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Opposition MPs protest in Parl over Adani ISSUE



TO COMPENSATE FOR MODERATION IN GDP SLOWDOWN

Pushpa 2: The Rule mired in **CONTROVERSIES**





- B Mahesh Kumar Goud. TPCC chief

DON'T MISS...

Home guard traps men with her sob story

A woman home guard was arrested by the police on the charge of extorting money after threatening a retired Assistant Engineer (AE). Dwarka Sekhar, who retired after serving as an AE at the Vemulawada Temple, was threatened by the woman home guard, identified as Vadla Anusha. She claimed that her husband was suffering from a disease and borrowed Rs 3,50,000 from him, promising to return it in six months. When asked for repayment, she threatened to spread false rumours by distributing morphed ...

Farmers suspend march for a day

Protesting farmers on Friday suspended for the day their foot march to Delhi to press for various demands, including a legal guarantee for MSP, after some of them suffered injuries due to tear gas shells at the Punjab-Haryana border. Earlier in the day, a 'jatha' of 101 farmers began to march towards the national capital from their protest site at the Shambhu border but was stopped a few metres away by multilayered barricading erected by Haryana security personnel. As the group

RBI keeps interest rates unchanged

The Reserve Bank of India on Friday kept its key interest rate unchanged citing inflation risks, but cut the Cash Reserve Ratio that banks are required to park with the central bank, boosting slowing economy. With India's GDP seeing a sharper-thananticipated dip in the July-September period to 5.4 per cent - its slowest pace in seven quarters, inflation on the uptick and rupee under pressure, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had few choices to make..

-PAGE: 8

Shammi takes over ACC chief role

Sri Lanka's Shammi Silva has taken over as the president of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), succeeding India's Jay Shah, who recently became the chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC). Shah had vacated the position after three terms as ACC President. It won't be Silva's maiden role with the ACC, having previously functioned as the chairman of the organisation's Finance & Marketing Committee "It is a great honour to lead the Asian Cricket Council. Cricket is the heartbeat of Asia..

1. Opportunities for Young Citizens: Opening 85 new KVs, expanding 1 KV; and opening 28 new NVs

Centre allots seven Navodaya Vidyalayas to TG

PNS HYDERABAD

The Union Cabinet approved the opening of 85 new Kendriya Vidyalayas and 28 new Navodaya Vidyalayas, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Friday.

The Union Cabinet approved seven Navodaya Vidyalayas for Telangana and eight Kendriya Vidalayas for Andhra Pradesh. The seven Navodaya Vidyalayas

have been sanctioned for the districts of Jagityal, Nizamabad, Kothagudem Bhadradri, Medchal Malkajgiri, Mahbubnagar, Sangareddy and Suryapet.

The estimated requirement of

The estimated requirement of funds for establishing the 28 NVs is Rs 2,359.82 crore spread over five years from 2024-25 to 2028-29. This includes a capital expenditure component of Rs 1944.19 crore and operational expenditure of Rs 415.63 crore.

The administrative structure for implementing the project will require the creation of posts at par with the norms framed for running

one full-fledged NV with 560 students. This means that 15,680 (560 x 28) students would benefit from the scheme.

As per the norms in vogue, a fullfledged NV employs 47 persons and

The seven Navodaya Vidyalayas have been sanctioned for the districts of Jagityal, Nizamabad, Kothagudem Bhadradri, Medchal Malkajgiri, Mahbubnagar, Sangareddy and Suryapet

accordingly, the 28 Navodaya Vidyalayas will provide direct employment to 1,316 individuals. Construction and allied activities for building the school are likely to generate employment for many skilled and unskilled workers.

lakh Dharani cases in a year'

Renamed Dharani Portal to be announced in winter session

'TG Cong govt resolves 4.68

NAVEENA GHANATE naveena.ghanate@gmail.com HYDERABAD

The Telangana Government will announce the new name of the Dharani Portal in the Assembly. During the Assembly election campaign, the Congress had said it would replace Dharani with Bhumatha and Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said the name would be announced during the Winter Session starting December 9. Until then it is being referred to as "Dharani web."

During a chitchat with the media, Ponguleti highlighted several critical issues regarding revenue reforms, land management and welfare schemes last year.

Ponguleti pointed out that when the government was formed, the Dharani Portal had over 2.45 lakh pending applications, some dating back one to two years. Despite the portal being touted as a revolutionary initiative, the backlog was massive, and approximately three lakh new applications were filed later.

With 58,000 to 60,000 applications still pending in the last 30-45 days, out of the 5.62 lakh applications, 4.68

New RoR Bill to be introduced in Assembly



addressed, a feat achieved through systemic reforms and operational efficiency.

The government constituted a committee to assess Dharani's functionality and provided recommendations for its revival.

"We ensured all applications were resolved, and for future applications, decentralisation of powers was introduced on the Dharani web," he

Powers earlier concentrated with Collectors were delegated to Mandal Revenue Officers (MRPs), Rural Development Officers (RDPs), special collectors, and the Revenue

This decentralisation included ownership transfer cases (TM-3 mutation) to be handled by Additional Collectors, and cases involving disputed lands in courts

A new Record of Rights (RoR) draft was introduced in the last Assembly session after a review of the defective 2020 RoR Act. Feedback from farmers, revenue officials, public representatives and retired officers was incorporated, simplifying the revenue processes.

"Once approved, this Act will redefine land Continued on Page 2

Survey across State to identify grabbed lands: Ponguleti

Telangana Thalli sans crown,

Bathukamma & waistband

PNS HYDERABAD

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cultural identity.

Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy addressed discrepancies in land records discovered during a pilot project in Nagarjuna Sagar's Tirumalagiri mandal. In 14 villages, about 2,600 acres were found to be under the control of influential individuals instead of rightful owners.

cies and distribute pattas. A pub- and waqf boards Continued on Page 2

has drawn heavy flak from

lic meeting will be held with the Chief Minister where the lands grabbed by the rich will be distributed to the poor. Later, such surveys will be taken up across the state and all the lands will be given to their rightful owners, assured. In a media conversation, Ponguleti also brought to light massive land irregularities.

"Thousands of acres belonging We will rectify these discrepan- to revenue, endowments, forest,

Not just six, but 160 programmes in Telangana Cong govt's first year



The Telangana Government has claimed remarkable progress in its first year, by launching 160 social welfare and development programmes covering various sectors.

programmes were taken up, government sources attributed the success to continuous reviews and innovative decision-making by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and his Cabinet

The government launched the Mahalakshmi Scheme providing free travel for women in TGSRTC buses benefiting an average of 30 lakh women daily and enabling them to save Rs 1,500 crore annually. Subsidised LPG cylinders costing Rs 500 each reduced the expenses of 40 lakh families, he said.

Continued on Page 2



CM to dedicate Yadadri Thermal Power Station Unit 2 today

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will dedicate the 800 MW Unit 2 of the Yadadri Thermal Power Station at Damarcherla in Nalgonda district, to the nation on Saturday. The Yadadri Thermal Power Station is a massive 4,000 MW project with five units of 800

Ayodhya Reddy, Congress CPRO, defended the statue, stating, Telangana Thalli symbolises our state's culture and rural essence. Her ornaments, including the golden thread around her neck, reflect the simplicity of Telangana women, while the raised hand signifies pro-Continued on Page 2 tection, and the left-hand holds the

crops that sustain our economy. However, Praveen criticised the statue, claiming it lacks authenticity and fails to resonate with the emotional and cultural significance associated with Telangana Thalli.

"This isn't Telangana Thalli; it's a redesigned version of 'Telugu Thalli,' which the Congress is using to appease Andhra sentiments," he remarked, adding that the statue looks more like "a landowner intimidating tenant farmers than a symbol of Telangana's struggle."

The absence of the traditional Bathukamma, a floral symbol of Telangana women's identity and devotion, and the missing crown have angered cultural activists. Ayodhya Reddy attempted to cool

down the concerns, by emphasising gence," he said.



tation of Telangana's progress. "This is not just a statue but a tribute to our women's role in agriculture, rural livelihoods and Telangana's resur-

Fast track courts to try drug smugglers: CM

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said that it is crucial to ensure that drug smugglers get convicted. "We are working on fast-track courts to try them without delay," he said. He paid homage to Dr BR Ambedkar on his death anniversary,

highlighting his pivotal role in crafting the Constitution and the significance of Article 3 in the formation of Telangana.

emphasised the government's commitment to governance aligned with the aspirations of the people of the CM





Addressing the gathering, the CM Telangana and rooted in Ambedkar's vision of freedom and justice. On the occasion of Home Guards Rising Day, the CM Continued on Page 2

TG spent Rs 61,194 cr on welfare, Rs 24,036 cr on capex timely pay salaries to 3,69,200 reg-

PNS HYDERABAD

ular employees and pensions to 2,88,000 individuals on the first of The Telangana Government managed its debt obligations by borrowing Rs 52,118 crore to

raise Rs 64,516 crore needed for debt servicing and allotted Rs 24,036 crore for capital expenditure and Rs 61,194 crore for

social welfare programmes. The government managed to crore.

every month. fare measures are the disbursal of Rs 7,625 crore under the Rythu

Bharosa Scheme and Rs 2,061 crore for waiving farm loans. The Aarogyasri Health Scheme saw an allocation of Rs 890 crore. Continued on Page 2

The significant wel-

'Govt's aim is to make Musi water potable'

PNS HYDERABAD

Restoring the Musi River to its former glory is the primary objective of the Musi Rejuvenation Project, Municipal Administration and Urban Development Principal Secretary M. Dana Kishore said.

Speaking after the 13-day international urban workshop held in Hyderabad on Friday, Kishore emphasised the government's commitment to transform the river into a source of clean, drinkable water. The workshop conducted in collaboration with the Musi Riverfront Development Corporation Limited (MRDCL), the French Development Agency and Les Ateliers de Cergy was held at the Marri Channa Reddy Human Resources Development Centre.

Addressing the gathering, Kishore recalled 16th-century French traveller Jean-Baptiste Tavernier's comparison of the Musi River to the first city to achieve 100% sewage could enable cities like Hyderabad to



"The government is determined to restore that grandeur to the Musi. Making the river water drinkable must be a collective goal," Kishore said, adding that Hyderabad is on course to become South Asia's first city to achieve 100% sewage treatment

Hyderabad's iconic Purana Pul to Paris's Pont Neuf bridge.

'The government is determined to restore that grandeur to the Musi. Making the river water drinkable must be a collective goal, Kishore said, adding that Hyderabad is on course to become South Asia's

Seine River of Paris likening treatment. French Ambassador Thierry Mathou underscored the potential for Hyderabad to become a model city by demonstrating the coexistence of urban development and environmental stewardship.

He stressed that integrating naturebased solutions, advanced technologies and community engagement

tively in times of climate change. Mathou reaffirmed France's com-

mitment to supporting such initiatives through resources, expertise and investment, transforming the workshop's decisions into projects. The Members of Les Ateliers

highlighted the government's approach, which extends beyond a riverfront development strategy to focus on the comprehensive development of the Musi ecosystem. The concluding event saw participation from key officials, including MRDCL Joint Managing Director Pujari Gautami, Technical ED Srinivas Reddy, CE Dattu Panth and SE Vidyasagar. Representatives from Les Ateliers, including Director Véronique Valenzuela and Project Director Simon Brochard, alongside NIUM officials and water conservation experts, also participated in the dis-

Velama Assn files a case against MLA Shankar

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The All India Velama Association

Domalguda Police Station against the Congress's Shadnagar MLA, Veerlapally Shankar, saying that they were offended by the abusive language used by the MLA against the Velama commu-

The Velama Association requested the police to take action against Veerlapally Shankar. The Association said in its complaint that the abusive language used by the MLA and his threats were not tolerable.

The Association said the All India Velama Association has condemned the MLA's comments and had appealed to the police to conduct a probe and take action. Congress MLA Veerlapally

Shankar's video went viral on Friday. In the video, Shankar said that come out and beat them up if they Velama leaders were engaged in condo not end their conspiracies, filed a complaint with the spiracies and that Congress leaders

Shankar had warned Velamas in his video message. Shankar had used the word 'Velama Kodukullaaraa' many times in

"We are Congress leaders. We will

his video message.

MAHESH SEEKS EXPLANATION FROM SHANKAR

Reacting to the comments of Shadnagar MLA Veerlapally Shankar against the Velama community, TPCC President B. Mahesh Kumar Goud sought an explanation from the MLA. It may be recalled that Shankar used the expression Kodukullaara 'Velama Kabardar" and warned that the

Congress would not remain silent if would not remain silent and would conspiracies were carried out against beat up Velama leaders without its government. He said that informing Chief Minister Revanth Congress activists would beat up the Velama leaders.

One year of Congress or one more of BRS?

anniversary of Revanth Reddy's swearing-in as the second Chief Minister of Telangana. He and his Congress party came to power promising change. Change from the Kalvakuntla Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR) headed two-term Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) rule, which the voters concluded had become autocratic, corrupt, deceitful, apathetic, and antithetical to the aspirations that fuelled the separate Telangana statehood movement.

A year into its rule, voters have become disillusioned with the Congress's ability to bring change. Except for taking down the barricades in front of Pragati Bhavan and renaming it Praja Bhavan, in every aspect of governance, from style to substance, the Congress rule is indistinguishable from the earlier BRS rule.

done the BRS, shocking voters who believed they had already seen the worst and believed any change could only be for the better.

Two days into Congress'

rule, state farmers received a

warning shot. Before the elections, Revanth Reddy had promised to waive off farm loans up to rupees two lakhs on Sonia Gandhi's birthday, which falls on December 9th. Voters believed no Congress leader would have the nerve to renege on a promise made in the name of the party's first family, no less Sonia Gandhi, its matriarch. Yet, Revanth Reddy ignored the promise for months, only to announce a new date, August 15th, fearing a drubbing from the farmers in the Lok Sabha elections. Finally, only a few days ago, Congress washed its hands off the loan waiver promise after waiving less than half the

BRS and Congress are so identical that neither party can recognise their MLAs from the other party. Even MIM sees no difference between the two. No wonder voters see no difference in the Congress's politics, governance, and even its Chief Minister's language from those of the BRS

pending loans in value, burdening the rest with additional interest and penalties.

If delayed, partial delivery is the fate of a promise made in the name of Sonia Gandhi, wouldn't it be insulting to Sonia Gandhi if a Congress state government dares to fulfil pledges made in the names of non-family, state-level leaders, which its "Six Guarantees" signed by Revanth Reddy and Bhatti Vikramarka are? Can any Congress state-level leader dare to insult Sonia? Except for token promises like free

bus rides for women, Congress, as expected, reneged on all the substantial guarantees that it had promised to fulfil within 100 days of coming to power. As a result, no farmer or tenant farmer gets Rythu Bharosa -Rs 15,000 per acre per year, no farm labourer receives Rs 12,000 per annum, no senior, widow or other promised beneficiary gets Rs 4,000 monthly pension, no student got a rupees five lakh Vidya Bharosa card or an international school in their Mandal to attend, no



KISHORE POREDDY

woman receives Rs 2,500 per month nor does any unemployed youth receive monthdole as guaranteed.

Promising the moon to win and reneging on those promises after the elections was the hallmark of KCR and his BRS government. Within a year, voters have realised Congress is even better at this deceptive

tees proved to be only as good as KCR's Dalit Bandhu. Unfortunately, breaking promises is not the only aspect in which Revanth Reddy's rule is a continuation of KCR's Take the case of education in

the state. KCR reduced the allocation for education in the budget from around 11% to 6.5%. Congress made no improvements. Consequently, frequent reports of food poisoning, mass hospitalisation, and, on occasion, student deaths from sub-standard food served in government schools continue to this day. Similar is the case with healthcare. A cursory look at government hospitals across the state, particularly Osmania Hospital, is enough to show that no 'Change' has reached poor patients.

Similarly, the Congress had taken no serious steps against any bigwig of the earlier BRS

regime. Though Congress, like the Bharatiya Janata Party, has accused the BRS leaders of massive corruption through Kaleswaram, Bhagiratha, sheep distribution, and egg and poultry feed procurements, to name a few, it hasn't filed a single case against any of them even a year after coming to power, giving rise to a widespread perception that Congress leaders are shielding BRS leaders for a

Congress leaders never tire of saying their rule is "People's Rule" (Praja Palana). Yet, the Revanth Reddy government outdid even the BRS government in curbing citizens' fundamental rights. Just a few days before Diwali, it imposed section 163 of BNSS (earlier section 144 of CrPC) for an extended period of 32 days across the twin cities, curbing the fundamental rights of more than 1.2 crore citizens

Secunderabad their home in one fell swoop, reminding twin city dwellers of Indiramma Palana and her Emergency days.

Finally, the Congress claims it appointed Arekapudi Gandhi, a BRS MLA, as the Public Accounts Committee Chairman. But BRS claims he is a Congress MLA. Gandhi won as MLA from Serilingampally constituency on the BRS symbol. BRS and Congress are so identical that neither party can recognise their MLAs from the other party. Even MIM sees no difference between the two earlier, it was a friendly party of BRS; today, it is a friendly party of the Congress. No wonder the Congress's politics, governance, and even its Chief Minister's language are identical to those of the BRS.

(The author is BJP TS spokesperson.)

BRS's Telangana Thalli statue reflects 'doras,' says Mahesh

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana Talli statue installed by the BRS Government reflects 'doras,' the Congress Government's Telangana Thalli statue reflects Telangana, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President B. Mahesh Kumar Goud said.

Addressing the media on Friday at the Gandhi Bhavan here, Mahesh said the KCR family looted a lot during its rule in Telangana.

He said that due to the BRS's policies, only the father and son would remain in it. The language used by BRS MLA Kaushik Reddy was shocking, Mahesh added.

The TPCC President said that BRS Working President KT Rama Rao's arrogance had not come down even after the BRS lost power and that KTR should stop daydreaming of coming back to power at least now. He said that 'lakhs of BRS rule and that it is clear that the BRS will never come back

Mahesh said the TG Government had decided to celebrate Sonia Gandhi's birthday on a grand note across Telangana as there would have been no Telangana but for her. He said the number of posts filled in TG government service by the Congress admin jobs in a year is equal to the number of jobs given by the BRS Government in the last 10 years. He said the Congress Government is inviting former Chief Minister KCR for its

crores were looted' during anniversary celebrations. It is a state festival and everyone should participate in it, he to power again. added.

Terming Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy as Kismath Reddy, he said that Kishan should reveal what he has done for Telangana.

BJP leaders are speaking about Sabarmati River but they do not say anything about cleaning the Musi River, he said. BJP leaders have no right to speak about the poor as they did not give houses to those who lost their houses due to the Sabarmati Project in Gujarat, he added.

State to be made a tourism hub: CM Revanth

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy chaired a high-level meeting on Friday to discuss the formulation of a comprehensive tourism policy for Telangana. Stressing the need to make the State a global tourist hub, he directed offi-cials to study successful tourism models of Dubai, Singapore, and China to integrate innovative concepts into

Telangana's strategy.
The CM released the poster of Telangana Tourism film along with Minister

Jupally Krishna Rao, Tourism Corporation Chairman Patel Ramesh Reddy, Tourism Department Secretary Smita Sabharwal and Tourism Department MD Prakash Reddy.

Chief announced that the new tourism policy would be introduced in the Aassembly for a comprehensive discussion. He emphasized that the tourism department must work hard to make itself sustainable and capable of dri-

ving economic growth.

The Chief Minister pointed out that Telangana lacked a dedicated tourism policy for the last decade. He emphasised the potential of Hyderabad, with its favourable year-round weather, as a premier destination for global tourists. Highlighting the success of Dubai and Singapore, he suggested the establishment of shopping malls of similar grandeur in Hyderabad and advocated for developing the automobile

industry akin to Tamil Nadu. Revanth Reddy underscored the importance of linking temple tourism with the State's tiger reserves. He proposed creating an ecosystem to bring tigers from Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra to Telangana, enhancing wildlife tourism. Additionally, he noted that temple tourism has seen a significant boost after the introduction of free bus travel for women, and urged the development of concept-based tourism

Cong insulted Ambedkar by refusing to honour his 125-ft statue: KTR

PNS HYDERABAD

BRS Working President KT Rama Rao accused Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of deliberately ignoring the legacy of Dr BR Ambedkar.

He said that the government's refusal to honour Ambedkar's 125-foot statue. installed to inspire Dalits and all marginalised communities, reflects its disrespect and its discriminatory attitude. BRS leaders who planned to meet at the statue were kept under house arrest.

KTR asked why the govern-



ment did not even garland Ambedkar's statue on his death anniversary

"Is this due to the Congress High Command's orders? What message is the government trying to send by locking up the statue, leaving it unatdemanded. He emphasised that the statue was unveiled to honour Ambedkar's legacy and it is now being treated with dis-

Highlighting the Congress's unfulfilled promises, KTR pointed out the cancellation of the Dalit Bandhu scheme and the stopping of overseas scholarships for Dalit students.

He accused the Congress government of failing to empower Dalits and blocking schemes like Gurukulam education launched by the BRS

KCR to meet legislators tomorrow for winter strategy

PNS HYDERABAD

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) is set to hold a crucial joint meeting of its Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and Members of Legislative Council (MLCs) at the farmhouse of former chief minister

K Chandrashekhar Rao in Erravelli on December 8. The meeting is scheduled for 1 pm and is expected to address key organisational and governance issues.

BRS working president K T Rama Rao announced the meeting, highlighting its importance in discussing the party's strategy and upcoming political activities. This joint Assembly marks a significant gathering post the elections, indicating an effort to streamline the party's functioning and align it with future objec-

Fast track ...

Continued from page 1

announced a series of mea-

sures for their welfare. The

daily allowance for home guards will be increase

Rs 921 to Rs 1,000, while the

monthly parade allowance

will be raised from Rs 100 to

Rs 200. An ex gratia of Rs 5

lakh will be given in cases of

natural or accidental deaths.

These measures will be imple-

admin's key initiatives and

achievements over the past

year, shedding light on the

changes in law enforce-

ment, education and social

The CM proudly stated

The CM spoke about the

mented from January 2025.

TG spent Rs 61,194 cr ...

crore was spent to supply free energy production plans, power under the Griha Jyoti scheme. Farmers benefitted from electricity subsidies amounting to Rs 11,141 crore, and Rs 1,647 crore was allocated as rice subsidy.

Mubarak schemes.

energy was introduced, aiming faced delays and cost overruns.

Sukla Paksha

Dec 06 12:08 PM to Dec 07 11:06 AM

to Dec 08 09:44 AM

to Dec 07 04:50 PM

to Dec 08 04:03 PM

9:22 AM to 10:45 AM

1:30 PM to 2:52 PM

11:48 PM to 01:21 AM

06:38 AM to 08:12 AM

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:45 AM to 12:29 PM

Updated: December 6, 2024 5:00 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Partly Cloudy

6:37 AM to 8:00 AM

Dec 07 11:06 AM

Dec 06 05:18 PM

Dec 07 04:50 PM

TODAY

Shashthi

Saptami:

Nakshatram:

Shatabhisha:

Rahukalam:

Varjyam:

Gulika:

Yamagandam:

Amritakalam:

Temp: 29°

Humidity: 68%

Sunrise: 6:34 AM

Sunset: 5:41 PM

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham

Continued from page 1 to produce 20,000 MW of green energy by 2030 and an groups were inclu

> Power sector infrastructure was expanded to handle the projected demand of 22,488 MW by 2030. This includes the construction of substations and transmission lines costing Rs 1,521 crore. A 500 MWh battery energy storage system is also being planned to ensure grid stability. Emergency Response Teams with specialised vehicles were deployed in Greater Hyderabad to address power

empowering them economi-

supply issues promptly.

The government also focused on addressing mismanagement in projects like the Bhadradri and Yadadri A roadmap for renewable Thermal Power Plants, which

Telangana Thalli sans ...

Continued from page 1 The political narrative took a sharp turn when Praveen launched a scathing attack on the government, alleging that tural elements rather than

Telangana's ethos.

Congress government is distancing itself from Telangana's revolutionary icons like Renuka Yellamma and Chakali Ilamma who symbolize grassroot struggles.

Praveen accused the Congress of deliberately diluting the spirit of Telangana's liberation movement.

"The true Telangana Thalli stands for the sacrifices of our martyrs and the resilience of our women. This reimagined version diminishes that sanctity," he stated.

While some appreciate the effort to modernise Telangana Thalli's representation, others feel that the changes have diluted its authenticity. Social

media platforms have been flooded with comments criticizing the design and questioning its cultural alignment.

"Revanth should stop playing with Telangana's The Telangana Thalli statue is a symbol of our identity, cre-He argued that the ated through consensus among Telanganites from all sections during the Telangana movement. Thousands of Telangana Thalli statues were installed during the peak of the statehood movement. Trying to change the Telangana Thalli statue in a hurry to erase KCR's legacy is an insult to Telangana's identity. With Bathukamma in one hand and a maize/jowar cob in the other, the current Telangana Thalli statue includes all elements that are truly Telangana. Also, Telugu Thalli, Karnataka Mathe and Tamil Thai are all statues adorned with crowns and have a rich, maiestic appearance. Why does Revanth want our

Not just 6 but 160 ...

Continued from page 1

over routine attractions.

200 units a month to nearly employees, and introduced an

The Indiramma Housing Programme sanctioned 4.5 lakh houses in the first year and 3,500 houses were allotted in each Assembly constituency. A dedicated mobile app was launched to streamline the application process.

The Rajiv Aarogyasri free treatment limit was increased from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh, benefiting 91 lakh families at an additional cost of Rs 484

Government employees were ensured timely payment of salaries on the first of every month, while enhancements were made to health security under EHS. An additional 5% interim relief was sanctioned for employees of state-run institutions. The government filled 557 posts

The Gruha Jyoti Scheme sionate grounds, provided recruitment going on for provided free electricity up to 21% fitment for TGSRTC another 6,300 posts. ent insurance cover of Rs 1 crore.

> Hyderabad saw the introduction of 251 electric buses, with plans for 2,800 more in the next two years. The government also sanctioned new RTC depots in Peddapalli and Eturunagaram and launched a double-decker elevated corridor project along key high-

The government prioritized healthcare, establishing eight new medical colleges, 17 nursing colleges and 28 paramedical institutions, collectively adding thousands of

The construction of a new block for Osmania General Hospital commenced with a Rs 2,000-crore budget to deliver super-speciality medical services. Over 7,000 health

in the TGSRTC on compas- sector jobs were filled with

Education received a major puses for SC, ST, BC, and minority students, alongside advancements in school infrastructure under the Ammala Adarsha Committees.

Telangana also became the first state to launch an annual job calendar, filling over 55,143 government jobs in record

CM to ...

The event will also be attended by Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka and other Ministers. The inauguration marks a significant milestone in Telangana's journey towards achieving energy security and sustainable power generation.

Continued from page 1

Continued from page 1

an upgrade of Dharani, enabling the superimposition of SRO prohibited lists with encroached government lands. This measure aims to ensure such lands are reclaimed and protected. The controversial GO 59, which allegedly allowed high-value lands fications, is under review, the sized.

Minister said. The government is also investigating irregularities in prime locations like Khajaguda and Narsingi. More lands will be scrutinised to prevent legal disputes," he said. "In Siddipet, nearly 200 acres of revenue land was transferred to private entities about 40 pink persons. Then through them, it was transferred to companies. This modus operandi was done through pink persons," the government has pledged to reclaim encroached lands and that nearly 15,000 recruitment orders had been issued in the police department, with many postgraduate and PhD holders joining its ranks. "This signifies a shift from the earlier times when political pressure controlled recruitment. We have ensured merit-based

The CM underscored the importance of combating cybercrime and drug trafficking, urging stricter action against those involved in the drug trade.

appointments free of all

interference," he said.

He also highlighted the necessity for specialised training for police officers in data analysis to tackle the growing threat of cybercrimes.

"Telangana must be a state where one must be afraid to even think of bringing in things like ganja," he said, urging schools and colleges to collaborate with the authorities to detect drug offences.

The government, he announced, is offering opportunities for transgenders in traffic management to secure their future and for addressing traffic congestion and pollution.

der scheme under the Mahila additional 20,000 MW by Laxmi scheme received Rs 2035. Women's self-help

Additional allocations included Rs 1,016 crore for scholarships and diet charges, Rs 1,375 crore for TGSRTC and Rs 2,311 crore for marriage assistance under the Kalyana Lakshmi/Shadi

In the power sector, the government ensured uninterrupted quality power supply across the state and provided free electricity to 39,067 educational institutions, costing Rs 198.87 crore since September.

Centre allots ...

Continued from page 1

Due to its residential nature, each Navodaya Vidyalaya will create opportunities for local vendors to supply essential commodities like food, consumables, furniture, teaching material etc. and for local service providers like barbers, tailors, cobblers, housekeeping and security services etc. The NVs are fully residential, co-educational schools providing good quality education from Class VI to XII to children predominantly from rural areas regardless of their family's socio-economic condition. Admissions to these schools are decided through a test. Approximately 49,640 students are admitted to Class VI of NVs every year.

There are 661 sanctioned NVs across the country [including NVs in 20 districts having a large concentration of SCs/STs and three special NVs]. Out of these, 653

NVs are functional. As per the National Education Policy, 2020, almost all Navodaya Vidyalayas have been designated as PM Shri schools, showcasing the implementation of NEP 2020 and

acting as exemplary schools for others. The scheme has been well appreciated and there is a steady increase in the number of students applying for admission to class VI in NVs every year. In recent years, Navodaya Vidyalayas have witnessed increasing enrolment of girls (42%), as well as SC (24%), ST (20%) and OBC (39%) children, thereby ensuring that quality education is accessible to all.

Continued from page 1

records and have 12-14 columns, making Dharani more user-friendly," he added.

The government embarked on drafting a new revenue law to provide a permanent solution to land-related issues. The draft law underwent extensive public consultations, receiving feedback from farmers, legal experts, and public representatives. The draft Revenue Law (ROR 2024) will be presented in the Assembly session, promising a transparent and inclusive approach to land governance. Highlighting the gaps in grassroots governance, Ponguleti said the cancellation of the VRO-VRA system by the BRS administration left rural areas without

The government plans to appoint revenue officers to all

proper oversight.

10,956 revenue villages by Sankranti to address this.

The state is also planning to bolster its surveyor workforce. While thousands of surveyor posts exist, only 232 were functional due to alleged mismanagement by the regime. "The government will select and train surveyors, ensuring every village is covered," he assured. The Indiramma Indlu scheme was revived, enabling beneficiaries to actively participate in building houses. "Four lakh houses that were only sanctioned on paper are being reviewed, and the scheme now integrates with ongoing welfare initiatives," Ponguleti said.

For ration cards, the government is piloting a project in December to collect groundlevel data. "We've created a 360degree data app to identify those asking for houses and lands at the village level," he shared.

Survey across ...

were encroached upon. Subregistrar records from 2014 showed significant alterations involving over 2,000 acres," he

Ponguleti said that "bigwigs from the BRS and their followers" manipulated records to their advantage. "Coloured people who don't have land created false papers and got Rythu Bandhu. Those in positions were not given benefits. We are filtering out," he said. A new web-based platform,

prevent further misuse. Ponguleti highlighted issues in Ranganaik Sagar and Kaleshwaram projects alleging that land acquisitions were mishandled under the previous administration. "Farmers were terrorized,

and notifications benefited a worth Rs 80-100 crore to be select few. We will ensure manipulated with false certi- accountability," he empha-

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Venue Hyderabad Public School, Begumpet December 7, 5.30 pm

> **Arijit Singh** Live in concert

Concert in Hyderabad on December 7.

Texture art workshop

This workshop is suitable for artists of all levels, from beginners looking to explore new artistic horizons to seasoned artists seeking to enhance their skills and repertoire.

Multiple venues in Hyderabad till December 8

Elena Gabriele - OK!?

KLN Prasad Auditorium, December 13, 8 pm onwards

Weekend kids cooking camp

Master cooking and baking in 09 fun weekends

Culinary Guru Institute, Hyderabad. Till January 11, 2025.

In-charge VC for JNTUH, VC for **BRAOU** appointed

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In an official notification, the Government of Telangana has appointed Prof V Balakista Reddy, Chairman of the Telangana Council of Higher Education, as the incharge Vice-Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University of Hyderabad.

In the second order, Prof Ghanta Chakrapani, Senior Professor in the Department of Sociology at Dr BR Ambedkar Open University, Hyderabad, has been appointed as Vice-Chancellor of the Dr BR Ambedkar Open University for a term of three years from the date of his appointment.

City Pioneer

the pioneer hyderabad | Saturday | December 7, 2024

Chauhan honoured for innovations in PDS

PNS HYDERABAD

DS Chauhan, Principal Secretary to the government and Commissioner of Consumer Affairs, Food & Civil Supplies department, Telangana, has received the prestigious Commendation Award from Prahlad Joshi, Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and Minister of New and Renewable Energy. The award recognises his visionary leadership and groundbreaking initiatives in modernising the

COOKING CONTRACTORS WARNED FOR NEGLIGENCE

Utilising welfare institutions as tools shameful: Secretary

deepikapasham2015@gmail.com HYDERABAD

Telangana Social Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society (TGSWREIS) has announced that a tentative notification for admissions into class 5 will be released on the website on December 18.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr VS Alagu Varsini, Secretary, Telangana Social Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society (TGSWREIS), said, "I request the parents of the children to be ready with income, caste certificate and apply for it to fill the admissions applications. There are many problems in regard to these certificates' submission and our officers from coming Monday alternatively will sit to respond to the queries of applicants. Aadhaar number entry is also asked for biometric."

There is no entry for outsiders without permission as political parties are targeting and disturbing the student's classes; entering into girls hostels, washrooms is unacceptable. Residential Educational institutions have an image and politi-



Dr VS Alagu Varsini, Secretary, Telangana Social Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society, speaking to the media on Friday

cian's mobilisations are disturbing the students, principals and parents. False propaganda as if nothing happened before and using residential schools as tools is very shameful. We condemn the behavior and we will have to register criminal cases on whoever enters without permission," she added.

"In regard to food poisoning, there were only two incidents this year and we have conducted detailed inquiry, suspended the responsible caretakers. There is a complete modification to the instructions. We are asking the caretakers to taste the food before serving the students and we are not letting a day before items to be used for the

next day. A standing operating system from buying vegetables to storage to kitchen to serving will be followed," she added.

The head office secretaries,

joint secretaries will complete the visits to all 268 residential educational institutions. Additionally Rs 20,000 has been sanctioned for storage food purposes and asked to buy containers. "There are strict instructions for cooking contractors to not sit down and cut vegetables without washing. As it is health related there is no compromise on hygiene. If it is seen, a case will be booked along with termination of the contract for negligence and the contractor will be blacklisted for 5 years," said Dr Varsini.

HYDRAA demolishes illegal constructions in Yapral

In a decisive action against illegal encroachments, HYDRAA officials conducted a demolition drive in Yapral, Jawahar Nagar, Medchal district, targeting unauthorised constructions near Nagireddy Kunta nala and buffer zones.

Authorities, including officials from Revenue, Irrigation, HMDA and the Municipality, launched an inquiry following complaints about illegal activities in Survey Numbers 14 and 32. It was discovered that portions of government land were encroached upon for the construction of the DNR Function Hall.

The builder reportedly provided false information to the court, claiming the structure was built on private land and obtained a status quo order. However, further investigations by HYDRAA confirmed that the function hall had encroached upon government land in Survey Numbers 14 and 32. Acting on the directive of HYDRAA Commissioner



Ranganath and officials demolished parts of the func-

tion hall and compound wall within the encroached area. Additionally, officials clarified that no action was taken against structures in Survey Number 25 due to a valid court stay order. However, another attempt to encroach upon the government-owned Dhobi Ghat in Survey

Number 32 was thwarted by HYDRAA officials, who also demolished an illegally built

compound wall in the area. The demolition drive was conducted under GHMC Act 405, which prohibits construction in buffer zones near water bodies. Officials stated that the structures were demolished as they violated these provisions.

The Government Land Protection Committee in Yapral, which had been fighting against encroachments for over seven years, expressed satisfaction with

HYDRAA's actions. Local residents and committee representatives welcomed the move, stating that it was a long-awaited victory for their efforts to protect public land.

However, the committee members alleged that encroachers had filed multiple cases against them to intimidate their activism. Despite these challenges, the demolition drive has been hailed as a significant step toward safeguarding public lands and restoring law and order in Yapral.

Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha distributing Best Hospitals Awards

HM asks private hospitals to refrain from exorbitant charges

PNS HYDERABAD

Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha has asked the private hospitals not to burden patients with exorbi-

Raja Narasimha has attended the Best Hospitals Awards 2024 programme organised by The Week magazine in Hyderabad. The Minister presented awards to hospitals from various states across the country.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister emphasised the importance of a healthy society for overall development. He stated that it is the government's responsibility to safeguard public health and ensure that citizens do not fall into debt due to medical

expences.
"The assurance of free medical care for all is our goal," he said, adding that the government is working to instill this confidence among

He urged private hospitals to act with compassion and avoid burdening patients with exorbitant charges. He also reminded doctors to uphold the spirit of the adage Vaidyo Narayano Hari" (The doctor is God).

Highlighting the government's priorities, the Minister said education and healthcare are in the forefront. He announced the establishment of eight medical colleges, 16 nursing colleges and 28 paramedical

Hyd's biryani in spotlight again; Customer finds tablet cover in dish

PNS HYDERABAD

Hyderabad, globally renowned for its iconic biryani, has become a hotspot for food lovers from across the world. The flavoured delicacy attracts countless customers who are enamoured by its unique taste.

However, a series of recent incidents in popular biryani restaurants has left food lovers disheartened and angry, as negligence in food preparation continues to emerge.

In a shocking incident at the

Crossroads, a customer found a tablet cover in the biryani. While eating, the customer spotted the medicine strap in the dish and recorded a video, questioning the restaurant management about the item. Instead of addressing the issue, the management reportedly shifted the blame on to the customer. The video quickly went viral on the social media, spark-

ing outrage among netizens. Despite strict measures, negligence among some restaurant

Corporation (GHMC) and food safety officials have conducted multiple raids, but incidents continue to occur. This has led to growing dissatisfaction among city residents, who are demanding stricter action

against erring establishments.

The customer has filed a complaint with Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation Food Safety officials and asked to take action on the restaurant.



Venture capitalists meet to focus on startups from Class 7 students to PhD

Announcing that a venture capitalists convention will take place soon in the city, IT Minister D Sridhar Babu sought support from T-Hub and emphasised the importance of strong backing from VCs. The Minister was the chief guest at the 9th Foundation Day of T-Hub, a leading innovation hub, on

Addressing the gathering, Sridhar Babu emphasised the need for a strong venture capital ecosystem, inviting entre-preneurs to establish their centers in Telangana, assuring government collaboration to facilitate their efforts.

Celebrating nine years of success, Sridhar Babu appre-ciated the hard work of those who contributed. Highlighting the rise of disruptive technologies, he stressed the importance of embracing AI, which is now discussed by everyone

integrate AI into governance, industries, and other sectors, staying ahead globally. Recalling his visit to Davos,

the Minister shared his vision of Telangana as a hub for AI, promising an AI city and school. Recognising the talent in coding, he warned about the future implications of lowcode/no-code trends if such talent is not fully utilised. Sridhar Babu also cited the

two-day AI Global Summit as fruitful but stated success would be realised only when the AI city and school are fully operational soon, hosting young entrepreneurs and showcasing talent.

He assured that Telangana aims for significant growth in AI, pharma, life sciences, poultry and dairy, targeting a \$3 trillion economy in the next decade under Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's optimistic

GMR Hyderabad Air Cargo

GHAC secures CTPAT certification

PNS HYDERABAD

(GHAC) announced the Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (CTPAT) certification, highlighting its dedication to global supply chain security.
CTPAT, a US. Customs and

Border Protection (CBP) programme recognises businesses with strong security protocols to combat terrorism and safeguard international trade. GHAC's certification ensures fewer inspections, faster customs processing for US-bound goods and enhanced efficiency for customers. This achievement elevates GHAC's global reputation as a trusted cargo handler and provides access to



GHAC CEO Pradeep Panicker receiving the Customs & Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (CTPAT) certification

CBP's best practices, strengthening its operational security. The certification also drives networking with other certified partners, creating new business opportunities world-wide.

Meanwhile, GHAC CEO Pradeep Panicker stated, "The achievement reinforces our

commitment to world-class cargo services and global security standards." He added that this certification solidifies GHAC's position as a secure, efficient and reliable air cargo provider, paving the way for business growth in key markets

The KIMS doctors have Centre in Secunderabad.

The child was rushed to the Emergency ward in a semi-conscious state after receiving CPR from both police officers and bystanders in a stampede-like situation at

ventilator, requiring minimal settings and only slight Neurologically, he is showing improvement with a Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) of E3VTM4, and fortunately, there have been no clinical seizures so far.'

However, the child continues to experience persistent fever spikes, which require more aggressive antibiotic treatment.

"Despite these challenges, we are seeing some positive signs," said Dr P Vishnu Tej, Consultant Pediatric Intensivist. "He has started tolerating NG feeds well and is producing adequate urine output, which gives us some hope. But, the child's condition remains critical and we are monitoring him closely in the PICU."

Five two-wheelers gutted at Malakpet Metro Station

PNS HYDERABAD

In all, five two-wheelers were gutted at the parking space under the Malakpet Metro Station on Friday.

The fire department has received a call and sent two fire extinguishers vehicles to the spot. The videos have gone viral with huge traffic congestion in the Malakpet route.

Though the fire department personnel doused the fire the vehicles were heavily damaged. The Malakpet Police told The Pioneer that they are viewing the CCTV cameras in the surroundings and information on the investigation will be released when the reason is examined obout the incident.



PRAJAVANI FEEDBACK

People look to next year with hope

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People are looking to the next year with hope, expecting the government to prioritise the welfare of the poor and provide better support. A total of 360 grievance applications were submitted in Prajavani on Friday at the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Praja Bhavan.

When asked, Yadaiah, a private employee from Kacheguda, shared his disappointment with the new administration. He said, "We voted for them hoping they would focus on the welfare of the poor, as they called themselves a 'people's government', Instead they seem to be following their own agenda."

He said it is conducted twice a week but serves only as a formality. He noted that many grievances are piling up without solutions. He also highlighted the issue of 2BHK housing applications, stating that officials at Prajavani give the same response as the



application is in process to everyone,

with no progress. Talking about HYDRAA, Yadaiah said the administration prioritises demolitions over development, leaving many middle-class families homeless without proper rehabilitation. He also stated that the first impression of this

administration has been devastating. Yadaiah also pointed out that there has been no proper IT development, noting that the upcoming AI City remains only on paper, with no curiosity from the public. He also noted that HYTEC City, once known for governpeople do not even know who the Cabinet Ministers are though they have been in office for a year.

Similarly, Afreen Begum, who has been visiting Prajavani for her mother's pension issue for three months, said that Muslim minorities voted for this government, but apart from the Free Bus scheme, no welfare measures have come to pass. She criticised the administration for prioritising vastu of the State Secretariat and their office renovations over public development, citing that even the potholes on the roads remain the same.

will help provide jobs, including for

women. Vijayamma said that apart

Meanwhile, Vijayamma from Siddipet district also raised her concerns. She pointed out that officials lack clarity on 2BHK housing applications. Talking about the new administration, she noted that the opening of the new Coca-Cola Greenfield Plant is the only recent development in her district and mentioned that it

from the Free Bus scheme, there has been no other welfare initiatives by the government. She added, "With four more years to go, we hope for development and more job opportunities in the future." Karthik from the University of Hyderabad, and a native of Nizamabad, said that Rythu Bandhu has not been sanctioned for many in his village. He noted that despite voting for change, his villagers have not seen significant improvements. He added a postive change from the new administration was that the govern-ment exam recruitment has been processed quickly.

Speaking about scholarships, Karthik mentioned that the govern-ment recently increased the mess bill benefits, allowing students to pay less as the State covers the full amount.

He also pointed out that villages are facing frequent power cuts and highlighted issues with the free bus scheme, stating that travellers are experiencing difficulties due to limited bus facilities

Pushpa-2 premiere: 8-yr-old remains critical

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

released a statement that the 8year-old male child who was brought to emergency ward in a semi-conscious state, is still in critical condition at KIMS Cuddles Mother & Child

Pushpa-2 premiere near Sandhya Theatre. The child's condition has

slightly improved since his admission. Dr Chetan R Mundada, Senior Consultant in Pediatric Critical Care and Pediatrics at KIMS Cuddles, shared an update: "The child is currently on a mechanical





'Govt will increase farmers' per capita income'

Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy, along with Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy promised to ensure completion of all irrigation projects in undivided Nalgonda district

PNS NALGONDA

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy has emphasised that the Congress government is committed to increasing farmers' per capita income through better policies, effective reforms, and a pro-farmer approach. He highlighted the government's focus on maximizing irrigation coverage with minimal expenditure, prioritising the completion of pending projects while initiating new ones.

Speaking to the media after reviewing the Udaysamundram Lift Irrigation Project at the Brahmana Vellamla reservoir on Friday, along with Ministers Komatireddy Venkat Reddy and Ponnam Prabhakar, Uttam Kumar Reddy announced that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy would officially begin pumping water into the Brahmana Vellamla reservoir on Saturday. Under Phase-I of the project, land acquisition for 734 acres would be completed within a month and



Ministers N Uttam Kumar Reddy, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy and Ponnam Prabhakar inspecting the Brahmana Vellemla Balancing Reservoir in Nalgonda on Friday

50,000 acres would receive irrigation water. Uttam Kumar Reddy further stated that work on the SLBC (Srisailam Left Bank Canal) tunnel is progressing on a war- footing. Once completed, this tunnel would provide water to 3 lakh acres in the region through gravity flow from the

Krishna River. He and Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy assured the farmers that all ongoing and pending irrigation projects in the undivided Nalgonda district—such as the Udaysamundram Lift Irrigation Scheme (LIS), Dindi, Nakkalagandi balancing reservoir, and various canals—would be completed speedily. The Udaysamundram LIS project, in particular, is expected to irrigate 1 lakh acres across the constituencies of Nalgonda, Nakrekal, Munugode, and Thungathurthy. The Minister reiterated the

Congress government's commitment to completing all pending irrigation projects in the erstwhile Nalgonda district. He pointed out that Rs 5 crore had been allocated to complete canal works linked to the Brahmana Vellamla project, which is already 50 per cent complete. These works will be fasttracked to ensure that irrigation water reaches 50,000 acres within a week. The Congress government is focused on reviving the Pranahita Project, which was abandoned by the previous BRS administration in favor of the Kaleshwaram Project. Work at Tummidihetti is scheduled to begin next summer, which will provide irrigation to 2 lakh acres in Adilabad. Uttam Kumar Reddy also emphasided efforts to resolve the ongoing Krishna water disputes with Andhra Pradesh, committing to legal action to ensure Telangana's rightful share of 70%.

In addition, Uttam Kumar Reddy called upon all political leaders, MLAs, MLCs, and public representatives from the district to join the Chief Minister for the inauguration. He urged farmers and citizens to give the Chief Minister a warm and grand welcome.

During the inauguration of the Suryateja Raw Boiled Rice Industry in Miryalaguda, Uttam Kumar Reddy, along with Ministers Tummala Nageswara Rao and Ponnam Prabhakar, discussed ongoing reforms aimed at addressing challenges in irrigation and paddy procurement. He revealed that the Civil Supplies Department had inherited a debt of Rs 58,623.08 crore from the previous administration but successfully reduced it by Rs 11,608.40 crore within a year,

Home guard traps men with her sob story

Anusha has, at last, landed behind bars

PNS VEMULAWADA

A woman home guard was arrested by the police on the charge of extorting money after threatening a retired Assistant Engineer (AE). Dwarka Sekhar, who retired after serving as an AE at the Vemulawada Temple, was threatened by the woman home guard, identified as Vadla Anusha. She claimed that her husband was suffering from a disease and borrowed Rs 3,50,000 from him, promising to return it in six months. When asked for repayment, she threatened to spread false rumours by distributing morphed photos. She further demanded Rs 5 lakh, threatening to damage his reputation. Fearing for his dignity, the retired AE gave her

the Rs 5 lakh.

Dwarka Shekhar, a retired employee from the Vemulawada temple, fell into her trap. She borrowed a large sum of money from him, claiming she would repay him within six months. When six months passed without repayment, she blackmailed him further, using morphed photos to demand more money. She created a fake marriage certificate, claiming Shekhar had married her, and used that as leverage to blackmail him, demanding Rs 5 lakh. She threatened to release the photos and the marriage certificate if he did not pay up.

Fearful that his reputation would be tarnished if the photos were made public, Shekhar paid her the Rs 5 lakh she demanded. This became a regular pattern for Anusha, demanding money whenever she needed it and continuing her fraudulent activities. Recently, when she demanded an addition-



Anusha

al Rs 2 lakh, Shekhar, fed up with her criminal activities, filed a complaint at the Vemulawada police station. This led to the exposure of her deeds. The police promptly arrested Anusha, the female home guard, and sent her to remand.

The Home Guard's activities saw the light of the day. She had allegedly been telling the same sob story o gain sympathy and then trap

The sob story she had been telling was about her husband dragging men into her trap. When asked for repayment of the loan, she would morph photos and threaten to circulate. The misdeeds of Anusha came to light at last.

Anusha, who was supposed to protect the devotees visiting Vemulawada, turned to blackmailing prominent people and using fraudulent tactics.

Claiming her husband's ill health, she would trap wealthy individuals with sympathy and steal as much as possible, all while maintaining a lavish lifestyle, it is alleged.

TG, Maha forest officers to step up vigil on tigers' movements

PNS ■ KUMARAM BHEEM ASIFABAD

At an inter-state meeting with Forest officers of Maharashtra on Friday, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) RM Dobriyal stated that continuous information sharing, monitoring, tracking, and tracing are crucial for the conservation of tigers. Recently in the Kagaznagar Division Forest area, two tiger attacks took place, resulting in the death of a woman and injuries to a a woman and injuries to a farmer. In light of these incidents, and the ongoing concern about tigers roaming in the area, State Wildlife Chief Warden Eelu Singh Meru and District Forest Officer Neeraj Kumar, along with Maharashtra Forest Officers, held an interstate coordination meeting in Jakkapur and Makidi in the Telangana-Maharashtra bor-

During the meeting, they discussed the tigers in Maharashtra's Tadoba and Tipeshwar Tiger Reserves increasingly straying into the Asifabad district's Kagaznagar Forest in recent years. The officials also exchanged information on the tiger conservation measures in Maharashtra, including how they monitor the tigers and the actions taken



Asifabad on Friday

during tiger attacks. Maharashtra Forest officers

explained that compensation of Rs 25 lakh each is paid to victims of tiger attacks. Additionally, strict measures are ments on forest lands. They also highlighted that despite the increase in tiger attacks, they are providing better compensation for both humans and livestock. In the event of animals being killed by tigers, compensation is given based on market rates.

They also informed that local communities are involved in conservation efforts by setting up primary response rescue teams in every village. These teams, who are paid a monthly honorarium of Rs 1,500

respond appropriately to tiger attacks and movements.

RM Dobriyal mentioned that due to the high number of tigers in the Tadoba and Kaner Gaon Forests of Maharashtra, he

He also noted that their recent observation highlighted the need for the presence of female tigers in Kagaznagar and other areas in Telangana.

Interestingly, during the meeting, field biologists identified tiger scat on the main road between two rocks. Participants in the meeting included Chandrapur Sub DFO Avadhut War, Daba RF0 Gaur Kar, Kagaznagar FDO Sahu, and biologist Ella.

Dog attacks 25 children...

PNS MAHABUBNAGAR

A dog attacked 25 children on Thursday night in Mahabubnagar. The incident took place in the Gol Masjid area, where a dog recently gave birth to puppies.
For reasons unknown, the

dog suddenly became aggressive and started running around the colony, attacking any children it encountered. Within minutes, the dog had injured 25 children in the Gol Masjid and Hanumanpura areas. The injured children were quickly rushed to the district hospital by their fam-

As soon as the news spread, MLA Yennam Srinivas Reddy, Municipal Chairman Anand Goud, Congress leaders Vinod Kumar, Siraj Khadri, local councilors, and municipal hospital to assess the situation. The MLA instructed the medical staff to provide better medical care



Khammam district sees sharp rise in HIV cases

District Medical and Health Officer B Kalavathi sounded a note of caution and stressed the need to raise awareness among people

PNS KHAMMA

Khammam district has seen a notable rise in the number of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) cases over the past three years. On average, around 40 new HIV-positive cases have been registered each month since April this year. From April to October this year, 61,056 blood samples tested for HIV. Additionally, a little over 17,000 pregnant women receiving antenatal care (ANC) were tested of whom 12 tested positive for

HIV, according to officials.

District Medical and Health Officer, Dr B Kalavathi Bai, sounded a note of caution. The with high-risk behaviour, including 1,788 female sex workers, 727 homosexuals, and 80 transgender individu-

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as Jagruthi and the YR Gaitonde Centre for AIDS Research and



District Medical and Health Officer B Kalavathi Bai speaking at a training programme on HIV in Khammam on Friday

Education (YRGCARE) are ing cases of HIV in the district, actively working to raise aware- a training programme was ness among the youth.
Dr Kalavathi Bai highlight-

ed that efforts in HIV control and prevention involve a range of facilities, including four Testing Centres (ICTC), 38 Facility Integrated Testing and Counselling Centres (FICTC), 161 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, nine Dawakhanas, one ART centre, two ART link centres, and 10

blood banks. Against the backdrop of risa training programme was conducted at the Collectorate Conference Hall on Friday for the staff of Jagruthi Voluntary Organisation, Janvani

Voluntary Service them. Link Workers, who are working on HIV/AIDS prevention, to count sex workers in the district. Dr Kalavathi Bai, the chief guest of the programme, inaugurated the event.

While addressing the gathering, she emphasised that as part of HIV prevention, it is

important to continuously identify individuals with highrisk behaviour, provide them with health services, and ensure they remain healthy. She stressed the need to prevent diseases such as sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV and called for Khammam district to be made an AIDS-free district.

During the programme, P Venkataramana, the Additional District Medical and Health Officer (AIDS and Leprosy) of Khammam, urged everyone to work towards HIV prevention. He particularly emphasised that individuals with high-risk behaviour should be made aware of STIs and HIV. and take precautions to prevent

DM&HO, Dr D. Ramarao, Programme Officer, DEMO Sambasiva Reddy, and district AIDS prevention and control unit staff, including Satyakumar, Nagayya, Mahmood Ali, Veerayya, and Ramakrishna, also participated in the event.

Minor explosion at Hayatnagar PS injures sweeper

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

A minor explosion on the premises of Hayatnagar police station left a woman sweeper, Shantamma, with injuries to her face.

The incident occurred when Shantamma was cleaning an area behind the station's warehouse where seized contraband, including marijuana and counterfeit currency was stored.

According to reports, the explosion happened unexpectedly while Shantamma was working, with flying debris causing injuries. Although the blast was not loud enough to alert bystanders, police station staff quickly responded and rushed her to the hospital for treatment.

Preliminary investigations by the police suggested that the explosion was caused by paint cans stored in the area. Authorities are conducting further inquiries.



TGSRTC put on path to profitability: Ponnam

PNS SURYAPET

Classes Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Goud has said that under the Congress government, the TGSRTC. which was nearly shut down during the BRS regime, was revived and put on the path to profitability. At Huzurnagar in Suryapet district, the Minister inspected the new and old bus

He highlighted that within emphasised that Karimnagar

48 hours of the Congress forming the government, free trav-State Transport and Backward el for women on RTC buses was introduced. So far, 116 crore women have availed themselves of this facility.

> The RTC now transports 60 lakh passengers daily, including 34 lakh women traveling

Ponnam Prabhakar criticised the BRS government for mismanaging the RTC during its 10-year tenure. He also and Nalgonda districts are competing in paddy produc-

Under Congress's one-year governance, several welfare schemes have been implemented, including crop loan waiver up to Rs 2 lakh loans, an increase in mess and cosmetic charges for students, and free electricity for the poor. He pointed out that the Nalgonda district has seven bus depots with 640 buses catering to passenger needs.

Tamil Nadu govt reaches out to Sircilla weavers

PNS RAJANNA SIRCILLA

The Tamil Nadu government's saris order has brought relief to the weavers of Sircilla. The "Ammu Sari" initiative has revived the textile industry, which had been affected due to various reasons.

The Tamil Nadu government has been placing orders with the Siricilla weavers every year. About 15 years ago, the government placed orders for 100,000 meters, and now it has placed orders worth crores of rupees. The saris, distributed during Pongal, are referred to as "Ammu Saris." While lungis and shawls are distributed to men, the

highest orders for these too are given to Sircilla.

Around 30 lakh saris are being made on 3,000 looms, using 2 crore meters of cloth. These saris are being produced in 40 different colors, each measuring 5.50 meters. Every day, 2 lakh meters of fabric are being produced and regularly dispatched to Tamil Nadu.

This sari manufacturing process provides employment to about 1,000 people, including weavers, spinners, workers, packers, and helpers. Workers have reported earning between Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 13,000 per month from the production of Pongal saris.

Prasad also spoke at the event,

stressing the importance of skill

development alongside academics

to enhance career prospects.

Engineering College Chairman

Vijayender Reddy expressed pride

in hosting the prestigious seminar and encouraged students to focus

on research and innovation in

The event saw participation

from key dignitaries, including

Vardhman Engineering College

Principal JVR Ravindra, Hyderabad Triple E Chairman

Vijayalatha, and Vardhman Engineering College Treasurer

Meanwhile,

engineering.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT FORM-VII (See Sub-rule (1) of rule -25 And Section-19 (1) of

the Act-30/2013)

Collector/ Additional Collector/ RDO Huzumagar

DECLARATION

District Collector Suryapet File No: G (214/2024 Dated: 03-12-2024 RDO Huzurnagar File No: F / 166/2024 Dated: 19-11-202

Gazette No: 36/2024; Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/Collecto Survepet that a total land to an extent of Ac: 1.13 ots in surve number 766/48/E land is required in the Chintrivala Village of Chinthelapalem Mandal, Suryapet District for public purpose

provide Khabrasthan for Muslims at R & R centre-1, Chintriyal Village of Chinthalapalem Mandal The said land acquisition for the project is exempted from the Chapter II and chapter III of the LA Act 2013 i.e., social impact assessment (SIA) and Food Security as per Section 10 (A) of Righ to Fair compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisitio

Rehabilitation and Resettlement 2013, Telangana Amendment Ac

-2016 (Act No. 21 of 2017) Therefore declaration is made that a piece of land measuring ore or less Ac.1.13 Gts of Assigned land of standar measurement under acquisition in the Chintriyala Village of Chinthalapalem Mandal Suryapet District for public purpose to provide Khabrasthan for Muslims at R & R centre-1, Chintriyals

SCHEDULE Village: Chintriyala; Mandal: Chinthalapalem; District : Suryapet

Address of



The declaration is made after hearing of objections of person sted and due enquiry as provided U/s 15 of the Act No.30 2013. Due to Land Acquisition no one is affected, hence

Mines of coal, iron - stone, slate or other minerals lying undo he said land or any particular portion of the said land, except such parts of the mines and minerals which may be required to be dug o emoved or used during the construction phase of the project fo

he purpose of which the land is being acquired, are not needed. Aplan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Revenu Divisional Officer, Huzumagar or at Collectorate Suryapet on an

Sdi-Land Acquisition Officer Sdi-Addi. Collector, Sdi-Dist. Collector & Revenue Divisional Officer

Engineering has a bright future, students told

PNS RANGAREDDY

Telangana Higher Education Council Chairman Professor Balakrishna Reddy has expressed the view that there is a promising future for Indian youths pursuing

engineering.
At the inaugural ceremony of the ICAI TPR 2024 International Seminar at Vardhman Engineering College in Shamshabad, Rangareddy district on Friday, Prof Balakrishna Reddy spoke.

Addressing the audience after the ceremonial lamp lighting, he emphasised India's growing significance in the global landscape, stating that the world increasingly depended on the nation's skilled youth. He urged students to adopt advanced technologies and focus



Telangana Higher Education Council Chairman Professor Balakrishna Reddy speaking at a seminar in Shamshabad on Friday

on achieving their goals. The international seminar, span-

ning three days, is set to feature experts from various countries,

showcasing the latest advancements in science and technology. Balakrishna Reddy pointed out that revolutionary developments in

these fields demand the attention and dedication of aspiring engi-JNTU Professor Kamakshi

Prabhakar Reddy, along with Upender Reddy, Manmohan Reddy, Vinay Reddy, and numerous students

HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | DECEMBER 7, 2024

ACROSS THE STATES



Manipur students protest for ST scholarships

Manipur staged a protest near the Raj Bhavan here Ademanding immediate release of Scheduled Tribe scholarship for 2023-24, police said. Holding placards and raising slogans, the students, under the aegis of All College Tribal Students Union (ACTSU), gathered in front of GP Women's College near Raj Bhavan to make their demand. They were, however, prevented from taking out a rally by security forces deployed at the location, leading to a brief confrontation. Police fired a few teargas shells to disperse the agitating students. "Few students complained of breathing difficulties, but no serious injuries have been reported," police added. Later, G Panmei, a student representative, told reporters, "Our ST scholarships for 2023-24 have not been released yet. We will meet officials of the tribal affairs department later to discuss the situation, and further course of action will be decided after that."



Govts use climate change as excuse

ctivist and photographer Eklavya Prasad has a sharp take on climate change — it has become the perfect Accuse for politicians and bureaucrats to dodge responsibility. Prasad's latest photo exhibition, inaugurated responsibility. Prasad's latest photo exhibition, inaugurated here on Thursday, captures the reality of floods in north Bihar -- stories of survival, despair, and resilience. Leading the Megh Pyne Abhiyan (Cloud Water Campaign) since 2005, he has been working to provide safe drinking water to flood-affected communities. But he is unimpressed with the government's quick-fix approach. "All they do is build embankments. One washes away, and they build another. What's the point? Why not invest in flood-resilient habitats instead of patchwork solutions?" he posed Asked if climateinstead of patchwork solutions?" he posed. Asked if climateimpacted communities are being ignored, Prasad was blunt in his reply. "Governments use climate change as an excuse.



Maha cabinet expansion likely on Dec 11 or 12

abinet expansion of the Devendra Fadnavis-led Maharashtra government is likely to take place on December 11 or 12, sources said on Friday. In all likelihood, the Ajit Pawar-led NCP will retain Finance and the BJP the Home department as in the previous Eknath Shindeled government, sources told PTI. The Shinde-led Shiv Sena will retain Urban Development and may also get Revenue, if Sena sources are to be believed. A cabinet in Maharashtra can have a maximum of 43 ministers including the chief minister. The BJP, the biggest constituent of the Mahayuti alliance, is expected to get 21-22 ministerial posts. The Shiv Sena could get 11 to 12 ministerial berths and NCP nine to 10 berths, the sources said. The final decision on the number of ministers who would take oath will be taken in a day or two, said a senior BJP leader. The newly-elected MLAs will be administered oath by pro-tem Speaker Kalidas Kolambkar at a three-day special session of the assembly that starts from Saturday.

'JATHA' STOPPED AT SHAMBHU BORDER

Farmers suspend march for a day after cops fire tear gas shells

Protesting farmers on Friday suspended for the day their foot march to Delhi to press for var-ious demands, including a legal guarantee for MSP, after some of them suffered injuries due to tear gas shells at the Punjab-Haryana border.

Earlier in the day, a 'jatha' of 101 farmers began to march towards the national capital from their protest site at the Shambhu border but was stopped a few metres away by multilayered barricading erected by Haryana security personnel.

As the group reached the barricades, security personnel lobbed multiple tear gas shells to disperse the protesting farmers and force them to retreat to their

Covering their eyes and mouths, several protesting farmers rushed to cover the tear gas shells with wet jute bags to counter the smoke. Many of them were seen uprooting iron nails and barbed wire installed on the road to deter their march.

Chanting 'Satnam Waheguru' and holding their union flags,

several farmers of the 'jatha' crossed the initial layer of barricades easily but could not pro-

A few of them were seen pushing an iron mesh put up by security personnel down the bridge constructed over the Ghaggar River. One of the protesters climbed the roof of a tin shade where security forces had been stationed. He was forced to

climb down. Water cannon vehicles have also been deployed at the Shambhu border point.

The Haryana Police asked the farmers not to proceed further, citing a prohibitory order clamped by the Ambala district administration under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) that prohibits the assembly of five or

injured farmers were taken to a hospital. "We have called back the

'jatha' for today in view of the injuries suffered by a few farmers," Pandher said here.

A farmer leader claimed that

five to six farmers were injured

due to the tear gas shelling.

Sarwan Singh Pandher later

announced the suspension of the

march for the day and said the



Opposition MPs protest in Parl over Adani issue

PNS NEW DELHI

Wearing black masks with "Modi, Adani bhai-bhai" printed on them and holding a copy of the Constitution, several Opposition MPs led by the Congress held a protest march inside the Parliament complex on the Adani issue on Friday.

The protest saw several leaders from some of the INDIA bloc parties marching and raising slogans against the Adani group, its owner Gautam Adani and the government.

MPs from the Rashtriya Janta Dal, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and the Left parties joined the protest.

The Trinamool Congress and the Samajwadi Party, which have so far stayed away from any denunciation of

Adani, stayed away from Friday's protest as well. The decision has been seen by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as a "division" in the opposition bloc.

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, the newly elected MP from Wayanad, were among those who led the agitation.

Priyanka Gandhi later alleged that the government was scared of holding a discussion on the Adani issue and wondered why it was so.

"They don't have the courage to discuss the Adani issue (in Parliament). Why is there a problem in discussion... discussion happens in democracy only, they are afraid of it as

Two held with Rs 1 crore worth of drugs in Delhi

PNS NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has arrested two drug peddlers and seized 30 kilograms of Alprazolam tablets valued at Rs one crore in the international market, an official said on Friday.

According to the police, they have dismantled a drug cartel supplying psychotropic substances in the capital The accused were identified as Laxman (32) and Pankaj (18), a police officer said.

Based on a tip off --Laxman (32) and Pankaj (18) -- were nabbed on November 28, the police officer said. He said that the duo was transporting large boxes containing 27 kilograms of Alprazolam tablets,

equivalent to 2 lakh pills. Further investigation revealed additional stockpiles of 2.4 kilograms of Alprazolam tablets from a godown in Loni in Uttar Pradesh, the officer said.

Pvt hospital under lens for botched angioplasty 112 died in 3 years after free treatment

PNS AHMEDABAD

As many as 112 people have died in the last three years after or during treatment under government healthcare schemes at a private hospital here which is under the lens for the death of two PMJAY beneficiaries following botched angioplasty, police said on Friday.

The revelation came during investigations days after the Ahmedabad crime branch arrested Dr Sanjay Patolia, a bariatric surgeon and one of the Police Bharat Patel. directors of city-based Khyati Multispeciality Hospital, which hit headlines last month after two "patients" registered under PMJAY (Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana) died following unnecessary angioplasty proce-

Between September 2021 and October 2024, nearly 8,500 patients received treatment or underwent different surgeries at the private hospital, said Assistant Commissioner of

"Of these, 3,842 persons received free treatment under government schemes such as PMJAY. Our probe has revealed that of these 3,842 beneficiaries, 112 lost their lives during or after treatment in these three years. Medical experts will be roped in to investigate these deaths," he told reporters.

The investigations have also revealed that the hospital management, including those who are under arrest in the angioplasty death case, divided revenue under different heads in the account books and eventually showed a loss of Rs 1.5 crore in the last financial report, informed the police officer.

So far, the crime branch has arrested seven persons, including Khyati Multispeciality CEO Rahul Jain and director (marketing) Chirag Rajput, in connection with the death of two PMJAY beneficiaries following botched angioplasty.

Nine persons booked for cheating job aspirants

PNS ■ THANE

Nine persons, including four members of a family, were booked in Kalyan in Thane district for allegedly cheating job aspirants of Rs 74.40 lakh, a police official said on Friday.

The other five accused are believed to be railway personnel, among them a medical officer, the MFC police station official said. Senior Inspector Dyaneshwar Sable identified one of the accused as Kalyanresident Anant Ballal, who promised the complainant a railway job.

"As per the complainant, Ballal, along with his wife and two children, took money from him between January and May this year but the promised job never materialised. Ballal also got the complainant to meet several persons, who the former claimed were railway officials helping to expedite the process," the official said.

"He even provided the complainant a fake appointment letter and showed him fabricated emails. We believe the accused have taken Rs 74.4 lakh from the complainant and other job seekers in Roha in Raigad and other places. We are probing if those the complainant met are indeed railway officials or imposters," the official said.

Students demand removal of mosque from campus Chalisa near the mosque when PNS ■ VARANASI 'namaaz' was being offered there, A large number of students on

Friday staged a protest at Udai Pratap College in Varanasi Vivekanand Singh contented demanding removal of a mosque located on the institute's campus. that since the land for the tomb saffron flags and raising 'Jai Shri Ram' slogans assembled at the

college gate on Friday. However, a large police force already present there prevented them from entering the college, enter the college. If 'namaaz' can be offered at the tomb, students

The development came days after tension gripped the college when a section of students on should also be allowed to recite Tuesday recited Hanuman Hanuman Chalisa there," Singh

prompting the police to detain seven persons for a brief period. Former student union leader

Board, it should be removed from the campus. "The students and alumni of the college together staged a protest demanding removal of the tomb from the campus. But the police did not allow us to

Assistant Commissioner of Police (Cantt), Vidush Saxena, said, "Adequate police force was deployed at the college gate. A

group of students came to express their views, with some of them turning a little aggressive. But police calmed them down.'

Amid tension in the college, police on Thursday restricted outsiders' entry to the campus, allowing only students with valid identity cards. In a related development, students of the college have formed a 'student court' and ent an 11-point letter to the Uttar Pradesh Waqf Board, demanding a response within 15 days on the status of the mosque

and its ownership.
Separately, Mohammad Yaseen, Joint Secretary of the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee, said he wrote to the Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board on Tuesday itself to check the status of the mosque.

Govt lists steps taken under National TB Elimination Programme in LS

PNS NEW DELHI

officials said.

The interventions under the Tuberculosis National Elimination Programme (NTEP) have been re-strategised to reduce tuberculosis cases and mortality through targeted interventions, free services, private sector engagement, enhanced diagnostics, and comprehensive support for vulnerable populations, the Lok Sabha was informed on Friday. World Health

accounted for 26 per cent of global TB cases and deaths in 2023, Minister of State for Health, Anupriya Patel, said in a written reply in the Lower House. The Union Health Ministry through the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) conducted a National TB Prevalence Survey in 20 states and group of states to assess the burden of TB at subnational levels, Patel said. The prevalence of all forms of TB cases for all ages was reported at Organization's (WHO) Global 312 per lakh population in the TB Report 2024 shows India country, she said.

"Based on the prevalence survey, NTEP interventions have been re-strategised to focus on vulnerable populations to reduce TB incidence and mortality," the minister said. The interventions/steps that have been taken under the programme include targeted interventions in high TB burden areas through state and district specific strategic plans, provision of free drugs and diagnostics to TB patients, and active TB case-finding through campaigns in key vulnerable and comorbid populations, among others, she said.

marry the accused, but getting

a false rape case registered as he

"It is clear from the record

that the accused got married to

some other woman somewhere

in the year 2018 but before the

registration of FIR in the pre-

married another woman.

Parliament passes Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak, replacing 90-year-old Aircraft Act

PNS NEW DELHI

Parliament on Thursday passed a bill to replace the 90vear-old Aircraft Act to further improve the ease of doing business in the fast-growing aviation sector.

The Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak 2024 was passed in the Rajya Sabha by a voice vote. It was earlier cleared by the Lok Sabha on August 9. The bill seeks to remove

redundancies and replace the Aircraft Act, 1934, which has been amended 21 times.

Replying to the debate on the bill in the Upper House, Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu said the change in title of the bill from English to Hindi, to which many members raised objections, was done to "showcase the India's heritage and culture", and "there was no violation of Constitutional rule".

It will be difficult to pronounce the name of the bill in Hindi initially but one will get used to it, he added.

The bill focuses on enhancing safety, regulatory oversight, and consumer protection while aligning with international standards. The bill also promotes self-reliance in aircraft manufacturing, encourages investment, and establishes robust governance structures for civil aviation

authorities

Responding to concerns of some MPs over skyrocketing airfare, the minister said the government has worked on improving accessibility to a certain extent through Udan scheme and is committed to making it affordable for passengers.

"Through Udan scheme, we have kind of addressed the accessibility. We are now addressing the affordability factor," he said.

Naidu further said the air ticket pricing mechanism is deregulated and it remains a win-win situation for every-

He also stressed on the need to develop local airports to accommodate more passen-

He explained that the airfares are deregulated globally and in India since 1994. However, the ministry monitors the airfares and airlines have liability to inform it before they decide a fare for a particular route.

The civil aviation ministry monitors the ticket pricing and a meeting was held with airlines on the issue of airfares in August.

Airfares were lower during the two days before Diwali this year compared to the same period last year, Naidu said, adding that in major sectors, ticket prices came down by 2 to 42 per cent.

'CONSENSUAL RELATIONSHIP'

Delhi court acquits tuition teacher in minor student's rape case

PNS NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has acquitted a man in an alleged case of rape of his minor pupil in 2019 and observed the complainant was in a consensual relationship with

Additional sessions judge Ajay Nagar was hearing the case against a tuition teacher against whom the girl, a class 12 student at that time, got a complaint registered alleging she had been repeatedly raped between 2015 and 2018, besides being threatened and forced to watch



The court, however, underlined material contradictions in the girl's statements. In a 45-page judgement

passed on December 5, the court considered the evidence and held, "Accused is acquitted of all charges...

Elaborating on the reasons behind its verdict, the court said the prosecution could not prove the complainant was a minor at the time of the alleged offence and therefore the provision for aggravated penetrative sexual assault under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offence Act could not be invoked. It noted the complainant's testimony of having looked at a "vulgar picture inadvertently" and resiling from her statement that the accused showed her pornographic videos.

Moreover, the explanation given by the survivor for not disclosing such facts of sexual abuse to her family members or police is not plausible," the court said, "after the alleged rape, the girl did not raise an alarm and instead, she accompanied the accused, who dropped her home". Noting her testimony about being "attracted" towards the accused and writing him "love letters", the court held the girl was having "a consensual and romantic relationship" with the accused.

It took note of submissions of defence counsels Nivesh Sharma and Ritu Singh about the complainant wanting to

sent case. No plausible explanation has been given for not making the complaint against the accused for more than three years which clearly shows that it was the case of a consensual and romantic relationship between the accused and the survivor," said the www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

-PAPER WITH PASSION----

Plunging into instability

France's political instability and economic crisis deepens as Prime Minister Michel Barnier ousted in a rare no-confidence vote

n a dramatic turn of events. French Prime Minister Michel Barnier was ousted in a no-confidence vote on December 5, 2024, marking a rare political upheaval in France's post-war history. The motion, which garnered 331 votes, united far-right and left-wing lawmakers against Barnier's government, plunging France into political instability at a critical juncture. At the core of the crisis lies the contentious 2025 budget. Facing a massive budget deficit, Barnier's government proposed a budget aimed at saving Euro 60 billion. The proposal included austerity measures that sparked widespread discontent across the political spectrum. Barnier's decision to bypass parliamentary approval for parts of the budget using special constitutional powers was a key trigger for his removal. Interestingly, both the Left and the Right united to oppose the budget. By forcing the noconfidence vote, opposition lawmakers saw an opportunity to challenge a government struggling to unite a fragmented parliament. The ouster is a significant blow to President

Emmanuel Macron, who now faces daunting challenges in appointing a successor capable of navigating a polarised parliament.

Macron's leadership has been weakened, and his coalition has failed to maintain a majority, leaving his administration vulnerable to opposition maneuvers. France's political landscape is now marked by deep uncertainty. The immediate challenge is ensuring fiscal continuity, as the lack of an approved 2025 budget could further erode investor confidence. Right now Macron has limited options. Macron may try to quickly install a new leader, aiming for stability before symbolic events like the reopening of the Notre-Dame Cathedral.

However, finding someone who can secure cross-party support is a tall order. If the situation gets worse Macron could rely on emergency measures to extend the 2024 budget provisions or pass the 2025 budget by decree. However, such actions would carry significant political costs and might deepen the crisis. The turmoil comes at a precarious time for France and the European Union. With Germany grappling with its coalition government's collapse and the return of Donald Trump to the US presidency, Europe's political stability is increasingly in question. France, as the EU's second-largest economy, plays a critical role in the bloc's cohesion. Domestically, the crisis is a test of resilience for Marine Le Pen, whose National Rally party supported the no-confidence motion. While Le Pen seeks to position her party as a stable alternative to Macron's government, prolonged instability could expose vulnerabilities in her leadership. France faces a soaring budget deficit, high inflation, and growing public dissatisfaction over austerity measures. The fragmented parliament reflects a divided electorate, complicating governance and increasing the likelihood of legislative deadlock. The road ahead requires deft political maneuvering to restore stability and address the systemic challenges that threaten France's economic and social fabric.



Tourists on an elephant safari at the Kaziranga National Park, in Golaghat

India's maritime legacy: Lessons from history



Revisiting India's maritime legacy can drive advancements in naval strength, trade security and regional cooperation, paving the way for a strong maritime future

ndia has a rich maritime history dating back to the Indus Valley civilisation. People of ancient Indian empires such as Mauryas and Cholas were active seafarers who undertook long and arduous voyages for trade, cultural, religious and political causes. Various regional powers and rulers such as Marathas, Marakkars and even Mughals tried to contest the ascendancy of European naval supremacy in Indian waters. The resent-day Indian Navy was born out of the Royal Indian Navy in 1947, with already meagre assets divided between India and Pakistan. As a result, the Indian Navy was initially a coastal force responsible for coastal defence and protection of maritime trade. The Indian Navy proved its met-tle during the liberation war of Bangladesh in 1971.

The decisive and bold actions by the Navy in the 1971 war made the nation realise the potential of the silent, yet dynamic and effecve element of the comprehensive national power. Commencing with the international humanitarian and disaster relief operations in the aftermath of the 2004 Tsunami, the Indian Navy has significantly stepped up its operational tempo.

The recent successes of the Indian Navy in anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden protecting mariners of various nationalities, including Pakistanis, have been internationally appreciated. Indian Navy ships have evacuated personnel of the Indian diaspora and citizens of friendly foreign countries from conflict areas such as Lebanon (2006) and Yemen (2015).

Ancient Indian Maritime **Culture** As India strives for its rightful position on the global stage, we need to revive and study the historical and indigenous Indian maritime strategic thought. Our scriptures, treatises and literature reference the rich ndian maritime strategic culture. Other powers that arose in the Maratha Admiral Kanhoji Indian sub-continent such as Satavahanas, Pallavas, Pandyas, Cholas and many others continued the rich maritime traditions of the Indian civilisation well past the decline of the mighty



Maritime Shivaji's Endeavours: The Marathas were the only Indian power between the 17th to early 19th centuries who successfully challenged the growing European influence in Indian

Shivaji, his son Sambhaji Maharaj and their able Admirals such as Mayank Bhandari, Dautat Khan, Sidhoji Gujar and legendary Kanhoji Angre raised and maintained a strong Navy of over 5000 personnel compris-ing over 300 vessels at its peak. Noted historian Jadunath Sarkar acknowledges that "Nothing proves Shivaji's genius as a born statesman more clearly than his creation of a navy and naval bases". The Maratha naval prowess was further consolidated under Angre from 1699 onwards. He effectively challenged the British maritime power on the West coast from his base at Vijaydurg in Ratnagiri. His tactics of attacking the

SOUTH KOREA REJECTS MARTIAL LAW

Madam — South Korea escaped the martial law imposed by President Yoon Suk Yeol on Tuesday night, within just 6 hours, for the first time since 1980, then I will not

give the credit for this to the people who

had gathered outside the Parliament building late at night, nor to the 190 MPs

who overturned the President's crazy

decision in just a few hours. The entire

credit goes only to the South Korean army,

who quietly watched this spectacle from a distance and did not interfere in any way.

If the army wanted, it could have followed



OTHER POWERS THAT AROSE IN THE INDIAN SUB-CONTINENT SUCH AS SATAVAHANAS, PALLAVAS, PANDYAS, CHOLAS AND MANY OTHERS CONTINUED THE RICH MARITIME TRADITIONS OF THE INDIAN CIVILISATION WELL PAST THE DECLINE OF THE MIGHTY MAURYAN

with shallow water crafts, utilising the shelter of shallow natural harbour and fortress with mounted heavy guns were akin to typical sea denial and littoral warfare operations practised by modern navies. Such was the Maratha naval supremacy that even a combined Anglo-Portuguese assault on Kolaba island of Mumbai in 1772 failed to dislodge the Marathas. Strategic Maritime Culture of Cholas The earliest mention of Chola's naval prowess dating back to Roman records of the 1st century AD highlights the presence of a flourishing port at Kaveripatnam and the King's fleet escorting merchant ships into the harbour.

deep draught British ships

The Periplus of the Erythrean Sea mentions the voyage of the early Chola ship 'Colandia' from Kaveripatnam to islands in the Pacific Ocean. The maritime power of Cholas reached its peak between the 9th and 10th centuries during which the Cholas developed a strong Navy with Blue Water capabilities and established robust trade links with China and South East Asia. The seafarers of the Chola empire had exceptional navigational skills is currently serving as Directing and, an understanding of the seas, monsoons, winds and

currents. They were conversant with the use of a 32-point Arab-Tamil wind compass and as many as 56 stars in the Northern Hemisphere for navigation. Despite the lack of a rudder and magnetic compass, the Cholas seafarers could traverse the distance between India and Southeast Asia in twelve to fifteen days, indicative of their Blue Water capability. The maritime endeavours of c Cholas provide valuable insights for stakeholders of the contemporary Indian maritime strategy. The Indian maritime outlook for the Indian Ocean Region that has evolved from the 'Look East' to 'Act East' and the Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) can draw inspiration from India's maritime legacy. Initiatives like anti-piracy missions in the Gulf of Aden, HADR missions, Sagarmala and Port Led Development, SAGAR, Atma Nirbharta and Make in India etc. have common threads with the maritime practices of Cholas

(The views expressed are sole*ly those of the author and do not* reflect the position of the Indian Navy or the Pioneer. The writer Staff at Defence Services Staff College, Wellington)

From chaos to comfort: Reflecting on Delhi's transit transformation



Once reliant on rickety DTC buses plagued by poor service, Delhi now boasts a state-ofthe-art metro network, revolutionising travel and making commuting a breeze

an you drop me at the Dhaula Kuan Metro ✓Station in your car? I must catch the 1800 hrs train from there!, requested my colleague, Madhu Jasrai, as we were leaving the office in the Bhikaji Cama Place complex. "Sure, why not!!" I replied nonchalantly. "I have some work on the other side of town, and it is prudent to travel by the metro, instead of taking risks, and getting grid-locked in the peak traffic" she explained. I could not have agreed more.

After she got off at Dhaula Kuan, I resumed my journey towards Dwarka, and instinctively, my mind, always in a mad rush, raced back in time, to the days when Delhi didn't have a mass transit system. When we, the people of Delhi, had to depend entirely on the rickety, black smoke-spewing Yellow-Green DTC buses which operated at the base level of punctuality, hygiene, customer service and safety. So much so, that the monster red buses earned the welldeserved sobriquet of being a 'killer line', due to the number of fatal accidents in which were involved. Mercifully, for a long time, my



vice was limited, as I had the privilege of travelling on the school bus.

Although the situation changed when I moved to college, and then university, there remained a saving grace, the University Special, which, with a monthly all-route student pass for a measly Rs 12.50 was the lifeline of students. But, despite these safeguards, it was difficult to remain isolated from the scary DTC, where the drivers behaved as if they owned Delhi roads as if it were a grand prix track. And the less said about the frequency & punctuality of the service, the better it is, as quite often, one had to wait for hours on end before an overcrowded bus appeared on the horizon, heaving like a fatigued tortoise. Expectedly, even before it came to a halt, a virtual

stampede ensued. In the were flouted with impunity, melee, there was an exchange of choicest Punjabi abuses, fisticuffs, an occasional physical altercation, lucrative business for pickpockets and all, a field day for eve-teasers. It was while travelling on these buses that Delhi denizens earned most of their characteristics- of being brawny, insensitive to women and disorderly.

During this hullabaloo, the role of the crew was unpredictable. Sometimes they preferred to be mute spectatorswatching over the fracas with the serenity of a smiling Buddha. At other times, they were grumpy, with a short fuse, and embroiled in heated arguments with harassed commuters, with hard-toimagine ferocity Nevertheless, once the confusion sorted, as if by divine intervention, and there was no space for more passengers- as every nook and cranny, including the windows, footrests and the rickety bars at the rear of the bus had been gobbled- the driver pressed the accelerator, to bring the bus into painful motion. Hereon, the law of

the jungle took over, as rules

without fear of the law- seats reserved for women, the elderly and the physically challenged, hardly, if ever, went to those for whom these chain snatchers, and worst of had been earmarked. Signs of 'no smoking', 'no tobacco', 'no litter' and 'no spitting' were ignored callously, without an iota of deterrence. Hygiene, well what is that? At the end of this mayhem, those who missed boarding the bus had to wait, patiently, for their next attempt. And the wheel started moving in the same pattern, once more. This long reverie concluded when I reached home and parked the car in its slot. As I walked towards my house, I thanked the stars (not any politician or bureaucrat) for the winds of change that have blown across the face of my city, transforming it in three decades, heralding the era when state-of-the-art Metro crisscrossed Delhi like an octopus spreading its tentacles, when radio cabs whizz around, when CNG & electric buses is a common sight. Delhi's public transport system has indeed come of age. (The author is a freelance writer; views are personal)

the President's orders and fired on the crowd of common people and also arrested the MPs who had reached the Parliament building. South Korea is one of the most developed and industrialised countries in the world. South Korea's economy is the 12th largest in the world and the fourth largest in Asia. No one is able to understand this decision of the President despite there being no unrest of any kind. Experts are even saying that President Yoon Suk Yeol and his wife Kim Kyeon-hee must have taken such a step due to corruption charges against them. Now they will have to step down from their post themselves, or else they will be removed by bringing an impeachment motion against them in the Parliament. Just removing them will not work, but they should be put in jail. Since the founding of South Korea in 1948, several presidents have declared a military emergency. The most recent-and perhaps the most infamous-occurred in 1979 after the assassination of President Park Chung-hee, a former general who had occasionally used martial law to crack down on political protests and opposition since seizing

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

LAX VIP SECURITY IN PUNJAB

Madam— The recent brazen assassination attempt on former Punjab CM Sukhbir Singh Badal at the Golden Temple underscores a disturbing breach in security that raises serious concerns about the state's law

It is sad but true that the workplace can become a problem for young working women. Though most places are safe, there are a few exceptions. India has seen over 400 cases of sexual harassment at work every year since 2018, with an average of 445 cases being reported annually, according to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data. Over 419 cases,

and order. This incident, involving a former terrorist armed with a sophisticated weapon, highlights glaring inadequacies in security protocols at one of India's most revered religious sites. While CM Bhagwant Mann has commended the police for averting a tragedy, it is evident that more robust measures are required to

prevent such incidents. The fact that the attacker, Narain Singh Chaura, was allowed to enter the premises with a weapon exposes lapses in intelligence and ground-level vigilance. Although frisking at religious sites is a sensitive issue, safeguarding lives and ensuring the sanctity of such locations must be paramount. The opposition's call for Chief Minister Mann's resignation reflects widespread frustration over the perceived deterioration in law and order. This incident should compel the Punjab government to take immediate steps to review and strengthen security arrangements, especially at religious and public places. Failure to act decisively risks not only public safety but also the reputation of the state.

Vishal Mayur | Tumakuru

Workplace woes for women country in 2023. There could be more unreported ones. That year, Himachal Pradesh recorded the highest number of sexual harassment cases at the workplace (97), followed by Kerala (83), Maharashtra (46), and Karnataka

> The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013 (PoSH Act), was enacted to safeguard women and provide mechanisms for addressing sexual harassment. In 2023, companies reported 1.160 sexual harassment complaints. the highest number in the past decade. However, only slightly more than half of these cases were resolved, according to data from the Centre for Economic Data and Analysis, Ashoka University. On average, 49 sexual harassment cases were reported every day in 2022.

Jayanthy Subramaniam | Mumbai

CURBING CUSTODIAL CRIMES

Madam — Two recent judgements-one from the Delhi High Court and the other from a special court in Bengaluruconvicting policemen for custodial torture and death of the accused have sent a strong message on putting in place a robust mechanism to end the scourge once and for all. 687 persons died in police custody between April 1, 2018, and March 31, 2023, a damning indict-

ment of the police. Generally, custodial deaths go unreported but for vigilante organisations and proactive families that have a keen nose for suspecting foul play. The Supreme Court guidelines in all cases of arrest or detention are clear-cut. During custodial detentions, mandatory documentation and presence of legal counsel are compulsory. Additionally, every police station should have CCTV cameras installed in strategic points

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

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FIRST COLUMN

SURVIVING THE TECH-DRIVEN ERA

Amid rapid technological obsolescence, the need for reinvention has never been more critical



RAVI VALLURI

It would be worthwhile to examine how organisations are structured and articulated. In the long haul organisations blessed with individuals willing to experiment, innovate and embrace technology will be the ones that survive. At the pace that technology with its variants is fashioning itself, numerous applications unravelling virtually by the minute, and the level of obsolescence and attrition of equipment is becoming extraordinarily high. In such a scenario, humans and organisations will be subsumed by various products and their variants. The human mind can no longer remain in the typewriter mode. The garden of Organisational Theory and Behaviour is dotted with eminent scholars. Three pioneers, Adam Smith, Charles Babbage and Robert Owen provided the ballast and the basic groundwork.

Adam Smith advanced the argument that countries and organisations would profit by adopting the tenets of division of labour, what is now termed as specialisation. Charles Babbage in his seminal work postulated: Through the division of labour, the time required for learning a job or skill gets drastically reduced. Right at the stage of infancy wastage of material gets minimised and diminishes. The mind is propelled to take up serious tasks upon attaining superior skills. Way back in 1789, Robert Owen at 18 went on to acquire a factory. He was a utopian, way ahead of his times. In 1825, he promulgated regulated working hours, child labour laws, public education and business involvement in various community projects - a precursor to CSR.



In today's wired world, individuals work from their dwellings. Places with the latest technology and gizmos at their disposal. Over the last decade, the entire paradigm of organisational behaviour has metamorphosed. Technology stares at organisations with peering eyes, the complexity and dynamics of structures having undergone a complete metamorphosis. Let us look at the Indian Railways. There was a time when the operating and manufacturing departments held sway in the decision-making process. Today, it is the technical departments that are the game changers. The concept of fixed work hours is history

The workforce must be alert 24x7. Thus, employees need to brush up on their skill sets to brace for the challenges of the virtual world.Let us examine the model of direct teaching through online classes- one-onone, between the teacher and the tutee. The very paradigm may affect teaching techniques in schools and universities. Similarly, qualified doctors instruct their colleagues through Skype or other means during complex surgeries. In such a scenario, scores of organisational structures, government or those in the private sector must adapt radically in order

The workforce must continuously upgrade their skill set or face extinction. Perhaps emotions of warmth may be lost in the maze of technological evolution. The philosophy of an organisation, its goals and objectives and the behavioural pattern between the structure and the workforce have been stranded in a traffic jam of the kind one encounters in major cities of India like Gurugram. Stephen Hawking has in a rather depressing prognosis, predicted that life would be extinct on this planet on four grounds – nukes, global warming, man-made viruses or robots. Thus, the human mind should re-invent itself and current organisational behaviour and theories or prepare a blueprint to discover a sister planet to inhabit. Aeons ago, Aristotle wrote, "We are what we repeatedly do." This paradigm will have to change for organisations to survive.

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)

South Korea faces its gravest political crisis



Yoon's actions threaten the democratic foundations painstakingly built over decades, echoing a legacy of authoritarianism that South Korea has fought to overcome



resident Yoon Suk-yeol has plunged South Korea into a political crisis that risks echoing the darkest chapters of the nation's history. As his administration teeters on the edge of a dramatic shift, Yoon has turned to martial law, invoking emergency powers in a desperate gambit to silence political opposition and maintain control.

The implications of his actions are profound, not just for his presidency, but for South Korea's ongoing struggle with its totalitarian past, its relationship with foreign powers, and its own identity as a modern democracy. South Koreans fought so hard to build a democratic system. Under South Korea's Constitution, the president has the authority to declare martial law in the face of military threats or a national emergency. However, the reasons Yoon provided for his declaration—opposition-driven impeachment efforts, budgetary clashes, and an increasingly fractured political spectrum—hardly constitute a national crisis of the magnitude that would justify such a drastic measure.

The events surrounding Yoon's attempt to invoke emergency powers are not isolated; they represent the continuation of a deeply ingrained political pattern, where martial law is not only a tool of governance but a reminder of a nation's struggle between democracy and repres-

The debate surrounding Yoon's leadership has drawn comparisons to previous impeachments in South Korea, particularly those of Roh Moo-hyun and Park Geun-hye. Roh, in 2004, faced impeachment over election law violations, though the Constitutional Court reinstated him. Less than a decade later, Park was ousted through impeachment over a corrup-

Yoon, while not yet facing the same fate, is set to have his impeachment voted on today following his controversial declaration of martial law, which lasted only six hours and was rejected by lawmakers and the public. Whether or not he survives, South Korea remains trapped in a cycle of political crises, where democratic ideals clash with despotic impulses, reflecting a historical legacy that has shaped the nation for over a century.

To understand the scope of South

Korea's political turmoil, one must look at the country's history with martial law—a tool that has long been used by political elites to stifle dissent and assert control.

South Korea's 20th century is defined by foreign intervention, division, and military rule. Following Japan's brutal annexation of Korea in 1910, martial law ARE PROFOUND. became a key instrument of colonial repression, aimed at quelling any resistance to Japanese impe-FOR HIS rial rule. The atrocities of this period, from forced labour to the sexual enslavement of women, left deep scars on the Korean psy-BUT FOR

It was a time when the very con-SOUTH KOREA'S cept of Korean autonomy seemed ONGOING impossible, as external powers sought to mould the country to fit their interests. The end of Japanese rule in 1945, after World War II, did not herald peace for PAST, ITS the Korean Peninsula. Instead, Korea was divided into two zones of occupation: the Soviet-controlled North and the American-WITH FOREIGN controlled South.

POWERS, The subsequent Korean War (1950–1953) left the country in AND ITS OWN ruins, its political and social fabric torn apart by the conflict. In IDENTITY the aftermath, South Korea was AS A MODERN deeply reliant on American military protection, a dependency DEMOCRACY that would come to define the country's geopolitical position during the Cold War.But South

The U.S., though a key ally, often dictated the direction of South Korean politics, using its military presence to enforce stability while limiting the country's true political autonomy. By 1953, when the armistice was signed, the U.S. had established a major military presence in South Korea, which would grow over the coming decades.

This military dominance, coupled with South Korea's internal political instability, created fertile ground for martial law to flourish as a means of maintaining control.One of the most infamous instances of martial law came in 1961 when General Park Chunghee seized power in a military coup. Park's regime, which lasted for over a decade, was characterised by authoritarian rule, but also rapid industrialisation, transforming South Korea into one of Asia's economic powerhouses. His government used martial law to suppress political opposition and silence dissent, paving the way for further military interventions in South Korea's political life.

Even after Park's assassination in 1979, his successors continued to rely on dictatorial measures to control the populace, with the 1980 Gwangju Uprising standing as a stark reminder of the brutality of military rule. It was only after the uprisings of 1987, following widespread protests, that South Korea began its transition to a more democratic system though martial law remained an ever-present force in the background, a reminder of the fragility of its democratic institutions. The current political crisis, however, is not just about Yoon's lead-Korea's reliance on foreign power ership or the fractured state of

South Korea's political structure. It is also a reflection of the country's broader struggle with its geopolitical position. As the U.S. continues to view South Korea as a critical ally in its efforts to counter China's rise, the country's internal divisions risk undermining its role as a stable partner in the region. The growing U.S. military presence over the decades, with South Korea becoming home to the largest U.S. military base in a foreign country-Camp Humphreys-has been a key feature of this relationship. The presence of 28,500 U.S. troops, the THAAD missile defence system, and the constant military drills aimed at countering the threat from North Korea and China, have turned South Korea into a crucial outpost for American interests in

In this context, the political instability surrounding President Yoon and his administration is more than just an internal affair—it is a matter of global significance. The U.S. cannot afford to let South Korea's internal divisions spiral out of control, especially as tensions with North Korea and China continue to escalate.

If South Korea cannot reconcile its internal political fractures, it risks becoming an unreliable ally in the eyes of its most important partner. This would have significant consequences, not just for South Korea, but for the broader geopolitical ramifications of NATO's eastward expansion and the "Pivot to Asia" strategy coined by former President Barack Óbama, which continues to haunt Asian countries.

(The writer is a journalist and author. Views expressed are personal)

Hybrid model secures ICC Champions Trophy hosting rights

IMPLICATIONS

PRESIDENCY,

STRUGGLE WITH

ITS TOTALITARIAN

RELATIONSHIP

OF HIS ACTIONS

Pakistan's government approves a hybrid hosting model proposed by India, ensuring its role in the ICC Champions Trophy 2025

pragmatic and groundbreaking decision has emerged from Pakistan's government corridors, approving its cricket board's acceptance of India's proposed hybrid model for hosting ICC events. This strategic approach, which includes matches at neutral venues such as the UAE, is a lifeline for Pakistan cricket. It ensures the preservation of Pakistan's hosting rights for prestigious ICC Champions Trophy, scheduled from February 19 to March 9, 2025. Ultimately, cricket itself emerges as the

ultimate winner. Millions of cricket enthusiasts across India and Pakistan are celebrating the International Cricket Council's (ICC) suc-sports and become spectacles cessful mediation. This reso- of patriotism and fervour.



KSTOMAR

lution underscores the power of sports to bridge divides. The ICC had earlier warned of revoking Pakistan's hosting rights if it rejected the hybrid model. The enduring passion of fans-united by their love for cricket-remains unfazed by territorial boundaries. Matches between India and Pakistan, steeped in rivalry and emotion, transcend

In a parallel development, Jay Shah has been elected as the new ICC chief, marking a pivotal moment in global cricket governance. Shah's leadership promises transformative opportunities for the ICC, leveraging his vast experience as chairman of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), the world's wealthiest cricket body. His election sets the stage for significant milestones, particularly in organising high-profile tournaments like the Champions Trophy.

For the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), this decision was a calculated move to avert potential isolation. Rejecting India's terms could have deprived Pakistan of the opportunity to showcase its hosting capabilities, partic-

ularly given India's security concerns. The hybrid model, which splits matches between Pakistan and the UAE, provides a balanced solution. Pakistan retains its hosting rights while addressing India's apprehensions, thus averting reputational and financial losses. Accepting the hybrid model

aligns with Pakistan's longterm vision for cricket. It ensures that Pakistan remains a credible host for international events and preserves the opportunity to solidify its reputation. Additionally, the agreement likely includes financial assurances from the ICC, compensating for any perceived compromises. Successful implementation could enhance Pakistan's image as a reliable cricketing



hub, following well-received tours by Australia and

England. The hybrid model offers a win-win outcome, balancing security concerns with hosting ambitions. While India's matches will take place at neutral venues, Pakistan retains the opportunity to host other games on its soil. This arrangement allows local

fans to experience international cricket firsthand. Furthermore, the PCB's insistence on reciprocity for events in India until 2031 demonstrates strategic foresight, paving the way for equitable future agreements.
Boycotting the Champions

Trophy would have been a catastrophic misstep for Pakistan. Such a decision could have alienated the PCB from the ICC and key stakeholders, given India's significant influence in global cricket. The financial and reputational damage, cou-pled with diminished fan morale and strained sponsor relations, would have left lasting scars. By prioritizing long-term gains, the PCB has ensured its continued relevance on the international

Shah aims to introduce cricket to new markets such as the USA, China, and Africa, diversifying the audience and making the game truly global. His expertise in revenue generation could lead to record-breaking media deals, benefiting smaller boards through equitable revenue sharing. By integrating advanced technologies and data-driven strategies, Shah could modernize ICC tournaments, appealing to younger audiences and enhancing the

game's global appeal. As an Indian, Shah might face allegations of favoring BCCI interests. Ensuring inclusivity and addressing member concerns will be crucial. Balancing the dominance of cricketing giants like India,

England, and Australia with the development of smaller nations will be a key test of Shah's leadership.

The ICC Champions Trophy 2025 holds immense promise under Jay Shah's leadership, with the potential to set benchmarks in competitiveness, innovation, and fan engagement. Pakistan's pragmatic decision to embrace the hybrid model ensures its pivotal role in this journey, preserving its cricketing ambitions while fostering international collaboration. Together, these developments signify a new era for the sport, uniting fans and nations under the

(Writer is strategic affairs columnist and senior political analyst; views are personal)

banner of cricket.

HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | DECEMBER 7, 2024

IN BRIEF



Sebi revamps investor charter to boost transparency

apital markets regulator Sebi on Friday unveiled an updated investor charter aimed to enhance investor protection, market transparency, and trust and confidence among investors. The updated charter has emphasised on ensuring confidentiality of investor information and providing the right to exit at fair and reasonable terms from the securities market related products or services. "Further, Sebi has strengthened the grievance redressal mechanism and alternative dispute resolution mechanism with the launch of SCORES 2.0 and SMART Online Dispute Resolution," the regulator said in a statement. In SCORES 2.0, investor complaints are taken up directly with Sebi registered intermediaries/regulated entities and the designated bodies for first level review, with the markets watchdog taking up all complaints at the stage of Second Level Review. SMART ODR portal facilitates online conciliation and online arbitration for resolution of disputes arising in the Indian securities market. The revamped charter aims to enable investors to better understand the risks associated with market investments while ensuring their fair treatment in a timely and



India's forex reserves jump \$1.51 bin to \$658.091 bin

ndia's forex reserves increased by USD 1.51 billion to USD 658.091 billion for the week ended November 29, the RBI said on Friday. The overall reserves had dropped by USD 1.31 billion to USD 656.582 billion in the previous reporting week. The kitty has witnessed a declining trend in the recent past and had dropped by a record USD 17.761 billion in the week prior to the last. The forex reserves had increased to an all-time high of USD 704.885 billion in end-September. For the week ended November 29, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased by USD 2.061 billion to USD 568.852 billion, the data released on Friday showed. Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves. Gold reserves decreased by USD 595 billion to USD 66.979



LG Electronics' Indian arm files IPO papers with Sebi

G Electronics India Ltd, the Indian arm of the South Korean company, on Friday filed preliminary papers with capital markets regulator Sebi to float an initial public offering (IPO). The proposed IPO is entirely an offer for sale (OFS) of 10.18 crore equity shares by promoter LG Electronics Inc with no fresh issue component, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP). Its South Korean parent company LG Electronics Inc will sell 10.18.15.859 equity shares of face value of Rs 10 each, according to DHRP. Post-offer, its shareholding will be diluted by 15 per cent to 57.69 crore shares in the company. Since the public issue is completely an OFS, LG Electronics India will not receive any proceeds from the IPO. In its draft papers, LG Electronics India said it expects the listing of the equity shares will enhance its visibility and brand image and provide liquidity and a public market for the

FM says Q3 to compensate for moderation in GDP slowdown

PNS NEW DELHI

The GDP slowdown in September quarter was not "systemic" and the economic activity in third quarter, with better public expenditure, is likely to compensate for the moderation, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on

India recorded a 7-quarter low GDP growth of 5.4 per cent in July-September FY25. In the first quarter, the growth was 6.7 per cent.

"It is not a systemic slowdown. It is more of absence of activity on public expenditure, capital expenditure and so on...I expect Q3 to make up for all these," Sitharaman said at an event here. So, growth number is

something which is not necessarily going to get badly affected, she added. "We need to push up on many other factors," she said

adding India would continue to be the fastest-growing economy next year and there-

Growth momentum was



low in the first quarter due to general election and reduction in capital expenditure. This has had a bearing on the second quarter as well.

In the first half, the government spent only 37.3 per cent of its capital expenditure target of Rs 11.11 lakh crore for

The minister's comments came moments after the Reserve Bank of India sharply slashed its growth projection to 6.6 per cent for the current fiscal from 7.2 per cent earli-

Other factors affecting growth include plateauing global demand that affected export growth, Sitharaman said. "Purchasing power of Indians is improving, but within India, you also have concerns of wages saturating. We are quite seized of these factors which might have a

play on India's own con-

sumption," she said.

The finance ministry, in its Economic Survey for FY24, had estimated a GDP growth of 6.5-7 per cent for the current fiscal year.

who looks at opportunities in each of the challenges. During Covid-19, the challenge was seen as an opportunity for bringing in reforms. Five mini bringing in reforms. Five mini budgets were presented at that time, each of them giving relief, support and handholding on one hand and on the other making sure that small and overlooked pending reforms were taken," she said. Being the voice of the Global South for some time now India will carry forward.

now, India will carry forward its role that everyone saw during India's Presidency, she added. during

Every time Prime Minister Narendra Modi takes up an issue of global importance, he does consult the Global South and takes their concerns forward. Referring to the India-Japan relations, she said the two countries shared strong

"Between India and Japan, other than just the governments, what needs to be sustained is the people-to-people and business-to-business

RBI keeps interest rates unchanged, cuts CRR as economy slows

The Reserve Bank of India on Friday kept its key interest rate unchanged citing inflation risks, but cut the Cash Reserve Ratio that banks are required to park with the central bank, boosting money with lenders to support a slowing economy.

With India's GDP seeing a sharper-than-anticipated dip in the July-September period to 5.4 per cent -- its slowest pace in seven quarters, inflation on the uptick and rupee under pressure, the Reserve Bank of Îndia (RBI) had few choices to

Its monetary policy committee, which consists of three RBI and an equal number of external members, kept the repurchase or repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent for a record 11th meeting in a row.

Four of the six members of the panel voted for a status quo in rate, while retaining its policy stance at "neutral". External members - Nagesh Kumar and Ram Singh - voted for a quarter-point reduction.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said the Cash Reserve Ratio -- the proportion of deposits that banks must set aside with the central bank -has been cut by 50 basis points to 4 per cent, effective in two tranches on December 14 and December 28.

The cut will infuse Rs 1.16 lakh crore into the banking system and will soften short-term interest rates and can reduce the pressure on bank deposit rates.

"At this juncture prudence and practicality demands we remain careful," Das said. A status quo is "appropriate and essential," he said, adding if growth slowdown lingers beyond a point, "it may need policy support"

RBI lowered its growth forecast for the year ending March 2025 to 6.6 per cent, from its earlier projection of 7.2 per cent. This even though Das said GDP slowdown bottomed out in the July-September quarter and has seen a pick-up in subsequent months due to festival spending and strong agriculture

BCIC forms CoA with nine industry bodies

PNS ■ BENGALURU

The Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce (BCIC) has announced the formation of a Council of Associations (COA) in collaboration with industry bodies in Karnataka on Friday.

The industry bodies include Bidadi Industries Association (BIA), Electronics City Industries (BIA), Association (ELCIA), Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI), Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association (KASSIA), Employees Karnataka Association (KEA), Laghu Udyog Bharathi (LUB), Industries Association (PIA) and Whitefield Area Commerce & Industries Association (WACIA).

With the setting up of COA, we aim to provide a common platform where all issues, concerns and strategies can be freely deliberated upon in the larger interest of said Vineet Verma, President

"COA aims to also present a more cohesive voice before policymakers, regulators, and other stakeholders, ensuring that the industry's interests are effectively represented. COA will also extend its expertise and resources to support the government in further promoting industrial growth in Karnataka," he

According to Verma, COA plans to have regular meetings and interactions to discuss opportunities for our associations to share best practices, learn from one another, and foster strong

relationships.
"Working together will allow us to align our strategic priorities, avoid duplication of efforts, and develop a coordinated approach to address industry-wide issues," added Verma. Through collaboration, the

Council of Associations aims to also pool resources, knowledge, and expertise to undertake large-scale projects, research initiatives, and other activities that would be difficult to accomplish individually, he said.

Sensex drops by 56 points as RBI cuts FY25 growth forecast

Snapping the five-day winning run, benchmark Sensex dropped by 56 points in a highly volatile trade on Friday after the Reserve Bank cut the growth projection for 2024-25 and kept the policy rates unchanged.

After oscillating between highs and lows during the day, the 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex declined 56.74 points or 0.07 per cent to settle at 81,709.12. Intra-day, it swung 419.72 points, hitting a high of 81,925.91 and a low of

In the past five trading days, the BSE benchmark jumped 2,722.12 points or 3.44 per cent. The NSE Nifty dipped 30.60 points or 0.12 per cent to settle at 24,677.80. The Reserve Bank of India

on Friday kept its key interest rate unchanged citing inflation risks, but cut the Cash Reserve Ratio that banks are required to park with the central bank, support a slowing economy.
With India's GDP seeing a

in the July-September period to 5.4 per cent -- its slowest pace in seven quarters, inflation on the uptick and rupee under pressure, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had few choices to

Its monetary policy commit-tee, which consists of three RBI and an equal number of external members, kept the repurchase or repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent for a record 11th meeting in a row.

From the 30-share pack, dani Port, Bharti Airtel, Asian Paints, IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finsery, Reliance Industries,

Bank, Technologies and ICICI Bank were among the laggards. Tata Motors, Axis Bank,

Maruti, Larsen & Toubro, ITC and Tata Steel were among the

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said the Cash Reserve Ratio has been cut by 50 basis points to 4 per cent, effective in two tranches on December 14 and 28. The cut will infuse Rs 1.16 lakh crore into the banking system and soften shortreduce the pressure on bank

deposit rates

PNS NEW DELHI

Chartered accountants' apex

body ICAI has awarded punish-

ments to its members under the

WB loan to Maha to stimulate growth

PNS WASHINGTON

The World Bank has approved a USD 188.28-million loan to stimulate economic growth in the Indian state of Maharashtra, especially in the lagging districts, a media release said.

The USD188.28 million

Maharashtra Strengthening Institutional Capabilities in districts for enabling growth operation will support district planning and growth strategies, the bank said in a statement. Investments under the operation will equip districts with the necessary data, funds, and expertise to maximize the value of public money employed for driving growth and job creation.

It will also enhance private

sector participation by improving e-government ser-vices for businesses in districts, especially in the

Gold trades flat at Rs 79,150 per 10 gm; silver declines Rs 300

PNS NEW DELHI

Gold prices traded flat at Rs 79,150 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

However, silver declined Rs 300 to Rs 93,500 per kg. The white metal closed higher at Rs 93,800 per kg on Thursday.

Price of gold of 99.5 per cent purity also remained flat at Rs 78,750 per 10 grams on Friday. In futures trade on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold contracts for February delivery rose Rs 181, or 0.24 per cent, to trade at Rs 76,657 per 10 grams.

"Gold traded with minor gains on the MCX, as markets await key non-farm payroll and unemployment data later this evening.

"These metrics are crucial for shaping the Fed's policy



outlook. While gold maintains a positive trajectory," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency at LKP Securities, said. Silver contracts for March delivery climbed Rs 426, or 0.46 per cent, to quote at Rs 92,850 per kg.

In the international markets, Comex gold futures rose 0.42 per cent at USD 2,659.60 per ounce. "Stronger-than-expected US macroeconomic data might push the Fed to pause rate cuts this month, which may negatively impact gold

'On the other hand, lower than expected data could lead to a spike in gold prices," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said. Silver also traded 0.62 per

cent higher at USD 31.73 per ounce in the Asian market hours. "Gold continues to trade steady despite weakness in the dollar and ahead of key jobs report due later on Friday," Manav Modi, Analyst, Commodity Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said. Geopolitical unrest continues to increase creating a strong floor for safe haven assets. France's government collapsed, while calls for the impeachment of South Korean President Yoon Suk-Yeol grew after he unsuccessfully attempted to impose martial law in the country.

JSW MG Motor India to hike prices by up to 3 pc from January

PNS NEW DELHI

JSW MG Motor India on Friday said it will increase prices of its entire model range by up to 3 per cent from January.

The price increase is a result of continuously rising input costs and other external factors, the automaker said in a statement. "Our dedication to quality, innovation and sustainability remains a priority and drives us to improve our offerings continuously.

In doing so, minor price adjustments are inevitable to offset the rising input costs," JSW MG Motor India Chief Commercial Officer Satinder Bajwa Singh said.

A marginal price increase shields it from inflationary challenges, he added.



ICAI takes disciplinary action

in 172 cases in over 6 months

Agarwal in a statement said it has a zero-tolerance policy in disciplinary cases and in some cases, members have been removed from the register for lifetime.

Under the disciplinary mechanism, that came into force in 2007, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has taken up 2,652 cases wherein members were prima facie found to be guilty of misconduct. The cases are for the period from the inception of the mechanism in 2007 till August

"Out of the 2,652 cases referred to for enquiry, hearing has been concluded in 2,284 cases after giving due opportunity of being heard to the parties to the case by the Board of Discipline u/s 21A and Disciplinary Committee u/s 21B of the Chartered Accountants Act 1949, as the case may be," ICAI said.

Among the 2,284 cases in which the hearings have been concluded, members have been allegedly held guilty of misconduct in 1,080 cases.

In council year till August 31, hearings have been concluded in 200 disciplinary cases and punishments have been given in 172 cases, as per data shared by ICAI.

The council year is the oneyear period starting from February 12.

The punishment varied from removing the name of a chartered accountant from the records for 1 month to 5 years, imposing a fine of Rs 5,000 to Rs 5 lakh or awarding both

debarment and fine. Agarwal said the institute has implemented comprehensive measures to address disciplinary cases effectively, with initiatives such as e-hearings and online filing of cases significantly helping in the faster resolution of the cases.

The institute, which has more than four lakh members, has three levels in handling cases for possible disciplinary actions --Director (Discipline), Board of Discipline and Disciplinary

🍘 GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION 🚳 'E' PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

NIT No. 11/SE(H)GHMC/2024-25 Name of the Work: Civil Works, Estimated amount: Rs. 141.60 Lakhs. Start date: 07-12-2024 @ 04:00 PM., Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: 17-12-2024 @ 03.30 PM., Name & Address Officer Cell No.: Superintending Engineer (Housing), GHMC, 9000115395. Further details can be seen at e-procurement @ www.tender.telangana.gov.in Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Housing R.O.No: 7579-PP/CLIADVT/1/2024-25, Dt. 98-13-2924

Development of NE neglected by previous govt: PM last decade and his govern-

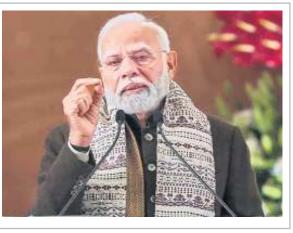
Asserting that previous governments weighed development to votes, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the progress of the northeast was not given much emphasis earlier due to fewer population and votes in the region.

Inaugurating Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav here to celebrate the vibrancy of the northeast, he said the government of Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the first to create a dedicated ministry for the region and also earmarked 20 per cent budget of every ministry for its

"In the last decade, we have seen a wonderful journey of the development of the northeast but it was not easy. We have taken every possible step to connect the northeastern states with India's growth story.

"For a long time, we have seen how development was weighed against votes. Northeastern states had less votes and low seats so previous governments did not pay attention to the development

of the region," he said. Modi said he strongly believes that the coming days are of eastern India and the



Hyderabad, Chennai and Bengaluru, cities of the region such as Guwahati, Shillong, Imphal, Itanagar and Aizawl will be new beacons of growth, the prime minister said.

With its vibrant culture and dynamic people, the northeast holds immense potential to propel India's growth, he said. The prime minister said

during the last decade his government tried to reduce the feeling among people about the gap of Delhi and 'Dil' with the northeast.

Union ministers made 700 visits to the northeast in the

ment was connecting the region with the trinity of emotion, economy and ecology, he said. The first-ever Ashtalakshmi

Mahotsav is being be celebrated from December 6 to 8 at the Bharat Mandapam here. This festival aims to show-

case the beauty, diversity, and promise of the eight states of northeastern states -- Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram, Tripura, and Sikkim.

Together they are known as the 'Ashtalakshmi'.

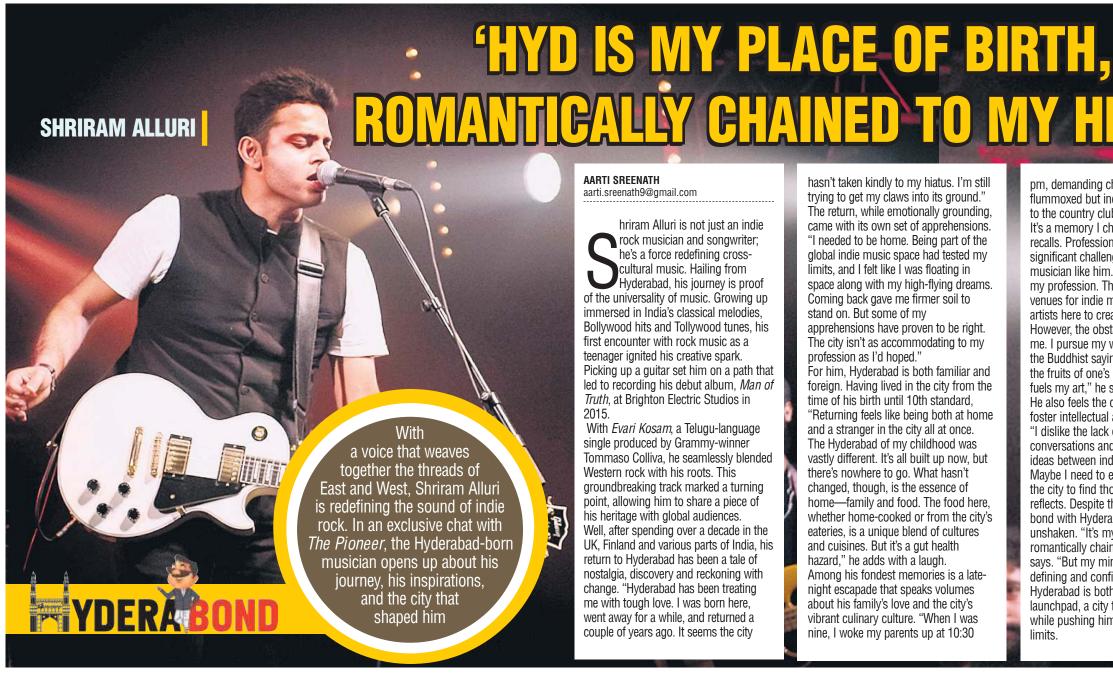
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Saturday December 7, 2024



AARTI SREENATH aarti.sreenath9@gmail.com

hriram Alluri is not just an indie rock musician and songwriter; he's a force redefining crosscultural music. Hailing from Hyderabad, his journey is proof of the universality of music. Growing up immersed in India's classical melodies, Bollywood hits and Tollywood tunes, his first encounter with rock music as a teenager ignited his creative spark. Picking up a guitar set him on a path that led to recording his debut album, Man of *Truth*, at Brighton Electric Studios in

With *Evari Kosam*, a Telugu-language single produced by Grammy-winner Tommaso Colliva, he seamlessly blended Western rock with his roots. This groundbreaking track marked a turning point, allowing him to share a piece of his heritage with global audiences. Well, after spending over a decade in the UK, Finland and various parts of India, his return to Hyderabad has been a tale of nostalgia, discovery and reckoning with change. "Hyderabad has been treating me with tough love. I was born here, went away for a while, and returned a couple of years ago. It seems the city

hasn't taken kindly to my hiatus. I'm still trying to get my claws into its ground." The return, while emotionally grounding, came with its own set of apprehensions. "I needed to be home. Being part of the global indie music space had tested my limits, and I felt like I was floating in space along with my high-flying dreams. Coming back gave me firmer soil to stand on. But some of my apprehensions have proven to be right. The city isn't as accommodating to my profession as I'd hoped." For him, Hyderabad is both familiar and foreign. Having lived in the city from the time of his birth until 10th standard, "Returning feels like being both at home and a stranger in the city all at once. The Hyderabad of my childhood was vastly different. It's all built up now, but there's nowhere to go. What hasn't changed, though, is the essence of home—family and food. The food here, whether home-cooked or from the city's eateries, is a unique blend of cultures and cuisines. But it's a gut health hazard," he adds with a laugh. Among his fondest memories is a latenight escapade that speaks volumes about his family's love and the city's vibrant culinary culture. "When I was nine, I woke my parents up at 10:30

pm, demanding chicken. They were flummoxed but indulged me, taking me to the country club for a late-night feast. It's a memory I cherish deeply," he recalls. Professionally, Hyderabad poses significant challenges for an independent musician like him. "The city isn't built for my profession. There aren't enough live venues for indie music. It's up to the artists here to create that scene. However, the obstacles haven't deterred me. I pursue my work, keeping in mind the Buddhist saying, 'One isn't entitled to the fruits of one's labour.' The struggle fuels my art," he says. He also feels the city could do more to foster intellectual and creative exchange. "I dislike the lack of stimulating conversations and the exchange of ideas between independent minds. Maybe I need to explore more spaces in the city to find those connections," he reflects. Despite the challenges, His bond with Hyderabad remains unshaken. "It's my land of birth romantically chained to my heart," he says. "But my mind seeks beyond its defining and confining shores." For him, Hyderabad is both an anchor and a launchpad, a city that grounds him while pushing him to dream beyond its

Shahana Goswami on 'Beyond takes, discovering deeper truths' in Despatch

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n a world where drama often takes center stage, Shahana Goswami's understated yet powerful performances have become a bea-con of nuanced storytelling. With a career spanning over a decade, Goswami has solidified her position as one of India's most versa-tile and sought-after actresses. From her breakout role in Naseeruddin Shah's critically acclaimed Firaaq to her captivating performances in Rock On!! and Viceroy's House, Goswami has consistently proven her ability to bring complexity and depth to her characters. With her latest role in Kanu Behl's Despatch, she once again showcases her remarkable range and talent, delivering a nuanced and emotionally charged performance that leaves a lasting

impact. In a gripping series like *Despatch*, she delivers a nuanced performance, navigating the intricate web of relationships and moral dilemmas. We had the opportunity to sit down with her and discuss her approach to her role.

When asked about her character's role within the layered narrative of Despatch, The Honeymoon Travels Ltd fame shared, "To start with, Shweta's character, though she is a journalist, she's a financial journalist, and it's never really explored in the film because you see her only with respect to being Joy's wife. So the dynamic that you see between them is purely a husband-wife relationship, and the journalistic aspect is never, it never plays out between them. There was nothing specific in terms of the layering of the realities of the journalistic world that came into play. It was

more the layering of the emotional realities of that." According to Shahana, the portrayal of women in male-dominated industries like journalism is often secondary or unexplored. However, she believes that Despatch offers a refreshing take on this trope. "I think it's best to watch the series and form your own opinion. But I can say that Despatch features several strong female characters, and the storytelling does a great job of explaining what makes someone brave and the power that can be hidden behind someone who's perceived as

brave," the Rock On fame shared. She credits her nuanced performance to the direction of Kanu Behl. Known for his exacting and meticulous approach, Behl's process can be demanding, but Goswami found it to be a collaborative and rewarding

"Kanu is definitely somebody who is exacting, but the beauty with him is that his exacting is not with him knowing what he wants," the Firaaq star explained. "It's to discover, and he wants to discover it with you. So, the great thing is that his desire is only to keep dri-

In an intimate conversation with The Pioneer, the versatile and accomplished actress Shahana Goswami pulls back the curtain on her creative process, sharing insightful reflections on her latest role in Kanu Behl's gripping series Despatch



ving till the point that we find something new, till we find something unexpected, till we discover a chance upon a reality that may not come obviously to you, but in that moment, playing it out again and again, you end up exploring or coming across or stumbling upon a dif ferent reality or different way of expressing and reacting and responding."

When asked about how *Despatch* challenged or expanded her creative boundaries, Goswami credited director Kanu Behl's method of working. "It's to do with Kanu's method of working and how he works," she explained. "Starting from the workshop process, we really went down to the bare bones of the character, the histories, the shared histories... it was a really very, very interesting process."

However, when asked about her character's relationship with the themes of power and truth within the media world, the *Ra.One* star noted that this aspect of the series did not apply to her character. The dynamics between their characters is emotionally and psychologically complex and she shared her insights on what makes this relationship so compelling.

She noted that this dynamic was carefully crafted

through extensive discussions and workshops with her co-star Manoj Bajpayee and director Kanu Behl. "We would keep finding the right kind of choreography through those emotions and things while doing the scenes," she said.

When asked about her character's role in reflecting the moral decay of the central protagonist, the *Break Ke Baad* fame clarified that her character's dynamic with the protagonist doesn't necessarily serve as a mirror to his moral decay. "I don't think that there is any specific moral decay that this dynamic shows in his character, except for just a failed marriage and a possible aspect of philandering," she explained. "But that's never really expressed to be the case. He's already kind of sepa-rated from his wife... so

him having a relation-ship with somebody else is possibly something that happened after the separation." Despite having limited screen time in Despatch, her performance leaves a lasting impact on the audience. When asked about her approach to

ensuring her character's impact, she humbly attributed it to her enjoyment of the process. "I didn't do anything to make sure. I only played the part and enjoyed playing the part, and I liked the character, the draft, and the journey, and the process."

Goswami also appreciated the opportunity to do multiple takes with a specific focus on discovering deeper truths. "It's not just doing take after take for the sake of it, but with very specific motivations towards going deeper, finding more truth," she said. "Allowing yourself to fatigue to a point where you then discover something new... it felt very natural and very safe."



Navigating the fascinating world of Clinical Psychology

also increasing, the demand for mental health professionals, including clinical psychology, also increases, but there is a huge shortage of Clinical Psychologist in India, so those who are studying Psychology or plan to make a career in psychology; a right time to choose psychology for their future. Psychology not only helps aspirant to make their screens but also allows. make their careers but also allows them to help others deal with their problem.

Major depressive disorder and anxiety disorders, along with substance use disorder or personality disorders, constitute the major burden. One in seven Indians is suffering from mental illness, while about 7.3% of the teenagers falling under the age group of 13–17 are facing emotional and behavioural issues in a fast-paced society. More than 1.64 Lakh people died by suicide in 2021 according to NCRB and drastically suicides is one of the significant causes of death among the working aged group of 15-29 years. However, the ideas people have about mental health are still not positive and people delay or avoid getting the help they need. People with mental health issues remain untreated due to a lack of mental health professionals and their scarcity of mental health care services.

Clinical Psychology played an important role in treating Mental Illness for many centuries, but a formal journey of Clinical psychology began in the late nineteenth century when psychological science became very prominent in treating mental health issues systematically and formally.

Clinical psychology is very broad, so some schools of thought provide quite different views or approaches to practice. Psychodynamic approach, which employs ideas proposed by Sigmund Freud; the first fundamen-tal tenet is held that the unconscious mind or past experiences more specifically experiences in childhood dictate behaviour and mental illnesses.The behaviourist approach of learning can be traced from Ivan Pavlov and John B. Watson as well as BF Skinner.

s mental health issues increase dramatically along with awareness is change systems, which many disor-

ders, including phobia, anxiety disorders, and addiction, require.

The cognitive approach emphasises how thinking determines people's feelings and actions developed by Aaron Beck and Albert Ellis. Cognitive therapy seeks to modify negative and distorted cognition by changing how a person interprets a situation or thought. When linked with the behavioural Approach in CBT, it forms a robust, evidence-based model that focuses on cognition and behaviour to deal with mental issues.

Humanistic approach focuses on free will and individual potential and their relationship to the environ-ment. The social approach relates mental health issues to social events, while the biological approach tries to understand behaviour and illnesses based on biological things like genes, brain or hormones.

Many therapists are interested in integrative models, where therapy is based on various theories to meet the client's requirements. When therapists use CBT to treat disorders, they are

use CB1 to treat disorders, they are using a combination of Behavioural and Cognitive perspectives.

Altogether, all these methods describe the variety and prospect of clinical psychology, which provides a set of methods fitting the versatile and complex nature of mental health problems. By creating valuable theoretical and practical knowledge, clinical psychologists deliver efficient individual treatment to enhance clients' health.

Ways of becoming a Clinical Psychologist in India
To be a Clinical Psychologist, after class XII, a person has to study for 7 years: 3 years graduation + 2 years master's and then 2 years M.Phil in Clinical Psychology. According to the new regulation, it is now 6 years. As per the new National Education Policy 2020, the Rehabilitation Council of India has set up new courses for highly intensive training.

(The author, Dr. Arvind Otta, is a Senior Psychologist & Mental Health Activist.)

what's brewing?



Mythus Brewpub and Kitchen has been launched in the heart of Gandipet. Taking up the culinary and drink game up a notch, the launch party was host to the top socialites and influencers in the city of Hyderabad, with a vibe never-seen-before. The night encompassed a classy soirée where the guests enjoyed an open air vibe upon one of the biggest rooftop bars in the city.





The second season of GradRight's ShiftED 2024 event brought together about 4,000 study abroad aspirants, featuring partnerships with leading US and UK universities and financial institutions to build trust and transparency in global higher education.









SIP, SAVOUR HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT:

Get ready to shake up your palate, foodies! Toast & Tonic, your favourite urban dining gem, is turning up the flavour dial with an all-new menu that's as vibrant as its patrons and as bold as its cocktails. This is not your average menu update; this is a gastronomic symphony that's funky, fresh and full of unexpected twists! Mark your calendars! Whether you're looking for a business lunch, a night out with friends, or just to

CELEBRATE

say "cheers" to good times, the revamped menu is your new excuse to indulge. It has always been the goto spot for those who crave innovation on their plates and in their glasses. Now, with the launch of their creatively reimagined menu, they're setting out to prove that dining can be as playful as it is

Bold flavours meet global inspirations: From the crisp Himachal apples that add a tangy twist to the Caramelised apple and beetroot salad to the creamy locally made burrata cheese that stars in the Burrata 2.0, every dish celebrates the unique flavours of the region. Bandel cheese puffs, Naga chilli sauce and jowar salad are just a few examples of the carefully selected ingredients that add depth and authenticity to the menu. Whether you're savouring the Wild Mushroom Soup, indulging in the Lamb Mushroom Curry, or treating yourself to the Kunafa Cheesecake, every dish is thoughtfully created. For sweet tooth: To round off the dining experience, our artisanal gelato selection

showcases the same dedication to local flavors and quality ingredients. Handcrafted inhouse, try our unique range of gelatos such as Pistachio, sourced from Kerala's finest farms, or the Cereal Milk gelato, that offers a

> Chocolate Sorbet and Passion Fruit Sorbet provide rich and refreshing contrasts. Every element of the menu, from the carefully curated dishes to the artisanal gelatos, pays tribute to the vibrant Indian flavors and ingredients, blended seamlessly with international flair

playful twist on childhood nostalgia, while the Dark

to create a truly distinctive dining experience that is both globally inspired and locally rooted. Vegetarian delights that steal show: relegated to mere side salads. It is

Veggie lovers, rejoice! No longer are you bringing you dishes like crispy Brussels sprouts with a creamy garlic yogurt and pomegranate molasses, which will definitely leave you wanting more. There are also a lot of other fun, thoughtfully created vegetarian dishes as well. Beverages worth toast (or two!): It wouldn't be as it's without a refresh of the bar menu.

The in-house mixologists have pulled out all the stops with quirky new concoctions like the Popcorn Caramel that is made with gin, homemade popcorn, caramel shrub, tonic water and served with star anise ice. Sip on the Purple Patch that blends gin, kokum & gooseberry shrub served with rose petal ice.

So, take a seat, loosen that belt and dive fork-first into a menu that'll have you coming back for more. Come indulge, we're saving a seat just for you.



Hyderabad hosts India International Travel Mart 2024, bringing together key stakeholders from across the travel and tourism industry to showcase innovations and

promote connections

at HITEX Exhibition Centre



Actor Vishwak Sen, along with Minister Sridhar Babu, MLA Veerlapally Shankar and producer Bandla Ganesh, launched the logo of Dairy Trends at the product launch event, held at Marie Gold Hotel in Ameerpet.



The renowned Hyderabadi food chain Paradise unveils its much-awaited 'Royal Festival - Secrets from the Kitchen of Paradise', endorsed by popular Tollywood actor Sundeep Kishan. The Royal Festival intends to bring back the lost flavours of India especially with enchanting aromas and enriching taste using the traditional high-quality spices and recipes right out of Kitchen of Paradise. Royal Festival is live across all Paradise outlets, dine in , take away and delivery including their newly launched

ARCHIE







CALVIN AND HOBBES

REALITY CHECK

HEY, PEEWEE! YOU SPILLED MY BEER YOU WILTED LITTLE HIPPIE!

AN ORGANIC VEGGIE AND A

GENETICALLY ENHANCED VEGGIE HAVE A RUN-IN AT THE SALAD BAR

> MELLOW OUT, YOU "ROIDED UP FREAK!

DAD'S PAINTING A PICTURE, BUT IT'S NOT COMING OUT SO STINKY MOOD, IT'S LIKE, I ASKED HIM ONE LITTLE QUESTION AND HE NEARLY BIT MY HEAD OFF! I MEAN, IT'S NOT AS IF I RUINED HIS LOUSY

SPEED BUMP





GARFIELD



CONGRATULATIONS ON ANOTHER GREAT SCHOOL YEAR, NOW

LET'S GO OUT ON A

HIGH NOTE









SUDOKU

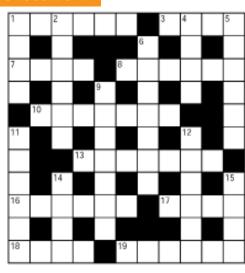




FOOSBALL: YOUTH SOCCER VERSION

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

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- A precious metal. 3 A game played with
- dubs
- 7 A holder for picked
- flowers 8 Just about

19 Wanting food

Use your ears

4 Yours and mine

DOWN

Rescue

- 10 Where Danes live
- 13 Took no notice of 16 A season
- 17 Young woman 18 Make music with the voice

6 The room you spend

9 Picture in your mind

11 People invited to dinner

12 Using needle and thread

14 This metal goes rusty

15 Stuff used by potters

most time in

5 Airborne



GINGER MEGGS







Hyderabad | Saturday December 7, 2024

PUSHPA 2: THE RULE MIRED IN CONTROVERSIES

SURESH KAVIRAYANI

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llu Arjun and director Sukumar's much-anticipated film, Pushpa 2: The Rule, released on Thursday. With inflated ticket prices, the makers
anticipated huge boxoffice numbers on the first day. However, to everyone's surprise, the film found itself embroiled in controversies. Many fans criticised the high ticket prices, especially since Allu Arjun had often claimed his fans are his greatest strength. This hike led to lower audience turnout in several top centers. From the second day onward, bookings began to drop significantly in major cities, delivering an unexpected shock to the makers.

One of the major controversies is a tragic incident at Sandhya Theatre, RTC Cross Roads in Hyderabad, where a stampede occurred during a screening of the film attended by Allu Arjun and some team members. A woman lost her life and her son being hospitalised. Initially, neither Allu Arjun nor the filmmakers issued a statement regarding the incident. However, after mounting criticism, they released an official statement. Meanwhile, a case has been filed against Allu Arjun, the movie's makers and the theatre management.

The makers had planned to hold a press conference on Friday but cancelled it at the last moment without providing an explana-

THE FILM MADE **RECORD COLLECTIONS IN SOME AREAS ON ITS OPENING DAY WITH HIKED TICKET PRICES, IT HAS BEEN MAKING HEADLINES MORE FOR ITS CONTROVERSIES** THAN ITS

tion. It is speculated that they are avoiding media interactions amidst the ongoing con-

Another controversy arose even before the film's release when reports surfaced that music director Devi Sri Prasad was unable to deliver the background score on time. Consequently, the team brought in Sam CS, Ajaneesh and SS Thaman for the background score. Despite their contributions, only Sam CS was credited in the title cards, while Ajaneesh's name appeared in the thank-you cards. Thaman's name was omitted entirely, sparking criticism online for the lack of acknowledgment.

Additionally, certain dialogues in the film have caused a stir on social media. A specific line, reportedly aimed at industry veteran Chiranjeevi—often referred to as "Boss"—has drawn significant backlash. The dialogue, "Evadra Boss? Evadikira Boss? Aadi ki aadi kodukku, aadi tammudu ki, kooda nene Boss' ("Who is the Boss, and for whom? I am the Boss for him, his son, and his brother"), is being widely discussed and criticised for its implications.

Meanwhile, Allu Arjun's visit to Nandyal has also sparked controversy. Despite defending the visit on multiple occasions, many Mega Fans (Chiranjeevi's fanbase) have turned against him, with reports suggesting they are actively campaigning against the film. With high ticket prices, average reviews and fan backlash, the burning question is whether the film can recover and turn a profit, or if it will face losses like the first installment. Only time will reveal how audiences will respond in the coming

Ram Pothineni's new film shoot begins

Ram Pothineni is gearing up for a fresh start with his upcoming film, tentatively titled *RAPO22*. Directed by P Mahesh Babu, the movie began shooting on Friday, following the release of an intriguing poster. The actor, who is coming off a string of box-office failures with *The Warrior*, Skanda and Double Ismart, appears ready to reinvent himself by exploring a new genre. Known for his action-packed roles, Ram is now venturing into something distinct and

engaging.

The latest unveiled poster introduces his character, Sagar, with the tagline "Suparichithudu" (a known man), hinting at a role deeply

rooted in

emotion

and nostalgia. The poster's vibrant yet vintage vibe showcases Ram in a completely new avatar, creating anticipation among fans. The film stars Bhagyashree Borse as the





CLARIFIES SON'S DEBUT FILM POSTPONEMENT

andamuri Balakrishna's son Mokshagnya's debut film, which was supposed to launch on Thursday, has been postponed. Directed by Prashanth Varma and produced by Cherukuri Sudhakar, the sudden cancellation has led to speculation, with some reports suggesting the project might be shelved. Other rumors pointed to creative differences between Prashanth Varma and Mokshagnya as the cause for the delay. Addressing these rumours late Thursday evening, Balakrishna clarified the situation Specking during a brand promotion event

clarified the situation. Speaking during a brand promotion event in Kakinada alongside actress Samyuktha, he revealed, "The film was supposed to start, but he (Mokshagnya) is not well, so it got canceled. Everything is good for us." However, Balakrishna did not provide any details about a new launch date or the current status of the project.

While Balakrishna reassured fans, it appears that Mokshagnya's debut may take more time before it officially

Gopichand Mallineni's Jatt brings a mass feast





Akhil Akkineni's next with Krithi Shetty



A fter the failure of *Agent*, Akhil Akkineni has not signed any new films and has remained inactive throughout 2024. He had a few days back, announced his engagement to girlfriend Zainab Ravdjee. Now on the professional front, according to sources, director Murali Kishor Abburu is set to direct Akhil in his

upcoming film. Abburu previously directed Vinaro Bhagyamu Vishnu Katha with Kiran Abbayaram.

Reports suggest that the new film will begin shooting on December 17. The makers have roped in Krithi Shetty as the female lead for this project. Despite her suc-cessful debut in *Uppena*, Krithi

has struggled to achieve consistent box-office success. Her most recent film, ARM, opposite Tovino Thomas, released in multiple languages but failed to perform well commercially.

Paired opposite Akhil Akkineni for the first time, Krithi is reportedly looking forward to this collaboration. "Director Kishor Abburu has crafted a strong script that offers significant roles for both Akhil and Krithi,"

said a source.

The film will be produced by
Annapurna Studios, Akhil's family production house. Fans eagerly await this pairing and the new chapter in Akhil's career.

Australia 86-1 in reply to India's 180 at stumps on day one of pink ball Test

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

ustralia reached 86 for 1 in their first innings after dismissing India for 180 at the end of the opening day of the pink-ball Test here on Friday.

Nathan McSweeney and Marnus Labuschagne were at the crease on 38 and 20 respectively when the stumps were drawn after 33 overs of play in Australia's first innings. The home side trail by 94 runs.

Opener Usman Khawaja was the lone Australia batter out for 13 off the bowling of Jasprit Bumrah.

Earlier, India were all out for 180 at dinner after playing 44.12 overs as the visitors lost four and six wickets in the first and second sessions of the day respectively after opting to

Nitish Reddy top-scored for India with 42 off 54 balls, while KL Rahul and Shubman



Gill contributed 37 and 31 respectively.

respectively.
Yashasvi Jaiswal (0), Virat
Kohli (7) and captain Rohit
Sharma (3) fell cheaply while
Rishabh Pant and
Ravichandran Ashwin
contributed 21 and 22

Pacer Mitchell Starc was the wrecker-in-chief for Australia as he took six Indian wickets for 48 runs.

India made three changes with captain Rohit, Gill and Ashwin returning to the playing XI after missing the first Test which India won by 295 runs. Devdutt Padikkal, Dhruv Jurel and Washington Sundar made way for them. Brief Scores:

India: 180 all out in 44.1 overs (Nitish Reddy 42, KL Rahul 37, Shubman Gill 31; Mitchell Starc 6/48).

Australia: 86 for 1 in 33 overs (Nathan McSweeney 38 not out, Marnus Labuschagne 20 not out; Jasprit Bumrah 1/13).



In 200th ISL game, Kerala Blasters eye victory against Bengaluru FC

PTI BENGALURU

A ppearing in their 200th ISL game, Kerala Blasters will have their task cut out as they look to mark the occasion with victory against formidable hosts Bengaluru FC here on Saturday.

FC here on Saturday.
The Blues are presently placed in the second spot in the league table, with 20 points from 10 engagements, after six victories and a couple of draws.

after six victories and a couple of draws.
As for the Kochi-based Tuskers, they will want to move up the table from the current 10th place, having managed 11 points.
Bengaluru have secured 13 points from their first five home matches this season, and victory on Saturday

Bengaluru have secured 13 points from their first five home matches this season, and victory on Saturday would take their tally to 16 points, their best-ever after after six home games in ISL history.

Bengaluru FC have never failed to score against Kerala Blasters FC in the ISL, netting 27 goals in 16 meetings. The Blues will look to leverage this record to secure another crucial win in the upcoming match.

the upcoming match.
Sunil Chhetri has been a talisman in this fixture, scoring seven goals, the most by any player in this fixture. The Kerala Blasters FC have conceded in their last 11 away matches, a streak that could extend to a recordequalling 12 games with another defensive lapse. Their tally of 40 away losses is the joint-most in ISL history alongside NorthEast United FC.

The team is also coming off a 0-1 loss to FC Goa, failing to

score for the first time this season. The last time they went goalless in back-to-back matches was in February-March 2023.

Bengaluru FC have dominated the rivalry, with 10 wins in 16 matches, compared to Kerala Blasters FC's 4 wins and 2 draws.

At home, Bengaluru FC are unbeaten against the Kochibased team, winning five of six matches and scoring eight goals while conceding only

two.
Chhetri touched upon his team's rivalry against Kerala Blasters FC by hailing it as one of the most remarkable fixtures in the competition.
Assistant coach Renedy Singh addressed the team's form post the international

break in addition to their preparation for the clash

against Kerala Blasters FC.
"The first time we played in Kerala, I didn't expect it (the fixture) to grow as much as it has. It's one of the best games to watch, whether it's played in Kochi or Bengaluru. People put a check list on their calendar for this match and I'm sure it will be the same tomorrow," Chhetri

said.
Kerala Blasters FC head coach Mikael Stahre is confident of his team's tactical setup and stressed on defending collectively in the coming match.

"From a technical perspective I think we are on the right track. We have to focus on the team performance. We should defend together as a side and focus on doing the small things right," Stahre said.

Messi and Inter Miami to open Club World Cup against Egyptian club Al Ahly



AP MIAMI

Lionel Messi and Inter Miami now know their path for next year's Club World Cup.

The host team — invited by FIFA to compete despite criticism from many in the soccer world — will play the tournament's first match on June 15 against Egyptian club Al Ahly, as part of a group that will also feature Palmeiras and Poete

Other opening matches include Paris Saint-Germain vs. Atletico Madrid and Brazilian club Botafogo playing at Major League Soccer's Seattle Sounders in Group B; Monterrey against Inter Milan in Group E; and Real Madrid facing the Saudi club Al-Hilal—potentially a showdown pitting superstars Kylian Mbappé for Real Madrid and Neymar for Al-Hilal if the Brazilian great remains with that club.

"Anytime that you have certain things where soccer is big and you bring it to the U.S., it's going to be a great atmosphere and entertaining," said baseball great Ken Griffey Jr., part of the Sounders' ownership group. His club will get the chance to

play one of the world's storied teams in PSG during group play. "I'm going to leave that one alone," Griffey said, smiling. The draw was held Thursday in Miami, with the 32 teams finally finding out their first three opponents in the newly

expanded event.
The tournament will be held in the U.S. From June 15 to July 13, using 12 stadiums in 11 different cities. The final will be at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, the same stadium that will play

host to the 2026 World Cup

final.

Among the powerhouse clubs in the field: Manchester City, Real Madrid, Bayern Munich, PSG, Chelsea, Borussia Dortmund and Inter Milan. There's also the four highestranked teams from South America: Flamengo, Palmeiras, River Plate and Fluminense.

And Messi's team, as a representative of the host nation, gets the distinction of playing the first match. It'll happen at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida.

"It's about inclusivity, it's about bringing clubs from all over the world, the 32 best clubs and best players from all over the world together," FIFA President Gianni Infantino said.

Some would argue it's not the 32 "best" clubs. Inter Miami's selection was widely panned by critics, the volume of that only rising after the team that won the Supporters Shield as the best MLS team in the regular season — with a record-setting point total — lost in Round 1 of the MLS Cup playoffs.

"There's no controversy," Inter Miami managing owner Jorge Mas said.

Major League Soccer got two teams: Seattle and Inter Miami. The Sounders qualified for the field, and Inter Miami was placed into it as the host nation's representative.

The club competition uses the traditional 32-team format used by the World Cup from 1998 to 2022. Eight roundrobin groups of four teams each were drawn Thursday, with the top two from each group advancing to a knockout bracket of 16.

Europe got 12 spots and South

America six to lead the field, while Africa, Asia and North America all got four — with Inter Miami essentially a fifth from North America since it has host status. Oceania got one spot.

"There is no rule that said the MLS Cup winner needs to be in the Club World Cup," MLS Commissioner Don Garber said

"I have no interest in anything other than what I think is going to be best for the showcase, best for our league. I am supportive of the decision that FIFA made and I'm excited to put Miami and Seattle in a global media deal and be shown around the world."

Mas said Inter Miami getting the privilege of playing the opening match of the tournament at home is "a testament to our community, the soccer culture that's here." "Who would have told us five years ago, with no club, that we'd be here today at a draw with the best teams in the world," Mas said. "That's what we aspire to. That's what we dream of."

Group A: Palmeiras, Porto, Al Ahly, Inter Miami. Group B: Paris Saint-Germain, Atletico Madrid, Botafogo,

Seattle.
Group C: Bayern Munich,
Auckland City, Boca Juniors,
Benfica.

Group D: Flamengo, ES Tunis, Chelsea, Leon. Group E: River Plate, Urawa, Monterrey, Inter Milan. Group F: Fluminense, Borussia Dortmund, Ulsan, Mamelodi Sundowns. Group G: Manchester City, Wydad, Al Ain, Juventus.

Shammi Silva takes over ACC presidency role from Jay Shah

PTI DUBAI

Sri Lanka's Shammi Silva has taken over as the president of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), succeeding India's Jay Shah, who recently became the chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC).

Shah had vacated the position after three terms as ACC President. It won't be Silva's maiden role with the ACC, having previously functioned as the chairman of the organisation's Finance & Marketing Committee.

"It is a great honour to lead the Asian Cricket Council. Cricket is the heartbeat of Asia, and I look forward to working closely with all member nations to elevate the game, provide opportunities for emerging talent, and strengthen the bonds that unite us through this beautiful sport," said Silva



in a statement. On behalf of the ACC, Silva also extended heartfelt gratitude to Shah for his exemplary leadership and significant contributions during his tenure.

"Under Mr Shah's stewardship, the ACC achieved remarkable milestones, including the successfully achieving highest value for its commercial rights of ACC Asia Cup tournaments for 2024–31, the introduction of a new pathway events structure, and the continued development and growth of cricket across its member nations," the ACC said.

Silva's tenure begins at a pivotal

Silva's tenure begins at a pivotal time, with the ACC focusing on the upcoming Asia Cup and striving to strengthen Asia's position as a powerhouse in global cricket

World Chess Championship: Gukesh, Liren eye breakthrough after series of draws

PTI ■ SINGAPORE

Half a dozen draws and some missed opportunities later, sprightly challenger D Gukesh and resolute defending champion Ding Liren would be desperate for a breakthrough when they clash in the 10th game of the World Chess Championship here on Saturday.

Gukesh has explored several winning lines but the advantage has not translated into victories for the Indian, and with just five more classical games left to be played in the USD 2.5 million prize money championship, the 18-year-old would look to break the deadlock and hope to take a decisive lead after a day's rest on Friday.

The draw on Thursday, which was the seventh of the match and sixth on the trot, has left both players on an identical score of 4.5 points each, still three shy of the championship-winning tally

winning tally.

The 32-year-old Liren had won the opening game while Gukesh had emerged victorious in the third All other games have ended in draws. If history is anything to go by, the reigning champion wins the match if



Carlsen.

the scores are tied 4-4 after eight games which was the case here too. The Chennai-born Indian knows that he will have to punch hard against his gritty Chinese opponent, who has a habit of coming up with well-disguised tricks when the chips are

World number one and five-times world champion Magnus Carlsen minced no words while doing a recap of the ninth game and said that the time was running out for Gukesh.

time was running out for Gukesh.
"I think we have finally arrived at a moment when Gukesh is not a

favourite in this match anymore, it's as pure a 50-50 match as it comes," said

If the deadlock is not broken after 14 rounds, Gukesh could well surrender the initiative to his Chinese opponent when the games are played under the faster time control to determine the winner. Liren is said to have an advantage in short games.

Gukesh, one of the architects of India's maiden Chess Olympiad title triumph recently, said after the draw in the ninth game on Thursday that he would like to improve his performance in

. . .

critical moments.
"...Hopefully, at some point when I do
the right things, I believe that the
results will come," he had said.

The youngest-ever challenger to the crown was guilty of letting go a very promising position to settle for a draw in the marathon seventh game, something which would have rattled

But he didn't allow the morale to sag in the eighth game. He declined a draw initially through repetition which would have ended the game earlier, thus showing his intent to win at all

In the ninth game, the Indian got an opportunity to exert some pressure on his 20th turn but Liren surprised him. Gukesh could be slightly disadvantaged in the remaining five games as Liren will have white thrice, but the Indian said there was not much difference having black or white pieces. "Nowadays there is not much difference between white and black, because of the computers .. All the lines that were considered dubious, the computers make them work. Now it's an equal game with both colours, so I wouldn't say it's a huge advantage," Gukesh had said on Thursday.

Grid penalty for Charles Leclerc deals a blow to Ferrari's hopes in F1 constructors' title race

AP ■ ABU DHABI

A grid penalty for Charles Leclerc threatens to end Ferrari's hopes of beating McLaren to the Formula 1 constructors' title.

Ferrari said Friday the team had to change the battery pack on Leclerc's car in the first practice session in Abu Dhabi. Ferrari said the team expects a 10-place penalty on the grid for Sunday's race.

the grid for Sunday's race. Leclerc was fastest in the first practice session by .221 of a second from McLaren's Lando Norris, with Lewis Hamilton third fastest for Mercedes

Mercedes. Leclerc's brother Arthur took

over Carlos Sainz Jr.'s car and was 18th. Teams have to give two practice sessions per season to younger and less experienced drivers.

experienced drivers.

McLaren goes into the race
with a 21-point lead over
Ferrari in the constructors'

standings.
Leclerc's teammate Sainz said
Thursday that he expected
that either he or Leclerc
would have to win the race in
Abu Dhabi, with the other car
also finishing on the podium,
to have a chance of the title
"unless something very
disastrous happened" to

Either McLaren or Ferrari will end a long wait for an F1

McLaren.

constructors title Sunday. McLaren hasn't won the lucrative prize for teams since 1998 and Ferrari's last win was in 2008.

Tension in the paddockTwo of Formula 1's top drivers are exchanging bitter personal attacks. All-time great Hamilton is bidding an emotional farewell to Mercedes. It's all overshadowed the constructors' title fight

constructors' title fight.

Despite Max Verstappen wrapping up his fourth driver title in Las Vegas two weeks ago, the Red Bull star is still the center of attention for a feud with George Russell of Mercedes.



Russell branded Verstappen
"a bully" and accused him of
threatening behaviour
following a dispute between
the two in qualifying at the
Qatar Grand Prix last week.
Verstappen was pushed off
pole position in Qatar in
favor of Russell, and has said

penalty.
Verstappen is aiming for his 10th race win of the season in Abu Dhabi. That's an impressive feat by most drivers' standards but not for Verstappen, who won 15 races in 2022 and topped it with 19 last year.

his rival lied to get him a

The whole weekend in Abu Dhabi will be a long goodbye

for Hamilton as he leaves Mercedes, where he won six of his seven titles, and joins Ferrari for 2025.

Hamilton is driving in Abu Dhabi with the names of 150 fans on his car as part of a "Thank you, Lewis" campaign by Mercedes.

The move to Ferrari was announced before the season began and Hamilton admitted Thursday the prolonged farewell has been much more of a strain on his emotions than he expected. Hamilton is out of form and was pessimistic about finishing on a high after penalties and a puncture marred his race in Qatar.

Doohan leads new wave of rookiesHamilton's move to Ferrari shocked F1 when it was announced in February, and it set off a chain reaction of driver moves elsewhere. Next year F1 will have its largest influx of young drivers

in years as established names

switch teams or leave the

grid.
One of the new faces is on the grid in Abu Dhabi after Alpine opted to give Jack Doohan an early taste of F1. He replaces Esteban Ocon for the last race of the season. Doohan, a 21-year-old Australian, is the son of motorcycle racing great Mick