

# the pioneer

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**'Bihar tillers known for adopting new methods'**

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**CENTRE OKAYS**

RS 20,774 CR FOR LADAKH-KAITHAL POWER TRANSMISSION LINE

8



**Naresh VK: Martin Luther King is an absolute entertainer with a bullet-like MESSAGE**

P12

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

**The pioneer**

**As predicted, Rahul baba's 'B-Team' rona has begun. Why did he gift his Amethi seat to BJP? And why is BJP so weak in Telangana if it has a B-Team here? Why did Baba have to go to Wayanad to find a 'safe seat'? My Royal Enfield has more seats than what BJP-Cong-RSS combine will have in Telangana Assembly.**



- Asaduddin Owaisi, AIMIM chief P4

**DON'T MISS...**

**Land survey should be carried...**

Land Resurvey Steering Committee chairman Ajay Kallam directed the officials concerned to conduct the land resurvey out without flaws following the government's guidelines and complete by prescribed time. An awareness seminar was organized in Tadepalligudem on Wednesday on Bu Haku, Suraksha schemes and land resurvey in which Land Resurvey steering committee chairman Ajay Kallam and Chief Commission of land administration and special chief secretary G Sai Prasad addressed the seminar. Speaking on the...

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**Bengal: Angered by death of cub...**

Two elderly men were killed in an attack by a female elephant in West Bengal's Jhargram district on Wednesday, following the death of the pachyderm's cub, a forest official said. The animal also ransacked a bus and a motorcycle near the popular Rameshwari temple in the Chandabila forest range in Nayagram. The jumbo attacked a group of people who went there to see the carcass of the cub and flung the two men to the ground killing them, the official said. The deceased were identified as Anand Jana...

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**Domestic Hydrogen equipment market...**

Industry body India Hydrogen Alliance (IHA) on Wednesday said it expects the domestic hydrogen equipment manufacturing and services market to reach US\$ 45-50 billion by 2030. This market assessment includes all hydrogen production plant equipment, including electrolyser and balance-of-plant equipment, that can be deployed in India and exported from to countries in Asia, the Middle East and Africa, IHA said in a report. This will help build India as a supply chain hub for future green...

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**Kohli: No big teams in World...**

There are no "big teams" in the World Cup and upsets at the mega event happen when the conversation revolves around the more successful teams, star India batter Virat Kohli said on Wednesday. Kohli's statement comes following two major upsets in the ongoing World Cup. While Afghanistan stunned holders England by 69 runs in New Delhi on Sunday, Netherlands recorded their biggest win in the history of the game when they shocked South Africa by 38 runs...

-SPORTS



**Govt hikes wheat MSP by Rs 150**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the assembly polls in key wheat growing states, the government on Wednesday announced an increase in the minimum support price of wheat by Rs 150 to Rs 2,275 per quintal for the 2024-25 marketing season.

This is the highest quantum of increase in MSP for any marketing season since the Modi government came to power in 2014.

Besides, the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for five other rabi crops -- gram, barley, lentil (masur), rapeseed-mustard seed and safflower -- have been hiked. A decision in this regard was taken at the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Currently, the MSP of wheat stands at Rs 2,125 per quintal for the 2023-24 marketing season (April-March).

2

**JAGANANNA CHEDODU**

**CM to deposit Rs 325.02 cr into 3,25,020 accounts today**

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is set to release Jaganna Chedodu funds by pressing a button during a programme to be held in YWCS grounds in Yemmiganur of Kurnool district on Thursday, and further he will address a public meeting. CM Jagan will deposit Rs.325.02 crore as financial assistance directly into the accounts of 3,25,020 eligible Rajakas, Nayee Brahmins, and tailors across the State with the click of a button.

Minister for BC Welfare Ch Venugopala Krishna said that with unwavering conviction and belief that the BC communities were not a backward class, but rather the backbone of our society the Jagan government was bringing about change in the lives of the Rajaka, Nayee Brahmin and tailor communities, and empowering them. He pointed out that for the fourth consecutive year, Jaganna Chedodu would be offered and explained that the Jagan government had provided a total financial assistance Rs.1,252.51 crore under this scheme alone in these four years, including the present financial assistance being disbursed today. He explained that financial assistance of Rs.180.66 crore to

## Streamline anganwadis

■ Strong SOPs needed to help system function efficiently: CM

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has directed the officials to have constant vigil on the functioning of the supervisory system in the anganwadis to attain the intended results of YSR Sampurna Poshana.

During the review meeting on the Women and Child Welfare Department held at the Camp Office here on Wednesday, the Chief Minister said that strong SOPs should be developed to help the supervisory system function efficiently while focusing on dry ration distribution for ensuring good quality of the items.

The Chief Minister told them to take steps to fill vacant posts in the department.

"The Medical and Health Department will take the responsibility of serving medicines to the anaemic patients and victims of malnutrition identified in the Jaganna Arogya Suraksha camps while the Women and Child Welfare Department will serve them nutritious food. For this, you should work in close coordination with officials," he said.

Stressing on the need to achieve good results on this score, he said constant vigil is necessary to find out if the anaemic patients are actually consuming the nutritious food

**“The Medical and Health Department will take the responsibility of serving medicines to the anaemic patients and victims of malnutrition identified in the Jaganna Arogya Suraksha camps while the Women and Child Welfare Department will serve them nutritious food. For this, you should work in close coordination with officials.**



**Changes in our lifestyles are resulting in new diseases. Every month, at least one camp should be conducted on creating awareness on such diseases and on the steps needed to overcome them.**

**The Medical and Health Department should pass on the details to the Women and Child Welfare Department so that the latter would take steps to provide them nutritious food.**

being served to them and if they are making any progress.

This will help us drive away anaemia completely among the rural population, he said.

These efforts should be supplemented by the steps to identify the children and pregnant women who missed vaccination, he said, adding

that priority should be given for vaccinating them with the active involvement of ANMs in the villages.

The Chief Minister also pointed out that the children of underweight should be identified and necessary steps should be taken to bring their weight on par with their

**YSRC lodges complaint to remove 60L 'bogus' voters**

**Alleges 60L bogus votes were included during TDP regime**

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The YSR Congress has lodged a complaint with Election Commission CEO Mukesh Kumar Meena against presence of nearly 60 lakh bogus voters in the voters' lists included during the previous Telugu Desam government's term, and sought removal of all bogus votes. Ministers Ch Venugopala Krishna and Dadiseti Raja, along with former ministers Kurasala Kannababu, Alla Nani and MLA Ponnada Satish Kumar, submitted the memorandum.

2

**'Both Babu and Ramoji backstabbers'**

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Government Advisor (Public Affairs) and YSRC State general secretary Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy has alleged that Chandrababu Naidu and Ramoji Rao have the nature of backstabbing those who helped them build their career, the duo is well versed in white collar crimes.

Addressing the media persons on Wednesday, Sajjala said that Chandrababu betrayed his father-in-law NTR who gave him a political life, while Ramoji Rao ditched GJ Reddy who helped in establishing Margadarshi. "Both have the same mindset of fraud. Similarity and proximity in both crimes are also evident. That's why both

**'Duo well versed in white collar crimes'**

**“Both have the same mindset of fraud. Similarity and proximity in both crimes are also evident. That's why both Chandrababu and Ramoji are together. They are twin white collar criminals and pose like big men in society.**

Chandrababu and Ramoji are together. They are twin white collar criminals and pose like big men in society."

He said that after the arrest of Chandrababu, the TDP leaders and



**Naidu's anticipatory bail plea hearing adjourned to Nov 7**

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh High Court on Wednesday posted the hearing on the anticipatory bail petition filed by TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu in the Amaravati Inner Ring Road Alignment case to November 7.

The court also extended stay on the PT warrant issued by the ACB court in the same case. Earlier, the court had extended the anticipatory bail till October 18 and directed the AP CID not to arrest Chandrababu in the IRR case till Wednesday. With the posting of the hearing to November 7, the CID would have to wait for further orders till that day.

The court last Monday dismissed anticipatory bail petitions of co-accused P Narayana, his wife P Ramadevi, brother-in-law Sambasiva Rao and 'benami' Pramela. The AP CID booked a case against Nara Lokesh, Nara Chandrababu Naidu, and P Narayana based on a complaint lodged by the YSRCP Mangalagiri MLA Alla Ramakrishna Reddy, in 2022.

**KRISHNA WATER ISSUE**

**AP challenges Tribunal's terms**

**Seeks apex court intervention**

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh (AP) government has taken legal action against the Brijesh Kumar Tribunal's new terms of reference in the ongoing water dispute with Telangana. AP is seeking Supreme Court intervention to amend these terms and protect its interests in Krishna River water allocation.

This move by AP is a response to

unfavourable central government decisions. The state has filed a petition challenging these decisions, which the Supreme Court has accepted.

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy is determined to protect the state's water rights and has sought support from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

This action comes after the

Central Hydropower Department issued new guidelines for the Brijesh Kumar Tribunal (KWDT-2).

The new terms of reference pertain to the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal (KWDT)-2, presided over by Justice Brijesh Kumar. KWDT-2 is responsible for reallocating the 811 TMC of water initially allocated to united Andhra Pradesh by KWDT-1 (Bachawat Tribunal).

2

**Festival bonanza**

**DA hike for central staff**

**• Bonus for railway employees**



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the festive season, the central government on Wednesday decided to hike the dearness allowance for its employees by 4 percentage points to 46 per cent of the basic salary and pay 78 days of salaries as bonus for non-gazetted railway staff.

Briefing reporters about the Cabinet decisions, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said the increase in dearness allowance and dearness relief will benefit 48.67 lakh central government employees and 67.95 lakh pensioners, respectively. The release of the additional instalment of Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR) will be applicable from July 1, 2023.

DA and DR are given twice a year to compensate employees and pensioners, respectively, for price rise.

The combined impact on the exchequer on account of both DA and DR would be Rs 12,857 crore per annum.

## Gaza carnage spreads anger threatening to widen conflict

PNS ■ CAIRO

Within hours after a blast was said to have killed hundreds at a Gaza hospital, protesters hurled stones at Palestinian security forces in the occupied West Bank and at riot police in neighbouring Jordan, venting fury at their leaders for failing to stop the carnage.

President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi of Egypt, King Abdullah II of Jordan and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas friends of the US who normally relish the chance to meet with American presidents called off a planned Wednesday summit with Joe Biden, who will now only visit Israel. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken spent much of the past week meeting with Arab leaders to try to ease tensions, but those efforts are now in doubt following the hospital blast.

The raw nerve of decades of Palestinian suffering, left exposed by

US-brokered normalisation agreements between Israel and Arab states, is throbbing once again, threatening broader unrest.

"This war, which has entered a dangerous phase, will plunge the region into an unspeakable disaster," warned Abdullah, who is among the closest Western allies in the Mideast.

Gaza's Hamas-run Health Ministry said an Israeli airstrike on the hospital killed hundreds of people. Israel said the blast was caused by a rocket fired by Palestinian militants that fell short, and it released aerial photos and other evidence that it says support its claims.

Biden, after arriving in Tel Aviv, said the blast appeared to have been caused "by the other team," not Israel, but that there were "a lot of people out there" who weren't sure.

There was no doubt among the Arab protesters who gathered in several countries late Tuesday to con-



demn what they saw as an Israeli atrocity.

In the Israeli-occupied West Bank, which has been under lockdown since a bloody October 7 rampage by Hamas militants ignited the war, protesters clashed with Palestinian

security forces and called for the overthrow of Abbas.

Israel and the West have long viewed Abbas as a partner in reducing tensions, but his Palestinian Authority is widely seen by Palestinians as a corrupt and auto-

**“This war, which has entered a dangerous phase, will plunge the region into an unspeakable disaster,” warned Abdullah, who is among the closest Western allies in the Mideast. Gaza's Hamas-run Health Ministry said an Israeli airstrike on the hospital killed hundreds of people.**

cratic accomplice to Israel's military occupation of the West Bank.

Jordan, long considered a bastion of stability in the region, has seen mass protests in recent days. Late Tuesday, pro-Palestinian protesters tried to storm the Israeli Embassy.

"They are all normalising Arab rulers, none of them are free, the free ones are all dead!" one protester shouted. "Arab countries are unable to do anything!" Egypt was the first Arab country to make peace with Israel, in the late 1970s. Jordan followed in 1994.

Protests are rare in Egypt, where authorities have waged a heavy crackdown on dissent for over a decade. But fears that Israel could push the Gaza Strip's 2.3 million residents into Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, and soaring consumer prices due to runaway inflation could prove a volatile combination where a popular uprising toppled a US-backed autocrat in 2011. A small group of activists protested late Tuesday near the US and UK embassies in central Cairo, calling on Egypt to cut ties with Israel and expel its ambassador. Authorities have beefed up security in the south Cairo district where the Israeli Embassy is located.

# The festival of manifestoes and their manifestation

The dance of democracy is something that sparks unhindered enthusiasm among political parties as well as their respective cadres and the brass. Politics is an ever-fertile ground for anyone who has the right wherewithal to catch and cash in on flowering chances to penetrate the vote bank of his or her opponents. That is why, whether a party wins or loses, the urge to wipe out the rival ones or prove themselves won't subside till the last chance of luring and winning the voter is exhausted and properly utilized. For this to happen, mere assurances or promises will no longer work.

The days of political parties banking on voters just by doling out assurances have passed. People are no longer gullible. Now they are demanding to the point of

questioning, if not interrogating, the contending parties as to what they had done demonstrably and what they proposed to do for them in the years ahead. The percolation of political awareness and penetration of the media helped ring in this refreshing change.

As a result of this welcome change, we are witnessing a fiercely competitive political arena wherein all parties are vying with one another or outsmarting one another. There has been an outright rejection of manifestos by terming them as mere papers that have no sanctity of any kind and not at all binding on the parties that enlist promises in them.

In democracies, voting is a potent weapon to make or undo things. Potentially it is trust and credibility based,

**In democracies, voting is a potent weapon to make or undo things and to do or undo things. Potentially it is trust and credibility based, rather than one that is defined by promises. A party can come to power by duping people with hollow promises. The parties that keep their word in true spirit will have a chance to come to the people again.**

rather than one that is defined by promises. A party can come to power by duping people with hollow promises. The parties that keep their word in true spirit will have a chance to come to the people again. This is where credibility stands and respect for that party persists among people. In the five states that are going to polls, the festival of manifestos is being celebrated with a competitive rain of promises that blind people to discern reality and

to rationally think what is real and based on rationality.

Had the political parties implemented the promises that they had made all along during the last seven decades, India would not have been like this and there would not have been promises like giving 5 kilos of rice and so on and so forth. This speaks of a lack of concern for the parties that ruled at the Centre and in the states hitherto. Majority of people still suffer from poverty and lack



BUDDHAVARAPU RAJESWARA PRASAD

of income to lead decent lives. Given this stark reality, our parties think that freebies would be more than enough to ensure their victory. This again highlights the galling fact that wealth is concentrated in few hands, with most people depending on meagre income that is barely sufficient to lead lives at the sub-

sistence level. This is where the lure of promising election manifestos works and does some kind of magic that dramatically allows political parties to find favour with them and come to power.

India is such a massively populated country that providing jobs to all the eligible is virtually impossible and efforts should be made sincerely to provide maximum people employment opportunities so that they can sustain themselves and live decently. Without addressing the basic lacunae in the system and removing the economic disparities in society, no government will be successful in its endeavour to achieve what it is aiming at.

Giving pensions and other pecuniary benefits can only give temporary relief. Once they lose their utility value, people will choose to depend again on the same source of

income, instead of making efforts to switch to sustainable livelihood options.

It is the percolation of development and proper distribution of their fruits that is very much needed, rather than luring people with magical promises such as freebies and other pecuniary benefits. These will not have any sustaining values. This kind of financial appeasement might have some immediate value but at the same time, its value diminishes the very moment it is fulfilled. The case is the same again. Come elections, people expect the same kind of benevolence from the parties that are in the fray for power. The law of diminishing marginal utility applies to the election freebies also. Political parties must contend with one another to satisfy people with more and more valuable freebies and

giveaways, failing which they may invite doom.

The point is pragmatism and practical mindedness can help society get intended benefits, instead of relying on occasional benevolence of political parties. We cannot say all political parties are the same and do the same, but the political parties that stand by their word and do what is needed for the people and society at large will have the luxury of having people's continued support and continuation of their reign. The rain of promises cannot ensure the continuation of the reign but the practical mindedness in them is the only mantra of success and succeeding successes. Here is where manifestos and political manifestation matter. The cutting edge lies here. Nothing more or nothing less.

## Metro Rail DPR is ready, confirms Minister

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development (MAUD) Audimulapu Suresh has said that the future of Visakhapatnam is very bright and that the Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region Development Authority (VMRDA) is playing a crucial role in this regard.

During a review meeting with VMRDA officials here on Wednesday, Minister Suresh outlined a series of upcoming development initiatives for the city. He praised Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's leadership and expressed optimism that the citizens of Visakhapatnam would soon witness a 'transformed Vizag'.



District Collector A Mallikarjuna briefed the Minister on VMRDA's ongoing activities and projects, and Suresh urged officials to expedite pending endeavors.

Minister Suresh also highlighted VMRDA's essential role in various development projects, including the construction of amusement and theme parks, entertainment venues, housing layouts, and enhancements to existing tourist attractions.

The VMRDA, which spans three districts, is poised to be

a key driver of progress in the region.

The minister stressed the importance of a beach development programme due to Visakhapatnam's popularity among tourists.

He recognised the city's rapid growth and encouraged VMRDA to view the increasing urban population as an opportunity to embark on beneficial projects that serve the community.

Suresh revealed that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the Visakhapatnam Metro Rail project was ready, and more information would be shared in the near future. The meeting was attended by key officials, including VMRDA Secretary Rangayya and Joint Commissioner Ravindra.



## Govt Rep in US calls on CM

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

P Ratnakar, representative of the Andhra Pradesh Government in North America, called on Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy at the Camp office here on Wednesday and thanked him for extending his tenure by a year. Ratnakar has completed three years as the government's representative and his tenure has been extended for the fourth year.

## Bhuvaneshwari flays police over 'harassment' of Kollu Ravindra

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Nara Bhuvaneshwari, wife of jailed Telugu Desam chief Nara Chandrababu Naidu, has strongly condemned the police harassment towards former minister and TDP politburo member Kollu Ravindra, who has been placed under house arrest for the past two days.

The police detained Kollu Ravindra in order to prevent him from participating in the TDP BC Empowered Committee's cycle rally named 'Chalo Rajamahendravaram', which was organised to show support to Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday.

Kollu Ravindra had told the police that his mother's death anniversary was on Tuesday, and he needed to participate



in the rituals. However, the police denied his request and harassed him by not allowing even his family members to take part in the death anniversary ceremonies at his home.

Expressing her concern on Twitter, Bhuvaneshwari strongly criticised the police's meth-

ods of harassing TDP leaders. In her tweet, she conveyed her distress regarding the detention of TDP leaders and activists by the police.

She questioned whether such conditions, where a former minister was prevented from participating in his mother's death anniversary, were seen anywhere in the country.

She asked what kind of law was being enforced in the State and what kind of justice was being served to its people.

She mentioned that Chandrababu expressed his concern about how Jagan Reddy had damaged the administration in the State.

She further urged the higher authorities not to link family matters, personal rights, and traditions with politics.

## BHOGAPURAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT Inaugural flight set for 2025

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has revealed that the State is on course to open the Bhogapuram International Airport by 2025. This declaration has sparked optimism among business leaders and the wider investor community, heralding the emergence of Vizag as a unique civilian international gateway.

Situated in a thriving coastal city, replete with a major port and steel plant, this airport project forms a vital part of GMR's expansion in the aviation facilities sector. Upon the completion of all three phases, this airport is projected to accommodate a remarkable 40 million passengers annually. The proposed runway, measuring 3,800 m in length and featuring a 12L/30R orientation, will also house MRO (Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul) facilities.



To support this initiative, the GMR Group secured a loan of Rs 4,000 crore from the Indian Infrastructure Finance Company (IIFCL). Significantly, this marks GMR's fourth major airport project in the country, following successful ventures in Goa, Delhi, and Hyderabad. The foundation for this ambitious airport project was laid by the Chief

Minister on May 3.

The proposed airport enjoys strategic closeness to Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, and Srikakulam, promising to generate huge employment opportunities for the region. Notably, the project's accessibility is facilitated by its proximity to National Highways 16 and 26, as well as potential connections to the Vizag beach

corridor and metro networks.

Industry Minister Gudivada Amarnath anticipates that this airport will play a pivotal role in the state's development, fostering increased tourism within the northern Andhra region. Furthermore, it is poised to serve as a viable alternative to the existing airport, primarily designed to cater to the needs of the armed forces.

## Govt hikes wheat...

Continued from Page 1

Wheat is the main rabi (winter) crop and its sowing begins in October while harvesting starts from April. MSP is the minimum rate at which the grain is purchased by the government procurement agencies. Briefing media after the cabinet meeting, Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur said the CCEA has approved the increase in the MSP of six mandated rabi crops for the 2024-25 marketing season.

Based on the CAPC (Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices) recommendation, we have increased the MSP of six rabi crops. Wheat MSP has been increased by Rs 150 per quintal," he said. The MSP of wheat has been raised to Rs 2,275 per cent quintal for 2024-25 marketing season from Rs 2,125 per quintal in 2023-24. The increase in wheat MSP comes ahead of the assembly polls in the key wheat growing states of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan even as consumer prices of wheat and wheat flour have been under pressure since last one-and-half years. The ban on wheat exports to control

prices of wheat and wheat flour (atta) has been in place since May 2022.

The current increase in wheat MSP is the highest since 2015-16. The previous increase was in the range of Rs 100-110 per quintal announced for four marketing seasons -- 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2023-24.

Asked about the impact of wheat MSP increase on food inflation, the minister said India has kept the inflation under check during and post pandemic period.

According to the Minister, the MSP of barley has been increased by Rs 115 per quintal to Rs 1,850 for 2024-25 from Rs 1,735 per quintal this year.

Among rabi pulses, the MSP of gram has been increased by Rs 105 to Rs 5,440 per quintal for 2024-25 as against Rs 5,335 per quintal in 2023-24 while that of lentil (masur) has been hiked by Rs 425 to Rs 6,425 per quintal from Rs 6,000 per quintal.

In order to promote oilseeds cultivation, the government increased rapeseed-mustard seed MSP by Rs 200 to Rs 5,650 per quintal for 2024-25 marketing season, from Rs 5,450 per quintal in 2023-24 season.

## AP challenges Tribunal's...

Continued from Page 1

The Godavari Tribunal has directed that the 45 TMC allocated to united Andhra Pradesh be distributed between the two states based on their respective projects.

This development is rooted in Section-89 of the Partition Act, which defines criteria for projects, whether completed, under construction, or in the proposal stage. KWDT-2 must investigate water allocations following these guidelines, with a report due by March 31, 2024, as per the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act-1956, Section-5(3). Anand Mohan, Joint Secretary of the Central

Water Power Department, issued these orders (Gazette No. 4204).

Telangana initiated this action in 2014 by filing a complaint under Section-3, seeking a fair distribution of Krishna waters. The Union Cabinet approved additional procedures proposed by the Central Water Power Department for KWDT-2, resulting in the issuance of the mentioned orders. As a result, the distribution of Krishna water has become a focal point.

Revisiting Bachawat Tribunal decisions has faced opposition since the ISRWD Act-1956 deems it illegal to re-examine settled water disputes,

similar to Supreme Court verdicts. Nevertheless, the Central Jal Shakti Department directed the Brijesh Kumar Tribunal to review and redistribute water allocations.

A key aspect of the dispute is the diversion of 80 TMC to the Krishna Delta through the Polavaram Right Canal and an additional 45 TMC of Krishna waters upstream of Nagarjunasagar, permitted by the Godavari Tribunal. The tribunal also mandated that basins receiving Godavari waters should share the additional resources. Notably, Telangana has been diverting 240 TMC of Godavari water to the Krishna basin, although

this wasn't explicitly included in the Brijesh Kumar Tribunal's terms of reference.

Established in 2004, the Brijesh Kumar Tribunal has been addressing this protracted water dispute and has submitted reports over the years. The Centre can dissolve the Tribunal under Section-12 if its objectives are met, but if not, it can prescribe additional procedures and request a re-investigation within three months of the next report. This ongoing dispute highlights the complexity and sensitivity of river water allocation between States, presenting a significant challenge in resolving such contentious issues.

## 'Both Babu and... YSRC lodges....'

Continued from Page 1

Technical issues are being brought to the fore and the issue of corruption is being sidelined. Chandrababu's skin disease is portrayed as a fatal one.

The Government Advisor said that the fraud committed by Ramoji Rao had become public, while Chandrababu was arrested and remanded in the Skill scam. He added that the darkest moment in the life of NTR was when Chandrababu and Ramoji portrayed the relationship between NTR and Lakshmi Parvati in a wrong way for their personal gains.

Sajjala said that both Chandrababu and Ramoji ditched the people who extended helping hands to them. Chandrababu acted as if he became CM only for earning and cheating. Within two months after becoming the CM in 2014, he changed the laws and used people's money for heritage.

He further pointed out that Chandrababu as a Chief Minister looted Rs 371 crore showing a fake agreement. Later, he diverted the amount

to shell companies and the money was redirected to him. Officials said that everything happened with the direct involvement of Chandrababu with evidence as signatures.

Sajjala further said that Chandrababu committed scams and was sent in remand, but the TDP had a different story to tell to mislead the public that facilities were not provided to him in jail. Lokesh argued with the DIG to release a health bulletin of Chandrababu everyday as if the TDP chief was illegally imprisoned. "Does anyone release health bulletins of prisoners," asked Sajjala and added that the TDP leaders were hell-bent on creating a fuss everyday to gain sympathy of the public.

The Government Advisor alleged that like Chandrababu, Ramoji Rao also wanted to quash the case as if there was no fraud committed. He said that transferring the shares without the knowledge of the shareholder was not a fraud. Margadarshi turnover is Rs 1,200 crore, and that a cheque of Rs 39 lakh was given as dividend to GJ Reddy's son. Is it not a fraud, asked Sajjala.

Continued from Page 1

Venugopala Krishna and Dadiseti Raja said that 60 lakh bogus votes were included during Chandrababu's regime. The Election Commission has been asked to check and delete those votes.

They alleged that votes were registered in two or three places for the same person and claimed that these bogus votes would have a huge impact on the polls.

Kurasala Kannababu said that fake votes were registered during Chandrababu's regime. He mentioned that the BLOs had already identified them as ineligible, but they had not been removed yet.

He revealed that dead voters had also been asked to be removed. He said it was not reasonable to have votes in both the neighboring State Telangana and here in AP. He demanded that those votes should be filtered and kept somewhere.

Ex-minister Alla Nani stated that it did not make sense to have votes in two States, to have two or three votes. He stated that they complained about the stolen votes registered during the TD regime and YSRC asked them to remove all of them. YSRC has demanded that all ineligible voters have been asked to be removed, he said.

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION DEPARTMENT E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**  
No. 97 to 122/2023-24 Date: 16-10-2023  
Online tenders are being invited for execution of 26 works in Prakasam district under JIM grants of Rs 1744.70 lakh. Tender forms can be accessed from e-procurement online platform from 24-10-2023. For details, contact www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in or Phone 08592-233275.  
Sd/- Superintending Engineer, RWS and Sanitation Circle, Ongole  
R.O.No: 11380/CL/ADVT/19/2021-22, Dt: 16.10.2023

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### Call for grand Children's Day celebration in Visakhapatnam

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Kesali Apparrao, chairperson of the Andhra Pradesh State Child Rights Protection Commission, has formally requested the government to organise a grand Children's Day celebration in Visakhapatnam. Apparrao disclosed that the suggestion emerged during a recent visit by Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy to the Vizianagaram and Parvathipuram Manyam districts. The proposal is to mark this year's Children's Day, celebrated on November 14, in Visakhapatnam.

In addition to the Chief Minister's endorsement, Apparrao has informed key officials, including Minister of Education Botsa Satyanarayana, Minister of Women and Child Welfare Usha Shri Charan, and the Principal Secretary of both departments, about the request.

### ODOP AWARDS

## 14 AP products shortlisted

Idea is to select, brand and promote one product from each district of the country

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

K Suneetha, Principal Secretary, Handlooms and Textiles, has said that Andhra Pradesh, being the leader in many fields of innovation and with its unique propositions, has submitted 26 applications from varying areas like Textiles, Handicrafts, Handlooms, Fisheries, and Industrial Products etc. for One District One Product (ODOP) Awards. As many as 14 products from Andhra Pradesh are among the 64 products which are selected for the next stage.

Suneetha explained that under Aatma Nirbhar Bharat, numerous initiatives had been undertaken by various Ministries of the Government of India and one such initiative was the One District One Product programme, spearheaded by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), which



aims to foster socio-economic development of all districts of the country. She explained that the idea was to select, brand and promote one product from each district of the country and to identify and solve the problems associated with each of these ODOP products in corresponding supply chains to increase their market accessibility and harness their export potential. Suneetha said that AP had submitted 26 applications from varying areas like Textiles,

Handicrafts, Handlooms, Fisheries, and Industrial Products etc. She was happy that 14 products from the State were among the 64 products which are selected for the next stage i.e., field verification by the Invest India team, for the final selection of ODOP Awards for 2023-24. The list of the products which are enlisted for field verification have been physically verified on ground by the team members from Invest India.

The 14 products of AP are:

Mangalagiri Handloom Sarees of Guntur, Pulagurtha Clothing Shirting and Sarees of East Godavari, Uppada Jamdani Sarees of Kakinada, Frozen Shrimp of Bapatla, Bobbili Veena of Vizianagaram, Udayagiri Wooden Cutlery of Nellore, Coconut and Coir of Dr BR Ambedkar Konaseema, Visakhapatnam shrimp, Kurnool Handloom Silk Sarees, in Annamayya Madanapalle Silk Sarees, Araku Coffee in Alluri Sitarama Raju district, Silk Sarees in Sri Satya Sai, Ponduru Cotton Sarees in Srikakulam and Venkatagiri Handlooms in Tirupati.

Suneetha stated that the Invest India team expressed immense satisfaction over the work done in promoting and motivating artisans and handloom weavers through government schemes as well as the institutional support given by the Andhra Pradesh government.



## Devotees have Sri Maha Lakshmi Devi darshan in an hour

Temple authorities, NTR district administration taking steps to ensure hassle-free darshan

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Thanks to the arrangements made by the Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam and the NTR district administration, the devotees were able to have darshan of goddess Durga Devi within an hour through the free queue line on Wednesday, the fourth day of the Dasara Sarannavaratri festivities.

On the fourth day, Kanaka Durga Devi was decorated as Sri Maha Lakshmi Devi. The occasion was Ashwathya Shukla Paksha Chaturthi. Kanaka Durga Devi was seen holding lotus flowers in both her hands and making hand gestures of protection while bestowing the King Elephant to serve her. It was a graceful sight that left the devotees in awe.

Sri Maha Lakshmi Devi is considered a symbol and cause of good fortune. She is known as the giver of wealth and is a cumulative form of eight different forms of Lakshmi. During the Sarannavaratri celebrations, devotees worship goddess Durga Devi, believing that she will bring positive results. It is said that Durga Devi remains as Lakshmi in all living creatures.

Therefore, people start their day early in the morning to take the darshan of Kanaka Durga Devi and pray for the blessings of Sri Maha Lakshmi Devi. A huge rush continued for up to three hours in the morning and the evening. Though a large number of devotees came to the temple to have darshan, the authorities provided them



with darshan within an hour. However, on the fifth day of the Dasara festivities, Kanaka Durga Devi will be worshipped as Maha Chandri.

### Deputy CM, Collector inspect arrangements

To ensure a hassle-free darshan experience for the devotees, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Endowment Kottu Satyanarayana, NTR District Collector Dr S Dilli Rao, NTR Police Commissioner Kanthi Rana Tata, and Durga Temple Executive Officer KS Rama Rao continuously monitored the situation and gave instructions to all departments.

The Deputy CM inspected the arrangements at the Kanaka Durga Nagar, Mallikharjuna Maha Mandapam and other areas and enquired the devotees about the facilities. Minister Kottu Satyanarayana and Collector Dilli Rao interacted with the devotees and asked them about their problems. They resolved some of the issues on the spot and had

Anna Prasad along with the devotees.

Later, they discussed the development activities to be conducted using the Rs.70 crore sanctioned by the State government. "The plan is to develop Indrakeeladri as a beautiful spiritual and tourist spot," said Deputy CM Kottu Satyanarayana. Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy is monitoring the festivities, he added. Devotees have expressed their happiness over the arrangements and Anna Prasad, he said.

### CM to offer silk robes tomorrow

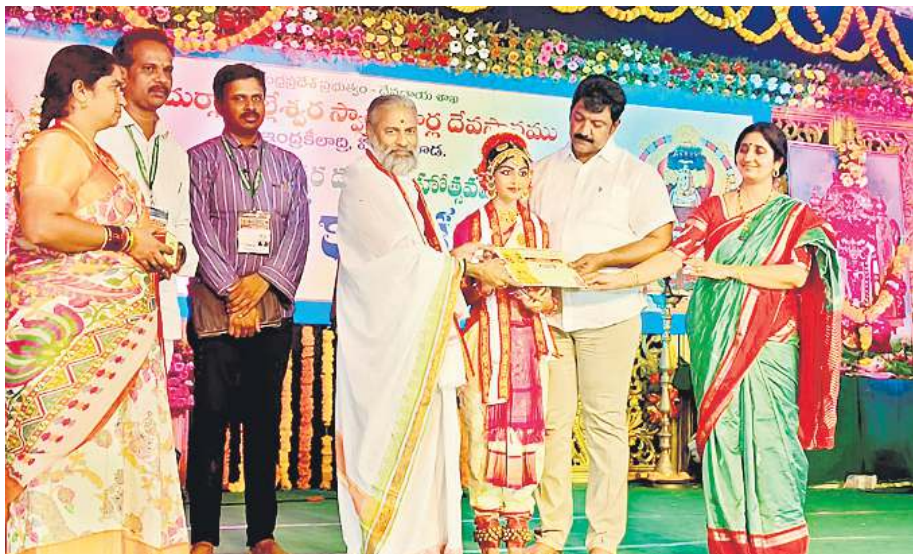
Kottu Satyanarayana has stated that Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will visit the Sri Kanaka Durga Temple on the auspicious day of 'Moola Nakshatram'. On that day, the CM will offer silk robes to the goddess at 3 pm, he said. Also, the CM has instructed the temple authorities and the district administration not to stop the queue lines during his visit to the temple, he pointed.

## Bharatanatyam enthralled audience

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

As part of the ongoing Dasara Navaratri celebrations at goddess Kanakadurga temple atop Indrakeeladri, cultural programmes have been organised in the evenings for the devotees.

On Wednesday, Bharatanatyam classical dance performed by Vallabhaneni Sri Lakshmi Vasundhara enthralled the audience. In the divine atmosphere of goddess Kanaka Durga temple, devotees and art lovers were gathered in large numbers to witness the dance, making the event an exciting and unforgettable experience. The reverberating beats of classical music, along with the intricate footwork and emotional narrative through Bharatanatyam, transported the audience into the world of



ancient Indian mythology. Child prodigy Sri Lakshmi Vasundhara is the daughter of Gannavaram MLA Dr

Vallabhaneni Vamshi Mohan. The MLA thanked the organisers and audience for their support to his daughter. He

emphasised the importance of preserving and promoting our rich cultural heritage through such initiatives.

### Kala Ratna National Award presented to Addanki

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The National Telugu Association organised a programme -- Delhi Telugu Kala Darbar -- at Andhra Bhavan Gurjara Conference Hall in New Delhi on Wednesday. On the occasion, awards were presented to 15 people in various fields who are working for safeguarding Telugu language and culture from different States. On the occasion, Kala Ratna National Award was presented to Addanki Raja Yona by Customs Principal Commissioner SK Rehman. The award was presented to Addanki for encouraging writers, artists and talented people in different fields and inspiring their services in the fields of Telugu language, culture, social and literature since 2016 through the Philanthropic Society of India.

## AP sets stage for smart learning with 'Doubt Clearance BOT'

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

In a significant step towards enhancing education in Andhra Pradesh, the government has joined hands with 'ConveGenius AI Solutions' to introduce the AI generative App 'Doubt Clearance BOT'. This application will empower government school students to resolve doubts during their off-school hours, further complementing their educational journey. Previously, the Andhra Pradesh government provided Tabs with globally best e-content to all ninth-grade students.

Similarly, on December 18, the eighth-grade students will receive tabs, ensuring technology-driven learning reaches more young minds. The government's commitment to education is evident as 50 per cent of classrooms have already been equipped with Smart Boards, with the remainder set to be completed by December 21.

With the introduction of the Doubt Clearance BOT, Andhra Pradesh now boasts of a comprehensive technology-led learning ecosystem.

## Teacher wins medals at intl sports meet

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

PVM Naga Jyothi, who is working as an English teacher in Rolugunta Zilla Parishad High School of Anakapalli district, won four medals in the international Samyukta Bharatiya Khel Foundation competition held in Nepal from October 5 to 9. Naga Jyothi bagged gold medals in powerlifting and 100m race and silver in discus throw and javelin throw.

Naga Jyothi was felicitated by S Suresh Kumar, Commissioner of School Education, at the State Office of Samgra Shiksha on Tuesday.

He said that Naga Jyothi would also participate in the 'World Masters Games 2024', which will be held in Cleveland, USA, from July 11 to 21 next year.

He appreciated the teacher for winning the medals and wished her the best.

He said that Naga Jyothi made the State and the country proud. He also urged the teachers to take inspiration from Naga Jyothi and



train students to become national and international athletes. Director of School Education P Parvathi, AP TET Joint Director

Dr Mary Chandrika, State Secretary of School Games Federation G Bhanumurthi Raju and others were present.

## Visakhapatnam police nab cyber stalker exploiting women

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Following the directives of Visakhapatnam Police Commissioner Ravi Shankar Ayyanar, DCP-1 Sriniwasa Rao has initiated a case against a habitual criminal who targets young women on social media through a fake Instagram account. The perpetrator would make contact, gain access to their personal photos

under the guise of love, and then resort to extortion and threats for money.

The accused, Miryala Naveen (26) of Bitrapadu village, Parvathipuram district, has been arrested by Crime Inspector K. Bhawani Prasad and produced in court, and subsequently remanded in custody. Despite having previous involvement in four police cases, the cybercrime police

saw it necessary to remand the accused due to the persistent nature of his behavior.

Cybercrime Inspector K. Bhawani Prasad emphasised that there was no justification for anyone to demean or insult women on social media. The Visakhapatnam police are committed to taking swift action against those who exploit and victimise individuals online.

## Volunteer allegedly rapes minor girl, arrested

PNS ■ ELURU

A ward volunteer allegedly raped a minor girl at Srimavaram village in Denduluru mandal. Though the incident took place two months ago, it came to light on Wednesday as the girl conceived.

Police said that the accused volunteer N Shivakumar went to the house of the victim when she was alone on the pretext of verifying her Aadhar card two months ago. He sexually assaulted the minor girl and threatened her of dire consequences if she disclosed it. The victim is studying 10th class.

When the victim developed health problems, she was taken to a hospital where



the doctors confirmed that she was pregnant. The police arrested the accused.

Meanwhile, TDP leader and former MLA Chenthamaneni Prabhakar alleged that even after the mother lodged a complaint, the police did not respond properly. Since the accused has the support of ruling YSRCP leaders, the police

hesitated to arrested the rape accused.

The rape accused offered Rs 10,000 to the parents of the victim, Prabhakar lamented. The ex-MLA consoled the victim and her family members today. Later the ex-MLA went to the SP office and lodged a complaint.

The TDP leader said that two women went missing in the Eluru rural mandal but the police could not trace them. He questioned the Women's commission chairperson Vasireddy Padma why she did not respond to the incident. Chenthamaneni Prabhakar assured of standing by the victim and her family and also assured of doing justice to the minor girl.

## Preparations underway for India-Aus T-20 match in Vizag

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Before the T-20 cricket match between India and Australia scheduled for November 23 at the Dr YSR ACA VDCA Stadium, the organising committee held its initial meeting to discuss the preparations here on Wednesday.

During the meeting, Gopinath Reddy mentioned their intention to invite all the presidents and secretaries of State cricket associations to the match. Specifics regarding ticket sales and pricing will be determined and communicated in the upcoming meeting.

The Dr. YSR ACA VDCA Stadium has a capacity for 27,000 people, and the ACA is considering the possibility of setting up a large screen near RK Beach to accommodate an



additional 10,000 viewers. The organising committee, led by District Collector A. Mallikarjuna, assured the appointment of a revenue officer to oversee ticket sales and prevent any irregularities.

Police Commissioner Ravi Shankar highlighted the forthcoming traffic restrictions and diversions on the day of the match. Spectators are urged to arrive at the stadium within the

allocated time frame specified by the ACA.

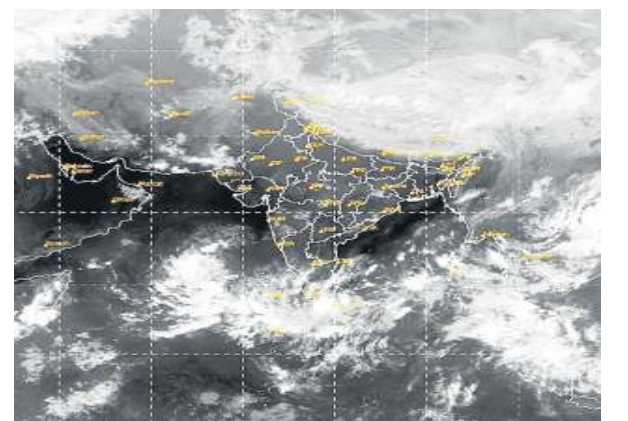
GVMC Commissioner CM Saikanth Varma also affirmed that the corporation will ensure the provision of adequate sanitation facilities, toilets, and drinking water at the stadium. EPDCL Chairman Prudhvi Tej, Andhra Cricket Association CEO Siva Reddy and other prominent ACA members were present.

## Light rain likely in AP over next seven days

PNS ■ GUNTUR

Light rain is likely to occur at one or two places in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh, South Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema during the next seven days, Meteorological Centre said

on Wednesday. In a daily weather report here, it said that Southwest monsoon has been weak in Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema. The lowest minimum temperature of 19 degree celsius was recorded at Aroyavaram in the plains of the state.



# Land survey should be carried out without flaws: Ajay Kallam

PNS ■ BHIMAVARAM

Land Resurvey Steering Committee chairman Ajay Kallam directed the officials concerned to conduct the land resurvey out without flaws following the government's guidelines and complete by prescribed time.

An awareness seminar was organized in Tadepalligudem on Wednesday on Bu Hakku, Suraksha schemes and land resurvey in which Land Resurvey steering committee chairman Ajay Kallam and Chief Commissioner of Land Administration and special chief secretary G Sai Prasad addressed the seminar.

Speaking on the occasion, Resurvey Steering Committee Chairman Ajay Kallam said that a comprehensive land survey is being done after a hundred years, and the 'YSR Jaganna Perpetual Land



Rights-Bhu Raksha' scheme has been started as a pilot project in Tadepalligudem town of Pochima Godavari district.

Land owners should be made aware of the benefits of land title documents; he said

and directed the officials that the land survey should be completed on time. Chief Commissioner of Land Administration and Special Chief Secretary G Sai Prasad

said that strict rules of land survey should be followed in urban areas while conducting surveys.

"According to the government records, the land title documents have to be issued to the right holders or those who

have submitted the register documents as per the survey. Notices must be issued to the land owners. It is suggested to stick a notice at the house of the house owners who are not available and make a record," he stated and cleared the doubts of planning and digital revenue secretaries.

Siddhartha Jain, Commissioner of Survey, Settlement and Land Records said that land documents are very important for future needs. The owner must have a land title document to get a loan or to sell, he said, stating that the survival of register documents will decrease in future and land title documents will become mandatory.

District Collector P Prashanthi, Joint Collector S Ram Sundar Reddy and RDO K Chennaiah were among those who took part in the programme.



## Collector calls upon people to avail JAS services

PNS ■ ONGOLE

District Collector AS Dinesh Kumar appealed to the people to avail the health services being provided at the Jaganna Arogya Suraksha (JAS) health camps.

The Collector visited the JAS health camp at Valluru village on Wednesday. He examined the registration of the details of those who came to the camp, the centers specially set up to conduct necessary medical tests, the medical services being provided and the other arrangements at the JAS health camp.

Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that the

state government is organizing JAS camps with the aim of providing better medical services to the people in their areas, adding that thousands of people are getting free medical services through this program. Expert doctors examine the patients at the JAS camps and medical tests are conducted to the patients and medicines are given at free of cost, the Collector informed.

According to the needs of the people, special medical camps are being organized locally within the Secretariat limits, the Collector said, adding that if necessary the patients are referred to the GGH and YSR Aarogyasri

network hospitals for better treatment. A large number of patients suffering from BP and diabetic are coming to the JAS health camps for treatment and tests, the Collector said.

Collector Dinesh Kumar called upon the pregnant women, infants and malnourished children to utilize the JAS health camps. He directed the Volunteers and ANMs to create awareness among people about the JAS health camps.

DMHO Rajyalakshmi, MPDO Vanajakshi, Tahsildar Sanjeeva Rao and other officials were among those who accompanied the Collector.



## 'Rasta roko' staged for potable water

PNS ■ ANANTAPUR

The women of Hottebeta village in Rolla mandal in Madakasira constituency in Sri Satya Sai district organized a rasta roko on the main road demanding a supply of drinking water to the village.

A large number of women squatted on the road with empty containers raising slogans against the indifference

of the officials in supplying potable water to them.

The agitating women told the media that they had been facing acute drinking water shortage but the officials or public representatives did not pay attention to their problem. They warned of a lay siege to the MPDO office if steps were not taken to supply drinking water to their village.

## No response from people opposing Naidu's arrest: Buggana

PNS ■ NANDYALA

Minister for Finance Buggana Rajendranath Reddy has claimed that there is no response from people opposing the arrest of former Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu.

The Finance Minister inaugurated the newly secretariat building at Betamcherla town in Dhone constituency on Wednesday. The secretariat building was constructed at a cost of Rs 40 lakh. He said that more services would be made available to the people through the secretariats.

He asked the locals whether they are facing any problems. He said that all steps are taken to resolve the grievances of people and provide them better services.

Speaking on the occasion, Buggana Rajendranath Reddy said that since there is no response from the people in AP opposing the arrest of Naidu, publicity was launched that dharnas are being organized in America, San Francisco, Dallas, Bangalore and Hyderabad.

He said that the government had constructed the TIDCO



houses and the houses are being distributed to the beneficiaries across the state.

"We have examined the housing projects taken up in Lucknow in UP and some cities in Telangana state. We noticed bidders quoting exorbitant prices. In order to ensure that public money is not wasted, we adopted a reverse tendering process," he claimed.

Referring to the Skill Development Scam case, the Finance Minister said that Chandrababu Naidu is in prison since he was involved in the scam. There is no response from the people on his arrest but much ado is being created on his arrest on social media, he observed.

He alleged that Skill Development scam and Fiber net scam took place during the TDP regime. The people of the state understood the scams committed during the TDP regime, he added. He said that a government medical college was established in Nandyal fulfilling the decade old dream of the people of the area. Efforts are being made to construct Nandyala-Hyderabad, Nandyala-Chennai national highways. A degree college was established and an indoor stadium was constructed in Allagadda, he claimed.

The Finance Minister said that the government schools are being modernized at par with the private schools.

## MIM protest on Oct 23 over Gaza bombings

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) president Asaduddin Owaisi said on Wednesday that a meeting would be held at the party headquarters on October 23 protesting bombings in Gaza.

Owaisi has invited heads of all political parties to join the protest, which will be organised at Darussalam at 6:00 PM. He said no political speeches or statements would be made during the protest.

Owaisi took to Twitter and said, "We will be organising a Protest Public Meeting against the atrocities in #Gaza #Palestine. Heads of all political parties & organisations will be

invited. No political/election speeches will be permitted. Date: 23rd October Time: After 6 PM Venue: Darussalam, Hyderabad."

Further, the Hyderabad MP said that his bike had more seats than what BJP and Congress will have in the Telangana Assembly. Owaisi took to Twitter and said, "As predicted, Rahul baba's B-Team'rona has begun. Why did he gift his Amethi seat to BJP? And why is BJP so weak in Telangana if it has a B-Team here? Why did Baba have to go to Wayanad to find a 'safe seat'? My Royal Enfield has more seats than what BJP-Cong-RSS combine will have in Telangana Assembly."

## Pinipe distributes nets to 450 fishermen



PNS ■ YANAM

Minister Pinipe Viswaroop hailed the initiative of Cairn Oil & Gas, part of Vedanta Group to help improve the livelihoods of the fishermen community of S Yanam village in Andhra Pradesh. The fishing nets were distributed to 450 fishermen of the Ravva JV port by representatives of the District Administration and SM Pasha and Soumen Dev from Cairn Oil & Gas amidst the presence of Minister Pinipe Viswaroop.



## 1.125 kg ganja seized, 3 arrested

PNS ■ ELURU

The police seized 1.125 KGs of ganja and arrested two persons at Vadlamani village on Agripalli-Nuzvid road.

CI Bala Suresh said here on Wednesday that on a tip off a police team conducted a raid at Vadlamani electricity office

and arrested three persons and seized 1125 grams of cannabis from them.

The police registered a case against the drug peddlers and produced before the court. DSP E Ashok Kumar Goud warned of taking stringent action if ganja is sold, transported and consumed.

PNS ■ TADEPALLIGUDEM

Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Endowment Kottu Satyanarayana said that the government is aimed at purchasing the agriculture produce including paddy from the farmers at minimum support price.

The minister, flanked by Collector P Prashanthi, inaugurated the paddy purchasing centre in the Rythu Bharosa Kendra at L Agraharam village

in Tadepalligudem mandal.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Kottu Satyanarayana said that the opening of the first paddy purchasing centre in the district at Tadepalligudem is a good development. He said the government's aim is to buy the paddy from the farmers at a support price by doing away with the mediators.

The minister said that in the last season, the new system for paddy purchase was introduced and yielded good results and directed the authorities to keep in mind the experiences of the previous seasons and conduct Kharif paddy procurement in a strict manner.

Collector Prashanthi directed the officials to prepare efficient plans to purchase paddy for the kharif season from the farmers. She instructed them to take steps to ensure that there would be no hurdles in purchasing

paddy from the farmers. The Collector also ordered the officials to set up some more paddy purchase centres in the district in the coming days and asked the officials to work in a coordinated manner to purchase paddy from farmers. RDO K Chennaiah, agriculture advisory board chairman K Srinivasa Rao and civil supplies corporation district manager T Shivarama Prasad were among those who were present.

The Prison DG, along with SP Malika Garg, Guntur range prison deputy director Dr.M Varaprasad and other officials visited the central prison and the officials explained to him details of the prison. He went round the Jail premises and saw the prisoner's barracks, Jail Hospital.



## 62 kg ganja seized, 3 arrested

PNS ■ GUNTUR

The police seized 62.100 KGs of ganja while being transported illegally in a car at Kaja near Mangalagiri on Wednesday.

Police said that on a tip off the police conducted checking of vehicles.

They found 62.100 KGs of cannabis in a Honda car. The arrested three persons told the police that they purchased ganja in Odisha.

The police registered a case and produced them before the court.

## Carcass of leopard found on railway track

PNS ■ ANANTAPUR

A leopard was found dead on the railway track at D Cherlopalli village in Battalopalli mandal in Dharmavaram constituency in Sri Satya Sai district on Wednesday.

The railway staff found the carcass of the leopard on the railway track and informed the forest officials. The forest officials rushed there and initially thought that the leopard might have been run over by a train while it was crossing the track. But the forest officials found the carcass of leopard without nails. The forest officials suspected

that some hunters might have killed the leopard, removed nails and dumped it on the track to mislead the officials. The forest officials said that similar incidents took place at Melawai village in Madakasira mandal in August Anantapur district in which a leopard was found dead in suspicious circumstances. A few days ago two leopards were found dead at a field at Kakulakonda and froth was found emanating from their mouths. The forest and railway officials registered a case and conducted a postmortem to the leopard to ascertain the exact reason for its death.



## AP Prisons DG Harish Kumar Gupta visits Central prison

PNS ■ ONGOLE

AP Prisons & Correctional services Director General Harish Kumar Gupta visited the Central prison here on Wednesday and interacted with the prisoners.

The Prison DG, along with SP Malika Garg, Guntur range prison deputy director Dr.M Varaprasad and other officials visited the central prison and the officials explained to him details of the prison. He went round the Jail premises and saw the prisoner's barracks, Jail Hospital.

He interacted with the prisoners there and inquired about their crime details and status.

He also inquired about the basic facilities being provided to the prisoners in the prison, the problems they were facing and free legal aid being provided to them in the jail.

Harish Kumar Gupta discussed with the prison

officials about internal security and advised them to be alert towards the prisoners, to ensure that there are no security flaws, and to bring any security problem to the attention of the higher authorities immediately. The jail authorities were given several suggestions on the internal security of the jail. He also suggested some measures to be taken to reform the inmates.

Later, the DG prisons held a meeting with the jail authorities regarding the repair and renovation works of the hospital and women prisoners' blocks set up for the accused in the district jail as they were old buildings and provision of suitable facilities.

Jail Superintendent P Varuna Reddy, District Sub Jail Officer Venkata Reddy, DSB DSP B Mariadas and Ongole DSP Narayana Swamy Reddy were among those who accompanied him.

The Prison DG, along with SP Malika Garg, Guntur range prison deputy director Dr.M Varaprasad and other officials visited the central prison and the officials explained to him details of the prison. He went round the Jail premises and saw the prisoner's barracks, Jail Hospital.



INDIA CORNER

### Court allows Naresh Goyal to avail home-cooked food

A special PMLA court here has allowed Jet Airways founder Naresh Goyal, an accused in an alleged fraud of Rs 538 crore at the Canara Bank, to have home-cooked food inside prison. Goyal's plea for home-cooked food was allowed by special judge for cases under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) M G Deshpande on Tuesday. "Naresh Goyal is permitted to avail home cooked food on a daily basis, as prayed, at his own risk and the risk of his family/relatives, until further order," the court said. Goyal is currently in judicial custody and lodged at Arthur Road jail in south Mumbai in a money laundering case linked to an alleged fraud at the Canara Bank. Earlier, his lawyers had moved an application for home-cooked food along with a chart on Goyal's health issues that they claimed had cropped up during his judicial custody. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested Goyal on September 1 under the PMLA following a long session of questioning.



### Vivo PMLA case: Court sends Lava MD, Chinese national to judicial custody

A court here on Wednesday sent Lava International MD Hari Om Rai and Chinese national Guangwen Kuang to judicial custody till October 30 in a money laundering case against Chinese smartphone maker Vivo. Additional Sessions Judge Devender Kumar Jangala, however, extended by two days the custodial interrogation of co-accused Nitin Garg. The court passed the order on an application moved by the Enforcement Directorate. The three accused were produced before the court on completion of their ED custody granted earlier. They were arrested under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The smartphone company has denied the allegations. "Vivo has constantly denied the allegations. We will pursue necessary and appropriate legal recourse," a company representative said in a statement.



### Local communities can play key role in conserving forests: HP CM

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Wednesday said local communities can play a pivotal role in managing forest resources. The state cabinet had on October 11 approved the 'Van Mitra' Scheme of the Forest Department under which one 'Van Mitra' each, would be engaged in 2061 forest beats to strengthen the participation of local communities in the protection, conservation and development of forests. Sukhu, in a statement released here, said the 'Van Mitras' from local communities would be engaged for better forest management and conservation and they would be entrusted with responsibilities like fire protection, afforestation drives, resin tapping, and salvage operations. This initiative is not only intended to enhance the sustainable management of forest resources but also create livelihood opportunities, particularly for the local youth of the area, he added.



### KEEPING SHARP WATCH ON CHINESE NAVY IN IOR: VICE ADMIRAL

# Indian Navy monitoring West Asia developments

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy is monitoring the developments in West Asia and also keeping a sharp watch on the Chinese Navy's activities in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) "by the hour", a top Navy officer said on Wednesday in the context of the escalating Hamas-Israel conflict.



West Asia (a reference to the Hamas-Israel conflict)," he said.

The vice admiral said as far as the Chinese are concerned, we are keeping a sharp watch on whatever they are doing in the South China Sea.

"In the Indian Ocean, we are keeping a sharp watch as to where their research ship, spy

ship, satellite tracking ship, warships (are) wherever they are by the hour," Vice Admiral Tripathi said while replying to questions.

The senior Naval commander also said that piracy has been one of the constant challenges in the last 10-15 years, "It is largely contained through international cooperation and

coordination," he added.

On the occasion, S Paramesh, Additional Director General, of the Indian Coast Guard, emphasised collectively increasing the sharing of information for better threat assessment and coordinated response.

Investments in technologies like satellite surveillance and unmanned drones will greatly enhance maritime security efforts, Paramesh said.

Hostilities between Israel and Hamas began after armed Hamas militants based in the Gaza Strip launched an unprecedented attack on Israel by land, air, and sea on October 7. Since the start of hostilities, as many as 2,778 Palestinians have been killed.

Media reports have cited official Israeli sources as saying that at least 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel.

### Will bring BJP back to power in Rajasthan: JP Nadda

PNS ■ KOTA

People of Rajasthan "feel cheated" by a Congress government "steeped in corruption", and have made up their mind to bring the BJP back to power in the state, party national president JP Nadda said on Wednesday.

Nadda, who arrived in Kota earlier to hold meetings with office bearers of Kota, Bundi and Jhalawar, said youths, farmers and the common man have decided to remove the Congress.

"The enthusiasm that I see among our workers clearly shows that the people of Rajasthan have made up their mind towards BJP. And they have resolved that they want change in Rajasthan," Nadda told reporters at a press conference. "The public has decided to uproot the corrupt Gehlot government of the Congress, and has made up its mind to bring about change," the BJP president said.

### MODI EXPRESSES SHOCK AT GAZA HOSPITAL ATTACK

# Hold responsible those involved

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Expressing shock over the tragic loss of lives in an attack on a hospital in Gaza, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said civilian casualties in the ongoing conflict were a matter of serious concern and those involved should be held responsible.

According to media reports, the Hamas group said a massive explosion at the al-Ahli hospital in Gaza killed hundreds of people Tuesday. Hamas attributed the blast to an Israeli air strike, but the Israeli military said it was not involved and the explosion was caused by a misfired Palestinian rocket.

"Deeply shocked at the tragic loss of lives at the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza. Our heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims, and prayers for speedy recovery of those injured," Modi said on X.

"Civilian casualties in the ongoing conflict are a matter of serious and continuing concern. Those involved



should be held responsible," the prime minister said.

Hostilities between Israel and Hamas began after armed Hamas militants based in the Gaza Strip launched an unprecedented attack on Israel by land, air, and sea on October 7. Since the start of hostilities, as many as 2,778 Palestinians have been killed.

Media reports have cited official Israeli sources as saying that at least 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel.

### Left parties condemn attack

The Left parties on Wednesday condemned the attack on a hospital in Gaza that killed hundreds of people, with the Communist Party of India (Marxist) calling it a "war crime" and "genocide". "The bombing of a Gaza hospital late last night that has killed at least 500 Palestinians needs to be called out for what it is - a war crime. Stop this genocide," the CPI(M) said in a post on X. The party's general secretary Sitaram Yechury said the world must wake up to declare this a criminal war crime and take appropriate action. The All India Kisan Sabha, the farmers' wing of the CPI(M), called the bombing a "crime against humanity". "In the last week four hospitals have been bombed by Israel in which more than 500 people are reported to have been killed.

### FAKE BIRTH CERTIFICATE CASE

# Azam Khan, wife, son given 7-year jail

PNS ■ RAMPUR (UP)

A court here on Wednesday convicted Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan, his wife Tazeen Fatima and son Abdullah Azam in a 2019 fake birth certificate case, and awarded them a seven-year jail term.



After the court verdict, the trio was taken into judicial custody and will be sent to the jail from the court itself," said Arun Parkash Saxena, a former District Government Counsel, who represented the prosecution.

MP-MLA court magistrate Shobit Bansal awarded the three the maximum seven-year sentence.

The FIR in the case was lodged by BJP MLA Akash Saxena at the Ganj police station in Rampur on January 3, 1990.

Abullah Azam, who won from the Suar constituency in the 2022 assembly election on a SP ticket, was already convicted by a Moradabad court in a 2008 case of wrongful restraint and assault on a public servant to deter him.

Two days after being convicted and awarded a two-year jail term in February this year, Abdullah Azam was disqualified from the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly. He went to the High Court, seeking a stay of the conviction which was refused.

Under the provisions of Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951, anyone sentenced to imprisonment of two years or more shall be disqualified 'from the date of such conviction' and remain disqualified for another six years after serving time in jail.

# Bihar tillers known for adopting new methods: Murmu

PNS ■ PATNA

President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday said the farmers of Bihar are known for adopting new farming methods besides preserving the traditional ones.

Murmu, who launched the fourth Agricultural Road Map (2023-2028) of Bihar here, said the state is leading in the production of mushrooms, honey, makhana and fish.

"Agriculture is an important part of the folk culture of Bihar. It is the basis of Bihar's economy. Agriculture and allied sectors not only employ almost half of the state's workforce but also contribute significantly to the state's GDP. Therefore, all-round develop-

ment of the agriculture sector is very important," said the President. Murmu noted that as a result of the implementation of the last three agricultural road maps, the productivity of paddy, wheat and maize has almost doubled in the state.

"A Nobel Prize-winning economist called the farmers of Nalanda greater than scientists'. Despite adopting to modern farming methods, the farmers of Bihar have preserved the traditional methods of agriculture and varieties of grains," said the President.

Murmu urged farmers of Bihar to take advantage of the rising demand for organic products. "The government of Bihar has created an organic corridor in the districts along



the banks of the Ganga to boost organic farming. This is a good step taken by the state government," she said.

The President said that global warming and climate change are crises for the existence of entire humanity.

"But these affect the poor the most. Bihar has received very little rainfall in recent years. Bihar has been considered a

water-rich state, rivers and ponds have been the identity of this state. To maintain this identity, it is important to pay attention to water conservation. Climate Resilient Agriculture can play an important role in dealing with the challenge of climate change," she said.

Murmu said she was happy to know that ethanol is being produced from maize, a major crop of Bihar, as it is a key step towards reducing dependence on fossil fuels, environmental protection and energy security of the country.

The President said that the contribution of Bihar is very important in fulfilling the dream of developed India.

Speaking on the occasion,

Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav said the Bihar government has been taking several measures for the benefit of farmers, weaker sections of the society and the downtrodden.

"The state government recently conducted a caste survey which is a step towards benefitting all sections of the society, including farmers. Bihar's growth rate is third among the top three fastest-growing states in the country," he said.

The main focus of the fourth edition of the agricultural road map is on crop diversification, doorstep delivery of veterinary services, higher food-grain production and better agricultural marketing.

# UK, India scientists to tie up in astronomy, bio-imaging

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

United Kingdom Research and Innovation (UKRI) has embarked on a collaboration with India's Department of Atomic Energy to explore opportunities to set up super computing facilities to process data from the observations made by the Square Kilometre Array radio telescope.

The Science and Technology Facilities Council of the UKRI also announced initiatives to harness technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, bio-imaging and accelerator development to augment scientific research and have a tangible impact in areas such as cancer treatment.

"The challenge with Square Kilometre Array (SKA) is that it produces vast amounts of data and you have to apply super computing techniques to turn that data very rapidly into things that astronomers can use. That is an area where we intend to collaborate," Mark Thomson, Executive Chairman of Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC), told PTI at an event here to mark 15 years of the UKRI-India partnership.

Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) said it is proud to have been associated with UKRI India since its inception.

"I am happy to note that this collaboration is being expanded beyond the engineering and

physical sciences to fields as diverse as AI, machine learning, astrophysics, gravitational waves, bio-imaging and particle accelerator related technologies," Arun Kumar Nayak, Head, Nuclear Controls and Planning Wing, DAE, said.

Thomson said both the UK and India were key parts in developing the computational processing for the SKA radio telescope, which is being built across continents in Australia and South Africa. "We are looking at how we turn this vast amount of data into things like images and timing signals from pulsars, neutron stars flashing in the sky," Thomson said.

He said the SKA telescope will start generating data in 2026 and the entire project will be complete by the end of the decade.

"The time we start to get vast amounts of data is only a few years away, before that we have to put in place all of the systems and also understand how we are going to turn data into science," he said.

The STFC and DAE also announced collaborations for the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) and proton accelerator projects.

The year 2023 also marks 15 years of the UKRI-India partnership that has supported more than 260 individual projects, funded by over 15 agencies, bringing together more than 220 lead institutions from the two countries.



# Bengal: Angered by death of cub, elephant kills two, attacks bus

PNS ■ JHARGRAM (WB)

Two elderly men were killed in an attack by a female elephant in West Bengal's Jhargram district on Wednesday, following the death of the pachyderm's cub, a forest official said.

The animal also ransacked a bus and a motorcycle near the popular Rameshwar temple in the Chandabila forest range in Nayagram.

The jumbo attacked a group of people who went there to see the carcass of the cub and flung the two men to the



ground killing them, the official said.

The deceased were identified as Anand Jana (60), a resident of Deulbar village under

the Nayagram Police Station limits, and Shashadhar Mahata, also aged 60, hailing from neighbouring Birbaria.

"Some people went to see the carcass of the elephant cub in the Chandabila forest range, and the elephant attacked them. Most of them managed to flee except the two elderly men. The elephant flung them to the ground and they died on the spot," Kharagpur DFO Shivananda Ram said.

A 40-member forest personnel team was deployed there to monitor the situation, he added.

# 17 judges appointed in eight High Courts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Eleven judicial officers and six advocate were on Wednesday appointed as judges in eight high courts, including Delhi.

While four advocates were appointed as additional judges in the Andhra Pradesh High Court, three judicial officers were elevated as additional judges in the Bombay HC.

Similarly, three judicial officers were appointed as additional judges in the Kerala HC and two others as additional judges in the Delhi High Court. One advocate each was made

an additional judge in Chhattisgarh and Karnataka high courts.

While one judicial officer was appointed as judge in the Gujarat HC, another was appointed as a judge in the Tripura HC. Another judicial officer was made an additional judge of the Tripura HC.

The fresh appointments were announced by Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on X. The fresh appointments came days after a Supreme Court bench expressed concern over delay in appointment and transfer of high court judges.

# MHA grants FCRA nod for Ram temple trust

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The home ministry has granted approval to the Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra to receive contributions from foreign sources for the construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya, its general secretary Champat Rai said on Wednesday.

Such contributions can be sent to a designated bank account of the trust in the SBI's main branch located in Delhi,

he said. "The Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra has been approved by the FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act) Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, to receive voluntary contributions under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act 2010," he said in a post on X.

In a media statement issued separately, he said, "The FCRA section of the Ministry of



Home Affairs, the Government of India, has registered the trust

'Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra' to accept the voluntary contribution from the foreign sources."

"Kindly note that such contributions can be sent to only designated bank account of the state Bank of India, Main Branch, situated at 11 Sansad Marg, New Delhi," he said.

The construction of the ground floor of the three-storey Ram temple in Ayodhya will be completed by December-end and the conse-

cration ceremony is expected to take place on January 22, temple Construction Committee Chairperson Nripendra Mishra recently told PTI in an interview.

Mishra had also said Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to take part in an event related to the 'pran pratishtha' on any day between January 20 and 24. The final date is yet to be communicated by the Prime Minister's Office, he said.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## The final frontier

Going forward, India's space foray is poised to be even more daring and challenging

Having already won accolades for its space programme, India is now eyeing greater glory. Since 1962 when ISRO transported rockets on bicycles to launching 100+ satellites on homegrown rockets, its space programme has come a long way. With its lunar odyssey and Mars rendezvous, Indian space scientists have amassed the confidence and mettle to take on more challenging jobs, hitherto considered the prerogative of only developed nations. In a bold and visionary move, ISRO has raised the bar by announcing the planned launch of an Indian Space Station by 2035 and landing of an Indian on the Moon by 2040. The development will make India one of the few countries, including the US, Russia and China, to have its own space station. Such a station will serve multiple purposes, from conducting experiments in micro-gravity to testing life support systems for future deep-space missions. It will also provide an ideal platform for international collaboration in space research, strengthening



India's global standing in the space community. More, it will create opportunities for commercial ventures and further technological advancements, making it a significant investment. While India's aim of sending its first astronaut to the Moon is an incredibly ambitious goal, it is entirely feasible given ISRO's track record. Chandrayaan-2, launched in 2019, was a monumental success and has significantly advanced India's lunar exploration capabilities.

India's space missions hold great promise. These not only demonstrate the nation's technological prowess but also provide invaluable insights into lunar resources, geology and potential future colonisation.

Additionally, the missions will open doors to lunar commerce, with the Moon potentially serving as a source of minerals, water and even a staging point for future deep-space exploration. Indeed, the grand success of the Indian space program would not have been possible without the efforts of Vikram Sarabhai and the vision of first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, who was keen on building a progressive country with a 'scientific temper' in line with the great Indian tradition of exploring and finding the truth. The Indian space programme is one of the best examples of excelling through sheer hard work and innovation and achieving great success with a fraction of the cost that other countries incur. The space programme is no longer an experimental venture but an economically viable project that opens up tremendous economic prospects, from satellite manufacturing and launch services to space tourism. India's space ventures will create jobs and stimulate economic growth. Besides, collaborating with other spacefaring countries on the Indian Space Station will create opportunities for international partnerships and research. It will help foster goodwill and diplomacy, strengthening India's position in global politics. As ISRO works tirelessly to break fresh ground, India's future in space is brighter than ever.

### PICTALK



Devotees take part in a 'Garba' performance during nine-day long Navratri festival in Bhopal

# For fulfilling life, accept it as it comes



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

Life is a strange experience not only because of its brevity but also for the disproportionate sense of importance that people ascribe to their own being



Assuming that the average life of an individual is about 80-90 years (at an optimistic level) the proportional level of work experience may not be more than about 40 years or so. This calculation is difficult to derive empirically but is common mensical if you consider the following: One spends about one-third (1/3) of the 80 or 90 years simply sleeping or taking rest; another 1/5 is spent eating, dressing, commuting, and all that goes with it. The first 10 years or so before adulthood are part of growing up. A rough calculation like the one in the preceding lines would show that even the figure of 40 years of operational active life is a generous projection and assessment of the years allotted to 'experience'. Of these 40 years' a substantial part is spent preparing for life, such as studying, searching for information, and more. Hence, the conclusion is that roughly, only, about 50% is the active man-years in a human life of 80-90 years.

To spend this on feeling jealous, being petty, or simply idling would be such a waste. There is a need to be constructive, positive, and joyful. Anger comes easy, and dissatisfaction even

easier. People pack in these 30 years or more with a lot of other sentiments such as envy, hate, pedanticism, showing off what little they have, or simply displaying power in the limited space that the Almighty may have given them power.

A simple reflection would ask a basic question of whether this pedanticism is worth it or not. All said and done, power itself is a passing phenomenon. Nobody does or can stay in power forever. Then why the pedanticism? Qualities of humility, helpfulness, understanding, and supportiveness are not meant for saints only. They are meant for normal, everyday people who go through the grind of life. The vicissitudes of everyday life can be quite demanding.

Whether we like it or not, we all have our share of disappointments, emotions, and some experiences of not having achieved, not having received enough, or getting nowhere near where we wanted to get. This happens in interpersonal relationships, in family environments, work environments and almost everywhere else.

It is amusing, to say the least,



ACCEPTING THINGS AS THEY COME AND ACTING ON THEM WITH A SENSE OF FULFILMENT SEEMS TO BE THE WAY FORWARD

that people gloat at their few successes and feel so bruised, hurt, and unhappy about their setbacks and disappointments. This is an unusual feeling because nothing lasts. Life is as simple as having it. There is a constant feeling of change in the experience of the individuals. Because of this, to see joy or pain larger than in a temporary frame would be unrealistic. However, life is a testimony to the fact that many have the illusion of permanence when, largely speaking, the concept of permanence is itself an illusion.

There enters spirituality and religion. The spirit is accepted as a continuance in most religions, and the body is a passing phase. Some religions believe that the body will come alive on the date of judgment, and then eternal life will follow. Other religions believe in Atma-'soul' and Paramatma-'supreme existence'. This need not be a place to get into the details of the philosophy of the other world. Suffice it to say that those who do not believe in the day of judgement believe that 'Atma' must ultimately merge in the 'permanence' and, therefore, the cycle of

birth and rebirth. Be that as it may, it is true that there is an existence of the spirit, the soul, or whatever phraseology one chooses to use after the body runs its course. The body, therefore, becomes a passing experience. It works through sensory life. Embedded in this body is the experience of joy and happiness, sadness, or melancholy. It was so worthwhile to reflect that all these are passing experiences, as enumerated above. They should not be taken too seriously nor should they be taken to heart. Accepting things as they come and acting on them with a sense of fulfilment seems to be the way forward. This is being facilitative. The relatedness and relativity of life are reflected in the seconds, minutes, hours, and days, and it is that which one tries to live with such intensity! A sense of support is all that one needs to lead a healthy, fulfilling, and complete life. This can be stated simply, but it is a lifetime struggle, let alone fulfilment, to achieve.

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### BIDEN BETRAYED ISRAEL

Sir—The Biden administration should reassert its unwavering commitment to Israel's security and well-being while actively striving for a lasting peace that safeguards the interests of all involved parties. It is disheartening to witness what appears to be a breach of trust with our long-standing ally, Israel. Throughout history, the United States has consistently extended robust support to Israel's right to self-defense. However, recent developments suggest a departure from this policy. The administration's calls for a ceasefire during the conflict, without addressing the provocations and attacks launched by terrorist organizations against Israel, raise questions about our dedication to the security of our ally. Israel has faced a relentless barrage of rocket attacks, endangering the lives of its citizens. It is imperative that the United States stands firmly beside Israel in unequivocal condemnation of these acts of terror. Any perception of wavering support sends a troubling message to Israel's adversaries and threatens the stability of the entire region.

Md. Ali Gori | Jharkhand

### CRICKET IN THE OLYMPICS

Sir—In a significant development at the International Olympic Meeting in Mumbai, cricket has been approved as a sport for the 2028 Olympic competition in Los Angeles, USA. Following its inclusion in the Commonwealth and Asian Games, T20 cricket is now set to take center stage in the Olympics. Remarkably, only two out of the 99 assembly members opposed this move. Cricket boasts nearly two and a half billion fans worldwide, and after a hiatus of 128 years, it's making a grand return to the Olympics. This tournament will feature six women's and six men's cricket teams. Interestingly, while the United States may not currently be a prominent figure in cricket, they will have an automatic entry as the hosts. There's also a proposal to guarantee entry for world champions. Presently, cricket is

### Koraput Coffee at the top



A tribal district in Odisha is garnering recognition for its coffee production. At the recent 5th World Coffee Conference in Bangalore, Kruti Coffee from Koraput received India's Best Natural Coffee Award. Their "Kindiriguda Naturals" originate from a village in Koraput, where 40 families are dedicated to coffee farming. Koraput coffee boasts both filter and instant ground varieties, the latter being a recent addition in August. This venture has not only empowered farmers but also uplifted the entire district's economic prospects.

The majority of tribal farmers are now engaged in coffee cultivation, with approximately 3,500 hectares dedicated to coffee farming by 4,300 growers, including 800 tribal farmers, according to government data. In 2017, Ajit Rout, a former senior liaison officer of the Coffee Board in Koraput, breathed new life into Koraput coffee by establishing the Coffee Development Trust in May 2017.

Their primary challenge remains reaching urban buyers with Koraput coffee. A total investment of 50 lakhs has been made to produce this exceptional coffee from Koraput. This accomplishment stands as a remarkable achievement for Odisha, especially in a district known for its tribal population and economic challenges. The once bitter taste of coffee has now become sweet for the state.

Akankhya Rout | Dhenkanal

competing with football at the global level. The ICC men's T20 cricket rankings comprise 87 countries, and there are 66 women's teams. In contrast, the Football Federation's list includes 207 men's teams and 186 women's teams. Hence, cricket's journey to the pinnacle of global sports may take some time. After the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles, the spotlight will shift to Brisbane in 2032. Following that, there's a possibility that the 2036 Olympics will grace India. Overall, while cricket has secured a place in Los Angeles, its permanence in the Olympic arena must be ensured. Cricket enjoys immense popularity in India, and the quest for an Olympic gold medal is now the dream of every Indian.

Shantaram Wagh | Sangli

### SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST

Sir—We must establish a comprehensive 360-degree survival plan that encompasses the care and nurturing of individuals

from adolescence through youth to old age. This plan should facilitate a seamless transition, free from government or group interventions, making it a natural phenomenon. It should also mitigate the risks of landslides, floods, earthquakes, and fires within our homes. The true essence of this concept began to emerge when it gained popularity. In this context, the environment's success is measured by its ability to support both reproduction and survival. Are you intrigued to delve into this concept further with just a few insights? Natural selection, first theorised by Charles Darwin, focuses on the factors that aid living organisms in adapting their genes over generations, leading to the survival of the fittest. It involves the adaptation of species that, in certain aspects, are better suited to their environment.

Tanisha Gupta | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## Accelerating green innovation through EVs

As the wheels of innovation turn, EVs are not only driving us forward but also steering us toward a greener horizon



TUSHAR CHOUDHARY

In the wake of the global climate crisis, the need for innovative solutions to combat environmental challenges has never been more pressing. India, a country known for its vibrant startup ecosystem, finds itself uniquely positioned to drive a transformative change through electric vehicle (EV) companies. These enterprises are not just shaping the future of transportation but also revolutionizing the nation's startup landscape, with far-reaching implications for sustainability, economic growth, and technological advancement.



by 2030, with startups contributing significantly to this growth.

**Environmental imperative** As India strives for sustainable development in the face of rising pollution and climate change concerns, EVs offer a viable solution to mitigate carbon emissions and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. With the nation's commitment to the Paris Agreement, targeting 40% of energy generation from renewables by 2030, the role of EV companies becomes pivotal in achieving this goal. By transitioning from conventional internal combustion engines to electric propulsion, India can substantially reduce its carbon footprint and pave the way for a cleaner, greener future.

**Job creation** The surge in EV startups isn't merely an environmen-

tal endeavour; it also carries significant economic implications. A report by the World Economic Forum highlights that the electric vehicle value chain could potentially generate up to 10 million jobs worldwide by 2030.

**Addressing challenges** While the potential of EV startups to drive green innovation is undeniable, several challenges must be addressed. The lack of charging infrastructure is a primary concern, impeding the widespread adoption of EVs. However, this challenge also presents an opportunity for startups to innovate by developing efficient charging solutions and collaborating with the government to expand the charging network. Moreover, integrating renewable energy sources into charging infrastructure can further enhance the sustainability of the EV ecosystem.

**Government support** The Indian government's recognition of the importance of EVs is reflected in its policies and initiatives. The Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME) scheme, along with tax incentives and

subsidies, aims to encourage EV adoption and domestic manufacturing. However, a sustained collaboration between the government and startups is essential to address regulatory hurdles, standardize policies, and create an environment conducive to innovation.

India's endeavours to foster a green startup ecosystem transcend national boundaries. The success of its EV startups can serve as a global inspiration, showcasing how technological innovation can be harnessed to address pressing environmental challenges. The accelerating growth of EV companies within India's startup landscape holds the promise of transformative change. With strategic government support, robust private sector innovation, and heightened public awareness, India's EV startups can steer the nation towards a sustainable, eco-friendly, and economically prosperous future. As the wheels of innovation turn, EVs are not only driving us forward but also steering us toward a greener horizon. (The writer is the Founder & CEO, of Motovolt Mobility, views are personal)



## FIRST COLUMN EMOTIONS AND GOD ARE SYNONYMOUS

Spiritual acts will always supersede material acts, but only God can exercise this power



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

Have we all wondered about God not showing any emotion when major disasters take place? How else did they happen when God is in control? For example, a plane crashes and all occupants die. World Trade Centre's two buildings were left in ruins when planes hijacked by terrorists crashed into them. A tsunami comes and many are washed away. A major earthquake causes mayhem when thousands die and are helplessly buried in houses, etc, they were occupying. The worst possibly took place when Hiroshima and Nagasaki were bombed to extinction with nuclear weapons.

Before I answer this very important question, let us become aware of what emotion is. The definition of this word is strong feelings of any kind, e.g. love, joy, anger, hate, fear, etc. This includes excitement or disturbance of feeling on account of certain important events/thoughts. There are three types of emotions: good like appreciation, such as attachment and bad like greed.

God doesn't interfere in the cited occurrences due to the following reasons. The first one is the 'Karmaphala Principle', which is what you sow you reap. Our 'karmaphalas' are carried over life after life till they come to fruition. We cannot see that, because we have no memory of our past lives; God has; He knows our past, present and future also. For example, a police officer catches a habitual thief and deals with him harshly. As a bystander, you may feel a little emotional seeing a man being dealt harshly, because we don't know the background.

Why is the 'karmaphala' principle so important to God? Because this creation can only function on this basis. Imagine good people getting punished and bad ones getting away with murder. Sometimes it may seem that way, because good people have also got a bad past, and bad ones have not always been bad. However, what we do in our present lives get us reward and punishment in our future and, if not in the present life; the 'karmaphala' system is unfailing. Similarly, dharma must be paramount. Dharma is so dear to God that He even incarnates to reestablish it. It is dharma, not emotion, which is required for the creation to exist for billions of years.



If God becomes soft, no one will be punished, which will make everyone free of fear. And in the absence of fear, do you think any kind of order can be maintained? We all know that ultimately fears only make us behave. Justice cannot be administered by a soft God; He must always be just, which God is.

Now some explanation of terrible occurrences. There is a training institute for successful IAS candidates in Mussoorie, where they assemble for training. Don't they come from different parts of the country? Similarly, all those destined to die get on the ill-fated plane. The same, however, does not happen in each case of catastrophe. Many survive in case of major earthquakes, as they do in tsunamis. Did you know that many escaped from the twin World Trade Center buildings after planes hit?

Now the important question: does God ever get emotional? Yes, He does. Yes, God shows emotions wherever appropriate. Rather God is so emotional that He is pleased by simple acts like doing 'namaskar' to His deity or photo, which even a child can do. But God will never get emotional when dharma is being infringed upon or someone is being justly punished for bad 'karmas', except in the case of devotees surrendered to Him. God helps them come out of their troubles. Why? Spiritual acts will always supersede material acts, but only God can exercise this power.

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

# A long road to economic recovery for Sri Lanka

While Sri Lanka is getting international help in dealing with its economic crisis, it needs to find ways to repay its debt



NARESH BANA



TALAL RAFI



Much is being written and talked about debt restructuring, bailouts, and direct investment into Sri Lanka. While the International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout is on course, seventeen countries promised support in May this year. China is supporting and India is constantly sending money and material as a neighbouring large economy. The World Bank (WB) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) are also coming up with equal measures (Almost \$ 3.75 Billion) as external help to resuscitate the Sri Lankan economy. While all this is welcome, we also need to see what additional can be done to make this economic revival less punitive and sustainable for Sri Lankan people. For that, we need to answer the 'what' and 'how' of sustainable options and see what may be applicable to the evolving scenario in Sri Lanka and in which time frame.

The economic crash has impacted Sri Lankan institutions and financial companies in a big way, and they have apparently become disconnected from fundamental values and long-term sustainable thinking. Instead of nurturing sustainable collaborations, banks, lenders, borrowers, and shareholders seem to be pursuing short-term relationships founded on situational values. For practitioners of sustainability, this is the opportune time to get out of this cycle of crises and think long-term and with sustainable human relations and get out of the crisis smoothly in this interconnected world. Funds extended by International Financial Institutions (IFI) are loans and would need to be returned, though over a long duration. Further, these loans may be denominated in US dollar (USD), Euro, Japanese Yen, Chinese RMB, ADB SDRs or Indian Rupees (INR), all foreign currencies having only a market-based relationship with the Sri Lankan rupee (SLR). Such a relationship subjects the repayment of



DEVELOPMENT OF THE CAPITAL MARKET AND RAISING REGIONAL FUNDS WILL GIVE REGIONAL INVESTORS A CHANCE TO EARN RETURNS ON INVESTMENTS

(Naresh is Vice Chairman of the Indo-Sri Lanka Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Talal Rafi is an Economist, a member of the Deloitte Global Economist Network and a regular columnist for IMF; Views expressed are personal)

these loans to currency risk as SLR is traded and subjected to the vagaries of the currency market. Prevailing political risk in the country makes it even more complex and challenging. Such external funds when applied to sustain/boost economic activity where earnings are in SLR, an asset-liability currency mismatch happens due to currency trade and inflationary pressures. For example, if the SLR depreciates against USD by 10%, revenues in Sri Lanka remain the same while liabilities get enhanced by 10% on the higher side.

Even with a free float regime, the Central Bank of Sri Lanka does have some control over the exchange rate through its monetary policies, but the overall effective control of the exchange rate is most limited due to the precarious situation of forex reserves and import commitments. The funds which will be used in various development works or infrastructure projects where developers may earn revenue to repay the loans (extended to them in foreign currency) will either manage the currency risk by hedging or factor it in their project tariff thereby leading to additional burden on the user of the infrastructure eventually eroding the purchasing power of the common person, finally, denting the repayment capacity of the nation. At the same time, the currency risk can have an upside as well and it may generate revenues much in excess of the projections if the infrastructure gets extra utilized or exchange rates go in favour of Sri Lanka. Though it may not excite the lenders much beyond receiving

interest on payments on the principle there is little potential for upside, while the developers harvest profits.

In view of the uncertainties associated with the exchange rate, currency risk could be a difficult and sensitive issue to be effectively assumed by the government of Sri Lanka. It is at this stage that time tested, and innovative strategies are put into practice to hedge and ameliorate currency risk. The conventional hedging strategies being used are (a) Natural hedge (b) Local currency swap (c) Exchange-rate Indexed contracts and (d) Loan in pegged currency. Most of the above options load hedging costs onto the end user i.e., the common person, directly (rates/tariff increase) or indirectly (enhanced taxation). The way out is having more of local currency i.e., Sri Lankan Rupee. But when internal debt is already at sky-high levels how does the local currency become available to users to sustain and grow the economic activity? That is where external support can be of help. Committed leadership and good diplomacy can play a key role. These are extraordinary times and solutions too need to be extraordinary.

In addition to the IFIs, there is a definite role to play for the growing regional economies of Indian Ocean Rim (IOR) countries. Firstly, together with IFIs, these economies can help enhance local currency availability in Sri Lanka i.e., subscribing to Sri Lanka sovereign bonds denominated in any stronger currency of the region with whom Sri Lanka has a fair-trading activity. Secondly, this is the time to refurbish and resuscitate

Sri Lankan capital markets to enhance transparency and credibility, which not only would bring more remittances and deposits from non-resident Sri Lankans but also help these markets to engage with other regional markets and regional investors and draw on their strength. Both activities may enhance the availability of local money without any currency risk and thereby render maximum sustainability with the least pain for the economic resuscitation of Sri Lanka.

The optimism of drawing equity investment from IOR countries is based on the apparent cohesiveness that emanates from shared cultural and trade ties between the neighbours. Among many IOR countries, particularly Maldivians, Malaysians and Indians would like to invest in Sri Lanka and see that the economy does well as there are shared investments in either country which suffered badly during the economic crisis. Development of the capital market and raising regional funds will give regional investors a chance to earn returns on investments which is nothing but helping their own investments give better returns. Such financial instruments of Sri Lanka may be supported by more credible regional financial institutions or by regional sovereigns. Those who invest do know that Sri Lanka is always bankable and will give better returns on investment in future. On the part of Sri Lankan people, they need to elect caring, credible and committed leaders to minimize the political risk which is significant and could jeopardize the recovery trajectory.

# India has the will and capacity to host Olympic games

India has the potential to stage the Olympic Games. But would we be able to compete in the Olympics we host, is the moot question

The declaration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday that India would not leave no stone unturned in hosting the 2036 Olympic Games is music to the ears. A prime minister of the country is bold enough to make a commitment like this is proof of India's odyssey during the last decade. The Olympic Games, a quadrennial event, is the world's biggest sporting competition that draws athletes from all the countries in the comity of nations. It may not be a big challenge for a country with a track record of successfully hosting the Asian Games, the Commonwealth Games, World Cup Cricket and Hockey. There is a reasonably good infrastructure in place and if a mission is launched right now, it may not



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

(The writer is a correspondent at The Pioneer; views expressed are personal)

be that difficult to supplement the existing stadiums with additional facilities. The Centre has the capability to build more airports to strengthen connectivity and set up hotels and the Olympic Village of global standards across India.

The only question that disturbs the mind is do we have world-class athletes capable of making it to the podium. Agreed, we have Neeraj Chopra, who emerged as a national icon after winning a gold medal in javelin throw in the Tokyo Olympics 2020 (held in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020). Neeraj's was the only gold medal won by India as the country finished in the 48th position in the medal tally. The United States led the table by winning 39

gold medals and 41 silver medals while China finished close with 38 gold and 32 silver. Japan, the host nation finished third by bagging 27 gold and 14 silver medals. The Tokyo Games saw the participation of 11,420 athletes representing 206 nations vying for the honors.

Staging a sporting event like the Olympic Games is by no means a tough job for India. The country has the political and executive leadership to make it happen. But the major question is whether the host country would figure at least in the first 20 positions in the medal tally. 2036 is just 12 years away and India does not have a sporting system in place to groom gold medal winners by that time. How many among our athletes have

the capability to finish in the first six positions in the track and field events? Neeraj Chopra was a flash in the pan. The policymakers and those heading the sports associations should take a look at the performance of the Indian athletes before venturing out to host the global sporting event.

The lackadaisical and irresponsible attitude of persons heading various sporting events has contributed a lot to the fall in standards as well as the stagnant growth of sports in India. It is time we took the performance of Indian teams in events like football, volleyball, basketball, track and field events and aquatics to understand the abyss to which we have fallen. The Indian football team which finished fourth in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics

was seen struggling even in the Asian Games. The less we speak about other events, the better. More than the track records of the teams, we should also look into the performance of the association office bearers to understand the fall in standards. The question is should we waste scarce resources to host an event where the Indian stars would not be able to make any impact and finish as also-rans? The present association office bearers or coaches are incapable of moulding star performers in the next ten or twelve years. Do we have a sports culture in the country? How many sports magazines or weeklies are there in India? The 24/7 sports channels are for action-packed events from Europe and the American

continent. When we take up a mission like the Olympic Games, it should with the objective of leaving behind a sterling history for future generations to get inspired. Despite winning gold medals in the Olympics and Asian Games, Neeraj Chopra has to contend with the job of a junior commissioned officer in the Indian Army. Had he been a cricket star, the corporates would have offered him the post of a senior executive and a six-digit take-home pay. It is said that Adolf Hitler was so impressed with the artistry of hockey wizard Dhyan Chand in the 1936 Berlin Olympics and offered him German citizenship and the rank of colonel in the German army which the latter declined. We have to go miles

and miles before we can boast of world-class sportsmen. It is for that we should give importance. Hosting the Olympics could wait for some more decades.

It is interesting to hear what late Olympian Abdul Rehman said after watching India getting trounced by the then USSR (6-0) in the opening match of the 1986 Jawaharlal Nehru Cup International Football tournament. "Thank God for the accord signed between India and USSR in 1971. Had that treaty not been there, the Russians would have scored at least 12 goals". There are sporting fans who ask what would happen if the Indian basketball men's team were pitted against the women of the USA! You cannot blame sports lovers.

MONEY MATTERS

## Bandhan Bank Q2 profit jumps over 3-fold

Bandhan Bank on Wednesday reported over three-fold jump in net profit at Rs 721 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, 2023. The Kolkata-headquartered private sector lender had posted a profit of Rs 209.30 crore for the same quarter a year ago. Total income during July-September this fiscal rose to Rs 5,032 crore as against Rs 4,250 crore in the same period of 2022-23, Bandhan Bank said in a regulatory filing. Net interest income grew to Rs 2,443 crore in Q2 FY24 from Rs 2,193 crore in Q2 FY23. On the asset quality front, the lender reported deterioration as gross non-performing assets (NPAs or bad loans) rose to 7.32 per cent of gross advances at end-September 2023 from 7.19 per cent by the end of second quarter of 2022-23. ikewise, net NPAs or bad loans also increased to 2.32 per cent, from 1.86 per cent. However, provision (other than tax) & contingencies declined to Rs 636 crore from Rs 1,280 crore in the same quarter a year ago.



## Rupee falls 2 paise to close at 83.27 against US dollar

The rupee settled 2 paise lower at 83.27 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday, tracking negative cues from domestic equity markets amid surging crude oil prices overseas. However, fresh foreign capital inflows and a weak greenback against major rivals overseas favoured the rupee and restricted the loss, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 83.24 against the dollar and traded in a narrow range of 83.23 to 83.27. It finally settled at 83.27 (provisional) against the greenback, registering a loss of 2 paise over its previous close. On Tuesday, the rupee settled at 83.25 against the US dollar. Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, said the rupee declined amid weak domestic markets and a jump in crude oil prices. "However, the softening of the US dollar cushioned the downside."



## L&T Technology Services shares fall nearly 6%

Shares of L&T Technology Services declined nearly 6 per cent on Wednesday after the company lowered its revenue growth guidance for the current fiscal. The stock fell by 5.67 per cent to settle at Rs 4,353.95 on the BSE. During the day, it plunged 5.85% to Rs 4,345. At the NSE, it dropped 5.75 per cent to end at Rs 4,348. The company's market valuation fell by Rs 2,764.3 cr to Rs 46,025.45 cr. L&T Technology Services on Tuesday posted a 5 per cent increase in September quarter net profit to Rs 315.4 cr but lowered its revenue growth guidance for the current fiscal. The engineering services company had reported a net profit of Rs 300 cr in the year-ago period. Its revenue grew 4.6% to Rs 2,386.5 cr from Rs 2,281.7 cr a year earlier. The same stood at Rs 2,301.4 crore in the quarter-ago period. The company's Chief Executive and Managing Director Amit Chadha said the slower revenue growth is due to integration with an acquired entity.



# Centre extends curbs on sugar exports

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Wednesday again extended restrictions on sugar exports beyond October 31 this year and till further orders, a move aimed at increasing the availability of the commodity in the domestic market during the festive season.

Earlier, the restrictions were imposed until October 31 this year. "Restriction on export of Sugar (Raw Sugar, White Sugar, Refined Sugar and Organic sugar) is extended beyond 31.10.2023 till further order."

Other conditions will remain unchanged," the directorate general of foreign trade (DGFT) said in a notification. However, it said these restrictions will not be applicable to sugar being exported to the EU and the US under CXL and TRQ duty concession quotas.

A specified amount of sugar is exported to these regions under CXL and TRQ (tariff rate quotas).

India is the highest producer and the second-largest exporter of sugar in the world.



An exporter would require a licence or permission from the government to export sugar, which is in the restricted category.

The government has been continuously monitoring the situation in the sugar sector, including production, consumption, exports, and price trends in wholesale and retail markets all over the country.

In the current 2023-24 marketing year (October-September), Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) has projected sugar production at 317

lakh tonnes after the diversion of 45 lakh tonnes for ethanol. The domestic demand is seen at 280 lakh tonnes. The opening stock will be around 55 lakh tonnes.

The production in the 2022-23 marketing year stood at 328 lakh tonnes after the diversion of 42 lakh tonnes for ethanol.

In 2022-23, the industry exported 61 lakh tonnes of sugar, the entire quantity permitted by the food ministry. India had exported a record 112 lakh tonnes in the 2021-22 marketing year.

## Approves Rs 20,774 crore for Ladakh-Kaithal power transmission line

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Wednesday approved setting up of a Rs 20,773.70 crore-transmission line for evacuation of solar power from a 13 GW renewable energy project in Ladakh to Kaithal in Haryana.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his Independence Day Speech, had announced setting up of a 7.5 GW solar park in Ladakh. After extensive field survey, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) prepared a plan to set up 13 GW renewable energy generation capacity along with 12 GWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in Pang, Ladakh, an official release said. For evacuating the huge quantum of power, it will be necessary to create an inter-state transmission infrastructure.

Information & Broadcasting Minister



Anurag Thakur said the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the project on Green Energy Corridor (GEC) Phase-II Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) for the 13 GW renewable energy project in Ladakh.

The project is targeted to be set up by financial year 2029-30 with a total estimated cost of Rs 20,773.70 crore and 40 per cent central financial assistance estimated at Rs 8,309.48 crore.

The project is expected to be awarded by March 2025, sources said.

# World Food India: Govt expects over Rs 75,000 cr investment

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Wednesday said more than Rs 75,000 crore investment is likely to be attracted in the food processing sector during the second edition of the World Food India to be held from November 3-5 in the national capital.

The first edition was held in 2017, but in consecutive years the international event could not be organised due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it said.

"We have requested Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) to inaugurate World Food India (WFI) 2023 to be held at Pragati Maidan here. For the valedictory function, the President of India will be present," Minister of State for Food Processing Industries Prahlad Singh Patel said.

There are a lot of opportunities for investment in India's food processing sector. Some companies have already made an indicative investment commitment, to be announced during the World Food India 2023, he said.

"We have requested Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) to inaugurate World Food India (WFI) 2023 to be held at Pragati Maidan here. For the valedictory function, the President of India will be present," Minister of State for Food Processing Industries Prahlad Singh Patel said.



The minister said, "China has not been invited for the event due to strategic reasons."

Around 16 countries, 23 state governments, 11 Union ministries and central bodies will participate in the event that is likely to have 950 exhibitors and 75,000 visitors, he said.

The Netherlands will be a partner country for the World Food India 2023, while the focused countries will be Japan and Vietnam, he added.

Additional Secretary in the Food Processing Industries Minhaj Alam, in his presentation, said about Rs 642 crore indicated investment has been committed by Britannia,

GreenGrah, Foods and Inns Ltd, St Peter & Paul Sea Food Exports as well as US-based General Mills so far.

A verbal investment commitment has been received from Swiss-based Buhler Group, US-based Mondelez and Coca Cola and UAE-based Lulu Group, he said.

"We are expecting to cross Rs 75,000 crore investment this time," Alam told on the sidelines of the press briefing.

Asked about the status of investment received in the first edition of the World Food India, the official said, "We had received a commitment for an investment of Rs 75,000 crore, out of which Rs 23,000 crore has come."

## Sensex sinks 550 points to slip below 66k

### Spike in crude oil prices, weak global trend

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark index Sensex tumbled 551 points to close below the 66,000 level on Wednesday due to profit-taking in banking, financial and energy stocks amid a sharp jump in global crude oil prices.

A sluggish trend in global equity markets following lingering geopolitical worries also sapped the risk appetite of investors, traders said.

After a day's breather, the 30-share BSE Sensex plunged 551.07 points or 0.83 per cent to settle at 65,877.02. During the day, it fell 585.99 points or 0.88 per cent to 65,842.10.

The Nifty declined 140.40 points or 0.71 per cent to 19,671.10.

"Profit booking ensued in Indian markets, spurred by weak global sentiments and escalating Middle East tensions. A sudden rise in the tension has led to instability in energy prices; Brent prices rapidly rose above US\$ 92.5 by the day's closing time."

"The initial Q2 earnings disappointments by the IT and financials sector may have prompted attention in the domestic markets. All these



factors are presumed to be a knee-jerk reaction as the total outlook on the domestic market is stable, underpinned by healthy Q2 result forecast and favourable fiscal position," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

Among the Sensex firms, Bajaj Finance fell by nearly 3 per cent, the most among the 30 frontline companies. Bajaj Finserv, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, Reliance Industries, NTPC, ICICI Bank and IndusInd Bank were the other major laggards.

"Fresh weakness in banking and financial majors combined with a downdick in other heavyweights like Reliance is pointing towards further slide," said Ajit Mishra, SVP - Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

# Govt to foster PPP model to drive growth

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The government is committed to fostering public, private partnership to drive further growth in the inland water transport sector, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Wednesday.

Addressing the third edition of the Global Maritime India Summit via video conference here, Gadkari said several national waterways are proposed under the public-private partnership

## IN INLAND WATER TRANSPORT SECTOR

Another major initiative, which has been taken by the government is the Sagarmala project with port modernisation and new port development, port connectivity investment, port-led industrialisation and coastal community development as its four pillars.



(PPP) mode. The three-day mega maritime event commenced on Tuesday. The Minister for Road Transport

and Highways said "the development of waterways is very important for the development of Bharat."

"We are committed to fostering public-private partnership (PPP) to drive further growth in the inland water transport sector. Several national waterways are proposed under PPP modes. Another major initiative, which has been taken by the government is the Sagarmala project with port modernisation and

new port development, port connectivity investment, port-led industrialisation and coastal community development as its four pillars," Gadkari said. He said the objective of the Sagarmala project is to reduce the logistic cost, which is 14 per cent of the GDP, compared to 8 per cent of GDP in developed countries and take maximum advantage of India's vast 7,500 kilometer-long coastline and 1,400 kilometer of potential waterways.

## India to grow at 6.5-6.8% this fiscal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Deloitte India on Wednesday said it expects GDP growth in the current fiscal to be in the range of 6.5-6.8 per cent primarily due to upcoming festive spending as well as higher government expenditure before the national elections mid-next year.

In its India economic outlook report, released earlier this month, Deloitte said India will need at least 6.5 per cent growth every fiscal to become the world's third largest economy by 2027, with its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) crossing USD 5 trillion. The country needs 8-9 per cent economic growth to become a developed country by 2047, it added.

The Indian economy grew 7.8 per cent in the June quarter, higher than the 7.2 per cent in the year-ago period.

"In light of the Q1 GDP growth, we have revised our growth estimate for this year to reflect it. We expect GDP to grow in the range of 6.5-6.8 per cent primarily due to festive spending in the coming months followed by higher government spending before the upcoming national elections mid-next year," Deloitte India said.

## India to ensure trusted supply chain for its digital ecosystem

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India is determined to ensure a trusted supply chain for its digital ecosystem and will not compromise on the security of the internet, an IT Ministry official said on Wednesday, after the US, China and Korea raised concerns over the decision to impose import curbs on laptops and computers at a recent WTO meeting.

These concerns were flagged in the meeting of the WTO Committee on Market Access. It was chaired by Renata Crisaldo of Paraguay on October 16 in Geneva.

# Horticulture output rises to 351.92 mln tonne

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's horticulture production is estimated to have risen annually by 1.37 per cent to 351.92 million tonne in 2022-23 due to better productivity, according to government data. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare on Wednesday released the second advance estimates of the area and production of various horticultural crops for the year 2022-23.

According to this estimate, total horticulture production in the country is expected to be a record 351.92 million tonne in 2022-23, with an increase of about 4.74 million tonne (1.37 per cent) as compared to the previous year, an official state-



ment said. Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said that "along with food grains, horticulture is also continuously recording record production in the country, which is the good result of the hard work of our farmers,

the efficiency of scientists and the farmer-friendly policies of the central government under the able leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is committed to the welfare of farmers."

Production of fruits, vegeta-

bles, plantation crops, flowers and honey is expected to increase.

"Fruit production is estimated to be 108.34 million tonne in the year 2022-23 as compared to 107.51 million tonne in the year 2021-22. The production of vegetables is estimated to be 212.91 million tonne in the year 2022-23 compared to 209.14 million tonne in the year 2021-22," the statement said. Production of plantation crops is estimated to increase from 15.76 million tonne in 2021-22 to 16.05 million tonne in 2022-23, which is an increase of about 1.78 per cent. As per the data, potato output is expected to be 60.54 million tonne compared to 56.18 million tonne in the year 2021-22.

## Gujarat gov't signs MoU with IN-SPACE

PNS ■ AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat government on Wednesday signed an agreement with the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE) to set up a space manufacturing cluster at Sanand in Ahmedabad district.

Ahmedabad-headquartered IN-SPACE is an autonomous agency of the Department of Space (DOS) that works to promote various space activities of non-governmental entities including building launch vehicles and satellites and providing space-based services, etc. As per the MoU (Memorandum of Understanding), IN-SPACE will provide incentives and technical guidance to space technology equipment manufacturing units and startups.

# Domestic Hydrogen equipment market flourishing

## To touch US\$ 50 billion

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Industry body India Hydrogen Alliance (IH2A) on Wednesday said it expects the domestic hydrogen equipment manufacturing and services market to reach US\$ 45-50 billion by 2030.

This market assessment includes all hydrogen production plant equipment, including electrolyser and balance-of-plant equipment, that can be deployed in India and exported from to countries in Asia, the Middle East and Africa, IH2A said in a report. This will help build India as a supply chain hub for future green hydrogen projects, it said.

"IH2A estimates a US\$ 45-50 billion Indian hydrogen equipment manufacturing and services market by 2030," the report said.

The industry body has also projected a US\$ 36 billion regional equipment and services exports market, while US\$ 9-13.5 billion domestic equipment market size over the next seven years.

Of the US\$ 45-50 billion, 34 per cent share will be of electrolysers stacks, 62 per cent for balance of plant equipment and 4 per cent for specialist engineering services, as per the report.

"India has the potential to become a regional supply hub for hydrogen production plants,



playing to its competitive position in engineering design, manufacturing and services," IH2A founding member and Chart Industries Chief Executive and President Jill Evanko said.

"This is a significant opportunity that will require large-scale manufacturing build out and investments, for electrolyser

stack manufacturing and balance of plant equipment such as compressors, storage tanks, transformers, rectifiers, air separation units, and hydrogen pipeline infrastructure," Evanko said. Project developers and equipment majors are waiting to hear from the government on demand aggregation and

secured offtake for early projects before they commit large capex investments.

"IH2A estimates a US\$ 45-50 billion Indian hydrogen equipment manufacturing and services market by 2030."

The estimated US\$ 45-50 billion equipment market opportunity is achievable and could turn India into a global supply chain hub in the developing green hydrogen economy, Evanko added.

# PhonePe revenue grows 77% to Rs 2,914 crore

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Fintech firm PhonePe on Wednesday said it has registered a 77 per cent growth in consolidated revenue to Rs 2,914 crore for FY23 on account of market expansion and digital money transfers. The Walmart group company had posted revenue of Rs 1,646 crore in the financial year 2022.

"We recorded a consolidated revenue of Rs 2,914 crore in FY23, which represents a 77 per cent year-on-year growth over FY22 revenue of Rs 1,646 crore. This growth is led primarily by our focus on market expansion and leadership in the digital payments market, especially in major revenue-contributing use

cases like Money Transfers, Mobile Recharges and Bill Payments," PhonePe said in a statement. PhonePe India Pvt Ltd -- which houses the payments business -- posted a widening of operating loss (EBITDA) before ESOP cost to Rs 1,755 cr during the reported fiscal from Rs 1,612 cr.

"Our rapid top-line growth and investments in new opportunities are accompanied by our Payments business moving towards positive EBITDA (before ESOP costs)... on an adjusted basis (excluding ESOP expenses), it stood at Rs 159 crore in FY23 versus a loss of Rs 455 crore in FY22, thus marking a significant milestone for our payments business," PhonePe said.



# TIGER SHROFF, KRITI SANON STARRER GANAPATH PROMISES A WORLD-CLASS ACTION-PACKED EXPERIENCE

The buzz around the upcoming mass entertainer, *Ganapath: A Hero Is Born*, produced by Pooja Entertainment, is at an all-time high. Following the release of a thrilling teaser, foot-tapping songs, and an explosive trailer, the movie makers have now unveiled an adrenaline-pumping new promo that is sure to set the pulse racing of the movie buffs.

What makes *Ganapath* stand out is not only its star-studded cast and gripping narrative but also the inclusion of Hollywood action stunt director, Tim Man, renowned for his remarkable work on blockbusters such as *Legacy Of Lies*, *Triple Threat* and *Accident Man*. His collaboration adds a unique, international flavor to the film and ensures that the action sequences will be nothing short of world-class.

The makers aims to provide a world-

class cinematic spectacle with unparalleled VFX that caters to a broad audience. Since the trailer's release, fans and viewers have been raving about the film's grand scale. Tiger Shroff's mesmerizing transformation into a new world and Kriti Sanon's jaw-dropping action sequences are leaving audiences awestruck. Adding to the allure, the film features the legendary Amitabh Bachchan, whose everlasting on-screen charisma promises to captivate audiences in Pooja Entertainment's magnum opus.

*Ganapath: A Hero Is Born* is presented by Pooja Entertainment in association with Good Co. Directed by Vikas Bahl, the film is produced by Vashu Bhagnani, Jacky Bhagnani, Deepshikha Deshmukh, and Vikas Bahl. It is set for a worldwide release in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Kannada on October 20, 2023.



## Idris Elba to produce and narrate WW2 documentary

Hollywood star Idris Elba wants to highlight the unsung heroes of World War Two in his new National Geographic documentary series.

The project, which will be produced by October Film and the actor's Green Door Pictures, will cover unsung heroes of colour at Dunkirk, Pearl Harbor and D-Day during the Second World War, and the 51-year-old star is looking forward to shining a spotlight on their stories, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Speaking to Deadline, Elba, whose grandfather fought in the War, told how he was pitched the documentary when October showed him a photo of soldiers from the war and asked "What do you think is missing from these pictures?"

The Luther actor replied: "The answer of course was people of colour and I realised I didn't know any stories about them from World War Two. So this felt like a genuinely fresh and original way into a perennial subject."

Each episode of the programme will focus on three specific people via premium dramatisation, character portraits and archive material. Elba will also highlight how their experiences of war directly influenced the post-war movements for freedom and equality for people of colour all over the globe.

Previously, the *Molly's Game* actor had worked with National Geographic for 2013's *King of Speed*, which showed the history of underground racing, and how the need for speed impacted the modern motorsport world.

Meanwhile, Elba recently revealed he has been in therapy for a year because of his obsession with work.

He told the 'Changes' podcast: "I've been in therapy for about a year now. It's a lot."

"In my therapy, I've been thinking a lot about changing, almost to the point of neuropaths being changed and shifting. It's not because I don't like myself or anything like that, it's just because I have some unhealthy habits that have really formed."

"And I work in an industry that I'm rewarded for those unhealthy habits, I'm rewarded for that."

Elba once found himself working for 10 days straight on a film set and spent his downtime relaxing in his music studio instead of being with his family.

He added: "Whether it's to be selfish, or (because) I'm a workaholic, and that isn't great for life generally."

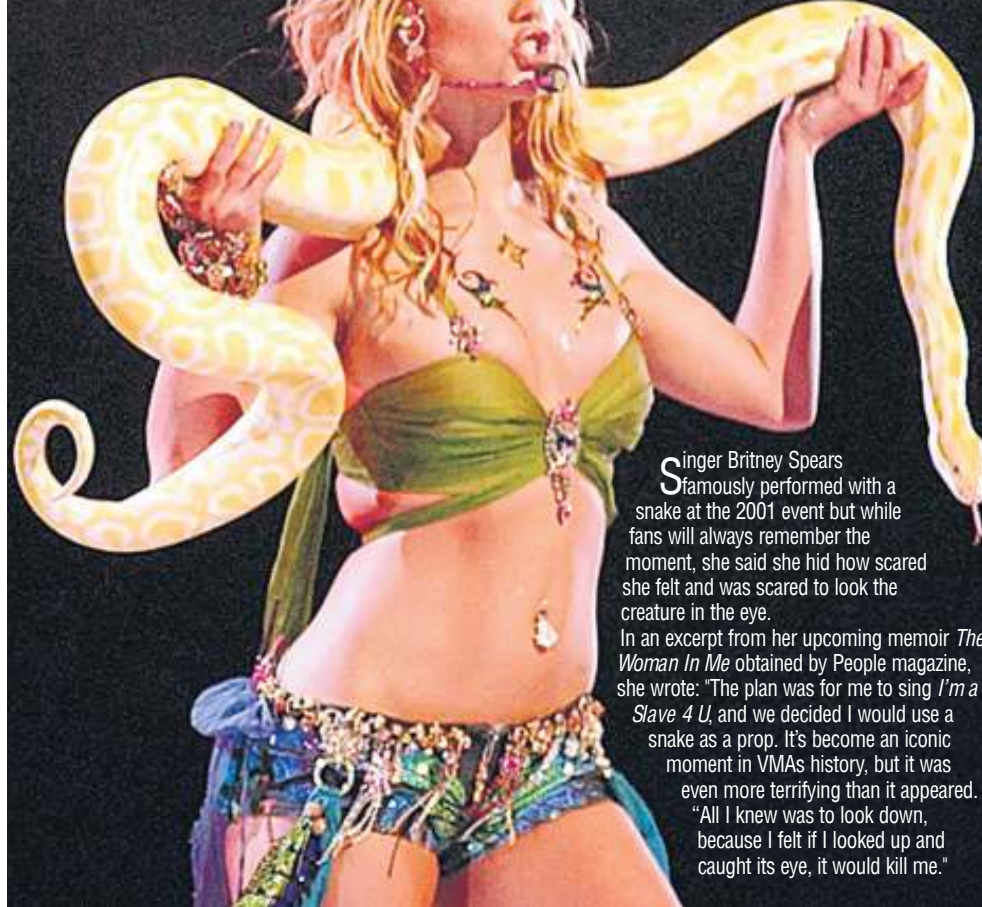


## Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari cherishes the Womenisum on Navaratri, says, 'She is her own shakti'

This year has been fantastic for Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari. With her films like *Tarla*, *Bawaal*, and *Tumse Na Ho Payega*, she treated the audience with stories of different genres. As the producer-director had a really busy year with back-to-back releases, now she has stepped into relaxation mode. Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari took to her social media and shared a selfie and jotted down a beautiful caption. "Taking time for herself and her thoughts, in the solitude and fragrance of boundless self-awareness, an omnipresent divine feminine energy; The eternal cosmic strength rises in her to kindle immense happiness. She silently speaks her mind through her actions. She walks along. She forgives with empathy. She falls, she gracefully rises. She makes her own destiny. She is her own shakti." Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari has always delivered immensely intriguing and captivating stories to the masses. Her dedication is well witnessed in her craft and she always brings the stories that cater to the masses.



## Britney Spears was terrified about performing with snake



And while Britney was scared ahead of the performance, her fear grew while they were on stage and the snake began "hissing" in her face, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

She continued: "In my head I was saying, Just perform, just use your legs and perform. But what nobody knows is that as I was singing, the snake brought its head right around to my face, right up to me, and started hissing."

"I was thinking, Are you f\*\*\*\*\* serious right now? The f\*\*\*\*\* goddamn snake's tongue is flicking out at me. Right. Now. Finally, I got to the part where I handed it back, thank God." In 2002, the *Gimme More* singer made her movie debut opposite Zoe Saldana and Taryn Manning in *Crossroads* and she didn't find the shoot "easy" because she struggled to separate herself from the character she was playing.

She wrote: "The experience wasn't easy for me. My problem wasn't with anyone involved in the production but with what acting did to my mind." "I think I started Method acting - only I didn't know how to break out of my character. I really became this other person. Some people do Method acting, but they're usually aware of the fact that they're doing it. But I didn't have any separation at all. I ended up walking differently, carrying myself differently, talking differently. I was someone else for months while I filmed *Crossroads*. Still to this day, I bet the girls I shot that movie with think She's a little...quirky. If they thought that, they were right. That was pretty much the beginning and end of my acting career, and I was relieved."

Singer Britney Spears

famously performed with a snake at the 2001 event but while fans will always remember the moment, she said she hid how scared she felt and was scared to look the creature in the eye.

In an excerpt from her upcoming memoir *The Woman In Me* obtained by People magazine, she wrote: "The plan was for me to sing *I'm a Slave 4 U*, and we decided I would use a snake as a prop. It's become an iconic moment in VMAs history, but it was even more terrifying than it appeared. "All I knew was to look down, because I felt if I looked up and caught its eye, it would kill me."

### FUN

#### ARCHIE



#### CALVIN AND HOBBS



#### GARFIELD



#### NANCY



#### GINGER MEGGS



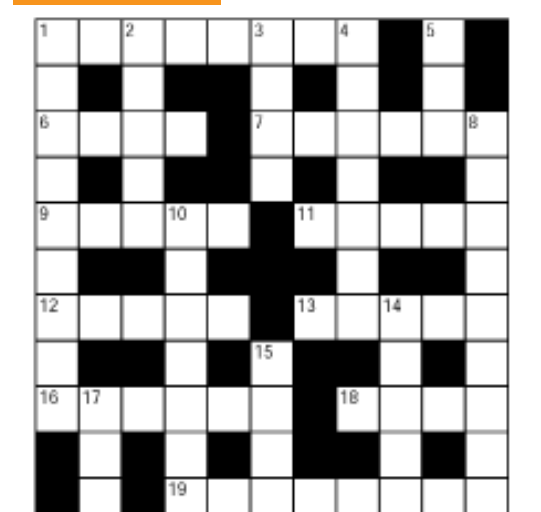
#### REALITY CHECK



#### SPEED BUMP



#### CROSSWORD



**ACROSS**

- Small towns
- Overdue
- Changed direction
- In the lead
- A smelly vegetable
- Unlocks
- A measure of length
- Remained in the same place
- Nought
- Illnesses

**DOWN**

- Mountains that erupt
- A measure for liquid
- A type of door in a fence
- Very unusual
- Something worn around the neck
- Likely to kill or harm you
- Cross and upset
- Paper is made from these
- Counts up
- Black stuff on roads

**SOLUTION**

S	V	A	B	P										
W	H	E	L	C	H	A	I	R						
H	I	R	H	N	E									
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#### SUDOKU

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**Yesterday's solution**

9	1	5	3	4	7	8	6	2
4	6	2	8	1	5	7	3	9
3	8	7	6	9	2	1	5	4
2	7	6	5	8	9	4	1	3
1	9	8	2	3	4	5	7	6
5	3	4	7	6	1	9	2	8
7	4	9	1	2	6	3	8	5
6	5	3	4	7	8	2	9	1
8	2	1	9	5	3	6	4	7

**Rules**

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



## CREATING OPPORTUNITIES BY CHAMPIONING INDIAN ART & CRAFT

NIRNITHA NANNAPURAJU

Every time we think of any teenager these days, we can only imagine a youngster with a smart gadget. However, on the other side, there is 17-year-old Preethika Pavirala, all the way from the United States, trying to bring about a change in society. Wondered, how? Well, with the support of over 100 students, aged from 12 to 18 years, she began a non-profit organisation, 'Vithalika Foundation'. The foundation has over six branches across India and the United States.

This young NRI has been deeply connected to Indian art forms like Kuchipudi and Bharatanatyam ever since she was a kid. Later in 2019, when Preethika moved to India, the ground reality of the orphans hit her. She came across the Cheers Organisation, where she met a couple of children who desired to become dancers. However, with no resources, these kids had to give up on their dreams. It was then that Preethika realised she needed to start the foundation, aiming to provide dance education to these little ones.

"I got all the strength and motivation to work for the cause when students from 12 to 18 years



old came forward for the cause. Initially, these students had seen these orphans performing in the schools," shares Preethika, adding, "We have really built a strong community of volunteers, and I'm glad that students came forward to support our motive. A teacher named Yamini from New York has been very supportive and will be there in Hyderabad this December to conduct workshops for the orphans. She also comes from

an underprivileged background, and we are glad that we always have her by our side."

Apart from this, Preethika is also working on the cause of helping out underprivileged women, who earn about Rs 200 while making the 'Kondapalli Bommalu', and other arts and crafts products. She came across these talented women while on her visit to Shilparamam. "I wanted my second project to bring awareness

about these women and empower them by providing training support, better opportunities for their skill enhancement, and other sources they require to grow."

Initially, she began her journey by creating a website where they post pictures of the arts and crafts made by women from various villages, like Cherial. For this reason, she has also collaborated with 'We Hub'. While working on this cause brought her immense satisfaction, Preethika had to go through her own share of struggles. Highlighting some for us, she shares, "When I planned to start the organisation, I was in my 9th grade, and people didn't really come forward for support. It was a big challenge for me, but I decided to start it since I was very passionate about art forms. Getting teachers to teach the orphans was another big challenge, as they used to demand money, and being an NGO, we weren't able to pay them."

Apart from working with the Cheers Foundation and a few of the villages, she, along with the foundation, is looking to connect with other orphanages and villages, looking forward to making a much bigger impact.

Young Preethika Pavirala, who, along with her Vithalika Foundation, is working on the cause of helping orphans and underprivileged women, promoting their interest in Indian art and craft, speaks to *The Pioneer* about her foundation, challenges, and more.

## Demystifying the occurrence of menstruation twice a month



### COMMON CAUSES OF MENSTRUATING TWICE A MONTH

**Hormonal Imbalance:** One of the most frequent reasons for experiencing two periods in a month is hormonal imbalance. Hormones like oestrogen and progesterone play a pivotal role in regulating the menstrual cycle. An imbalance in these hormones can lead to irregular periods, including more frequent menstruation. It's crucial to understand that hormonal imbalance can be triggered by various factors, such as stress, medical conditions, and lifestyle changes.

**Stress:** High levels of stress can disrupt the normal functioning of the menstrual cycle. Chronic stress may lead to hormonal imbalances and erratic menstrual patterns, causing more frequent periods. Stress management techniques, including mindfulness, meditation, and exercise, can help restore regularity to the menstrual cycle.

**Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS):** PCOS is a common hormonal disorder that can result in irregular periods, and you might get periods twice a month. Women with PCOS often experience multiple small cysts on their ovaries, which can interfere with the regularity of their menstrual cycles. Treatments for PCOS typically involve lifestyle changes, medications, and sometimes surgery, depending on the severity of the condition.

**Uterine fibroids:** Uterine fibroids are noncancerous growths that can develop in or around the uterus. Depending on their size and location, fibroids can lead to heavy or irregular bleeding, sometimes causing two periods in a month. Treatment options for uterine fibroids

include medication, minimally invasive procedures, and, in severe cases, surgery.

**Birth control:** Some forms of birth control, such as certain birth control pills or intrauterine devices (IUDs), can alter menstrual patterns. Women who have recently started or changed their birth control method may experience more frequent periods as their bodies adjust to the hormones. If irregular bleeding persists, it's essential to consult a healthcare provider to explore alternative birth control pills.

**Perimenopause:** Perimenopause is the transitional phase leading up to menopause, and it typically occurs when a woman's in her 40s. During this time, hormonal fluctuations can cause irregular periods, including having two periods in a month. While perimenopause is a natural part of a woman's life, the symptoms can often be managed with the guidance of a healthcare provider.

**Thyroid Disorders:** Thyroid conditions, such as hyperthyroidism or hypothyroidism, can disrupt the menstrual cycle. These conditions affect the thyroid gland's hormone production, which can lead to changes in the frequency and intensity of periods. Treatment for thyroid disorders may involve medications to regulate thyroid hormone levels.

Menstruation, a natural and cyclical occurrence in a woman's life, typically happens once a month. However, in some cases, women may experience menstruation twice a month. This irregularity can be concerning and may warrant a closer look into the underlying factors contributing to this phenomenon.

Before we dive into the reasons behind menstruating twice a month, it's essential to have a comprehensive understanding of the menstrual cycle.

Dr. Sirisha Mallamuri, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist at Ankura Hospital, shares, "On average, a menstrual cycle lasts around 28 days, although it can range from 21 to 35 days and still be considered normal. The menstrual cycle consists of several phases, including menstruation (the shedding of the uterine lining), the follicular phase, ovulation (the release of an egg from the ovary), and the luteal phase."

"If you find yourself menstruating twice a month or experiencing irregular periods, it's essential to consult a healthcare provider. They can help determine the underlying cause of your menstrual irregularity through a thorough evaluation, which may include blood tests, imaging studies, and a medical history review," shares Dr. Sirisha.

Once the condition is identified, treatment options will depend on the specific factors contributing to your irregular periods. In many cases, hormonal imbalances can be managed with medication or lifestyle changes. For conditions like PCOS, uterine fibroids, or thyroid disorders, targeted treatments are available to address the root cause and restore menstrual regularity. Stress management techniques, such as exercise, meditation, and counselling, can be helpful for those whose menstrual irregularities are linked to stress. Additionally, maintaining a healthy lifestyle, including a balanced diet and regular exercise, can support overall reproductive health and hormonal balance.

Experiencing menstruation twice a month can be a concerning and disruptive issue for many women. However, it's crucial to remember that there are various factors that can contribute to this irregularity, and most of them are treatable with the help of a healthcare provider. If you are facing this issue, don't hesitate to seek medical advice and guidance to determine the cause and find a suitable treatment plan to regulate your menstrual cycle and overall health.

In summary, menstruating twice a month is not uncommon, and there are several potential factors at play.

By understanding these factors and seeking appropriate medical guidance, women can take control of their reproductive health and ensure that their menstrual cycles remain regular and healthy.

## Healthy twist to your diet with the goodness of almonds this Navratri

Navratri, a festival of devotion, and vibrant colours, marks one of the most auspicious times in the Indian calendar. It is not just a festival in India but a celebration of faith, community, and tradition. Spanning nine days, the festival is marked by vibrant dances, colourful dresses, and the collective reverence of Goddess Durga. Amid the joyous celebrations, fasting remains a distinct tradition.

During the Navratri celebration, some people choose to fast while others embrace the Sattvik, or pure vegetarian diet. In this landscape of dietary restraint, almonds stand out not just as a tasty inclusion but also as a nutritional powerhouse. One of the remarkable traits of almonds is their satiating properties, which ensure that those who consume them feel full and satisfied.

Almonds may look tiny, but they have a lot to offer in terms of nutritional value. Boasting a profile of 15 nutrients, including vitamin E, dietary fibre, protein, riboflavin, manganese, and folate, almonds offer more than just satiety. Several scientific studies have further illuminated the multifaceted benefits of regular almond consumption. From promoting heart health and aiding diabetes manage-

ment to enhancing skin health and assisting in weight management, almonds have proven their mettle time and again.

Emphasising the importance of healthy snacking during fasting in Navratri, Bollywood celebrity and actress Soha Ali Khan said, "During the auspicious period of Navratri fasting, the importance of strategic snacking cannot be overstated. Smart snacking comes into play when there are longer gaps between meals, offering a multitude of benefits to your physical well-being. As I focus on mindful snacking, almonds offer a delightful and nutritious addition to the diet. Incorporating almonds into my meals is like adding a touch of love and health to every bite, reminding me to savour the moment and nourish my body and soul."

Meanwhile, Sheela Krishnaswamy, a nutrition and wellness consultant, said that while the Navratri festival can promote balanced eating, it's essential to avoid overindulging in fried or sugary foods that are sometimes consumed during this period. "Opt for healthier options like boiled sweet potatoes, steamed sprouts, fruits, and nuts. Incorporating almonds into your Navratri diet not only adds a delightful crunch but also provides essential nutrients, reminding us that nourishing our bodies is important during this auspicious time too. Furthermore, stud-

ies have shown that almonds can aid in diabetes management, support weight control, and contribute to heart health. Research findings indicate that incorporating almonds into a balanced diet may lead to reduced total and LDL cholesterol levels, as well as a decrease in inflammation, which can otherwise be detrimental to heart health."

Further commenting on the versatility of almonds, Ritika Samaddar, Regional Head, Dietetics, Max Healthcare, Delhi, said, "Staying hydrated and consuming a balanced diet within the fasting guidelines is essential for maintaining good health during this period. With their impressive combination of protein, healthy fats, fibre, vitamins, and minerals, almonds offer a holistic snacking experience that caters to both flavour and nutrition. Almonds are incredibly versatile, can be enjoyed in various ways in recipes, and can be enjoyed with family and friends during fasting. You can eat them raw, roasted, lightly salted, or use almond flour or almond butter in recipes to create a wide range of dishes."

On the other hand, speaking about keeping your energy levels high during festivities, fitness expert and celebrity master instructor Yasmin Karachiwala said, "Sweets and snacks hold a special place during Navratri, much like any other festival. It's common for many of us to experience cravings and indulge in less healthy options. A wise strategy to navigate these temptations is to make a switch towards healthier alternatives, such as dried fruits or nuts like almonds. Opting for dry, roasted, or lightly salted almond variations not only satisfies our taste buds during the festive season but also promotes our well-being. These small wonders are bursting with essential nutrients, which can significantly enhance our overall health."





# INDIA AIMS TO EXTEND WORLD CUP DOMINANCE VS BANGLADESH

PTI ■ PUNE

Going by the current form of the teams, the popular pre-match prediction of India's World Cup game against Bangladesh here on Thursday will be a romp for Rohit Sharma's men. But if the glossy surface is scratched, one will have to tear away that view based on the form book. Bangladesh have beaten India three times in the last four ODIs -- twice in a bilateral series in December 2022 and then in the Asia Cup Super Four match recently. In this tournament, the underdogs have already shown how to slay the giants. If in doubt, check with England and South Africa about their feelings after their shock losses to Afghanistan and Netherlands respectively. India would certainly want to avoid that banana peel and keep their good run intact in this World Cup. In the batting front, captain Rohit will look to continue his imperious form while top order batters Shubman Gill and Virat Kohli will be eager to score big. Rohit has been at the forefront of India's domination in the last couple of matches with stunning knocks of 86 against Pakistan and 131 against Afghanistan. India are perched on the top spot in the points table and they



would aim to extend their winning run. While the two knocks of high-quality have put Rohit in the limelight, his younger opening partner Gill would be itching to get a big score for himself, given that he is back to full fitness and has had an impressive run in the ODIs this year. For Kohli, a mistimed hit against Pakistan led to an early dismissal but that was a minor blip, as the batting maestro previously produced a masterful 85 against Australia and a match-winning 55 not out against Afghanistan. Among others, Shreyas Iyer's

unbeaten fifty against Pakistan has signalled that India's batting is firing in unison and there are no real concerns. As such, the team may not want to tinker with the winning combination just yet. While India will look to make the most of batting-friendly conditions here at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium, their mixed record of four wins in seven matches at this venue in ODIs, combined with the recent run against Bangladesh -- three defeats in the last four one-dayers -- makes the bowlers' role all

the more important. No doubt, India will be firm favourites against Bangladesh, considering their bowlers' top class performances in restricting Australia for a mere 199 and Pakistan for a poor 191. Indian bowlers too have done a collective job though Jasprit Bumrah's brilliance and Kuldeep Yadav's guile made them a stand out attack from the rest in the competition, in their sheer ability to keep the opposition team's scoring rate in check and making regular inroads even on the flattest of decks. Bangladesh are not to be blamed

if they spend a large part of their preparation time drawing up plans against Rohit, whose red-hot form promises a third century in a row in World Cup encounters against the 'Tigers'. Rohit's stupendous 137 in the quarterfinal in Melbourne (2015 World Cup) and 104 in Birmingham (2019) ensured his side exceeded the 300-run mark for a third consecutive time since 2011 edition against Bangladesh, with India burying their opponents under a mountain of runs on each of these occasions. The Indian captain has hit seven centuries, the most for any batter in World Cup history, and it remains to be seen how soon he enters double-digit figures in terms of hundreds, given his magnificent form. Notwithstanding their impeccable run so far, India will look to guard against any complacency knowing that this World Cup has already produced two sensational upsets, with defending champions England hunted down by Afghanistan and South Africa stopped in their tracks by a spirited Netherlands. The knowledge of conditions and an expected packed house at the MCA Stadium promises India the best atmosphere once again to record another win in this World Cup and continue their march towards the semifinals, but Bangladesh are no

pushovers and they have been a tricky side to face for India. For Bangladesh, it is imperative that their best player and captain Shakib Al Hasan overcomes the challenge of a quad injury to his left leg and is available for selection on Thursday. Shakib, who did not bowl on Tuesday during the team's training session, will be essential for Bangladesh to take the fight to India. A comprehensive win in the World Cup opener followed by two defeats against better teams has put Bangladesh in a position of some desperation, given that a third loss on the trot will only dent their hopes. Litton Das and Mehidy Hasan Miraz have one half-century each to show at the top order from the first three games but more will be expected from young players Najmul Hossain Shanto and Towhid Hridoy, as only Mushfiqur Rahim has done the heavy-lifting in the middle order. Taskin Ahmed's sudden dip in form has piled up pressure on the team which has been scrambling for bowling options, with the right-arm seamer managing only two wickets in three outings. For someone as experienced as Mustafizur Rahman, the returns have largely been disappointing, as he also has only two wickets to show in three matches.



## Kohli: No big teams in World Cup, beware of upsets

PTI ■ PUNE

There are no "big teams" in the World Cup and upsets at the mega event happen when the conversation revolves around the more successful teams, star India batter Virat Kohli said on Wednesday. Kohli's statement comes following two major upsets in the ongoing World Cup. While Afghanistan stunned holders England by 69 runs in New Delhi on Sunday, Netherlands recorded their biggest win in the history of the game when they shocked South Africa by 38 runs in rain-curtailed affair in Dharamsala on Tuesday. "There are no big teams in the World Cup. Whenever you start focusing only on bigger teams, an upset happens," Kohli told Star Sports ahead of India's World Cup match against Bangladesh. India have dominated Bangladesh in World Cup and have not given them much after losing to the Asian neighbours in 2007 in the Caribbean but Kohli reminded of the

threat skipper Shakib Al Hasan poses with the ball on Thursday. "Over the years, I've played a lot against him (Shakib). He's got amazing control. He's a very experienced bowler. He bowls very well with the new ball, knows how to deceive the batsman, and is also very economical," Kohli said. "You have to play your best against all these bowlers, and if you aren't able to, these bowlers are able to create pressure and increase the chances of getting you out." India all-rounder Hardik Pandya agreed with Kohli. "He is a very street-smart cricketer. He has been carrying Bangladesh on his shoulders for the longest years," Pandya said. Shakib, on the other hand, feels that Kohli is the best batter in the modern era. "He's (Kohli) a special batsman, probably the best batsman in the modern era. I think I'm lucky to get him out five times. Of course, it will give me great pleasure, taking his wicket," he said.

## Scott: We can beat any side at our best

PTI ■ DHARAMSALA

The historic upset win over South Africa is not a fluke as Netherlands have the potential to beat any side in the ongoing World Cup if they play their best brand of cricket, asserted captain Scott Edwards. The Dutch stunned South Africa by 38 runs in their round-robin league clash here on Tuesday, their first win against a Test playing nation in World Cup history. The match was reduced to 43-over-a-side affair due to rain. "We go into every game with our plans and our ways that we're going to try and win the game. For us it's just about playing our best brand of cricket and we feel like if we play well enough on the day, we can beat any side," Edwards said at the post-match press conference. It was also Netherlands' third 50-over World Cup win and first in 16 years. They recorded their maiden victory against Namibia in the 2003 edition in South Africa. Their second win was against Scotland in the 2007 edition in the West Indies. Netherlands made it to the main tournament in India through the qualifying round and Edwards said his side did not come here just to make up numbers. "Yeah, absolutely. I think after qualifying we were pretty quick to set our minds to what we wanted to do at this tournament. We weren't coming here just to have fun and enjoy it. We're here to win games of cricket and give ourselves the best chance to make the next stage," Edwards said.



"South Africa is obviously a very strong side and they'll be close to that semi-final spot. So, if we want to be amongst them, we've got to beat sides like this," said the 27-year-old wicketkeeper. The Dutch were reeling at 140 for seven in the 34th over before Edwards himself engineered a remarkable recovery with an unbeaten 78 off 69 balls to take his side to a fighting 245 for eight. They then shot South Africa out for 207 in 42.5 overs. Asked what transpired between him and other batters when they were looking down the barrel, Edwards said, "As a group we pride ourselves on playing total cricket which is guys that are coming in at number 8, 9, 10 have just as much of the ability to put on those partnerships. "But out there batting with them, it was just about giving ourselves a chance to go hard-er later in the innings. And luckily enough, Roelof (van der Merwe) and Aryan (Dutt) in there played some unbelievable cameos to get us to what we thought was probably a par score."

## New Zealand sets target 289 for impressive Afghans

PTI ■ CHENNAI

New Zealand recovered well from a mini mid-innings slump to post a commendable 288 for six against a gritty Afghanistan in a World Cup group league match here on Wednesday. Will Young (54), Tom Latham (68) and Glenn Phillips (71) scored half-centuries to ensure that the Black Caps posted an above-par total on a track where stroke-making isn't the easiest of proposition. Phillips and Latham put on 144 invaluable runs for the fifth

wicket and it could well prove to be a game-changer. Put into bat first, the Kiwis lost opener Devon Conway (20) in the seventh over, with spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman trapping him leg-before. However, the pair of opener Young and in-form batter Rachin Ravindra (32) took charge and put on a convincing 79-run stand for the second wicket. A chance to stump Ravindra was missed, whereas spinner Mohammad Nabi was put under pressure by the Black Caps batters, as he was attacked quite regularly. Eventually, it was



pacer Azmatullah Omarzai who got the partnership broken in the 21st over, cleaning up Ravindra off a straight delivery, as the batter attempted to swing it towards mid-wicket, but missed it completely in the process. It was at this moment the New Zealanders had a brief collapse, losing Young and Daryl Mitchell (1) by the 22nd over to Omarzai and spinner Rashid Khan, respectively, as the score read 110 for four. While Young had already scored his seventh ODI half-century, he was notably dropped in the second over by Rahmat Shah off

Fazalhaq Farooqi. Nevertheless, New Zealand managed to recover soon as skipper Latham and Phillips put up another fine stand that defined the tone for the rest of their innings. The duo also brought up their respective 23rd and third ODI half-centuries each, despite the Afghani bowlers keeping the Kiwi scoring rate in check. As the pair began upping the ante and the scoring rate post the 45th over, the partnership was broken by pacer Naveen-ul-Haq in the 48th, with both the set batters departing in the same over.

But, there was still some work to be done, and it was Mark Chapman (25 not out) who came up with some late blitz, including two fours and a six, to ensure that the Black Caps went past the 275-run mark on this track. For Afghanistan, Omarzai and Naveen were the stars with the ball, seizing a couple of wickets each, whereas Rashid was a no-brainer with his economical spell. However, a total of three dropped catches did make things a bit hard for the Afghans, especially Rashid, who saw a couple of his chances go abegging.

## SA coach blames batting, defeat to Netherlands

PTI ■ DHARAMSALA

South Africa coach Rob Walter Shas blamed the shock 38-run defeat at the hands of the Netherlands in the ongoing World Cup to his side's disappointing death bowling and poor start with the bat. The Netherlands recovered from 140 for 7 to post 245 for eight in the rain-hit match on Tuesday and then bowled out South Africa for 207 in 42.5 overs. Asked what transpired between him and other batters when they were looking down the barrel, Edwards said, "As a group we pride ourselves on playing total cricket which is guys that are coming in at number 8, 9, 10 have just as much of the ability to put on those partnerships. "But out there batting with them, it was just about giving ourselves a chance to go hard-er later in the innings. And luckily enough, Roelof (van der Merwe) and Aryan (Dutt) in there played some unbelievable cameos to get us to what we thought was probably a par score."



able to close it out at the death is disappointing, of course, and certainly the momentum shifted in the game then," Walter said at the post-match press conference. "But at the end of the day, we back ourselves still to be able to chase 240 but then we probably you know we got off to a very poor start and they put us on the back foot," he added. He said strategically also South Africa committed mistakes. "Maybe I've got our ratios a little bit wrong in terms of the slow balls versus hard length and on pace deliveries. From extras point of view, there's definitely

more extras than we would want to bowl." South Africa were unbeaten coming into the match and looked a confident lot having registered convincing wins over Sri Lanka (by 102 runs) and Australia (by 134 runs). Walter said the two upsets so far proved that no team can be taken for granted in a tournament of this magnitude. "Four days ago, we played out-standingly well, and then today, not well. Just ultimately, we weren't good enough, specifically at the back end of the innings. And then at the start with the bat, and we put us on the back foot. "As I said before the World Cup started, I don't think there's any weak teams in this tournament. And if you're not switched on and you don't win the key moments in the game, you find yourself on the wrong side of the result. We learned that today," he said. Warner said he wanted greater

## Warner 'annoyed' at DRS decision against him in SL match

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Veteran Australia opener David Warner is "annoyed" and "frustrated" at the DRS call which went against him in his side's World Cup match against Sri Lanka and has called for more "accountability" in the system, according to a report. In the match, which Australia won by five wickets in Lucknow on Monday, Warner fell LBW to Sri Lanka pacer Dilshan Madushanka. The left-hander went for review but the DRS call went in favour of the on-field umpire, who had originally given him out. The prolific southpaw, who was batting on 11, left the ground fuming. He was seen smashing his bat against his pad and turned back to yell towards the wicket as he walked off. Warner said he wanted greater

transparency on how DRS decisions were adjudicated. "I've never had Hawk-Eye come in and explain to us how the technology actually works, it's just for the TV," the 36-year-old was quoted as saying by 'cricket.Com.Au' after Australia's five-wicket win over Sri Lanka on Monday. "If they could come in and explain to us how it works, then sometimes we might (choose) not to refer or to refer." According to the report, Warner suggested that the ball-tracking did not match what he saw on the ground's replay screen after he called for the review. "I asked Joel (field umpire) when I was out there just what happened, why did he give it out. He said the ball was swinging back so to his credit, if he thinks that then that's why he's given a decision."



## Shane Bond parts ways with Mumbai Indians

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Former New Zealand pacer Shane Bond has ended his nine year association as Mumbai Indians bowling coach, the Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise announced on Wednesday. Bond, who has been associated with MI since 2015, won four IPL trophies as the bowling coach of the team. Bond made the decision to part ways with MI after the five-time IPL champions appointed Lasith Malinga as their bowling coach for season 2024. Malinga, who retired in 2021 and had played for MI, worked with the Rajasthan Royals until this year. The 48-year-old Kiwi also quit as MI Emirates head coach. He was at the helm of affairs of MI Emirates team in the inaugural season of IIT20 this year. "I would like to thank the Ambani family for the opportunity to be part of MI One Family for the last nine seasons. It has been an incredible experience with so many great memories on and off the field," Bond said in a statement issued by the franchise. "I have been lucky enough to work with and have strong relationships with so many great people, both players and staff. I will miss them all and wish them all the best for the future. Finally thanks to the MI Paltan for their support as well."

## Rohit rises to sixth place in ODI batters' rankings

PTI ■ DUBAI

India captain Rohit Sharma on Wednesday jumped five places to sixth in the ICC ODI batters' ranking on the back of his imperious form in the ongoing World Cup at home. Rohit amassed 131 runs against Afghanistan and then backed it up with an imperious 86 from 63 balls against arch-rivals Pakistan to be one of the in-form batters in the showpiece. South Africa wicketkeeper batter Quinton de Kock rose three spots to third after back-to-back tons (100 against Sri Lanka and 109 against

Australia) in the World Cup as he leaptfrogged teammate Rassie van der Dussen in fourth. De Kock missed an opportunity to climb even closer to top spot after he was dismissed for 20 against Netherlands. Afghanistan opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz (up 19 spots to 18th) and Netherlands captain Scott Edwards (up 16 spots to 27th) have also surged in the batting rankings following superb innings that inspired each of their teams to shock victories. Pakistan captain Babar Azam has edged up to 836 rating points and stretched his lead in



the ODI batting rankings to 18 points. India opener Shubman Gill remained in second spot after overcoming illness to kick off his World Cup campaign with 12 runs against Pakistan. Veteran New Zealand pacer Trent Boult is within reach of the No.1 spot in the ODI bowling rankings following a destructive spell against Bangladesh. He finished with 2/45 against Bangladesh after also dismissing Towhid Hridoy for his 200th wicket in ODIs. Boult is only one rating point behind current leader Australia's Josh Hazlewood (660 rating points) after mov-

ing up one place in the latest update. Afghanistan magician Rashid Khan climbed two spots higher to fourth place in the bowling rankings, while South Africa spinner Keshav Maharaj made a bigger move of seven spots to equal fifth alongside Mujeeb Ur Rahman. Among the quicks, India's Jasprit Bumrah (up seven spots) and South Africa's Kagiso Rabada (up one spot) have risen to equal 14th, as Lungi Ngidi jumps six spots to 16th. Bangladesh veteran Shakib Al Hasan held onto the No.1 spot in the ODI all-rounder rankings with 343 rating points.

# NARESH VK: MARTIN LUTHER KING IS AN ABSOLUTE ENTERTAINER WITH A BULLET-LIKE MESSAGE



PNS|HYDERABAD

**M**artin Luther King, the joint production of YNOT Studios, Reliance Entertainment, and Mahayana Motion Pictures, directed by Puja Kolluri, is all set to hit theaters on October 27. Starring Sampoorneesh Babu in the lead, *Martin Luther King* features VK Naresh and Sharanya Pradeep, among others, in key roles.

Venkatesh Maha, who directed the two critically acclaimed films *C/O Kancharapalem* and *Uma Maheshwara Ugra Roopasya*, is the creative producer of the project. He has also written the screenplay, dialogue and played a pivotal character in the film.

Starting on October 9, the cast and crew embarked on a tour of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, offering early premieres in cities like Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Nellore, Kurnool, and Warangal. The enthusiastic reception and reactions from these premieres have been truly remarkable. The thought-provoking, entertaining trailer for the political satire, launched today, has truly piqued the curiosity of audiences. The story revolves around an election among two leaders in a village, where one vote could change the fortunes of the candidates. To what extent will they go to please the voter? Sampoorneesh Babu plays the titular character, whose earnest portrayal is complemented by Saranya Pradeep's authoritative screen presence. The assertive performances of Naresh and Venkatesh Maha add more bite to the drama.

Ahead of the film's release, senior actor Naresh VK interacted with journalists on Wednesday.

*Martin Luther King*—in short, 'King'

is an absolute entertainer with a bullet-like message in it.

"Generally, it is rare we find a movie that has a message and also entertainment. *Martin Luther King* is an entertainment-based film. The result of early premieres in cities like Visakhapatnam, Warangal, Nellore, and Kurnool was incredible. This is the new trend that started with *Samajavaragamana*. If you're confident with the content, you could show your movie to the audience before the release date. That's how you reach the audience. Mahayana Motion Pictures Productions held continuous premieres. When I watched with a packed house in Warangal, ladies of all age groups and children had also watched the show. There were claps, cheers, and roars everywhere throughout the runtime. That was the response we got for *Martin Luther King*."

Looking at his filmography for the last two years, he has done over eight films, all of which were blockbusters. Even the content on the OTT platform—*Malli Pelli*, *Samajavaragamana*, of course, *Intinti Ramayanam*, and *Great Indian Suicide*—had a tremendous positive response from audiences.

He shared that he's been very choosy in selecting scripts. "Believe me, I heard as many as 14 scripts in the last month. Youngsters are coming up with novel concepts and ideas. There is a unique flavour coming out every season from Telugu cinema. Both the Telugu States are witnessing election fever. It's a political season. I can't say it is political satire. It reflects the political scenario of the present day. It begs the question of who is enjoying the result. More than political satire, the story is beautifully woven to reflect the present-day affairs of the political state."

The senior actor added, "The title role is played by Sampoorneesh Babu. It is directed by Puja Kolluri, while Venkatesh Maha provided the screenplay and the dialogues for the movie. *Martin Luther King* is a refreshing experience for me. Politics and business have become hand-in-glove today. In this present situation, some leaders are honestly trying to bring about a change in the system. I am playing the role of a village president who reaps the benefits of the system by using the name of his family in politics. The entire film was shot in Ongole. The story is set against a rural backdrop. The power of the film is the script. Puja should be appreciated for the way she took the story forward. Sampoorneesh Babu will earn accolades for his lead role. I have previously worked with five lady directors. I am sure women's power will rule the film industry in the coming days."

Naresh says that the beauty of the script is that it has so many newcomers working for it. "Workshops have been conducted with all 60 artists for the film. The new-age cinema has broken the rules of moviemaking. There is no set formula that you can say would work. *Martin Luther King* is an absolute entertainer, and every character offers a unique flavour. The music scored by Smaran Sai is another added highlight of

the film. The story is told with thematic songs and a background score, and you would hear the voice of *Martin Luther King*'s voice as a reference to one of the scenes. It's a rare film."

More than saying it as a remake, the senior actor shares that it is inspired by the events that happened in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. However, the political atmosphere of the Telugu States is entirely differ-

ent from other regions. "It is a fresh film. I think the youth will be more attracted to the film during this election period. We started the promotional campaign in a very unique way."

Basically, he had also played a crucial role in politics by keeping aside films for about eight years, irrespective of being a busy artist back then.

"I am an emotional person, and if I like something, I am so determined that I won't sleep until the task gets completed. After watching the then-Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, I made a conscious decision to grow as a politician. I was ideologically moved by the great leader. I made up my mind and went to rural Rayalaseema to work there. I was exposed to the public like never before when I started working in the faction hotbed. I did whatever I could. Later, I came back to films, nearly 10 years later. And I never want to enter mainstream politics anymore. I would like to deliver the message through films. Late actor SV Ranga Rao Garu was my idol. Like how cinema has been changing its form, politics too is changing its avatars."



## Tiger Nageswara Rao completes its censor formalities

Racing towards its spectacular release on October 20, 2023, *Tiger Nageswara Rao*, a movie starring the Mass Raja' Ravi Teja, is set to make its grand pan-India debut. The film's promotion has taken an unprecedented approach, as it marks Ravi Teja's first nationwide entertainment venture.

Meanwhile, reports confirm that the

film has successfully completed its censor formalities. After a screening by the censor board members, the film received a U/A certificate, paving the way for its theatrical release.

Directed by Vamsee, the film delves into the life of the infamous dacoit *Tiger Nageswara Rao*, who struck terror during the 1970s in Stuartpuram. The movie features Nupur Sanon and Gayathri Bharadwaj in prominent female roles, with Anupam Kher playing a pivotal character alongside Renu Desai. GV Prakash Kumar has composed the film's music. *Tiger Nageswara Rao* is being produced by Abhishek Agarwal under the banner of Abhishek Agarwal Arts, promising an eagerly anticipated cinematic experience.



## Vijay Deverakonda's next film starring alongside Mrunal officially titled *Family Star*

Vijay Deverakonda's upcoming film under the banner of Sri Venkateswara Creations' shoot progressing at a fast pace. Mrunal Thakur of Sita Ramam fame is playing the female lead. This is SVC's 54th film. Director Parasuram Petla is at the helm of this project, crafting a compelling family entertainer that is bound to captivate audiences.

The visionary producers, ace Dil Raju and Shirish, are actively involved in bringing this cinematic gem to life. Additionally, Vasu Varma is contributing his creative prowess as the esteemed creative producer. The much

awaited title teaser was unveiled on Wednesday.

*Family Star* has been the title locked for this family entertainer. The title teaser is both massy and classy, and it's absolutely worth all the hype. Vijay Deverakonda plays a family man role with cool attitude and it slowly unveils his mass-appealing characterisation. The title teaser showcases Vijay's mass power with thugs and the defining true manhood.

The video actually starts with the rowdies mocking Vijay for being a family man. Then he shows off his mass avatar in a cool way. Finally, the title *Family Star* appears,

and it's quite catchy. In the end, Mrunal Thakur makes an enchanting appearance as Vijay's wife. This title teaser promises a treat for all families.

The anticipation for VD 13's major release during the auspicious Sankranti festival grows. Following the phenomenal success of *Geetha Govindam*, the collaboration between Vijay Deverakonda and director Parasuram Petla has generated a great deal of interest and anticipation. The presence of the legendary Sri Venkateswara Creations banner, known for blockbuster productions, further adds to the excitement surrounding this project.

## Siddu Jonnalagadda *Telusu Kada* launched officially

The successful production house People Media Factory recently announced their Production No. 30 with Star Boy Siddu Jonnalagadda playing the lead. Titled *Telusu Kada*, this soulful love saga marks the directorial debut of popular stylist and costume designer Neeraja Kona. The debutante impressed one and all with the title glimpse that looked grand. The glimpse is presently trending top on YouTube.

On Wednesday, the film was launched in Hyderabad in the presence of the core team and several guests. Natural Star Nani who graced the occasion as the chief guest sounded the clapboard for the muhurtham shot, while heroes Nithin and Aadhi Pinisetty handed over the script to the makers. Director Bobby switched on the camera, while Harish Shankar did the honorary direction for the

first shot. The event was also attended by Nandini Reddy, Kona Venkat, Vakkantam Vamsi, Bommarillu Bhaskar, Mallik Ram, Sithara Naga Vamsi, producer Vijayender Reddy, and a few others.

TG Vishwa Prasad will produce the movie on a high budget and Vivek Kuchibhotla is the co-producer. Raashi Khanna and Srinidhi Shetty are the female leads opposite Siddu in the movie which has some well-known technicians taking care of different crafts.

Thaman S scores the music, Yuvraj J handles the cinematography, and National Award-winning technician Sreekar Prasad is the editor. Avinash Kolla who is one of the busiest Production Designers is part of the movie for which Archana Rao designs costumes.

The regular shoot of the movie commences in a few weeks.



## Rana Daggubati unveiled the fun-filled theatrical trailer of *Keedaa Cola*

The success of the first two films—*Pelli Choppulu* and *Ee Nagarani Eamindi* brought laurels to director Tharun Bhascker Dhaassayam who is coming up with his third movie *Keedaa Cola* which is another atypical attempt. Despite delivering back-to-back hits, the director chose to make his movie with newcomers with Comedy Brahma Brahmanandam playing one of the lead roles. The movie already created a buzz with character posters and a teaser. On Wednesday, Rana Daggubati who is presenting the movie launched its theatrical trailer.

Tharun Bhascker has a unique style of story-telling and he shows his mark in cutting the promos as well. Well,

the trailer of *Keedaa Cola* is a crazy ride as it transports the viewers into the universe of chaos. Although there are 9 main characters, the story revolves around Keedaa and Barbee. While there's some suspense around Keedaa which isn't disclosed, the Barbee is worth millions. The rest is about the chaos surrounding the prime characters.

Brahmanandam as Varadarajulu Thatha, Chaitanya Rao as Vaasthu, Rag Mayur as Lancham, Tharun as Naidu, Vishnu as Sikander, Jeevan Kumar as Jeevan, Ravindra Vijay as the CEO, and Raghu Ram as Shots, everyone looked serious, but their acts brought humour, and that's the beauty of *Keedaa Cola*.

The cinematographer by AJ Aaron is excellent, whereas Vivek Sagar created a different mood and atmosphere with his terrific BGM. Upendra Varma's editing was sharp. Ashish Teja Pulala is the art director for the movie, while Tharun Bhascker penned the script. *Keedaa Cola* produced by K.Vivek Sudhanshu, Saikrishna Gadwal, Srinivas Kaushik Nanduri, Sripad Nandiraj, and Upendra Varma is the maiden feature-length production of VG Sainma.

The trailer surely increased the eagerness to watch the movie for its unique story and spellbinding narrative. *Keedaa Cola* is set to arrive in cinemas on November 3.



## Monica describes Sivakarthy as a 'very decent person', post issue between Imman-Sivakarthy

Imman is one of the most prominent Kollywood music directors who has worked on movies starring big names such as Ajith and Rajinikanth in the past. The other day, Imman said that he and Sivakarthy have had a fall-out and that he will never compose music for any of the *Prince* and *Mahaveerudu* actors future movies. The Imman-

Sivakarthy duo has previously collaborated on five movies.

Since then, Netizens have speculated that something nasty happened involving Imman, Sivakarthy and Imman's ex-wife Monica.

Post the baseless speculations (in which even a section of the Tamil web media has indulged), Monica has

described Sivakarthy as a "very decent person" who tried to prevent Imman's divorce from her. "He tried to mediate between me and Imman as a family friend," she said.

On his part, Imman had used pretty strong words against Sivakarthy, saying that the hero had strongly betrayed his trust. Wonder what happened between the trio!

## Nivin Pauly starrer *Pharma* to stream on Disney plus Hotstar

Following the success of its first Malayalam original series, Disney+ Hotstar has announced its next Hotstar Specials, *Pharma*, featuring Nivin Pauly. This will be Nivin's first-ever long format web

series and his inaugural collaboration with Disney+ Hotstar. Both fans and industry peers are keenly anticipating Nivin's performance in this new format. Rajit Kapur, a celebrated name in Bollywood,

will also grace the screen, marking his return to Malayalam entertainment after a decade.

Directed by the dynamic PR Arun, the man behind the feature film *Finals*, the series promises a potent mix of drama and depth.

It's produced by Krishnan Sethukumar, under the banner movie mill, who has been the mind behind cinematic gems such as *Unda*, *Ivide*, and *James And Alice*. Abhinandan Ramanujam's evocative cinematography, Jakes Bejoy's soulful music, and Sreejith Sarang's crisp editing promise a top tier viewing experience for fans.

