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Rs 6k cr scheme for pharma.

Striking a chord with

Data collected around

L1 would provide

insights into the origin,

acceleration, and

anisotropy of solar

QUOTE OF THE DAY the pioneer The people of Telangana are tired of the lacklustre governance of the BRS. They are equally distrustful of the Congress. Both the BRS and the Congress are dynastic parties that have no intention to serve the people. The people of Telangana will gain a lot from these projects worth around Rs 13,500 crore.

- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Deadline to exchange

The Reserve Bank on Saturday

extended the special drive to with-draw Rs 2,000 bank notes from the

system by another week, till

The central bank said ever since

it announced the move to with-

draw Rs 2,000 notes on May 19, Rs

3.42 lakh crore of such notes have

been received into the system

either by deposition into bank accounts or exchanging, from the

The currency returned is 96 per

cent of the Rs 2,000 bank notes in

circulation as on May 19, the Reserve Bank said in a statement, adding only Rs 14,000 crore of such notes are in circulation now.

Earlier, the deadline to deposit/exchange Rs 2,000 notes was September 30, 2023.

"It has been decided to extend the current arrangement for deposit/exchange of Rs 2,000 ban-knotes until October 07, 2023," the

central bank said in a statement. In a surprise move, it had announced withdrawal of Rs 2,000

notes in May, but maintained that

it was not akin to the demonetisa-

tion carried out in November

2016 when Rs 500 and Rs 1,000

notes were made illegal tender

er denomination notes were intro-

duced for a faster remonetisation

of the economy and the move had

served its purpose.

In May 2023, RBI said the high-

Rs 2,000 notes

PNS MUMBAI

October 7.

extended till Oct 7

#### TDP-JSP tie-up unethical; won't..

State Planning Board vicechairman Malladi Vishnu has said that the alliance between Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Jana Sena Party (JSP) is unethical and will not last long as the people of the State are aware of erstwhile TDP government's corrupt practices and the opportunistic attitude of the JSP. He claimed that YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is the only Chief Minister who has transformed the State into 'Welfare Andhra Pradesh' during the four years of assuming power...

#### Collector oversees conduct of...

Stating that the 'Jagananna Aarogya Suraksha' (JAS) programme has come as a boon to the poor, district Collector P Prashanthi appealed to the people to utilize the services of JAS. The Collector on Saturday conducted a surprise inspection of the JAS programmes which were organized at the girl high school here. The District Collector visited the help desk, OP registration, spot registration, IT room, allotment of doctors, lab, YSR Aarogyasri Help Desk, doctors' rooms, medicine counter, nutrition...

#### Focus on niche products to tap...

The first edition of Global Travel Market (GTM 2023) and expo drew to a close here on Saturday with leading players of travel and hospitality sector calling for stepping up promotional efforts re on niche are: like experiential travel, wellness and heritage to tap the full potential of post-pandemic surge in tourism. The four-day event which saw a large number of business decisions being clinched during the B2B sessions by stakeholders from around the world, also stressed...

A govt shutdown

is nearing...

-PAGE: 6

WHAT IS A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN? A shutdown happens when Congress fails to pass some type of funding legislation that is signed into law by the president. Lawmakers are supposed to pass 12 different spending bills to fund agencies across the government, but the process is time-consuming. They often resort to passing a temporary extension, called a continuing resolution or CR, to allow the government to keep operating. When no funding legislation is enacted, federal agencies must stop all nonessential work and will not send paychecks as long as the shutdown lasts. Although employees deemed

air traffic controllers...

essential to public safety such as

The State government on Saturday suspended Pendyala Srinivas, an assistant secretary rank officer, in connection with the alleged kickbacks on behalf of former chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu from the construction companies engaged in Amaravati works.

Orders to this effect were issued

# Aditya-L1 escapes sphere of Earth's influence

ISRO said on Saturday the Aditya-L1 spacecraft has travelled beyond a distance of 9.2 lakh km from Earth, successfully escaping the sphere of Earth's influence.

It is now navigating its path towards the Sun-Earth Lagrange Point 1 (L1), the Bengaluru-headquartered national space agency said in a statement on X, formerly

"This is the second time in succession that ISRO could send a na, it said.

spacecraft outside the sphere of influence of the Earth, the first time being the Mars Orbiter Mission," it

The ISRO said earlier this month the Aditya-L1 solar mission spacecraft has commenced collecting data which will help scientists analyse the behaviour of particles surrounding Earth.

Data collected around L1 would provide insights into the origin, acceleration, and anisotropy of solar wind and space weather phenome-



wind and space weather phenomena, it said.

The launch of Aditya-L1 by accomplished by ISRO on PSLV-C57 rocket was successfully

Aditya-L1 spacecraft carries a total seven different payloads to study the Sun, four of which will observe the light from the Sun and the remaining three will measure insitu parameters of the plasma and magnetic fields.

Aditya-L1 will be placed in a halo orbit around the Lagrangian Point 1 (L1), which is 1.5 million km from the Earth in the direction of the Sun. It will revolve around the Sun with the same relative position and hence can see the Sun con-

#### AMARAVATI INNER RING ROAD SCAM CASE

# **CID** serves notice to Lokesh

#### • The TDP's national general secretary to attend hearing on Oct 4

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh CID officials served a notice under 41A to Nara Lokesh, who is A 14 in the Amaravati Inner Ring road scam case on Saturday. As per the CID notice, Lokesh should attend the hearing on October 4 at

The notice was issued to Lokesh at MP Galla Jayadev's residence in New Delhi. The AP High Court has ordered Lokesh to accept the notice and cooperate with the authorities in the investigation.

The CID registered a case on the complaint lodged by Mangalagiri MLA Alla Ramakrishna Reddy against the land grabbing carried out by the then TDP government under the guise of Amaravati Master Plan and Inner Ring Road Alignment designs.

Meanwhile, then Chandrababu Naidu, Minister P Narayana, Chandrababu Naidu's close associate Lingamaneni Ramesh, Lingamaneni Surya Rajasekhar, Anjini Kumar, director of Ramakrishna Housing Limited and others were named. in the case.

Chandrababu Naidu's son and then minister Nara Lokesh was also included in the scam as accused number 14.

The CIS Special Investigation Team (SIT) says that Lokesh, son of former CM Chandrababu Naidu, played a key role in the land grab-



The CID registered a case on the complaint lodged by Mangalagiri MLA Alla Ramakrishna Reddy against the land grabbing carried out by the then TDP government under the guise of Amaravati Master Plan and Inner Ring Road Alignment designs.

close associate Lingamaneni Ramesh, Lingamaneni Surya Rajasekhar, Anjini Housing Limited and others were named as accused in the case.

Then CM Chandrababu Naidu, Minister | The CIS Special Investigation Team (SIT) says P Narayana, Chandrababu Naidu's | that Lokesh, son of former CM Chandrababu Naidu, played a key role in the land grabbing in the name of finalising Amravati IRR alignment Kumar, director of Ramakrishna | during the TDP government. It is stated in the memo submitted to the court that Lokesh has been included as A 14 in this case

bing in the name of finalising Foods and Lingamaneni's family the TDP government.

It is stated in the memo submitted to the court that Lokesh has been included as A 14 in this case. In the name of IRR Alignment, Chandrababu Naidu and Lokesh committed quid pro quo and thereby committed illegalities to increase the value of their family's Heritage

Knowing in advance where the capital would be built, they acquired land in Tadepalli, Thullur, and Mangalagiri mandals in advance and Lingamaneni Ramesh committed quid pro quo and lands were acquired in Amaravati.



A division bench of the

## TDP headed for a leadership crisis?

**C PRADEEP KUMAR** VIJAYAWADA

After TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu got arrested in the Skill Development scam case, his party's general secretary, Nara Lokesh, moved to New Delhi to get support from national political leaders. Unfortunately, he didn't succeed. Some experts think Lokesh is in Delhi to avoid getting arrested in other scam investiga-tions. On Saturday, CID officials sent

Lokesh a notice onment scam. They asl October 4, and what happens next depends on the CID.

Investigative agencies keep filing cases for various scams that occurred during TDP's rule from 2014 to 2019. These include the Skill Development scam, Amaravati Inner Ring Road Scam, Amaravati

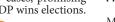


The TDP, which has been around for over 40 vears, is in deep trouble because they don't have a leader if Lokesh gets arrested in any of these scams, according to political analyst.

Rajahmundry. regarding the Amaravati Inner Ring Initially, TDP supporters were enthusiastic about I him to appear at the CID office on they're worried because both father and son are trying to get bail for multiple cases in various courts.

iailed

During the padayatra, Lokesh encouraged young TDP supporters to take on many cases, promising rewards when TDP wins elections.



scam, Fibernet

The TDP, which

has been around

for over 40 years, is

in deep trouble

because they don't

have a leader if

Lokesh gets arrest-

ed in any of these scams. That's what

political analysts

are saying.
The Yuvagalam

Padayatra, which was led by TDP chief Naidu, has

stopped since he got arrested and

scam, and more.

PNS NEW DELHI

Medical colleges that fail to comply with statutory provisions and National Medical Commission's regulations can be fined Rs 1 crore per violation, according to the new set of rules notified by the apex regulator on medical education and

Medical colleges could be

fined Rs 1 cr for violation

of new NMC rules

A penalty of Rs 5 lakh can be imposed on the faculty/head of department/dean/director/doctor submitting false declaration/documents/records, including patients' records.

Further, they can also be charged or penalised for misconduct under the Registered Medical Practitioner (Professional Conduct) Regulations and the 'Maintenance of Standards of Medical Education Regulations, 2023, the new rules notified on September 27 stated.

If a medical college fails to comply with the statutory provisions and regulations as prescribed by the respective boards of the NMC the commission may also withhold and withdraw accreditation for a period up to five academic years, the regulations said.

## SC to hear Naidu's SLP on Oct 3



## Naidu's former PA suspended from job

PNS VIJAYAWADA

by Chief Secretary KS Jawahar Reddy on Saturday. The orders said Srinivas was being suspended for not responding to the show-cause



The special leave petition filed by Naidu, challenging the High Court judgment against quashing the case filed by the Crime Investigation Department (CID) accusing him of masterminding the Skill Development scam, has been listed for hearing by the Supreme Court on October 3, it is reliably learnt.

A division bench of the Supreme Court comprising Justice Anirudh Bose and Justice Bela Trivedi will be hearing Naidu's SLP at Court No. 6 on October 3. Though it is unlikely that Naidu would get any immediate relief in the case, it is good news that a bench has been constituted to hear his petition.

Earlier, there were reports that the case might get postponed to October 6, as the petition was nowhere seen in the cause list of the Supreme Court on October 3, as there are several other important cases

The Crime Investigation Department filed a caveat before the Supreme Court saying that it should hear the arguments of the CID first, before taking up Naidu's petition. So, it would take its own time to present its arguments. On September 23, Naidu moved the

Supreme Court challenging the state high court order dismissing his petition to quash the case filed by the state Crime Investigation Department (CID) in the alleged multi-crore skill development cor-poration scam. After frantic attempts made by his lawyer Siddharth Luthra, the case came up before a bench of Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice SVN Bhatti on Wednesday, but Justice Bhatti recused himself from the case, stating that it could be transferred to another bench.

Luthra approached Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud for an urgent hearing, but the latter deferred the case to October 3 for a hearing.

## Tirumala bursting at the seams with holiday rush



PNS TIRUPATI

With the second week of Saturday in the auspicious Puratasi month coinciding with a string of holidays extending until October 2, the roads leading to Tirumala from Tirupati have witnessed an extraordinary influx of devoted

The parking lots at Alipiri have been swamped with buses, notably from Tamil Nadu, stretching all the way to SV Vedic University along Álipiri Road. Since Friday, buses have been strategically lined up on both sides of Alipiri Road to accommodate the throngs of

Both compartments in VQC 1 and 2, as well as Narayanagiri Sheds, are fully occupied, and the queue lines have extended beyond Nandakam Rest House, covering a staggering distance of over five kilometers.

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has left no stone unturned in its preparations, ensuring that devotees in the winding queues since Thursday are provided with Annaprasadam, beverages, and drinking water. Senior officers from Tirupati have been dispatched to oversee the facilities in various areas at regular

A contingent of approximately



NG Sheds, external lines, luggage 2500 Srivari Sevaks has been assigned to different shifts, mancounters, laddu counters, aging Vaikuntham compartments, Annaprasadam distribution,

reception, 'kalyanakatta', queue line management within the temple, and chappal stands, among others. All officials and department heads are maintaining continuous vigilance over the pilgrimage situation and ensuring the comfort of waiting pilgrims. As of 12 noon on Saturday, September 30, tokenless devotees

are experiencing an approximate 48-hour wait for darshan of Sri Venkateswara Swamy. The Radio and Broadcasting wing of TTD has been issuing regular announcements, urging devotees to plan their pilgrimage accordingly, considering the extended waiting times for darshan.



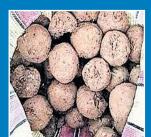
# **GVMC** ties up with Navy for deployment of seed balls

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

In an effort to enhance the city's vegetation, the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) is partnering with the Indian Navy to initiate seed ball planting on the hills of Visakhapatnam. GVMC Commissioner CM Saikanth Varma has been in discussions with Naval officials to pinpoint appropriate hilly areas for the seed ball planting project.

Commissioner Varma conveyed his gratitude for the support of Naval officers in improving the city's ecological surroundings. Our partner-ship, scheduled to align with Gandhi Jayanti on October 2nd, intends to deploy seed balls using helicopters onto seven prominent hills situated within the city's confines.

The selected hills include Kapuluppada Hill, Simhachalam Hill, Porlupalem Hill near Meghadri, Vedulla Narava Hill, Yarada Hills, and the Bheemili Pavurala Hill region. Also in attendance were



At a meeting at INS Dega, Commissioner Varma had discussions with Naval Officers Commando Deepak Singh and Captain Raj Kumar Saddar. Simultaneously, the

Commissioner encouraged citizens to participate in the 'Ek Tareek-Ek Ganta' Shramadan campaign, which is part of the Swachhata Hi Seva program under the Swachh Bharat Mission.

GVMC Additional Commissioner Dr. Y Srinivasa Rao, Zonal Commissioner RGV Krishna, Supervising Engineer Venugopal, and other officials.

Commending GVMC Commissioner Saikanth Varma for his exemplary passion, visionary outlook, and adept management skills, environmentalist and historian Sohan Hatangadi emphasised that Vizag is truly fortunate to

possess a team that comprehends the immense significance of both tree preservation and tree planting. He also requested to contemplate the inclusion of Thotlakonda, Bavikonda, and the flat terrains surrounding significant natural water bodies in the aerial

seeding initiative. At a meeting at INS Dega, Commissioner Varma had dis-

Commando Deepak Singh and Captain Raj Kumar Saddar. Simultaneously, Commissioner encouraged citizens to participate in the "Ek Tareek-Ek Ganta" Shramadan campaign, which is part of the Swachhata Hi Seva program under the Swachh Bharat Mission

The cleanliness initiative is

scheduled for October 1st at

Rushikonda and RK beaches, running from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. The event will see the participation of the Collector, GVMC Commissioner, and police officers. Additionally, students, NGOs, resident welfare societies, and voluntary organizations are warmly invited to take part. The objective is to clean up public spaces, including parks, offices, schools, bus terminals, train stations, and temples across all city wards. The Commissioner urged citizens to play an active role in enhancing the cleanliness and beauty of Visakhapatnam as a vital component of the Eco-Vizag initia-

## Facelift to 11 railway stations sought

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Federation (AP Chambers) president Potluri Bhaskar Rao, general secretary B. Raja Sekhar and EC Member Gurjeet Singh Sahni called on the Divisional Railway Manager (Vijayawada Division) Narendra Patil at his office in Vijayawada. They briefed him about the suggestions to improve the Vijayawada Division and submitted a representation. AP Chambers hailed the announcement of the Railway Ministry to give a facelift to 11 railway stations in the Vijayawada Division to improve the aesthetic appeal of the stations and also to contribute to overall passenger satisfaction and safety.

The Chambers leaders stated that the introduction of the Visakhapatnam – Vijayawada Vande Bharat Train has brought down the travel time drastically and many air and road travellers migrated to train travel. As Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam are the two major cities in Andhra Pradesh and thousands of commuters travel between these two cities on a daily basis, the Chambers appealed to the



DRM to introduce Vande Bharat Express in the opposite direction to commence from Vijayawada in the morning and to return by late evening.

AP Chambers thanked the Ministry of Railways for recently launching Vande Bharat Train service between Vijayawada and Chennai. The Chambers requested the Railways to reduce the running duration of the train between these two cities from the current 6 hours and 40 minutes to 4 hours and 30 minutes so that it is beneficial to the travellers between the two cities.

The Chambers also recommended introducing the Vande Bharat Train service from Vijayawada to Bangalore via Tirupati as thousands of pilgrims visit Tirupati on a reg-

sands travel to Bangalore from Vijayawada. As a measure to decongest the Vijayawada Railway station, which is one of the busiest and most important railway junctions in the country, AP Chambers requested the DRM to increase the number of platforms in Vijayawada Railway junction. The Chambers also appealed to the SCR to develop Gunadala and Rayanapadu stations as satellite stations to ease the congestion at the Vijayawada station. AP Chambers mentioned

that even though Vijayawada Railway Division is one of the busiest stations, very few trains originate from the Vijavawada station. The Chambers stated that it has been requesting for more trains to be introduced from Vijayawada to major cities like Delhi, Bangalore, Kochi, Howrah, etc., and requested the DRM to appeal for adequate allotments in the 2024 budget. The Chambers also requested faster completion of the East Coast Dedicated Freight Corridor at the earliest and the commencement of the North-South DFC NSDFC) from Itarsi-Nagpur-Vijayawada as it will help in lowering the logistics cost to the industry.

## APWC urges DGP to take action against TDP leader

PNS VIJAYAWADA

AP Women's Commission (APWC) Chairperson Vasireddy Padma on Saturday wrote a letter to AP DGP KV Rajendranath Reddy seeking to take y action against Telugu Desam leader and ex-minister Bandaru Satyanarayana for adverse comments and personal abuse on Minister for Tourism RK Roja.

In the letter, Padma said that Bandaru Satyanarayana, ex-minister in his press meeting had made adverse comments with despicable and unpronounceable derogatory remarks by personally abusing Minister Roja, misrepresenting her in society and

damaging her morally by intending to insult her modesty and defame woman Minister. She said that DGP is requested to kindly enquire and expedite strict action as per the rules and law regarding defamation, depersonalization, and intolerable remarks on women ministers and teach a lesson to anti-

Further, YSR Congress MLC Pothula Suneetha lodged a complaint against Bandaru atyanarayana with Vasireddy Padma. She and other women leaders submitted the complaint to the APWC chairperson on Saturday. Suneetha said that Bandaru Satyanarayana, a member of the Telugu Desam Party, had recently conducted a Press Meet, wherein he had made several outrageous comments against Minister Roja. She mentioned that in the said speech, Satyanarayana had made false, derogatory, offensive, and outrageous remarks including claiming that the woman minister had acted in blue films (pornography) and how many blue films had been made.

MLC Suneetha pointed out that the utterances of TD leader Satyanarayana are violative of the Right to Live with Dignity that is guaranteed to a woman under Article 21 of the Constitution of India.

## TDP stages 'noisy' protest

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The "Motha Mogiddam" programme was organised all over the State as a response to a call from the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) on Saturday in protest against the arrest of former chief minister, N Chandrababu People in different places

came out in groups and made noise by whistling, ringing bells, banging dining plates with spoons, and honking car horns to show their disapproval of Naidu's arrest.

This "Motha Mogiddam' event was held from 7 pm to 7:05 pm on that day. TDP general secretary Nara Lokesh participated in the noise-making programme, along with



other TDP leaders like MPs R Raghu Ramarishna Raju, Kanakameda Ravindra Kumar, and K Rammohan Naidu in New Delhi. Nara Brahmani, who is Naidu's daughter-inlaw, also joined the event in Rajahmundry. The programme was conducted in various other

states, including Telangana, Karnataka, and even in some other countries, according to TDP leaders.

On the other hand, Chandrababu's wife Nara Bhuvaneshwari, Lokesh's wife Nara Brahmini, and others participated in the "Motha

Mogiddam" programme to protest against Chandrababu's

Later, speaking to the media, Nara Lokesh mentioned that he had received a notice from the AP CID police, asking him to appear for questioning on October 4 at 10 am in their office at Mangalagiri. He stated that he would attend the questioning on that day.

Lokesh claimed that the Inner Ring Road construction works had not been initiated and there were only proposals for it. However, he felt that he was falsely accused in the scan-

Lokesh also alleged that the AP CID had become closely associated with the ruling YSRCP party.

### Vijayasai ridicules 'Motha Mogiddam'

PNS TIRUPATI

YSRCP general secretary and MP V Vijayasai Reddy ridiculed the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) 'Motha Mogiddam' programme asking for whom they conducted the programme. Talking to the media here on Saturday, Vijayasai Reddy questioned whether the programme was organised supporting those who were involved in scams.

"If Naidu was really not involved in corruption, the TDP leaders should hold protests at the President, Prime Minister, Home Minister and ED offices. Why are they organizing protest programmes here," he ques-

#### **People tired of BRS** overnance: Modi

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana is tired of the lacklustre Narendra Modi said in a tweet on Saturday. "I will be addressing a BJP rally in Mahbubnagar on October 1. The people of Telangana are tired of the lacklustre governance of the BRS. They are equally distrustful of the Congress. Both the BRS and the Congress are dynastic parties who have no desire to serve people" Modi said.

Prime Minister Modi will visit Telangana on October 1.

At around 2:15 pm, the Prime Minister will reach Mahbubnagar district, where he will dedicate to the nation and lay the foundation stones of developmental projects costing around Rs 13,500 crore connected with road, rail, petroleum and natural gas and higher educa-

During the programme, the Prime Minister will also flag off a train through video conferencing.

## 175 stolen/lost mobile phones recovered

PNS ELURU

The Eluru district police have recovered 175 stolen or lost 36.75 lakh. Informing this to the

media at a press conference here on Saturday, SP Mary Prashanthi said that the police and cybercrime staff in a joint operation traced and recovered 175 stolen or lost mobile phones. The Eluru district police

have so far recovered 2,278 stolen or lost mobile phones worth Rs 2,42,53,184. The district police have achieved a 52% recovery rate, the SP said. The police registered 12 cases in the stolen mobile incidents and arrested 10 persons.

Meanwhile, the Kakinada district police recovered 275 mobile phones either stolen or lost by owners using the service of a special App 'Mobi



track Kakinada Police'. The phones were given possession to the complainants at a special function held at the district police office here on Saturday.

SP S Śathish Kumar handed over the recovered phones to the owners. The SP asked people to use the ' Mobi track Kakinada police' App for registering their complaints enabling the police to track them and recover fast.

Kumar also said that ever since the Mobi track Kakinada police App service was launched - 90 phones in the first instalment, 249 in second instalment, 231 phones third instalment and now 275 in fourth instalment - thus total 845 cell phones were recovered and given possession to the legitimate complainants, adding that if anyone loses their mobile phone or it was stolen, should dial up Mobi track Kakinada police whatsapp number 94906 17852 and send a message typing Hai.

a link in which they should register the details of the phone lost. Similarly, the central government also introduced the CEIR website( https://www.ceir.gov.in) for similar purposes which can be utilized to lodge their complaint about the lost cell phone 'he added.

The SP appreciated the coordinated effort of central control room inspector Chavvakula Ramakoteswera Rao, IT Core inspector P Srinivasarao, Inspector P. Eswarudu and IT core SI Ramakrishna in the speedy recovery of a record number of 275 cell phones Additional SP P Srinivas, Traffic DSP M Venkateswara Rao were among those who were present.

#### **Deadline to...** Continued from Page 1

Since it had stopped printing the notes from FY19, there were also concerns surrounding the quality of the notes in withdrawal move had some unseen impacts like helping banks report a higher deposit growth, a challenging aspect for the system for some time.

In the statement on Saturday, RBI said the Rs 2,000 notes "shall continue to be legal tender" even beyond October 7, but asked the public to deposit or exchange the notes "without any further delay". From October 8, the deposit/exchange facilities at bank branches will be stopped, and people will have to get them exchanged at 19 offices of RBI, the statement said.

For exchange of the notes, a cap of Rs 20,000 per transaction has been imposed while there is none for the notes which are tendered at the RBI offices for crediting into bank accounts.

Amaravati kickbacks case, link-

## Nominations for global nursing award invited

Aster DM Healthcare has announced the third edition of the Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award. The award invites registered nurses from across the world to apply by submitting nominations of their work on www.asterguardians.com till November 15.

They urged the nurses in Andhra Pradesh to nominate themselves with their extraordinary services to get international identity by utilising the opportunity.

Nurses can apply in one Primary and up to two Secondary areas of contribution, namely - Patient Care, Nursing Leadership, Nursing Education, Social or

Community service and Research/ Innovation/ Entrepreneurship Healthcare.

The secondary areas of contribution can be optional. All applications received

will follow a stringent review process led by an independent jury and an external advisóry firm – Ernst and Young LLP (EY).

The Grand Jury, consisting of an independent panel of renowned experts will review the shortlisted applications to select the final top 10 nurses, who will undergo further assessments for the final winner to be determined and announced in May 2024, around International Nurses

#### TODAY ALMANAC Month & Paksham Krishna Paksha Tithi: Dwitiya: Sep 30 12:21 PM Tritiya: Oct 01 09:42 AM to Oct 02 07:36 AM Nakshatram: Sep 30 09:08 PM Ashwini to Oct 01 07:27 PM Oct 01 07:27 PM Bharani to Oct 02 06:24 PM 4:32 PM to 6:01 PM Rahukalam: 12:05 PM to 1:34 PM Yamagandam: 04:38 AM to 06:10 AM Varjyam: 3:03 PM to 4:32 PM Gulika:

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER Forecast: Isolated Thunderstorms Temp: 33<sup>∞</sup> Humidity: 74%

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:42 AM to 12:29 PM

Amritakalam:

Sunset: 5:57 PM

12:45 PM to 02:15 PM

Updated: September 30, 2023 5:00 PM

## TDP headed for a...

Continued from Page 1

of the nation.

But now, with Lokesh and Naidu struggling to get bail, the party's supporters are in a tough spot Some TDP leaders aren't happy that JSP chief Pawan

Kalyan announcing an alliance with TDP right after Since Naidu's arrest in the skill development scam, the opposition Telugu Desam has been facing a leadership crisis. It's been more than 20 days, and Naidu is still in Rajahmundry Central Jail. Even top Supreme Court

lawyers couldn't help, and Lokesh's efforts in Delhi did-Malladi Vishnu, the AP State Planning Board vice Chairman and MLA, criticised the TDP-Jana Sena alliance, saying that no single party in the State can stand up to CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy alone. He called the alliance between Telugu Desam and Jana Sena immoral, claiming that Pawan Kalyan is trying to save Chandrababu Naidu through the alliance, but it won't work. Vishnu also mentioned that people know about the secret understanding between TDP and JSP, and they won't trust Pawan as

he's seen as Naidu's shadow. He said that Naidu was arrest-

ed on corruption charges, not while fighting for the cause

Naidu's former PA. Continued from Page 1

notices issued by the government earlier questioning his role in the kickback allegations.

Srinivas, who had worked as personal assistant to Naidu when the latter was the chief minister between 2014 and 2019, had been absconding ever since the reports of Income Tax department serving notices to Naidu came to light recently. Despite being an assistant

secretary in the state planning department, Srinivas flew to ciates including Srinivas in the

the United States of America without taking permission from the higher officials, which is against the service rules.

His name surfaced in the Income Tax department notices to Naidu in July and also in the confession statement of a senior official MVP of Shapoorji Pallonji Constructions company, which took up several projects in Amaravati.

The Crime Investigation Department also filed a separate case against Naidu and his asso-

ing it to the skill development scam. The CID alleged that Srinivas had played a key role in providing funds to Naidu from the construction companies. The IT department, too, conducted searches in the residence of Srinivas a couple of years ago, but could not find any cash. The CID mentioned the name of Srinivas and another person Kilaru Rajesh in the skill development scam case, but both of them had left for the US much before the FIR was registered.

## **CID** serves notice to Lokesh...

Continued from Page 1

On July 1, 2014, a resolution was passed in the board of directors meeting of Heritage Foods to purchase 7.21 acres of land. On July 7, 2014, 4.55 acres of land were registered by

Lingamaneni Ramesh family members. After the matter came out, the sale agreement for 4.55 acres was cancelled. Then they pressured the authorities and changed the IRR alignment to go through 355 acres of Lingamaneni and Heritage Foods lands.

## Medical colleges could....

Continued from Page 1

The regulations stated that any attempt to pressurise Under-Graduate Medical Examination Board (UGMEB), Post-Graduate Medical Education Board (PGMEB) or NMC through individuals or agencies will lead to immediate halt of the processing of all applications/requests by the medical institution.

Where the respective board has reason to believe that a medical institution has failed to comply with any statutory provision, regulations framed thereunder or has not complied with the Minimum Standards of Requirements (MSR) as prescribed by their respective Boards, or has conducted themselves in any manner which is not in accordance with the goals of medical education and practice, the board shall either

penalise the medical college or medical institution and/or conduct further enquiry into such act and wherever needed provide an opportunity to rectify the same," the regulation said.

As per the regulations, med-

ical colleges will have to furnish an "Annual Disclosure Report" to the corresponding board clearly demonstrating that they fulfil the required MSRs notified by UGMEB or PGMEB and regulations of NMC, as the case may be. "Keeping in mind the overall objectives of the National Medical Commission Act, the respective Board (PGMEB or UGMEB) may undertake the evaluation of the Annual Disclosure Report for verifying whether the medical college or medical institution fulfils the required conditions prescribed by way of MSRs or NMC Regulations as the case may be," the document said.

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## TDP-JSP tie-up unethical; won't last long: Malladi

State Planning Board vice-chairman Malladi Vishnu has said that the alliance between Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Jana Sena Party (JSP) is unethical and will not last long as the people of the State are aware of erstwhile TDP government's corrupt practices and the opportunistic attitude of the JSP. He claimed that YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is the only Chief Minister who has transformed the State into 'Welfare Andhra Pradesh' during the four years of assuming

Malladi Vishnu participated in the 'Gadapa Gadapaku Mana Prabhutvam' programme held on Saturday in the 61st Division of Vijayawada City. He went to every house and explained the welfare schemes of the Jagan Mohan Reddy government and distributed booklets.

Malladi Vishnu said that



provided. Vishnu criticised that no single political party in the state has the ability to face CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy alone. He commented that the Telugu Desam-Jana Sena parties

alliance is immoral as Pawan Kalyan turned an opportunist and saved Chandrababu Naidu through the alliance but it will not last a long time. He further said that people know the internal and secret pact between TD-JS and they will not trust Pawan as he is a shadow to Naidu. He commented that TD is trying to portray Chandrababu's arrest as a national problem and pointed

public regarding the arrest of Naidu in a corruption case. The MLA stated that the people already know the history of corruption in Telugu Desam, so there is no situation to show support to Naidu any-

Further MLA Vishnu

ordered completion of the house registration process in the Central constituency by October 15. He conducted a review with VMC and revenue officials on Saturday at Janahita Sadanam in Andhra Prabha Colony. Malladi Vishnu suggested that the registration process should be accelerated for the beneficiaries, about 10,000 houses allocated to the rehabilitation beneficiaries in New Rajarajeswaripet, Vambay Colony, including Ajit Singh Nagar, Burma Colony, Pakistan Colony, Radhanagar, Santoshi Mata Temple, etc., and instructed to complete the reg-

#### No water supply in parts of Vja on October 4

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) officials have said that there will be no water supply to various areas of Vijayawada city on October 4 due to the cleaning of water sumps in the VMC head water works tanks which supply water to the city.

The VMC officials stated

that water will be supplied on 4 October morning from 5 MGD old head water works but the supply will be stopped from 8 am to 8 pm for cleaning pur-poses. They said that the water supply for the evening time will be stopped on Wednesday. The areas of the city Ratham Centre, Srinivasa mahal, Fish market, Gandhi Baavi 1 and 2, Gandhiji High School, Ambedkar colony, Poolabaavi, Sivalayam, Kotteti Kotaiah colony and Nizam gate will not get water supply.

The VMC asked people in these areas to make arrangements for the water as a precautionary measure for that time and to cooperate with the

## PROTECT DEMOCRATIC VALUES: EX-JUDGE

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Emphasising the importance of protecting democracy and democratic values in the State as well as in the country, Citizens for Democracy Forum president and former High Court Judge Justice G Bhavani Prasad has said that the newly-formed Citizens for Democracy Forum would strive to bring about awareness among the people.

Addressing a press conference here on Saturday to explain the forum's aims and aspirations, he said, "Our democratic journey started with the ideals of started with the ideals of great leaders of the freedom movement and the first generation of public representatives. But even though the country has progressed in many fields, discriminations in society have not been eliminated. Despite the creation of wealth, the economic inequalities still exist. The ideals and aspirations of the first genera-



Citizens for Democracy president and former judge Bhavani Prasad, former chief secretary L V Subramanyam, former election commissioner, Nimmagadda Ramesh and mayor Jandhyala Sankar at a press conference in Vijayawada on Saturday Photo: Ch VIJAYA BHASKAR

tion of leaders were not fulfilled due to the malfunctioning and inaction veness of the governance systems, corruption and defects in the electoral system," he added.

He further said that democracy does not mean elections and it is important that all systems work in the spirit of the Constitution. He said that the Citizens for Democracy has been formed to raise the awareness levels of the people and raise the voice of the civil society which is beyond caste, religion and political biases in

Citizens for Democracy Forum general secretary of the organisation and former State Election Commissioner Nimmagadda Ramesh Kumar, assistant secretary V Lakshmana Reddy, treasurer V Falguna Kumar, members MV Krishna Rao, Jandyala Sankar, MC Das, D Somasundar and others participated.

#### **3 officials in ACB net**

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Saturday arrested government servants while accepting bribes that included a sub-inspector, surveyor, and a village revenue officer.

SI Katta Venkataiah demanded a bribe of Rs 40,000 from the complaint who was accused of illegally occupying land in Guntur to escape the accused from being arrested. ACB officials arrested the accused officer red-handed while accepting the bribe amount at the complainant's house and registered a case. In another similar case, Allam Ranga Swamy, a surveyor of Kanigiri mandal in the Prakasam was caught redhanded while demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 30,000 to survey his land.

## Bopparaju reelected APRSA chief

out that Naidu was arrested in

a corruption case. He asked

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Revenue Services Association (APRSA) president Bopparaju Venkateswarlu and general secretary Chebrolu Krishna Murthy were reelected as president and general secretary unanimously during the meet-ing that was held at the APRSA Bhavan in Vijayawada on Saturday. Bopparaju was elected as president for the fifth time while Chebrolu Krishna Murthy second time.

The newly elected committee swearing programme will be conducted at the Tummalapalli Kalakshetram in Vijayawada on October 1. Also, the APRSA 17th state council meeting will



take place in the city. APRSA New Committee: President: Bopparaju Venkateswarlu, Associate President: P Trinadha Rao, General Secretary: Chebrolu Krishna Murthy, Treasurer: Ch Narasimha Rao, Vice Presidents: N Srinivas, Jeevan Chandrasekhar, G Srirama Murthy, P Venugopala Rao, R Venkata Rajesh, A Panchal Reddy, K Amarnath, P Jahnavi,

and Secretaries: D Rajendra Varma, RVV Rohini Devi, Secretaries: D Divya Durga Devi, S Vijayasekhar, Ch Bangara Raju, B Anuradha, G Srinivas, G Somasekhar, M Ashok Reddy, O Prashanth Kumar, Organising Secretaries: M Venkata Raju, K Ravi Vikram, N Ramanjaneyulu, G Narayana Raju, S Jeevan Rani, K Kishore, Shaik Shalima.

## Infra at Vizag Railway Station inspected

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Darshana Jardosh, the Minister of State for Railways, conducted an inspection of the Visakhapatnam railway station and assessed the progress of redevelopment and infrastructure initiatives at the station under the Waltair division of the East Coast of Railway.

She paid a visit to the One Station One Product stall showcasing Etikoppaka toys and engaged in a conversation with the vendor regarding sales and collaboration with the Railways. Additionally, she took an active role in supporting the Ban Plastic campaign and distributed health kits to sanitation workers, express-



ing her gratitude for their dedication to maintaining cleanli-

Jardosh also inspected the in-progress multi-level car parking site at the station. Later, she inaugurated the Coach Restaurant, a Non-Fare Revenue initiative by the Waltair Division, and praised the Divisional Officials for their innovative projects and resource management.

Later, she held discussions with Divisional Officials and representatives GatiShakti to evaluate the advancement of the station redevelopment project. DRM Shri Saurabh Prasad offered

valuable insights into the Division's operations, projects, and accomplishments. In her media statement,

Jardosh highlighted Visakhapatnam Railway Station's status as a busy hub and its redevelopment initiated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. She commended the Waltair Division for achievements in loading, revenue, and railway development. She emphasized the 'One Station, One Product' (OSOP) initiative, enabling passengers to explore India's heritage and purchase local products. Shri GVL Narasimha Rao elaborated on the purpose of the Minister's

## 'Probe corruption charges in construction of Cluster varsity'

PNS VIJAYAWADA

All India Youth Federation (AIYF) State general secretary, N Lenin Babu, has urged the State government to look into the construction of Cluster University in Kurnool.

Speaking during a press conference at CR Bhavan in Kurnool, Lenin Babu urged the government to also investigate claims of corruption made by University Registrar D Srinivasulu against some public representatives.

Lenin Babu demanded the removal of Cluster University and a thorough investigation into the allegations raised by Prof. D Srinivasulu, the Registrar. University Srinivasulu had previously claimed financial irregularities of Rs. 55 crore during the construction of the university building at Silver Jubilee College premises. Lenin Babu



questioned why public representatives had not responded to these allegations and asked them to demonstrate their integrity.

Furthermore, Lenin Babu requested the state government to complete the Cluster University buildings to provide better education to students. He also suggested that the government could use the building to maintain Urdu University on the same premis-

Lenin Babu insisted on the removal of the current Registrar, Srinivasulu, who has

been serving as Cluster University Registrar on deputation for two years. He alleged that the university had collected fees from students in violation of government rules and regulations and accused the Registrar of not implementing government schemes like Jagananna Vidya Deevena and Vidya Vasathi. He called on the state government to take action against Registrar Srinivasulu.

K Srinivasulu, AISF Kurnool district president, U Karumanchi, the secretary, and other members were pre-

## Return panchayat funds, sarpanches demand govt

President of the Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj Chamber, YVB Rajendra Prasad, a former Member of the Legislative Council (MLC), and president of the Andhra Pradesh Sarpanches Association, V Lakshmi Mutyala Rao, have iointly called for a protest scheduled for October 2 at Mahatma Gandhi statues. Their primary demand is the immediate restitution of Rs 8,660 crore in funds that were allegedly diverted unlawfully, with these funds to be credited back to the panchayat accounts.

In a press release issued on Saturday, they have fervently urged all sarpanches to participate in demonstrations at their respective district headquarters. This collective action is intended to exert pressure on the State government to promptly address the concerns and challenges faced by pan-



chayats. These concerns have been encapsulated in a set of 16 demands outlined in resolutions bassed by the Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj Chamber and the Andhra Pradesh Sarpanches

Association state committee. Furthermore, they have brought to light the alleged diversion of Rs 8,660 crore, which were originally funds designated for Gram Panchayats. These funds had been disbursed by the central

and 15th Finance Commissions. Raiendra Prasad and Mutvala Rao contend that these actions took place without the knowledge or consent of sarpanches resulting in the transfer of all funds from panchayats to the state government's coffers.

#### **OTHER KEY DEMANDS**

■ The government should bring the Gram Sachivalayam and Volunteer system under the control of sarpanches.

Allocation of NREGA funds to panchayats should align with the guidelines of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural **Employment Guarantee** Scheme (MGNREGS).

A resolute plea for the government to sustain its provision of free power to all panchayats, a practice established in earlier times

## Old woman suffering from cancer gets new lease of life

PNS VIJAYAWADA

nal discharge was successfully treated and given a new lease of life at American Oncology Institute (AOI) Kanuru in Vijayawada. The patient was diagnosed with cervical carcinoma with hydro/pyometra and underwent a comprehensive treatment regimen including chemoradiotherapy, transcervical hydrometra drainage, and brachytherapy.

Dr Anila Patibandla, Consultant Clinical Oncology, expressed her insights on the case, "The successful treatment of this patient's cervical carcinoma reaffirms our commitment to providing comprehensive and innovative cancer care. Cervical carcinoma can be a challenging con-

dition, but with a multidisci-A 68-year-old female patient advanced treatment techaddress the patient's unique needs and achieve a positive outcome. This case highlights the importance of early detection, personalized treatment planning, and the collaborative efforts of our medical experts.'

Mahendra Reddy, Regional Chief Operating Officer, stated, "We are proud of the remarkable success achieved by our team at American Oncology Institute Kanuru. Our patient-centric approach, state-of-the-art facilities, and the dedication of our medical staff contribute to such successes. We remain committed to raising the bar in cancer care by consistently delivering the highest quality treatments and services to our patients."

## 'Chalo Vijayawada' organised by SFI; 99 activists arrested

PNS VIJAYAWADA

In response to the 'Chalo Vijayawada' call, the Student Federation of India (SFI) organised a protest and procession in Vijayawada on Saturday. The event aimed to address various issues within the education sector and advocate for an increase in hostel mess charges. The demonstration, however, encountered resistance from the police, leading to a brief confrontation.

A large number of students from across the State converged in Vijayawada to participate in the "Chalo Vijayawada" agitation. The SFI orchestrated an expansive procession through the city, with the rally traversing Besant Road, Eluru Road, and Lenin Centre before culminating at Dharna Chowk.

Subsequently, a sit-in protest was staged at Dharna Chowk, accompanied by vociferous slogans condemning the State government's perceived inaction in resolving educationrelated issues.



Amidst these events, the police intervened, forcibly dispersing the SFI demonstrators and apprehending approximately 99 leaders and activists. They were subsequently taken into custody at Ajith Singh Nagar and One Town police stations. Regrettably, the police intervention led to allegations of misconduct, as male officers were involved in removing female students, which drew strong objections from the affected

students and SFI leaders. Several police officers issued warnings to SFI leaders and activists, threatening to press charges if they did not vacate Dharna Chowk. However, the students remained resolute in their protest and continued without succumbing to police pressure. Simultaneously, law enforcement officials across the state detained students who failed to attend the "Chalo Viiavawada" event.

The SFI's demands encompassed various educational reforms, including a Rs 3,000 increase in hostel mess charges, the release of pending cosmetic charges, the implementation of Mid-Day Meals in government junior colleges, the free distribution of textbooks to students, the abolishment of the Degree Honours system, and the reinstatement of the previous three-year degree course system.

Addressing the gathering, SFI State president K. Prasanna Kumar and general secretary Ashok criticised Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy for not fulfilling his promises regarding education sector issues over the past four and a half years. They expressed disappointment that, even during the five days of Assembly sessions, the government had not made any announcements regarding these concerns.

The SFI leaders condemned the actions of the police and the government, accusing the state government of suppressing students' rights and their constitutional right to protest on matters affecting them. They asserted that any attempt at peaceful protest was met with police force.

## KGH makes long strides in digital healthcare

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

King George Hospital (KGH) in Visakhapatnam has made rapid strides as a trailblazer in digital healthcare, excelling in both patient care and medical infrastructure. With a daily average of 2,681 patients, including over 600 beneficiaries under the YSR Arogyasri scheme, KGH stands out as a healthcare leader.

According to a NITI Aayog report, Andhra Pradesh ranks fourth in the country, boasting an impressive district hospital doctor-to-patient ratio of 1.39, surpassing the national average of 0.86. Outranking AP are only Delhi, Haryana, and Goa with ratios of 2.50, 1.42, and 1.40 respectively. Among the 14 district hospitals assessed in Andhra Pradesh, seven meet the Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) criteria for doctor positions. KGH in Visakhapatnam takes the lead with an extraordinary doctorto-patient ratio of 4.71, solidifying its status as one of the nation's top-performing dis-

trict hospitals. KGH has embarked on numerous modernization initiatives to elevate patient care,



including the establishment of an air-conditioned outpatient counter and an Acute Medical Care Unit (AMCU) providing swift and effective care to critically ill patients. The hospital has become the first in Andhra Pradesh to house a comprehensive cancer unit, offering specialized care for pediatric oncology patients.

Recognizing the pivotal role of digitalisation in modern healthcare, KGH is taking significant strides in centralizing patients' clinical data. This

includes implementing a Local Area Network (LAN) and a Picture Analysis Communication System (PACS) to streamline data management, enhance coordination among healthcare providers, and ultimately

In an exclusive conversation with The Pioneer, KGH Superintendent Dr. Ashok Kumar highlighted KGH's digitisation efforts, including the introduction of ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health

improve patient care efficiency.

patient care, including the establishment of an air-conditioned outpatient counter and an Acute Medical Care Unit (AMCU) providing swift and effective care to critically ill patients. The hospital has becom the first in Andhra Pradesh to house a comprehensive cancer unit, offering specialized care for pediatric oncology patients. Account), a vital component of the Ayushman Bharat Digital

initiatives to elevate

Mission (ABDM) and Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY). ABHA offers insurance coverage of up to Rs 5 lakh for patients, eliminating waiting times, securely digitiz ing patient health data, and proving invaluable in emergency situations. To ensure accessibility, especially for the less educated and economically disadvantaged, KGH has established two manual registration counters.



#### Housing project for the poor to be completed by March next

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The State government has set a target to complete the housing project taken up under 'Navaratnalu Pedalandariki Illu' scheme by March next year (2024), said Andhra Pradesh State Housing Corporation Limited Managing Director Lakshmisha.

The 33rd board meeting of the AP State Housing Corporation Limited (APSH-CL) was held at the corporation office in Vijayawada on Saturday. The APSHCL Director AMD Imntiyaz chaired the meeting virtual-

Speaking on the occasion, MD Lakshmisha said that Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy would hand over 5 lakh houses which were already completed in the State. The government is planning to hand over the houses to the beneficiaries in a programme that would be conducted on a grand note, he said.

In addition to that, the APSHCL MD stated that the government is providing infrastructure facilities such as drinking water, electricity, roads, drainage, and others at the newly established Jagananna Colonies. He said the newly created villages would be developed as

Nagara Panchayats.

AP Housing Department
Special Chief Secretary MD
Diwan Mydin, APSHCL Joint Managing Director M Siva Prasad, Board Directors K Bhaskara Naidu, Rama Devi, Chief Engineer GV Prasad, Special Officer Ramachandra Reddy and others attended.

#### **Students** donate blood

PNS VIJAYAWADA

A blood donation camp was organised at the Parvathaneni Brahmaiah Siddhartha Arts and Science College here by the National Service Scheme (NSS) unit on Saturday. As part of this, 53 units of blood were collected from the donors.

PB Siddhartha Arts and Science College Principal Dr M Ramesh and Director V Babu Rao inaugurated the blood donation camp on the College NSS unit coordinator P Subhakar supervised the

As many as 15 doctors and nurses participated in the camp and helped.

College Principal Ramesh, Director Babu Rao, Dean Rajesh Jampala, and others appreciated students who donated their blood.



## **MAKE USE OF HEALTHCARE** FACILITIES, PEOPLE TOLD

Collector V Prasanna Venkatesh and MLA Puppala Vasubabu participated in the Jagananna Aarogya Suraksha (JAS) programme organised at Surappagudem village in Bhimadol mandal on Saturday. The Collector and MLA inaugurated a medical camp on the premises of MPP School.

Speaking on the occasion, Collector Prasanna Venkatesh said that in the health screening programme organised in Surappagudem, apart from gynaecologists for women, two specialist doctors, a paediatrician, orthopedics, and ophthal-mologist had provided medical services to the people, adding ECG and other diagnosis were conducted in a 104 ambulance at the camp. If an operation was needed for the patient, arrangements would be made to perform the operation free of cost and medicine would also be

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy introduced an innovative programme of JAS in a bid to provide medical treatment to the poor in the rural areas, adding that the Jagananna Aarogya Suraksha programme



would be carried out in 5 phases for 45 days from today with the main focus on people's

He said that in every village ANMs, ASHA workers, and volunteers would conduct a house-to-house survey and identify their disease with 7 types of medical tests and download it in a special app and provide medical services with special doctors in under the JAS programme, stating that through Nadu-Nedu in the district, all Primary Health Centers along with community health centers and area hospitals have been developed towards providing all health services to private

hospitals.

The Collector said that all the vacant posts in the hospitals had been filled. Similarly, 104 vehicles would be allocated to each mandal, and quality medical services would also be provided by family physicians.

MLA Puppal Srinivas Vasubabu said that the JAS program was organized for the first time in the Eluru district in the constituency. He said that the ANMs, ASHA workers, and Volunteers contacted 3,300 families and knew their health status. ZPTC T Bhavaniranga, MPP K Ramaiah, and village sarpanch Balaji Naidu were among those who were present.

#### Eluru district excels in 'Swacchta Hi Seva 2023

PNS ELURU

The Eluru district has achieved the top position in the implementation of 'Swacchta Hi Seva 2023' in the State. Collector V Prasanna Venkatesh told the media here on Saturday that Eluru district stood first in the State in the implementation of the 'Swachata Hi Seva 2023' pro-

He said that 11,328 programmes had been carried out under the Swacchta Hi Seva program in the district in which 4,47,522 people worked 21,67,677 hours.

This feat ensured Eluru district stood at the top in the implementation of the programme efficiently in the state. As part of the Swacchta Hi Seva programme 9,602 images were uploaded to the portal, the Collector added.

gramme to provide free med-

ical treatment to the poor.

Minister Suresh said that the

## Collector oversees conduct of 'Aarogya Suraksha' programme

across the district to find out

the health details of the people.

that seven types of tests were

conducted at home, their

details were recorded in the

health profile and case sheets

were prepared for those who

needed it, adding that medical

camps will be set up in every

village and a fixed time will be

allocated and medical treat-

ment will be provided to them.

PHC doctors, two other spe-

cialist doctors would also come

and provide treatment in these

camps, stating that a total of 14

types of tests including ECG

would also be conducted in the

camps and 105 types of med-

icines would be provided free

She said that along with two

Collector Prashanthi said

PNS ■ BHIMAVARAM

Stating that the 'Jagananna Aarogya Suraksha' (JAS) programme has come as a boon to the poor, district Collector P Prashanthi appealed to the people to utilize the services of JAS.

The Collector on Saturday conducted a surprise inspection of the JAS programmes which were organized at the girl high school here.

The District Collector visit-

ed the help desk, OP registra-tion, spot registration, IT room, allotment of doctors, lab, YSR Aarogyasri Help Desk, doctors' rooms, medicine counter, nutrition stall and eye examination centers set up at the camp.

She interacted with the patients and knew their problems. She also asked them if the surveyors visited their houses. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that JAS camps would be organized in all secretariat limits.

The Collector asked everyone to take advantage of the fact that Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy, who has already brought medicine to the people through the family doctor system, has also brought specialist services to the villages through Jagananna Arogya Suraksha. As part of the JAS programme, a house-to-house of cost. survey has been conducted

Those who have been treated for diabetes and BP diseases for about 12 years are advised to be referred for special treat-

ment. The Collector said that eye tests would also be conducted and spectacles would be provided free of cost to the

Municipal Commissioner M Shyamala, District Medical and Health Officer Dr. D Maheswara Rao, District Panchayat Department Officer GVK Mallikarjuna Rao, Additional DMHO B Bhanu Naik, District Arogyashri Coordinator Dr. Keerthi Kiran, Tehsildar Y Ravikumar and District Red Cross Association President Dr. Ramabhadri Raju were among those who

## JAS to provide medical facilities to poor: Minister

Minister for Municipal Administration Audimulapau Suresh reiterated that the Jagananna Arogya Suraksha programme is being implemented across the state in order to provide medical treatment to the poor.

Talking to the media at Y Palem village on Saturday, the minister said that the government is giving equal importance to carrying out the development and implementation of welfare schemes.

"The medical treatment is being provided under the Jagananna Arogya Suraksha programme to all the poor irrespective of political affiliations. The objective of implementing the JAS programme is to make AP as Arogya Andhra Pradesh. The JAS programme will be implemented for 45 days across the state," he asserted.

The minister claimed that the government is aimed at provid-



ing corporate medical facilities to the poor in the rural areas, adding that specialist doctors would take part in the JAS pro-

whelming response as a large number of patients are throng-ing to the medical camps to get free medical treatments.

The minister said that the 15,000 secretariat staff would visit every household and inquire about their health con-

dition. The government approved the proposal to construct a super speciality hospital at Dornala at a cost of Rs 45 crore. The Jagan Mohan Reddy-headed government is establishing 15 new medical colleges in the state, he assert-

Referring to the arrest of Chandrababu Naidu, he said that there is no response from the people against the arrest of Naidu. If a leader was arrested unjustly, people would come out protesting it but there is no such response in the case of Naidu as people approved the arrest of Naidu. Former AMC chairman Ongole Murthy Reddy Obul Reddy and other

PNS ANANTAPUR

were present.

The police seized 21 kg of ganja and arrested 18 boot-

21 kg ganja

seized, 18

arrested

SP KKN Anburajan told the media here on Saturday that on a tip-off the police conducted raids and arrested 18 bootleggers of two groups and seized 21 kg of ganja from them.

The gang members brought the ganja from Paderu and other agencies in the Visakhapatnam district and sold it here. The gang members were selling ganja at bus stations, railway stations, and other crowded areas. They purchased ganja at Rs 4,000 to Rs 5,000 per kg in Visakhapatnam Agency areas and sold the same here at Rs 15,000 per kg. The gang members targeted the youth to sell the cannabis, the SP

The police seized 21 kg ganja, 18 mobile phones, two auto rickshaws, and two bikes. The SP said that 101 people purchased ganja from the gang members. Minors were among those who purchased ganja from them, he added. The SP warned of stringent action if anyone was involved in selling and



## Medical camp held for sanitary workers

District Collector inaugurated a medical camp for sanitary workers here on Saturday.

The Collector, along with rated the medical camp to conduct medical checkups, especially to the sanitary workers working in the municipal cor-The mayor distributed the

PPE kits to the sanitary workers. Speaking on the occasion, Collector Dinesh Kumar asked the sanitary workers to protect their health. He lauded the sanitary workers that they were playing a key role in keeping the environment clean and tidy.

The Collector praised the services being provided by sanitation workers regardless of weather conditions to keep the environment clean, adding that the state government is strengthening the public health



sector to ensure that all people are healthy and providing medical services at the field level by implementing Jagananna health

protection programmes.

The Collector appreciated the corporation officials for taking steps to provide free medicines for the sanitation workers by organizing a free medical camp with specialist doctors for lung, heart, cancer, gynecology, skin diseases, BP, sugar, and other diseases.

Collector Dinesh Kumar said that it is happy to note that along with the government doctors, the private hospital doctors also took part in the medical camp by providing

## SIMBEX 23 CONCL

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Indian Naval Ships Ranvijay (guided-missile Destroyer), Kavaratti (ASW Corvette), submarine Sindhukesari and a long-range Maritime Patrol Aircraft P8I participated in the 30th edition of Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Singapore.

First held in 1994, the threedecade-old annual exercise kicked off with an opening ceremony on 21 September 2023, which was attended by personnel from both the navies. The ceremony saw the unveiling of the SIMBEX 30th Edition Logo. The Harbour Phase witnessed a wide range of professional interactions, Subject Matter Expert Exchanges, the conduct of combined aviation and firefighting/ damage control exercises, and the signing of a Joint Standard Operating Procedure (JSOP) on Submarine Rescue between India and Singapore in the





presence of the High Commissioner of India to

Singapore and the Singapore Navy Fleet Commander. The

Commanding Officers of the Indian Navy contingent also paid homage at the Kranji War Memorial in a solemn wreathlaying ceremony.
Other activities undertaken

during the stay in harbour included sports exchanges, cross-deck visits, and onboard visits of school children and High Commission. The Sea Phase of SIMBEX

23 was conducted from 25 to 28 September 2023, wherein units of the Indian Navy along with RSS Stalwart, Valour, Tenacious, a submarine, Maritime Patrol Aircraft Fokker F-50 and fighter aircraft engaged in complex maritime security exercises including advanced anti-submarine warfare, surface and air defence exercises, as well as tactical manoeuvers and weapon firings

SIMBEX 23 ended on a high note reaffirming the close bonds of friendship and interoperability between the two maritime nations.

## **CPI** mulling working with TDP: Ramakrishna

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Communist Party of India (CPI) State secretary and former MLA K Ramakrishna has said that his party is mulling working with the opposition TDP in the next Assembly elections. Also, he made it clear that the CPI is aiming to defeat Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Centre and Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy in the State.

Addressing a press conference in Vijayawada on Saturday, along with party State secretariat members Akkineni Vanaja, G Eswaraiah and Jalli Wilson, Ramakrishna responded to a question regarding the alliances in the upcoming Assembly elections.

Ramakrishna said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy are destroying the country and State respectively. People of the State are vexed with the rule of the YSRCP in the State, he commented. TDP is the main opposition party in the State, so CPI is planning to ally with it, he added. When compared to

Telangana, Andhra Pradesh is far behind in development activities. YS Jagan ruled the state with Reverse. Which caused the stalling of development in all sectors such as industry, irrigation and IT. The state government is imposing the registration of illegal cases using the police force," he said.



#### Malladi inaugurates Underwater Fish Tunnel Exhibition ter tunnel fish exhibition Vishnu said that till now the

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Vijayawada-Central legislator Malladi Vishnu formalinaugurated the Underwater Fish Tunnel Exhibition for the upcoming Dasara Festival at Satavahana College grounds here on Saturday. On the occasion, Malladi

underwater tunnel fish exhibition which was limited to Dubai, Malaysia, and Singapore is now in the heart of Vijayawada city. He appreciated the organisers for making elaborate arrangements for the visitors and said that the denizens should pay a visit to the

exhibition with families and have fun. He said that this exhibition will entertain everyone, regardless of their age, children, youth, and elders, there are various types of fish in the underwater water.

Organisers Nandiwada Guru Gopinad and Saif Khan said that the underwa-

will entertain everyone who visits the exhibition. They informed that 2,000 varieties of fish are placed in the tunnel which will be a special attraction of the exhibition. Apart from that, giant wheel, Columbus, Toratora, break dance and children's toys. Special in this exhibition.



## Sniffer dogs to stamp down ganja menace: Ayyanar

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Aiming to curb the inflow of ganja and other illicit narcotics within Vizag city, Dr. A Ravi Shankar, the City Police Commissioner, has proposed the establishment of a dedicated task force.

Shortly after assuming office, the new CP observed that Visakhapatnam served as a crucial transit hub for ganja smugglers, and the issue of drug abuse was widespread. The city has now become one of the primary consumers of ganja in Andhra Pradesh, with instances of narcotic drug usage being frequently reported from upscale

neighborhoods, colleges, and university hostels. Speaking to The Pioneer, the

Police Commissioner said, "We are planning to deploy sniffer dogs at the city entry points. These dogs, originally trained to detect explosives, would also undergo additional training to detect ganja and drugs."

Despite the diligent efforts made by the police to combat the smuggling of Ganja in the ASR district and the bordering regions with Odisha, large quantities of ganja continue to be smuggled regularly, with a notable amount making its way into Vizag city. With heightened scrutiny on trains and road



the river, facilitating the transportation of marijuana from Odisha to the Andhra Border.

Investigations have revealed that K Ramesh, a resident of Chintapalle Mandal in the ASR

district, conducted nighttime transportation of ganja via the river route from Odisha to the Andhra Pradesh border.

With heightened scrutiny on trains and

road routes, smugglers have resorted to

marijuana from Odisha to the AP border.

utilising locally-made boats to traverse

a 5km distance across the river,

facilitating the transportation of

The border region between Andhra Pradesh and Odisha holds prominence as a major hub for Ganja cultivation. These regions lack adequate road infrastructure and are also influenced by Maoists. Combating the issue

of ganja, including its cultivation, has become a formidable challenge for law enforcement agencies due to these factors. In view, smugglers hailing from diverse states, frequently receiving assistance from local criminal organizations, effectively procure cannabis from Odisha using the river route and disperse it to various parts of the country, with the ASR district serving as a primary point of origin. In 2022, authorities confiscat-

ed and destroyed over 2.45 lakh units of ganja while arresting 25 members of inter-state smuggling networks in 2023. As part of the Parivartana program over the last two years, specialized police and excise teams eradicated cannabis from around 5,000 acres of land. The illegal cultivation covers 10,000 acres and generates an estimated annual revenue of about Rs 1000 crore.

# 'Let's not normalise what is happening in Canada': EAM

Hitting out at Canada, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said it is necessary to call out things like violence, threats and intimidation against Indian diplomats and missions and wondered if this had happened to any other country would the world have taken it

with equanimity.
"Let's not normalise what is happening in Canada," Jaishankar said during an interaction with Indian journalists here on Friday.

His remarks came amidst simmering tensions with Ottawa following Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's explosive allegations of the "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Khalistani extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar on June 18 in British Columbia.

as a terrorist in 2020.

India has angrily rejected the allegations as "absurd" and "motivated" and expelled a senior Canadian diplomat in a tit-for-tat move to Ottawa's expulsion of an Indian official over the case.

"We have had an ongoing problem with Canada and the Canadian government for some years now. The ongoing problem really revolves around the permissiveness to terrorism, extremism and violence. This permissiveness is also reflected in the fact that some important extradition requests have not been responded to from their side," he said.

"We have had smoke bombs thrown at the mission, we have had violence in front of consulates, there are posters put up. Do you consider this normal? If this had happened to any



other country, how would they react? Let's not normalise what is happening in Canada. It is important to call out what is happening there," Jaishankar

"What is happening in Canada, had it happened anywhere else, do you think the world would've taken it with equanimity?" he asked.

Jaishankar said one of the When asked about Trudeau's problems is that no incident is

isolated and the totality as there is a context for every-

thing.
"There are multiple problems out there. So, I guess in the case of individual incidents, the concerned governments will have to talk to each other and see how they sort of take it forward," he said.

"But there is a larger issue. And I think it's important that the larger issue should be flagged. The larger issue is this permissiveness that I have spoken about," he said.

He also asserted that it was not acceptable to make threats and intimidate diplomats in the name of freedom of speech.

'We don't need to learn from other people what freedom of speech is about. But we can tell people this. We don't think freedom of speech extends to incitement, to vio-

## Don't give another chance for Cong to rule in Chhattisgarh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched a scathing attack on the Congress government in Chhattisgarh, claiming that it was mired in corruption, and if given another chance, it will be emboldened to continue in

the same way.

Speaking at 'Parivartan Mahasankalp rally', the concluding function of the BJP's two 'Parivartan Yatra' outreach campaigns here ahead of assembly elections in the state, he also alleged that the Congress cannot tolerate the rise of Dalits, Scheduled Tribes and backward classes, and it abuses backward classes on the pretext of targeting him.

"Chhattisgarh is steeped in corruption and misrule. There is a scam in every scheme in the state," Modi said, hitting out at the Bhupesh Baghel government over alleged scams in ration distribution, liquor

trade, Public Service Commission (PSC) recruitment, District Mineral Foundation (DMF) fund uti-

curement. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was completely dedicated to the development of Chhattisgarh whether it was in power at the Centre or in the state, the prime minister said.

lization and cow dung pro-

"Today I have come to give ou a guarantee that Modi will leave no stone unturned to make your every dream come true. It is Modi's guarantee that

vour dreams are Modi's reso lution," he said.

"No matter how much I try from Delhi to ensure that development reaches you, the Congress government here keeps trying to disrupt it. In the last five years, Chhattisgarh has received thousands of crores of rupees from the Centre for development works. There is no shortage of money for the state, and I am not saying this but deputy Chief Minister (TS Singh Deo) of Chhattisgarh has said this in a

public programme," Modi said.

## PM Modi has become 'global hero of ground zero': Naqvi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has proved to be the "global hero of ground zero" by depreciating dynastic dominance through decisive delivery and development, BJP leader and former Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said on Saturday.

"Modiji's 'perfect, potential performance with the passion of 'never let it rest till your good is better and your better is best' has proved democracy can deliver with decisive determination without dynastic dominance in governance," Naqvi said at the BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry's 'Indian Brand and Leadership Conclave 2023' here.

The BJP leader said that a brand of any product or personality is proved potential and perfect "not by chance but

by choice" reliability of production is paramount to convert people's habits into "hysteria for a brand or brand ambassador, Naqvi said in a statement issued by his office.

Integrity and acceptability ensures the global glamour and grace of a product and popularity, he added.

Violence outside and

Bhavan: Bengal Guv

"lens" inside Raj

Nagvi further said a technology and connectivity revolution has made the world smaller and the competition

People keep a close watch on the business, political, economic, cultural, religious, educational, administrative activities of every part of the world," he said

.keep your eyes on the sky and feet on the ground" so that if you fell down, you can stand up easily, the BJP leader

Maintaining the global credibility of a personality, product, industry or institution is the necessity of today's digital demography, e added.

Naqvi said technology must be saved from the "confine-ment of chronology".

"Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do," he said. adding, "That is why transforment and credibility have become an effective and successful formula for perfect products."

The former Union minister said that while 'Bharat' is one of the fastest growing economies of the world, it has also emerged as a "favourite" global digital destination.

## Cong willing to conduct caste-based census in country: Rahul

PNS BHOPAL

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said if his party is voted to power at the Centre, it would conduct a caste-based census to know the exact number of OBC people living in the

He claimed that the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and central government officers were framing the laws of the country instead of

the elected representatives of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

allegations, he said India has

already pointed out to Canada

that this is not the government

share with us specifics and any-

thing relevant, we are also

open to looking at it. So in that

sense, that's where the matter

stands," Jaishankar said.

"But if they are prepared to

of India's policy.

Addressing a public meeting in Kalapipal assembly constituency in Shajapur district of Madhya Pradesh, where state elections are due by the year-end, Gandhi described the state as an "epicentre of corruption" and claimed that 18,000 farmers have ended their lives there in the last 18 years under the BJP rule.

"Soon after coming to power, the

first thing we will do is to go for a caste-based census to know the exact number of OBCs and other sections of people for the benefit of all as no one knows their exact number," Gandhi said.

He claimed that the country was being run by only 90 officers, including the cabinet secretary and secretaries, while the BJP MPs and MLAs had no role in framing policies and laws in the country.

"The RSS and bureaucrats are framing laws instead of elected BJP members...The RSS has given the job to the government to divert people's attention from core issues," he said.

The former Congress president said he was disqualified from the Lok Sabha after he spoke against an industrialist Gautam Adani in the House. "After I raised the issue, BJP

quashed my membership. I don't bother, I will speak the truth," he said.

On the women's reservation law, he said it would take around 10 years to implement, and wondered why it does not have reservation for women from Other Backward Classes (OBC) category. "Women's reservation is good. But they have incorporated two lines in it. It will be implemented after (population census) survey and denotification (delimitation). This will take 10 years...Why is there no OBC reservation in it?" he said.

## V-P hits out at PC for his remarks on women's quota law

PNS NEW DELHI

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday hit out leader Chidambaram for his remarks that reservation for women in legislatures was still years away, saying it is shameful to convert ignorance of the people into political equity.

Addressing an event here,
Dhankhar said he lacked words

to express his anguish on the remarks made on the women's reservation law by a "senior member of the Rajya Sabha who had been a Union minister and has held high profile positions". naming Without

Chidambaram, Dhankhar minister's comments, "What is the use of a law that will not be implemented for several years. certainly not before the 2029 Lok Sabha elections?"

Dhankhar referred to Chidambaram's remarks posted on X last night that the women's reservation law is a "teasing illusion, a reflection of



the moon in a bowl of water or a pie in the sky"

The vice president dubbed it a "distorted mindset" and wondered whether a sapling plant-ed today would start giving fruits immediately or whether a person would get a degree institute.

"It is shameful to convert ignorance of the people into political equity," he said.

The vice president said the youth of today will have to fight this as they have access to information.

The bill to provide 33 per cent reservation to women in Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies was passed by the Lok Sabha with near unanimity and the Rajya Sabha with unanimity during the special

gave assent to the bill on Now, it will be officially

(106th Amendment) Act. According to its provision, "It shall come into force on

During a special session of Parliament earlier this month,

session of Parliament. President Droupadi Murmu

known as the Constitution

such date as the central government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint."

the next census and the subsequent delimitation exercise -

The law will take some time before being implemented as redrawing of Lok Sabha and assembly constituencies - will ascertain the particular seats being earmarked for women.

Prime Minister Narendra

Modi described the law as

"Nari Shakti Vandan

Adhiniyam".

The quota for women in the Lok Sabha and assemblies will continue for 15 years and Parliament can later extend the benefit period.

While there is quota within quota for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) women, the opposition had demanded that the benefit be extended to Other Backward Classes. It had also pressed for its immediate implementation.

There had been several efforts to pass the bill in Parliament since 1996. The last such attempt was made in 2010, when Rajya Sabha had passed a bill for women's reservation, but the same could not be passed in Lok Sabha.

## INDIA CORNER

## Man guns down homoeopath, his wife; attempts suicide



allegedly shot and killed Aa homoeopath and his wife and attempted to commit suicide at a clinic in Madhya Pradesh's Chhindwara district on Saturday, police said. The incident took place in the Amarwada area of the district

around 2 pm, an official said. Sonu Malviya stormed into the clinic of Mahesh Dehariya (55), who

held a degree in homoeopathic medicine and surgery, and opened fire at him, additional superintendent of police (ASP) Awadesh Pratap Singh said. The accused also fired at Dehariya's wife then she came to his rescue, and he then held the nist to his temple and pulled the trigger, he said. The accused sustained an injury and slumped to the floor, he said.

The police rushed the couple to the district hospital, where doctors declared them dead, the official said. Dehariva sustained injuries to his chest and belly and Vandana was shot in the back, he said. adding that the deceased man is the president of the Bahujan Samaj Party's district unit. The accused is admitted to a hospital and his condition is said to be critical. The police are investigating the motive for the shooting, the official said.

floods, a legal guarantee on MSP and a complete debt waiver. The

agitation that began on Thursday hit the movement of trains, with

said. According to railway officials of the Ferozepur division. the

three-day farmers' stir affected the movement of 581 passenger

many being cancelled, short-terminated or diverted, railway officials

#### **Punjab farmers' 'rail roko'** stir ends; 600 trains hit India to see normal to above-normal armers Saturday evening

PNS KOLKATA West Bengal Governor CV

Ananda Bose in a veiled attack on the TMC government said Saturday there is "violence outside" and "lens" inside the Raj Bhavan.

Bose was speaking at a function to swear-in the newly elected TMC MLA from Dhupguri at the palatial Raj Bhavan which doubles up as the Governor's residence and office. The Governor told newspersons at the gathering that "there is a lot of violence outside the Raj Bhavan and lens inside". The quip on 'lens' seemed a reference to his earlier complaints that he was being monitored.

## People of MP will vote out every 'corrupt Congress leader': Goyal

Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday said the people of Madhya Pradesh will vote out "every corrupt Congress leader" in the upcoming Assembly polls.
Assembly polls are to be

held at the end of the year in

Speaking to reporters after 'prabuddhjan sammelan' (intellectuals' conference) here, Goyal said MP had achieved new heights due to efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan as well as all the Bharatiya Janata



Party ministers

Madhya Pradesh has achieved 18 per cent growth in GSDP in the last 20 years due to these efforts, he said.

The BJP has been in power in MP since 2003, expect for a period between December 2018 and March 2020 when

the Congress ruled under Kamal Nath. "People of Madhya Pradesh will vote out every corrupt Congress leader and make them sit in their homes," the Union minister said.

The country's exports stood at Rs 60 lakh crore in March this year, up from Rs 38 lakh crore in the corresponding period in 2021.

PM Modi took the initiative

on August 6, 2021 to boost

exports, which now has wit-

nessed 55 per cent growth, he The industrial sector growth has been 12 per cent despite recession abroad, the Union PNS NEW DELHI

to record normal to abovenormal maximum and abovenormal minimum temperatures in October, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Saturday.



## maximum temp in Oct: IMD It said the northeast mon-

Most parts of India are likely

soon, which brings rainfall to five meteorological sub-divisions of south peninsular India - Tamil Nadu, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema, Kerala and south interior Karnataka -- in the October to December period is most likely to be normal. This means, the region may receive 88 per cent to 112 per cent of the long-period average of 334.13 mm of rain-

The Met office said normal to above-normal maximum temperatures are likely over most parts of India in October.

Above-normal minimum temperatures are predicted over large parts of the country, barring some parts of northeast, it added.

#### trains and 17 goods trains. Of passenger trains, as many as 376 trains were cancelled, 89 were short terminated, 46 short originated. and 70 were diverted. **Sri Lanka targets to cross** 2018 tourists arrival level

## 'Normal' rainfall in monsoon as positive factors counter El Nino effect

PNS NEW DELHI

The four-month monsoon season has ended with India receiving "normal" cumulative rainfall -- 820 mm against a long-period average of 868.6 mm -- with positive factors countering the effect of El Nino conditions, the India Meteorological Department

(IMD) said on Saturday. Rainfall between 94 percent and 106 percent of the longperiod average (LPA) is considered normal.

However, normal cumulative rainfall over the country during the monsoon season doesn't mean even spatial and temporal spread of precipitation. The Indian monsoon refers

to inherent fluctuations and changes that occur over time due to various natural factors. This is called natural variabil-

monsoon more variable. Increased variability means more extreme weather and dry

Research, however, shows

climate change is making the

Addressing a press conference, IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said



that with positive factors countering El Nino, the 2023 monsoon season concluded with 94.4 per cent cumulative rainfall which is considered "nor-

Monthly rainfall across the country as a whole stood at 91

percent of LPA in June, 113 per cent in July, 64 percent in August, and 113 percent in September.

Out of the 36 meteorological subdivisions, three (constituting 9 per cent of the total area) received excess rainfall, 26 received normal rainfall (covering 73 per cent of the total area), and seven received deficient rainfall.

The seven subdivisions with deficient rainfall are Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, and Tripura, Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar, East UP, South Interior Karnataka, and

Kerala," the IMD chief said. The IMD reported that East and Northeast India recorded 1,115 mm of rainfall against a normal of 1,367.3 mm, which translates to an 18 per cent deficit.

Northwest India recorded 593 mm of rainfall compared to a long-period average of 587.6 mm. Central India, where agriculture predominantly relies on monsoon rains, recorded 981.7 mm against a normal of 978 mm. The South Peninsula experienced an eight per cent

ri Lanka is betting big on its tourism industry to boost its economy and targets to cross the 2018 tourist footfall level within this year, Sri Lanka Convention Bureau General Manager Krishantha Fernando said on Saturday. Sri Lanka has been grappling with crises since 2019 when the country was

ended their three-day 'rail

roko' stir that hit the

in Punjab and Haryana.

movement of trains, causing

inconvenience to passengers

Protesters were holding their

agitation against the Centre in

support of various demands

crops damaged in the recent

including compensation for

rocked by a series of deadly blasts on Easter in April damaging the tourist industry, and this was followed by Covid-19 and then the financial crisis thereafter. The island nation, which is recovering gradually and is stepping up its efforts to attract international tourists back to Sri Lanka, hosted 1 million international travellers, of this 1.80.000 travellers were from India. Fernando told PTI over the phone. "The tourism industry is recovering and we have welcomed 1 million international tourists, of this 1,80,000 tourists were from India. Looking at the current momentum, we expect to cross the 2018 level, one of the best years for the tourism sector, within this year," Fernando said on the sidelines of a two-day 'BLTM (Business+Leisure Travel and MICE) 2023' that ended on Saturday.



#### **UIDAI** chief **Amit Agrawal** gets one-year extension

PNS NEW DELHI

Senior bureaucrat Amit Agrawal has been given a one-year extension, till November 2 next year, as the Chief Executive Officer of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), an official order said. Agrawal is a 1993-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Chhattisgarh cadre.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved extension in Agrawal's tenure as the CEO, UIDAI for a period of one year beyond Navamber 2 year beyond November 2, 2023 i.e. up to November 2, 2024, said the order issued by the Personnel Ministry.

## Online gaming cos to net 28% on full bet

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

From October 1, online gaming companies will charge 28 per cent GST on full value of bets, while offshore platforms too would be required to have GST registration to operate in

The finance ministry late on Friday notified October 1 as the appointed date for the amended provisions in Central GST and Integrated GST laws to come into effect.

E-gaming companies, how-ever, flagged that since many states are yet to pass amendments in their respective State GST (SGST) laws, this notification by the union government in CGST and IGST laws

will create confusion.
According to the changes to the Central GST Act, online gaming, casinos and horse racing will henceforth be treat-



ed as "actionable claims" similar to lottery, betting and gambling and subject to 28 per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST) on full face value of

The amendments to Integrated GST (IGST) Act makes it mandatory for offshore online gaming platforms to take registration in India and pay 28 per cent tax in accordance with the domestic

The amendments will also

passed amendments to the Central GST and Integrated GST laws to give effect to the Council's decision. Following that, rules for valuation by these companies were also notified on September 6.

Parliament last month

The finance ministry has now notified that October 1 will be the appointed date for implementation of these provisions.

In a letter to Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra, All India Gaming Federation (AIGF) sought to know that with around 15 states yet to make changes to their respec-tive State GST laws, what would be GST treatment that ought to be adopted by online gaming companies registered in those states in relation to deposits received from players

#### **BoM appoints Pradeep Kumar** Srivastava as Chief **Technology Officer**

PNS NEW DELHI

State-owned Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has appointed Pradeep Kumar Srivastava as Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of the bank.

His appointment is effective from September 28, 2023, the Pune-based lender said in a statement.

He brings with him a wealth of experience spanning over 28 years in the realm of the IT Industry, it

Prior to joining BoM, Srivastava held the position of Vice President - Lead Enterprise Architect with Barclays Global Technology Centre in Pune.

#### **MONEY MATTERS**

#### **Popular Vehicles and Services** files IPO papers with Sebi again



Services Ltd, which is engaged in automotive dealerships, has filed preliminary papers with capital markets regulator Sebi to raise funds through an initial share sale. This is the company's second attempt to go public. Earlier the company filed draft papers with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) in August 2021 for

floating an Initial Public Offering (IPO) but deferred the maiden public issue amid uncertain market conditions. According to the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) filed on Thursday, the IPO comprises fresh issuance of equity shares worth Rs 250 crore and an Offer For Sale (OFS) of 1.42 crore equity shares by Banyantree Growth Capital II, LLC. Besides, the company is looking to raise Rs 50 crore in a pre-IPO placement round. If such placement is undertaken, the fresh issue size will be reduced. Proceeds of the fresh issue will be used for payment of debt and general corporate purposes.

## Indus Towers inks pact with IOC Phinergy for clean energy systems

PNS NEW DELHI

Indus Towers and IOC Phinergy (IOP) have inked a pact for the deployment of 300 zero-emission energy systems to optimise diesel consumption at Indus' telecom tower sites. This move accelerates Indus Towers' progress

priorities, according to a "Indus Towers Limited and IOC Phinergy Private Limited (IOP) have signed an agreement for deployment of 300 zero-emission energy systems based

on aluminium-air tech-

nology, to optimise diesel

consumption at Indus'

telecom tower sites," the

towards its sustainability

release said. Indus Towers' CEO Prachur Sah said as part of the company's ESG vision, Indus Towers believes in nurturing envi-ronmental stewardship, being socially responsible and having robust gover-

"Indus Tower's agreement with IOP is a testimony of the company's commitment to build ecofriendly telecom tower sites by investing in solutions for resource optimisation," Sah

IOP is a joint venture company formed by IOCL and Phinergy Ltd, Israel to manufacture, sell and service aluminium-air systems using Phinergy's technology in India.

## Rs 6k cr scheme for pharma, medical devices sectors

PNS GANDHINAGAR

The Centre has approved investment of Rs 6000 crore to 74 industries in the pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturing sectors under the production linked incentive (PLI) scheme, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said here on Saturday.

Shah was addressing a gathering after dedicating the newly built campus of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) at Gandhinagar. The Union government has

taken a holistic approach and begun the process for the development of a cost-effective, sustainable and affordable process for 16 APIs (active pharmaceutical ingredient) and two KSMs (key starting material)," he said. In the next one decade, India will not just become self-reliant but also be in a

and KSMs), Shah added. "The Narendra Modi government has given permission

Airtel logs 50 million customers on its 5G network

unique customers on its net-work," the company said.

rollouts in the country, Airtel 5G Plus is available across all

the 28 states and 8 union terri-

tories. Randeep Sekhon, Chief

Technology Officer (CTO) of

Bharti Airtel said the telco is thrilled at the speed of adoption

of 5G by millions of customers

and added "we are reaching this

milestone earlier than planned".

of Airtel's 5G coverage going

from 1 million in October of

This marks a big expansion

Making it one of the fastest

position to export them (APIs



provide for blocking access to

online gaming platforms locat-

ed overseas in case of failure to

comply with registration and

In its meetings in July and August, the GST Council,

comprising finance ministers of Centre and states, had

approved amendments to the

law to include online gaming,

casinos and horse racing as

taxable actionable claims, and

would attract 28 per cent tax

clarified that such supplies

tax payment provisions.

"The Narendra Modi government has given permission for the investment of Rs 4000 crore to about 48 small and big industries in the sector of pharmaceutical manufacturing under the PLI scheme."

for the investment of Rs 4000 crore to about 48 small and big industries in the sector of pharmaceutical manufacturing under the PLI scheme," Shah said. The PLI scheme was also launched for medical device manufacturing, under which the Centre has given permission for investment of Rs 2000 crore to 26 investors, he said.

The government has built three bulk drug parks with a total cost outlay of Rs 3000 crores, he said.

For India to become selfreliant in the field of medical devices, the government has come up with the National Medical Device Policy 2023, and now a separate policy is being made for its export as well, the senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader said.

Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Mansukh Mandaviya was also present on the occasion. Out of seven NIPERs in India, the one at Gandhinagar will be the third campus to be fully functional after Mohli and Guwahati, while construction work for the campuses in Hajipur,

Hyderabad, Kolkata and Raebareli is in progress, he said. "NIPER is today a big name

in higher, technical education, with around 8000 students having so far proved their success after joining the industry. NIPER is also credited with more than 380 patent registration, and more than 7000 research papers," Shah informed. He said the Rs 2,200-crore budget granted for the state-of-art laboratory will help research, adding that more than 270 MoUs had been signed between NIPER and the industry.

Shah thanked the pharmaceutical industry and said the Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana could not have been made possible without its help.

People have been able to save medicines worth Rs 30,000 crore in the last nine years because of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dedication to the poor and desire for their upliftment, the Union minister said.

#### **Dhaka slowest city in** the world on speed



Bangladesh is the slowest city in the world while the fastest city on the speed index is Flint in the US state of Michigan, according to a US-based private nonprofit research organisation's findings. The study was done by the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) which covered 1,200 cities in 152

countries. "The fastest city in the world is Flint (of Michigan) United States, with a speed index of 0.48. The slowest is Dhaka, Bangladesh, with an index of -0.60," read the NERB report uploaded to their website. The NERB said all cities in Bangladesh were among the slowest 15 per cent of world cities while it listed the centralnorth Mymensingh and the southeastern port city of Chottogram as the ninth and 12th slowest cities across the globe. "Most strikingly, all cities with the fastest speed or uncongested speed are in rich countries, and all the slowest cities are in poor countries, commented the report by Cambridge, Massachusetts-based NBER

## A M Naik steps down as chairman of L&T Group



the chairman of L&T Group on Saturday. He handed over the reins of the USD 23 billion conglomerate to S N Subrahmanyan at an event in Mumbai. Naik, 81, will now be the chairman of the employees trust. He will focus on increasing many philanthropic initiatives that he has been undertaking for the past few years, according to a statement. India Post

M Naik stepped down as

unveiled a postage stamp on Naik on the occasion. Naik's attention Naik Charitable Trust which focuses on education and skill-building of the underprivileged, and the Nirali Memorial Medical Trust dedicated to facilitating super speciality healthcare at subsidised cost. Naik joined the company in 1965 as a junior engineer and went on to become its Group Chairman. In the nearly three decades in leadership roles, Naik helped the company grow to its present size and stature, the statement said.

### Bengaluru sees 39% fall in office demand



Brominent city for commercial real estate market, saw a 39 per cent decline in gross leasing of office space during July-September with corporates making delays

in taking decisions to expand business, according to Cushman & Wakefield. According to data released by real estate consultant Cushman & Wakefield, the gross office leasing in Bengaluru fell to 22,13,654 square feet (sq ft) during July-September from 36,39,339 sq ft in the year-ago period. Across eight major cities, the absorption of office space fell 13 per cent to 151,18,147 sq ft from 173,76,222 sq ft. Anshul Jain, Head of APAC Tenant Representation and Managing Director, India & South East Asia, said, "The office segment is seeing major shifts in terms of evolving occupier demands. "India is currently in the spotlight as a preferred destination for business expansion, the top tier markets are destined to witness more innovation and traction in the real estate place.

## **GLOBAL TRAVEL MARKET**

## Focus on niche products to tap demand

Kerala Hoteliers Forum (SKHF),

Trivandrum Chamber of Commerce

PNS THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The first edition of Global Travel Market (GTM 2023) and expo drew to a close here on Saturday with leading players of travel and hospitality sector calling for stepping up promotional efforts focustial travel, wellness and heritage to tap the full potential of post-pandemic surge in tourism.

The four-day event, which saw a large number of business decisions being clinched during the B2B sessions by stakeholders from around the world, also stressed on firming up sectoral collaborations and government-industry relations to impart a further momentum to the highly promising sector.

Odisha govt clears 19 investment projects

The Odisha government on

Saturday approved 19 invest-

ment projects worth Rs 3,663

These projects, approved during a meeting of the State Level Single Window Clearance Authority (SLSW-CA) held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary

Pradeep Kumar Jena, are

expected to generate employ-ment for over 13,500 people,

an official statement said.

The EPIC Group, a Hong Kong-based apparel manufacturer renowned for serving

some of the world's leading brands, is poised to bolster foreign direct investment

Trimetro Garments India

Pvt Ltd, a subsidiary of the

EPIC Group, is planning to

invest Rs 376.85 crore for the

establishment of its apparel

manufacturing facility in

The state government has

approved proposals of sever-

al steel companies including

Nezone Steel Utkal LLP,

Advance Steel Tubes Limited, Nirmal Steels

Private Limited, Rungta

Mines Ltd, Ferro Tech India Pvt Ltd, and Super Sonic Logistics Pvt Ltd.

Logistics Pvt Ltd. Collectively, these companies

have proposed to invest over

Rs 2,000 crore in regions

such as Kalinganagar,

Dhenkanal and Sundergarh.

Khurda district, it said.

(FDI) in Odisha, it said.

worth Rs 3,663 cr

PNS BHUBANESWAR

GTM 2023 was organised by South

and Industries (TCCI), Tavaz Ventures, Metro Media and Citrine Hospitality Ventures, a statement said here on aturday.

GTM CEO Siji Nair said the expo had articipants from around 24 countries.

Addressing the valedictory session of GTM at Kerala Arts and articipants from around 24 countries.

and more than 20 states, making the event a grand success. Overall, more than 1,000 trade visitors, 600 plus domestic and 100 international tour operators and 100 plus corporate buyers attended

the four-day summit began on September 27, it said. The travel and trade exhibition of GTM 2023, held at Travancore International Convention Centre, Greenfield International Stadium at

nearby Karyavattom, had 200 plus stalls of major hoteliers and resorts, tourism boards and organisations, airlines, travel agents, tour operators and travel tech innovators.

Crafts Craft Village at Kovalam evening, A Vincent, MLA, said it is vitally important to showcase products like Ayurveda, handloom, traditional cuisine and handicrafts before visitors and make them spend more days in the state. "GTM is a great endeavour in this direction," the MLA noted.

A seminar was also held on 'The Role of Media in Promoting the Tourism Industry' at the expo venue

2022 to 50 million in just 12

months of the launch. The

expansion continues at full speed

and I am sure, we will continue

to rapidly multiply as we work

towards nationwide coverage

and enable all our customers to

The services are now available across all districts in the

country (with the exception of districts in Pakistan occupied

Kashmir, naxal affected areas

of Chhattisgarh and the islands

of Lakshadweep, which are

connected through VSAT).

enter the 5G age," he said.

#### investment in Bengaluru Seeks K'taka govt support to overcome

Dell considering fresh

PNS BENGALURU

restrictions on SEZ

In a bid to further strengthen its presence in Karnataka, Texas-based technology conglomerate Dell is considering a fresh investment in its research and development (R&D) centre in Bengaluru, according to the office of Karnataka Large and Medium Industries & Infrastructure Minister M B Patil. The company already operates a prominent research and development centre in Bengaluru. At the global level, Dell operates around 25 manufacturing facilities with 14 of these facilities dedicated to R&D.

On Friday, senior officials from Dell held meetings with Patil at Austin in the USA and sought support from the Karnataka government to overcome import restrictions on Special Economic Zone (SEZ) operations, which would enhance cost sustainability for Dell's expansion in India, his office said in a statement here.

A business delegation led by

Patil is visiting various states in the US to attract investments into the state. The delegation also met leading semiconductor manufacturing company Global Foundries (GF), which expressed interest in increasing its workforce in Bengaluru with an addition of 200 skilled workers, it said. The Minister has assured to extend the government's support in this regard and will also help Global Foundries to establish connections with cus-

tomers and suppliers, it added.
The \$30-billion Global Foundries has also expressed interest in establishing and expanding its Aerospace and Defence (A&D) presence in Karnataka, with plans for further engagement to develop a comprehensive business strategy, the statement added.

## Rs 100 cr for Aspirational Blocks Programme

PNS NEW DELHI

The government in this financial year has allocated Rs 100 crore for Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP), which aims to improve governance at the block level, in order to enhance the quality of life of citizens, a top gov-ernment official said on

Says services now

Bharti Airtel on Saturday

announced it has garnered over 50

million 5G customers on its net-

work - a feat achieved within one

year of the launch of Airtel 5G Plus.

company also said Airtel 5G

Plus services are available

across all districts in the coun-

try. "Airtel continues its 5G

growth streak with 50 million

The Sunil Mittal-led telecom

span all districts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Saturday ABP is being implemented in 500 aspirational blocks across 329 districts in the country. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the nationwide programme on January 7.

"The government has allocated Rs 100 crore for the Aspirational Blocks Programme in 2023-24... We expect that all 500 backward



blocks will reach the state average in terms of development in three years," the

official said on the condition of anonymity. Out of 500 aspirations

blocks, 160 blocks are part of the 112 aspirational dis-

Uttar Pradesh has the maximum number of blocks (68) under this programme followed by Bihar (61). NITI Aayog would undertake ranking of aspirational blocks every quarter based on their performance, the official added.

Prime Minister Modi on Saturday said the aspirational districts programme changed the lives of more than 25 crore people in 112 districts of the country and its success will now form the basis of Aspirational Blocks

Programme.

Modi made the remarks as he launched a unique weeklong programme for aspirational blocks called 'Sankalp Saptaah' at the Bharat Mandapam here.

## Azad Engineering files Rs 740-cr IPO papers with Sebi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Azad Engineering Ltd has filed draft papers with capital markets regulator Sebi to raise Rs 740 crore through an initial public offering (IPO).

The company's IPO comprises a fresh issue of up to Rs 240 crore and an offer-for-sale (OFS) of equity shares aggregating up to Rs 500 crore by a promoter and investors, according to the draft red

herring prospectus (DRHP).

The OFS consists of the sale of equity shares aggregating up to Rs 170 crore by promoter Rakesh Chopdar, equity shares worth up to Rs 280 crore by Piramal Structured Credit Opportunities Fund and equity shares to the tune of up to

Rs 50 crore by DMI Finance. Proceeds from the fresh issues will be used for funding capital expenditure of the company, payment of debt, and general corporate purposes, as per the draft papers filed on Friday. Azad Éngineering is one of

the key manufacturers of their

qualified product lines supplying global original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) in the aerospace and defence, energy, and oil and gas industries, manufacturing highly engineered, complex, and mission and life-critical components. The company manufactures

complex and highly engineered precision forged and machined components that are mission and life-critical.

VIJAYAWADA, October 1, 2023



# LOVE YOUR HEART

Ignorance may be bliss sometimes but never when it comes to the heart. Rapid urbanisation inducing stress and a stressful lifestyle, coupled with dietary issues, are alarmingly taking toll on the heart, spiking cardiovascular diseases year after year. These ailments have increasingly affected the younger age groups, imposing economic and social burdens on the society, doctors point out in a chat with THE HEALTH PIONEER

Vivek Tandon, Additional Director, Interventional Cardiology, Fortis Hospital ter Noida, said, Greater "Cardiovascular diseases are one of the leading causes of mortality in

In the last few years, there has been a rise in heart attack cases which has also been recorded in various studies: 25% of Indians below 40 years of age are at a higher risk of suffering heart attacks or other serious heart-related ailment.

This risk increases to 50% for people between 40 and 50 years of

Regular Health Screening, Weight Management and moderate exercising lowers the risk of heart attack, advises the medicos.

People with family history of cardio vascular diseases, smoking and high stress levels are at greater risk, they warn.

"Since heart health has been a serious concern in India, the need for introducing light to moderate exercise regime, maintaining body weight, healthy diet intake, reduce consumption of alcohol and tobacco are critical to avert any cardiac related ailments.

"Even if we are active, take a

balanced diet, give up smoking and alcohol, and introduce methods to keep stress levels under control, sudden cardiac arrests can be averted. One of the major reasons for increasing heart attack cases in the young population is the long working hours, reduced sleep, and relationship issues, which cause stress and lead to heart disease. People with risk factors like family history of cardiovascular dis exposure to an unhealthy lifestyle must get themselves examined by doctors", added Dr Tandon.

Cardiologists at Amrita Hospital, Faridabad concured even as they blamed stress, smoking and overeating-led visceral weight gain as the flagbearers of risk factors leading to cardiovascular chal-

Dr. Vivek Chaturvedi, Head of Department (Adult Cardiology), Amrita Hospital, Faridabad said, "Stress management takes center stage in heart health so, it is crucial to avoid excessive stress and also

smoking which is caused by it. Additionally, maintaining control over eating habits is crucial; overeating should be avoided, and a healthy diet should be embraced. Abdominal obesity is a significant

concern for heart health which can be prevented through regular exercise and physical activity. Such activities hold great significance in preventing a range of diseases, including hypertension, diabetes, and obesity. Weight loss and blood pressure reduction can often be achieved through regular exercise without the need for medication."

The doctors emphasized upon ulcating healthy habits among students in the early stage itself. "School students should adapt to a healthy lifestyle early on in their lives which will help them sidestep adverse heart diseases in the long run," said Dr. Mohit Bhutani, Assistant Professor, Dept of Adult Cardiology, Amrita Hospital, Faridabad.

He added, "Students should focus on taking a balanced diet, with an adequate intake of proteins, carbohydrates, fats, and nuts while cautioning against excessive consumption of fatty foods. In the educational setting, schools play a pivotal role in promoting heart health among students. Schools to monitor students' anthropometry regularly, which includes measurements like height, weight, and body mass index, to identify and address

early detection in younger adults to potential obesity concerns early on. "Incorporating yoga and medcurb this alarming trend.

itation into daily routines can enhance mental and emotional health of students. It is essential for students to avoid harmful habits such as smoking, excessive alcohol consumption, and substance abuse. Teachers are urged to lead by example by proactively integrating heart-healthy practices into their lives includ regular evercise tobacco and alcohol avoidance, and stress management through activities like yoga and meditation."

Pramit Mishra, Facility Director, Fortis Hospital, Greater Noida stressed on having complete

"In these competitive times, our sleep takes a toll, which impacts the overall health, whereas people who complete their sleepcycles and have healthier sleep patterns are better at managing health factors like weight and blood pressure along

with a healthy heart." India's share of one-fifth in the 17.9 million global heart attack deaths, as per WHO, is a stark reminder that heart disease is now affecting people in their 30s and 40s. This shift highlights the urgent need for preventive measures and

Dr Jyoti Kapoor, Founder-Director and Senior Psychiatrist from Manasthali felt that one way to keep heart healthy is by keeping one free from stress. "Stress is the silent architect of

heart disease, weaving a web of risk factors that can shatter the strongest of hearts. It's not just an emotional heart disease. When stress takes center stage in our daily existence, it orchestrates a symphony of physiological changes that can, over time, harm our cardiovascular health. Like a relentless storm, chronic stress can erode the resilience of our hearts, leading to increased blood pressure, inflammation, and unhealthy lifestyle choices.

'To protect the heart's sanctiwe must become vigilant guardians of our well-being, mastering the art of stress management. As we unravel the knots of tension, we fortify the heart's defenses, nurturing a future where stress is but a fleeting gust in the gentle breeze of a healthy heart."

The WHO South-East Asia Region member states need to join the global call to raise awareness about heart health and accelerate actions to prevent, detect and manage cardiovascular diseases. The region is home to a quarter of the world's population, said WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh on the occasion of World Heart Day

observed on September 29. The WHO South-East Asia Region is experiencing a very high oncommunicabl eases. Cardiovascular diseases are responsible for 3.9 million or 30 per cent of all deaths annually.

"Alarmingly, almost half (48 per cent) of these cardiovascular disease-related deaths occurred prematurely, affecting individuals aged 30-70 years and imposing significant socioeconomic burdens on families, communities and countries," Singh said.

The main causes to the burden of cardiovascular diseases include modifiable lifestyle factors such as tobacco use, alcohol consumption, unhealthy diets -- especially high salt intake -- and lack of physical activity. Raised blood pressure and glucose levels are the key drivers and these can be detected, diagnosed and managed adequately in primary care, she added.

#### **SEVEN-DAY SELF-CARE FOR HEART HEALTH**

Here is a seven-day self-care plan that is sure to get you on the road to improving your heart health:

• Healthy Eating for Your Heart Everyone has heard that they

need to eat healthier, but knowing what that actually means can be overwhelming and confusing. If your doctor has told you to lower your cholesterol to reduce your risk for heart disease, then ask the dieticians what type of food will

#### • Get Your Blood Pressure Checked

Did you know that you can feel fine and still be suffering from high blood pressure, also known as the "silent killer"? For that reason, it is recommended that you have your blood pressure checked at least once per year. If you also grapple with 'white coat syndrome" (an increase in blood pressure due to the presence of a doctor or other medical professional), it is reasonable to use at-home cuffs or grocery store cuffs to get an idea of what your numbers are. Make sure that you remain quiet and calm for several minutes before taking the reading. Knowing your blood pressure and working with your medical team can be life-saving.

•Engage in High-Quality Sleep Sleep disorders can have an impact on heart health; therefore, it is important to know the signs of a sleep disorder. Because you are unconscious when asleep, asking a family member or person with whom you live about your sleep. whom you live about your sleep behaviors is informative.

#### •Weight Management and Maintenance

Managing your weight is much easier said than done; however, obesity greatly increases your risk of heart health difficulties. If you have tried dieting and exercising with no success, there is still hope. If you feel that you have exhausted all options, speak with a physician to discuss next

#### Moderate Your Sugar Intake

Sugar intake is closely linked to inflammation and heart disease. If you have a sweet tooth, try to snag a fruit instead of a treat. Moderating your refined sugar intake will help keep your heart healthy, keep your weight down and get you feeling more energized throughout your day.

#### •Quit Smoking and Avoid Smoke

Smoking and regularly coming into contact with cigarette smoke is detrimental to your overall health and especially to your heart health. Did you know that when you quit smoking you begin to experience health benefits within just half an hour?

#### Be Active for 30 Minutes or

If lifting weights at a gym sounds intimidating, fear not. You can improve your heart health by focusing on increasing your physical activity by at least 30 minutes per day. Some ideas include dancing, swimming, walking and anything else that gets your body

moving.

Courtesy: Washington University

Physician

## Unique SOS QR Code to ensure timely aid within 'Golden Hour'

This groundbreaking service of detecting the accurate location of the patient in need and providing ambulance service underscores the Manipal hospital's bid to transforming Bengaluru into a Heart Smart City, reports THE HEALTH PIONEER

n a bid to save lives and provide first aid faster during medical emergencies, Manipal Hospitals has launched an advanced SOS QR code through which one can avail ambulance service at the earliest in

times of distress. Manipal Hospitals has strategically positioned the QR codes at key traffic intersections, apartments, and a few vehicles for easy access during emergencies.

Patients or their caregivers can in an instant scan these codes using their Android and iOS mobile phones. The QR code will seamlessly provide real-time, patient location information to the nearest Manipal Ambulance Response Service and 108 Ambulance team.

These ambulances have been strategically stationed at various kev points throughout the city so that they can transport patients to the nearest hospital. Manipal Hospitals has also launched a cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) education programme for Bengalureans and proposed to the state government to make CPR education mandatory in colleges and schools

## Guj Govt takes lead in heart diseases treatment

The Gujarat Government has spent approximately Rs 1614 crore on the diagnosis and treatment of heart disease patients in last five years even as it included the heart transplant procedure under AB PMJAY-MA.

Thus, making Gujarat the first and only state in the country to do so

On World Heart Day on September 29, the Gujarat Government shared that more than 2 lakh 95 thousand heart disease patients have availed free treatment under AB PMJAY-MA (Ayushman Bharat-Prime Minister Jan Arogya Yojana-Chief Minister Amrutam) in the last five years.

When considering the number of claims submitted by these beneficiaries, the figure exceeds 2 lakh 99 thousand.

Under AB PMJAY-MA, a range of diag-



nostic and treatment procedures for heart diseases are available. These include diagnostic angiogram, Coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG), Valve Procedures, Pacemaker Implantation, AICD - Automatic Implantable

Cardiac Defibrillator, Device Closure, femoral bypass and Ventricular pacing, etc.

It is well-known that the diagnosis and treatment of heart-related diseases are quite expensive. In such a situation, the Gujarat government has implemented the Prime Minister's Ayushman Bharat Yojana in the state in such an effective manner that the state's underprivileged families no longer need to wander extensively in search of heart-related check-ups and treatment.

In a significant move to provide an additional facility to serious heart disease patients from poor and middle-class families, the State Government has also decided to include the heart transplant procedure under AB PMJAY-MA, making it the first and only state in the country to take this step.

counts and that one should not neglect one's own heart health. This trend was set by introducing red heart signals last year at key

traffic junctions, which was expanded to 37 traffic signals this year as well, with the support of Bengaluru Traffic Police and BBMP.

The event was inaugurated by Home Minister G Parameshwara and Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dinesh Gundu Rao along with Dr Sudarshan Ballal, Chairman of Manipal hospitals.

As per data from the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, almost 47 per cent of cardiac arrest fatalities occur prior to a patient's arrival at the hospital. The key to saving lives during heart attacks lies in delivering prompt assistance such as CPR during the 'golden

Speaking about the newly launched initiatives, Dr Ballal said that at the time of an accident or a medical emergency, one just needs to scan the QR code and one of the ambulances of the hospital would get activated and rush to the spot as lives," he added.

reminder to everyone that every life early as possible.

"We have about 35 ambulances in our system in Bengaluru, which may not be enough. So, we have also sought the help of the '108' ambulance service so that there are enough ambulances to address the issue in case of emergency. We also want to educate as many number of people as possible about CPR so that we can save lives," he said.

Home Minister Parameshwara said he will make CPR training mandatory in police training academies in the state and also take efforts to include it in school and college curricula. "We have more than 12 police training academies in Karnataka and we will include CPR as part of our police training programme," he said.

Health Minister Gundu Rao said that in emergency situations, the quicker the patient is brought to the hospital, the better the chances of recovery increases. "We are also working to improve 108 ambulance service facilities and will push for giving CPR training to more and more people, as it can save more

to make the community capable of dical patient receives timely assistance providing critical assistance during medical emergencies.

Through these initiatives, the multi-specialty healthcare chain said, it aims to ensure that every crit- as a heart attack or stroke or trau-

during the 'golden hour'. In medical circles, the 'golden hour' is referred to as the period of time immediately after an adverse health event such

matic injury during which there is the highest likelihood that prompt medical and surgical treatment would prevent death.

As part of its health awareness

heart-shaped symbols. These traffic signals display SOS QR codes for easy access to the ambulance service.

The heart-shaped signal at the programme, Manipal Hospitals has traffic junction is meant to be a

also transformed traffic signals into

"Reflecting on where I came from helps me to what I have now



# REMEMBERING JAYANTA MAHAPATRA

# A POET OF DEPTH AND HUMANITY

Jayanta Mahapatra, revered Indian poet, delved into human psyche with poignant verses. His works, spanning social disparity and existential reflection, resonate beyond accolades. His legacy is one of profound introspection and empathetic insight, leaving an enduring impact

*All the poetry there is in the* world/appears to rise out of the ashes.

Jayanta Mahapatra in "All The Poetry

oetry and poetic experiences are precise reason Plato banned poets from entering his ideal Republic. Athenian society, at the zenith of rationality, offered poison to Socrates. Socrates's fault was his belief in the power of scrutiny, of judgement. He found "an unexamined life is not worth living." Genuine poets pierce through the layers "an unexamined life" is made of and then let gathered clouds in their minds get scattered by the sunlight of their musings.

Jayanta Mahapatra, such a poet, was one of the most revered doyens of English poetry in India who delved into deep, unexplored human psyche wherein he slipped into pseudorealistic visions: more real than real. We

I knew him since 2005 when the then Sahitya Akademi's Secretary Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee introduced me to him. Since then we cherished a relationship words can hardly describe. Many handwritten letters, a few telephonic conversations and his FOREWORD to my book of poems SHADOWS OF THE REAL are the aftermath. I went to meet him once at Jaipur Airport but briefly, when he was returning from Ajmer after attending a literary programme. He was old but far from serious illnesses. The warmth of his embrace is still a treasure with me.

During the course of more than fifteen years of association, I chanced upon reading many of his poetry books including Relationship that fetched him Sahitya Akademi Award in 1981. He sent me a number of issues of the prestigious literary journal Chandrabhaga. He wanted me to read The Hudson Review from the USA that I subscribed to and was immensely pleased to read Mahapatra's long letter to its Editor (one of the features of the magazine was to feature each issue a long letter from world's top litterateurs across the world.)

If I were to summarise Mahapatra's poetry, I find it in one of the issues of Chandrabhaga, where he pens in "First Page", "It is a small life I live. Perhaps in the way I am, doing small things, like plucking a half-ripe guava from the tree in our yard, the green cozying up to my senses, the mesmerising aroma waking me up.....Perhaps one should not be one of those who suffer because the world is a wreck, it's hard to say. Does it



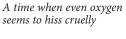
TRUTH, JUSTICE, DEPRIVATION, SELF-DELUSION, ANXIETY, SELF-PACIFICATION AND POETRY HARPS ON THE ESSENTIAL HARMONY IN APPARENT. HE OBSERVED UNIVERSE AS A COMMON HERITAGE FOR ALL: POOR OR AFFLUENT. READERS OBSERVE IN THE DEPTH AND MAGNITUDE OF THE FEELINGS/SENTIMENTS MAKING HIS POEMS, THE MAHAPATRA'S MIND. HE KEPT ON EXPLORING THE SOCIAL POWER OF THE

PLEBEIANS THROUGH HIS

**POETRY** 



interactions. He developed a tender fellow feeling for the men, women and HIS POETRY IS ABOUT children on the margin. "Hope lay perhaps in burning the home He writes in HUNGER. Readers can interpret the way they wish. SOLACE. AT TIMES Always there was the question in LUCIDLY, AT TIMES his lips, the bewilderment in his SURREPTITIOUSLY, HIS eyes, the rebellion of his soul. He spent his last days in extreme loneliness tackling the tyranny of his memories and dreams. He writes in SPRING, "Somehow it seems the THE DIVERSITY OF light/has spent its night in another's THINGS: LATENT OR arms/But it's here with me now/with a story of a million words." He had faith in the power of words. He **EVERYTHING OF THE** transferred his own fluid moment into the frozen store of memory and surveyed his dreams through a pragmatic eye. His poetry is about truth, justice, deprivation, self-delusion, anxiety, self-pacification and solace. His poetry is indispensable irrespective of time and space. His poetry oscillates between the virility and verisimilitude. As in Mask of RISING STORMS IN Longing-



*In those crumpled eyes of hers* the light of death goes on gathering shadows. And I feel I'm late with my life.

At times lucidly, at times

But look at concluding lines that

It's my job to love people again and

again. To feel flowers blossoming in the

sun, butterflies dipping into the pollen.

the great and prosperous. He evolved

over a number of years through his

penetrating observations and

He was certainly not the poet of

amaze:

surreptitiously, his poetry harps on the essential harmony in the diversity of things: latent or apparent. He observed everything of the universe as a common heritage for all: poor or affluent. Readers observe in the depth and magnitude of the feelings/sentiments making his poems, the rising storms in Mahapatra's mind. He kept on exploring the social power of the plebeians through his poetry.

His poems endeavour to trace different facets of human life and existence: love, lust, revenge, sufferings, fears and deprivations. His voice is melancholic, sharp, intimate and scans the movement of time and human beings' silence. Many of Mahapatra's collections are kaleidoscopic collections of poems written with diverse thought processes underway. These engage readers with preoccupation of human beings with fleeting time and man's questionable existence in the universe. His poems weave a quagmire of wonton thought that invades poet's psyche very incisively. Nostalgia aches,

There was something I did not like: his returning Padma Shri in November 2015. I conveyed it to him. Though nothing was heard from him, I got Mahapatra's last letter to me on August 5, 2019. He wrote of the sad demise of his wife, son and son's family, and summarising his concluding days by quoting from my poem DEPRESSION from my book of poetry Shadows of the Real, "the same known fire burns me from inside" and then added, "a fire unknown and nameless still goes on burning through the nights." His greatness lay in making small, unknown writers like me happy and joyous through his words.

His concluding life reminded me of a line from his poem A STILL WINTER MORNING, "standing like a lost sheep/huddled away from death." Or as Brazilian poet, Izacyl Guimarães Ferreira confronts us with what he thinks of life in his poem — A WAR

WITH NO NAME, "There is too much and there is too little/there is warmth and there's a chill." Life links; it delinks

In Indian Summer, Mahapatra in his characteristic way, bemoans loneliness of a woman:

The good wife lies in my bed throughout the long afternoon, dreaming still, unexhausted by the deep roar of funeral pyres.

In this poem there are all disconnected pictures, with none of them being in any way inter-related to the others. "funeral fires" convey the deepest amount of mental agony of "a good wife".

Truth is either the most simple or the trickiest of the phenomenon a man has to deal with. It brings awakened enlightenment thought amidst suffocating pains for those who keep truth on the highest pedestal. Look at following lines:

The worn-out face of India/ holds the weak eyes of dumb,/ solitary poets who die alone.

For truth seekers, there are no engrossing dilemmas; no consequences. He clarifies doubts; he clears doubts as

far as yearning for truths is concerned. WH Auden pointed out three attributes in a poet to deserve him a classification of being a great poet, "Firstly a gift of a very high order for memorable language, secondly a profound understanding of the age in which he lives, and thirdly a working knowledge of and sympathetic attitude towards the most progressive thought of

Mahaptra met all these stringent conditions based on which we remember him as a great poet. His deathless poems enabled him to pave his way into the mists of eternity.

Imagist simplicity with dense connotations, oscillating rhythms of ebbs and flows are a few scintillating characteristics of his poetry.

Poets who believe, to use writer, critic and Centennial Professor of English at Vanderbilt University, Mark Jarman's words, in "poetry with an edge", poetry has lasting impact on the world, for every poet contributes his little bit to keep the edges of poetry sharp. The moot question is: how capably each and every poet contributes to that edge. Poets have to determine poetry's strength and future. They possess their own ultimate destiny, which Mahapatra summarises in his poem, Twilight —

Newly-lit lamps in the houses across the street make me look out at the wet August evening that holds up the vast unknown in such small delicate hands.

As for Mahapatra, he belonged to the intellectual aristocracy of the world though he lived a very down-to-earth life in Cuttack, never hankering after literary awards and recognition. Reclusiveness is a serious writer's sine qua non.

(KK Srivastava is a former Additional Deputy Comptroller & Auditor General, an acclaimed poet, writer and columnist for The Pioneer, The Daily Guardian and Brazilian Literary magazine SIBILA. Currently, he is a nominated member from the category of 'Literate person from the public and community' of Ethics Committee on

Research of mental health establishment- IHBAS (Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences), of Government of NCT of Delhi where he in working with a group of psychiatrists/neurologists on research work on mental health. Views expressed are personal.)



# Nagorno-Karabakh conflict: No endgame

 $T^{\text{he conflict in the Nagorno-}}_{\text{Karabakh region is now}}$ more than three decades old. This disputed territory lies in the mountainous South Caucasus region, situated between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea. Known as Artsakh to Armenians, this landlocked region falls within the sovereign borders of Azerbaijan, but it is predominantly populated by ethnic Armenians. While internationally recognised as a part of Azerbaijan, it is currently home to over 120,000 Armenians who resist being under Azerbaijani control. Both Azerbaijan and Armenia fought in the 1980s and 1990s to gain control of this hilly region, but were unsuccessful in their attempts.

As the conflict has resurfaced, it is worth examining the historical background of the issue. In 1923, Vladimir Lenin, the first leader of the USSR who ruled the Soviet Union from 1917 to 1924, established the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast within the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic. At that time, it was home to a 95 per cent ethnic Armenian population. The problem arose in 1988, just two years before the dissolution of the USSR, when the regional legislature of Nagorno-Karabakh passed a resolution indicating its desire to join Armenia, despite the region being an integral part of Azerbaijan. It is widely understood that ethno-nationalism has played a vital role in mobilising people for nationhood since the beginning of modern civilisation. This strongly influenced the Armenians living in this enclave, and they gradually prepared themselves to become a part of neighbouring Armenia. With the dissolution of the USSR in 1991, both Armenia and Azerbaijan relations with other nations

became independent nations. Meanwhile, the Nagorno-Karabakh oblast declared independence, leading to intense fighting between Armenia and Azerbaijan. By 1993, the Armenian security forces had occupied the region and also gained control over 20 per Karabakh border. Azerbaijan cent of the neighbouring Boris Yeltsin, the first leader of the Russian Federation, successfully negotiated a peace deal known as the Bishkek Protocol between the two former Soviet Republics.



A convoy of cars of ethnic Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh moves towards Kornidzor in the Syunik region in Armenia

However, it did not resolve the territorial dispute and left the Nagorno-Karabakh region de facto independent. Peace between the two warring neighbours was maintained for some time with the influence of Moscow. However, once the USSR disintegrated, these peripheral republics became more conscious of their rights, priorities, and sovereign frontiers and they tried to re-establish their external around the globe.

From 1994 to 2015, there was peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan. In 2016, heavy fighting erupted once again. Then, in late September 2020, fresh clashes broke out along the Azerbaijan-Nagornoregained much of the territory Armenia. The war came to an end with a Russia-brokered

peace deal in November 2020.

establishment of the Lachin Corridor, which allowed Armenia to connect to the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave under strict monitoring by Russian peacekeepers. The main trouble started in December 2022 when activists from Azerbaijan blocked the Lachin Corridor, halting all supplies coming to Nagorno-Karabakh from Armenia. This further led to the opening of a checkpoint by the Azerbaijani government on the corridor, alleging the supply of arms to Armenian separatists in the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

To put an end to the hostilities between the two neighbours, the US, Russia, and the European Union hosted talks with representatives from Baku and Yerevan. Finally, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol portion of Karabakh to President Ilham Aliyev made considerable progress towards peace after constant intervention by the major powers and The most significant aspect pressure from the UN to mainthe ground situation is that for

is positive for the international community that Pashinyan recognised the entire Nagorno-Karabakh enclave as the sovereign territory of Azerbaijan. He also emphasised that Baku must respect the internationally recognised boundary of Armenia and ensure the protection of ethnic Armenians living in the Nagorno-Karabakh region."

What has happened in Nagorno-Karabakh now? On September 19, in the days following the opening of the Lachin border, people from both sides of the frontier hoped that normalcy would be back to the disputed territory. This deal came as a result of an understanding between the Azerbaijan Government and the Armenian separatists of the Nagorno-Karabakh oblast. The ent aimed to reoper two disputed transport routes, including a crucial link road known as the Lachin Corridor.

What has really worsened of this agreement was the tain tranquility in the region. It the last more than nine

months, Azerbaijan authorities are tightly restricting the movements of the Armenian Government with the Nagorno-Karabakh oblast through the Lachin Corridor.

Earlier Azerbaijan accused Armenia of smuggling arms and ammunition by using this route to the Nagorno-Karabakh. When the historic deal was sealed between two warring nations, the self-proclaimed Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh declared the election of a new President named Samvel Shahramanyan for it simultaneously. This move, which irked the Azerbaijani Government, was declared as illegal. For Baku, this election is purely illegal. Azerbaijan referred to the government as a "puppet separatist regime" at the heart of all troubles

While echoing concerns for a new flare-up, the Azerbaijani foreign ministry the region is the unconditional and complete withdrawal of the Armenian armed forces from the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and the disband-

ment of the puppet regime". Meanwhile, both Ukraine and Turkey voiced support for Azerbaijan's claim over Karabakh and denounced the election held in the region. The European Union has taken a very cautious stand by saying that it did not recognise the election but wanted the people of the Nagorno-Karabakh to consolidate around its de facto leadership while dealing with Armenia.

Many in Armenia fear that the people in the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave may face genocide in 2023. The way Baku is asserting control over the disputed territory is alarming. We are all aware of the nenian genocide of 1915 when people of Armenian origin were massacred in Anatolia, in what is now modern-day reiterated that "the only way to Turkey. It is ironic that the US achieve peace and stability in remained silent about the Armenian genocide until 2021,

when President Biden finally publicly recognised it.

Currently, the ethnic Armenians in the Nagorno-Karabakh oblast need the support of global governance institutions like the UN, as well as intervention from major powers such as the US, the Russian Federation, and the European Union, to prevent a potential genocide in the enclave.

What is concerning are the messages coming from Baku and President Aliyev. In the past, Aliyev did not abide by the verdict of the International Court of Justice (ICI) which instructed Baku to reopen the Lachin Corridor. He has consistently disregarded requests from the UN and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken to comply with the ICJ's ruling. His government has assured the international community that reintegration will bring development and prosperity to Nagorno-Karabakh.

However, it is alarming that since 2010, Aliyev has reportedly stated that Armenia itself is "Western Azerbaijan", and last December, he declared that "present-day Armenia is our land". Furthermore, for years, Azerbaijan has maintained that Armenia is an illegitimate state. These are serious warning signals for the entire world, for Armenia, and for the conflict-ridden Nagorno-Karabakh oblast.

At present, Azerbaijani forces have fully occupied the Nagorno-Karabakh region whose separatist leaders have laid down their arms. However, thousands of ethnic Armenians are fleeing to Armenia, fearing for their lives and the sudden change in the status quo.

It is time for the international community to ensure the future safety of ethnic Armenians in Azerbaijan. President Aliyev must work towards restoring peace and tranquility to the Nagorno-Karabakh region. He should refrain from seeking further escalation of the crisis. Otherwise, pressure on Pashinyan might lead Armenian forces to reclaim the oblast, potentially sparking a bloody war in the region.

both Baku and Yerevan to bid farewell to arms.

(The writer is currently president of the Global Research Foundation)

The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict spans over three decades, rooted in territorial disputes between Azerbaijan and Armenia. Despite internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan, the region is predominantly Armenianpopulated. Recent tensions, exacerbated by border restrictions, pose a risk of genocide. International intervention is crucial to ensure ethnic Armenians' safety and regional peace.



MAKHAN SAIKIA

#### PERSPECTIVE -

## Planet burns as superpowers desert multilateralism

The planet is on fire, but almost all the firefighters almost all the firefighters union, Great Britain and of communication that conhave deserted. At the meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, which began on the scourge of war". September 19 in New York, the leaders of four of the five permanent members of the Security Council — the UN's most powerful executive body

 were absent. The absence of the top representatives of France, the United Kingdom, Russia and China, replaced by ministers or diplomats, demonstrated the emptying of the main global multilateral forum and highlighted the speeches of the two presidents who opened the General Assembly: Brazil's Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and the US' Joe Biden.

Both leaders, with decades of experience, referred bluntly to fires that are ravaging the planet — starting with the climate emergency and the war in Ukraine. And both, albeit in very different tones, pointed the finger at the central issue hanging over the meeting, which the absentees made clear: the crisis of the UN and the multilateral system that has been built around it in recent decades.

The UN was created in 1945, on the initiative of the United States and with the support of the allied countries that had defeated Nazism and

France) with the aim of "preserving future generations from

A year earlier, in 1944, the Bretton Woods Agreements had laid the foundations for the post-war global financial system, and created the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Over the years, dozens of agencies, funds and specialised programmes have been added, gradually building up what is known as the UN System.

Practically every country in the world is a member of the UN and the organisation deals with countless issues, ranging from protecting life in the oceans to coordinating satellite orbits, humanitarian aid operations, vaccination campaigns, agreements to limit climate change and, more recently, attempts to create regulations against disinformation on social networks and to combat tax avoidance by large international corporations.

#### An imperfect system, but

one that worked The system, as Biden pointed out in his speech, "is not always perfect and has not always been perfect", but with its ups and downs, it worked reasonably well for seven decades. During the Cold War, of communication that contributed to avoiding nuclear conflict. After it, the UN's remit expanded further: for example, with the multiplication of peacekeeping opera-

Despite the genocide in Rwanda, the civil war in the former Yugoslavia and the invasion of Iraq in 2003, in those two decades the number of armed conflicts (between countries and within countries) steadily declined, as did the number of victims. The curve reversed in 2012, when the civil war in Syria worsened, and since then it has continued to rise year on year. According to the Conflict Data Programme at Uppsala University, 184 different conflicts were recorded in 2022, including the war in Ukraine, with more than 238,000 victims in total, compared to an average of 120 conflicts and 30,000 victims per year between 2001 and 2012.

The UN's inability to respond appropriately to the war in Ukraine is more an indicator than a trigger of the crisis of multilateralism. Russia has brought the war of aggression, of territorial annexation, back as a tool of foreign policv. But the same Western powers with permanent seats on the Security Council that are right-

ly criticising the Russian invasion today have resorted to the unilateral use of military force in recent decades, contrary to the UN Charter and interna-

What we usually call multilateralism is the way in which the international system adopts a grammar of principles and norms that, in theory, should be followed by all states. It is a process of institutionalising forms of coordination and cooperation in public policy that generates a certain stability and predictability in relations between states and soci-

In the way the UN works, there is an element of equality in the treatment of states (all 193 member countries have the right to vote and voice in the General Assembly), but there are also obvious asymmetries of power, such as the special status of the five permanent members of the Security Council. The so-called P5 have kept their veto power unchanged since 1945 and often ignore the rules they are supposed to enforce - a historical incongruity that Lula rightly attacked again in his speech in New

#### Global governance

Even so, this grammar organises a large part of globgovernance mechanisms, which increase international dialogue and cooperation, and decrease the propensity to use force as the main instrument

for settling disputes. The UN system is based on the idea that power relations between states should not be the only element that determines the shape of international relations. In fact, as recently as 2015, the multilateral system reached a consensus to adopt two global agreements of great importance and impact: the Paris Agreement for the reduction of greenhouse gases, responsible for the climate emergency, and the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development.

From then on, the multilateral system was able to do little more than try to manage a growing number of humanitarian emergencies. In June 2023, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (OCHA) estimated that there were 362 million people around the world in need of international aid to meet their basic survival needs.

#### Crisis of legitimacy and authority

During the ĆOVID-19 pandemic, the World Health Organisation, under heavy fire from the administration of then US President Donald Trump, was virtually ignored

by the richest countries in its attempt to ensure equitable distribution of vaccines. The conflicts in Syria, Yemen and Israel/Palestine drag on, with no solution in sight. Efforts to strengthen the UN's capacity for preventive diplomacy, promised by Secretary-General António Guterres, have backfired, and the organisation has been unable to do anything to prevent the invasion of Ukraine or to facilitate a ceasefire. The system has apparently ground

It continues to shape a large part of international interaction, but today there are two key areas of resistance to it: the emergence of countries in the Global South willing to reinterpret the hegemony of the liberal order, and the growth of a transnationally articulated radical right.

In the international debate, there is much more attention paid to the first question than the second. However, as the experience of the Trump and Bolsonaro governments has shown, the radical right's sovereigntist vision is at odds with the essence of multilateralism, which requires agreed transfers of national sovereignty in favour of common goals, such as the fight against climate change. It is no coincidence that the Spanish radical right

party Vox has been running a

campaign against the 2030 Agenda for years, which has been expanding throughout Latin America. Even so, the entire UN bureaucracy, from Secretary-General Guterres onwards, is reluctant to engage in open conflict with the rad-

#### A strategic problem For Brazil, and Latin

America in general, the crisis of the multilateral system is a strategic problem. The region has an old multilateralist tradition, in which conflicts between states have been resolved by diplomatic means and not by arms. A dozen countries from the region took part in the creation of the League of Nations in 1920, and 20 were among the 51 founding nations of the UN. To this day, the multilateral space represents the only international arena in which the region has any influence, since from an economic and military point of view Latin America's weight is extremely limited: the region is home to 8 per cent of the world's population, but in 2022 it accounted for only 5.26 per cent of global GDP.

At the same time, the collective influence of the socalled Global South is increasing. In the weeks leading up to the UN General Assembly, the leaders of developing nations

met at the BRICS summits in South Africa, the G20 in India

and the G77+China in Cuba. For Brazil and the other countries of the Global South, the challenge is to maintain political independence and action, seeking to defend the interests of their populations, without taking sides in the dispute over the new global hegemony between China and the US. It is the concept of active non-alignment.

Concluding his speech in New York, Lula recalled that "the UN needs to fulfil its role as a builder of a more just, supportive and fraternal world. But it will only do so if its members have the courage to proclaim their indignation at inequality and work tirelessly to overcome

Brazil and the Global South must endeavour to reform the multilateral system, such as the unsustainable composition of the Security Council, while respecting all its norms, especially with regard to the UN Charter and all human rights protection mechanisms, including the International Criminal Court. Only in this way will it be possible to reaffirm the legitimacy of multilateralism, reduce global power asymmetries and try to put out the fires that threaten our planet.

(The Conversation)

Supreme Court knocked down all federal

criminal penalties for abortion, ruling that

national laws prohibiting the procedure are

unconstitutional and violate women's rights.

The move will also require federal health institutions to offer abortion to anyone who

"It's absolutely an achievement," said Fernanda Castro, an organis-er at GIRE, the women's rights

organization that brought for-

Mexico's high court. "And

now we have another even

decriminalizing abortion in

While 20 Mexican states still

ward the lawsuit before

more important fight

the minds of the people."

have abortion bans on the books,

the decision by the Supreme Court

greatly expanded access to the procedue in

a country where reproductive laws were long

defined by its religious and conservative

roots. Latin American feminists have spent

decades fighting to roll back strict prohibi-

diction to decriminalise abortion 15 years

which in 2020 legalised the procedure. In

try, did the same. Brazil may be next.

tions. Mexico City was the first Mexican juris-

ago. The trend picked up speed in Argentina,

2022, Colombia, a highly conservative coun-

Currently, abortion is a crime with exceptions

for cases of rape and birth defects in a fetus,

but a case before the nation's Supreme Court

could potentially decriminalise the pro-

cedure up to 12 weeks of gesta-

"The green wave is

going to keep grow-

ing and (Brazilian

women) are not

stand-

because it

aligns with

the political

requests it.

# A govt shutdown is nearing

What does it mean, who's hit and what's next?

The government is headed towards a shutdown this weekend that could disrupt many government services, squeeze federal employees and roil politics as Republicans in the House, fuelled by hardright demands to slash budgets, force a

confrontation over federal spending. While some government entities will be exempt Social Security checks, for example, will still go out other functions will be severely curtailed. Federal agencies will stop all actions deemed non-

essential, and many of the federal government's roughly 2 million employees, as well as 2 million activeduty military troops and reservists, won't receive paychecks. A look at what's ahead if the government shuts down on Sunday.

#### WHAT IS A GOVERNMENT

A shutdown happens when Congress dent. Lawmakers are supposed to pass 12 across the government, but the process is passing a temporary extension, called a continuing resolution or CR, to allow the

nonessential work and will not send pay-

Although employees deemed essential to public safety such as air traffic controllers and law enforcement officers still have to report to work, other federal employees are furloughed. Under a 2019 law, those workers are slated to receive backpay once the funding impasse is

## WHEN WOULD A SHUTDOWN BEGIN AND HOW LONG WILL

Government funding

deserted. At the meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, which began on September 19 in New York, the leaders of four of the five permanent members of the Security Council the UN's most powerful executive body were absent.

The absence of the top representatives of France, the United Kingdom, Russia

diplomats, demonstrated the emptying of the main global multilateral forum and highlighted the speeches of the

two presidents who opened the General Assembly: Brazil's Luiz In

cio Lula da Silva and the US's Joe

Biden. Both leaders, with decades

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to fires that are ravaging the

war in Ukraine.

planet - starting with the cli-

acv and the

And both, albeit

in very different

all has arrived in



Congress is unable to pass a funding plan that the president signs into law.

It is impossible to predict how long a shutdown would last. The Democraticheld Senate and Republican-controlled House are working on vastly different plans to avert a shutdown, and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy is struggling to win any support from hard-right conservatives to keep the government open.

finger at the central issue hanging over the meeting, which the absentees made clear: the crisis of the UN and the multilateral system that has been built around it in recent decades.

The UN was created in 1945, on the initiative of the United States and with the support of the allied countries that had the Soviet Union, Great Britain and



generations from the scourge of war".

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sation deals with countless issues, rang-

ing from protecting life in the oceans to

coordinating satellite orbits, humanitar-

ian aid operations, vaccination cam-

paigns, agreements to limit climate

International Monetary Fund.

Practically every country

are bracing for a stoppage that could

#### WHO DOES A

SHUTDOWN AFFECT? Millions of federal workers face delayed paychecks when the government shuts down, including many of the roughly 2 million military personnel and more than 2 million civilian workers across the nation. For many workers, the first payday they would miss is Oct. 13.

Nearly 60% of federal workers are stationed in the Department of Defense, Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security. While the military's active-duty troops and reservists would continue to work, more than half of the Department of Defense's civilian workforce roughly 440,000 people would be furloughed. Across federal agencies, workers are stationed in all 50

states and have direct interaction with taxpayers

lations Transportation against disinformation on social networks and to combat tax avoidance by large international corporations.

### An imperfect system, but one that worked

be avail-The system, as Biden pointed out in his speech, "is not always perfect and has not always been perfect", but with its ups and downs, it worked

During the Cold War, the UN was

Administration agents who operate security at airports to Postal Service workers who deliver mail.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg has said new training for air traffic controllers will be halted and another 1,000 controllers in the midst of training will be furloughed. Even a shutdown that lasts a few days will mean the department won't hit its hiring and staffing targets for next year, he said. "Imagine the pressure that a controller is already under every time they take their position at work, and then imagine the added stress of coming to that job from a household with a family that can no longer count on that paycheck," Buttigieg said. Beyond federal workers, a shutdown could have far-reaching effects on government services. People applying for government services like clinical medical trials, firearm permits and passports could see delays. Head Start programs serving more than 10,000 disadvantaged children would immediately lose federal funding National parks will close on Monday, Oct. 2, if the government

part of daily living and including household chores, has shown to reduce enters a shutdown. risk of heart attack, stroke and even premature death, new The and the National Park Service Lancet Public Health said its serresearch shows vices won't

However, duration and intensity of the activity matters, the research team from the UK and Australia, led by the University of Sydney, said, having tracked more than 25,000 UK adults over roughly eight years.

From walking up the stairs to speedily mopping the floors; in recent years we've come to understand that it is not just structured exercise that is good for our health, but we know very little about how these short bouts of incidental activity translate to health benefits," said the study's senior author Emmanuel Stamatakis, University of Sydney.

The adults studied were aged 42-78, all of whom self-reported no participation in exercise or sport.

The researchers used wrist-worn

wearables data from the UK Biobank and machine learning and analysed their seven-day incidental physical activity patterns down to a 10-second time window.

They then compared these physical activity micropatterns

with the participants health records, by following them owing them for close to eight In their study th years to understand the health impacts of the duration and intensity of the physical activity bouts.

The researchers found that nearly all of the entire day's physical activity, 97 per cent, was accumulated in multiple slots, each

1814. It's possible that Nobel thought Norway would be a more suitable location for a prize meant to

encourage "fellowship among nations." To this day, the Nobel Peace Prize is a completely Norwegian affair, with the winners selected and announced by a Norwegian committee. The peace prize even has its own ceremony in the Norwegian capital of Oslo on Dec. 10 - the anniversary of Nobel's death while the other prizes are presented in Stockholm.

#### WHAT'S POLITICS GOT TO DO WITH IT?

The Nobel Prizes project an aura of being above the political fray, focused solely on the benefit of humanity. But the peace and literature awards, in particular, are sometimes accused of being politicized. Critics question whether winners are selected because their work is truly out-

#### INTERNATIONAL SAFE ABORTION DAY

## Thousands of women march in Latin American cities

American cities were bathed in green Thursday as tens of thousands of women marched to commemorate International Safe Abortion Day.

Decades of activism by women's rights groups have led Latin America to make strides in rolling back restrictions on abortions and expanding services at the same time the United States has slashed access to the proce-

In Mexico, marchers celebrated the recent decision by Mexico's Supreme Court to decriminalise abortions at the federal level. In Argentina, marchers had a more somber tone, worrying that the strength of a populist

far-right presidential candidate going into elections in October could signal peril after years of work by feminists.

Abortion was the heart of the protests, but crowds of women also raised alarm about the region's high rates of gender-based violence as well as abuses aimed at LGBTQ+ communities.Green smoke floated over a roaring crowd of thousands of women in Mexico City who waved green handkerchiefs, which have become the symbol of Latin America's "green wave" abortion movement. Signs reading "It's my decision" and "Free and safe abortions for everyone" speckled the crowd.

Short bouts of inciden-

Short bouts

of activity like

chores can

reduce heart

attack,

premature

death risks

tal activity, the kind done as

lasting less than 10 minutes, with longer slots being bet-

"The idea of accruing short bouts of moderate to vigorous activity through daily living activities makes

physical activity much more accessible to people who are unwilling or unable to take part in structured exercise," said Matthew Ahmadi, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Sydney, adding that data showed that the length and intensity of these activities mattered. Further, 'moderately' or 'vigorously' intense activity in these slots were associated with a steep decrease in major cardiac events, like

Also, those who huffed and puffed for at least 10 seconds per minute, or 15 per cent of one physical activity bout or slot, saw the greatest benefit, they found.
"If you are huffing and puffing and

cause, they found.

heart attack or stroke, and death by any

unable to hold a conversation for some of that time (in one bout) you have hit the sweet spot," said Stamatakis.

"The take-home message here is any type of activity is good for your health, but the more effort you put into those daily tasks and the longer you keep up that energy, the more benefits you are like-

ly to reap," said Stamatakis. uthors write, "If verified in future research, our findings could inform future public health messaging targeting the general population raising awareness of potential health benefits from short physical activity bouts in every-

who do not or cannot

preferences of the judges. day life, especially for adults The scrutiny can get intense for high-profile awards, such as in 2009, when President Barack Obama won the

peace prize less than a year after taking office. The Norwegian Nobel Committee is an independent body that insists its only mission is to carry out the will of Alfred Nobel. However, it does have links to Norway's political system. The five members are appointed by the Norwegian Parliament, so the panel's composition reflects the power balance in the legislature.

To avoid the perception that the prizes are influenced by Norway's political leaders, sitting members of the Norwegian government or Parliament are barred from serving on the committee. Even so, the panel isn't always viewed as independent by foreign countries. When imprisoned Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo won the peace prize in 2010, Beijing responded by freezing trade talks with Norway. It took years for Norway-China relations to be restored.

#### SHUTDOWN?

fails to pass some type of funding legisla-tion that is signed into law by the presidifferent spending bills to fund agencies time-consuming. They often resort to

government to keep operating.
When no funding legislation is enacted, federal agencies must stop all checks as long as the shutdown lasts.

## IT LAST

expires Oct. 1, the start of the federal budget The e planet is vear. A shutdown will effectively on fire, but almost all the firefighters have begin at 12:01 a.m.

and China, replaced by ministers or

## defeated Nazism and fascism (primarily France) with the aim of "preserving future



reasonably well for seven decades.

a crucial channel of communication

What the Global South must do with the UN and the multilateral system in crisis that contributed to avoiding nuclear conflict. After it, the UN's remit expanded further: for example, with the multiplication of peacekeeping operations. Despite the genocide in Rwanda, the civil war in the

invasion of Iraq in 2003, in those two decades the number of armed conflicts (between countries and steadily declined, as did the num-

former Yugoslavia and the ber of vic-

#### change and, more recently, attempts to create regu-Scandinavia, which means Nobel Prize season is here. The start of October is when the THAN DYNAMITE

Nobel committees get together in Stockholm and Oslo to announce the winners of the yearly awards. First up, as usual, is the Nobel Prize in medicine or physiology, which will be announced Monday by a panel of judges at the Karolinska Institute in the Swedish capital. The prizes in physics, chemistry, literature, peace and economics will follow, with one announcement every weekday until Oct 9. Here are some things to know

about the Nobel Prizes:

#### AN IDEA MORE POWERFUL

The Nobel Prizes were created by Alfred Nobel, a 19th-century businessman and chemist from Sweden. He held more than 300 patents but his claim to fame before the Nobel Prizes was having invented dynamite by mixing nitroglycerine with a compound that made the explosive more stable.

Dynamite soon became popular in construction and mining as well as in the weapons industry. It made Nobel a very rich man. Perhaps it also made him think about his legacy, because toward the end of his life he decided to use his vast fortune to fund annual prizes "to those who, during the preceding year, have conferred the greatest benefit to humankind.

The first Nobel Prizes were presented in 1901, five years after his death. In 1968, a sixth prize was created, for economics, by Sweden's central bank. Though Nobel purists stress that the economics prize is technically not a Nobel Prize, it's always presented together with the others.

#### PEACE IN NORWAY

For reasons that are not entirely clear, Nobel decided that the peace prize should be awarded in Norway and the other prizes in Sweden. Nobel historians suspect Sweden's history of militarism may have been a factor.

During Nobel's lifetime, Sweden and Norway were in a union, which the Norwegians reluctantly joined after the Swedes invaded their country in

## Consciousness: why a leading theory has been branded 'pseudoscience'

ivil war has broken out in the field of consciousness research. More √than 100 consciousness researchers have signed a letter accusing one of the most popular scientific theories of consciousness the integrated information theory of being pseudoscience.

Immediately, several other figures in the field responded by critiquing the letter as poorly reasoned and dispropor-

Both sides are motivated by a concern for the long-term health and respectability of consciousness science.

One side (including the letter signatories) is worrying that the association of consciousness science with what they perceive to be a pseudoscientific theory will undermine the credibility of the

The other side is pressing that what they perceive as unsupported charges of pseudoscience will ultimately result in the whole science of consciousness being perceived as pseudoscience.

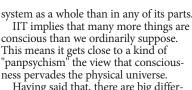
Integrated information theory often referred to as IIT is a very ambitious the-



ory of consciousness proposed by neuroscientist Giulio Tononi. It ultimately aims to give mathematically precise conditions for when any system a brain or some other lump or matter is or is not conscious.

The theory revolves around a mathematical measure of integration of information, or interconnections, labelled with the Greek letter phi.

The basic idea is that a system becomes conscious at the precise moment when there is more phi in the



Having said that, there are big differences between IIT and the new wave of Bertrand Russell-inspired panpsychism which has recently been making waves in academic philosophy, and which has been the focus of much of my research.

IIT even implies, as pointed out by the computer scientist Scott Aaronson, that an inactive grid of connected logic gates would be conscious. The signatories of the letter worry that, while certain aspects of IIT may have

been tested, the theory as a whole has

Therefore, they argue, there is little experimental support for these bold and counter-intuitive implications.

Opponents of the letter say that this is true of all current theories of consciousness, and reflects challenges with current neuroimaging techniques

## Gender bias seen in AI-generated content on leadership, finds research

ew research has revealed an inherent gender bias in the content - text, images, other media - generated by artificial intelligence (AI).

Analysing AI-generated content about what made a 'good' and 'bad' leader, men were consistently depicted as strong, courageous, and competent, while women were often portrayed as emotional and ineffective, researchers at the University of Tasmania, Australia, and Massey University, New Zealand, found.

Thus, AI-generated content can preserve and perpetuate harmful gender biases, they said in their study published in the journal Organizational Dynamics.

'Any mention of women leaders was completely omitted in the initial data generat-



ed about leadership, with the Newstead, the study's corre-AI tool providing zero examples of women leaders until it sponding author. was specifically asked to generate content about women in leadership.

provide examples of women

leaders, they were proportionally far more likely than

male leaders to be offered as

falsely suggesting that women

are more likely than men to

be bad leaders," said Toby

examples of bad leaders,

Generative AI learns the patterns in input data, using which the AI is trained, and then creates content bearing "Concerningly, when it did similar characteristics. The AI depends on machine learning concepts for content creation.

For training these generative AI technologies, vast amounts of data from the internet along with human intervention to reduce harmful or biases are processed Therefore, AI-generated content needs to be moni-

tored to ensure it does not propagate harmful biases, said study author Bronwyn Eager, adding that the findings highlighted the need for further oversight and investigation into AI tools as they become part of daily life.

Biases in AI models have far-reaching implications beyond just shaping the future of leadership. With the rapid adoption of AI across all sectors, we must ensure that potentially harmful biases relating to gender, race, ethnicity, age, disability, and sexuality aren't preserved,"

she said.
"We hope that our research will contribute to a broader conversation about the responsible use of AI in the workplace," said Eager.