Visakhapatnam district administration, and other stakehold ers to begin preparations immediately to ensure the summit's success. CS Vijayanand announced that the Secretary of the Industries and Commerce Department would act as the nodal officer for coordination with the CII. Highlighting the sig-

several Union Ministers, senior Central Government officials and key industry leaders are expected to participate. He urged department secretaries to identify and present key State projects and initiatives at the exhibition to be held along with

Visakhapatnam to host 30th CII

Partnership Summit in Nov

the summit. He also instructed the Director of Information to finalise a media partner at the earliest to ensure effective outreach and promotion of the

Industries and Commerce Secretary Dr N Yuvraj said this was the first working committee meeting chaired by the Chief Secretary and informed that the next meeting would be held on July 16, followed by a meeting of the Group of Ministers (GoM). He said preparations such as designing the summit logo and creating promotional videos and cam-

paign material are underway. Dr Yuvraj stated that Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) related to roadshows, exhibitions and various sector-specific projects will be signed during the summit. Sectorwise responsibilities are being allocated to different departments to ensure smooth coordination. nificance of the event, he noted that

Market Yard here on Wednesday, Jagan said that there are over 76,000



Addressing the media at the farmers who cultivated mango in an are in distress as they are not getting extent of over 2.20 lakh acres. The yield was 6.45 lakh tonnes, and they MSP.

Continued on Page 2

India, Africa must act together to create future: Modi

PNS WINDHOEK

Underlining that India values Africa's role in world affairs, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the two sides must act together to create a future defined not by power and dominance, but by partnership and dialogue.

Addressing a Joint Session of the Parliament of the Republic of Namibia, PM Modi also said that Africa must not be just a source of raw material. "Africa must lead in value creation and sustainable growth," he said.

"We must act together. Let us create a future defined not by power, but by partnership; not by dominance, but by dialogue; not by exclusion, but by equity," Modi said. The Prime build local skills, create local jobs and we are just warming up! We will s Minister said that India was ready to support local innovations," he said. In faster and score more!" he said.

ADDRESSES JOINT SESSION OF NAMIBIA PARLIAMENT



expand its cooperation with Africa in defence and security.

"Our development partnership in Africa is worth over USD 12 billion. But its real value is in shared growth and shared purpose. We continue to

strong historical and cultural ties between India and Namibia. "India attaches great importance to its historic relation with Namibia," he said. He said India and Namibia have a powerful story of cooperation, conservation and compassion, highlighting India's cheetah reintroduction program and its readiness to supply Namibia with a radiotherapy machine.

his address, Modi highlighted the

'We are excited to support the next generation of Namibian scientists. doctors and leaders," Modi said. "Our bilateral trade has crossed \$800 million, but like on the cricket field, we are just warming up! We will score

Atchannaidu has launched a scathing attack on YSRCP chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy over his tour in Chittoor, accusing him of 'orchestrating political theatrics' in the name of farmer support. Addressing the media on Wednesday, Atchannaidu stated that Jagan's tour was nothing more than a staged drama aimed at misleading the public and gaining political mileage.

"These tours are not about helping farmers, they are political shows carefully designed for media optics. During the YSRCP's tenure, Opposition leaders weren't even allowed to step out for farmer-related issues. Now, while we are allowing Opposition tours, they are misusing the opportunity to stage events and create unrest," Atchannaidu said.

The Minister alleged that the recent mango-dumping incident during Jagan's tour was pre-planned. "In Chittoor, tractors filled with mangoes from a 25acre orchard owned by YSRCP district secretary Prakash Reddy were deliberately driven ahead of Jagan's convoy and the fruits was dumped on the road. Continued on Page 2

Two pilots killed in Jaguar fighter jet crash in Rajasthan

PNS JAIPUR/NEW DELHI

Two pilots of the Indian Air Force (IAF) were killed on Wednesday morning in a crash of a Jaguar fighter jet near Churu in Rajasthan, the third such accident since March involving the twin-engine bomber.

The IAF said a court of inquiry has been constituted to ascertain the cause of the accident.

"An IAF Jaguar Trainer aircraft met with an accident during a routine training mission and crashed near Churu in Rajasthan, today," it said in a brief statement. "Both pilots sustained fatal injuries in the accident. No damage to any civil property has been reported," it said.

The IAF said it "deeply regrets" the loss of lives and stands firmly with the bereaved families in this time of grief. "A court of inquiry has



been constituted, to ascertain the cause of the accident," it said.

The IAF is yet to make public the names of the deceased pilots. Earlier, Rajasthan Police officials said the jet crashed at around 1.25 pm.

The aircraft crashed in an agriculture field in Bhanoda village around 1.25 pm, SHO of Rajaldesar, Kamlesh, said. He said human body parts were found near the crash site. Shortly after the crash, locals rushed to the site and found burning debris.

Thousands attend Simhachalam's 'Giri Pradakshina'

32-KM-LONG CIRCUMAMBULATION OF SIMHACHALAM HILL RANGE BEGAN IN THE EARLY HOURS

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Several thousands of devotees from Visakhapatnam and neighbouring areas participated in the annual 'Giri Pradakshina' at Simhachalam on Wednesday, demonstrating devotion despite sweltering heat and high humidity. The 32-km-long circumambulation of the sacred Simhachalam hill range began in the early hours of the day. Devotees, including a large number of women and youth, commenced the spiritual trek equipped with umbrellas, caps, and other heat-resistant gear. The district authorities, in coordi-

nation with various civic and voluntary organisations, made elaborate arrangements to ensure the smooth conduct of the event. Nearly 300 medical camps were set up along the



Devotees taking part in 'Giri Pradakshina' near MVP Junction in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday

hundreds of drinking water stalls at regular intervals.

route, along with mobile toilets and at 'Tholi Pavancha', the foothills of Simhachalam, where a replica of the presiding deity Sri Varaha Lakshmi The pilgrimage gained momentum Narasimha Swamy was installed.

The area witnessed a sea of devotees breaking coconuts and beginning their trek with chants of "Govinda Govinda" and "Jai Sri Ram". Officials facilitated the ritual by setting up 50 queue lines and nearly 100 coconutbreaking grills.

A large number of volunteers, NGOs, colony welfare associations, and political representatives came forward to serve devotees by distributing buttermilk, drinking water, energy drinks, and food such as upma, veg biryani, halwa, and pulihora.

Former Union Minister and hereditary trustee of the Simhachalam temple, Sri Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju, offered special prayers to the Pushparatham — a flower-decorated chariot carrying the deity's repli-which commenced its ceremo-

nial journey at around 4 p.m. Hundreds of devotees joined the pradakshina alongside the chariot, raising devotional slogans.

'This is my 11th consecutive year performing Giri Pradakshina. I strongly believe that my wishes have been fulfilled with the blessings of the Lord," said K. Pradeep Kumar, a government teacher from S. Kota. Many devotees observed that the relatively moderate weather, despite the summer conditions, encouraged them to take part. Several women with children were seen walking enthusiastically.

A few devotees also chose to circumambulate the temple atop the hill 32 times — a traditional alternative believed to be equivalent to the 32km trek.

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VIJAYAWADA 02

AP attracts major investments in aviation, infrastructure

TURNING POINT IN MAKING STATE A FUTURE AVIATION HUB: JANARDHAN REDDY

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh is witnessing a surge in strategic and sustainable investments, particularly in the aviation and technology sectors, thanks to the proactive efforts of Minister for Investments, Infrastructure, Roads and Buildings, BC Janardhan Reddy. With an investor-friendly atmosphere created under the leadership of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, global and national firms are now showing renewed confidence in the State.

On Wednesday, several top aviation and data technology companies met Minister Secretariat to express their



in Andhra Pradesh. Among GPS devices, and navigation systhem was Sarla Aviation, a tems, proposed to provide serleading Electric Vertical Takevices in sectors like defence, agri-Off and Landing (EVTOL) culture, and port security. aircraft manufacturer. Following fruitful discussions,

the company shared a comprehensive presentation outlining its plans to establish a Janardhan Reddy at the manufacturing unit in the State. The Minister assured interest in setting up operations that necessary approvals will be ven investments that generate



granted once formal proposals

Meanwhile,

firms like EPlane Company, BLUJ Aviation and Magnum expressed interest in setting up a training institute in the State Wings had already shown interest in investing in the to train aspiring airline pilots. State. Adding to the momentum, CtrlS Data Centres, one of Haribon Aeronautics Private. Ltd., a man-India's premier data infrastruc-

ture companies, expressed will-ingness to invest ?500 crore in Andhra Pradesh. ufacturer of aviation and nautical equipment such as radars, Minister Reddy reaffirmed that the State government is prioritising infrastructure Minister Reddy noted that development-roads, ports, this growing interest marks a and airports-to support industrial growth. He added turning point in making Andhra Pradesh a future avithat industries offering sustaination hub. He stressed the able employment will be incen-State's commitment to attracttivised and assured investors of ing long-term, technology-drifull cooperation and fast-track approvals.

employment for local youth.

Panel to review demands of RMPs. ASHAs: Health Min

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav has announced the formation of a committee to examine the long-pending demands of Rural Medical Practitioners (RMPs). Speaking at the Secretariat on Wednesday, the Minister said that the State Government is committed to resolving issues concerning RMPs, ASHA workers and the Andhra Pradesh Indian Medicine Association.

TDP politburo member TD Janardhan met the minister to discuss key concerns raised by these grassroots health workers. RMPs who provide essential healthcare services in rural areas, have been demanding professional recognition and refresher training programs. They are urging the government to revive the training initiatives offered previously. Special Chief Secretary MT Krishna Babu noted that concerns have been raised about some RMPs identifying themselves as registered medical practitioners and displaying boards branding their centres as primary healthcare units. He said that the government must carefully consider opinions issued by the National Medical Commission and Supreme Court, along with the existing practices and objec-tions, before making decisions.

On ASHA workers' issues, Janardhan welcomed the coalition government's positive response. Minister Yadav stated that several of their demands have already been approved by the Chief Minister and are under review by the Finance Department He d Krishna Babu to coordinate with Finance officials to expedite the file clearance.

certification for housing projects

APCRDA holds meeting on green

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) has convened a key technical meeting at its office in Lenin Centre, Vijayawada, to advance green building standards for Amaravati's housing sector. The meeting was chaired by Mallarapu Naveen, Additional Commissioner (Admin), APCRDA, and attended by the Engineer-in-

Chief and senior officials. The session focused on implementing the EDGE (Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies) green certification framework across upcoming and ongoing housing developments in the capital region. Technical presentations were made by three empanelled



firms: Ela Green Buildings & Infrastructure Consultants Pvt.

Ltd., Chennai, Chinoy Design Services, Vijayawada, and Essential India Greenedge Analytics Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai. Each firm outlined their expertise, introduced their technical teams and EDGE-certified auditors, and presented successful green building case studies. Strategic action plans were procapital city, setting a benchmark posed for Amaravati's housing for future urban infrastructure projects, aimed at achieving across the State.

EDGE Pre-Certification within three months. APCRDA emphasised its commitment to integrating energy efficiency, water conservation, and sustainable practices into Amaravati's urban development model. This initiative

Mega Parent-Teacher Meeting 2.0 today PNS VIJAYAWADA Over 2 crore students, parents and teachers

Andhra Pradesh is poised to set a new benchmark in education engagement as it prepares to host the Mega Parent-Teacher

Meeting (PTM) 2.0 on Thursday. With an estimated participation of 2.28 crore people, including students, parents, teachers, donors, alumni and officials, this initiative marks one of the largest communitydriven educational exercises ever undertaken in the coun-

try. The event is a brainchild of Education Minister Nara Lokesh, who aims to institutionalise annual Parent-Teacher Meetings in all government, aided, and unaided schools and junior colleges. The State has made elaborate arrangements to ensure the event is to participate across 61,000 institutions

government and private schools.

Chief Minister Ν Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh will take part in the flagship event at Zilla Parishad High School, Kothacheruvu, Puttaparthi constituency, where they will interact directly with students, their parents, and teaching

staff. A festive approach to educa-

tion The meeting is being conducted in a festive atmosphere for the second consecutive year, reflecting the government's commitment to conducted across 61,000 edu- strengthen parent-teacher social issues. This gives parents

cational institutions, including engagement across the educational ecosystem. The State expects participation from 74.96 lakh students, 3.32 lakh teachers, and nearly 1.5 crore parents and donors.

for parents to share feedback This initiative not only proand suggestions directly with school authorities and the govmotes transparency and accountability in education, ernment. but also encourages active par-Issues related to infrastructure, teacher performance, and student well-being are expectticipation from the community in shaping the learning environment. ed to be discussed during the

Progress cards, feedback, and interactions. dialogue

Lokesh has emphasised the During the event, parents importance of involving parents in the school system, extending PTMs beyond priwill receive comprehensive progress cards detailing their child's academic performance, vate institutions and embedbehaviour, and awareness of ding them deeply into government schools.

Thousands...

Continued from Page 1

The pilgrimage began with

a holy dip at Appughar Beach.

Adequate safety measures, including the deployment of

swimmers, public address sys-tems, floodlights, and barri-

cades, were in place to ensure

District Collector A.

Harendhira Prasad, Mayor P.

Srinivasa Rao, and other offi-

cials visited various points along

the route to inspect the arrange-

ments. Police teams were

deployed at Hanumanthawaka. Venkojipalem, and other kev

junctions where the devotees

crossed NH-16. While there

were brief traffic disruptions,

particularly along the highway,

heavy vehicles were diverted via

Anandapuram-

the

the safety of the devotees.

a clear understanding of their

children's strengths and areas

Importantly, the event also

provides a structured platform

needing attention.

Labour Minister defends Factory Act reforms

Promises support to film industry workers

PNS VIJAYAWADA

State Labour Minister Vashamshetti Subhash has strongly refuted the Opposition's criticism over the proposed amendments to the Factories Act, dismissing them as baseless and misleading. He clarified that claims suggesting a "sword hanging over workers' rights" are factu-

on Wednesday, Minister Subhash stressed that the amendments to Sections 54, 55, 56, 59, 64 and 65 aim to enhance factory management efficiency while safeguarding workers' health, safety and income security. He stressed that the weekly work limit of 48 hours and the overall cap of 60 hours including overtime remain unchanged.



work hour limit from 9 to 10 (while retaining the weekly cap of 48 hours), mandating a 30minute rest break after six hours of work, extending the spread-over period from 10.5 to 12 hours, and raising the

overtime limit from 50/75 hours per quarter to 144 hours, with double wages applicable. "These changes are aimed at increasing income opportunities, promoting work-life balance, and allowing more rest days, not curtailing worker rights," he said. He further reaffirmed the coalition government's commitment to labour welfare, citing improvements in ESI healthcare services, new ESI hospitals, safe transport

options for women workers and educational support through the P4 initiative. In a separate development,

a delegation from the Andhra Pradesh Film Industry Employees Federation met the Minister to raise concerns over the financial and health security of cinema workers. Led by president Thoram Raja, the delegation urged the creation of a Cine Workers Welfare Board.

Minister Subhash responded positively, assuring swift action. "The government stands firmly with film industry workers and will take necessary steps to address their grievances," he said.

Sabbavaram route to ease congestion. Speaking to the media, Simhachalam Devasthanam Executive Officer N. Sujatha said that the number of participants had reached lakhs, making it one of the most successful and well-organised editions of the sacred

event in recent years.

840 kg ganja seized, four held in Anakapalli district

Smugglers used forest paths to bypass checkpoint; contraband sourced from Odisha, bound for Karnataka

Janaba region in Odisha and

transported it using a planned

route. The group loaded the



to reach Downur. To escape from the Downur check-post, the smugglers utilised an elaborate strategy. They unloaded the ganja prior to the checkpoint and carried it on foot

er with prior cases registered at Rolugunta and Kirlampudi police stations, and Yalamanchili Ramana (60). The main suspect, Sukri Arjun from Mangopalem village in Chintapalli mandal, is o have masterm

ally incorrect and designed to mislead the public. Addressing the media here

The proposed amendments include: increasing the daily

represents a major step toward building a climate-resilient, environmentally responsible

Visakhapatnam to... **Continued from Page 1**

Committees focusing on city beautification, exhibitions, protocol hospitality, transportation, logistics, culture, media, traffic and security will also be formed.

APIIC MD Abhishek Kishore, I&PR Director Himanshu Shukla, NEDCAP MD Kamalakar Babu and senior CII representatives were present. MAUD Principal Secretary SSuresh Kumar, Tourism MD Amrapali, IT Secretary K Bhaskar and Food Processing Secretary Chiranjeevi Chowdhury joined the meeting virtually.

IODAY ALMANAC Month & Paksham Sukla Paksha Tithi: Jul 10 01:37 AM Purnima: to Jul 11 02:06 AM Krishna Paksha Jul 11 02:06 AM Pratipada to Jul 12 02:08 AM Nakshatram: Jul 10 04:49 AM Purva Ashadha to Jul 11 05:56 AM 1:58 PM to 3:36 PM Rahukalam 5:52 AM to 7:29 AM Yamagandam: 02:52 PM to 04:32 PM Varjyam: 9:06 AM to 10:44 AM Gulika: 12:54 AM to 02:35 AM Amritakalam: Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:55 AM to 12:47 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Mostly Cloudy Temp: 34° Humidity: 70% Sunrise: 5:41 AM Sunset: 6:44 PM

Updated: July 9, 2025 5:00 PM

Speaker inspects MLA, MLC Quarters under construction

PNS VIJAYAWADA

occupancy by December this year. He noted that MLAs and Andhra Pradesh Legislative MLCs will reside in these quarters during the next budget ses-Assembly Speaker Chintakayala Ayyanna Patrudu inspected the sion. Besides, Ayyanna Patrudu under-construction residential said that quarters for 35 ministers and 36 judges are expected quarters for MLAs and MLCs in Âmaravati on Wednesday. He to be completed by March next year. He suggested giving special stressed the need to develop innovative residential communirecognition to residential units ties keeping in view the future allocated for the Speaker, Deputy reorganisation of constituencies. Speaker, Council Chairman and Deputy Chairman, along with The Speaker instructed officials to ensure the availability of

ministerial quarters. modern facilities such as swim-The Speaker also recommendming pools, hospitals and clubed setting up temporary accommodation facilities for visiting houses within the quarters meant for legislators. He also directed MLAs, MLCs and MPs from them to incorporate features like other States when they come to Amaravati.

solar energy usage, groundwater recharge systems and efficient He revealed that the official residence of the Chief Minister wastewater management to promote sustainability. Expressing and Raj Bhavans will be consatisfaction over the progress of structed along the banks of the construction, the Speaker stated Krishna River, enhancing the that all 288 quarters being built administrative presence in the across 12 towers will be ready for capital region.

Continued from Page 1

Welfare and employment

In a notable decision, the Cabinet amended Section 4 of the AP Public Green tax relief Services Act to offer compassionate employment to T. Veeranjineyulu, whose father was killed in a politically motivated incident. He will be move will benefit nearly 9.5 lakh vehiappointed as a Junior Assistant in a suitable department. cle owners and ease financial burdens. Space policy and bulk drug park

Technological advancements

A major step towards high-end research, the Cabinet approved the Andhra Pradesh Space Policy 4.0 to develop the State into a hub for satelformation of Amaravati Quantum Computing Centre (AQCC) with an lite development, space tech R&D, and estimated ₹4,000 crore investment. private space launches. Additionally, approval was given for land adjust-The centre will make Amaravati a hub for quantum technology, supporting startups, universities, and industries. ments and incentives to establish a Bulk Drug Park in Anakapalli.

Vedullapalem Junction in Nakkapalli mandal, following a tip-off. During a press conference held on Wednesday, SP Tuhin Sinha briefed the case details. He said that the Nakkapalli police conducted a vehicle inspection drive, where they stopped a Bolero and two motorcycles, which led to the discovery of 840 kg

PNS 📕 ANAKAPALLI

of ganja concealed in 20 bags. In addition to the illegal substance, the police also seized three mobile phones from the suspects.

contraband at Uyyala Bridge As per police investigaand navigated through tions, the suspects had Dharakonda and Chintapalli

Nimmala offers 'Jalaharathi' at Ibrahimpatnam

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu has stressed the stark contrast between the current government's proactive approach and the previous administration's inaction, during а special Jalaharathi ceremony at the confluence of the Krishna and Godavari rivers near

Ibrahimpatnam.

The Minister performed



Godavari waters brought reviving the State's collapsto the Krishna River via the Pattiseema Lift Irrigation Scheme and Polavaram Right Canal. He praised Chief Minister

ing financial and irrigation systems, comparing the State's economy to a patient moved from a ventilator to the ICU and now

den paths, reload ing it into the vehicle after passing the checkpoint. The shipment was en route to Karnataka via Tallapalem brought the ganja from the when the police intercepted it

at Vedullapalem Junction. The four persons taken into custody have been identified as Pangi Arjuna Rao (32), Vanthala Suresh (23), Kaisarla Diwakar (23), a repeat offend-

ed the operation in collaboration with his accomplices. A case has been filed under Crime No. 119/2025, under sections 20(b)(ii)(c) and 25 in read with 8(c) of the NDPS

Act at the Nakkapalli Police Station. The police formed a special team to arrest additional suspects involved in the trafficking network.

Govt should buy...

Continued from Page 1

He demanded that the government buy the entire produce by paying Rs 12 per kg and come to the rescue of the farmers. He recalled that mango farmers got Rs 29 per kg during the YSRCP's tenure, and the RBKs monitored the crop throughout. "In just one vear after the coalition government came to office, the prices dipped. Normally, mango procurement should take place in early May. The delay has resulted in the produce piling up and drastic fall in prices, which shows the Chandrababu Naidu government's inefficiency

their crop at Rs 2 per kg. The other day, Karnataka managed to convince the Centre to buy its mango at Rs 16 per kg. When Karnataka got the assurance from the Centre, what was Chandrababu Naidu doing? Why couldn't he persuade the Centre and assure a better price for the farmers," he questioned.

are mango farmers selling

"When YS Jagan comes to express solidarity with the farmers, why should there be so many restrictions? What is wrong if farmers come to express their woes when the situation is so bad with no input subsidy coming and no marketing facilities nor MSP being paid.

"Nowhere in the country

Jagan's tour was a staged drama...

Continued from Page 1

It was clearly a coordinated act to malign the NDA government and project a false crisis." Atchannaidu pointed out that Jagan, despite witnessing the situation, did not bother to step out or speak with the farmers. "He simply drove over the mangoes and moved on. That shows his actual concern for farmers." Refuting allegations of negligence in mango procurement, Atchannaidu clarified that the government has been efficiently procuring mangoes at support prices across districts. "In Annamayya district, 99 per cent of the mango produce has been procured, 98 per cent in Tirupati and 80 per cent in Chittoor. This is the real situation on the ground. Jagan's claims are far from reality."

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a ritual offering to the N Chandrababu Naidu for undergoing recovery. Cabinet approves key projects...

Agriculture support initiatives

An ordinance was approved to A key focus of the meeting was agrirevise the Green Tax on transport vehicultural welfare. The Cabinet sanccles, reducing it from as much as tioned: ₹20,000 per year to ₹1,500-₹3,000. This

₹14.88 crore to procure 2,976.76 MT of unsold cocoa at ₹50/kg. ₹260 crore to procure 6.5 lakh MT

of Totapuri mangoes from farmers at The Cabinet also approved the ₹4/kg in the Chittoor region to prevent distress sales

₹1,000-crore additional loan guarantee to AP MARKFED to clear pending dues to farmers for Rabi 2024-25

Rural water supply reforms The Cabinet approved the formation to mobilise ?10,000 crore from financial jects under the Jal Jeevan Mission. Other key decisions

World Economic Forum - AP Centre for Energy and Cyber Resilience in Amaravati with a ?36-crore budget. Landless Poor Pension has been reinstated for 1,575 Amaravati families displaced due to capital development. Amendment will be made to the AP Shops & Establishments Act, 1988, for labour reforms and reduced compliance burden.

It has been decided to establish a

of AP Jal Jeevan Water Supply Corporation institutions for clean drinking water pro-



VIJAYAWADA 03

Model flower market proposed in Vijayawada

New market aims to serve both wholesale and retail flower traders

PNS VIJAYAWADA

District Collector Dr G Lakshmisha has announced that proposals are being prepared to construct a model flower market in Vijayawada under a government-private partnership model. The new market aims to serve both wholesale and retail flower traders as well as consumers.

Chairing a meeting at the Collectorate on Wednesday with representatives from the Marketing, Horticulture and Municipal departments, as well as the Wholesale Flower Market Traders' Welfare Association, Dr Lakshmisha said the market will be established on an 80-cent plot at the GS Raju Road Rythu Bazaar, which has seen poor patronage in recent times due to its proximity to the Kedareswarapet Rythu Bazaar. Only 10 to 15 stalls are currently operational at the site.



The Collector said proposals ble solution

will be sent to the government He added that the Traders' for repurposing this land for a Welfare Association will bear the wholesale flower market. With full cost of construction, as per the current flower market locatgovernment norms, and 10 per ed on Railway-owned land near cent of the shops will be reserved the Vijayawada Municipal for government management. Corporation, there is a need for Rents would be allocated on a a more permanent and accessilease basis, with a 10 per cent

increment every three years. The project aims to attract not only consumers, but also tourists visiting the city.

Officials and traders were also encouraged to visit the Kadiyam flower market near Rajamahendravaram for inspi-

AGROS to strengthen State-wide operations

Larger number of farmers to get individual farm implements in 2025-26

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh Agro Industries Development Corporation (AP AGROS) is set to significantly expand its farm mechanisation efforts across the State under the revived Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation (SMAM) scheme. The move aims to supply individual farm implements to a larger number of farmers during the 2025–26 financial year.

This decision was made during a high-level review meeting held at the AP AGROS State Head Office in Vaddeswaram, near Mangalagiri. The meeting was chaired by AGROS Chairman Subba Naidu, who directed officials to prepare a comprehensive action plan to strengthen AGROS operations in all districts.

Vice-Chairman and Managing Director S Dilli Rao, General Manager Rajamohan, Manager Kurma Rao, and Agriculture Department SE Haribabu Chowdary were among the key participants in

the meeting. District-wise reviews were conducted, covering pending



court cases, receivables, land assets, and overall sales performance. The discussions focused on identifying bottlenecks and accelerating progress

Chairman Subba Naidu emphasised that the reintroduction of the SMAM scheme after five years under the new coalition government marks a renewed commitment to farm

mechanisation. The expanded distribution of individual implements is expected to enhance agricultural productivity and support farmer welfare across Andhra Pradesh.

CREDAI serves buttermilk to Giri Pradakshina devotees

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

The CREDAI Visakhapatnam Chapter organised a buttermilk distribution camp on Wednesday for devotees taking part in the annual Simhachalam Giri Pradakshina, offering much-needed respite to thousands of participants undertaking the arduous 32-kilometre spiritual walk around the sacred Simhachalam hill in honour of Sri Varaha Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy.

Members of CREDAI's Youth Wing and Women's Wing actively participated in the initiative, enthusiastically distributing chilled buttermilk to pil-



grims enduring high humidity and soaring temperatures. The effort drew appreciation from devotees, many of whom gratefully paused at the stall to refresh themselves before continuing



Journalists Mutually Aided Co-operative House Building Society has appealed to the Municipal Administration Minister, P Narayana, to resume the long-pending journalists' housing project in Amaravati.

A delegation of senior journalists met the Minister at the AP Secretariat on Wednesday and submitted a formal representation seeking revival of the multi-storey apartment project, which was originally launched during the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) regime

between 2014 and 2019 but was stalled following the change in government.

Journalists urge govt to resume

back in power and renewed The society highlighted that focus on Amaravati's develop-30 acres of land had been ment, we urge the government allotted through Government to resume this project," said P Srinivasa Rao, general secre-

later handed over to the tary of the Society. Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) for the The delegation stressed that completing the housing project construction of apartments would be a meaningful gesture of support for the journalist community in the State.

Other representatives present included founder secretary Chava Ravi, directors Eeshwar, Srinivas, Narasimha Rao and senior journalists Krishna Mohan, Mallikarjun, Pawan Kumar and Mukkanti.

Harish blasts Revanth's water lies, warns of privilege motion

PNS HYDERABAD

BRS MLA Harish Rao lashed out at Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for turning Praja Bhavan into a propaganda camp and bypassing democratic institutions on the crucial issues of water rights and irrigation.

Terming the CM's claims "fabricated lies" aimed at covering up his government's betrayal of Telangana's interests, Harish said the Congress was once again facilitating water diversion to Andhra Pradesh, this time through Banakacherla.

"Revanth, if anyone deserves the whip, it's you. For selling out Telangana's water rights and staging shows behind closed doors with your MLAs and BRS defectors. Your actions are not just shameful, they are a violation of legislative privsh ann



ing lies, saying, "The real water warriors are outside power, while the betrayers have holed up in air-conditioned halls.

Citing official records, Harish said the BRS had irrigated 48.74 lakh acres in nine-and-a-half years, while Congress Governments in United Andhra Prades

PNS SRIKAKULAM Uddanam Cashew bags

Uddanam cashew, celebrated for its superior quality and large-scale cultivation in north coastal Andhra Pradesh, has been selected for the 2025 National Award Part of Union Government's effort to promote under the One District One Product (ODOP) initia

their uphill trek. The service was

not only a gesture of goodwill, but also part of CREDAI's

broader commitment to com-

munity engagement and cultur-

al tradition.

ingly, but the project was abruptly halted. With the TDP

Orders MS No 36 and 67 and

similar to the Happy Nest pro-ject. Further, GO MS No 107, issued on March 7, 2019, authorised construction with four categories of plinth area to accommodate varying housing needs 'We had formed the society and enrolled members accord-



360 MTs of tobacco purchased from 110 farmers in Prakasam

PNS ONGOLE

Reiterating that all steps have been taken to purchase tobacco from the farmers, Prakasam district in-charge Collector R Gopal Krishna has said that 360 Metric Tonnes of tobacco had been purchased from 110 farmers so far.

The Collector on Wednesday inspected the process of tobacco purchase at a purchasing centre at Garlapadu village of Maddipadu mandal. On the occasion, the In-charge Collector spoke to the farmers and inquired about how many quintals of tobacco were brought to the purchasing center, whether they were being purchased as per the schedule, and whether there were any difficulties at the purchasing cen-

He also inquired about whether there were any difficulties in storing the tobacco bales brought by the farmers, how much storage could be done, how the farmers would be paid after purchase, and other details, as well as the tobacco purchase policy, from the Mark Fed officials.

Speaking on the occasion, In-charge Collector Gopala Krishna revealed that as per the orders of the state government, HD Barley tobacco has been purchased through Mark Fed at the purchase center at Garlapadu for the past 15 days. "So far, 360 metric tonnes of tobacco produce, worth Rs 3 crore has been purchased from 110 tobacco farmers in the dis-

trict,: he acknowledged. After the tobacco farmers register their names in the CM App, tobacco will be purchased from the farmers through Mark Fed as per the prescribed schedule, he said

adding that the purchase of tobacco will be done till the month of September," he made it clear and asked the tobacco farmers not to worry. The In-charge Collector said that if the tobacco bales are brought after grading as per the

guidelines issued by the government, the Markfed would purchase them. RDO Lakshmi Prasanna, Mark Fed DM Harikrishna and Tahsildar Aadilakshmi were among those who accompanied the Incharge Collector.

administration.

Srikakulam Collector Swapnil Dinkar Pundkar and District Horticulture Officer Ratnala Varaprasada Rao are set to receive the award during a national ceremony in New Delhi on July 14. Uddanam, a major cashewproducing belt in Srikakulam

the

district, spans several man-

PNS NELLORE

Andhra The Pradesh Government is firmly committed to the development of the Madiga community, said Dr Undavalli Sridevi, Chairperson of the Madiga Corporation. Addressing a press conference at the Roads & Buildings Guest House in Nellore on Wednesday, she stated that the State Government had allocated ?40,000 crore in the budget for SC welfare, reaffirming its commitment to marginalised communities.

She said that ?51 crore had

region-specific products, foster rural employment The recognition, part of the Union Government's effort to

dals including Palasa, at the Tirumala temple in practices and processing Vajrapukotturu, Mandasa, Tirupati. infrastructure before recompromote region-specific products, foster rural employment, and drive local Sompeta, Kaviti, Kanchili, growth, and Ichapuram. Cashew is was officially communicated cultivated on over one lakh district acres, and the region is home to numerous processing units

The sector sustains the livelihood of over 1.05 lakh families, both directly and indirectly

Known for its high-quality nuts and cashew dal, Úddanam supplies nearly 3,000 kg of cashew dal daily for the preparation of laddus

Farmers, supported by the Horticulture Department and

national honour under ODOP

agricultural scientists, have embraced hybrid varieties and mechanised cultivation techniques.

However, they are urging the government to fix a Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rs 16,000 per 80 kg of raw cashew nuts to ensure long-term sustainability. A Central evaluation team

that visited the region in February assessed farming Rao.

mending the award. Agriculture Minister K. Atchannaidu described the recognition as a "collective achievement" of officials,

farmers, and entrepreneurs. . Farmers' Cashew Association representatives said the award will boost morale and expand market reach. "This reflects the scientific and progressive strides of Uddanam's cashew farmers," added Varaprasada

ing that the BRS would move a privilege motion in both Houses.

baked data" while ignoring

the cries of farmers who are

demanding water, and not

He accused Irrigation

Minister Uttam Kumar

Reddy and Finance Minister

Bhatti Vikramarka of spread-

PowerPoint shows.

never reached its claim of 50 lakh acres. "If Congress has evidence, let them show it. He questioned why the Otherwise, stop lying," he Chief Minister didn't consaid.

Harish ridiculed the vene an open discussion and Congress for glorifying the instead "hid inside Praja Pranahita-Chevella Project Bhavan, trying to spin lies with staged presentations." that it failed to execute He said Congress MLAs despite holding power in both the Centre and State were forced to nod to "half-

from 2007 to 2014. "They paid advances for a project that had no approvals, no clearances from Maharashtra, and faced problems like submergence of the Chaprala Sanctuary," he said.

Govt committed to uplift Madiga community: Corporation chief

economic

Rs 51 crore sanctioned specifically for Madiga development

been sanctioned specifically for Madiga development and that 55 out of 89 shopping complexes sanctioned in the district are currently operational. Funds have also been released for the development of the remaining 27 complexes.

Dr Sridevi recalled that during the earlier TDP regime, initiatives like subsidised Innova cars through SC Corporation to convert drivers into car owners and foreign education support schemes were launched. She



criticised the previous government for discontinuing these welfare programmes and forcibly acquiring Dalit lands. She noted that in her

Tadikonda constituency, 30 per cent of the population comprises Dalits. Stressing the importance of Amaravati's development, she said the NDA government is working to attract ?5 lakh crore in investments, which will generate large-scale employment, including for SC vouth

Dr Sridevi also condemned the previous regime for filing false cases against Dalits and slashing SC welfare funds. She highlighted the loss of 540 medical seats in 17 colleges, which affected educational opportunities for Dalit students.

She praised Andhra Pradesh for being the only State to establish a dedicated Madiga Corporation and urged continuous support for Dalit education and employment.

SC Corporation officer Srinivas Rao and other leaders were also present.

Medical reps stage protest, seek revival of legal safeguards

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Medical representatives affiliated with the Federation of Medical and Representatives' Associations of India (FMRAI) staged a protest near the Gandhi statue at the GVMC office on Wednesday, as part of the nationwide general strike. The agitation sought to draw attention to longstanding issues affecting the profession and urged the Union Government

to take corrective steps.

FMRAI Visakhapatnam dis-trict president P.V. Sudhakar said that the protest reflected Sales the growing concerns of field representatives over the erosion of job security and legal protections following recent labour reforms. Echoing these concerns, MRAI State secretary

FMRAI Chandra Mouli stated that the Sales Promotion Employees (Conditions of Service) Act, 1976, once instrumental in

protecting the rights of medical representatives, has lost significance in light of the rollback of several labour laws and the imposition of new labour codes. He called for urgent revision of the Act, a standard work policy, reduced pricing of essential medicines, and the removal of duties on life-saving drugs. He also sought free healthcare

essentials for the poor and strict action against counterfeit and substandard drugs. State executive member



Kiran Kumar Chowdhury 35-year career, highlighting alleged that the Centre was attempting to dilute provisions under the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954, while encouraging online medicine sales. He urged the State Government to classify medical representatives as '"highly skilled" and implement an eight-hour workday as per G.O. No. 100

Veteran representative Sanjay Kumar shared insights from his

hardships professional Assistant secretaries Mahesh Kumar and Verma criticised arbitrary job terminations and increased surveillance at workplaces. Vice-president Srinivas Sanyasirao pointed to rising stress and health risks among workers. A memorandum listing their demands was submitted to the District Collector. Union leaders termed the protest successful, with wide participation across the district.





MP requests for sanction of CSR funds for development of constituency

PNS ELURU

Eluru MP Putta Mahesh Kumar has appealed to the Secretary of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India, Mr. Pankaj Jain, to allocate Social Corporate Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds for undertaking development programs in the Eluru Parliamentary Constituency. In this regard, MP Putta

Mahesh Kumar met Mr. Pankaj Jain at his office in New Delhi on Wednesday and submitted a representation. The MP requested the release of CSR funds to develop crematoriums in every vil-lage within the Eluru



Parliamentary Constituency medical equipment for govand to procure necessary ernment hospitals.

Electrical safety precautions

save precious lives: Official

MP Mahesh Kumar also discussed various other devel-

PNS KAKINADA

Electrical safety precautions save precious lives whether in industries or business establishments or the home front said Regional electrical inspector Santharao while addressing the employees of Coromandel fertilizer factory here on Wednesday.

Participating as the chief guest at the electrical safety week concluding day celebra-tion function ,he advised the employees of all ranks to take special interest and precautions

on the usage of electricity . Electrical Inspection officer Balakrishna has complimented the Coromandel management for observing the safety norms effectively. Electrical depart-

opmental projects that need to be undertaken in the constituency with the Petroleum and Natural Gas Secretary. He stated that Mr. Pankaj Jain responded positively to the request for the allocation of funds.

The MP further informed that estimation reports for fund requirements on behalf fund requirements on behair of central government under-takings have been prepared and submitted through the District Collector to the cen-tral government. MP Mahesh Kumar added that he would continue to pursue the matter with concerned officials during the upcoming Monsoon Session of the Parliament to ensure the sanction of funds.

explained in detail on the electrical safety norms and precau-

tions and emergencies. Kakinada Coromandel unit head Ch. Srinivasarao asked the employees to give equal importance to safety aspects in using the electricity whether in the factory or at home.

Human resources cell head Padmanabham and Employees union president Nookaraju spoke on the emergency situations during usage of electrici-

Later the chief guest distrib-uted prizes to the winners of various competitions conduct-ed on electrical safety. Electrical senior Manager Subbaraju, Manager Srinivasa kumar, Engineers Chaithanya, Durga, Ramaraju, Vivek and Manikanta conducted the competitions. ment head Gangadhar has



Union Minister flags off Thiruvannamalai express train

PNS BHIMAVARAM

Union Minister of State for Heavy Industries and steel Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma flagged off the Thiruvannamalai (Arunachalam) express train in

Narasapuram on Ŵednesday. Union Minister Srinivasa Varma traveled in the Thiruvannamalai (Arunachalam) express train up to Bhimavaram Town Railway Station after flagging off the train. The Union Minister interacted with the passengers, travelling in the express train to Arunachalam.

Speaking to the media on this occasion, Union Minister Bhupathi Raju Srinivasa Varma assured of taking steps to run the special weekly express from Narasapuram to Tiruvannamalai (Arunachalam)

three times a week. He said that the Tiruvannamalai special train would be useful for devotees going to the famous pilgrimage sites of Arunachalam and

Tirupati, and that this train would be convenient for Hindu devotees who wish to visit Arunachalam at least once in their lives.

The Union Minister said that it was brought to his attention that there were many difficulties in going to Arunachalam due to the lack of a direct train from the state, adding that had requested the high-ranking railway officials several times to provide train facility from Narasapuram to

Tiruvannamalai. Initially, they did not agree to run a train to Arunachalam from here but he continued to exert pressure and repeatedly requested them to run it as a special weekly express for three months on an experimental basis, he revealed.

"The train service will be continued in view of the demand from passengers. All the reservation tickets have been sold out within ten minutes of the start of ticket booking, indicating that there is a huge demand from passengers for this train

than expected," the Union Minister highlighted. He hoped that the Arunachalam express train would be very useful for the people of both Godavari districts as well as the coastal districts.

PAC Chairman and MLA Pulaparthi Ramanjaneyulu and Narasapuram MLA Bommidi Naykar requested Union Minister Srinivasa Varma make efforts to ensure that the special train runs regularly. "The people of this region are indebted to Union Minister Srinivasa Varma for providing special train facil-ity from Narasapuram to Tiruvannamalai, fulfilling the desire of the people of Narasapuram and Konaseema,"

MLA Ramanjaneyulu observed. BJP district president Ainampudi Sridevi, DRUC member Jakkampudi Kumar, BJYM district president Kalidindi Vinod Kumar and BJP Narasapuram Parliamentary constituency convener Subhash Raju were among those who attended the programme.

Officials directed to expedite land resurvey, issue CCRC cards



PNS ELURU

District Joint Collector P

Renaming of auditorium as 'Godavari Kalakshetram' hailed

PNS KAKINADA

The Municipal auditorium constructed in Raja Tank premises with Smart city project funds, has been renamed the Godavari Kalakshetram'.

Announcing the decision, district Collector Shan Mohan said that in the municipal corporation records it was recorded as the Ragireddi Venkata Iavarama Kumar Kalakshetram. But after con-

pround and of a municipal councillor soledue to political pressures. `It is proper to name the projects constructed with state and central funds after national level leaders who were born and brought up here . The BJP in the past objected to it and sought clarifications from the smart city corporation and also from the central government. Even the Collector was approached and conveyed to him their serious objections on naming the Kalakshetram. There were local leaders added



sible for naming the auditori- who attained national stature and Bulusu Sambamurthy and even among the state and cine artists Suryakantham, Anjali Devi and Rao Gopal Rao. But all of them were ignored and named after a small person purely under political pressures. At last wiser counsel prevailed and whatever may be the reasons behind, the Godavari Kalakshetram name was restored. Commissioner Bhavana Vasista and Collector Shan Mohan deserve every praise for the decision' they



PNS KAKINADA

joined the nationwide strike on Wednesday has scrapped as many as 29 labour acts and and organized rallies in Kakinada rural and in place brought four labour codes there by in place also in urban area raising slogans demanding scrapping of all the four labour codes that are detrimental to the interests of the workers of both organized and unorganized sectors. The striking workers formed a human chain at Sarpavaram junction and also at the head post office in the city reiterating their demands. Workers staged dharna in front of the Coromandel international limited, ONGC, Parry sugar, Reliance oil companies and also at the entrance of Kakinada seaports Limited. Leaders of central trade unions addressed the public meetings held at Visakha dairy center and at the Head post office center.

The central trade union leaders said they Industrial workers and Municipal workers industrial workers and Municipal workers approach as the Narendra Modi government

Two lawyers were killed when the car in which they were travelling collided with another car at Utukur village on the Kadapa-Chennai national ay near Rajampe Annamayya district on Wednesday. Police said that the deceased advocates Subramanyam Yadav, belonging to Tirupati and Rajagopal belonging to Pileru were travelling in a car which collided with another car coming in the opposite direction. Five others in the two cars were critically injured in the accident. The police registered a case and shifted the bodies to the GGH in Rajampet.

Dhatri Reddy has directed the officials to expedite the land resurvey and issuance of CCRC cards to the tenant farmers.

Joint Collector Dhatri Reddy held a meeting with the revenue officials and reviewed the progress of resurvey, issuance of CCRC cards to tenant farmers, house plots for the poor, resolution of PGRS applications and other revenue issues

Speaking on the occasion, the Joint Collector directed the officials that the land resurvey work in the villages where the resurvey pilot project was undertaken in the district and in the villages where the resurvey was undertaken in the second phase should be completed within the stipulated time. She told the officials that the survey work of village, mandal and state boundaries should be completed with special attention.

"The applications received under 22A should be processed as per the rules and applications that are not as per the rules should be returned, informing the applicant of the reasons for the rejection. Steps should also be taken to provide the CCRC cards to every eligible tenant farmer, and landowners should be informed that there will be no violation of land ownership rights," she ordered the officials.

On the occasion, Jangareddygudem Tahsildar Sleeve Joji, who achieved the targets in revenue matters last month and stood first in the district, was felicitated by the Joint Collector and DRÓ Visveswara Rao.

Sub-Collector B Smaran RDOs Achyut Raj, Ambarish, Ramana, SDC Bhaskar, Agriculture Officer Habib Bhasha, Survey Department AD Ansari and Collectorate Administrative Officer Nancharayya were among those who attended the meeting.

sidering the back the objections received and also of the city corporation commissioner's report, it was decided to rename it as `Godavari Kalakshetram' , the

collector added. BJP leaders Yenimireddi Malakondaiah and Duvvuri Subrahmanyam have wel-comed the decision of the Collector by retaining the name ' Godavari Kalakshetram ' that was constructed spending Rs.20 Crores of smart city funds. They said the previous municipal council was responusurping the rights of the workers. They said both the state and central government were indulging in anti-labour policies that needed to be opposed tooth and nail.

The leaders further demanded enhancement of the wages of Anganwadi, Asha and Panchayat workers and regularization of the services of contract and outsourcing employees. They also demanded the state government to withdraw its decision to enhance the work hours from 8 hours to 10 hours.

Their other demands include payment of Rs.26,000 minimum wage and put an end to harassment of Asha workers under some pretext or the other besides 75 percent of the jobs in industries to be given only to locals.

ASR Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital launches specialty clinics

PNS ELURU

ASR Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital, recog-nized by the National Commission for Homoeopathy and Ministry of Ayush and affiliated to NTR University of Health Sciences, in Tadepalligudem on Wednesday announced the inauguration of its new Specialty Clinics.

The institution is committed to providing high-quality Homoeopathic education on research, and patient care. The inauguration ceremony took place at the college premises. ASR Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital is committed to providing comprehensive health care services to the community," said Dr. Ananda Kumar Pingali, Principal & Medical Superintendent.

"These Specialty Clinics will allow us to offer more targeted and effective treatments, leveraging the strengths of Homoeopathy in addressing specific conditions," he highlighted.

This initiative aims to bring the benefits of homoeopathic medicine to a wider audience."The Specialty Clinics will be staffed by experienced



faculty members specializing in various fields, and will address a variety of condi-ons will admit patients when necessary. In addition to providincluding: PCOD, Thyroid disorders, Diabetes, Cancer, ing medical services, the Specialty Clinics will also con-Infer-lity, ENT, Au-sm, ADHD, Behavioral probduct research in these special-ized areas," Dr Ananda Kumar lems, Endocrinology and Rheumatology," Dr. Ananda highlighted.

Term

Kumar revealed. "Patients will undergo thorough examinations, and complex cases will be managed through consultations with a team of experienced physicians. The 50-bed hospital agriculture.

In addition to the launch of the Specialty Clinics, Dr. Ananda Kumar Pingali also announced the launch of seven CCRH approved Short Studentship in Homoeopathy projects relatpresent.

ed to Agri-Homoeopathy. These projects will focus on studying the effects of Homoeopathic medicines on plant growth, exploring the poten-al of Homoeopathy in

Dr. D. Surendra Kumar, Vice Principal (Admin) , Dr. Kadali Srinivas, Vice Principal (Academic), Dr. D. Sairam, Hospital Incharge, Dr. Sanapala Ananda Rao, and other faculty members were



Medical checkup to keep police personnel healthy: SP

PNS KAKINADA

District Superintendent of police Garikipati Bindu Madhav said that medical checkup and laboratory tests would help the police in effectively discharging their duties in keeping good health and also in preventive action against serious ailments.

The SP inaugurated the mega medical camp for the police officers and personnel of various ranks at the police convention hall in the district police office campus here on

Wednesday. He said the doctors of Kakinada Medicover hospital and laboratory technicians were attending the camp and screening the police staff.

The SP further said the doctors team would conduct 20 types of tests for diagnosing the ailments such as heart problem, kidney and liver ailments besides Blood sugar and Blood pressure levels. Bindu Madhav said that the medical camp would be of great use for police officers ,police personnel, home guards and ministerial staff in bettering their health

taking proper treatment .He said the camp was arranged keeping in view the policemen's welfare.

Additional SP administration MJV Bhaskararao, Additional SP armed reserve S Srinivasarao, Kakinada sub divisional police officer Manish Devaraj patil, Special branch DSP Chevvakula Srirama Koteswerarao, Medicover hospital doctors team Dr Vasantha Kumar, M D General medicine ,Dr Subhakararao, Center Head Dr Abhilash were among those attended



NATION 05

ACROSS THE STATES



District courts in Himachal receive bomb threats

istrict courts in Himachal Pradesh's Shimla, Kullu and Nahan On Wednesday received bomb threats via emails, police said. Authorities swung into action and the premises of district courts in Shimla, Nahan, Kullu and Rampur were immediately evacuated, they said. Bomb and dog squads were deployed and a detailed inspection of the court buildings and surrounding areas is being conducted, the police said. So far, no explosives or suspicious items have been found, they said. Shimla SP Sanjeev Kumar Gandhi told PTI that emails threatening to blow up court premises in several places, including Shimla and Rampur, were received on Wednesday. Preventative actions are being taken, and police teams headed by DSP-level officers are on the spot, he added. The threat prompted an immediate evacuation and heightened security to ensure the safety of the public and court staff, the police said. SP Gandhi said the Himachal Pradesh Police are coordinating with other states that received similar threats and an investigation is underway to trace the accused.



'1,209 elephants died in Assam during 2000-2023'

uman-elephant conflicts in Assam have claimed over 1,400 lives during 2000-2023, while 1,209 pachyderms died in the state during the same period with majority 626 fatalities due to anthropogenic activities, a Wildlife Institute of India (WII) report has said. Electrocution emerged as the leading cause of human-induced mortality, accounting for 209 elephant deaths during the 23-year period, the report released recently said. The other major causes of unnatural death of pachyderms over the period were accidental deaths (127), various other anthropogenic stressors (97), train collisions (67), poaching (55), poisoning (62), retaliatory killings (5) and vehicle collisions (4). Of the 583 fatalities due to natural causes, 'natural deaths' accounted for the maximum number of elephant deaths at 344 which includes old age, heart attacks and stillbirths, drowning, struck by lightning, falling from hills, etc. Territorial fights accounted for 81 deaths, and unknown factors resulting from natural causes led to 158 deaths between 2000-23, the report said.



GUJARAT BRIDGE COLLAPSE 10 killed as vehicles fall into Mahisagar river

PNS VADODARA

Ten persons, including two siblings, were killed and nine others rescued, some of them with injuries, after multiple vehicles plunged into the Mahisagar river when a portion of a fourdecade-old bridge collapsed in Vadodara district on Wednesday morning, officials said.

A slab of the Gambhira bridge, which connects central Gujarat to the Saurashtra region and is located near Padra town, caved in, killing ten persons, Superintendent of Police (Vadodara rural) Rohan Anand said. Visuals from the site showed the entire chunk of the slab of the bridge between two piers has collapsed. The slab collapse caused the vehicles, which were passing through the bridge, to plunge into the river.

Five out of nine persons who were rescued were getting treat-ed at state-run SSG Hospital in Vadodara city, Anand said, adding none of them is in a crit-

Kailash Yatra set to commence from 15th

PNS SHIMLA

Wednesday said.

August 30, they said.

the yatra.



10 to 15 metres long slab of the bridge came crashing down at around 7.30 am.

The rescue operation, involving fire brigade personnel, local residents as well as a team of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), was still underway at the site, officials said. At least half a dozen vehicles

- two trucks, two vans, an autorickshaw and a two-wheeler -- fell into the river after the bridge collapsed, Vadodara Collector Anil Dhameliya said.

dangerously close to falling in the river were dragged away to a safer location, the collector said.

Three persons on a twowheeler, which fell into the river, managed to swim to safety, he added. According to the police, two out of ten persons who lost their lives were siblings -- a two-year-old boy and his four-year-old sister. Most of the deceased were residents of Vadodara and Anand districts, and all except a child were male.

ing treatment at SSG Hospital, four were men and one woman. One of the injured is from Udaipur district in adjoining

Rajasthan, police said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel expressed grief over the tragedy and announced ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh and Rs 4 lakh, respectively, to the next of the kin of each deceased and Rs 50,000 as compensation to the injured.



Modi holds talks with Namibia Prez Netumbo

PNS WINDHOEK

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday held talks with Namibian President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah and discussed ways to bolster bilateral cooperation in areas such as digital technology, defence, security, agriculture, healthcare, education and critical minerals.

\During the delegation-level talks, the two leaders reviewed the full range of India-Namibia relations.

"Cooperation in areas such as digital technology, defence, security, agriculture, healthcare, education and critical minerals figured prominently in our discussions," Modi said in a post on social media after the meeting. "We also discussed how to

gy and petrochemicals.

House, the two sides signed four agreements, including on cooperation in the field of health and medicine, setting up an entrepreneurship development centre in Namibia, CDRI Framework and Global Biofuels Alliance Framework.

Expressed gratitude for the assistance from Namibia in Project Cheetah," he added.

After the talks at the State

This is the first visit of Prime Minister Modi to Namibia and the third-ever by an Indian Prime Minister to

the country. Modi, who arrived here from Brazil on the final leg of his five-nation tour, also paid tribute to Namibia's founding father Sam Nujoma at the national memorial Heroes Acre. Nujoma led Namibia to independence in 1990 and

boost linkages in trade, enerserved as its first President for 15 years.

No cabinet reshuffle on cards, says K'taka DCM

PNS NEW DELHI

The Kailash Yatra is set to commence from July 15 in Himachal Pradesh's Kinnaur Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Wednesday district, officials on dismissed speculation about leadership change in the Congress-led The district administration government in the state, saying has mandated registration there are currently no plans to forms and medical certifi-

alter the cabinet composition. cates for all pilgrims for the "No cabinet reshuffle is on the yatra, which will continue till cards. Myself and the chief minister are meeting central minis-Ă meeting was held under ters to discuss various state the chairmanship of Kalpa Subissues," Shivakumar told reporters Divisional Magistrate (SDM) here. When asked about the Amit Kaltaik during which he buzz that he will take over as chief reviewed the preparations for minister after completion of twoand-a-half years of the Congress

government in the state, Shivakumar -- who occupied the CM's suit in the new Karnataka Bhawan like previous occasion -- termed it media speculation and clarified there is no such plan.

The Karnataka Congress has been under scrutiny over reports of a rotational chief minister arrangement between Shivakumar and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah following the party's victory in the 2023 Assembly elections.

While both leaders have publicly denied any such formal agreement, speculation continues



to persist within party circles. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge had recently said there is no proposal

before the party for an immedi-ate reshuffle and that the media would be informed if such a deci-

sion were made. While few ministers are reportedly under scrutiny for performance and corruption concerns, these claims have not been officially acknowledged by the government or party leadership. Shivakumar said Siddaramaiah is meeting Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to seek permission for an air show that has become a signature event during Mysuru Dasara, celebrated in September-end. He also said four vacant MLC posi-

tions will be filled before the next assembly session.

Shivakumar, who also holds the water resources portfolio, said he met Union Environment and Jal Shakti ministers on Tuesday and demanded early clearance of several water projects, including the Yettinahole Project and Kalasa Banduri project. On the Yettinahole Integrated Water Supply project, the deputy chief minister said the Centre has stalled works in Tumkur and Hassan districts citing forest land issues. "We have given alternative land and sought early forest clearance so that work can continue," he said.

Bihar becomes West Bengal in NITI Aayog map

Mamata demands apology, immediate correction gy from them, taking immedi-PNS KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday wrote to the Vice shared a copy of the letter and

connection. In a post on X, Baneriee Chairperson of the NITI Aayog a screenshot of India's map that appared on the front page



Bengal has depicted the territory of Bihar in its place," Banerjee wrote to Vice Chairperson of the NITI Aayog Suman K Bery. Describing the error as a "grave lapse" of the NITI Aayog, the CM claimed that such a

Maha govt to bring strict anti-conversion law

aharashtra Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule on Wednesday said a stringent law to prevent religious conversions will be enacted in the state. Replying to a debate on the issue raised by Anup Agrawal (BJP) and others in the state assembly, Bawankule said he would speak to Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on how to bring an anti-conversion law with stringent provisions. "A strict law to prevent religious conversions will be enacted in the state," he said. The minister also said he has instructed the divisional commissioner concerned to conduct a probe into unauthorised churches in Dhule-Nandurbar belt and demolish them in six months. Atul Bhatkalkar (BJP) asked why was the six-month time being given and demanded immediate action against unauthorised religious structures. To this, Bawankule said the unauthorised churches will be demolished and that complaints needed to be probed before taking action. Sanjay Kute (BJP) said conversions take place not just in Nandurbar but tribal areas across the state. Agrawal claimed tribals and non-tribals in Nawapur (Dhule district) were being lured into converting to Christianity.

CBI secures extradition of fugitive economic offender from US

PNS NEW DELHI

tice, officials said.

night, they said.

American authorities.

duced before the court concerned and she will now face the The CBI successfully extradittrial," CBI spokesperson said in ed alleged economic offender a statement. In total, the CBI has secured Monika Kapoor from the

United States on Wednesday, the return of more than 100 bringing an end to her more fugitives in recent years through than 25-year flight from jusmutual legal assistance or Interpol coordination, setting a Kapoor, who had an Interpol Red Notice against record of sorts in cross-border enforcement.

Kapoor, the owner of Monika her, was taken into custody in the US by a CBI team which Overseas, in conspiracy with has boarded an American her brothers Rajan Khanna and Airlines flight AA 292 expect-Rajiv Khanna, allegedly forged ed to land here Wednesday export documents - shipping bills, invoices and bank certifi-This marks the second major cates of export and realisation success for the agency in recent in 1998, the CBI spokesperson

days, following the arrest of Nehal Modi in the US through said here. She, along with her two brothers, allegedly forged doc-uments to obtain six replenishsustained cooperation with "This extradition marks a ment licences meant for importmajor breakthrough in the puring duty-free materials for jewellery manufacturing and suit of justice and reiterates CBI's commitment to bringing

export, the agency said. fugitives to face the law in In furtherance of the crimi-India, irrespective of internanal conspiracy, they sold the tional boundaries. The CBI licences to Deep Exports, team is returning to India with Ahmedabad on a premium, the fugitive. Monika will be proshe said.

proval over the state being shown as Bihar in an official report. She condemned the error and demanded an apolo-

sing her strong disa

report, in which Bihar was shown as West Bengal. "I am writing with deep concern and unequivocal disapproval that in

ate corrective measures in this

blunder in an official publ state of West Bengal' published by NITI Aayog and available on its website, the map intended to represent the state of West

tion of NITI Aayog reflects an "alarming lack of diligence and respect" towards the states of the Union.

SC takes suo motu note of ED summoning lawyers for legal advice

PNS NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has initiated a suo motu case over the issue of investigation agencies summoning lawyers who offer opinion or represent parties in cases to examine if they can be put to notice. A bench of Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justices K Vinod Chandran and N V Anjaria will hear the matter on July 14, when the court reopens after the

summer break. agency's director. The action comes in the wake of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) summoning a couple of senior lawyers - Arvind Datar

and Pratap Venugopal. However, the ED on June 20 directed its investigating officers not to issue summons to any advocate in a money laundering

Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA), 2023. "Further, if any summons needs to be issued under the exceptions carved out in proviso to Section 132 of the BSA, 2023, the same shall be issued only with the prior approval of the director, ED," the agency said. The counsel had offered legal advice to Care Health Insurance Limited on the employee stock investigation being carried out ownership plan given to Rashmi against their client, adding that Saluja, former chairperson of exception to this rule can only be made after "approval" by the Religare Enterprises.

The summons were con-The central probe agency, demned by the Supreme Court tasked with combating money Bar Association (SCBA) and the laundering crimes, issued the Supreme Court Advocates-oncircular for the guidance of its Record Association (SCAOfield formations, stating that "no RA), calling it a "disturbing summons" should be issued to trend" that struck at the very any advocate in violation of foundations of the legal profes-Section 132 of the Bhartiya sion.

across Assam, Bihar, Odisha,

Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.

nent of the report indicates

that 34 reservoir and barrage

sites have received inflows above

These sites span Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka,

Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra,

Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana,

Reservoirs such as Srisailam

their specified thresholds.

The inflow forecast compo-

'Govt must treat

public grievances as opportunities to identify flaws'

PNS NEW DELHI

Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Wednesday said over 26 lakh public grievances are filed each year, and the government must treat them as opportunities to identify flaws in policies and administrative rules.

Addressing an event, the Union minister of state for personnel called for a fundamental shift in the way public grievances are handled and emphasised that their redressal must go beyond disposal to ensure citizens' satisfaction. "Grievance redressal ought to be a tool for systemic reform and ease of living," he

Addressing the National Workshop on 'Effective Redressal of Public Grievances, NextGen CPGRAMS and Progress Review', he said the government must treat grievances as opportunities to identify flaws in policies and administrative rules. The Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) allows citizens to raise grievances online.

Tracing the evolution of grievance redressal in India, the min-ister recalled how, in 2014, only about two lakh grievances were filed annually, and many government websites created for this purpose remained unused.

Opp parties promoted 'one district, one mafia' policy in UP: CM

PNS GORAKHPUR (UP)

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Adityanath Yogi on Wednesday accused the opposition parties of corruption and promoting a policy of "one district, one mafia" during their tenure in contrast to his government's focus on development and zero-tolerance against crime.

Addressing an event here, the chief minister questioned the critics of his government's tree plantation drive.

"I want to ask those who question the tree plantation



program. When they had the opportunity, they could do nothing. They made schemes a center of corruption, a center of loot," said Adityanath.

'Today our government is giving one district, one product, one district, one crop and these people, whether it was the Samajwadi Party, Congress



society in the name of nepotism", the chief minister claimed, "These mafias indulged in illegal felling of forests, illegal mining, grabbed lands, wreaked havoc with

anarchy and oppressed the poor." "Now the result of zerotolerance policy against mafia tendencies is being seen across the country. It is a result of that there is no identity crisis for the youth of the state," he asserted.

17 river gauge stations across India currently above warning level: CWC

PNS NEW DELHI

Seventeen river gauge stations across India are currently above the warning level, with four in severe flood condition where water levels are at or above the danger mark but still below the historical peak, according to the Central Water Commission (CWC).

According to the latest flood bulletin issued on Wednesday, there are no stations currently in an "extreme flood situation", where the previous highest flood level (HFL) is equalled or exceeded



However, four sites, including locations on the Dhansiri River in Assam and the Wainganga River in Maharashtra, are in a severe flood condition, indicating a significant flood risk. An additional 13 stations are

situations", with water levels surpassing warning levels but remaining below danger thresholds. These include rivers such as the Brahmaputra, Ganga, Gandak, and Šubarnarekha

Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. witnessing "above normal flood and Almatti (Krishna River), Hirakud (Mahanadi), Indira Sagar (Narmada), and Maithon (Barakar) are seeing high inflows.





Editor's TAKE

BRICS takes on an aging empire

BRICS nations have unanimously challenged US hegemony, while Trump is retaliating with more tariffs

paradigm shift is visible for all to see. The world order dominated by the Western Bloc, led by the US, is crumbling, and the unease is visible. While the BRICS nations – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa – may not have challenged the old world order directly, they have taken the first step in defiance at the BRICS Summit in Rio. Of late, the US President has taken the world by storm – recklessly announcing unilateral trade policies and acting on its own – without even caring for the United Nations, while taking action to maintain global power matrix. It struck Iran, though retracted later, but the message it sent to all was clear: while US power is waning, it would not mind playing power games to restore its hegemony. Indeed, a new global power contest is unfolding – not through conventional warfare or old Cold War rhetoric, but through trade, currency realignment and strategic alliances.

At the centre of this confrontation is BRICS – a bloc once seen as a loose grouping of emerging economies, now maturing into a potent geopolitical force - and the Western world led by a combative and unpredictable Donald Trump. The recent Brazil summit marked a turning point. The leaders of Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa and new BRICS+ members issued a joint statement condemning the rise of unilateral tariffs and protectionism. Not to be outdone, President Trump's announcement of a blanket 10 per cent tariff on countries aligning with "anti-American" BRICS policies further inflamed tensions. While he failed to define these policies, it was clear the threat was retaliation against BRICS's growing push to de-dollarise global trade. This move by Trump appears more than economic posturing. It reflects a deeper anxiety in Washington - the fear of losing grip over a global order long shaped by the dominance of the dollar and Western-led institutions like IMF and World Bank. From setting up alternative payment systems to questioning the legitimacy of dollar hegemony, BRICS has begun to redefine the rules of the global economic game. India which would assume its Chair next year would have a significant role to play.

Indeed, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's voice in Brazil carried weight. India walked a diplomatic tightrope — aligning with calls against tariff wars and unilateralism, while also maintaining strategic autonomy. Its silence on Trump's tariff threat, however, sparked debate about whether New Delhi is hesitating to fully commit to the emerging anti-West consensus within BRICS. With countries like Iran and Indonesia joining, and others like Saudi Arabia and Nigeria knocking on the door, BRICS is no longer just an economic club — it's a political entity which has its own engine and momentum; something the US-led Western bloc would never like to see. The bloc's condemnation of US strikes on Iran and its sympathy for the Palestinian cause show that BRICS is no longer afraid of taking on the US. Trump may try to intimidate this emerging order with tariffs and threats, but the response from BRICS leaders held their ground.

Interestingly, Lula da Silva said, "The world has changed. We don't want an emperor. We are sovereign countries." In this contest between an ageing empire and a coalition of awakening powers, the stakes are not just about tariffs or currency — they are about the shape of the world to come.



Power tussle in Karnataka Congress

Despite public denials, speculation is rife that the high command may be forced to honour a rotational chief ministerial agreement by November — triggering what could become a political flashpoint for the ruling party

he Karnataka Congress is facing challenges due to a power struggle between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar.

Many in the party predict a potential change of guard. The growing speculation about Shivakumar replacing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has created an atmosphere of uncertainty. The ruling Congress is struggling with internal conflicts, a lack of discipline, and factionalism among its members, adding to the intrigue.

Rumours are gaining momentum, primarily as senior leaders, such as G Parameshwara, have publicly acknowledged significant discontent within the party. While Siddaramaiah attempts to do some damage control, the Shivakumar camp is openly lobbying for a leadership change, claiming it could occur within the next three months. The reason for the next three-month time limit is intriguing.

Insiders claim that the power struggle is now in the open. Additionally, Congress MLA Iqbal Hussain, a staunch supporter of DK, has claimed that around 100 MLAs are in favour of a leadership change. DK, as the state party president, has issued disciplinary action against him.

The Congress had deputed and said there was no change in leadership last week. Although a temporary ceasefire may be in place, the potential for change remains. The Congress came to power in the 2023 Assembly polls.

There was a buzz that both leaders were contenders for the top post.

The High Command floated a two-anda-half-year rotational formula, which was acceptable. Accordingly, Siddaramaiah will complete two and a half years as Chief Minister of Karnataka by November this year. He will also celebrate his 25 years of leadership. Siddaramaiah is recognised for his extensive experience in administration and his strong support from the OBC community.

With the Bihar elections approaching at the end of the year, the Congress leadership is keen to maintain stability by not disturbing Siddaramaiah, an important OBC leader. His administration is known for offering freebies, appeasing Muslims, and dividing the Hindu community. On the other hand, Shivakumar is known as 'Mr Fixit'.

DK is the 'go-to' man, and the Congress leadership has used him in dealing with dissidents in other Congress-ruled states as well. DK is valued for his able leadership and organisational skills, as well as his financial resources and ability to manage



internal dissent. Both leaders have their contributions to the Congress. The party needs them in times of crisis.

Besides DK, other candidates are also vying for the post. The Lingayat community's minister, MB Patil, also aspires for the top job. Shivakumar represents the Vokkaliga community, while Siddaramaiah, from the Kuruba community, is a significant OBC figure. Alarmed at the dis-

sident activity, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has warned his

ministers to maintain confidentiality regarding internal party matters in a recent cabinet meeting, warning of stern action. Shivakumar, resigned to his fate, publicly said, "Whatever the party and High Command want will happen," adding, "What option do I have? I have to stand by him and support him." However, his camp continues to chant "D K for CM".

KALYANI Shankar Meanwhile, the BJP, eyeing an opportunity to come back to power, is predicting a mid-term poll, asserting that the Congress Government is likely to collapse soon. Siddaramaiah has dismissed any suggestions of a leadership change, and the Congress High Command has also ruled out such a possibility.

A day after Congress leader Randeep Surjewala stated that there would be no moves for leadership change following meetings with legislators and leaders, the Chief Minister asserted, "There will be no change in the Chief Minister in Karnataka." Currently, Siddaramaiah remains confident that he will serve the full five-year term. His strong declaration and warning were intended not only to silence dissent but also to convey a message of stability to the public, party workers, and the Congress leadership.

Replacing Siddaramaiah is not easy for the Congress leadership, as he could split the party. The Congress leadership must be careful in handling the situation in Karnataka. If Sonia Gandhi or Rahul Gandhi had promised D K a rotational Chief Minister role, it would be hard to refuse him now. The High Command must fulfil the promises made after the elections to resolve the Chief Minister issue. If they don't, Karnataka could face the same problems as Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. In both states, the claim was between two influential state leaders, and the High Command had promised a rotational Chief Minister; however, when the time came, they were unable to fulfil this promise. Shivakumar, a major candidate for the Chief Minister position, agreed to serve as Deputy Chief Minister under Mr Siddaramaiah in 2023.

He was also appointed the head of the party's state unit to calm him down, a post he does not want to relinquish. Indiscipline, factionalism, and revolts have been ongoing challenges in Karnataka, and the Congress party has consistently sought viable solutions to address these issues. The party is unable to decide on aspirants from various castes. The party's leadership faces a dilemma in effectively tackling the recurring political crises that often emerge.

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

What we don't see behind 'service with a smile'



ing; she might have wished someone would ask her that hospitality and entertainment industries — actors, same question — "Do you need anything?" But life's singlers, dancers, on land, at sea, and in the sky. Men and

Devotees at 'Goti Pahandi' ritual of Lord Balabhadra, the return procession of the deities in Puri. PTI

Upinion

Like to tell real-life stories, even in columns that address universal themes, because that's where the true pulse of human experience lies. That's where we find meaning — and, more often than not, a mirror. The resonance of my encounters, and those of people I meet along the way, is what keeps my writing rooted in authenticity.

Perhaps it helps readers navigate the maze of my reflections and opinions, too. So here's a tiny but poignant tale from my travel diary, penned during recent wanderings. It was the morning after we checked into a snazzy hotel in Chicago for a family weekend getaway. The room bell buzzed, and I opened the door to be greeted by Elsa (name changed), her smile, warm but weighed down by the burden of a baby soon to be born.

I glanced at the badge pinned to her apron and asked, "How's the baby, Elsa?" "Making me very, very tired," she said, gently cradling her bump. In her third trimester, Elsa, a housekeeping staff member, was a living embodiment of "service with a smile."

Her job demanded it. She had no choice but to set aside her discomfort and ask each guest, "Do you need anything?" Elsa might have longed for a break that mornintransigence doesn't offer her that luxury. She had to carry on with the weariness she bore, because anything less might reflect poorly in her work report. She had a job to do, and she must do it — with a smile. Always. I wanted to hug her, just to let her know I saw her, that I felt her.

But I stepped back. There are protocols, unspoken boundaries about how much one can reach out. It's hard to know what's okay and not okay in the context of eti-

quette — both in personal and professional spaces. Cut to a cruise ship a few days later.

A world unto itself — a floating paradise turning the mundane into the sublime for the guests onboard. Surrounded by men and women waiting to tend to your every whim, you begin to wonder: where do they summon these smiles from? How do they keep their courtesies crisp through endless hours of duty?

Pressed by long shifts and the demand to deliver faultless service — because even a minor guest complaint could spiral into a workplace disaster — they were, each of them, Elsa's photocopies.

Scratch the surface, and you'll see: beneath those cheerful overtures lie waves of woes, quietly brimming, carefully concealed. It's a pattern that repeats itself across the women whose job it is to make others feel cared for, indulged, and entertained must present their best selves — even when they're quietly aching inside. Their pains don't get time off. Their worries don't come with mute buttons. Yet they show up smiling, bowing, anticipating our needs, and never letting the mask slip.

Because in these industries, emotional neutrality — or rather, perpetual pleasantness — is part of the job description. Not only are they required to serve, but they must also do so with joy. As if the theatre of happiness must never be interrupted by the ordinary struggles of being human.

I leave you with two lingering allusions that echo the heart of this reflection." *Kehta hai joker saara zamaana*" — where the world laughs, while the joker bleeds behind his painted grin. And "*Tum itna jo muskura rahe ho*" a line that questions the smile worn to hide what trembles beneath.

Not every smile is a sign of happiness. Sometimes, it's a mask worn out of duty. Sometimes, it's a quiet plea not to be seen too closely. And so, the next time someone serves you with a smile, remember — it may be their job, but it might also be their armour.

(The author is a columnist and independent journalist based in Dubai. The views expressed are personal)

Letters to the Editor

A nationwide strike: A costly standoff!

The nationwide strike led by over 25 crore workers across sectors such as banks, postal services, coal mining, and public corporations is expected to result in substantial economic losses. While striking employees may face salary cuts and other deductions, the disruption will also severely impact common citizens and essential services.

The Central and State Governments should have proactively engaged with trade unions to prevent such widespread inconvenience. The Modi Government has implemented several labour and farmer-friendly initiatives aimed at public welfare, but the strike — termed "Bharat Bandh" by the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) — appears to have political undercurrents, reportedly backed by opposition parties.

Such actions, at a time when the country is already facing economic challenges, could further strain national resources. It is crucial for leaders across the political spectrum, as well as economists and policymakers, to assess the actual impact of such shutdowns — both in terms of immediate economic losses and long-term damage to investor and public confidence.

The people, largely uninvolved in the political motivations behind the strike, are left to bear the brunt. Their concerns and the strike's consequences deserve serious introspection.

YUGAL KISHORE SHARMA | FARIDABAD

Assam floods: A crisis of neglect, not nature

The report "Three Assam Rivers Flowing Above Danger Level, Severely Hit" (8 July) once again highlights the annual tragedy that Assam endures. As a native of the region, I write with deep anguish that between 2019 and 2023, more than 880 lives have been lost and lakhs displaced, yet the Centre continues to evade declaring Assam's floods a 'national calamity', despite repeated pleas from successive State Governments.

While agencies like the Central Water Commission and India Meteorological Department issue data and alerts, the ground-level response remains woefully bureaucratic and inadequate.

If such devastation occurred in a metropolitan city, it would dominate headlines and parliamentary sessions. Assam, however, suffers in silence — its pain buried under national apathy.

This neglect has delayed critical investments in floodresilient infrastructure and stalled long-term plans like the North East Water Resources Authority.

We must stop treating Assam's annual floods as divine inevitability and start recognising them as a failure of governance. A State that enriches India with tea, oil, and unmatched biodiversity deserves more than tokenism. It deserves urgency, respect, and meaningful action.

SAGARTIRTHA CHAKRABORTY | GUWAHATI

The price of progress

Nature humbles us in ways nothing else can. All our technology, infrastructure, and human pride stand powerless when nature decides to unleash her fury. Yet, it is we who push her to the brink — forcing her to erupt in rage. The recent rains in Texas are a stark reminder of this truth. Normally, Texas receives heavy rainfall in spring (March-May) and occasionally in early autumn (September-October), with short, intense showers.

ASHA IYER

KUMAR

But this year, the rain fury has unusually extended into June, bringing floods, storm warnings, and widespread disruption. Central Texas is under storm impact, North Texas is under flood watch, and yet, paradoxically, much of the state continues to reel under drought. This bizarre contradiction reflects the imbalance we have caused. Where there has been more development and human interference, the suffering has been deeper. To protect ourselves, we must first protect Mother Nature. Let these rains be more than a passing headline. Let them be a wake-up call. Because if we don't act now, nature will continue to remind us - louder and harsher each time - that we are not in control. Every tree we cut, every wetland we reclaim is a warning we ignore. Every concrete jungle replaces a breathing forest we once had. We are not outside nature - we are part of it, and so is our fate. In saving her, we are, in truth, saving ourselves.

JAYANTHI SUBRAMANIAM | MUMBAI

TRUMP'S TARIFF THREATS SHAKE BRICS, INDIA MAINTAINS SILENCE

The global power dynamics are shifting, and at the centre of this storm is US President Donald Trump, whose aggressive posturing has once again stirred controversy.

By threatening an additional 10 per cent tariff on what he called "anti-American" BRICS nations — including India — Trump appeared to treat diplomacy like a monarchy, wielding punitive measures as royal decrees.

What's more concerning, however, is India's silence. While Russia, China, and Iran swiftly condemned Trump's threats,

India's conspicuous lack of response has raised eyebrows globally. Prime Minister Modi, who was

present at the BRICS summit, along with the Ministry of External Affairs, chose not to comment. This silence has fuelled perceptions of India being a passive player or worse, a 'Trojan horse'– within the BRICS alliance. BRICS originally emerged as a counterweight to Western-dominated financial systems, with Brazil, Russia, and China at the helm, later joined by South Africa and Iran.

These countries have vocally pushed for de-dollarisation and stronger local currency trade. India, however, has taken a more cautious approach – one driven by its geopolitical concerns about China and a desire to maintain strong ties with the United States.

This balancing act has begun to erode India's credibility within BRICS. At a time when the bloc seeks unity and strength in numbers, India's ambiguous stance undermines the collective spirit and long-term goals of the alliance.

As global alignments shift, India must decide whether to lead with conviction or continue to straddle both sides — risking its influence in both.

BHAGWAN THADANI, MUMBAI

Please send your letter to the letterstopioneer@gmail.com. In not more than 400 words. We appreciate your feedback.





Regenerative agriculture: A path to resilience, equity and hope

A quiet, restorative revolution is taking root across farmlands: regenerative agriculture. More than just a method of cultivation, it is a philosophy that rebuilds soil health, empowers farmers and reimagines our relationship with the land



This is not a silver bullet that replaces cutting fossil fuel emissions, but it is an essential part of a comprehensive climate strategy. The world cannot meet the Paris Agreement goal of limiting warming to 1.5°C without transforming agriculture and land use. Momentum and the Risk of Co-option

Many Governments, businesses, and civil society groups are recognising this potential. Large compa-nies in the food and beverage industry have begun investing in regenerative supply chains. Initiatives such as the OP2B coalition have mobilised billions of dollars to promote regenerative practices among farmers. Monitoring and verification technologies are improving, enabling better measurement of carbon sequestration and other ecosystem services on farms. Financial incentives, certification schemes, and policy support can help make regenerative farming economically viable at scale.

Yet these efforts must be carefully designed to avoid repeating the mistakes of the past. A just transition to regenerative agriculture must prioritise the needs and rights of farmers, especially smallholders. Solutions must be adapted to local contexts rather than imposed from above.

Land rights, tenure security, and inclusive decisionmaking are essential to ensure that the benefits of regenerative agriculture are widely shared. Without this focus on equity, the promise of regenerative agriculture risks being co-opted or limited to wealthy mar-

India's Regenerative Opportunity

India, with its vast and diverse agricultural landscape, is particularly well placed to champion regenerative agriculture. Many traditional farming systems in India already embody regenerative principles, such as mixed cropping, composting, and agroforestry.

Revitalising and modernising these practices can help address soil degradation, water scarcity, and rural poverty while contributing to India's climate goals. Government support, research institutions, civil society, and farmer producer organisations can all play critical roles in scaling these solutions.

A New Carbon Story

Ultimately, regenerative agriculture offers not only a response to the carbon and climate crisis but a vision for a healthier, fairer, and more resilient world. It reframes carbon from a pollutant to be feared into a vital building block to be stewarded with care. By working with nature rather than against it, we can repair broken ecosystems, secure livelihoods, and leave a more hopeful legacy for future generations. In a time when climate news often feels overwhelming and despairing, regenerative agriculture stands out as a genuine source of optimism-a practical, science-backed pathway to resilience, equity, and hope.

> (The writer is well-known agriculture expert and General Manager at Solidaridad. Views are personal

he world today is confronting an unprecedented climate crisis, and at the centre of this challenge lies carbon. Carbon, the building

block of life, has become a critical marker of our environmental health and our failure to safeguard

Excess carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, primarily from burning fossil fuels and large-scale industrial agriculture, is driving global warming, extreme weather, and biodiversity loss. Yet the story of carbon need not be only one of crisis — it can also be one of hope. Regenerative agriculture offers a powerful, practical, and inclusive pathway to manage carbon sustainably while building climate resilience, economic equity, and social well-being.

What Is Regenerative Agriculture?

Regenerative agriculture is not merely a set of farm-ing techniques; it is a holistic philosophy rooted in restoring the natural balance between soil, water, plants, animals, and people.

At its core, it seeks to rebuild and maintain soil health. Healthy soils are teeming with life — bacteria, fungi, insects, and plant roots work together to cycle nutrients and store carbon in organic matter. This process, known as soil carbon sequestration, is one of our most effective natural strategies to draw carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and lock it safely underground.

The Cost of Industrial Agriculture

Industrial agriculture, with its reliance on intensive tillage, monocultures, synthetic fertilisers, and pesticides, has contributed significantly to the climate crisis by degrading soils and releasing vast stores of carbon.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

estimates that agriculture, forestry, and other land use changes contribute about a third of global greenhouse gas emissions. This damage is not theoretical: vast areas of fertile land have been stripped of organic matter, leading to erosion, desertification, and falling yields. In many regions, farmers are caught in a cycle of declining soil fertility and rising input costs, pushing them further into poverty.

How Regenerative Practices Work

In contrast, regenerative farming practices aim to heal the soil and break this destructive cycle. Techniques include cover cropping, no-till or reduced-till farming, composting, crop rotation, agroforestry, and managed grazing.

SURESH MOTWANI

Each of these methods is designed to increase organic matter in the soil, boost biodiversity,



improve water retention, and strengthen the resilience of farms to droughts and floods. For example, cover crops prevent erosion and add biomass to the soil, while agroforestry integrates trees into farmland, providing shade, windbreaks, and additional income sources.

A Lifeline for Small Farmers

Beyond its environmental benefits, regenerative agriculture is vital for social and economic reasons. Smallholder farmers, who produce a large share of the world's food, are on the frontlines of climate change. They face increasing uncertainty due to erratic rainfall, shifting growing seasons, and extreme weather events.

Regenerative practices can help these farmers build resilience by reducing dependence on expensive inputs and by improving yields over time.

Healthier soils retain more water and nutrients, offering protection against both drought and flood-

REGENERATIVE FARMING PRACTICES AIM TO HEAL THE SOIL AND BREAK THIS DESTRUCTIVE CYCLE. **TECHNIQUES INCLUDE COVER** CROPPING, NO-TILL OR REDUCED-TILL FARMING, COMPOSTING, CROP ROTATION,



AGROFORESTRY, AND MANAGED GRAZING

Empowerment Through the Soil

Equity is at the heart of regenerative agriculture's promise. By valuing local knowledge and traditionl practices, it empowers farming communities-especially women and indigenous people - who often play central roles in land stewardship but are marginalised in decision-making and markets. Restoring degraded lands can create opportunities for local employment, support food security, and enhance livelihoods.

The shift to regenerative models also recognises the need for fair access to land, finance, and markets so that all farmers, not just large corporate operations, can participate in the transition to a more sustain-able food system.

A Global Climate Imperative

There is also an urgent global imperative to scale up regenerative practices. According to the InterGovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), land-based solutions, including soil carbon sequestration, could sequester up to 23 gigatons of CO2 by

The enduring legacy of Dr Syama Prasad **Mookerjee: Patriot, reformer and nation-builder**

Where cinema begins again: The quiet power of restored classics

Syama Prasad Mookerjee was born on July 6, 1901, in Calcutta to Sir. Ashutosh Mukherjee and Mrs Jogmaya Devi. He was the second of their seven children. Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee had a sharp mind and was a brilliant scholar. After receiving his higher education, he became the youngest Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University and served in that capacity twice. As Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University, he brought about many fundamental reforms in education. At that time, India was under British rule. He connected education with selfrespect, changing the symbol of British subjugation at Calcutta University to "Shri" written in the middle of a fully-bloomed lotus, a symbol of Indian culture. The university's convocation was then conducted in English. He invited Guruvar Rabindranath Tagore to the 1937 convocation, initiating a new tradition where Tagore delivered his speech in Bengali.

His educational initiatives included increasing women's education, creating opportunities for Indian scholars, and incorporating Indian culture. In 1929, he entered the Bengal Legislative Council from the Calcutta University constituency. He entered politics to protest the oppression of Hindu society by the coalition Government of the Muslim League and Krishak Praja Party in Bengal. He continued to protect Hindu society until his death. Later, Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee joined the Hindu Mahasabha and became its

national president. The then Chief Minister, Dr Suhrawardy, was promoting the slogan of United Bengal in the name of language. His plan was for Bengal to remain undivided and join Pakistan.

Some Congress leaders, due to a lack of understanding, were also supporting this. Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee understood this conspiracy and declared, "Neither will we live in Pakistan, nor in United Bengal. We are a part of India and will live with India." He launched a strong movement for this cause. He successfully convinced Congress leaders and Lord Mountbatten,

through letters and dialogue, that if the division of Punjab was possible, so too was Bengal's. Today, we can proudly recognise the fact that had Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee not been there, Bengal would not have been a part of India.

We can feel this crisis even more when we compare it with the events happening in Bangladesh today, where neither Hindus nor Maa Kali and her temples are safe. Even the statue of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, who gave Bangladesh its national anthem, is being destroyed. If they don't even accept their founding father, Bangabandhu Mujibur Rahman, how will they accept Hindu society? Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee had recognised this with his farsightedness. If Bengal were not with us today, the North-Eastern part of India would also not be. Today, we all understand the



strategic importance of the Chicken Neck that connects India. From an economic point of view, the importance of the Bay of Bengal can only be seen by connecting it with Calcutta. The danger that Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee anticipated with his farsightedness and his efforts to keep Bengal with India, that crisis is now before us all in Bengal.Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee was the Minister of Industry in the Nehru Government.

At the time of India's partition, he was deeply

saddened by the conversion, atrocities, and neglect of Hindu refugees living in Pakistan. The Nehru-Liaqat Pact, aimed at resolving the problem, was also biased. He resigned due to the Nehru Government's neglectful behaviour towards Hindus and returned to Calcutta to serve the refugee Hindu community. While serving as Industry Minister, he formulated the Indian Industrial Policy in 1948 and played a leading role in the establishment of the Industrial

Finance Corporation of India 1948. He introduced an industrial policy with the mantra of selfreliance.

SHIV PRAKASH

His focus areas were four sectors: defence, atomic energy, railways, and air services. Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, Hindustan Aircraft Factory, Sindri Fertilisers Plant, Dhanbad, Damodar Valley Project, Hirakud Dam, and Bhilai Steel Plant are famous industries established by him, which are still contributing to the country's development.

Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee was not only a visionary but also a sensitive and service-minded leader. In 1943, Bengal faced its worst famine. It was estimated that around 30 lakh people died in this famine.

This famine was not just a natural calamity but was caused by the failures of British rule. Instead

of providing food relief, the administration behaved in a biased manner and left the common man to the mercy of God. At this time, he vehemently opposed the failed policies of the British Government and the then-Chief Minister. He collected relief material from society and led the service and relief work. He was so engrossed in serving the famine-stricken that he could not even be present for the "Sampradana" ritual performed by the father at his daughter's marriage.

After independence, he founded Bharatiya Jana Sangh to protect the nationalist policies and democracy of the country. At its foundation, he said, "We need a nationalist alternative to the Congress." In the first Parliament, he formed a joint coalition, called the National Democratic Party (NDP), to oppose Nehruji's dictatorial mentality. This party comprised 34 MPs from the Lok Sabha and 20 MPs from the Rajya Sabha. At that time, Nehruji had said, "I will crush the Jana Sangh." To this, Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee firmly replied, "I will crush this crushing mentality."

This demonstrates his faith in democracy and his courage. Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee was the President of the Mahabodhi Society from 1942 to 1953. He was instrumental in getting the sacred bone relics of Sariputra and Mahamogallan installed at Sanchi during the International Buddhist Conference of 1952. He travelled to Myanmar (Burma), Vietnam, and Thailand for Buddhism. He was an ardent devotee of national unity who advocated for the abolition of Article 370, declaring that "two flags, two heads, two constitutions" would not work within one country. He sacrificed his life on June 23, 1953, to fulfil this resolution and left us. Today, the nation is fulfilling its resolution and paying humble tribute to him on his birth anniversary.

(The writer is National Joint General Secretary of BJP. Views are personal)

n an era where everything is fleeting, stories on Instagram vanish in 24 hours, TikTok trends expire before they even form memories, and the next viral reel is always a scroll away, something beautiful, almost radical, is happening in the world of cinema. Across theatres in India and on global platforms, films like Umrao Jaan (1981), Sholay (1975), Guide (1965), Pyaasa (1957), Charulata (1964), Kaagaz Ke Phool (1959), Chaudhvin Ka Chand (1960), and Sahib Bibi Aur Ghulam (1962) are returning, not as grainy YouTube memories, but as fully restored cinematic experiences, screened as they were meant to be seen: on the big screen, in their full visual and emotional glory. It's not just nostalgia that's drawing people in.

It's reverence. And perhaps, quiet rebellion. To restore a classic isn't just to repair scratches on celluloid or enhance the sound. It's an act of cultural conservation, a painstaking effort to retrieve the filmmaker's original vision, frame by frame, colour by colour, note by note. It's about respecting intention. And it's about time. When Umrao Jaan returned to

theatres this June in a breathtaking 4K restoration, complete with a re-release campaign and special screenings, it wasn't just a throwback. It was a reintroduction of elegance. The visuals, the poetry, the music, everything suddenly felt alive again, even to first-time Gen Z viewers who've never experienced a Rekha film in the theatre. Similarly, Sholay, India's most iconic masala epic, was restored and screened at the prestigious Il Cinema Ritrovato Festival in Bologna in June 2025. Not just the usual version either, but the uncut original where Thakur finishes Gabbar himself, restored in full colour, with the lost cli-

max, for the first time in decades. It marked 50 years of Sholay not with fanfare, but with dignity. Meanwhile, Guide made its grand restored return at IFFI Goa in 2023, while Charulata had already been honoured in Cannes Classics back in 2013. Guru Dutt's masterpieces: Pyaasa, Kaagaz Ke Phool, and Chaudhvin Ka Chand, received full 4K restorations and were showcased at Cannes 2025. In a landscape dominated by "content", not cinema, not stories, just content, the return of these films isn't just welcome. It's essential.

When social media teaches us to forget fast, film restoration urges us to remember slow. It is the antithesis of the algorithm. It is memory, effort, and depth. These restored classics are not just filling a programming gap in theatres. They're making a statement. A statement that storytelling is not dead. A film doesn't have to scream or trend to be unforgettable. There is still an audience that craves weight rhythm, and beauty in its cinema. Think about it: a 22-year-old watching Pyaasa for the first time in Dolby surround, in a packed theatre, is not going for nostalgia. They're going because, perhaps for the

first time, they've heard that cinema can feel like poetry. Those stories can linger. That art can age, and still speak louder than ever. This isn't just a comeback of films, it's a comeback of ideas. A comeback of deliberate dialogue, of characters with complexity, of storytelling that trusts its audience to think, reflect, and stay.

These films had time. And they gave us time. Restoration, then, is not just about past preservation. It is a mirror to the present. It asks: What are we creating today that will deserve restoration tomorrow? And more crucially: Are we even building with longevity in mind anymore? There's something quietly subversive about screening Charulata today, in the same world where 10-second dance clips loop endlessly. Satyajit Ray's camera lingers on a woman peeking through lace curtains. There is silence. There is stillness. And yet, everything is happening. How rare is that kind of narrative patience now?

There's also a larger truth here. As India positions itself as a cultural and creative powerhouse, our cinematic legacy becomes a form of soft power.



Restoring Guide, screening Mughal-e-Azam, reintroducing Anand or Do Bigha Zamin, these aren't just acts of reverence. They are global conversations. Statements of aesthetic confidence. When a classic Indian film gets a standing ovation at Cannes or Bologna, it's not just a win for the past. It's a reminder to the world: We've always told good stories. Maybe we just stopped listening to them. What restoration has done is more than just technical; it's emotional, philosophical, and even political. It's brought back the soul of cinema, in an age that desperately needs it. It's reminded us that stories are not disposable.

That memory matters. That beauty has its own pace. The fact that younger generations are discovering these classics, and not as dated relics, but as living, breathing cinema, proves something profound: True stories don't age. They wait. And when they return, they don't scream for attention. They simply begin again. So the next time you see a poster for a restored black-and-white film in your local theatre, don't walk past it. Walk into it. Sit down. And let it remind you what it means to truly watch a film. Not for a quick dopamine hit, but for something quieter, deeper, something that lingers long after the screen goes dark. Let it teach you to wait again.

To listen again. To feel again. In that dark theatre, far from the noise of trends and hashtags, you might just find something that no algorithm can serve you, a story that becomes part of your soul. And that, perhaps, is where cinema begins again.

(The writer is former civil servant and commentator on cinema and strategic communication. With inputs from Zoya Ahmad and Vaishnavie Srinivasan. Views are personal)





MONEY 08



MONEY MATTERS



ICICI Prudential AMC files IPO papers with Sebi

CICI Prudential Asset Management Company (AMC), a subsidiary of ICICI Bank, has filed preliminary papers with capital markets regulator Sebi to seek approval to launch an initial public offering (IPO). The proposed IPO comprises an offer for sale (OFS) of 1.76 crore equity shares by promoter -- UK-based Prudential Corporation Holdings, with no fresh issue component, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) filed on Tuesday. Since the issue is entirely an OFS, the company will not receive any capital from the offer, and the proceeds will go to the selling shareholder. At present, ICICI Bank holds 51 per cent stake in the asset management company, while the remaining 49 per cent is with its joint venture partner Prudential Corporation Holdings. On June 28, ICICI Bank stated that its board approved an additional 2 per cent increase in stake in ICICI Prudential AMC This purchase will primarily be towards maintaining the bank's majority shareholding in the event of the grant of stock-based compensation by the company, the private sector bank stated



Rupee rises 6 paise to settle at 85.67 against US dollar

The rupee appreciated by 6 paise to close at 85.67 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday following optimism over a possible trade deal with the US and a delay in the imposition of reciprocal tariffs. A firm US dollar in overseas markets and crude oil staying near USD 70 per barrel capped the gains in the local currency, forex dealers said. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened weak at 85.84 against the US dollar, and traded in a range of 85.93 and 85.65 during the day. The local unit finally closed at 85.65 (provisional), up 6 paise from the previous close. On Tuesday, the runee rose by 21 naise to 85.73.

Trump's trade blitz produces few deals but lots of uncertainty

PNS WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump and his advisers promised a lightning round of global trade negotiations with dozens of countries back in April.

White House trade adviser Peter Navarro predicted "90 deals in 90 days." Administration officials declared that other countries were desperate to make concessions to avoid the massive import taxes – tariffs -- that Trump was threatening to plaster on their products start-But the 90 days have come

and gone. And the tally of trade deals stands at two - one with the United Kingdom and one with Vietnam. Trump has also announced the framework for a deal with China, the details of which remain fuzzy.

Trump has now extended the deadline for negotiations to Aug 1 and tinkered with his threatened tariffs, leaving the global trading system pretty much where it stood three months ago - in a state of limbo as businesses delay decisions on investments, contracts and hiring because they don't know what the rules will be.

"It's a rerun, basically," said William Reinsch, a former US trade official who's now an



Trump has now extended the deadline for negotiations to Aug 1 and tinkered with his threatened tariffs, leaving the global trading system pretty much where it stood three months ago — in a state of limbo as businesses delay decisions on investments, contracts and hiring because they don't know what the rules will be what the rules will be

adviser with the Centre for Strategic and International Studies think tank. Trump and his team "don't have the deals they want. So they're piling on the threats.' The pattern has repeated

itself enough times to earn Trump the label TACO — an acronym coined by The Financial Times' Robert Armstrong that stands for "Trump Always Chickens Out."

"This is classic Trump:

Threaten, threaten more, but then extend the deadline," Reinsch said. "July 30 arrives, does he do it again if he still doesn't have the deals?' (Trump said Tuesday that there will be no more extensions.)

The deal drought repre-sents a collision with reality. Negotiating simultaneously with every country on earth was always an impossible task, as Trump himself belatedly admitted last month in an

interview with the Fox News Channel. ("There's 200 countries," the president said. "You can't talk to all of them.") And many trading partners — such as Japan and the European Union — were always likely to balk at Trump's demands, at least without getting something in return.

"It's really, really hard to negotiate trade agreements," which usually takes several months even when it involves just one country or a small regional group, said Chad Bown, an economic adviser in the Obama White House and now senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics. What the administration is doing is negotiating a bunch of these at the same time."

The drama began April 2 – "Liberation Day," Trump called it - when the tariffloving president announced a so-called baseline 10% import tax on everybody and what he called "reciprocal' levies of up to 50% on countries with which the United States runs trade deficits.

The 10% baseline tariffs appear to be here to stay. Trump needs them to raise money to patch the hole his massive tax-cut bill is blasting into the federal budget



Potential to increase agri, fishery exports to Rs 20 lakh cr: Goyal

exporters. Citing an example, Goyal said that in Indigo flight, peo-

ple buy food packets including

Rice-Dal, poha and upma for Rs 250 to Rs 400, which other-

Through this example,

want to tell you the potential (of

food processing)," he said, adding similarly, there is huge

potential to cater to 4 crore

Îndian origin people living

He said that because of ini-

tiatives taken by the Modi gov-

ernment to promote millets,

people all over the world are

shifting towards these nutri-

As a result, there is a situa-

Further, the minister said

tion of shortage of millets in the

tional foodgrains.

country, he added.

abroad.

wise would cost only Rs 40.

PNS NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday said food processing, better quality packaging, and branding can help increase the country's agri and fishery exports to Rs 20 lakh crore.

At present, India's agri and fishery exports stand at about Rs 4-4.5 lakh crore.

He said that with the help of government initiatives, India is now exporting fruits and vegetables such as pineapple, jamun, and litchi to different countries.

"We can increase our exports from Rs 4 lakh crore to Rs 20 lakh crore (by focusing) on food processing, better quality of packaging and branding," he said here at an agri function. The minister suggested to

that people should not be enhance partnership between farmers, food processors and dependent on government subsidies.

MUTUAL FUNDS

No impact of 50 pc copper tariffs on Indian companies, says industry

PNS NEW DELHI

The proposed 50 per cent import tariff on copper announced by US President Donald Trump will not have any impact on Indian companies as the country is copperdeficient, according to an industry official.

Also, Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy on Wednesday said India will discuss the impact of US tariffs on copper.

International Copper Association India Managing Director Mayur Karmarkar said, "India is a copper-defi-

cient country, and its export, as such, is not sig is not sig

earth on anvil PNS NEW DELHI on Tuesday announced 50 per cent tariffs on copper, after Consultations are underway having implemented similar to draft guidelines for incenduties on steel and aluminium.

tivising production of rare A vision document released earth minerals and magnets by G Kishan Reddy on Friday to help India reduce depenforecast a sixfold increase in dence on China for these critcopper demand by 2047 and ical inputs used is sectors outlined plans to add 5 million including telecom and EV, according to sources. tonnes per annum of smelting

Ministries of heavy industries and mines are working on a scheme to boost domestic production of rare earth magnets and minerals, they added.

The scheme will be for both private sector as well as PSUs. In April this year, China, the world's dominant exporter of rare earth magnets, imposed restriction on

nflow at Rs 27 269 crore dur.

inflow of Rs 23,587 crore in June, way higher than the Rs 19,013 crore inflow seen in May. This was the first increase in net equity fund inflows after five

stronger rallies in the mid- and small-cap indices, helped reignite interest in equity investments," Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director - Manager Research at Morningstar Investment Research India said

straight months of decline. The net inflows continuousdeclined from Rs 41 156

While most equity segments osted healthy inflo

deficit. Draft guidelines to Equity mutual fund inflow incentivise domestic production of rare

rises 24 pc to Rs 23,587 cr

Breaks 5-month declining streak

PNS 📕 NEW DELHI

The net inflow into equity mutual funds surged 24 per cent to Rs 23,587 crore in June, reversing the declining trend of the last five months, driven by strong equity market performance across segments, data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) showed on Wednesday.

Also, the latest fund infusion by investors marks the 52nd consecutive month of net inflows into the segment.

Additionally, a healthy growth was witnessed in SIP (Systematic Investment Plan)

US dollar. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, climbed 0.03 per cent to 97.02.



Airtel selects Ericsson core for fixed wireless access

Bharti Airtel and Ericsson on Wednesday announced a new agreement to support the telco's rollout of Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) services in India with core network portfolio. deepening a long-standing partnership between the two companies. The deployment will enhance Airtel core capability and capacity for FWA, thereby elevating customer experience for Airtel FWA users, according to a release. As part of this agreement, Ericsson is introducing a new platform which will support high capacity FWA with a smaller footprint and better total cost of ownership.

India remains a net importer cant. Again, of the total exports, the shipments to the of copper products throughout US are just around 10,000 the entire copper value chain; tonnes. hence, to meet the growing The proposed duty, as a demand for copper, India result, will not have any impact needs to embrace strategic inion the Indian firms, particulartiatives across the value chain, ly as the domestic demand is it stated.

In 2023, India imported 1 extremely buoyant, given India's thrust on renewable million tonnes of copper conenergy, EVs, and a host of centrate, with a significant other copper-intensive secportion of these imports coming from a handful of coun-US President Donald Trump tries.

elements and finished magnets, mandating export licences. The revised framework demands detailed enduse disclosures and client declarations, including confirmation that the products will not be used in defence or re-exported to the US.

India, which sourced over 80 per cent of its 540 tonne magnet imports from China last fiscal, has started to feel the impact.

ing the month under review, an increase from Rs 26.688 crore in May.

"There is confidence amongst retail investors which is reflected through the incremental flows, this is very healthy and positive for the industry and Indian markets," Akhil Chaturvedi, Executive Director & Chief Business Officer of Motilal Oswal AMC, said. According to the data, equi-

ty-oriented mutual funds saw an

crore in December to Rs 39,688 crore in January, Rs 29,303 crore in February, Rs 25,082 crore in March, and Rs 24,269 crore in April. Prior to this downward trend, inflows stood at Rs 35,943 crore in November.

"This rebound underscores a resurgence in investor confidence, supported by a strong equity market performance across segments. Broad-based market gains, including a surge in the Nifty 50 index and even

equity-linked savings schemes (ELSS) were the only category to record a net outflow of Rs 556 crore

Within equity fund categories, Flexi Cap Funds recorded the highest inflows in June, attracting Rs 5,733 crore. In addition, Small Cap Funds (Rs 4,024 crore) and Mid Cap Funds (Rs 3,754 crore) registered robust inflows. Besides, Large Cap Funds saw net inflows of Rs 1,694 crore.

"Gold prices are experiencing

selling pressure on Wednesday

due to reduced expectations for a Federal Reserve rate cut in July and a strengthening US

On the global front, spot gold went lower by USD 11.66 or

0.35 per cent to USD 3,289.81

"Gold prices dropped below

India-origin Sabih Khan appointed new COO of Apple

PNS NEW DELHI

tors, Karmarkar said.

Apple Inc has named Indiaorigin Sabih Khan as its new Chief Operating Officer (COO), marking a key move in its long-planned leadership transition. Khan, 58, who has been

with Apple for 30 years and is currently the senior vice president of operations, will succeed Jeff Williams later this month, the iPhone maker said in a statement.

Before joining Apple's procurement group in 1995, he worked as an applications development engineer and

key account technical leader at GÉ Plastics.

Born in 1966 in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh, Khan moved to Singapore during his school years before settling in the US. He holds dual bachelor's degrees in economics and mechanical engineering from Tufts University, and a master's in mechanical engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI).

He has spent nearly three decades in key roles across the company. He rose through the ranks to become senior vice president of operations in 2019



Over the past six years, he has led Apple's global supply chain, overseeing planning, procurement, manufacturing, logistics, and product fulfilment.

He has also overseen Apple's supplier responsibili-ty programmes that focus on worker protection, education, and environmental sustainability.

Apple highlighted his pivotal contribution in "delivering each of Apple's innovative products to market".

Williams will continue reporting to CEO Tim Cook and overseeing the design team and Apple Watch. Upon his retirement later this year, the design team will report directly to Cook.

Gold declines Rs 700 to Rs 98,420/10 g

PNS NEW DELHI

market close.

Gold prices declined by Rs 700 to Rs 98,420 per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday in line with weak global trends, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 99,120 per 10 grams in the previous market session.

USD 3,300 per ounce as mar-Gold of 99.5 per cent purity kets balanced US interest rate depreciated by Rs 600 to Rs cut prospects with new trade 98,000 per 10 grams (inclusive risks," Rahul Kalantri, Viceof all taxes). It had settled at Rs President of Commodities, 98,600 per 10 grams on Mehta Equities, said. Tuesday.

President Donald Trump on Additionally, silver prices plunged by Rs 800 to Rs Tuesday ruled out extending the August 1 tariff deadline and 1,04,000 per kg (inclusive of all unveiled sweeping new measures, including a 50 per cent taxes) on Wednesday. The white metal had ended at Rs tariff on copper and possible 1,04,800 per kg in the previous 200 per cent duties on pharmaceuticals.

dollar.

per ounce.



India urges IMO to review maritime incidents involving foreign vessels

PNS NEW DELHI

India on Wednesday highlighted recent maritime incidents involving foreign-flagged container vessels operating in Indian waters and urged the International Maritime Organization to review all such incidents, according to an official statement.

Shipping secretary TK Ramachandran, while partici-pating in the 134th session of the Council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), said recent maritime incidents caused by undeclared hazardous cargoes have raised serious safety concerns.

"India delivered a strong and

principled statement addressing recent maritime incidents involving foreign-flagged container vessels operating in Indian waters," the statement said.

India urged the IMO to undertake a comprehensive investigation and global review of all such incidents involving container ships, it added.

Citing the proactive role of the Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard in ensuring the safety of life at sea, the statement said India called for urgent enhancements in the safety framework for container shipping



"The Indian statement underscored the need to reinforce international protocols related to packaging, declaration, stowage, and monitoring of lithium-ion batteries and IMDG cargo," it noted.

According to the statement, India proposed the establishment of IMO-led investigations into such incidents to help build global best practices, improve standardisation, and strengthen operational norms that ensure the safety and security of container ship operations across the world. India proudly shared the

remarkable achievement of a 650 per cent increase in the environmental risk.

number of Indian women seafarers, showcasing the country's commitment to creating equal opportunities in the maritime sector.

> The country has witnessed serious maritime incidents along its coastline that exposed vulnerabilities in the current emergency response framework. The sinking of the container ship MSC ELSA 3 in May 2025 and the major fire and explosion of the container ship WAN HAI 503 in June 2025, off the coast of Kerala, led to the loss of several containers in the waters and the release of hazardous cargo and significant



WHAT'S BREWING? 9

IFFM Pays Tribute to Guru Dutt with *Pyaasa* and *Kaagaz Ke Phool*

he Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM), the biggest Indian film festival outside of India is set to pay a heartfelt tribute to one of the greatest pioneers of Hindi cinema, the legendary Guru Dutt. As part of its 2025 edition, IFFM

will host special screenings of two of his most iconic masterpieces, Pyaasa and Kaagaz Ke Phool. Guru Dutt, whose visionary

storytelling and deeply human narratives forever changed the language of Indian cinema, continues to inspire

AGAZ NE PHOOL generations of filmmakers and cinephiles around the globe. His films, marked by poetic intensity, aesthetic brilliance and social relevance, remain timeless in their appeal and artistic impact. With this homage, IFFM aims to celebrate not just the man, but the legacy of a true auteur who gave Indian cinema some of its most memorable moments.

Festival Director, Mitu Bhowmick Lange, shared her thoughts on this special tribute

"Guru Dutt was far ahead of his time, both in terms of cinematic technique and the emo-tional depth of his narratives. His films like Pyaasa and Kaagaz Ke Phool are not just classics, they are cultural treasures that speak to the soul of Indian cinema. At IFFM, we believe it is essential to honour

those who shaped our cinematic heritage.

> This tribute is our humble way of remembering his genius and introducing his timeless work to new global audiences.

The screenings will be part of a curated retrospective celebrating Indian cinema's golden age and its enduring influence. Audiences in Melbourne will get a rare opportunity to experience the visual poetry of Guru Dutt's work on the big screen, a fitting tribute to a man who saw cinema not merely as entertainment,

but as a form of profound artistic expression. IFFM 2025 continues its legacy of showcasing the depth and diversity of Indian storytelling, honouring the icons of the past while embracing the voices of the future.



Patralekhaa & Rajkummar

It's baby time! Rajkummar Rao and

Patralekhaa announce pregnancy ollywood's favorite duo, Rajkummar Rao and D Patralekhaa, shared exciting news that immediately caught the attention of the industry. Their social media post was met with effusive congrat-D ulatory messages from prominent celebrities. Farah Khan expressed her joy: "Finally the news is out!! I was having a tough time keeping it to myself, congratulations." Sonam Kapoor added, "So happy for you both my dear friends," while stars such as Varun Dhawan, Bhumi Pednekar, Esha Gupta and Huma Qureshi also joined

in celebrating the couple's announcement. On the career front, Rajkummar Rao has plenty to look forward to. He will star in Pulkit's crime thriller Maalik, scheduled for release on Friday, July 11, 2025. In the film, Rajkummar takes on the gritty character

of a gangster known as Maalik. The movie also features Manushi Chhillar, Saurabh Shukla, Swanand Kirkire and Satish Badal in key roles. Known for his powerful performances in Shahid, Newton, Ludo and Queen, Rajkummar earned the National Film Award for Best Actor for his portraval of human rights lawyer Shahid Azmi in Shahid (2012). Patralekhaa, who consistently earns praise for her performances, was most recently seen in Ananth Mahadevan's bio-

graphical drama Phule. The film explores the lives of social reformers Jyotirao and Savitribai Phule and also features Darsheel Safary, Pratik Gandhi and Vinay Pathak.

Alia Bhatt's ex-secretary arrested in **₹77 Lakh** fraud case

n a significant development, Mumbai's Juhu Police have arrested Vedika Prakash Shetty, the former secretary of Bollywood actor Alia Bhatt, in connection with an alleged fraud amounting to Rs 76.9 lakh. The arrest was made in Bengaluru, nearly five months after an FIR was registered based on a formal complaint by Bhatt's mother, veteran actor Soni Razdan. According to police

sources, Shetty had been absconding since the complaint was filed and was finally tracked down by the authorities. She was pro-duced in court on July 8 and has been remanded to police custody until July 10 for further investigation.

The Juhu Police have booked Shetty under Sections 316(4) and 318(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). The charges stem from allegations that she forged Alia Bhatt's signature and embezzled close to Rs 77 lakh over a period of two years. While the investigation

continues, neither Alia Bhatt nor her production house, Eternal Sunshine Productions, has issued an official statement regarding the matter. The production house, launched in 2021, made its debut with the critically acclaimed Darlings, coproduced with Shah Rukh Khan's Red Chillies Entertainment.

On the professional front, Bhatt is gearing up for her role in *Alpha*, an action-packed film set in the YRF Spy Universe. The film also stars Sharvari Wagh and is set to hit theatres on December 25, 2025. Additionally, the actor will reunite with her husband Ranbir Kapoor and filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali for Love & War, which also stars Vicky Kaushal.

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Love rekindled: Karan Johar drops intense poster of *Dhadak 2*

ilmmaker Karan Johar has officially ignited excitement around his upcoming romantic drama Dhadak 2 by sharing a brand-new poster featuring lead pair Siddhant Chaturvedi and Triptii Dimri. The poster, unveiled on Wednesday via Johar's Instagram handle, captures the electric chemistry between the two actors, hint-ing at a passionate love story that's set to unfold on the big screen.

Teasing the intensity and emotion of the sequel, Johar captioned the poster, "*Do dil. Ek dhadak. #Dhadak2* trailer out this Friday. Releasing in cinemas on 1st August." The announcement has sparked a wave of anticipation among fans, who are eager to see this fresh pairing light up the screen. The film, produced under Johar's Dharma

Productions banner, serves as the follow-up to *Dhadak* (2018), which starred Janhvi Kapoor and Ishaan Khatter. The original, directed by Shashank Khaitan, tackled the sensitive issue of inter-caste romance and earned considerable attention for its socially relevant themes. Now, with Dhadak 2, expectations are soaring high as the film promises to explore a new dimension of love-intense, raw and possibly rebellious. Directed by Shazia Iqbal, the film is slated to hit theatres on August 1, with the trailer set to premiere on July 11.



AMITABH BACHCHAN **BEGINS WORK** SEASON

egastar Amitabh Bachchan has officially kickstarted preparations for the upcoming season of the iconic quiz-based reality show *Kaun Banega Crorepati (KBC)*. The beloved host took to his personal blog to share behind-the-scenes glimpses from the rehearsal sessions and announced the beginning of yet another exciting chapter of the show. "Shuru kardiya kaam," wrote the 81-year-old actor alongside a string of candid pictures from the KBC set, radiating his signature enthusiasm and dedication. Reflecting on the show's impact, he added, "And the prep begins the beginning, to be back to the people, to be with them in their desires to improve life and livings, the opportunity that changes lives, in an hour, my love and regard." Kaun Banega Crorepati, the official Hindi adaptation of the internationally acclaimed show *Who Wants to Be a* Millionaire?, first premiered in 2000 and has since become a cultural phenomenon in India. Bachchan has been the face of the show for nearly all its seasons, except the third, which was hosted by Shah Rukh Khan.

With its trademark format of multiple-choice questions and lifelines to aid participants, the show has remained a life-changing platform for countless individuals from all walks of life, offering not just money but hope, inspiration and knowledge.

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CALVIN AND HOBBES

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15 A nut from an oak tree

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THURSDAY JULY 10, 2025

Rising from the garbage grounds fight for voice and visibility



Representing children and families from marginalised backgrounds especially those from the Dalit community and unorganised sectors she speaks of how deeply rooted stigma shaped her identity and how she has worked to transform it into a platform for change. In an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*, 21-year-old Jayalaxmi Aripina, a student and the Prime Minister of the World Children's Parliament, shares her journey of rising from the garbage grounds of Hyderabad to becoming the voice of her community

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n a world where caste, class and gender still define whose voices are heard and whose are silenced, where prejudice buries dreams before they can be spoken, one young girl rose from the margins—unafraid to challenge the narrative forced upon her. From the garbage grounds of Hyderabad emerged Javalaxmi Aripina, the daugh-

ter of a Dalit garbage collector, who turned a life of imposed invisibility into one of purpose, pride and power. Now 21-year-old, a student and the Prime Minister of the World Children's Parliament, Jayalaxmi speaks not just for herself, but for an entire community that has long been unheard. In an exclusive chat with The Pioneer, she shares her journey-of pain, resistance and transformation



gear. Since dump yards are extremely dangerous and many children who work there need to be safeguarded, she is also suggesting that specific scholarships be made available for the children of garbage collectors and that vulnerable children in these sectors be protected. Above all, she aims to establish a forum for unorganised workers to voice their concerns.

"Children's Parliament has acted as a model of participatory democracy; this platform has influenced local governance and national policymaking. This is a type of government social critique where a group of roughly thirty kids discuss issues in their community, such as drainage, garbage and sanitation, and then choose three main issues to tackle each week. Youngsters are taught how to participate in civic soci-Youngsters are taught how to participate in civic soci-ety, write petitions and approach relevant authorities. They gain leadership and competence and as they grow, their motivation to bring about change in soci-ety is reflected." Jayalaxmi also got an opportunity where she was selected as a Gandhi-King Scholar and travelled to the U.S. The program was to honour Gandhi and Martin Luther King. "My takeaway was that we need to deal with societal problems based on their value, which is through peace and heing a suptheir value, which is through peace and being a sup-port system together. And through collaboration and networking, we can bring in collective change." She was super happy as she was travelling overseas for the first time. Being a girl coming from a Dalit back-ground, it was hard for her to process. Although she realised that wherever you are in the world, names can be different, the pain is the same. "I was there for 15 days and realised that we are pretty much facing the same problem—like how there are caste problems in India, there's racism in the US."

She has led sanitation and education initiatives in over 50 slums across Hyderabad. Success like this comes along with a lot of challenges, where authorities often fail to respond properly and gender discrimination exists, where she was often told, as a girl, that she was unfit for a job. "When we put forth an effort and the authorities don't return the same, I feel bad. It hurts a lot when I approach someone in a position of authority with my problems, and you don't even listen. We will be inspired to work harder if our efforts result in progress, but many won't even be willing to listen or bother." "When change

is required, you need to get other young people from marginalised communities to believe in their potential to lead." Her mother would advise her to become a constable when she told her that she aspired to become an IAS official. Why? Because her mother believes, "only the wealthy could afford it." Jayalaxmi believes their aspirations are constrained because of their financial situation.

"I believe that students should never undervalue their potential in the first place. Self-blame and poor aspirations are, in my opinion, an international crime. A lot of people give up before they even start. You must accept that society is two-dimensional-if you are subjected to caste prejudice on one side, some will support you in opposing it on the other. They must understand that even if 9 out of 10 people don't reply, there one who will listen and understand."



DOCTORS WARN! Don't rush into hair transplants without screening

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n today's modern world most people experience anxiety, stress and depression due to their daily work lifestyle, financial problems and other family issues as well. Hair loss which causes an effect on half of the world population has become more than just a cosmetic concern. It also creates an emotional impact on the wellbeing and quality of life. The causes of the same ranges from the genetic predispositions and hormonal imbalances. nutritional deficiencies and mechanical stress.

Effective management of the same issue requires a multidisciplinary approach from the doctors belonging to the various disciplines.

According to Dr Sandeep Arora, Dermatologist, Apollo Spectra Hospital, Chirag Enclave Delhi said, "Understanding the root cause of hair loss is quite crucial. People ignore hair fall by considering it very normal. But if an individual is losing more than 100 strands on a continuous basis for daily weeks then an individual should consult a doctor'

A study published by the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) highlights that early detection and timely treatment can significantly slow down or

reverse hair thinning in many individuals. As per Dr Sushmitha, Dermatologist, Dermatosurgeon, Hair Transplant Surgeon, Sparsh Hospital, Yeswanthpur, Bangalore said, "The scalp of an individual is like soil of hair. If it is unhealthy then the hair of an individual does not grow well. Poor hygiene, excessive heat, harsh chemicals can cause damage to the hair roots and lead to breakage and hair fall". An individual should adopt regular scalp cleansing, gentle hair products and avoid heat or chemical treatments recommended Dr Sushmitha. The International Association of Trichologists (IAT) supports this approach, stating that maintaining scalp hygiene and minimizing physical damage can prevent a large portion of hair loss cases. According to Dr Saket Kant, Principal Consultant. Endocrinology & Obesity Medicine, Sri Balaji Action Medical Institute, Delhi, "Hormonal imbalances are the main culprits behind loss of scalp hair loss in females. Women thyroid disorders, androgen excess and even menopause can trigger significant hair thinning". In men excessive presence of a hormone called Dihydrotestosterone can cause the shrinkage of hair follicles. Women with PCOS (Polycystic Ovary Syndrome-a hormonal disorder common among women of reproductive age) often experience hair thinning of the scalp and excessive hair growth on other parts of the body. Red light high frequency therapy is a type of technique which is often used in the skin care and wellness settings. This is also combined with the red-light therapy (RLT) with high-frequency (HF) electrotherapy but both of them are the two separate modalities. In right therapy skin is exposed to low level or nearinfrared light which enhances the cellular function. Right light basically penetrates the skin up to 10mm and it stimulates mitochondria to produce more ATP and it also promotes the production of collagen, reduces inflammation and improves circulation. A report conducted by the Endocrine society shows that around 50% of women with PCOS (Polycystic Ovary Syndrome) suffer from the problem of hair loss which can be improved with medical management. As per Dr Mohd Shahid, Senior Consultant, Internal Medicine, Apollo Spectra Hospital, Kanpur said "Hair which is made up of proteins, vitamins and minerals and what the individual is consuming on regular basis causes the direct effect on the hair health. Deficiencies in the iron, vitamin D, zinc and proteins are the most common nutritional reasons behind the hair loss". Crash diets, poor eating habits and skipping meals can

Hair loss may be a

common concern, but experts warn that treating it without understanding its root cause can do more harm than good. In an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*, leading dermatologists and trichologists stressed the importance of undergoing proper medical screening before opting for any hair loss treatments or transplants



Everything started when she was 11 years old and realised that her parents worked as garbage collectors. Coming from a garbage collector background, people often tended to call her names—"garbage girl" which she didn't like. Although her parents weren't educated, she always wanted to get out of the house and use her time to learn something new.

All this motivated her to join the non-profit Montfort Social Institute at the age of 13. Her biggest motivation, she shares, "was to represent my community, make the voice of my community heard, and solve their problems." By the age of 14, she was elected as Prime Minister of the Hyderabad city-level children's parliament. As the PM, she addressed multiple issues like mosquitoes in slums and breakfast for Anganwadis. "To address the mosquito issues in slums, I first proposed that the GHMC take action. The proposal was a huge success and the authorities conducted fumigation drives. The request to provide breakfast at 56 Anganwadi and 21 new Anganwadi came in second and it was granted, becoming public poli-cy. This is where it all began."

Being the PM of the children's parliament has taught her that background isn't essential. She emphasises the need to represent at a bigger level: "I can publicly talk about myself and represent my community on a national scale, educating others about the importance of our work"

One's drive for change shapes their journey. Jayalaxmi worked at MSI (Montfort Social Institute) while studying. Her time at MSI has shaped her

upbringing. "I read many newspapers and took part in many competitions like essay writing and public speaking. I also read a lot about caste, personality and English speaking, but most importantly, my drive to work hard has improved me as a leader," she recalls.

Growing up as the daughter of a garbage collector, she had to overcome a lot of social stigma that was often attached to her identity—being called a "garbage girl," being a girl in society, and being expected to get married eventually. Although she considers herself lucky to have found the right mentors, she says, "NGO founder Brother Varghese helped me overcome societal stigma and other challenges in my life. They have assisted me in voicing my views and speaking up for my community on many issues."

Some impactful projects and policies that have been implemented through her leadership in the Hyderabad City Youth Parliament include policy reforms. For example, the breakfast program that the previous government implemented has been halted-she wants to bring it back. She also wants to fulfill the garbage collectors' requests, such as providing them with safety

For her, becoming an IAS officer is not just for the title, but to change how the system sees people like her. She wants to use her position to ensure that children like her receive an education. She wants to eradicate a low-aspiration mindset. She believes it is not a lack of talent or money that prevents people from her background or the unorganised sector, but rather a lack of motivation.

"I want to establish a platform for women's safety, healthcare, and education. I would like to make it clear to everyone that girls are capable of much more than just getting married. Basically, as an IAS official, I wish to bring about these changes through proper policies and implementation. I also want to ensure that no child has to face the same difficulties that I had."

It is difficult to change the mindset of people and to break stereotypes about the community; however, after her US program, they now see that it can help bring the necessary change in their lives and community. She also recalls an incident that happened after: "When an article about my work was published, a lady I had worked for recognised me and spoke about the work I do. She was always indifferent towards us, but that day she tried to understand our problems, even asking for a hug and cried. She was genuinely kind to us that day. This showed me that the work I do will help hundreds like me break barriers and stereotypes linked to us." "My biggest inspiration is Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, whose quote, Life should be great rather than long,' is also my motto in life."

NOTHING SHORT OF MAGIC ON CLOTH Smriti Irani on Gaurang Shah's weaves for Tulsi

ith the much-awaited return of Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi, the screen welcomes back not just a beloved show, but a woman whose character became a cultural cornerstone, Smriti Irani as Tulsi Virani. In celebration of this iconic return, designer Gaurang Shah brings forth a textile tribute that goes beyond fashion. Known for his mastery of Jamdani and India's handwoven traditions, Shah has created a capsule that reflects the strength, grace and rootedness of the character and the actor who shaped her.

"Gaurang Shah has not just designed sarees, he has woven stories, traditions, and modernity into every thread. For Kvunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi, his work brought alive the soul of Indian craft through the artistry of our weavers. A timeless confluence of heritage and contemporary thought, his creations are nothing short of magic on cloth," says Smriti Irani, politician and a celebrated actor.

Drawing from craft traditions across India, the collection for Tulsi features feather-light Kanjeevarams in chiffon, vibrant silk Bandhanis hand-dyed in symbolic hues and rare Jamdani weaves where every motif carries meaning. Each piece is carefully imagined to mirror Tulsi's journey, layered, enduring, quietly powerful. Among the most striking are double Ikkats, meticulously woven through a painstaking technique that demands precision and patience, qualities that echo

in both Tulsi's character and Smriti Irani's real-life journey. "It has been a true delight to weave for Smriti Irani, a

woman who, through Tulsi, became a symbol of strength, grace, and icon for countless Indian women. "Tulsi represents every woman who holds on to her values while moving with the times. I wanted to create something that honoured that quiet strength. These weaves aren't just clothes, they carry stories, just like she does," says Gaurang Shah. For the much-celebrated promo of Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 2.0, Gaurang Shah wove an ethereal chiffon Kanjeevaram for Smriti Irani, a drape that mirrored Tulsi's grace and quiet strength, woven not just in silk, but in memory. Each Jamdani thread we wove for her carried not just artistry, but the essence of tradition, just like Tulsi carried the spirit of every Indian home." Gaurang added: "We're continuing to weave for what's ahead, each piece taking shape as the story does."

With the new chapter unfolding, and Gaurang Shah's weaves adorning Tulsi once again, this isn't just a return, it's a revival of tradition, through the fabric of storytelling.

make hair brittle, weak, and prone to falling. A balanced diet rich in leafy greens, eggs, nuts, seeds, and lean meats is considered very important for the growth of hair.

A global study by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) found that correcting iron and vitamin D deficiencies significantly reduced hair loss in. According to Dr. Gunasekar Vuppalapati, Senior Consultant Aesthetic, Plastic Surgery & Reconstructive Surgery, Sparsh Hospital, RR Nagar, Bangalore said "Hair Transplantation result looks very natural results that is permanent especially when we can harvest the donor hair roots from the beard and body. Modern day techniques such as Follicular Unit Extraction (FUE) are minimally invasive and deliver natural-looking hairlines. We assess the scalp, donor area and overall health before recommending surgery. Now we are doing a more



Hair Transplantation results look very natural results that are permanent espe-cially when we can harvest the donor hair roots from the beard and body. Modern day techniques such as Follicular Unit Extraction Follicular Unit Extraction (FUE) are minimally invasive and deliver natural-looking hairlines. We assess the scalp, donor area and over-all health before recom-mending surgery. Now we are doing a more advanced version of FUE called microFUE which gives scar-less natural results less natural results

advanced version of FUE called microFUE which gives scarless natural results.

The International Society of Hair Restoration Surgery (ISHRS) reports that nearly 90% of patients undergoing hair transplantation experience satisfactory, long-term results. Some of the basic recommendations for patients regarding the problem of hair loss is to start with an examination of skin and hair in early stages for determining the type of hair loss. And, if necessary, we may consider the low dose oral finesteride (which blocks the effect of testosterone on the hair roots having Alfa Reductase receptors) under the medical supervision with or without Minoxidil topical solution to prevent the hair loss.

People may also need 0.1% melatonin (medicine used in insomnia, jet lag and depression cases which the individual faces during the hair loss) in their daily consuming diet to strengthen hair's anagen phase. Hormone screening for managing the abnormal cortisol, thyroid, or androgen levels should be done as well before considering any of this. Ensuring the diet has all micronutrients required for healthy hair growth, if not we may have to prescribe the required supplements. Adopt some advanced topical therapies like PRP. SVF. GFC or transplantation of hair when conservatives' methods are not working.

In conclusion hair loss is a very complex and successful treatment which is completely dependent on the tailored, multi-angle management by the doctors. Some specialised doctors such as dermatologists, trichologists, endocrinologists, nutritionists and surgeons provide their relevant insights and evidence backed interventions for generating the awareness among the public. Future innovations may include FDAapproved oral therapies and stem-cell treatments, but until then, integrated care remains the gold technique in the context of hair loss problems.



The Dioneer

India to pose tougher test to unsettled England

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA London

he in-form Indian batters will back themselves to succeed on a potentially challenging surface while the bowling attack, which did not inspire confidence in the first game, will pose a tougher test to an unsettled England with the return of Jasprit Bumrah at the Lord's Test beginning on Thursday.

With the series nicely poised at 1-1 going into the third Test, the narrative built around both the teams has changed significantly following India's 336-run routing of England at Edgbaston. If it wasn't for the dropped catches and lowerorder collapses at Leeds, India



England's Joe Root, Ben Duckett, Jamie Smith and others during a practice session ahead of the third test cricket match between India and England, at the Lord's Cricket Ground, in London

ARCHER SET FOR FIRST TEST SINCE 2021 AS ENGLAND ANNOUNCE PLAYING XI FOR LORD'S

London: Star pacer Jofra Archer is set to feature in his first Test since 2021 as England included him in their playing XI for the third match against India on a spicy surface at Lord's. The five-match series is locked 1-1 at the moment and heading into the third Test, England are hoping to add some spark to their bowling attack with the long-awaited comeback of Archer, who had been laid low by multiple injuries in recent years. Archer comes in place of Josh Tongue.

"England Men have made one change to their XI for the Rothesay Third Test against India at Lord's, starting on Thursday. "Sussex fast bowler Jofra Archer replaces Nottinghamshire's Josh Tongue. It will be Archer's first Test appearance since February 2021, also against India, in Ahmedabad," the England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said in a statement on Wednesday. Archer has only played white-ball cricket for England since 2021 after elbow and back injuries.

would have been 2-0 up in the competed but has won majorfive-match series. Considering the inexperi-

course of the two Tests. ence of the Indian squad England, on the other hand, under new captain Shubman were expected to steamroll Gill, the team has not only the opposition following the

retirements of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli but India's performance thus far has been a testament to their depth and rich talent.

The mountains of runs scored by Gill and Co. Have forced Ben Stokes to depart from their original template: prepare flat tracks and bat the opposition out of the game.

The roaring success of the Indian batters on flat tracks has proved counter productive for the hosts who are now expected to dish out a surface offering a fair amount of seam movement. Add to that a rather unique challenge of a slope — that runs up and down — at the iconic Lord's. The return of Bumrah and

Jofra Archer, who will play his first Test for England in four

years, will only make the bat ters' task tougher.

The tourists have little to worry about in the batting department barring the form of Karun Nair, who has looked a tad uncomfortable against the ball that jumps from length. Trust England to pepper Yashasvi Jaiswal with short stuff into the body but like he often does, the Indian opener will find a way to score runs.

The only expected change in India's playing eleven will be Bumrah coming in place of Prasidh Krishna.

Serious question marks were raised over the efficacy of the Indian pacers after Leeds but the trio of Akash Deep, Mohammed Siraj and Bumrah gives a potent look to the attack

Phil Salt's bat used in IPL cleared by authorities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA London

ngland white-ball opener Phil Salt's E bat, which he used in the last two years including in the Indian Premier League, was initially deemed "to have failed an on-field gauge test" but later cleared after further examination, his club said. The 28-year-old Salt currently plays for Lancashire.

He played a major role in Royal Challenger Bengaluru's maiden IPL title win earlier in the year, scoring 403 runs from 13 matches, the second highest for his team after Virat Kohli (657 from 15 matches).

Lancashire Cricket in a statement said that the bat used by Salt during Friday's Vitality Blast T20 match against Northants Steelbacks has been cleared by the Cricket Regulator's Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU).

Salt was alleged to have breached ECB Directives 3.2 and 3.3, after his bat failed an on-field bat-gauge test during the Vitality Blast fixture. It is a bat that he has used for the last two years for England, Lancashire and in the IPL with no issue," the club said in the statement.

During the first over of Lancashire Lightning's run chase, an umpire conducted an on-field bat gauge test, as part of an

assurance process undertaken to check the sizes of a bat being used. To pass the test, the bat must fit through a gauge of the specified size.

Salt's bat did not pass through the gauge on the field and was therefore deemed to have failed the test, and in further tests carried out after the match, it was deemed inconclusive despite the bat fitting through the gauge on several occasions. The Club and player felt this should have been the end of the matter, but the officials felt it necessary for the bat to be taken away for further testing," the club said.

"Following this evidential testing rocess undertaken by the Cricket Regulator, the bat was found to be compliant with the Regulations - and the Club and player have been informed that no further action will be taken."

The club said the "whole process could have been avoided with improved processes on and off the field, whether that be through better equipment and/or additional training".

"Following the incident there have been inappropriate comments made by match commentators, inaccurate articles written in the media and some unsavoury social media posts towards the player, that could have been avoided."

Gill storms into top-10 of ICC men's Test batting rankings



India's captain Shubman Gill waves to the fans after their win against England on day five of the second cricket test match at Edgbaston in Birmingham, England PTI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Dubai

ndia captain Shubman Gill on Wednesday broke into the L top-10 of the ICC men's Test batting rankings for the first time in his career after a record-breaking performance against England at Edgbaston.

Gill smashed 269 and 161 in the game -- becoming only the

second player in history to score more than 150 in both innings of a Test -- as India thrashed England by 336 runs to level the five-match series 1-1. This was also his first win as Test captain. The 24-year-old, who was ranked 23rd before the series, has jumped 15 places to a career-best No.6 in the world, as per the latest ICC

Test batters' rankings released on Wednesday.

FILE PHOTO

Gill's previous career-best rank was 14th, which he had achieved in September 2023. In ODIs, Gill continues to lead the batting chart, while Sri Lanka's Charith Asalanka (up to sixth) and Kusal Mendis (up 10 spots to 10th) made strides after their 2-

1 series win over Bangladesh. Wanindu Hasaranga jumped 11 places to eighth in the ODI bowling rankings after taking nine wickets in the series.

His match haul of 430 runs

ity of the sessions over the

Among bowlers, Jasprit Bumrah remains the top-ranked player in Test cricket despite missing the Edgbaston game to manage his workload.

Mohammed Siraj moved up six spots to 22nd after a good outing, while West Indies quicks Shamar Joseph and Alzarri Joseph also made gains. Meanwhile, England's Harry Brook has reclaimed the number 1 spot in the Test batters' rankings after scoring 158 in the first innings at Edgbaston.

SA20's fourth season to start from December 26



MI Cape Town won the third season of SA20 earlier this year FILE PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Johannesburg

he fourth season of SA20 league will begin L with a Boxing Day opener between defending champions MI Cape Town and Durban's Super Giants at Newlands on December 26 with the final scheduled for January 25, the event's organ-

isers said on Wednesday. The following day, December 27, will mark the season's first double-header with Centurion hosting a special derby between Pretoria Capitals and Joburg Super Kings while Paarl Royals and Sunrisers Eastern Cape clash at Boland Park in Paarl.

said. "It's been phenomenal to Kingsmead, the home of Durban's Super Giants, will be buzzing with activity in the week leading up to the New Year with the east coast venue welcoming both MI Cape

witness how SA20 has struck a chord with fans in a vibrant cricket market like India. "What's truly heart-warming is seeing Indian fans follow emerging SA20 talents like Lhuan-dre Pretorius Wiaan

love to see more fans travel to

South Africa for the matches.

They certainly won't be disap-

pointed." The auction is sched-

The action continues on

January 2 at Boland Park with

a Cape derby between Paarl

Royals and neighbours MI

uled for September 9.

Cape Town.

Young players capable of taking Indian cricket forward: Dilip Bradman when he hammered ers. "India have performed 974 runs in the 1930 Ashes. By his lofty standards, Gill is was crucial for "worldclass" Shubman Gill to score truckload of runs to

390 runs behind and Vengsarkar said it is possible at Lord's and go 2-1," he said. for the 25-year-old to rewrite the record.

Well he and he is an outstanding batsman. I hope he does that. I don't know whether he will do it, but I am sure that he has got an opportunity. He is in great form and he should do it, that's

very well and if they win at Lord's it will make a lot of difference. I expect them to win "You should not pay much heed to the slope, rather you

should play every ball on its

always a major milestone for us and signals that we are well on our way to another incredible season. Season 4 of the SA20 will be unique. We have

carefully planned the fixtures to make the most of the festive season and school holidays. "We want SA20 to be a part of the holiday season festivities in our once-off window for this year. We're also excited to host New Year's Eve and New

Year's Day fixtures for the first time, we can't wait to be a part of the New Year's celebrations with the fans," League Commissioner Graeme Smith said. Elaborating on the reception SA20 has received in India, he

India hatter Vengsarkar said here on Wednesday, adding that young players showed that they are capable of taking Indian cricket forward.

"call the shots" as skipper, for-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai

India bounced back to pummel England by 336 runs in the second Test to level the five-Test series 1-1, after starting the tour with a disappointing five-wicket loss in Leeds.

Gill has been at the forefront of India's attack, amassing a mind-boggling 585 runs in only four innings with three centuries, the highest score being a stunning 269.

"He did very well as a captain, as a batsman, it was very important that he scored runs so that he can call the shots and



Indian cricket team players at Edgbaston in Birmingham, England

which is very important and he has done that," Vengsarkar told the media. "He is an experienced play-Virat Kohli.

er. He is a world-class batsman and he that showed in England. Because of the he can lead from the front, English conditions, everybody

was thinking what will happen the launch of Mumbai's to the Indian team in the Cricketing season 2025-26. absence of Rohit Sharma and Gill's tally of 585 runs in four

innings puts him on track to "But these young players do the unthinkable — to break have shown that they are capathe record for all-time highest ble of doing it and I am verv run-tally by any batter in Test history — set by Sir Donald proud of them," he said during

what I feel." "But then, what is important is not (get into chasing) personal milestone. Because we are obsessed with personal milestone, which is wrong. The important (point) is to win matches for our country. That is what matters. And the impact of innings or a spell is what matters in the ultimate analysis," he said.

Without taking any names, Vengsarkar said India have done well in the first two Tests without some of the key play-

merit. Our players are in good form. Akash (Deep) has done a very good job (in the second Test).

"We all say that this player was not there or that player was not there, what will happen now? The other players can also deliver and the other players should also get a chance and that chance is in their hands and they will do it," he added. During his speech to players across age groups and genders, Vengsarkar underlined the importance of fitness, discipline, doing well in knockout clashes such as semifinals and finals to "grab the opportunities with both hands" and taking pride in playing for Mumbai.

ember 28) Mulder, and many others Joburg Super Kings (30 December) within the space of who've honed their skills in the a couple of days. competition. India remains a key market for SA20, and we'd

"Fans will have the opportunity to toast in the New Year in style with another cracking double-header set for Gqeberha and Cape Town on December 31," the organisers said. Two-time champions Sunrisers Eastern Cape will welcome the Paarl Royals at St. George's Park, with MI Cape Town and Pretoria Capitals clashing at Newlands later in the day.

The matches will continue on New Year's Day when Joburg Super Kings and Durban's Super Giants will face off at the Wanderers. "Announcing the fixtures is

to continue their impressive record at home, after winning all five of their home matches last season. MI Cape Town achieved

Paarl Royals will be looking

the same feat at Newlands in the same season.

Akash Deep was absolutely special, says Arun Lal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi

ormer India cricketer Arun Lal was in awe of Akash Deep's performance in the second Test against England Birmingham, saying he was "absolutely special".

Akash Deep shone bright with a 10-wicket haul in India's series levelling 336-run win over England at Edgbaston.

He picked up 4/88 in the first innings and then followed it up with a splendid 6/99 in the second essay to return with impressive match figures of 10/187. The 28-year-old pacer's effort helped India draw level the fivematch series after losing the opener by five wickets at Leeds. 'Ĥe was absolutely special," Lal said. "There was never a question about his abilities. He was strong, hard-working...The only thing missing was selfbelief. He's more confident now, bowling smarter and with patience. He doesn't go searching for a wicket every ball.



India's Akash Deep celebrates the dismissal of England's Harry Brook on day five of the second cricket test match between England and India at Edgbaston in Birmingham, England

"And the more belief he "I just wanted him to undergains, the faster and better he'll stand that this is just the beginget. He can clock 145 kph and ning. 'Ranji jeetna hai, India has that rare ability to break khelna hai, aur lamba India partnerships," he noted. khelna hai." While Akash Deep Coming from a humble backgrabbed headlines, young India ground, Akash Deep initially skipper Shubman Gill showed didn't expect to don the nation-al colours, Lal said. "He didhis prowess, scoring 269 and 161 at Birmingham and took n't really understand how good his match aggregate to 430, the he was, and he didn't think that second-highest ever in Test he could play for India," said Lal. history.

Red Bull fires F1 team principal Christian Horner

ASSOCIATED PRESS Milton Keynes (England)

ongtime Red Bull team principal Christian Horner was fired on Wednesday after a 20-year stint that included eight Formula 1 drivers' titles and a rise to celebrity status.

Red Bull did not give a reason for the decision in a statement on Wednesday, but thanked Horner for his work and said he will "forever remain an important part of our team history?

Laurent Mekies of sister team Racing Bulls will replace Horner in his role as chief executive of the Red Bull team.

Horner had been Red Bull team principal since it entered F1 as a full constructor in 2005. He had performed his team and media duties as normal throughout the British Grand Prix last week.

His wife is Geri Halliwell -Ginger Spice of the Spice Girls — and Horner himself became a celebrity figure through his prominence on Netflix's F1 docuseries "Drive To Survive," where his bitter rivalry with Mercedes' Toto Wolff was a key



Horner oversaw eight F1 drivers' titles - four for Sebastian Vettel and four for Max Verstappen — and six constructors' titles during his

time with the team. But McLaren has dominated this season in F1, while Red Bull's performance has dipped, though defending champion Verstappen remains third in the standings and the team is fourth. Uncertainty for the future

Horner spent much of last week fielding questions over

Verstappen's future at the team after the Dutch driver declined to commit to stay with Red Bull for 2026. Zak Brown, boss of rival McLaren, told The Associated Press last week it would be a "disaster" for Red Bull if Verstappen were to leave. Horner is the latest in a series of high-profile executives to leave the team over the last year and a half. Car design great Adrian Newey joined Aston Martin and sporting director Jonathan Wheatley departed for Sauber, which is soon to become the Audi

FILE PHOTO

RED BULL'S NEXT CHALLENGE

Milton Keynes: Horner, a former driver whose racing career stalled one level below F1, was the youngest team boss in F1 at 32 when he took charge of Red Bull in 2005 after its parent drinks company bought what had been Jaguar. He's the only leader it's known since. Horner's departure comes in the middle of the team's efforts to prepare for one of the biggest rule changes in F1 in decades next season. Red Bull will make its own engines in partnership with Ford, a project led by Horner. At Racing Bulls, whose cars have sometimes outperformed the main Red Bull team this season, Alan Permane will be promoted from racing director to team principal to fill the gap left by Mekies. "The spirit of the whole (Racing Bulls) team is incredible, and I strongly believe that this is just the beginning," Mekies said in a statement released by Racing Bulls, which did not mention Horner. "Alan is the perfect man to take over now and continue our path. He knows the team inside out and has always been an important pillar of our early successes.

works team. All of these changes have followed the 2022 death of Dietrich Mateschitz, the billionaire cofounder of Red Bull who created its F1 project.

The team also shuffled drivers, dropping Sergio Perez at the end of last season before a brief failed experiment with Liam Lawson as Verstappen's teammate. He was in turn replaced by Yuki Tsunoda, who hasn't scored a point in five races.

'We would like to thank Christian Horner for his exceptional work over the last 20

years," Oliver Mintzlaff, Red Bull's chief executive for corporate projects and investments said in a statement. "With his tireless commitment, experience, expertise and innovative thinking, he has been instrumental in establishing Red Bull Racing as one of the most successful and attractive teams in Formula 1. Thank you for everything, Christian, and you will forever remain an important part of our team history."

The announcement comes more than a year after Horner was accused of misconduct toward a team employee.







Television actor Sagar, aka RK Naidu in the Telugu serial Mogali Rekulu, returns to the silver screen with The 100, a film where he once again dons the khaki — but with a difference. Sagar opens up about his journey from household fame to political aspirations, the real story behind The 100, and why this cop role is unlike any we've seen before

The Pioneer

/IJAYAWADA | THURSDAY | JULY 10, 2025

Sagar steps back into khaki for The 100, says it's not your typical cop film

SURESH KAVIRAYANI sureshkavirayani@gmail.com

agar is a household name in the Telugu states, thanks to his states, thanks to ms portrayal of RK Naidu in the long-running TV serial *Mogali Rekulu.* The mega-serial aired from 2008 to 2013 and left a lasting impression. He also appeared in another popular serial, Chakravakam. After gaining recognition on the small screen, Sagar transitioned to films, acting in a few projects, but never quite found his commercial breakthrough.

Now, he returns with a new film titled The 100, which hits theatres this Friday. The movie has received strong sup-port from political figures such as Pawan Kalyan, Komati-reddy Venkat Reddy, Sridhar Babu and Venkaiah Naidu. We started this film as a proiect without any title. But after $shooting \ for \\$ some time, we decided on the title The 100 and it gave the film a new emotional depth. We wanted to say something meaningful to society and you'll understand the reason behind the title after watching

the film," said Sagar. The actor has already screened the film for prominent personalities, includ-

ing top cop Sajjanar and former Vice President Venkaiah Naidu. They loved the film and I'm confident the audience will too. It's a message-oriented film and I wanted to screen it for people whose words carry weight and can help the message reach a wider audience," he added.

Having played a cop in *Mogali Rekulu* for nearly six years, Sagar developed close ties with real-life police officers. "During one of our conversations, a cop shared his personal story. I asked if I could use it for a film, and he agreed. That's how The 100 began,"

revealed Sagar. Before moving forward, he shared the story with director Sukumar, who was excited about the concept. "He said this kind of story should be told. I spent a few months with Sukumar's team, but they moved on to another film. That's when I decided to go ahead with this project myself. I collab-orated with director Raghav Omkar Sashidhar and once we completed the script, we began

shooting," Sagar explained. When asked why he didn't pursue films earlier, despite the pop-ularity of *Mogali Rekulu*, Sagar said, "I didn't want to do another cop story right away since I had worn the uniform for six years on TV. I wanted to explore something different." He went on to act in Siddharth, Man of the Match and Shaadi Mubarak. "Now, after many years, this cop story truly excites me. But I can confidently say this film is unlike any other cop film made so far. Every police officer can feel proud after watching it," he said.

Interestingly, he hasn't returned to television since *Mogali Rekulu*. "I didn't find any interesting scripts and I didn't want to accept just anything that came my way, he said. On how The 100 cop differs from RK Naidu, he shared, 'This is a more authentic portrayal. There's no style or attitude just the behavior of a real cop."

Sagar admits having an emo-tional attachment to the khaki uniform he wore in the serial. 'That's one of the reasons I avoided cop roles. But now feels like the right time to return to it, with a powerful and real story," he added.

He also clarified previous com-ments about *Mr. Perfect*, where he was expected to play a parallel lead with Prabhas. "That was my mistake. The role I picked wasn't what I thought it would be. It's in the past. Since then, I've focused on proving myself as a lead actor," said Sagar. "In the future, I will continue taking up lead roles, but if a strong supporting character comes along, I'll do it—if the story excites me."

Sagar expressed disappointment over missing out on Pawan Kalyan's OG. "I didn't reject the offer, but due to a miscommunication, I missed it. Back then, I wasn't a part of the Jana Sena Party. Now, I've joined the party and am working with Pawan Kalyan," he said. He also confirmed that he plans to transition into full-time politics soon.

On his co-stars, Sagar had high praise. "Misha, Dhanya and Vishnu Priya-these three female characters are central to the film and have intense roles," he revealed. As for his portrayal, he emphasized, "This cop is not your cinematic hero. There's no swagger—just grounded, realistic performance."

Sagar also assured fans they won't have to wait long for his next release. "I believe in quality over quantity. But I'm not taking long breaks anymore—I'm planning my projects so they release with minimal gaps," he concluded.



new film fter the debacle of *The Jack*, actor Siddhu Jonnalagadda is planning his upcoming films

carefully. He is now busy with *Telusu Kada* and on *Wednesday*, another of his new projects was announced. This time, the title of the film is *Badass* and it is directed by Ravikanth Perepu. Both earlier worked together for the film Krishna and His Leela. Now, this combo is reuniting and this time they are stepping into a whole new zone. Naga Vamsi and Soujanya are jointly producing this film. This film is going to take Siddhu into a space we've never seen him in before, according to the makers. This project is written by Ravikanth Perepu and Siddhu Jonnalagadda and directed by Ravikanth himself. Siddhu is stepping far away from the vibrant entertaining zone of Tillu. In this film his madness will be on steroids bringing out a deep and mature performance that will mark a complete makeover for the actor. The makers have unveiled the title along with a striking first look

and the poster already grabs attention with its raw and bold statement: "If middle finger was a man". In today's times it's rare for content to instantly connect with audiences at first sightbut this squad has done exactly that in their very first attempt. With a bigger budget, a deeper story and a team that believes in pushing limits, this film is gearing up to be one of the most anticipated emotional dramas of 2026.

Anil Geela breaks into mainstream with





Mothevari Love Story

love story titled *Mothevari Love Story*, is a seven-episode series set against the rustic backdrop of Telangana's heartland, where a long-held family secret sets off a chain of humorous and dramatic events. Anil Geela is playing the lead and also did the editing part. *Mothevari Love Story* is a wholesome ride of emotions and unexpected twists, all sparked by a single wedding that soon becomes the centre of everyone's attention. Apart from directing, Shiva Krishna Burra has also penned the script.

The first look of this web series was launched on Wednesday, at an event in Hyderabad, where Anand Deverakonda attended as the chief guest. This web series is going to stream on Zee5.

I don't call this a small project, this is a bighearted web series. The title is so unique and the poster looks amazing. When Anil messaged me, I didn't even think for a second. I usually avoid public events, but I said yes immediatelv for two reasons. One, I'm a huge fan of My Village Show videos. When I was in the USA, our friends and family members used to bingewatch them. They reminded us of our own villages, culture and festivals. Second, when Madhura Sreedhar sir offered me Dorasani, I prepped for it by watching *My Village Show* to learn the Telangana dialect. This was my way of paying it back. I wish the Zee5 team and everyone involved a huge success!", said Anand Deverakonda about the web series.

"This is the first step in turning My Village Show into a full-fledged production house. We felt like we had hit a saturation point on YouTube and were waiting for someone to give us a wider platform. That's when Jayanth anna called and encouraged us to pitch an idea in our style. Contrary to the belief that OTT platforms take months to approve, Zee5 gave us a nod in the first sitting," said Anil Geela about how this started.

He added that Madhura Sreedhar supported them without even hearing the story. "We gave up remuneration and comforts and worked hard on this series. Vijay (Deverakonda) anna gave me my film debut with World Famous Lover and now Anand (Deverakonda) anna is launching me into OTT. They are both our lucky charms," said Anil Geela. Mothevari Love Story premieres on August 8.

pays it forward with debut production for newcomers

iran Abbavaram is now a busy actor, but before that he started his career with short films. From a commoner to now a popular star, Kiran established himself as a successful lead actor and has always been vocal about the struggles he faced during his early days in the industry. Without any backing or support, he carved his own identity by choosing strong content and innovative filmmak ing. At the pre-release event of his earlier film Dil Ruba, he stated that, having faced hardships himself, he is committed to supporting aspiring actors and technicians who, like him, come from non-film backgrounds. Staying true to his word, Kiran is

now producing a film under his own banner, collaborating with fresh tal-ent. He is introducing Sai Tej, who previously worked as a camera assis-

tant on Kiran's earlier films, as the lead actor. The film will be directed by Muni who was online editor in his past projects. Inspired by real-life events, this film is set to be an emotional drama with a compelling narrative. Pre-production is currently underway and the first look and title will be unveiled soon. The shoot is scheduled to begin later this year.

"Every journey begins with a dream. When I started seven years ago, I had no idea if it would come true. But today, with the love of the audience, I've earned recognition as lead actor. Through KA Productions, we aim to create opportunities for young talent who enter the industry with a dream, just like I did. We'll officially announce the project on the 10th of this month," said Kiran Abbavaram.



Suhas has an inspirational journey: Manchu Manoj

uhas and Malavika Manoj of *Joe* fame are playing the lead pair in the film titled *Oh* Bhama Ayyo Rama. This is also her Telugu debut with this film. It is hitting the screens this Friday and on this occasion, the team held a pre-release event in Hyderabad. Manchu Manoj attended as the chief guest and praised Suhas and said he is inspiring many. Ram Godhala is the director, while Harish Nalla produced it.

"Suhas is like a brother to me," said Manchu Manoj. "He's always positive and carries a charming smile. He made it big as a lead actor without any film back-ground, even nepo kids have to work hard in this industry. Success only comes through struggle - I say this as a nepo kid myself," said Manchu Manoj. "Suhas's journey from YouTube to

cinema is truly inspirational. Just like Vijay Sethupathi in Tamil, Suhas is carving a space for himself in Telugu. I wish this film brings success and recognition to the entire team. With such a solid crew, this deserves to be a blockbuster hit," said Manchu Manoj.

Talking about the film Suhas said that the entire team worked really hard on this film. "Once people watch it, they'll fall in love with Malavika. I had the joy of acting alongside senior artists like Ali, Anita and Prudhvi. In every man's life, mother and wife play crucial roles in success- those emotional aspects are central to this film and will surely touch hearts," said Suhas. He added they are making good movies with everyone's support. "I'll be announcing some big updates about my career very soon," he said.