FRIDAY JANUARY 24, 2025 Editor P.RAJESH Vol 01 No 11 Page 4

Anti-drug rally to promote awareness

Nizam College on Thursday hosted an Anti-Drug Rally organised by the National Service Scheme (NSS) and National Cadet Corps (NCC) students to create awareness about the dangers of drug abuse. The rally was inaugurated by Nizam College Principal Professor AV Rajasekhar, who emphasized the importance of eradicating social evils and unhealthy habits, particularly among the youth. Addressing the gathering, Professor Rajasekhar called for collective responsibility among faculty, staff and students to ensure that substances.

R-Day to showcase military prowess

Some of the cutting-edge defence platforms including BrahMos, Pinaka and Akash will be part of the 76th Republic Day celebrations on Kartavya Path with Army's Battle Surveillance System 'Sanjay' and DRDO's surface-to-surface tactical missile 'Pralay' set to be showcased in the ceremonial parade for the first time, officials said on Thursday. India will display its military prowess and vibrant culture heritage on the majestic boulevard here on January 26, and the flypast will feature 40 IAF aircraft and three..

Industry wants steps to propel growth

With Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman preparing to present the first full Budget of the Modi 3.0 government, industry players from various fields have put forth their demands for raising income tax job creation, and further improving doing business to propel growth. The industry is hopeful that the government will announce a slew of measures to boost consumption by ensuring more money in the hands of people, boosting capital expenditure, giving relief to the

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India batting stars disappoint

The high-profile return of India's stars in Ranji Trophy ended up as a damp squib with the likes of Rohit Sharma, Rishabh Pant and Shubman Gill falling cheaply on Thursday, unable to click in the face of some hostile bowling on the opening day of their respective matches across different venues. Veteran all-rounder Ravindra Jadeia was the only one who stood out among the battery of Indian stars as he took a fivewicket haul for Saurashtra to dismiss Pant's Delhi for 188 on a Rajkot turner.

Rising TG shines at Davos

CM Revanth team strikes ground-breaking deals Nets Rs 1,78,950 crore investments, Rs 49,500 jobs Secures biggest Rs 60,000 crore investments from Amazon

SAI SURYA HYDERABAD

The TelanganaRising delegation, led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, concluded its highly successful trip to Davos with a ground-breaking investment haul of Rs 1,78,950 crore, which is projected to create 49,500 jobs across multiple sectors in Telangana.

The largest individual investments included Rs 60,000 crore from Amazon (AWS), Rs 45,500 crore from Sun Petrochemicals, Rs 15,000 crore each from Tillman Global Holdings and Megha Engineering, among others. These investments reflect a strong vote of confidence in the state's economic

Tech giants played a pivotal role in the job creation surge, with Hyderabad emerging as a major hub. Software majors like HCL (5,000 jobs), Infosys (17,000 jobs), and Wipro (5,000 jobs) committed to expanding their presence in the state, further cementing Telangana's dominance in the IT sector.

Data centres were a key focus,



A highlight of the trip was Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's presentation of his TelanganaRising 2050 vision, which found strong endorsement among global investors, entrepreneurs, and policymakers. "Building on core strengths in software and pharma, Telangana will grow aggressively in Data Centres, Green Energy, Food Processing, Electric Vehicles, and Semiconductors. he stated, emphasizing the state's ambition to be a key player in the post-Covid "China Plus One" strategy.

attracting investments from Amazon, Tillman, Usra, CrtlS, and Sify, signaling a significant leap in infrastructure development. Cutting-edge sectors such as solar cell manufacturing, UAVs, aircraft interior design, and rocket manufacturing also saw substantial traction. Defense investments by Jindal further underscored the strategic appeal of Telangana's industrial

Continued on Page 2

Telangana to expedite inter-state Lendi Project

Focuses on early completion

SAI SURYA■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has intensified its efforts to expedite the completion of the Lendi Project, an pletion of the Lendi Project, an inter-state irrigation initiative that promises significant benefits for both Telangana and Maharashtra. Telangana's Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister, Captain N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, emphasized the importance of the project during a review meeting with a Congress delagation. review meeting with a Congress delegation from Maharashtra, led by Nanded MP Ravindra Chavan.

Speaking on the occasion, Uttam Kumar Reddy highlighted that the Lendi Project, initiated in 1984 with an estimated cost of Rs 2,183.88 crore, has the potential to bring 38,573.15 acres in Telangana and 27,710.39 acres in Maharashtra under cultivation. He reiterated the Telangana government's commitment to completing the project, which will benefit farmers in both states by enhancing irrigation facilities.

The minister outlined the current progress of the project, noting that Telangana and Maharashtra have collectively spent Rs 1,040.87 crore so far. About 70% of the earthen dam work and 80% of the spillway construction have been completed, while canal works are ongoing. Plans have also been prepared to supply water through underground pipelines to address local irrigation needs.

However, Reddy acknowledged that the project faced hurdles due to land acquisition issues, leading to its suspension in 2011. Efforts are now underway to resolve these challenges and resume construction. The Telangana government is formulating strategies to complete the earthwork within the riverbed and accel-

erate the project's progress. The minister assured that under the agreement between the two states, the project is expected to be completed by the end of next year. He stressed the importance of inter-state cooperation to ensure the project's timely completion for the benefit of farmers in both regions.

The delegation from Maharashtra, including former MLA Hanumanth Rao Patil and Congress leaders Suresh Panditwar, Subhash Bad, Vakidishwar, Dinesh Awaj, and Sandeep Patil, expressed their support for the project and discussed strategies to overcome existing chal-

'INHUMANE AND UNJUST'

Harish slams pension deduction for property tax

SAI SURYA HYDERABAD

Former minister Harish Rao expressed strong resentment over the deduction of oldage pensions to cover pending property taxes in Mancherial district, terming it inhumane and unjust. Harish criticized the practice of halting pensions meant for elderly individuals when their family members fail to pay property

"It is cruel and unfair to deduct pensions from the elderly for unpaid

property taxes by their sons. Such decisions by the government and officials are tearing families apart,"

> it is unreasonable to expect elderly people to sustain themselves if even their small pension amount is redirected. He slammed the

for failing to fulfill its promise of providing Rs. 4,000 per month as pension and instead resorting to taking away the current Rs. 2,000 pensions under the guise of property tax dues.

Congress government

SC to take up Krishna Water dispute in Feb

SAI SURYA ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has announced that it will take up the petition filed by the Andhra Pradesh government regarding the Krishna water allocation dispute between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in February. A bench comprising Justice Suryakant Justice Koteshwar Singh made this decision after the AP government raised the matter in the court. The issue stems from the Krishna Tribunal's distribution of water among the three states before the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh in 2014. In October 2023, the Centre issued a notification to address the water-sharing dispute between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The TG government citing the fact that the river flows predominantly through its territory, approached the Tribunal, requesting a 70% share of the river's waters.

Slot system mooted in stamps, registration to tackle graft

In an effort to eliminate corruption and streamline operations, the Telangana government is set to introduce a slot booking system in the Stamps and Registration depart-ment.

The government plans to implement the slot booking system to ensure transparency and efficiency . Under this system, citizens must book slots in advance, reducing the scope for corruption and easing the workload of subregistrar offices.



Additionally, extra staff will be deployed in offices with high registration volumes.

Currently, Telangana has 141

sub-registrar offices handling nonagricultural property registrations and mandal revenue offices managing agricultural land registrations. On average, the department process-2,500 agricultural registrations daily. Each sub-registrar is expected to handle about 30 documents per day without pressure, but nearly 40 offices regularly exceed this limit. To address this, the government plans to allocate additional staff to highvolume offices.

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'What's wrong in placing KCR's photo in office'

SAI SURYA■ HYDERABAD

BRS MLA from Patancheru who joined the Congress party, Gudem Mahipal Reddy, asked what was wrong in placing former chief min - ister K Chandrasekhar Rao's photo in his office.

He said that KCR is a former chief minister and developed the State. So , what 's wrong if his photo is placed inhis office? Mahipal Reddy said that he will place the photo he wished in his house. Are we doing



Their thoughts are foolish. This is my house and I have the right to stay with my family. It is an official house.'

"If I like, I'll place Revanth Reddy's photo, if not, I won't," he said. "I was in touch with six to seven chief ministers in my political career," he added.

Mahipal Reddy made these comments after the attack on his camp office by his rival Kata Srinivas Goud's faction. Mahipal Reddy also said that he will not keep quiet if his rival faction attacks his office. He said that they will retaliate in this regard.

KTR hits back at Revanth's 'IT mindset'remark

SAI SURYA HYDERABAD

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) strongly responded to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's recent remark that "IT employees have employee mindset,.I politician, I have policy mindset". KTR called it an attempt to belittle his professional background. Through a post on X (formerly Twitter), KTR defended his roots in the IT sector while taking a sharp swipe at Revanth's political journey. "To those who think they can belittle me by calling me just an IT employee, I say: being part of the IT industry takes genuine talent, education, skill, and dedication ... Unlike

remarked, alluding to past controversies surrounding Revanth Reddy.

KTR lauded the contributions of IT professionals, stating that their ingenuity and hard work are the backbone of the modern tech world. "To my fellow brothers and sisters in the IT and ITES industry, I salute you. Your tireless efforts and brilliant minds drive innovation and progress globally. Without you, the wheels of advance-

ment would grind to a halt," he wrote. Addressing Revanth's leadership, KTR pointed out that some "accidental politicians" lack the credentials or work ethic to lead effectively. "Let's be honest: some accidental politicians can't hold a candle to the educationcarrying bags of cash to bribe MLAs or paying Delhi bosses for a job!" KTR al credentials or the work ethic of IT professionals," he said.

ing officials, including executive engi-

neers (EEs), deputy EEs, and super-

intending engineers (SEs), with vehi-

cles for efficient project monitoring.

Each official will receive Rs 33,000 per

Panchayati Raj Department ENC

Kanaka Ratnam expressed gratitude

to the government for addressing the

longstanding issue of vehicle short-

month as a vehicle allowance.



Anuja ' gets nomination for Oscar

SAI SURYA NEW DELHI

"Anuja", a New Delhi-set short film, on Thursday bagged a nomination in the Live Action Short Academy Awards.

"Anuja", directed by Adam J Graves and Suchitra Mattai, is pit-ted against "A Lien", "I'm Not a Robot ", "The Last Ranger" and "The Man Who Could Not Remain Silent" at the awards gala . The nominations for the 2025 Oscars , which were twice postponed earlier this month due to wildfires in Los Angeles, were announced by Bowen Yang and Rachel Sennott.

"Anuja" follows a gifted nine-year -old Anuja , who must make a choice between education and factory work alongside her sister - a decision that will shape both their futures. It stars Sajda Pathan and

Ananya Shanbhag. The film has two-time Oscar winning producer Guneet Monga on board as executive producer and Hollywood star - writer

Mindy Kaling as producer. Recently Priyanka Chopra Jonas boarded the proj - ect as an

executive producer. The 2025 Academy Awards will be held on March 2 at the Dolby Theatre in Los

Ram Gopal Varma gets 3 months jail in cheque bounce case; arrest warrant issued

SAI SURYA ■ MUMBAI

A court here has sentenced filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma to three months imprisonment in a cheque bounce case and issued a non-bailable arrest warrant against him.

Judicial Magistrate (First Class) in Andheri , Y P Pujari , on Tuesday convicted Varma for the offence punishable under the provisions of the Negotiable İnstruments Act.

The court also directed the film - maker to pay compensation of Rs 3,72,219 to the complainant with- in three months from the date of the order. The detailed order was not available yet.

Since Varma was not present before the court when the order was passed, it issued a standing nonbailable warrant against him for his arrest for execution of the sentence as per the Code of Criminal



Procedure (CrPC).

The complaint of cheque bounce was registered against Varma's firm in 2018 by a company. The court had granted bail to Varma in April

2022 on a cash security of Rs 5,000. With regard to the news about me and Andheri court, I want to clarify that it is to do with a 7 year old case of Rs 2 lakh 38 thousand amount, relating to my ex-employee.. My advocates are attending, the filmmaker later posted on his X

More funds to boost rural development SAI SURYA ■ HYDERABAD Govt allocates additional Rs 2,773 cr

The Telangana government has announced a fresh allocation of Rs 2.773 crore to boost rural development across the state, following the earlier sanction of Rs 2,682.95 crore. The funds will be utilized for critical infrastructure projects, including roads, drainage systems, and other essential amenities in villages.

Out of the newly sanctioned funds , Rs 1,419 crore is earmarked for CRR roads, Rs 1,288 crore for MRR funds, and Rs 66 crore under the PM Jan Man scheme. Additionally , Rs 197 crore has been allocated for rural con - nectivity under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), which includes the construction of BT roads to 25 tribal

The funds will support the construction of BT roads, CC roads in SC colonies, drainage canals, and road connectivity in tribal hamlets and Out of the newly sanctioned



funds, Rs 1,419 crore is earmarked for CRR roads, Rs 1,288 crore for MRR funds, and Rs 66 crore under the PM Jan Man scheme

allocating unprecedented funds. We remote villages. Minister Seetakka, who has been instrumental in securing these funds, expressed gratitude to Finance Minister Bhatti Vikramarka and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for prioritizing rural development.

Speaking at the Praja Bhavan, Minister Seetakka emphasized the government's commitment to rural progress. "Our government is giving top priority to rural development by

sanctioned Rs 2,682 crore in the first phase, and now another Rs 2,773 crore has been approved. These efforts will transform villages across Telangana," she said. The government also addressed

logistical challenges faced by Panchayati Raj and rural engineering officials by providing vehicle allowances. A budget of Rs 5 crore has been allocated to equip 237 engineer-

ages. "Previously, the lack of vehicle allowances caused significant hardships for engineers working in remote areas. We are deeply thankful to the government and Minister Seetakka for resolving this issue," she said. The additional funds and vehicle

provisions are expected to significanty accelerate rural development projects and ensure efficient supervision of ongoing works. Minister Seetakka reaffirmed the government's commitment to allocating more funds in the future to further enhance rural infra-

'TG pays Rs 12,486 cr subsidy for free power to farmers'

SAI SURYA■ HYDERABAD Telangana's Deputy Chief

Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu announced that the State government has paid Rs 12,486 crore to the energy department to cover subsidies for free electricity provided to farmers under its welfare initiatives. Speaking at the Telangana State Power Engineers Association's 2025 Diary and Calendar launch event on Thursday in Khairatabad, the Deputy CM emphasized the government's commitment to ensuring a robust and financial

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy CM criticized the previous government for neglecting sumers, and the agriculture secthe New Energy Policy for a decade, which he claimed hindered the state's progress. He praised the current government's efforts in implementing the policy, which has attracted significant investments to Telangana. "The New Energy Policy was formulated after extensive consultations and is designed to bring large-scale projects and invest-

ments to the state," he said. Bhatti Vikramarka assured

that the upcoming summer would witness uninterrupted power supply to industries, contor. He highlighted that the government has also paid Rs 1,538 crore to discoms for the Gruha Jyothi scheme, which provides free power up to 200 units for poor households, and Rs 199 crore for free electricity to government educational institu-

The Deputy CM announced that the government has promoted 5,000 employees in the energy sector and fulfilled pending

compassionate appointments. He assured that the government would continue supporting employees' welfare, recognizing their vital role in society.

He also noted the progress in completing long-pending projects like the Yadadri Thermal Power Station and Bhadradri Thermal Power Project. "Within a short time, we operationalized Unit-2 of the Yadadri plant, which was delayed for years due to environmental clearance issues," he said. The government has also resolved problems in hydel projects that were left the event.

unattended by the previous

The Deputy CM stressed the importance of transparency, accountability, and the freedom of expression for employees under the current government. He urged union leaders and management to collaborate to resolve issues and deliver efficient services to the public.

Energy Secretary Sandeep Kumar Sultania, Transco CMD D. Krishna Bhaskar, and association leaders Ratnakar Rao and Sadanandam also participated in

BRS opposes UGC proposals

Accuses Revanth govt of neglecting higher education

SAI SURYA■ HYDERABAD

Sabitha Indra Reddy and former MP B. Vinod Kumar strongly opposed the ed out that the proposed UGC University Grants Commission regulations if implemented, (UGC) draft proposals during a press meet at Telangana Bhavan on Thursday. The BRS leaders criticized the state government for its inaction and neglect in addressing critical changes proposed by the UGC, which they claim infringe upon the autonomy of states and undermine the federal spirit. Sabitha Indra Reddy highlighted that the UGC has sought feedback on its draft proposals by January 30 but accused the state government of remaining silent on such a vital issue. Despite having a and failing to stand up against week to respond, the state the UGC's draft recommendagovernment has neither acted tions. "The BRS demands that nor expressed its opinion. As the state government oppose the education minister, does-

n't Chief Minister Revanth Reddy have time to review Former education minister P. such an important matter?" she questioned.

The former minister pointwould transfer the power of appointing university Vice-Chancellors (VCs) entirely to the central government. "Until now, appointments are made through a search committee based on state government recommendations. The new rules would strip this power from states, placing it in the hands of the Governor. The BRS strongly opposes this move," she stated.

Sabitha also criticized the

the rights of the states," she asserted, adding that her party would not remain silent if the federal spirit is undermined.

Former MP B. Vinod Kumar revealed that the BRS held extensive discussions for over two and a half hours regarding the 11 clauses in the UGC draft. "Most of the clauses are against state interests," he said, adding that the party's detailed feedback would be uploaded on the UGC website tomorrow. "Once our feedback is submitted, we will hold another press meet to elaborate on our recommendations," Vinod Kumar stated. Both leaders accused the central government of eroding the federal structure and vowed to resist any attempts to centralize control over higher education. The BRS has made it clear that it will take a strong stand to safeguard the autonomy of universities and the rights of states.

TRUMP TO WEF

Manufacture in US or face tariffs

US President Donald Trump on Thursday addressed the World Economic Forum where he offered business leaders low taxes if they manufacture their products in the US, while threatening them with tariffs if they don't.

Áddressing the forum's Annual Meeting here through video conferencing, Trump also said he is going to ask Saudi Arabia and OPEC to bring down oil prices and asserted that if prices come down Russia-Ukraine war will end immediately.

Throughout the world, food prices went through the roof and I've taken immediate actions to control inflation in America, he said.

"United States has the largest amount of oil and gas in the world and I'm going to use it," he said.

"I promise to eliminate 10 old regulations for every new regulation... I am going to pass the largest tax cuts in the American history to help our people," he said.

At the same time, if a business doesn't manufacture its products in America, there would be tariffs to pay, he



Many companies globally have already announced billions of dollars worth of investments to set up their facilities in America, he said. "We will restore common sense among Americans," he added.

"I will make America manufacturing superpower and the world capital of artificial intelligence and crypto," he said.

The president, who was vorn-in on January 20, said a golden age of America has egun with his second term and the entire world would soon be more peaceful and prosperous. Inauguration of his second

presidency took place the same day when the five-day WEF Annual Meeting began. Trump also said his administration has accomplished in

four days what other regimes could not get in four years. "A golden age of America has soon stronger, united and more wealthier than ever," he said.

The entire planet will be more peaceful and prosperous as a result of this, he said while talking about the measures he has already announced and the further steps he will be taking going ahead in his second

My administration is acting with unprecedented pace to fix disasters we inherited from a totally inept group of people, Trump said about the previous Biden administration.

Replying to a question from Bank of America CEO Brian Moynihan, Trump said he hopes that BofA would allow $\bar{\text{conservatives}}$ do business with it as he has received complaints from many conservatives.He said the US used to have the most productive economy when it was beating China and everyone else but all of that was lost in the last few years.

"I blame it on politicians whose stupidity allowed others to overtake America and I'll not allow that to happen again," he

Trump also said he will soon meet Russian President Vladimir Putin and it would mainly to stop bullets that hit human bodies.

Kavitha seeks hike in BC quota to 42%

Writes letter to CM Revanth

SAI SURYA ■ HYDERABAD

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader and MLC K Kavitha on Thursday sent a stronglyworded letter to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, demanding an increase in reservations for Backward Classes (BCs) to caste census and a dedicated 42%, as promised in the commission expose its lack of Congress' Kamareddy BC commitment to BC welfare," Declaration ahead of the 2023

promises, Kavitha accused the of the caste census and clarify government of undermining the next steps. She questioned its declarations within the first the Congress' indifference year of coming to power. She towards BC issues, asking why BC welfare, contrary to the party's promise of Rs 20,000 crore per year. "This is just one example that reinforces of the province of the prov Congress' history of unful-filled promises," Kavitha stated, adding that the BC community is being subjected to "severe injustice" under the ed representatives. She critical the severe injustice in the sever Congress government.

Congress for not increasing the to increase reservations, BC quota in local bodies to describing it as a clear disre-42%, despite pledging to do so gard for democracy at the based on the caste census and grassroots level.

BC commission report within six months of coming to power. "Six months have passed, and now it has been a year, but there is no clarity on the fate of the BC quota. The government's delay tactics in the name of an unscientific she said.

Assembly elections.

Criticizing the Congress for failing to deliver on its poll

ment to make public the details

panchayats and zilla parishads has lapsed, leaving villages cized the government for Kavitha also lambasted delaying elections and failing

Attacks on national identity under guise of foreign culture: Bandi

SAI SURYA HYDERABAD

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar said there is a significant attack on national identity under the guise of foreign culture. He appealed to eminent scholars and writers to popularise literature and poetry rooted in dharma, saying that it is time for efforts to drive out falsehoods and personal agendas. He expressed concern over declining moral values and family bonds in society.

Swamy and "Fragrance of Life" (English translation) by Professor Kaluvakunta Ramakrishna at SRR College on Thursday, Bandi Sanjay said, "Corporate forces are imposing foreign ideals and culture on us. inspire a sense of nationalism Please enlighten today's youth and awaken the youth. Let ment of SRR College".



Releasing three books ture and traditions. If we lose "Ramayana Kalpavriksham - ourselves to foreign fancies and Lokanushilanam" by Dr forget our heritage, the damage Gandra Lakshmana Rao, "Dr will be immense. Create works Velichala Kondal Rao that highlight family bonds Jeevitham - Vangmaya Seva" by and moral values. Encourage Dr Mandaloju Narasimha people to read books like these instead of limiting themselves to television, serials, and the

Sanjay said that the writings should serve as a check against foreign influences. They should

and glorify the nation, instilling a sense of pride in the next generation, he said adding he is expecting more poetry that unites hearts.

Sanjay said, "Whenever I think of SRR College, I remember both conflicts and the certificates of victory. Back then, we used to constantly fight, but this college is also where I received all my election certificates. Hence, I am committed to contributing to the develop-

TPCC chief Mahesh constitutes panel to look into Patancheru incident

SAI SURYA HYDERABAD Telangana Pradesh Congress

Committee (TPCC) president B Mahesh Kumar Goud has constituted a committee to look into the incident that happened on Thursday in Patancheru Assembly segment with the following leaders Congress Government Whip Adi Srinivasd and TPCC vice-president MTG Vinod Reddy. The two-men Committee will examine and submit its report at an early

TPCC chief.

It may be recalled that the contested MLA candidate Kata Srinivas Goud faction barged into Patancheru MLA Gudem Mahipal Reddy's camp office on Thursday and destroyed the pink chairs and placed Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's photo on MLA's chair protesting against the attitude of Mahipal Reddy, who did not remove the former chief minister Chandrasekhar Rao's photo

in his office. The activists also tried to burn an effigy TPCC senior vice-presi - of Mahipal Reddy. However, dent T Kumar Rao issued the police stopped their this message on behalf of the effort.

Danam and Gudem singing anti-party ragas?

SAI SURYA HYDERABAD

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) MLAs joined Congress Danama Nagender and Gudem Mahipal Reddy (Patancheru) have changed their tone and have been singing anti-ragas.

Khairatabad constituency MLA Danam Nagender expressed anger over the GHMC, police and traffic officials, who removed the illegal constructions on footpaths in Chintal Basthi. Nagender rushed to the spot and stopped the work of the officials saying, 'Will you will disturb the people who come to Hyderabad for their livelihood? How can you demolish without my permission in my constituency?" on Wednesday.

Nagender also expressed the same sort of anger on the officials on Thursday too. He said that erally on the demolitions.

officials are not in a position to see the illegal constructions in Old City. He demanded the officials to demolish the illegal constructions in Old City first.

Nagender alleged that there is no control over the officials. The government will face trouble if it behaved in this manner, he said. We are not in a position to move freely among the people due to the activities of officials. I will not keep quiet if injustice is done to anyone." Nagender said, "Recently, when Kumari aunty was being harassed on the footpaths in Madhapur, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy responded and gave orders to the officials not to interfere with her. Now the Chief Minister has asked to give the same orders in the demolition of footpath encroachments. The officials should not act unilat-

Harish slams pension ...

Continued from page 1

"This is a disgraceful act and a betrayal of the people. On one hand, beneficiaries are being excluded, and on the other, the little pension amount they receive is being seized," he remarked.

Referring to incidents in Nannuru village under Hajipur mandal of Mancherial district, Harish Rao highlighted that 15 elderly people had been denied their pensions due to pending

He demanded the immediate release of their pensions and urged the government to ensure that pensions are not withheld for reasons such as tax arrears.

"The government must stop this inhumane practice and take immediate action to restore pensions to these individuals. It is deplorable to target the most vulnerable sections of society to cover up administrative lapses," Harish Rao said. He called on the Chief Minister and government officials to address this issue promptly, ensuring that pensions are distributed without any unjust deductions.

Rising TG shines at...

O	
Telangana Investment Announcements at WEF Annual Meeting 2025	
Company	Investment (INR Cr)
Unilever	Confirmed to establish the processing unit. Modalities are being worked out.
HCL Tech	Increase in the number of employees.
Amazon Web Services	60,000
Sify Technologies	10,000
Skyroot Aerospace	500
CtrIS	10,000
Megha Engineering	15,000
Phoenix	250
Ursa Clusters	5,000
Agility	400
Ramky Group	5,000
Infosys	Increase in the number of employees.
Wipro	Increase in the number of employees.
Suhana Masala	R&D and training institute for farmers.
Sun Petrochemicals	45,500
JSW Group	800
JCK Group	4,500
Tillman Global Holdings	15,000
Mytrah Energy	7,000
Eclat Health Solutions	Increase in the number of employees.
TOTAL	1,78,950

Continued from page 1

Private industrial parks received a boost with Ramky Group's decision to invest in integrated industrial parks, a dry port, and townships. Similarly, the MTS Group pledged investments, enhancing Telangana's position as an industrial hub.

Agriculture-related industries also made strides, with Unilever announcing two manufacturing units alongside other agro-based investments. The green energy and pump storage sectors showed immense potential for rapid growth, aligning with Telangana's focus on

A highlight of the trip was Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's presentation of his TelanganaRising 2050 vision, which found strong endorsement among global investors, entrepreneurs, and policymakers. Building on core strengths in software and pharma, Telangana will grow aggressively in Data Centres, Green Energy, Food Processing, Electric Vehicles, and Electric Semiconductors," he stated, emphasizing the state's ambition to be a key

player in the post-Covid "China Plus One" strategy. The CM outlined his vision to

make Telangana a \$1 trillion SDGP economy through aggressive clustering—urban services within the ORR, manufacturing in the zone between ORR and the proposed RRR, and agri-food processing beyond the RRR. At events on Urban Mobility,

Regenerative and Circular Spaces, and Nation Strategies, Revanth Reddy highlighted transformative infrastructure projects, including Metro Rail expansion, the Regional Ring Railway, Radial Roads, new airorts, Musi river rejuvenation, and lectric Vehicle promotion.

He also pitched the Skills University as a vital enabler for the state's workforce. "For the global investor community, the message is clear: Telangana Means Business. Our goal is not just economic growth, but creating jobs, improving incomes, expanding opportunities, and delivering enhanced welfare for our people," Revanth Reddy said, summarizing the state's development agenda.

INDIRAMMA HOUSES

Applications cross 10.71 lakh mark in GHMC limits

SAI SURYA ■ HYDERABAD

revealed that a total of 10.71 lakh Indiramma Illu website. applications have been received Moreover, they encouraged indifor Indiramma Houses under the viduals who missed earlier appli-Greater Hyderabad Municipal cation deadlines to submit their Corporation (GHMC) limits new applications during the Officials announced that the upcoming ward assemblies. scrutiny of 7.50 lakh applications In the first phase, the governhas already been completed as of ment plans to construct 3,500

Thursday. The remaining 3.21 lakh appli- the GHMC limits. cations are expected to be As per estimates, a total of reviewed within the next week.

Authorities stated that ward ed for the 24 constituencies meetings would be held in under GHMC jurisdiction.

GHMC areas only after the com This initiative is expected to pletion of the application survey, address housing demands across A total of 2,249 staff members the city and ensure equitable disare actively involved in scrutiniz - tribution of resources for those ing the applications across in need.

GHMC limits.

The survey details, officials The Housing department said, are accessible on the

houses per constituency within

Slot system mooted...

Continued from page 1

To book a slot, applicants will be required to upload relevant documents online. The system will automatically reject unauthorised layouts, restricted properties, and non-compliant assets under the LRS and BRS schemes. Only properties that meet all criteria will proceed to the slot booking stage. During the final registration process, sub-registrars will thoroughly verify documents, halting registrations if any discrepancies are found. Further scrutiny will be conducted before approval in such cases. The slot booking system

will be introduced in phases. In the first phase, the government plans to roll out the slot booking mechanism. In the second phase, integrated software will be deployed to enhance efficiency. The third phase will focus on granting licenses to eligible document writers as

service providers, with discussions ongoing about ensuring social equity in this process.

The department, which has faced significant allegations of corruption, has been marred by unauthorized registrations, including unapproved layouts, non-compliant properties under the BRS and LRS schemes, and irregular permissions for structures. Over the past five years, disciplinary action, including suspensions, has been taken against more than 70 officials for involvement in such activities.

Recent incidents, such as the registration of illegal layouts by a sub-registrar in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri and late-night registrations in erstwhile Khammam district, have prompted the government to take strict measures.

The Revenue Minister has ordered inquiries into these cases, signaling the administration's resolve to address irregularities.

ALMANAC Month & Paksham Tithi: Jan 23 05:37 PM Dashami to Jan 24 07:25 PM Ekadashi: Jan 24 07:25 PM to Jan 25 08:32 PM Anuradha: Jan 24 05:08 AM to Jan 25 07:07 AM 11:04 AM to 12:28 PM Rahukalam: 09:28 AM to 11:12 AM 09:27 PM to 11:11 PM Varjyam: 8:16 AM to 9:40 AM 07:51 PM to 09:35 PM Abhiiit Muhurtham: 12:05 PM to 12:50 PM HYDERABAD WEATHER Forecast: Sunny **Temp:** 31° Humidity: 47% Sunrise: 6:49 AM Sunset: 6:07 PM

Updated: January 23, 2025 5:00 PM



ACROSS THE STATES



Old Pension Scheme will remain in Himachal: CM

hief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Thursday said the Old Pension Scheme will continue as long as Congress is in power in Himachal Pradesh. Addressing a public gathering at Dari Mela Ground in Kangra's Dharamshala assembly constituency, Sukhu announced the construction of the country's largest international convention center near Tapovan at a cost of Rs 150 crore. He said the convention center would host seminars by major companies boost tourism and create employment opportunities for local youth, a statement issued here said. The Congress government fulfilled its election promise by reinstating the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) to 1.36 lakh government employees, Sukhu said and asserted that OPS will continue as long as Congress is in power in the state. The central government has reduced the state's loan limit by Rs 1,600 crore and imposed additional restrictions for reinstating the



'What are we without our land,' says Omar

mmu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday asserted the importance of a land and its people in forging their identity and exhorted them to never let it go. The land of Jammu and Kashmir, a region restive for decades, must be protected by its people at all costs, he said. "When we talk about these matters - about the Constitution, special status, and the prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir - we are also talking about our identity. And our identity is tied to our land," Abdullah said while addressing a function in the Bari Brahmana area of Samba district. "We want this land to remain ours. The land that Sheikh Abdullah, with a single signature, transferred to you without any compensation ... Without it, what do we truly possess?" he said."It must not be taken away from us, and this should remain our collective effort," he added.



SAD crisis: Akal Takht calls meeting of 'Singh Sahibans'

mid resentment over the alleged non-compliance of the Akal Takht's December 2 edict related to reorganizing the embattled SAD, Jathedar Giani Raghbir Singh Thursday called a meeting of the five Sikh high priests on January 28. Though Akal Takht secretariat officials in Amritsar did not disclose the agenda of the meeting of five 'Singh Sahibans' (Sikh high priests), they said it will discuss some important "Panthic" issues at the Akal Takht, the highest temporal seat of Sikhs. Meanwhile, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) announced that it has decided to depute rebel leader Gurpartap Singh Wadala as an observer for its new membership drive, which commenced on January 20. While pronouncing on December 2 religious punishment for Sukhbir Singh Badal and other leaders for the "mistakes" committed by the SAD government in Punjab from 2007 to 2017, the Akal Takht had also formed a seven-member committee for starting the membership drive and holding the elections for the post of SAD president and other office bearers within six months

'80% people could have avoided blindness with timely treatment'

SAI SURYA ■ MATHURA (UP) Nobel laureate Kailash

Satyarthi said Thursday there are 7 crore people blind people in the country and 80 per cent of them could have avoided losing their sight if they had

received timely treatment. He stated that India needs ceremony of 'Kalyanam Karoti advanced and modern oph- Netra Sansthan' located on the thalmic facilities, and it is Mathura-Goverdhan road. heartening to see that many The institution has been startsocial organisations are work- ed with a capacity of 200 ing in this direction, ahead of beds, which will soon be the government. Many Indians increased to 400 beds. are also working in this field, Shekhar Bajaj, the providing medical aid to poor Chairman of Bajaj Foun countries, the 2014 Nobel dation, was also present at the



addressing the inauguration

Peace Prize winner said while event as a special guest.

Cricket competitions for artists under the auspices of Aruna Hospital in Hastinapuram...

-Dappu artists are the ones who awaken the society. Youth leader and social activist Vallamla Santosh Yadav. -Santosh Yadav presented

prizes to the winners artists are the ones who awaken the society.. Dappu artists played the role of journalists in the era of technology, said youth leader and social activist Vallamla Santosh Yadav. Cricket competitions were organized for dappu artists from Manthan Gourelli, Mondi Gourelli and Yargandlapalli villages in Yaragandlapalli mandal in

Marriguda under the auspices ofAruna Multi Specialty Hospital in Hastinapuram - Managing Director Battu Srinivas Yadav. The winning teams were awarded prizes Santosh Yadav presented prizes to the Tandra Ambedkar Team (Mondi Gourelli) who won the first prize, the Andugala Srinivas Team (Yaragandlapalli) who won the second prize, and the Katika Shankar Team (Manthan Gourelli) who won the third prize and congratulated them. Speaking on the occasion, he said that along with studies , the youth should excel in games, songs and cultural programs He said that he will always support the sportsmen and students who show the best talent. He said that he congratulated the Managing Director of Aruna Multi Specialty Hospital Srinivas Yadav and the management organizing the cricket competitions for the drum artists. Tournament masters Tandra Ambedkar

Andugala Srinivas, Katika Shankar

, players and others participated in

the program.





Ayushman Bharat best of all schemes, says Amit Shah

SAI SURYA■ SURAT

Union Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) was the best among the public welfare schemes launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Addressing a gathering after inaugurating a trust-run cancer hospital and a sanatorium on Dumas road here. the Union Home minister also said the PM "has done sever - al historical works in just one lifetime".

"But if you ask me to point out the best one among all these schemes, I will say Ayushman Bharat Yojna. Under this scheme, nearly 60 crore citizens are now eligible to get free treatment of up to Rs 5 lakh," Shah opined.

The cancer hospital, built by a trust at a cost of Rs 250 crore, that was inaugurated here will accept patients

Ayushman Bharat card, he added.

"The Modi government took several steps to improve the healthcare scenario in the country. India's healthcare budget rose from Rs 37,000 crore in 2013-14 to Rs 98,000 crore under the Modi government, which indicates a threefold increase in allocation. The PM adopted a holistic approach for improving health services in the country," he

In 2014, there were 387 medical colleges which used to produce 51,000 MBBS doctors, while the number of medical colleges went up to 766, producing 1.15 lakh MBBS doctors, Shah pointed

Other initiatives include promoting the AYUSH sector, providing clean drinking water and promoting sports to increase immunity and resistance power among citizens, the Union minister said.



Was Saif really attacked, wonders minister Nitesh Rane

SAI SURYA PUNE

Maharashtra minister and BJP leader Nitesh Rane sparked a controversy on Thursday after he raised questions over the knife attack on Bollywood star Saif Ali Khan wondering if the Bollywood star was really attacked or if he was acting".

The statement from Rane comes a day after former Rajya

leader Sanjay Nirupam

Sabha MP and Shiv Sena raised questions about the

following a six-hour surgery for deep stab wounds.

Rane further spoke on per-ceived biases, claiming that while many speak out when a 'Khan' is attacked, similar attention is not given to Hindu actors. He was referring to late actor Sushant Singh Rajput, who died by suicide in June 2020, and said that opposition leaders like Jitendra Awhad and Supriya Sule had remained silent on Rajput's case but were now vocal about Khan's situation. "Opposition leaders Jitendra Awhad and Supriya Sule did not speak about (late actor) Sushant Singh Rajput. She is concerned only about

Saif Ali Khan," Rane alleged. The statement of Rane drew sharp criticism from Congress, which accused the government of mixing religion and politics. In response, Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole condemned Rane's remarks, labelling them as an attempt to create a "religious divide" and distract from pressing issues. "Mixing reli-

gion and politics is BJP's agenda to divert the attention from issues being faced by people," he said. He urged police to focus on capturing the actual perpetrator rather than politicising the situation and alleged that there are discrepancies in the probe as some reports suggest that the individual caught on CCTV may not be the same as the one arrested.

"Instead of raising Hindu-Muslim angle in law and order situations, police must catch

Unemployment, inflation rising due to wrong policies: Congress

The Congress on Thursday said the "ever-increasing' unemployment and inflation due to "wrong policies" of the Modi government have made life extremely difficult for lower and middle class families, and asserted that the country now needs a budget that provides relief from rising prices.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh shared a media "back-breaking inflation in the rich friends in the last ten vides relief from inflation!" years. Ever-increasing unem- he said. Will the government ployment and inflation due to take any concrete steps after wrong policies of the govern- listening to the problems of the ment have made life extreme- people, Ramesh asked. ly difficult for lower and mid-dle class families," Ramesh said in a post in Hindi on X.

report on X which claimed that pulses, petrol, diesel and vegetables are "skyrocketing", he last 10 years has emptied the said. "The burden of EMIs and pockets of the common peo- daily needs is increasing on "The Modani govern- every household. The country ment has only taken care of its now needs a budget that pro-

Congress The Wednesday claimed that it is d in a post in Hindi on X.
The prices of milk, flour, pointing Quarter 2 GDP

growth numbers are not a blip but a clear slowdown in the economy and the post-pandemic bump is not broadbased enough to power longterm growth.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday also hit out at the Modi government over its economic policies and asserted that real development is when everyone progresses, there is a fair environment for business. a fair tax system and the income of workers increases

Lawyers' names runs into 10 pages, order is few pages

SAYS SC ON MARKING APPEARANCES

SAI SURYA ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday raised concern over a large numbers of lawyers marking their appearance in cases, and their names running into several pages, whereas an order was only a few pages.

A bench comprising Justices Bela M Trivedi and Satish Chandra Sharma said if a lawyer was assisting the court effectively" it had no problem in adding the appearance.

dding the appearance. argued when asked to.
"Names of lawyers go into 10 "Or we would have clearly pages and the order will go into said you have no locus. only a few pages. We are not Whoever is attached with the passing any orders on how the lawyer, their names are there. names of advocates should be It cannot be done like that. included in the order. Since When we see they are assisting you are representing the Bar, you effectively, their names are we are hearing out," it said. there. We will pass the orders,"

we are hearing out," it said.

The top court said though the bench told senior advocate many lawyers appeared with Kapil Sibal, appearing for the the arguing counsel, nobody Supreme



Association (SCBA). Sibal submitted the SCBA and the Supreme Court Advocateson-Record Association would submit a proposal to regulate the issue.

"You are right; 30-40 names cannot be given. But some reasonable, fair procedure to ensure that genuine people who are here and their names should be added," he said.

Republic Day to showcase military prowess

SAI SURYA ■ NEW DELHI

Some of the cutting-edge defence platforms including BrahMos, Pinaka and Akash will be part of the 76 th Republic Day celebrations on Kartavya Path with Army's Battle Surveillance System 'Sanjay' and DRDO's surface-to-surface tactical missile 'Pralay 'set to be showcased in the ceremonial parade for the first time, officials said on Thursday.

India will display its military prowess and vibrant culture heritage on the majestic boulevard here on January 26, and the flypast will feature 40 IAF aircraft and three Dornier aircraft of the Indian Coast Guard. Lt Gen Bhavnish Kumar, Officer General Commanding, Delhi Area will be the Parade Commander

while Parade Second-in-



Staff (COS), Delhi Area, Maj Gen Sumit Mehta.

Interacting with mediaper-

Command would be Chief of Gen Mehta said the solemn event will showcase India's military prowess with a number of cutting-edge platforms, sons here soon after the com- a range of vibrant tableaux as pletion of the full dress well as the country's rich herrehearsal of the parade, Maj itage. T-90 'Bhishma' tanks, rocket launcher system

BrahMos and Pinaka missile systems, Akash weapon system, Sarath (Infantry Carrying Vehicle BMP-II), Short Span Bridging System 10m, Nag Missile System, multi-barrel

take part in the parade.

Asked what factors were kept in mind while lending names to such platforms such as 'Agnibaan' and 'Bajrang', the COS, Delhi Area said "Specialised vehicles made under 'Atmanirbhat Bharat' vision earlier reflected their capabilities, such as all-terrain vehicles, specialised mobility vehicle. We have given them names, they were not christened earlier. When they were being named, our cultural

heritage was also acknowledged through the names."

Asked which platforms are taking part in the Republic Day celebrations for the first time, Maj Gen Mehta said, Battle Surveillance System 'Sanjay' and DRDO's 'Pralay' weapon system will be seen in the parade for tehe first time. the ceremonial parade.

'Agnibaan', and 'Bajrang' The Indian Army will be rep-(Light Specialist Vehicle) will resented by a mounted column, eight mechanised columns, and six marching contingents, officials said. The mounted column will be represented by the 61 Cavalry.

The marching columns will consist of contingents from Brigade of the Guards contingent, Jat Regiment, Garhwal Rifles Regiment, J&K Light Infantry (JAKLI) regiment and a contingent of the Corps of Engineers. While 75 years of enactment of the Constitution is the focus of Republic Day celebrations this year, the theme for the tableaux is 'Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas'.Sixteen tableaux from various states and Union Territories and 15 from central government ministries, departments and organisations will pe part of

Trump's ultimatum

Trump's plain talk on the Ukraine war—'end it or face sanctions'— could mark a turning point in the conflict

n a dramatic intervention, US President Donald Trump has asked Russian President Vladimir Putin to bring an immediate end to the ongoing Ukraine war. Labeling the conflict 'ridiculous,' Trump warned of severe economic sanctions and tariffs against Russia if Putin failed to negotiate peace. The threat marks a sharp escalation in Trump's rhetoric on a war that has already claimed the lives of over a million soldiers on both sides. Speaking on Truth Social platform, Trump reaffirmed his affinity for the Russian people and his respect for Putin but did not shy away from criticising the Russian leader for prolonging the bloody conflict. "We must never forget that Russia helped us win the Second World War, losing almost 60 million lives in the process," Trump said, highlighting historical ties while urging an end to the ongoing devastation. Trump's approach combines a mix of hardline economic threats and diplomatic overtures. In his straightforward message he suggested that the economic repercussions of prolonged conflict

would be catastrophic for Russia. He emphasised that his preference was for a peaceful resolution.

The Ukraine war, which began with Russia's invasion in February 2022, has dragged on for nearly three years. The conflict has claimed the lives of nearly a million Russian soldiers and 700,000 Ukrainian troops. These staggering figures underscore the war's devastating impact, making it one of the deadliest conflicts of the 21st century. Economic consequences have also been severe, particularly for Russia. International sanctions, coupled with the strain of prolonged military operations, have left the Russian economy struggling with inflation and stagnation. Trump pointed to these eco-

nomic pressures as a potential leverage point, suggesting that a peace deal is in Russia's best interest. Trump's ultimatum reflects a marked departure from his earlier, more ambiguous stance on the conflict. Trump administration is in direct talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and Trump himself plans to engage with Putin directly. He appears intent on delivering on that promise with a mix of economic coercion and diplomatic engagement. Despite the grim reality of the war, Trump's comments offers a glimmer of hope for an early resolution. He has emphasised that both Zelensky and Putin should pursue a deal, suggesting that the leaders' willingness would be pivotal in ending the conflict. Trump's ultimatum to Putin could signal a turning point in the Ukraine war, but the path forward remains fraught with uncertainty. While the economic pressure could incentivise Russia to negotiate, the deep-seated political and territorial disputes fueling the conflict may prove challenging to resolve. As the world watches, Trump's next moves whether imposing sanctions, brokering a deal, or recalibrating military aid—will shape not only the future of the Ukraine war but also the broader geopolitical landscape. For now, one thing is clear: Trump is determined to make his mark on history by ending a war that has caused untold suffering and reshaped global politics.



Tourists pose for pictures at the Taj Mahal, in Agra

Can suspending commodity derivatives rein in food price



The debate over whether speculative trading in futures commodity markets drives food price inflation remains unresolved in India and across Asia

several concerns in India and across Asia, certain policy and key opinion circles that food price inflation is catalysed or influenced somehow by speculative trading in the futures commodity markets. Even while opinions are divided in policy circles and among economists who have studied and examined the nature of the relationship between food inflation and commodity and derivative futures trading contracts, and no empirical evidence hitherto seems to have been found despite numerous studies undertaken in India. It would be worth mentioning

that a detailed empirical research study conducted by leading researchers from the Indian Institute of Management Udaipur specifically studied three suspension events in India of futures traded commodities, which led the researchers to firmly state that the counterfactual for each of the examined episodes confirms that even in the absence of trading suspensions, food prices or inflationary trends would have followed their dynamic path.

Any upward price volatility could ostensibly be the effects or countereffects of various extraneous domestic or global (especially geopolitical) factors. It is also equally understandable and natural for any governing policy institution to be both fully cognisant and mindful of food price inflationary trends, and the fact that rising food prices can have a cataclysmic effect on food security and thus, by extension could have substantive socio-econom-Successive policy establishments

and ecosystems have always been overly cautious, ever since futures trading commodity derivatives exchanges were established in the early 2000s. Despite the mandate of such commodity exchanges that futures trading contracts encourage effective and fair price discovery and risk hedging, which consequently safeguards the commodity value chain from price risk which is a result of a fundamental play between demand and supply the apprehensions those of Bengal Gram (Chana)



concerning these market-driven tools continued to remain, manifesting itself the way of multiple instances of suspensions on certain commodity derivative contracts.

While trading suspensions have been a constant feature since 2007-2008, under the advisement of the price monitoring mechanisms and agencies within the government policy ecosystem, there never has been an occasion when suspensions of commodity trading exceeded more than a year in a single stretch, barring the odd 'sensitive' food commodity. So as a commodity markets expert, with a domestic and world view of ongoing trading in global commodity markets, one begs to specifically ask - Do derivatives trading suspensions really rein in food price inflation?

Researchers have constantly alluded to synthetic control methodologies to apply to their studies for studying specific suspensions, their findings fairly and comprehensively conclude and determine that there is no empirical evidence that derivatives suspension had any impact whatsoever on food prices.

On the contrary, from specific instances studied, such as



SUCCESSIVE **POLICY ESTABLISHMENTS**

> **ECOSYSTEMS** HAVE ALWAYS **BEEN OVERLY** CAUTIOUS, **EVER SINCE FUTURES** TRADING COMMODITY **DERIVATIVES EXCHANGES**

WERE ESTABLISHED

Seed Derivatives in October 2021, analysis from the said report from IIM Udaipur shows that prices of both commodities, Chana and mustard oil, would have continued on the same price trend path even without the suspension. To specifically quote a potent segment of the said study - it clearly articulates that the conducted research does not find any role of futures market trading on price changes, nor does it find any empirical evidence of the impact of suspension of trade on price behaviour in the period after suspension. Rather, the analysis shows that prices of commodities such as mustard oil would have had a similar trend even without the suspension. Furthermore, the study finds that before the suspension futures market had a dominant

the mustard seed commodity The study goes on further to articulate that commodity derivative suspensions hurt genuine participants discourage the growth of domestic agri-derivatives markets and resultantly impact the growth of price hedging prospects of

the commodity value chain

share of 64 per cent in discov-

ering the true and fair price of

including CBBOs (Cluster Business Organisations) and FPOs (Farmer Producer Organisations), while consequently hurting the value realisation and income levels of

farmers. It also adversely impacts India's position in providing a global price benchmark, despite the country being a major producer and consumer of several agricultural commodities. Needless to say, as an active observer of the Indian agribased commodity trading ecosystem, it behove advocacy and argument that summary commodity suspensions as a method to arrest or contain food price inflation should not be adopted and further the suspension of futures trading contracts of agricultural commodity derivatives must be revoked. In closure, one must say emphatically that the development of the agri-derivatives market is supported in India, which in turn will lead to fair price discovery and transparent hedging of price risks, eventually creating a positive socio-economic impact for farmers and the agri-ecosystem in India.

(The writer is national president of Commodity Participants Association of *India*; views are personal)

Al and defence dynamics: Global trends and India's adaptation



India is harnessing AI to enhance national security, counter threats and establish itself at the forefront of the defence innovation landscape

ross-border terrorism and geopolitical tensions, such as the Russia-Ukraine conflict and Israel-Iran hostilities, have driven unprecedented defence spending since World War II. To counter these threats, nations are leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) to build resilient defence systems. AI enhances national security by enabling robust decision-making to detect, analyse, and address complex threats across multiple

The Shift Towards AI in

Defence strategies, reducing reliance on human personnel. The US military's active-duty personnel are at their lowest levels in eight decades, while the U.K. has seen a 30 per cent reduction since 2000, largely due to AI-driven tools replacing soldiers in high-risk operations. With advancements in IoT and data analytics, experts predict a significant increase in AI-based defence systems globally. India's AI-Driven Defence **Evolution**

AI is transforming defence India, a leading G20 nation, is actively integrating AI into its defence framework to counter internal and external threats. Initiatives like the 2022 launch of 75 AI-enabled defence products highlight India's focus on cybersecurity, automation, and autonomous sys-

> The Ministry of Defence (MoD) allocates \$12.6 million annually for AI projects, including the establishment of an AI center at the Military College of AI (mimicking human cog-Telecommunication nition) and Weak AI the Military College of

(focused tasks), intelligence agencies enhance security, mitigate breaches and safeguard civilians and public institutions.

Challenges and Future Prospects

Despite promising advancements, AI adoption in India's defence faces challenges, including data privacy, cybersecurity and ethical concerns and endiaged and experience of the control of ical concerns surrounding autonomous systems. To remain competitive, India must increase investments in research, collaborate internationally and address accountability issues tied to AI-driven military oper-

ations. Conclusion

Engineering (MCTE).

Additionally, the 2024

launch of India's first AI

Data Bank aims to enhance

national security through

real-time analytics and pre-

AI in Security and

analysing behaviour, com-

munications and psycho-

logical patterns to identify

risks. Using both Strong

dictive capabilities.

Surveillance

By adopting a risk-based regulatory framework, India can ensure the ethical and effective deployment of AI in defence. While challenges persist, the ongoing innovations and strategic AI aids investigation agencies in video surveillance and threat detection, bilities transcend traditioninitiatives signal a future al methods, embracing AI as a cornerstone of national security.

(The writer is Co-founder & CEO, Innefu Labs; views are personal)

PANIC KILLS PASSENGERS

Madam — Twelve passengers on the Pushpak Express were killed and 55 injured after jumping from the tight-packed unreserved coaches onto the track in panic, fearing a fire (they don't even notice or hear approaching trains), only to be run over by the Karnataka Express near Pachora railway station in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra. Unable to understand when the public will get some sense. Why do they need to wander on tracks even if they had jumped out of a train that they thought was on fire?

Though for this sad mishap we definitely cannot blame the railways from any angle. Even though people may have agreed with me that Indians have lost trust and faith in the railway administration to such an extent that without verifying the rumour, they believe it (smoke that perhaps sparked rumours of a fire) and act accordingly. This shows total distrust of the railways. This is not the first instance; the Jalgaon tragedy revives the painful memory of a similar accident in which 21 women and a boy lost their lives in

Mumbai's Goregaon.
On October 13, 1993, passengers on Western Railway's 'ladies special' local between Borivali and Kandivali jumped off a first-class compartment onto the tracks after seeing smoke rise from the undercarriage of their stationary train. Whatever, we all know how our system works. It's the responsibility of people who travel to take care of themselves, not the railway. Yes, it is really tragic for people to lose their lives. It is a big loss to their families. A moment of profound grief and sorrow. . May God give strength to all the deceased family members at this difficult time. May their souls rest in peace. Om Shanti.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

FREEBIES HURT ECONOMY

Madam—The growing trend of offering freebies during elections, such as in the Delhi Assembly polls, poses significant challenges to both the economy and democracy. Economically, these promis-

US withdraws from



n a tearing hurry to make America great again, Trump bombarded his country and the rest of the world with a slew of executive orders. He withdrew the US from the World Health Organisation, alleging that the global agency had mishandled the COVID-19 pandemic. His own handling of the coronavirus catastrophe was dreadful—over 3,50,000 deaths were reported in the US in 2020, the final year of his first term-but those glaring lapses are of no con-

es strain public finances, divert resources from critical sectors, and create an unsustainable dependency culture.

Over time, this undermines fiscal discipline and hampers long-term development. In the democratic sphere, freebies erode accountability, manipulate voter choices, and shift focus away from systemic reforms. They often favour immediate political gains over addressing structural inequalities, weakening institutions, and fostering inequity. While welfare measures are essential for uplifting marginalised groups, they must be carefully balanced with sustainable policies. Policymakers should prioritise structural reforms, economic growth, and targeted welfare instead of indulging in competitive populism. Ultimately, a balanced approach is key to safeguarding both fis-cal health and the integrity of democrat-

Gopalaswamy J | Chennai

RUPEE'S FURTHER DECLINE EXPECTED

Madam — India's Weakening Rupee and its expected Impact on the Indian Stock

of international collaboration to combat any future pandemic. Trump also signed America's withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement, whose main goal is to limit global warming to 1.5□C above pre-industrial levels.

Last year ended as the planet's hottest on record,

and the target looks even more improbable now with the US jumping ship. In an irrational way, the President pardoned 1,500-odd protesters who stormed the US Capitol on January 6, 2021, in a bid to prevent lawmakers from certifying his election defeat. The incident was a big blow to American democracy. In stark contrast, there is bad news for those desperate to sneak into the US, as Trump has declared illegal immigration at the US-Mexico border a "national emergency." It's America First for him-and the world must brace itself for the worst.

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

Market and on Companies with Large USD Borrowings and other relevant issues. Rupee's further decline cannot be avoided. RBI's own calculations indicate a large overvaluation of the rupee, so a lot more decline of the rupee against the dollar must happen, especially if the US

In case of a large and rapid rupee decline, the economy and stock markets could be disrupted. Therefore, economic turmoil is unavoidable. If the rupee becomes significantly weaker against the dollar, the debt and interest repayment burden of these Indian companies will go up. If the rupee is strong, then dollar debt becomes cheaper. So, nobody gained from this RBI pivot of 2022. Short-term strategies can sometimes have long-term consequences. India got into this mess by betting on high GDP growth, which can be the only saviour in this situation. But now the GDP growth itself has slowed.

Jayanthy Subramaniam | Mumbai

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