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- Dharmapuri Arvind, BJP MP

P2

Hyd to become a global hub for AI

Highlighting that with a powerful infrastructure and a rich pool of skilled human resources, Hyderabad has the potential to become a global destination for Global Capability Centers (GCCs) and the Artificial Intelligence (AI) sector, IT Minister D. Sridhar Babu signed a bilateral trade partnership agreement between the US-India Business Council (USIBC) and Telangana, on Tuesday. On this occasion ..

'Don't react to remarks by allies'

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi told party's Lok Sabha MPs Tuesday not to react to comments of "middle- and low-rung" leaders of INDIA bloc parties and asserted that the Congress as the largest party in the opposition grouping is capable of addressing issues, sources said. The advice by Gandhi comes amid various leaders of the INDIA bloc weighing in on the leadership issue and TMC leaders aggressively pitching for

Finmin-RBI ties the best in my stint

Outgoing Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Tuesday said he gave his best to the institution and asserted that ties between Mint Road and the finance ministry were "the best" in his sixon the last day of his term, Das said the "perspectives" of the central bank and the finance ministry can be different on many issues and the phenomenon is seen the world over. "...in my tenure, I think we have been

ICC bans Dhillon for 'attempt' to fix matches

Sunny Dhillon, a former assistant coach of an Abu Dhabi T10 League franchise, was on Tuesday banned from all forms of cricket for six years by the sport's governing body for 'attempting" to fix matches. Dhillon was charged last year. The ban has been back dated to September 13, 2023, the date Dhillon was provisionally suspended. "Sunny Dhillon has been found to have breached the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) Anti-Corruption Code

Former external affairs minister S M Krishna no more



Former External Affairs Minister and Karnataka Chief Minister S M Krishna died at his residence early Tuesday morning. A family source said that the 92-year-old veteran politician had been ailing for guite some time. "S M Krishna is no more. He breathed his last at 2:45 am at his residence. Mortal

remains are likely to be taken to

PNS BENGALURU

Maddur today," the source said. Somanahalli Mallaiah Krishna is survived by wife Prema and two daughters. The Karnataka government has announced state mourning for three days as a mark of respect to the veteran leader. His last rites will be performed with full state honours at his native in Mandya district on Wednesday. The three-day state mourning is from December 10 to 12,

official notification said. Born in Somanahalli in Mandya district on May 1, 1932, Somanahalli Mallaiah Krishna began his career in electoral politics in 1962 by winning the Maddur assembly seat as an independent. He was then associated with the Praja Socialist Party before joining the Congress. Later, he joined the BJP in March 2017, ending his nearly 50-year-long association with the Congress.

Clash over Soros, Adani issues

Seeking to corner the Congress, the BJP on Tuesday again raised in Parliament the issue of alleged links of Congress leaders with George Soros backed outfits involved in "anti-India" activities, triggering vociferous protests from the opposition which accused the government of stalling proceedings to divert attention from the Adani issue.

As both Houses were adjourned without transacting any major business amid noisy scenes, the Congress blamed the government for the ongoing impasse in Parliament. It alleged that the BJP was "hiding behind" billionaire investor Soros and levelling "silly" allegations to save business tycoon Gautam Adani.

Agitated opposition members who have been accusing Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar of partisan conduct on Tuesday sub-





to remove him as Vice President. As soon as the Rajya Sabha met

Leader of the House J P Nadda raised the issue of alleged links between the Congress leadership and Soros, claiming that they were

conniving to destabilise the country. This led to an uproar in the House, with opposition members raising slogans against the BJP and the treasury benches demanding answers from the Congress.

This is the first time that the BIP raised the issue in Rajya Sabha in the presence of Congress leader Sonia Gandhi. The Congress' Deputy Leader of the House Pramod Tiwari rejected

Nadda's allegations and raised the Adani issue.

As stated by a US attorney, the Adani Group paid Rs 23,000 crore as bribes, he alleged, demanding a

discussion on the issue. In the Lok Sabha, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju accused the Congress and its leadership of colluding with US billionaire Soros and anti-India forces, triggering noisy protests and plunging the Lok Sabha into Continued on Page 2



Actor Mohan Babu attacks journalist

A dispute in the Manchu family took a dramatic turn on Tuesday when veteran actor Manchu Mohan Babu attacked a journalist belonging to the regional media.

The incident occurred as his son, Manchu Manoj, visited his father's residence to pick up his daughter. Manoj, accompanied by security guards and the regional media, reportedly forced open the gates after they were refused entry by the house security.

Tensions escalated as security personnel allegedly pushed media representatives and damaged their equipment. When a journalist asked Mohan Babu about the family feud, clip by Mohan Babu going viral.

The Rachakonda Police have reportedly asked the Manchu family to surrender their licensed firearms immediately amid concerns over the escalating situation.

Meanwhile, all journalist associations have condemned the attacks on the media and said that they will file a complaint with the police against Manchu Mohan Babu. The attacked journalist and a cameraman were injured and are undergoing

LASHES OUT AT 'FAKE NEWS REPORTS'

A heated family dispute involving veteran actor Manchu Mohan Babu and his son, Manchu Manoj, has surfaced, with an emotional audio

'Replacing Telangana Thalli statue insult to 4 cr people'

BRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha has strongly criticised the Congress Government for replacing the Telangana Talli statue, calling it a direct attack on public sentiments and the legacy of the Telangana

Addressing the media, Kavitha declared, "The Telangana Talli statue is not just a symbol; it is the soul of our struggle, sacrifices, and identity. The Congress's decision to replace it is an insult to the four crore people of Telangana." As a mark of protest, Kavitha per-

formed symbolic Palaabhishekam and Panchamrutam Abhishekam at the original Telangana Talli statue site at the Telangana Bhavan. She accused Chief Minister

Revanth Reddy of attempting to rewrite history to impress his high command and said, "If Revanth

BRS MLA Harish Rao launched a

scathing attack on Chief Minister

Revanth Reddy, questioning his

focus on installing statues while

neglecting the interests of students.

text of consecutive food poisoning

incidents in government schools

and hostels, causing widespread

Harish's remarks came in the con-

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



are countless ways to do so. Sacrificing Telangana's identity is not

"Is the focus on statues or on the

future of our students? The Chief

Minister is more concerned with

pleasing his Delhi leaders than

addressing the pressing issues faced

Highlighting recent incidents, he

pointed out that government

schools and gurukuls, even in the

Chief Minister's district, have been

plagued by negligence. "When back-to-back food **Continued on Page 2**

by students," he stated

Orientation programme for MLAs, MLCs from today

PNS HYDERABAD

Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasada Kumar said that all MLAs and MLCs should attend the orientation programme being held on December 11 and 12 at the Jubilee

Speaker Gaddam Prasada Kumar and Council Chairman Gutha Sukhender Reddy examined the arrangements on Tuesday. Both the Speaker and the Council Chairman made several suggestions to officials.

Continued on Page 2

Women Commission takes cognizance of attack on ASHA workers Seeks explanation from police

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana State Commission for explanation from the police officials concerned.

ASHA workers protesting peacefully for fair wages were subjected to alleged brutal treatment by the police at the Commissioner, Medical and Health Office in Koti, Hyderabad. The protest, organised on December 9, was aimed at urg-

Women has taken cognizance of the ing the Telangana Congress govern- beaten and subjected to degrading reported misbehavior by police with ment to fulfill its promise of increas-ASHA workers. Chairperson ing their salaries to Rs 18,000 per and having their sarees pulled,

Sharada Nerella has called for an month, a commitment made during the election campaign by Chie Minister A Revanth Reddy. The protest turned violent when

ACP Shankar and CI Srinivas Chari, along with a team of male and female police personnel, reportedly used excessive force to disperse the crowd. Female ASHA workers were allegedly dragged,

treatment, including being slapped which the complainants claim out-

BRS women leaders, including T Uma, Susheela Reddy and Arpita Reddy, have filed a formal complaint with the Telangana State Commission for Women, demanding strict action against the officers involved. They also highlighted the use of offensive Continued on Page 2

GST collections up in TG

HYDERABAD

GST collections in Telangana have shown an upward trend, however, a significant disparity has been noted between the growth rate of the Central share and the state's share of GST revenue. Official sources said that while the Centre reported growth in its GST collections from

this gap stands at around 4%. The Centre every month reveals figures is releasing the money which



rise. Preliminary estimates suggest money is being released at the state.

around 8-9%. There is a difference of around 3-4% growth," he said.

crepancy, sources said.



Growth rates of Central & State shares differ

NAVEENA GHANATE naveena.ghanate@gmail.com

Telangana, the state's component is going from the state. However, has not witnessed a corresponding they are not telling how much



Officials said, "We are growing Officials pointed out that there is

a gap in the growth rate of central and state components of GST collections. The state government has taken note of the issue and is currently conducting a detailed study to identify the reasons behind the dis-

Officials said, "When the money going to the Centre has increased, the money due to the state should Continued on Page 2



ASHA workers to 'Dusshasana episode' PNS HYDERABAD

BRS Working President KTR and other senior BRS leaders visited the Osmania General Hospital (OGH) to meet ASHA workers injured in the police action. Continued on Page 2

Gachibowli records 86% jump in housing prices

Harish criticises CM for ignoring students' safety

PNS HYDERABAD

In a striking development, Hyderabad's Gachibowli has recorded an extraordinary 86% jump in housing prices in the last six years, making it one of the topperforming prime areas in the country, according to a recent ANAROCK research report. Average residential prices in

Gachibowli have risen from Rs 4,775 per sq. ft. in 2019 to Rs 8,900 per sq. ft. by Q3 2024, proving the area's potential as a prime residential hub. Hyderabad's Kondapur mirrored Gachibowli's success, by recording an

86% increase, with prices surging from Rs 4,620 per sq. ft. to Rs 8,600 per sq. ft. in the same period. These figures highlight the dominance of prime areas in Hyderabad, which outpaced peripheral locations like Kompalli and Tellapur which registered

Santhosh Kumar, the Vice Chairman of the ANAROCK Group, said, "Hyderabad's prime localities like attractiveness."

jumps of 49% and 37% respectively.



recording an 86% increase, with prices surging from Rs

4,620 per sq. ft. to Rs 8,600 per sq. ft. in the same period

Gachibowli and Kondapur started with lower base prices compared to prime areas in other metros, allowing greater price appreciation. Robust infrastructure and connectivity have increased their

The study reveals that while Hyderabad's growth was led by prime areas, a different trend emerged in other

metropolitan regions. In Bengaluru, the peripheral Gunjur area saw the highest price growth of 69%, outperforming the prime Thanisandra Main Road, which recorded a 62% rise. Similarly, in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), peripheral Panvel registered a 58% appreciation, surpassing Worli's 37% growth.

Improved connectivity, affordability and the availability of larger spaces have driven buyers towards peripheral areas in cities like Bengaluru, Pune and Mumbai. However, Hyderabad's trend stresses how prime areas continue to dominate due to location advantages and extensive development.

'Post-pandemic, buyers have increasingly sought spacious homes with modern amenities, often available only in the periphery. Yet, Hyderabad's Gachibowli and Kondapur stand out for their balance of location, infrastructure and luxury," added Kumar.

As cities adapt to shifting buyer preferences, Hyderabad's unique trajectory highlights the potential of its real estate market to offer both growth and stability, attracting significant interest from builders and homebuyers alike.

NEWS REPORTERS

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 If yes, you may fit the bill for The Pioneer --Hyderabad edition's hunt for live-wire reporters who can deliver news and occasional analytical

pieces in English from the following districts of

Telangana. If interested, you may send your CV, along with work samples, indicating the district or districts you would like to cover to the following email ID: ascendasmedia@gmail.com or contact Mr K Sriramulu on 9440103384.



Major oppn parties in TG, AP fail to hold state govt accountable

Playing the role of a watchdog for safe-guarding the interests of people through informed discussions in the legislature is the POINT prime responsibility of the opposition parties in a democratic set-up, be it the principal opposition parties or a combination of parties. It is a fiduciary responsibility entrusted by people to parties other than the one commanding majority in the House.

Unfortunately the main opposition parties in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh are behaving in a bizarre manner. In Telangana, former chief minister, Bharat Rashtra Samithi chief and

Cĥandrasekhar Rao has not been attending Assembly session for unknown reasons, though his party's legisla-

tors are taking part in the proceedings. In Andhra Pradesh, former chief minister and YSRCP president YS Jaganmohan Reddy has chosen not to attend the Assembly session ostensibly because his party has not been designated as the principal opposition for lack of numbers. He has approached the Court. It appears that he is particular about his party getting ample time to present its case in the Assembly on various issues.

The BRS and the YSRCP are respectively the main opposition parties in the two states. Curiously, the leaders of both the major opposition parties are reluctant to participate in legislative proceedings

YSRCP leaders have taunted the ruling NDA combine of being 'scared' of the presence of Jagan in the House.

The Congress party and the National Democratic Alliance combine comprising Telugu Desam Party, Jana Sena and BJP are respectively the ruling parties in TS and AP. The BRS and the YSRCP are respectively the main opposition parties in the

two states. Curiously, the leaders of both the major opposition parties are reluctant to participate in legislative proceedings.

KCR is perhaps facing health issues, apart from the consequences of his daughter and MLC K Kavitha's alleged involvement in the 'Delhi liquor scam'. He had undergone a hip surgery following a fall in his farmhouse. The BRS



cadre believes that the presence of KCR in the Assembly would yield good results and his fans are planning to meet him in

son, former minister and BRS working president K. Taraka Rama Rao (KTR) is performing duties in place of his father. Nevertheless, the absence of KCR in the House has raised concerns. KTR had previously announced that KCR would reach out to the masses only in the New Year.

During his stint as chief minister, Jaganmohan Reddy had once warned then LoP Chandrababu Naidu of stripping him of his position as such by luring only six legis-lators from TDP (LoP status is granted to a party that secures 10% seats of the total strength of the House). Today Jagan's party YSRCP has only 11 seats;

this regard. As of now KCR's that is, six short of getting LoP status. The TDP had 23 seats during Jagan's regime. So, the opinion reportedly expressed by Jagan that LoP status does not need specific numbers in the House is quite surprising.

Charisma as well as thorough knowledge and understanding of issues concerning people are essential for one's commanding presence in the House. That said, even with one seat, a party can legiti-mately and effectively question the propriety of the ruling party's actions on the floor of

the House. For example,
Gummadi Narasayya of
CPI(ML-ND) got elected to the Assembly for five terms. Despite being the lone memhe has effectively questioned the government on various issues, highlighting lacunas in governance. The example set by Narasayya can be emulated by political figures seeking the status of 'principal opposition' for their party. Skipping Assembly sessions could tarnish the image of opposition leaders. Not availing of the opportunity to speak on the floor of the House means their views would not go into Assembly records.

Hopefully, wisdom would prevail and the leaders of both BRS and YSRCP would discharge their functions and responsibilities by attending Assembly sessions.

'Bring one lakh acres under oil palms by March'

PNS HYDERABAD

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao directed officials to work towards achieving the target of cultivating oil palms on one lakh acres by March 2025.

He also issued orders to speed up the implementation of farm mechanisation and drip irrigation schemes.

Tummala held a review meeting with state officials at the secretariat on Tuesday regarding the implementation of horticulture, agriculture and marketing schemes and the performance of agriculture department officials. Tummala also issued important instructions to officials.

Meanwhile, the officials submitted several reports to Tummala regarding the progress of schemes. After

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageshwara Rao reviewing the implementation of horticulture, agriculture and marketing schemes and the performance of officials at the Secretariat on Tuesday

ordered steps to provide more benefits to farmers this year. Clear instructions were issued to support farmers by providing them farm machinery and

drip irrigation equipment. He made it clear that action should be taken to increase yields by helping farmers and

examining them, the Minister that special attention should be given to the strengthening of basic cooperative societies.

The Minister told officials to prepare plans to fully utilise every rupee given by the Centre to the agriculture sector and that the mistakes of the BRS government should not be

KCR must also be punished along with Ramesh: Adi Srinivas

PNS HYDERABAD

Declaring that the High Court verdict against the BRS's former Vemulawada MLA, Chennamaneni Ramesh, is a slap on the face of KCR, Government Whip Adi Srinivas demanded that KCR should also be punished along with Ramesh for giving a BRS ticket wilfully to Ramesh even though KCR knew that Ramesh was not an Indian cit-

"KCR deliberately gave Chennamaneni Ramesh a chance to contest even though he was traveling with a German passport. Along with Chennamaneni Ramesh, KCR should also be punished. How can BRS issue a party ticket to a non-Indian? Why did KTR, who responds to all matters daily, not respond in the case of Chennamaneni Ramesh?"

Addressing the media at the CLP Media Hall on

Tuesday, Adi demanded that KCR and the BRS should apologise to the people of Vemulawada. He said the court clearly said that Ramesh was elected as an MLA by hid-

Adi said that Ramesh came to Vemulawada as the son of former MLA, the late Chennamaneni Rajeshwara Rao. The BRS managed Central officials and delayed the court verdict. Making a non-citizen a lawmaker has never happened anywhere in the world. Ramesh is lying even after the court verdict. He should apologise if he comes to India again, Adi said.

He said that in the past, the United Andhra Pradesh High Court had revoked Ramesh's right to vote. The Centre can-Chennamaneni Ramesh's Indian citizenship Chennamaneni Ramesh has travelled 45 times with his German passport, but he is still telling lies.

CM sabotaging Hyd, real estate using HYDRAA: Arvind statue. The BRS has no commit-

KOLISHETTY VENKATESHWARLU venkat.k.warlu@gmail.com HYDERABAD

Declaring that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is sabotaging Hyderabad and the real estate business using HYDRAA, the BJP's Nizamabad Dharmapuri Arvind, said the Congress Government is also treading the same path as the BRS by looting the public and engag-ing in shocking activities. Arvind asked Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to reveal which place he wanted to develop by sabotaging Hyderabad. What is the conspiracy behind this, he asked.

He said that the Congress government is continuing the corrupt bureaucrats and extortionist contractors who played key roles during BRS rule and added that the people would teach a fitting lesson to the Congress if elections were held now.

Making it clear that everyone



Nizamabad MP Arvind addressing the media at State BJP office on Tuesday

wants to clean the Musi River, Arvind said that one can believe the Congress Government if it starts cleaning the Musi River from the Old City. He said the Revanth Government has been using HYDRAA only to threaten people and collect money from them.

Addressing the media on Tuesday at the State BJP Office, Arvind said that politicking in the name of Telangana Thalli statue is unfortunate. KTR should tell why their government did not bring a GO regarding the Telangana Thalli

ment towards the Telangana Thalli statue or the state, he said. Terming KCR as a 'waste,' Arvind said that the KCR family looted Telangana in the

name of the Kaleshwaram Project and other projects. However, the Congress Government is also looting the state like the BRS government, he said, alleging that both KCR and Revanth are wicked persons. Commenting that KTR is after all an MLA, Arvind asked why the media is

asking questions linking KTR.

"KTR is only an MLA
among the 38 BRS MLAs. KTR, who could not work, became the Working President. Even a dog will not vote for KTR or Kavitha this time. KCR made sculptors carve his nose and a car on Yadagirigutta. One should shiver if Kavitha becomes active in politics," the

Former external ...

Continued from page 1

In January last year, Krishna announced his retirement from active politics, citing his age as the reason. He was the 16th Chief Minister of Karnataka from October 11, 1999, to May 28, 2004, (from Congress).

He also served as the Governor of Maharashtra and was the External Affairs Minister during the Manmohan Singh-led UPA government from 2009 to 2012.

A law graduate, Krishna studied in the US. He graduated from the Dallas, Texas, and The George Washington University Law School in Washington DC, where he was a Fulbright Scholar.

Krishna served as the Speaker of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly from December 1989 to January 1993. He was also a member of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha several times between 1971 and 2014.

Krishna is credited by many for putting Bengaluru on the global map as a fillip given to the IT sector during his tenure resulting in the city growing as India's Silicon Valley'. Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the passing of Krishna and said he was a remarkable leader admired by people from all walks of life.

Shri SM Krishna Ji was a remarkable leader, admired by people from all walks of life. He always worked tirelessly to improve the lives of others," he said in a post on X.

Sukla Paksha

Dec 11 03:43 AM

Dec 12 01:09 AM

Dec 10 01:30 PM

Dec 11 11:48 AM

to Dec 11 11:47 AM

to Dec 12 09:52 AM

12:09 PM to 1:31 PM

8:02 AM to 9:24 AM

06:11 AM to 07:40 AM

10:47 AM to 12:09 PM

to Dec 12 01:09 AM

to Dec 12 10:26 PM

TODAY

Ekadashi

Dwadashi

Nakshatram:

Ashwini:

Rahukalam:

Varjyam:

Gulika:

Yamagandam

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham

BRS to boycott MLAs' orientation session over Speaker's bias

PNS HYDERABAD

The BRS has announced its decision to boycott the upcoming orientation session for legislators starting tomorrow.

In a statement released by BRS Working President KT Rama Rao (KTR), the BRS accused the Speaker of acting in a biased manner, undermining the rights of opposition members even before the commencement of the legislative session.

KTR criticised the Speaker for allegedly ordering the arrest of BRS MLAs on has no relevance for their legislators, as the first day of the Assembly to prevent only a few of them are new members. raising public protesting against the government's entation session when the Speaker con-rights of opposition parties.

failures. "Instead of addressing our concerns, the Speaker used the police to suppress our voice," he said.

The BRS also highlighted the Speaker's inaction on the issue of defections by its MLAs to other parties, accusing him of delaying a decision on the 'The Speaker has consistently acted

in a one-sided manner, ignoring our pleas and suppressing the voice of our members in the Assembly," KTR said. The BRS said the orientation session

We see no point in attending an or

tinues to function in a partisan manner. This boycott is our protest against the Speaker's approach, which has repeatedly ignored opposition voices," KTR stat-

The BRS has called on the Speaker to act impartially and treat all parties equally and urged him to avoid discriminatory practices. "It is high time the Speaker upholds the dignity of his office and provides a fair platform for all legislators," KTR added.

The boycott is seen as a part of the BRS's strategy to highlight what it perceives as the Congress government's fail-

Katipally files complaints against 5 builders grabbing water bodies

PNS HYDERABAD

Demanding that the state government should restore the Land Grabbing Act, the BJP's Kamareddy MLA, Katipally Venkataramana Reddy, filed complaints with the TGIIC, the HYDRAA, the RERA and the GHMC saying that the real estate ts — Praneeth Grove Park (by Venkata

Vajram Ixora Project (Vajram Constructions Pvt Ltd), Prestige City Project (by Prestige Projects Pvt Ltd), and the commercial projects Phoenix 285FD and Candeur Skyline — were being built by encroaching ponds and lakes. Katipally said that he had

Praneeth Developers Pvt Ltd),

exposed these illegal projects ference at the Press Club. However, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said that they will not touch projects which have been given permission already. But they gave permissions to these projects 10 days after my press conference at the Press Club, Katipally said.

Wondering who permitted these illegal projects Katipally said, "Why is there no action

against those who gave permissions illegally? I had filed complaints against these five illegal projects and the companies executing them to HYDRAA chief AV Ranganath." Declaring that ministers or officials, whoever it may be who gave permissions are punishable, Katipally said that he will raise the

He said the government should bring in the Land Grabbing Act immediately to stop encroachments and that people would throw out politicos if they did not end land grabbing.

He said the BJP will ask the government to allow a discussion about these illegal projects and added that he will approach the court if the government fails to respond on

'Replacing ...

Kavitha lambasted the Congress Government for its secrecy in unveiling the new statue, which coincided with Sonia Gandhi's birthday. "This decision was made without public consultation. What is the Congress afraid of? Why not respect Public sentiments?" she asked.

She also pointed out the the new statue and Telangana's culture and heritage. "The original Telangana our statehood movement. It replaces symbols without identity and heritage.

bond of Telangana's people with their identity. The new statue does not reflect the spirit of our roots," she said.

Kavitha accused the Congress of hypocrisy, highlighting their harsh treatrepresent the common served." woman through the new lack of connection between statute. "KCR addressed the the people of Telangana to grievances of ASHA workers reject the Congress and respected their struggles. Government's actions, The Congress, on the other asserting that the BRS will

represented the emotional understanding their significance," she added. Vowing to restore the orig-

inal Telangana Talli statue if the BRS returns to power, Kavitha said, "We will not allow the Congress to rewrite our history. Telangana Talli ment of protesting ASHA is the pride of our culture, workers while claiming to and its legacy will be pre-

She concluded by urging Talli statue was the icon of hand, silences voices and steadfastly protect the state's

Actor Mohan Babu ...

Continued from page 1

Addressing the media and his son, Mohan Babu dismissed allegations of physical assault, clarifying that while arguments occurred, his son hit workers at home and later filed a counter-case against him. He also expressed disappointment over the police's lack of response to his request for protection.

In the audio, Mohan Babu

son, and among my three children, I spent the most on your education. But your recent actions have hit me in my heart. Your mother and I are crying, and she is now hospitalised due to stress. Disputes exist in all families, but this behaviour is beyond forgiveness."

I condemn journalists who write baseless, false reports about family disputes. They work for TRPs emotionally appealed to but my son should n Manoj, saying, "You are my believe in them," he said. but my son should not

Orientation programme ...

Continued from page 1Speaking on the occasion, the Speaker said that senior MLAs and Ministers would explain strategies and laws to members. He said that the greatness of the House and what sort of message should be given to the people would be explained at the

GST collections...

Continued from page 1

We are analysing to find out what commodities is happening to understand the problem's specifics."

"Though GST collections as whole are growing, the uneven growth between the Centre and state shares needs to be examined thoroughly" an official remarked.

Officials believe that addressing this issue is crucial for streamlining financial planning. After the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in 2017, Telangana has garnered

approximately Rs 3.31 lakh crore in GST revenues.

In 2017-18, the state earned Rs 21,348 crore, which steadily increased to Rs 36,508 crore in 2018-19 and Rs 39,820 crore in 2019-20.

Despite a dip to Rs 36,346 crore in 2020-21 due to the pandemic, the revenues rebounded to Rs 45,081 crore in 2021-22 and climbed to Rs 51,831 crore in 2022-23. During fiscal 2023-24, the state reported Rs 59,942 crore in GST collections as per the latest data shared in the Lok

KTR likens ...

Continued from page 1 Highlighting the critical role ASHA workers played during the COVID-19 pandemic, KTR condemned the brutal attack by policemen on women protesters who were simply demanding job security and

salary increments.

He criticised the ACP's action and asked whether his ego led to the attack. "The Home Department is under his watch. Is there any law and order in this state? Does this government have any shame?" KTR said and added that Monday's incident was nothing short of a "Dusshasana episode."

KTR said that the BRS would not let this injustice go unchecked. 'We will file complaints with the Women's Commission and, if necessary, take it to the National Human Rights Commission. ASHA workers must be given the respect and honorarium they deserve. We will raise this in the Assembly," he stated.

He said that if adequate treatment is not provided to the injured ASHA workers at the Osmania General Hospital, the BRS will ensure that private medical care is arranged for

Women Commission ...

Continued from page 1

language by the police, which has been described as a blatant attack on the dignity and safety of the protesting women.

The complainants have invoked Section 74 and Section 79 of the BNS, which address assault with intent to outrage modesty and acts intended to insult the modesty of women, respectively. They called for immediate accountability and action against ACP Shankar, CI Srinivas Chari,

and others involved in the incident.

This incident has sparked widespread outrage, with women's rights activists and political leaders condemning the Congress government for its handling of the protest. ASHA workers, who have been serving the community for years on a meager salary of Rs 9,750, claim this treatment is symbolic of the government's neglect and indifference towards their legitimate

demands.

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09:34 AM to 11:03 AM. Amritakalam: 03:15 AM to 04:43 AM **HYDERABAD WEATHER** Forecast: Cloudy **Temp:** 27° **Humidity: 47%** Sunrise: 6:40 AM Sunset: 5:38 PM Updated: December 10, 2024 5:00 PM

Harish criticises ...

Continued from page 1

poisoning cases are reported in government institutions, what is this government doing?" he asked. He referred to the latest incident in Tandur Tribal Girls' Hostel in Vikarabad district, where 15 students were hospitalized due to food poisoning, barely 10 days after similar cases were

reported elsewhere in the state. Harish condemned the government's inaction, stating, "If this is the state of affairs in the CM's district, imagine the situation across the state.'

Harish also criticised the Chief Minister

for failing to fulfil promises made to stu-

"Despite the alarming rise in food poisoning cases and student deaths, the government remains in denial. Revanth Reddy's claims about punishing those serving adulterated food have become hollow rhetoric," he said. Demanding accountability he said, "How many more students need to be hospitalized or die due to the Chief Minister's negligence? This is not just a failure; it's a betrayal of Telangana's future." Harish concluded by urging imme-

diate action to ensure the safety of students

across the state.

Clash over ...

Continued from page 1 chaos after which the House was adjourned for the day. Speaking during Zero Hour, Rijiju also hit out at Congress leaders for attacking the dignity of Parliament by coming to the House by wearing masks and jackets with caricatures. Opposition members trooped into the Well as Rijiju made the remarks.

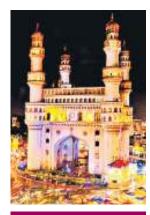
The minister said the Congress leaders' stalling of Parliament was also depriving other members of the House from raising issues related to their constituencies.

When the House met this morning, Speaker Om Birla disapproved of the repeated disruptions of proceedings over the past few days due to protests by the members. He said the kind of protests, sloganeering and posters being used are not just undignified out also go against the procedural rules.

"Be it opposition or ruling party members,

everyone should maintain dignity and work

in such a way that a positive message goes out of this temple of democracy," Birla said. He said Question Hour, the first hour of the daily business of the House, is very important and everyone should try and ensure it is held smoothly. After this, Birla started Question Hour.



Meeting of TS All Senior Citizen **Association**

Ravindra Bharathi, Hyderabad December 11, at 9:00 am

Live Performance

By Dastak (Band)

Venue

Verandah by TSK, Kalasiguda, Hyderabad December 11, at 8:00 pm

Go Swadeshi Hyderabad

Exhibition & sale

Venue Kalinga Cultural Hall, Hydrabad December 11,

Elena Gabriele - OK!?

Venue **KLN Prasad** Auditorium, December 13, 8 pm

onwards

Self-confidence and character building

Swamy Vivekananda Institute Of Human Excellence, Hydrabad Till December 15, at 6:00 pm.

NYU CARNIVAL

With singer KARTHIK

Boulder Hills, Hyderabad December 31

Weekend kids cooking camp

Master cooking and baking in 09 fun weekends

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

Central Zone Task Force nabs repeat offender

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Central Zone Task force arrested a person for a second time for selling and illegally transporting, storing and selling adulterated or expired Nandini milk powder which is meant for public distribution scheme to

schoolchildren. The accused Chittaboina Damodar Yadav, who was found doing the crime under the name of ksheera Bhagya Scheme introduced by Karnataka State government, was selling it to needy customers for higher prices, which was not good for consumption.

He was arrested earlier by Food Safety Officers a couple of times.

He did not mend his ways and was doing illegal business repeatedly, said the Central Zone Police.

The seized property is 330 kgs of milk powder bags and 450 kgs of 25 kg milk powder packets.

The respondent purchased the expired milk powder from one Ravi native of Karnataka State for Rs 180 per kg and sold the same for Rs 240 per kg to the needy customers.

City Pioneer

he pioneer hyderabad | wednesday | december 11, 2024

MINISTER SRIDHAR BABU SIGNS BILATERAL TRADE TIES

Hyd to become a global hub for Artificial Intelligence

PNS HYDERABAD

Highlighting that with a powerful infrastructure and a rich pool of skilled human resources, Hyderabad has the potential to become a global destination for Global Capability Centers (GCCs) and the Artificial Intelligence (AI) sector, IT Minister D. Sridhar Babu signed a bilateral trade partnership agreement between the US-India Business Council (USIBC) and Telangana, on Tuesday

On this occasion, he highlighted the government's proactive steps to build a world-class ecosystem for setting up

The minister stated that Hyderabad hosts global IT, healthcare, and life sciences giants. He said the vision is to bring Silicon Valley's essence to Hyderabad by creating a strong environment for research and

development, vital for future growth. Sridhar Babu emphasized Hyderabad's role in global economic growth and the state's ambition to lead India's AI sector. He mentioned the development of an AI City on 200 acres, placing Telangana ahead



IT Minister D Sridhar Babu, along with Special Chief Secretary Jayesh Ranjan and US Consul General Jennifer Larson at the bilateral trade partnership meeting on Tuesday

of other states. He also highlighted Hyderabad's ecosystem for industries like aerospace, defense, power, banking, and manufacturing, inviting global investments. He urged the US-India Business Council to connect Telangana with

American businesses.

The US Consul General Jennifer Larson, Special Chief Secretary Jayesh Ranjan, USIBC Managing Director Rahul Sharma, and others participated.

TG govt approves Rs 446 cr flyover at Gachibowli

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has granted revised administrative sanction for the construction of a six-lane, twoway flyover at the Gachibowli junction, along with the development of a 120-foot-wide road from Shilpa Layout,

Gachibowli, via Gas Company to Gachibowli

The project, part of the city's master plan, will be executed under the Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) model at an estimated cost of Rs 446.13 crore.

The new sanction supersedes the earlier approved cost of Rs 435 crore, with an additional Rs 11.13 crore allocated for the project. The initiative aims to ease traffic congestion in the bustling IT hub and improve connectivity to the Outer Ring Road (ORR) from Kondapur. The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has been directed to take the necessary steps to execute the project efficiently.



PNS HYDERABAD

Osmania University welcomed a distinguished delegation from the Embassy of Turkmenistan on Tuesday, in a step toward strengthening educational and cultural ties

ties with OU

between the two nations.
Organised by the Office of International Affairs (OIA), the event took place in the executive council room of the administrative building, bringing together university officials and embassy representatives to discuss avenues for collaboration.

The visiting delegation, led by Shamuhammet Muhammedov, First Secretary/Consul, and Isgender Ataliyev, Second Secretary of the Embassy, praised Osmania University's initiatives. They expressed keen interest in developing faculty and student exchange programMEs, joint research projects and cultural engage-

The delegation later interacted with students from Turkmenistan, strengthening the cultural and academic bond further.

This visit marks a promising beginning for academic and cultural collaboration between Osmania University and Turkmenistan, paving the way for future knowledge exchange and innovation.

Telangana celebrates World Toilet Day 2024

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana celebrated World Toilet Day 2024 which was launched on November 19 and concluded on Tuesday. The campaign coincided with Human Rights Day to highlight the fundamental right to sanitation. Minister for Panchayati Raj & Rural Development D Anasuya Seethakka launched the 'Hamara Shauchalay: Hamara Samman campaign with a bhoomi pooja and founda-tion-laying ceremony for a Community Sanitary Complex (CSC) in Mulugu district.

All 32 rural districts in Telangana actively participatough Distric Sanitation Mission meetings on November 19, focusing on toilet gaps in households and public spaces like schools and healthcare centres. Awareness campaigns, including rallies and workshops raised the



Minister for Panchayati Raj & Rural Development D Anasuya Seethakka launched the 'Hamara Shauchalay: Hamara Samman campaign

importance of sanitation. A total of 8,732 sanction let-

ters for Individual Household Latrines (IHHLs) were distrib-Community Sanitary Complexes were carried out. In all, 107 new CSC sanctions were issued and gaps in institutional toilets were addressed. Competitions for best IHHLs and CSCs were held and win-

ners were honoured. Special dignity camps recognised sanitation worker and a social media campaign raised aware-

#ToiletsForDignity.
The success of World Toilet Day 2024 shows Telangana's commitment to sustaining its Open Defecation-Free (ODF) status and promoting safe sanitation practices.

Awareness of sustainability urged at HR meet

PNS HYDERABAD

While 19% believe ESG materials are reliable, only 29% of HR $\,$ leaders strongly agree on ways to achieve ESG goals. This was highlighted at the Confederation Indian Industry (CII) Telangana HR Conclave 2024, held at Hyatt Gachibowli on Tuesday. With the theme 'Sustainability Initiatives and Growth Culture: The People Agenda', the conclave featured panel discussions with HR experts emphasising the need for greater awareness of sustainability and ESG goals.

In the conclave, Prem Kumar K, VP Talent at Deloitte, emphasised that Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) is now a buzzword, assessing business practices on sustainability and ethics. He highlighted the importance of human sustainand addressing toxic work culture and mental health by involving employees in co-creating metrics.

On AI integration, Prem stressed proactive planning over reactive approaches, advocating



Chairman, CII Telangana, Sai Prasad seen with panelists and Amala Akkineni at the HR Conclave 2024 in Hyderabad on

transparency through opt-in systems. He noted the adoption of digital twins and employee engagement to build trust. ture, he said that it drives creativity in young employees, reducing monotony. Dr P Kiranmai Dutt highlighted workplace microcultures, advocating inclusiveness without

Talking about the current day scenarios of companies sures, ESĞ initiatives, Dr Sujiv ness. Nair, Global CHRO of Re- Su Sustainability Ltd, and Prashant Tiwari, Chief Sustainability Officer of Amara Raja Group, discussed how companies are adopting sustainability and ESG initiatives. Prashant mentioned that understanding sustainabil-

ity in all its aspects is challenging but engaging with local embracing sustainability mea- communities can boost busi-

> younger generations are more aligned with sustainability and emphasised the importance of the Human-Machine alliance. Prashant added that sustainability and profitability go hand in hand, each driving the other.

Al-powered AR app and world's first VR-powered 3D e-books launched

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

An AI-powered AR app and the world's first VR-powered 3D E-Books were launched for students in grades 1 to 12 across the State. The launch was conducted by Nischal's Smart Learning Solutions Pvt. Ltd. on Tuesday. The company introduced

two innovative products for students. Nischal's Lens, an AI-powered AR app for grades 6 to 12, offers over 35,000 videos and 28,000 3D animations. It brings subjects like Math and Science to life, encouraging critical thinking



Al-powered app founder Nischal Narayanam unveiling the poster of Al-Powered AR app and World's First VR-Powered 3D e-books in Hyderabad on Tuesday

and real-world applications. Integrated with the Emi Knowledge Graph, it links 135,000 concepts for interdis-

ciplinary learning. For younger students in grades 1 to 5, VR-powered

3D E-Books provide immer-

sive learning with 1,000 simulations, 150+ hours of animations, and personalised AI quizzes. Covering core subjects, these tools emphasise storytelling and real-life examples, aligning with NEP 2020 goals.

On this occasion, founder Nischal Narayanam emphasised that these innovations aim to redefine education, inspiring curiosity and bridging the gap between tradi-tional and future-ready learning. He noted that designed to be accessible and engaging, they transform education into an interactive and impactful experience.

HM asks Asha workers not to fall into trap of oppn parties

PNS HYDERABAD

Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha has on Tuesday asked the Asha workers not to fall into the trap of motivated protests of opposition political parties. The Minister said that the opposition party leaders' politicisation of Asha workers is proof of their desperation. "We will respect the freedom of Asha workers," he added.

He criticised the opposition party leaders who could not stand the victory celebrations to highlight the existence of Telangana State and incited Asha workers to mislead the people. "Those who ignored



the protests and wage hike of Asha workers during the last 10 years of rule are now shedding crocodile tears and this is a proof of their dual attitude."

He said that there is no record of the previous government taking care of Asha workers who protested for 106

days in 2015 to increase their wages. Minister Rajanarsimha reminded Asha workers had held strikes in 2018, 2020, 2021 and 2023. Why are those who could not solve the problems of Asha workers talking

The Minister appealed to Asha workers to behave with restraint. He said that the gov-ernment will not stand idle if peace and security are disrupt-

Minister Rajanarsimha ordered the hospital superintendent to provide better treatment to Asha worker who was admitted due to a fall in

25,000 EV charging stations target in Hyd

PNS HYDERABAD

Targeting 25,000 EV charging stations in Hyderabad for small businesses, Varcas-Ryoto Electrix has created an affordable solution to install two and three-wheeler charging stations for just Rs 11,000. From general shops to tyre repair centres, these businesses can set up charging stations and earn up to Rs 5,000 per month.

The company introduced this model to electrify Hyderabad with EV charging stations. During a press confer-



ence on Tuesday, Sandeep Ralhan, CTO of the company, stated that their focus is on developing EV infrastructure, not selling EV two-wheelers. Sandeep also noted that all that's needed is a three-phase

enough parking space. The stations will operate 24/7 with support from the custom-built app, E-Volt. The company aims to set up 25,000 charging stations across Hyderabad within a year.
The 6th Green Vehicle Expo

from December 12 -14 at Hitex, will showcase electric and hybrid vehicles, batteries, spare parts and more, while the 4th India Green Energy Expo will focus on renewable energy technologies like solar, wind

PNS HYDERABAD Uterine fibroids are a wide-

spread health concern affecting women globally, with 37 per cent of women aged 20-40 and 57 per cent of women aged 40-59 in India diagnosed with the condition. Traditionally, surgery, such as hysterectomy, has been the standard treatment. However, many women hesitate due to concerns about scarring, blood loss and the emotional toll of losing fertility.

Advances in minimally invasive treatments, such as Uterine Fibroid Embolisation (UFE), now offer safer and more effective alternatives. UFE is performed by spe-



Dr Pujitha Vidiyala, Assistant Professor of Interventional Radiology at Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences

cialised Interventional Radiologists (IRs), experts in minimally invasive techniques to treat a range of con-While the field of

Stress on more women in Interventional Radiology

Interventional Radiology continues to grow in India, there remains a tremendous opportunity to support and inspire more women to enter this evolving specialty.

According to a study by Jenny M Gandhi, women represent only 11 per cent of IR consultants in the United Kingdom, 34 per cent in the United States, and just 3.5 per cent in India.

By increasing female representation in this field, we can unlock even greater potential for patient care and healthcare innovation, said Dr Pujitha Vidiyala, Assistant Professor of Interventional Radiology at Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences in Hyderabad.

Interventional Radiology (IR) is growing rapidly in India, fueled by access to advanced technology, structured training, and greater awareness among doctors and patients.

Minimally invasive procedures like uterine artery embolisation and fallopian tube recanalisation, performed by Interventional Radiologists, are transforming women's healthcare by offering safe, effective, fertility-sparing options with shorter recovery times, said Dr Pujitha.



62% grievances resolved under Telangana's Prajavani

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana government's flagship Prajavani programme has resolved 62 per cent of grievances registered by citizens within its first year of implementation. Launched on December 8, 2023, by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy at the Mahatma Jyothiba Phule Prajabhavan in Hyderabad, the initiative serves as a bridge between citizens and the government, facilitating direct

redressal of public grievances.
According to the annual report, as many as 84 Prajavani sessions have been conducted so far, during which a total of 43,272 grievances were registered. Of these, 27,215 grievances have been resolved, showcasing the programme's efficiency in addressing citizens' concerns. Additionally, the programme received 82,955 petitions, including applications for government schemes and benefits, which were forwarded to the relevant departments for further action.

Key features of Prajavani include direct citizen access to government officials, unique grievance tracking IDs, and dedicated desks for high-volPrajabhavan. Special counters are also available for persons with disabilities, senior citizens, and Gulf migrant workers, ensuring an inclusive approach to grievance redressal.

The programme has yielded numerous success stories, including securing financial aid for medical emergencies, correcting land records, and facilitating school transfers for children requiring medical attention. Notably, the Pravasi Prajavani counter has successfully assisted Gulf workers and their families in resolving employment-related issues.

Examples of grievances resolved under Telangana's Prajavani programme include:

• Tania, a resident of Ramchandrapur, sought urgent financial assistance for her prematurely born twin babies requiring critical medical care. Through Prajavani, funds were mobilized from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF), CSR initiatives, and crowdfunding. This intervention ensured their treatment, with one baby fully recovering and being



Vice-Chairman of Telangana State Planning Board G Chinna Reddy at a Prajavani

discharged in good health. Kommanaboina Pichaiah from Yerasanigudem village in Nalgonda district struggled for 46 years to obtain his Patta Pass Book for assigned land. Persistent follow-ups through Prajavani resulted in the issuance of the Patta Pass Book, finally bringing relief to the farmer.

Mesram Lachhu, an Aadivasi farmer from Adilabad, sustained severe injuries in a bear attack in

2020. Despite submitting all required documents, his compensation was delayed. Prajavani facilitated coordi-

nation with the Forest

Department and Treasury, ensuring he received Rs. 2

lakh as compensation.

 Master Charan, a 6th-grade student from Nagarkurnool, needed a school transfer closer to his home due to heart surgery. The Tribal Welfare Department approved his request, significantly reducing his travel distance by 460 km and ensuring better access to medical care.

A transgender man's son, B.T.V. Chidvilas Raju, faced issues with scholarship eligibility due to discrepancies in gender-related documents. With Prajavani's intervention, corrections were made, and the scholarship was sanctioned, easing the family's financial burden.

 Nuguru Rahul Raj, a 32year-old from Hyderabad, went missing in Dubai after reporting that his belongings had been stolen. His parents submitted a petition under Pravasi Prajavani, and with government efforts, Rahul Raj was located and brought back to India.

Kollu Dhanalaxmi from Suryapeta was a victim of a fraudulent loan taken by a PACS Secretary without her consent. Prajavani helped her secure a No Due Certificate, ensured the suspension of the secretary, and facilitated legal action against him.

Cyberabad Police recover 1,100 stolen mobiles

PNS HYDERABAD

Cyberabad Police have

recovered 1,100 stolen and lost mobile phones over the past 45 days. Utilising the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) portal, the recovered phones, valued at Rs 3.30 crore, were handed over to their rightful owners on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, DCP Crimes K Narasimha stated, "With mobile phones playing an essential role in our daily lives, this recovery drive underscored the Cyberabad Police's commitment to protecting citizens from cybercrimes. Mobile theft remains a persistent issue, often exploited by cybercriminals to access sensitive information, including bank account details. Despite high levels of education, many people remain unaware of how to prevent their stolen devices from being misused.' He further added, "Since the implementation of the CEIR portal, it has facilitated the recovery of 7,500 mobile phones, including 5,500 devices this year alone. We urge citizens to take precautions, such as securing their devices and being cautious of fraud calls or suspicious online links commonly used by criminals to

DCA raids quack's clinic, seize drugs in Bhupalpally dist



PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana Drugs Control Administration (DCA) raided an unlicensed clinic in Palimela Village, Jayashankar Bhupalpally District, and seized drugs illegally stocked for sale. The raid, conducted on Monday, uncovered 28 varieties of medicines, including antibiotics, abortifacient drugs, and analgesics, from the premises of K Anjaiah, who was practicing medicine without proper qualifica-

The seized medicines, valued at Rs 17,800, included antibiotics like Cefixime, Cefpodoxime, Amoxicillin, as well as aborpills such as Mifepristone Misoprostol tablets. Officials highlighted the risks associated with the indiscriminate sale of these drugs, warning public of health dangers like antimicrobial resistance and severe complications from unregulated use of abortifacient drugs.

P Pavani, Drugs Inspector, Bhupalpally, led the raid, and samples of the seized

drugs were sent for further analysis. The DCA announced that action would be taken against the offenders as per the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, which penalizes the unauthorized stocking and sale of drugs with imprisonment of up to five years.

The DCA also issued a stern warning to wholesalers and dealers supplying medi-cines to unlicensed entities, emphasizing that such activities are punishable under the law. Wholesalers are mandated to verify the drug license of recipient entities

before supplying medicines. The public has been urged to report illegal drug-related activities, including the unlicensed manufacturing and sale of medicines, through the DCA's toll-free helpline 1800-599-6969, operational on working days from 10:30 am to 5:00 pm.

Drugs Administration Director General V.B. Kamalasan Reddy, IPS, reiterated the commitment to safeguarding public health by cracking down on such illegal prac-

Sridhar Babu neglects Manthani constituency, says Putta Madhu

PNS HYDERABAD

Former MLA Putta Madhu has launched a scathing attack on Minister Sridhar Babu, accusing him of failing to deliver on promises made to the Manthani constituency.

Addressing a press meet at Telangana Bhavan, Putta Madhu alleged that Sridhar Babu, despite being an MLA for over a year and a prominent Congress leader, has not initiated any significant developmental activities in the region.
"His family has held power

in Manthani for over four decades, but the constituency still lags in development," Madhu remarked. He criticised Sridhar Babu's tenure as MLA and his role as chairman of the Congress Manifesto neglected his constituency. Even Chief Minister Revanth Reddy frequently mentions Sridhar Babu, but what has he

announcing the release of a chargesheet detailing the minister's failures.

Madhu highlighted several unfulfilled promises, including the lack of progress on the Chinna Kaleshwaram project, road connectivity with major cities, and the establishment of industries to address unemployment.

He pointed out that Sridhar Babu had promised a medical college but has yet to deliver. "Not even a single review meeting has been held to improve educational facilities, and there has been no action on the Odedu bridge construction," he added.

The former MLA also accused Sridhar Babu of perpetuating corruption. "During the elections, he criticised sand increased sand reach permits. In neighboring Peddapalli, sand is provided free of cost to the people, yet Sridhar Babu done for Manthani in the past has ignored this," Madhu

year? Nothing," Madhu stated, claimed, adding that various mafias are thriving under his watch in Manthani

Putta Madhu alleged that police stations in the constituency have been turned into Congress offices, with police neglecting complaints from common citizens and BRS workers. "Sridhar Babu prioritises vote-bank politics over public welfare," he remarked.

He further criticised Sridhar Babu for failing to capitalise on his role in the Congress government. "Despite having the opportunity to develop industries as IT Minister, he has ignored Manthani entirely. All progress in Manthani was achieved under KCR's leader-

ship," Madhu asserted. Concluding his remarks, Putta Madhu urged Sridhar Babu to take the chargesheet seriously and focus on the development of Manthani, stating that the people of the constituency deserve better governance.

Four girl students ill after eating breakfast, hospitalised

PNS HYDERABAD

Four girl students from a state-run social welfare residential educational institute in Vikarabad District were hospitalised on Tuesday with stomach aches and vomiting after consum-

They were subsequently discharged, a senior

Some of the girls who fell ill complained about the poor quality of food at the hostel, which is located in Tandur Mandal.

"Only four of the around 95 students com-

plained of vomiting after having breakfast. They were taken to a hospital and were discharged after treatment," the official said.

defraud victims.

Speaking to TV channels, the students who were admitted to the hospital claimed that there were worms in the rice, and the overall quality of the food served to them was not good. They alleged that despite bringing the mat-

ter to the authorities' attention, there was no Another student mentioned experiencing stomach pain and vomiting and claimed that 15 students were admitted to various hospitals.

Swadhar Home is mired in controversy

Nizamabad Collector Rajivgandhi Hanumanthu has ordered an inquiry into alleged serious lapses in the shelter home

PNS NIZAMABAD

The Swadhar Home, which should provide refuge to those deprived of their rights, is now at the centre of controversy. Women who are supposed to be supported are running away from their homes due to alleged harassment by officials. The authorities are accused of making them perform household chores, and serious allegations have been raised, creating a stir.

A woman has gone missing from the Swadhar Home located in Nizamabad. Despite the presence of CCTV cameras, the authorities are unable to determine when the woman escaped. Other women in the home have written letters to higher officials, accusing the authorities of harassment. The issue has attracted attention, prompting District Collector

Rajeev Gandhi Hanmantu to

The women at the home have made severe allegations against the Swadhar Home Superintendent and a districtlevel official. They claim that the District Welfare Officer made them perform household tasks and even they are forced to give body massages. They further accused the authorities of making them work at their homes in Nizamabad and Hyderabad. Unable to bear the harassment, the women have stated they are coming forward to narrate their suffering before the media.

The women who seek refuge at the Swadhar Home are those who have suffered from discrimination or are women experiencing marital issues. Swadhar Homes exists in the district centre and Bodhan as well. Recently, women residing



at the Nizamabad shelter raised complaints about the harassment they faced from the authorities, which has created a stir. Meanwhile, a young woman went missing from the home, which has also become a topic of discussion. A police complaint was filed about her disappearance, and the police have registered a case and are investigating. The women

residing at the Swadhar Home have also filed complaints with higher authorities in the Women and Child Welfare Department, claiming they were made to perform household chores. The issue has caught the attention of the Minister of Women and Child Welfare, who has taken it seriously and instructed the officials to provide a comprehensive report.

nen have expressed distress over the poor quality of food and the mental harassment they are experiencing. The Collector has been informed about the harassment, and an inquiry has been ordered.

District Medical and Health Officer Rajashri has been appointed as the inquiry officer. The District Child Welfare Officer facing allegations has denied the allegations, claiming that she did not harass anyone, make anyone perform body massages, or ask them to do household chores.

The government has ordered a thorough investigation into the harassment issue. The matter of women being forced to give body massages is being treated seriously. Action is likely to be taken after the investigation.

Centre urged to ensure hassle-free cotton procurement

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Stating that the Cotton farmers in Telangana state are facing a lot of problems while selling their produce to Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), the Bhongir MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy appealed to Union Ministers to intervene and sort it out.

On Tuesday, Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy met the Union Minister of Agriculture Shivaraj Singh Chauhan and Union Minister of Textiles Giriraj Singh and appealed to them to discuss the problems facing the cotton farmers in Telangana while selling their produce and requested the Ministers to intervene and sort it out. He submitted a memorandum in this regard to the two Union Ministers.

In the memorandum, Kiran

Kumar Reddy said that Telangana Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Commission chairman M Kodanda Reddy, in his letter, argues that some major issues of cotton farmers noticed that CCI has been putting barriers in hassle-free procurement, causing anxiety among poor small and marginal farmers in the name of quality mode of supply etc. The farmers do understand the different grades of cotton and the necessity of procurement as per pre-determined grades by CCI, they are not able to assimilate refusal to procure at all in some cases. The cotton quality is dependent on the seeds that are approved by the government of India. Farmers do not have any role in determining the quality as cotton quality is a factor of the seeds supplied to them.

citing instructions about bagging of cotton and other parameters, which appears to be an afterthought. Not to insist on any condition of packing cotton for procurement. The CCI should accept cotton fiber harvest as brought by the farmers and not raise questions over bringing cotton in bags or not. In fact, there is no rationale for such objections. Cotton harvest needs protection from dust and other elements contaminating the fiber. For this reason, farmers bring cotton bags, covering the cotton fiber from getting contaminated while transporting, shifting, etc. Once the farmers bring the cotton to the market it is the responsibility of the CCI to procure it mandatorily and the CCI shall not refuse to procure it from the former.



Bhongir MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy submitting a memorandum Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh on Tuesday at Delhi

Telangana culture under threat: Jagadish Reddy

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former minister and MLA Jagadish Reddy, along with MLC Pochampally Srinivas Reddy, former MLA Balka Suman, and former MLA Methuku Anand, addressed a press meet at Telangana Bhavan, sharply criticiding the Congress government's approach towards Telangana's cultural heritage. Highlighting the Congress's year-long rule, Jagadish Reddy claimed that Telangana's identity and culture have been undermined under the guise of celebra-

He alleged that Congressled events focused on film songs instead of authentic Telangana cultural expressions, evoking the same cultural erosion that the region faced during the united Andhra Pradesh regime. "For sixty years, Congress leaders drowned Telangana's identity



in a haze of distractions, destroying our language, dialect, and traditions. They even went as far as banning the mention of Telangana in the Assembly," he stated. Recalling the contributions

of Prof Jayashankar and Telangana activists, he emphasised how the cultural assault was countered through the statehood movement. "It was KCR's resolute leadership that revived Telangana's culture, introduced Bathukamma globally, and celebrated festivals like Godavari and Krishna Pushkaralu with grandeur," he remarked.

the unveiling of a new Telangana Talli statue, claiming it lacked the emotional and cultural connection that the original represented. "This is an attack on Telangana's spirit. The new statue is nothing but a ploy by the Congress to propagate their symbol under the pretext of cultural preservation. Telangana activists and people must recognise this manipulation," he said.

He also condemned the imposition of decisions without public consensus, questioning the rationale behind the new statue's inclusion in official records. "Who gave the authority to impose such decisions on the people of Telangana? The Congress government's actions are reminiscent of suppressive tactics aimed at eroding Telangana's cultural sovereignty," he इंडियन के 🚯 Indian Bank

PEDDAPALLI BRANCH , #4-6-111/2, Kaman Road, Opp. Police Station,

PUBLICATION DEMAND NOTICE NOTICE UNDER SEC.13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002

Sent on 11.10.2024 by Read, Post / Speed Post / Courier to To Borrowerf mortgagor ;1.Smt. Puli Swamalatha Wo late Puli Ramakrishna Addres 14. No. 1-2-27, Opposite Ayappa Temple, Rajiv Rahadari Road, Peddapelli, Peddapell De 505172 2 Mr. Pullikomi Prasad Sio Shankaraiah Address 1.H.No. 1-2-27, Opposite Yappa Temple , Rajiv Rahadari Road, Peddapall i , Peddapali Dist - 505172. 3.Mr. Puli Vijay Curnar Sto. Shankaraiah Address 1:H.No. 1-2-27. Opposite Ayappa Temple , Raji Rahadari Road, Peddapalli, Peddapali Dist-505172. 4.Mr.Puli Ramkrishna SV Shankaraiah Address 1:H.No. 1-2-27 , Opposite Ayappa Temple , Rajiv RahadariRoar Peddapali , Peddapali Dist - 505172 <u>Guarantor ;5.Surabhi Harinder Rao</u> Sto Ram chandra Rao: Address 1: #102, Shilipa Arcade , Jubilee Hills, Road no 2 , Hyderabad 500034Address2: #102, Shilipa Arcade , Banjara Hills, Road no 3 , Hyderabad -500034

Sub: Your House Loan No. 783443305 , with Indian Bank, Peddapall i Branch-Reg ou committed default in repayment of loans to the tune of 'Rs. 15,21,093.00 i- (Rup ifteen Lakhs Twenty one Thousand and Ninety Three Only) as on 08/10/2024 till with furthe nterest at the agreed rate from 08/10/2024 fill date of repayment. The Bank issued notice under the Act on 10.10.2024 calling upon you to repay the outstanding amount o Rs. 15,21,093.00 /- (Rupees Fifteen Lakhs Twenty one Thousand and Ninety Three Only) as on 00/10/2024 The notice was sent to you by "Regd. post has been returned un-served. Yo are called upon to pay. Rs. 15,21,093.00 Jr. (Rupees Fifteen Lakhs Twenty one Thousan and Ninety Three Only) as on **96°10/2024** till date of payment within 60 days from the date of this notice failing which Bank will be constrained to exercise its rights of enforcement of security interest as against the secured assets given in the schedule hereunder. This Notic is without prejudice to any other right remedy available to the Bank.

SCHEDULE: The specific details of the assets in which security interest is created an enumerated hereunder:Mortgaged assets; All that house property situated at H No 1-2 27 consisting of Cellar, ground and First floor in a land area of 431,00 SqYds , aituated a Pregathi nagar, Opposite Ayeppa Temple , Rajiv Rahadari Road , Peddapalii Town Peddapalii Mandal, Peddapaliy District within the limits of Peddapalii Municipality egistration Sub District Peddapelli having the following boundaries:East: Open Place Srinivasa Rac, West:Rajiv Rahadari Road (State Highway), North:House of Narayan

Place:PEDDAPALLI

Sd/-Authorised Officer



ACROSS THE STATES



Abhay Kumar to be India's new envoy to Georgia

enior diplomat Abhay Kumar has been appointed India's new ambassador to Georgia. Kumar, a joint secretary at the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), is currently serving as deputy director general of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations. He is expected to take up the assignment shortly, according to the MEA. Kumar joined the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) in 2003 after completing his postgraduate degree in geography from the Jawaharlal Nehru University. He served as India's 21st ambassador to Madagascar, concurrently accredited to Comoros, from 2019 to 2022, and as deputy chief of mission at the Indian Embassy in Brasilia from 2016 to 2019. Kumar earlier served as first secretary at the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu from 2012 to 2016 and as consul at the Consulate General of India in St Petersburg, Russia, from 2007 to 2010. He served at the Indian Embassy in Moscow. Kumar speaks Russian, Portuguese, English, Nepali, Hindi, Magahi and has a working knowledge of French.



'Move civil court to decide land ownership row'

he Kerala High Court on Tuesday said it cannot decide the land ownership row between the Waqf Board and the residents of Munambam village in Ernakulam district and asked those facing eviction notices to move a civil court instead. A bench of Justices Amit Rawal and K V Jayakumar orally said it will protect those facing eviction notices by staying the same temporarily till the affected persons file a suit in a civil court. The High Court said that the affected persons can seek an injunction against the Waqf Board's action from the civil court. The High Court's oral remarks came during a hearing of pleas by several residents of Munambam village challenging the Waqf Board's eviction notices and various provisions of the Waqf Act.



RS bypoll: BJP nominee set to be elected unopposed

ormer National Commission for Women chief and BJP nominee Rekha Sharma filed her nomination for the Rajya Sabha bypoll from Haryana here on Tuesday. Being the lone candidate in the fray, she is set to get elected unopposed. Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, state BJP president Mohan Lal Badoli and Minister Krishan Lal Panwar were among those who accompanied Sharma when she submitted her nomination papers before the returning officer at the Haryana Assembly secretariat here. Speaking to reporters after filing her nomination, Sharma said, "I want to thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, Amit Shah ji, J P Nadda ji, Manohar Lal Khattar and Nayab Singh Saini ji for giving me an opportunity once again to serve the nation." She also touched upon several initiatives and schemes brought by the Narendra Modi government for women empowerment. "Congratulations and best wishes for your victory in advance," Chief Minister Saini posted in Hindi on X after Sharma filed her nomination

Par panel calls for review of PM-KUSUM scheme

PNS NEW DELHI

A Parliamentary panel has called for review of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) scheme as it found various gaps in it.

The scheme was launched in March 2019 to provide financial support to farmers for installation of standalone solar pumps, solarization of existing grid-connected agriculture pumps, a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy said in its report tabled in Parliament on Tuesday. The scheme also provides farmers



an opportunity to become solar entrepreneurs by installing solar power plants on their bar-

ren/fallow agriculture land.

The panel observed that targets under different components of the scheme could not be achieved and hence its timeline has been extended till March 2026

'Cyber crimes, climate change new threats to human rights'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The human rights discourse so far has been centred on the "human agency" as the violator is assumed to be a human, but with artificial intelligence entering our lives, the "culprit could be a non-human" but an intelligent agent, President Droupadi Murmu said on

Tuesday.

Addressing an event hosted by the NHRC here to mark Human Rights Day, the president also underlined cyber crimes and climate change as "new threats" to human rights.

Human Rights Day is observed on December 10 every year to commemorate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which was adopted and proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948.

Shombi Sharp, UN Resident Coordinator in India, read out the message of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on the occasion.

"On Human Rights Day, we face a harsh truth. Human rights are under assault. Tens of millions of people are mired in poverty, hunger, poor health and education systems that have not yet fully recovered from the Covid-19 pandemic. Global inequalities are running rampant. Conflicts are intensifying. International law is wilfully ignored," Guterres said in his message, which was also displayed on a screen.

"Authoritarianism is on the march while civic space is shrinking. Hateful rhetoric is fuelling discrimination, divi-

"Authoritarianism is on the march while civic space is shrinking. Hateful rhetoric is fuelling discrimination, division, and outright violence. And women's rights continue to be rolled back in law and practice. This year's theme reminds us that human rights are about building the future righ now," the message said



sion, and outright violence. And women's rights continue to be rolled back in law and practice. This year's theme reminds us that human rights are about building the future -- right now,' the message said.

The UDHR serves as a global benchmark for the protection and promotion of human rights. "It is a day to remember the institutions that strive to protect and promote the rights of the most vulnerable sections of society. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), the State Human Rights Commissions, various other bodies, the judiciary, and other key stakeholders have worked tirelessly to be the voice of the voiceless. I compliment them for their steadfast commitment and untiring work towards ensuring human rights for all," Murmu said in her address. "Today, as one reflects on the ideals enshrined in the UDHR adopted on this day in 1948, we reaffirm our collective resolve to contribute to building a world where justice and human dignity are the bedrock

of society," she said.
India today stands as a "shining example" where "great initiatives are being taken by the government" for poverty alleviation, eradication of hunger by providing free food to the underprivileged, and offering equal opportunities to the youth to realise their dreams, the president said.

"India, with its civilisational heritage spanning over 5,000 years, has long upheld values of empathy, compassion, and the

inter-connectedness of individuals within a harmonious community," she added. The president also said that India had an elderly population of around 150 million by 2022, and is projected to reach 350 million by 2050.

"So we must formulate policies and take measures that preserve their dignity and ensure their well-being, empowering them to live full lives as valuable members of our society,' Murmu said. She also underlined that in recent years, mental health has become a critical issue, especially for children and the youth. "As we progress into the future, we are confronted with emerging challenges. Cyber crimes and climate change are new threats to



'TN will take up Mullaiperiyar dam upkeep issue with Kerala govt'

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin will take up with his Kerala counterpart Pinarayi Vijayan the problems being faced by the state Public Works Department (PWD) officials in taking up the maintenance of the Mullaiperiyar dam located in the neighbouring state, Water Resources Minister Duraimurugan said on Tuesday.

The chief minister would hold consultations with Vijayan during his visit to Kerala this week and work for an amicable solution, Duraimurugan said, responding to the 'call attention motion moved by Leader of the Opposition AIADMK Edappadi K Palaniswami in the Assembly. Palaniswami claimed the PWD officials were prevented from carrying the construction material to the Idukki district where the Mullaiperiyar dam was situated, to take up the

maintenance work. "A PWD lorry carrying construction material from Tamil Nadu was blocked at Vallakadavu check post in Kerala on December 4, thus obstructing the upkeep of the dam," Palaniswami said drawing the government's attention

The chief minister would hold consultations with Vijayan during his visit to Kerala this week and work for an amicable solution, Duraimurugan said, responding to the 'call attention motion' moved by Leader of the Opposition AIADMK Edappadi K Palaniswami in the Assembly

on the second day of the twoday Assembly session. He urged the chief minister to take up the issue of frequent problems being faced by TN PWD in transporting construction material when he visits Kerala on December 12 and facilitate the smooth maintenance of the dam.

On the inundation in many villages allegedly due to the opening of the Sathanur dam in Thiruvannamalai district when Cyclone Fengal crossed the TN-Karaikal coast, the chief minister replied that water from the reservoir was released after the PWD issued five flood alerts

'Don't react to remarks by INDIA bloc allies'

■ Rahul Gandhi asks party MPs ■ Says Cong capable of dealing with issues

PNS MUMBAI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi told party's Lok Sabha MPs Tuesday not to react to com-ments of "middle- and lowrung" leaders of INDIA bloc parties and asserted that the Congress as the largest party in the opposition grouping is capable of addressing issues,

sources said. amid various leaders of the INDIA bloc weighing in on the leadership issue and TMC leaders aggressive-

ly pitching for West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to head the opposition alliance. The sources said that Gandhi, who chaired a meeting of the party's Lok Sabha MPs at Parliament Annexe here this morning, also told the MPs to ensure that all of them are present for party's protest ahead of the Parliament sittings, especially when Congress

president is participating. leaders not to react to comments of other opposition parties' "middle- and low-rung"



capable of addressing issues.

Gandhi said the protests by opposition on the Adani issue

leaders and stressed that the Congress as the largest party in jittery and they must continue leader of the opposition in Lok Sabha stressed that he wanted the House to function of Parliament in the morning.

so that opposition voice is heard, party sources said. Wayanad MP Priyanka

Gandhi Vadra is understood to have urged MPs to come up with innovative ideas of protest as had been seen in the past few days. Soon after the meeting, several opposition MPs demonstrated over the Adani issue in Parliament premises, carrying black 'jholas' (bags) with caricatures of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and billionaire Gautam Adani printed on it and 'Modi Adani Bhai Bhai' written on the obverse side.

unusual protests led by the Congress daily ahead of the sitting

ISRO carries out 'well deck' recovery trial of Gaganyaan

PNS BENGALURU

ISRO on Tuesday said it recovery trials of the Gaganyaan with the Indian Navy on December 6.

The trials were carried out at Eastern Naval Command using a well deck ship off the coast of Vishakhapatnam, ISRO said in a statement.

The space agency said the well deck in a ship can be flooded with water so that boats, landing crafts, recovered spacecraft can be taken inside to dock

within the ship.
Once the Crew Module touches down in the sea at the end of the mission, crew have to be recovered in the minimum possible time and with the least discomfort, it said.

One of the preferred options is to tow the Crew Module along with the crew inside the well deck of the ship where the crew can come out comfortably, ISRO explained.

It said that the trials for

Delhi's air quality again turns 'poor'

Likely to remain same for next 2 days

PNS NEW DELHI

A day after recording 'moderate' AQI, Delhi's air quality slipped into 'poor' category on Tuesday, with forecast suggesting it will remain the same for the next couple of days. The 24-hour average Air

Quality Index (AQI) of the city was recorded at 234 at 4 pm on Tuesday, marking a drop from Monday's 'moderate' reading of 186. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) classifies AQI between 0 and 50 as 'good', between 51 and 100 as satisfactory', between 101 and 200 as 'moderate', between 201 and 300 as 'poor', between 301 and 400 as 'very poor', and above 400 as 'severe'.

Of the 38 air quality monitoring stations in the capital, two reported AQI in very



poor' category on Tuesday. While 27 stations recorded 'poor' AQI, the rest were in the 'moderate' category, according to the Sameer app which provides hourly data. The primary pollutant on Tuesday was PM2.5, which was recorded at $87.9 \,\mu\text{g/m}^3$ at 3 pm. These fine particles pose significant health risks as they can penetrate deep into the lungs and enter the bloodstream. Meanwhile, the Decision Support System (DSS), a tool used to assess and estimate sources of pollution in Delhi which had not been updated since November 29, was

restarted on Monday.
According to the DSS, the daily mean of local and nonlocal fractional contributions to PM2.5 in Delhi on Tuesday was estimated at 20.2 per cent, while Wednesday's forecast predicts it to contribute 15.6 per cent to Delhi's pollution.

No mismatch in votes polled, **VVPAT** count in Maha: ECI

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Tuesday said no mismatch was found between the votes polled and corresponding tally of Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail slips in random counting in the last month's Maharashtra assembly elections.

The mandatory counting of VVPAT slips from five randomly selected polling stations in each assembly constituency was completed successfully, the ECI said in a statement.

Opposition parties in the state had questioned the integrity of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) after the ruling BJP-led Mahayuti coalition won a landslide victory in the November 20 elections.

The counting of VVPAT slips aims to verify the tally of votes recorded EVMs against



the corresponding VVPAT slips, the ECI said, adding that representatives of candidates were present throughout the process. In Maharashtra's 288 assembly constituencies, officials verified a total of 1,440 VVPAT machines. Representatives of candidates and EC observers randomly

statement said. There was no discrepancy found between the candidatewise vote counts recorded in EVMs and the corresponding counts from the VVPAT slips,

selected polling stations, the

well deck recovery were carried out using a mass and shape simulated Crew Module Mock-up.

Regions worldwide could see warming of 3 degrees Celsius

PNS NEW DELHI

Most of the world could experience regional warming of 3 degrees Celsius by 2060 -- sooner than previously estimated, according to a new study. The study, published in the journal Environmental Research Letters, highlights the uncertainty of regional climate change.
"The challenge is that regional

climate change can be more uncertain, both because the climate system is inherently more noisy at smaller spatial scales and because processes in the atmosphere, ocean and land surface create uncertainty about exactly how a given region will respond to global-scale warming," co-author



Noah Diffenbaugh, a professor at Stanford University, said. The Paris Agreement of 2015

aims to limit climate change by restricting the global temperature rise this century to well

below 2 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels, with ongoing efforts to limit the

rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The study projects that several land regions -- including South Asia, the Mediterranean, Central Europe, and parts of sub-Saharan Africa -- are on track to exceed the 3 degrees Celsius threshold by 2060.

The researchers noted that this is sooner than earlier studies had anticipated, compounding risks for vulnerable ecosystems and communities. These land regions have been defined by the Intergovern mental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a United Nations body that provides scientific information to help governments develop cli-

mate policies. For the study, the researchers analysed results from the IPCC's climate models to predict temperature increases. They found that 34 regions

are likely to exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming by 2040, with 31 regions expected to see 2 degrees of warming by 2040, and 26 regions likely to surpass 3 degrees of warming by 2060.

"It is important to focus not only on global temperature increases but also on specific changes occurring in local and regional areas. By narrowing down when regional warming thresholds will be reached, we can more clearly anticipate the timing of specific impacts on society and ecosystems," Diffenbaugh said.







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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

It is getting hot!

Global warming is becoming reality as 2024 set to be the hottest year on record

s global temperatures soar to unprecedented levels, 2024 is shaping up to be the hottest year on record, a grim milestone that underscores the accelerating crisis of climate change. European Union scientists have confirmed that the first eleven months of 2024 have set a new high, making this year the warmest since records began. This will be the first year where the global average temperature surpasses 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, a threshold that world leaders have long warned could trigger catastrophic climate impacts. With this alarming reality, the world faces a rapidly intensifying climate emergency, one that requires immediate and drastic action. The impacts of global warming are already being felt around the world. In 2024, extreme weather events have ravaged communities, causing widespread devastation. Severe droughts have gripped Italy and South America, while fatal floods in Nepal, Sudan and Europe have displaced thousands. Heatwaves in regions like



Mexico, Saudi Arabia and Mali have killed thousands of people, while cyclones have torn through the United States and the Philippines. These events are not just random occurrences; scientific studies confirm that they bear the unmistakable fingerprint of human-caused climate change.

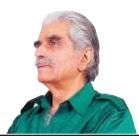
The overwhelming cause of global warming is carbon dioxide emissions from burning fossil fuels. These emissions trap heat in the atmosphere, causing global temperatures to rise at an alarming rate. The most effective way to curb this warming is by reducing emissions to net-zero levels, a goal that many nations have pledged to achieve in the com-

ing decades. However, despite these green pledges, global CO2 emissions are on track to hit record highs this year. This contradictory trend highlights the gap between political promises and the real, tangible actions needed to mitigate climate change. This year's UN climate talks produced a \$300-billion deal aimed at addressing the global climate crisis. However, poorer countries have criticised this deal, arguing that it is insufficient to cover the soaring costs of climate-related disasters. While this deal may have made some progress, it is clear that the global response is not yet enough to prevent further warming. The rise of climate change deniers, particularly within the political sphere, has made it even harder to combat this crisis. US President-elect Donald Trump, in particular, has consistently downplayed the severity of global warming and rolled back numerous environmental regulations during his previous term. Under Trump's leadership, the US withdrew from the Paris Agreement, a global pact aimed at reducing emissions and limiting global temperature rise. Such actions would undoubtedly exacerbate the climate crisis, making it even harder to reduce emissions and avoid the most catastrophic effects of global warming. The time to act is now, and the window for meaningful change is rapidly closing.



Badrinath Dham receives the first snowfall of the season, in Chamol

Philippines confronts Chinese assertiveness



The South China Sea remains a flashpoint of escalating tensions as China intensifies its aggressive maritime activities, targeting nations like the Philippines

NS Admiral Dinesh Tripathi during his customary briefing of media before Navy Day last week expressed concern about Chinese maritime activities in the South China Sea, all of which China claims. Two countries it especially targets in SCS are Taiwan and the Philippines in whose waters it has indulged in offensive naval actions. It signed a defence agreement with the US in 1951; last month it signed an intelligence and technology agreement facilitating satellite intelligence and access to high-grade US weaponry following President Marcos promulgating Maritime Zone Act and Archipelago Sea Lanes Act that China denounced and summoned its envoy. US Defence Secretary Llyod Austin told his counterpart Gilberto Teodoro: We are more than allies; we're

The week-long ASEAN summit in Vientiane, Laos from 6 to 12 October witnessed stern exchanges between China, the US and the Philippines especially over the South China Sea at a time when the West is seized with Ukraine and West Asia crises, ven as President-elect Trump is issuing multiple threats. While Chinese Premier Li Qiang blamed 'external forces" for interfering in regional affairs, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the US is concerned about increasingly dangerous and unlawful activities of China in disputed SCS. Marcos complained to ASEAN leaders that his country continues to be subjected to Chinese bullying and intimida-

Earlier that week PM Narendra Modi attended the 19th India-ASEAN meeting and made a powerful presentation of Delhi's Act East policy and criticised China for its expansionist policy in SCS. The Chinese have been testing the waters in the Philippines EEZ in SCS missile boat fired laser beams ilipinos call the West Philippines Sea with several forays against Filipino boats to check how far guard vessels continued to be the US will go in its support. Filipino vessels in their EEZ have faced intimidation and bullying by Chinese coast guard ships over the dispute Thomas Shoal 2 supervision and in a mid-August clash, several Chinese

where Sierra Madera a Philippine vessel has been grounded since 1999 to assert its sovereignty.

The Chinese are equally active and defiant against Japan in the East China Sea and recently crossed the First Island chain for the first time with an aircraft carrier and two war-

Taiwan continues to face periodic challenges as China relentlessly violates the 2016 UNCLOS ruling that the Philippines secured over China's illegal claim to the South China Sea under its 9dash line. During my interaction with Philippines security experts in Manila in June, clashes over the resupply of a marooned vessel in Thomas Shoal 2 had reached the climax; and some suggested it could be a feint for Taiwan. The incident had ruffled feathers in Manila with calls for invoking the US Mutual Defence Agreement which gets triggered only during armed external attack.

Clashes have occurred between the two sides and despite talks and a hotline, no compromise was reached. On September 28 Chinese Navy at a Philippines Cessna Patrol chased. Chinese insisted resupply of the marooned ship would happen under their

ships blocked passage of Filipino supplies for the strand-The Chinese have said that the

Philippines ship is illegally stranded/marooned at the disputed Thomas Shoal atoll which it owns as part of its claim to SCS. China calls it Xianbin Reef which is 150 km west of the Philippines island of Palawan. As before, it had repeatedly said it would promulgate its maritime laws including the use of firearms and arrest offenders in defence of its sovereignty and national interest. Teodoro said at the end of August that Thomas Shoal is a sovereignty issue of

EARLIER

THAT WEEK

THE 19TH

MADE

INDIA-ASEAN

MEETING AND

A POWERFUL

OF DELHI'S

PRESENTATION

ACT EAST POLICY

AND CRITICISED

CHINA FOR ITS

EXPANSIONIST

MODI ATTENDED

the Philippines. According to South China Morning Post (September 16), Admiral Samuel Paparo, US Indo-Pacific Command accompanied by Gen Romero Brawner, Chief of Philippines armed forces, said there is a range of options as countermeasures for the Chinese grey zone tactics adding the US is ready to escort Philippines ships in SCS in event of a spike in hostilities. Brawner said they would seek help if the Chinese blocked food supplies and soldiers were dying of hunger. In Manila, I was asked it did in 2012. whether re-supply by other means like helicopters was feasible and had suggested discussing it with their US allies. Meanwhile, Paparo took a video call with Gen Wu Yanan, PLA Southern Theatre

SCS and Taiwan.

Wu attended an International conference at the Indo-Pacific command in Hawaii in September even as Teodoro took the contingency of escalation to the next level, of the Chinese towing away the grounded Sierra Madera which would constitute an act of war; invoking a defence pact with the US. A code of conduct for ASEAN in SCS has been in the works for two decades but is far from fruition.

It is akin to India's LAC/border with China that Beijing has refused to resolve as it would put a stop to grey zone tactics and salami slicing. India has voiced clear support for the Philippines during the June 17 clash with the Chinese coast guard and Foreign Minister Jaishankar has been on a goodwill visit. Delhi has sold Brahmos anti-ship missiles to Manila, the first country to buy them. Former Defence Secretary, Giridhar Aramane was in Manila recently for the fifth Joint defence cooperation dialogue. While Taiwan may not be on the cards, Thomas Shoal 2 could end up in Chinese possession as Mischief Reef 24 km north of

(The writer a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. The views expressed are

Childhood Wounds: The hidden force behind life's struggles



Whether it's self-doubt at work or struggles in relationships, the roots often trace back to unresolved childhood wounds

ave you ever wondered why life keeps pulling you back, no matter how hard you try to move forward? Maybe you find yourself repeating the same mistakes in relationships, doubting your abilities at work, or battling the constant ache of "not being enough."

It's easy to blame bad luck or personal failure. But often, these struggles run deeper-in unresolved childhood wounds. Childhood is when we learn how to love. trust and value ourselves. But not all childhoods are built on safety and support. Even seemingly small moments can leave deep

A parent saying, "Stop crying, you're embarrassing me," or a teacher comparing you to someone else may seem insignificant at the time but can shape how we see ourselves for years to come. Take Radhika, for example. At 35, she thrived in her career but couldn't maintain a relationship. Every time someone got close, she would pull away, convinced they would leave her eventually. Therapy

revealed that her fear of abandonment stemmed from her father leaving when she was six. Her emotional walls weren't about keeping others out; they were about protecting herself from feeling that pain again. Then there's Arjun, 28, who struggled to hold a job. His pattern was predictable: procrastinate, miss deadlines and eventually

lose the role. He believed he lacked discipline, but therapy uncovered a deeper truth. He had grown up under relentless criticism—nothing he did was ever good enough. That internal. Therapy is where this cycle ends. It's not about

internalised voice followed him into adulthood, leading him to self-sabotage before anyone else could judge him. These aren't isolated stories. Many of us carry invisible wounds from our childhood.

A parent's absence, constant comparisons, or even a single harsh word can create emotional patterns fear of intimacy, perfectionism, or shrinking ourselves to avoid rejection. Over time, these patterns create setbacks that seem external but are deeply internal. Therapy is where

blaming our parents or reliving the past. It's about understanding why we feel stuck and learning how to let go of the pain. Imagine carrying a heavy bag for years, thinking it's just part of life—then discovering you can put it down. That's what healing feels like.

One client described the process beautifully: "For the first time, I understand myself. I'm not broken. I've just been carrying pain I didn't know was there." Your setbacks aren't failures; they're signals that something inside you needs attention. Healing childhood wounds allows you to stop reacting from a place of fear and start living from a place of freedom. It's not an easy journey, but it's one worth taking. The truth is, you deserved love and safety as a child, and you still do

Healing isn't about erasing the past—it's about reclaiming your future. If this resonates, consider giving yourself the gift of therapy. You're not broken—you're healing.

(The writer is a Life Coach; views are personal)

CONTROVERSY AT 11T KHARAGPUR

Madam —I have never heard of any controversy in the teaching campus of IIT Kharagpur. But now it is happening. For the last six months, open differences have started coming to the fore between the director and the teaching staff. The Indian Institute of Technology has issued show-cause notices to 90 faculty members in response to allegations against its director V K Tiwari of bias, "retaliation in faculty selection," and failure to set up the promised hospital on campus. In addition, three department

heads have also been replaced. The controversy began in September when the IIT Teachers' Association wrote a letter to Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan accusing Tiwari of arbitrary recruitment processes and other irregularities. About 100 faculty members have protested by wearing black bands and participating in silent marches on campus. The faculty is reportedly now considering legal action. On December 2, the administration replaced the heads of the departments of mathematics, artificial intelligence, and biosciences and biotechnology. I want to say that when the education minister was informed about the arbitrary behaviour of director VK Tiwari five months ago, why did he not

take any action? Why was the director not removed from his post with immediate effect? This means that the environment of this great educational institution is being deliberately spoiled so that this institution can be defamed. IIT Kharagpur is the first IIT to be established by the Government of India. The institute was formally inaugurated on 18 August 1951 by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. IIT was established to provide trained technical personnel for India. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru took the initiative to establish IIT, he believed that science and technology are important for the modernisation of India.

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

Sanjay Malhotra as new RBI Governor

Commander responsible for

THE ED

he union governments have appointed Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra as the 26th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, before the six-year term completion of Shaktikanta Das at the post of Governor of RBI. Throughout his career spanning more than 33 years, Sanjay Malhotra has served across

END OF ASSAD RULE

Madam—The turn of political events in Syria raises fears of a new wave of regional instability, following the ouster of Bashar al-Assad by the militant group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), ending his family's despotic rule for over 13 years. It marks a turning point for Syria, shattered by years of civil war that has turned cities into rubble, killed hundreds of thousands of people, and forced millions to go abroad as refugees.

Western governments, which have shunned the Assad-led state for years, must decide how to deal with a new administration in Syria in which HTS looks set to have greater influence. HTS, which spearheaded the rebel advances across western Syria, was formerly an al-Qaeda affiliate. The Syrians, therefore, will obviously remain fearful as this militant group will impose draconian Islamist rule or instigate reprisals. As Syria will go to polls, it would require a smooth transition in a country with com-

plex competing interests. Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

diverse sectors, including power, finance, taxation, information technology, and mines. Currently he has been serving as secretary (revenue) in the ministry of finance, he previously held the position of secretary in the department of financial services under the min-

istry of finance, Government of India. The governor heads the RBI and plays a central role in formulating, implementing and monitoring the monetary policy and banking regulations of India. Every note ever printed carries the signature of the RBI governor. The RBI Governor also monitors and facilitates the flow of credit to rural, agricultural and various MSME sectors. As the newly appointed governor holds good ties with the finance minister, he probably works in the betterment of the country's economy, inflation rate, CRR, SLR. GDP, etc.

Dimple Wadhawan | Kanpur Nagar

TIKTOK'S NEGATIVE EFFECTS

Madam — Tensions have been escalating in the US over the impact of TikTok. The US Court of Appeals has also cited a notice to China-based ByteDance to sell the social media app by January 19 or face an effective ban in the US. Banning TikTok is not the ultimate solution, as it will hit hard many businessmen for whom TikTok is a source of income generation. They use social media for promotion of their products or of their business, but we cannot forget its negative

impact on the minds of children. There is a need to adopt such a solution that will be beneficial for both businessmen and society. Businessmen should create accounts in the name of their business, and e-verification of those accounts should also be done to maintain their originality, and accounts registered under the age of 16 should be banned so the app will be less harmful.

Shreyanshi Jain | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

www.dailypioneerloneer.com facebook.com/dailypioneerl@TheDailyPioneerlinstagram.com/dailypioneer/

FIRST COLUMN TRANSFORMING ORGANISATIONAL BEHAVIOR

As technology reshapes the world at breakneck speed, organisations must evolve to stay relevant



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 are 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- oneon-one, 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. Be it surgical strikes or wars, instructions are being disseminated to the foot soldiers through the latest technology, like the usage of GPS coordinates and Real-Time Imagery.

In such a scenario, scores of organisational structures, government or those in the private sector must adapt radically in order to survive. 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 reinvent itself and current organisational behaviour and theories or prepare a blueprint to discover a sister planet to inhabit. 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)

A roadmap for modernising India's security framework



A comprehensive approach to urban mobility, affordability and infrastructure is the need of the hour to reclaim Delhi's air and ensure a healthier, sustainable future



he recent 2 days 59th All India Conference of Director Generals of Police in Bhubaneshwar augurs very well for drawing a future roadmap of policing in India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for a SMART way of policing has once again brought forward the need for modernisation of Indian Police and Security Agencies which can help India move on the path of high-powered police technology with the most efficient and latest technologies. Recent challenges to the security of India bring to light an important fact that India needs to diversify its strategies to counter the challenges it faces lately from digital frauds, artificial Intelligence misuse and cyber crimes. Prime Minister emphasised the need to come together and closely cooperate in fighting the lat-est threats by developing strategies for the establishment of an extremely capable intelligence system to ensure such threats can be encountered at early stages.

SMART POLICING appears to be only solution for protection against the multiple threats from diverse and very intense new waves of terror, cyber criminals, drug traffickers, economic offenders, smugglers, criminals, naxals, arms dealers and insurgents. It would provide a platform for multi-layered security cooperation that would deal with various issues related to terrorism — right from the funding of terrorist activities, policing cooperation, dealing with cyber threats, secrecy through enhancing technological innovations and tightening the border to maritime security information-

gathering exercise. Cooperation and coordination in communication capabilities and management of security arrangements to deal with any kind of threat are the main objectives of his call. Besides, a modernisation of the Police is also imperative given the possible threats from religiously motivated bands of distraught minds. The Prime Minister has called for a smart way of policing and usage of interoperable and transferable technologies such as drones that would open a new gateway to meet complex security chal-



THE POLICE NEED TO DIVERSIFY ITS **ACTIVITIES BY** BRINGING **TOGETHER** TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL **EXPERTISE BASED** ON MANY **DECADES OF EXPERIENCE IN** MAINTAINING INTERNAL

SECURITY. IT IS HIGH TIME WE REALISED THAT POLICE ALONE CANNOT STOP THE CRIME, THE **ENTIRE SOCIETY** SHOULD MAKE SUBSTANTIAL

EFFORTS

lenges. Over the years a great deal of literature has appeared on India's police and the need for reforms. Policies are being made to enable the force to adapt to the challeng-ing environment and efficiently implement recommendations suggested by the panels on reforms. As the threats today are more severe and enemies more organised than ever before, new concepts of safety and security need to be followed. Whereas globalisation has provided a concept of a global village deeply interwoven in a comprehensive view of society, market, freedom, choice, empowerment, peace, opportunities, linkages and politics, its impact has created a socio-political quagmire, particularly in developing societies. In this context, there is a growing global consensus on addressing critical issues in policing by focusing on the

following key areas:

Bridging Theory and Linking traditional policing theories to the evolving challenges faced by law enforcement today. Analyzing Pressures: Developing fresh insights into the various areas of concern and the mounting pressures on police forces.

Role of Police in Market Dynamics: Defining the role of police in navigating market forces while maintaining impartiality and

Implementing Reforms: Demonstrating how the reform models proposed by various commissions can be effectively applied in real-world scenarios, in alignment with democratic principles, environmental considerations, globalization, and governance.

Driving Change: Exploring innovative policing methods to foster change and build public trust and confidence.

Global Knowledge Integration: Leveraging the latest global research and advancements in the field of policing to modernise and upgrade

Police being a State subject under Article 246, at times the force becomes a matter of battle of wits. Apart from undertaking counterterrorist operations, police also have to play a crucial role as pro-tector of the day-to-day law and

law enforcement practices.

This has increased pressure on them to get quick results. Besides, the prevailing level of dissatisfaction among the subordinate level, police officers have adversely affected the attitude of police towards problems. Police are often asked to fight a lowcost war where the enemy is their countrymen. Calling the police to put down civil disturbances is a tedious job. Many scientific methods and modern changes have been introduced in policing in India ever since the police commission report was drafted many years ago. Police are an extremely vital sify its activities by bringing togethsource of security for the commu-

But this alone will not benefit unless people are sensitised about the achievements of positive policing. Some experts on policing are of the view that the values, attitudes, methods, aspirations commitment, etc, of these services need overhauling. Some are of the view that the quality and efficiency of the security forces largely depend on their service conditions, cooperation, training, practice, level of interaction with the general masses and strict methods of appointment. It is, therefore, in the interest of the Government to recruit and attract personnel of high integrity and great calibre.

For successful training of personnel of paramilitary and police forces, certain parameters of prerecruitment education, experience, proportion of insiders and outsiders, methods of recruitment, postings, and length of service must be reviewed. There is also a need for more productive relationships among paramilitary forces, Intelligence agencies, local police, the Army, and the local population. The Government has made all efforts towards sensitisation of police by inculcating a humane approach in policing and introduc-ing the study of human rights legislation in training. Certain suggestions can go a long way in driving better results for policing: (a) There should be initiative in implementing development plans in consultation with experts from various other branches; (b) Development of capability to anticipate foreboding and security needs; (c) This is possible by conducting specialised courses for monitoring security situations. Globalisation and its negative implications are putting forward a challenging environment for

Therefore, the police need to diverer technical and professional expertise based on many decades of experience in maintaining internal security. It is high time we realised that police alone cannot stop the crime, the entire society should make substantial efforts towards ensuring the safety and security of fellow citizens.

The police also need to play an important role as crime preventers and in this regard, developing qualities such as a high level of diligence, intelligence, dedication, determination and the ability to grasp complex situations is a must. It is high time we realised that the police alone cannot stop crime; the entire society should make substantial efforts towards it. The SMART Police and modernised ways of policing hold the key to the future of the security and safety of every

(The writer is recipient of the Bharat Gaurav Award, Professor, Head of Department and Expert on Strategic Affairs; views

India's sovereignty in the crosshairs: Navigating global challenges

Modi's administration combines diplomacy with strength to safeguard national independence and challenge Western-centric ideologies

s India rises as a global power, it faces a barrage A power, it laces a burning of challenges and accusations of foreign interference, echoing the complexities of a world where sovereignty is contested. The ruling BJP has identified actors like the "American deep state," billionaire George Soros, and organisations such as the Rockefeller Foundation as orchestrators of campaigns aimed at destabilising Prime Minister Narendra

Modi's government. These claims highlight a critical tension between India's assertion of its independence and the entrenched interests of global powers accustomed to shaping narratives. Prime Minister Modi's administration epitomises Teddy Roosevelt's principle: "Speak softly and carry a big stick."



Modi's approach combines diplomacy with firm resolve to safeguard India's sovereignty, particularly against those attempting to influence domestic politics. The BJP asserts that international networks target India for challenging the dominance of Western-centric ideologies

through policies like Atmanirbhar Bharat and calls for a multipolar world. The "American deep state," a nexus of the Pentagon, CIA, and corporate elites, according to the BJP, exemplifies hidden forces working to maintain global hegemony.

Allegations against prominent business figures and reports from groups like the OCCRP are seen as attempts to tarnish India's image and weaken Modi's leadership. Critics of these claims argue that they serve as distractions from domestic challenges, but the BJP cites historical precedents of covert interventions by such networks to justify its position. George Soros, often labelled a "dangerous" figure by Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, symbolises an ide-

ological assault on national sovereignty. His public criticism of Modi's policies and financial involvement in liberal causes worldwide add fuel to the BJP's assertion that foreignfunded campaigns aim to destabilise India's democratic fabric.

Similarly, the Rockefeller Foundation is accused of furthering a neoliberal agenda at odds with India's self-reliance and policy independence. This dynamic reflects the larger struggle of emerging powers like India to navigate a world influenced by philanthropic and corporate entities wielding soft power. Modi's resistance to their influence positions his administration as a bulwark against globalist impositions, a stance that resonates with his nationalist electorate.



The return of Donald Trump to the US presidency adds another layer to India's geopolitical calculations. While Trump's "America First" policies and transactional diplomacy brought moments like "Howdy Modi" and "Namaste Trump," his administration's interests and erratic decisionmaking created tensions. Described by Noam Chomsky as "the most dangerous man in the world,"

Yet, his strategic deals, such as his outreach to India, underscored his unconventional but calculated foreign policy. Trump's presidency also invoked the Bush Doctrine's rhetoric of "You are either with us or against us," highlighting the stark divisions in global alliances. While Modi's government has maintained a deft balance, the BJP sees this dichotomy as emblematic of the pressures India faces from global powers demanding allegiance to specific blocs. Ĭndia's geopolitical strategy

involves rejecting the narrative of dependency that organisaalignment with corporate tions like the Rockefeller

Foundation propagate. Blood may be thicker than water, but İndia's external relationships prioritise sovereigny over sentimentality. The BJP's framing of its sover-eignty struggle as a broader battle for multipolarity reflects a vision of India not just as a rising power but as a protector of global balance. While domestic critics downplay the likelihood of coordinated foreign efforts against India, the

different story. Examples abound of covert interventions justified under the banner of democracy or human rights.

BJP argues that history tells a

Modi's government, embodies the Rooseveltian ethos of combining tact with strength, ensuring that India's voice remains firm in the shifting

balance of global power. The allegations against figures like Soros, the American deep state, and philanthropic organisations symbolise the challenges India faces as it redefines its place on the world

stage. Whether these claims represent genuine threats or political posturing, they underscore the complexities of a world where the boundaries of influence, power, and sovereignty remain contested. India's ascent highlights a fundamental truth: the struggle for sovereignty in a globalised world demands not only resilience but also an unwavering belief in one's capacity to walk softly while wielding the proverbial big stick.

(The writer is an associate professor; views are personal)

Money 08

IN BRIEF



1,000 brands to participate in CONEXPO INDIA

ver 1,000 brands from about 100 countries will take part in the four-day construction expo bauma CONEXPO INDIA 2024, starting Wednesday. Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari is scheduled to inaugurate the expo, where 75,000 visitors are expected to visit. The upcoming 2024 edition of the trade fair promises to be more dynamic than ever, with the addition of Demtech India 2024 as a collocated show, offering specialised insights and opportunities in the field of demolition technology, a statement said. According to the statement, bauma CONEXPO INDIA 2024 is set to take place from December 11-14, 2024, at the India Expo Centre, Greater Noida, to showcase state-of-the-art innovations in the construction and mining sectors. NASSCOM Pavilion will display advancements in construction technology and digital transformation, along with a dedicated Finance Zone to facilitate networking with key financial institutions and investors.



BEML gets order for 50-tonne Trailer from Defence Min

tate-owned BEML Limited on Tuesday said it has secured a contract from the defence ministry to supply a 50-tonne Trailer valued at Rs 83.51 crore. The order highlights BEML's strength and capability in delivering advanced, indigenous products to enhance India's defence infrastructure, the public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Defence said in a statement. The heavy-duty Trailer is specifically designed for the transportation of battle tanks and features 12 twin wheels for durability and stability in challenging terrains. With a payload capacity of 50 tonnes, the Trailer is engineered to be towed by the BEML HMV 8x8 vehicle. BEML said. Notably, it includes advanced features like a steerable turntable for 55-degree rotation in both directions, a twin-line air brake system, emergency brakes, and onerated parking brakes it add



3 firms in race to pick stake in Haldiram Snacks Food

hree firms are now in the race to acquire a minority stake of around 15 to 20 per cent in Haldiram Snacks Food, India's largest packed snack and sweets company and restaurant operator, according to industry sources. Blackstone and Bain Capital-led consortiums were already in the race to pick up a stake, however, with the entry of Alpha Wave Global, it has now become a triangular contest. Alpha Wave Global has recently submitted a binding offer to acquire a minority stake in Haldiram Snacks Food, steeping up the competition, they said. Alpha Wave Global has reportedly made a binding offer exceeding USD 1 billion to acquire a minority stake in Haldiram Snacks Food. The Agarwal family, the promoters of the company, is expected to take a decision and finalise the deal by early January next year, the sources added. Earlier the promoters were intending to divest a larger portion. However, now they have decided to offload only a minority stake by going up with one of these firms.

'India against China-led IFD proposal

PNS NEW DELHI

India is against the move led by countries such as China to push a proposal on investment facilitation at the World Trade Organization (WTO), a senior government offi-

cial said on Tuesday. A China-led group of 128 countries is pushing for the Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) proposal. The proposal will be binding for only the signatory members. "We are opposing this. It is a pluri-lateral agreement and it is also not a trade agreement," the official said

Reliance Power forms new arm for renewable energy biz

PNS NEW DELHI

Reliance Power on Tuesday announced setting up its renewable energy business arm Reliance NU Energies and appointed Mayank Bansal as Chief Executive Officer and Rakesh Swaroop as Chief Operating Officer of the subsidiary.

Both of them have joined the company from ReNew. Bansal was Group President of ReNew Power's India RE Business and Swaroop served as Vice President and Head of Utility Business at ReNew Power.

It has set up a new subsidiary namely Reliance NU Energies for renewable energy business, Reliance Power said in a statement.

"The new subsidiary Reliance Nu will innovate and seize the opportunities in developing clean, affordable and reliable energy solutions that India and the world's growing demand for sustainability needs," it said.

Reliance Nu focuses on solar, wind, hybrid systems, and advanced energy storage to address these needs.

No plan to set up large-scale hydroponic farms: Govt

PNS NEW DELHI

The government currently has no proposal to establish large-scale hydroponic farms in the country, Minister of State for Agriculture Ramnath Thakur informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

Hydroponic Aeroponics are technologies to cultivate crops in soilless media. The technologies are successful where the quality of soil is poor and there is nematode infestation.

"No such proposal is under consideration of Government at this stage," Thakur said in

his written reply.
Indian Council of
Agricultural Research (IČAR)- institutes and universities are engaged in the development and standardisation technologies for Hydroponics and Aeroponics in different regions of the ICAR- Indian Institute of

Horticultural Research (IIHR), Bangalore, ICAR-Central Potato Research Institute (CPRI), Shimla and ICAR- Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture (CISH), Lucknow are provid-



Hydroponic and Aeroponics are technologies to cultivate crops in soilless media. The technologies are successful where the quality of soil is poor and there is nematode infestation

ing training and demonstrations to interested stakeholders to create awareness among farmers for adoption of Hydroponic and Aeroponics.

Agriculture/Horticulture Universities are also educating farmers about the benefits of these technologies in waterscarce areas of the country.

The minister said various ICAR research institutes and state agriculture universities are engaged in research and

development of hydroponics and aeroponics as per their mandate within existing budgetary allocations.

At present, existing standards of Agmark, Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) are applicable to ensure the quality and safety of hydroponically grown produce for domestic consumption and export, he added.

Automobile industry will surly become number one: Gadkari

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday exuded confidence that India's automobile industry will rise to the number one position globally in the next five years and outlined his ministry's ambitious target to also reduce the logistics costs in India to 9 per cent over two years.

Speaking at the Amazon Smbhav Summit, the Road Transport and Highways Minister noted the remarkable growth of India's automobile industry, which he said has surged from Rs 7 lakh crore to Rs 22

lakh crore since he took charge of

"First is USA -- Rs 78 lakh crore, second-largest automobile industry is in China--Rs 47 lakh crore, and now India is at Rs 22 lakh crore. I am confident that within 5 years, we want to make Indian automobile industry number 1 in the world," he said.

The minister said the presence of reputed global automobile brands in India is a clear indication of the country's potential.

He further articulated his ministry's target to reduce the logistics costs in India to a single digit within 2 years.

"The logistic cost in India is 16 per cent and in China it is 8 per cent, in USA and European countries, it is 12 per cent. The government has decided to reduce the logistic costs...in my ministry, we have the target that within 2 years,

we will take this logistic cost to 9 per cent," he said. Gadkari high-

lighted specific proects that will drastically cut travel times between major cities. He noted that the journey from Delhi to Dehradun,

which currently takes about nine hours, will be reduced to just two hours by January 2025. Similarly, travel times between Delhi-Mumbai, and Chennai-Bengaluru are expected to

decrease significantly, he said. He then stressed the importance of adopting alternative fuels and biofuels and said using bioethanol in vehicles could lead to significant fuel cost savings while simultaneously reducing pollu-

Sebi permits Indian Commodity Exchange to exit

PNS NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi on Tuesday allowed the Indian Commodity Exchange (ICEX) to exit the exchange space after its recognition was withdrawn over two years ago. The move comes after the

exchange fulfilled regulatory Additionally, the regulator has directed ICEX to comply with its tax obligations under the Income Tax Act, 1961; change its name and not to

use the expression "stock

exchange" and maintain data-

base of all transactions on its

platform for the previous years among others. In an exit order, Sebi said it has reviewed ICEX's valuation report, compliance submissions and undertakings. The bourses declared all known liabilities and assured Sebi it had no undisclosed third-

took full responsibility for (FCRA).

party liabilities.



any future financial claims that may arise.

Accordingly, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has permitted "the exit of the ICEX as a stock exchange and thus the consequent withdrawal of recognition granted to ICEX".

ICEX, a commodity exchange based in Surat, Gujarat, was granted permanent recognition in 2009 under the Forward Contracts

Gold climbs Rs 820 to Rs 79,780

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices climbed Rs 820 to Rs 79,780 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday due to fresh buying by jewellers and stockists amid a firm global trend, according to local marketmen.

The bullion prices boosted after China indicated easier credit and other forms of stimulus for its sluggish economy and the resumption of gold purchases by the People's Bank of China (PBoC), traders said.

The yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity closed at Rs 78,960 per 10 grams on Monday. Silver jumped Rs 1,000 to

Rs 94,850 per kg on Tuesday. The white metal had settled at Rs 93,850 per kg in the previous session.

The price of gold of 99.5 820 to Rs 79,380 per 10 or 0.44 per cent to hit a low of Bank of India, Bajaj Finance, 0.36 per cent each.

Sensex, Nifty close flat; IT shares gain on US spending hopes

PNS MUMBAI

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty closed flat in a volatile trade on Tuesday amid bouts of buying and selling in select heavyweight stocks.

The 30-share BSE Sensex edged up 1.59 points to close at 81,510.05 with 16 of its components closing higher and 14 ending lower.

The index opened flat and climbed 217.88 points or 0.27 per cent to hit an intraday high of 81,726.34 in the first half. However, the index fell 325 points to hit a low of 81,508.46 due to profit booking in the second half. A recovery in select heavyweights Infosys, ICICI Bank and SBI helped it recover losses in the pre-close session.

Falling for the third day, the NSE Nifty dropped by 8.95 points or 0.04 per cent to settle at 24,610.05. In the intraday trade it slipped



24,510.65.

The domestic market concluded on a flat note, a rebound from the lows suggests buy-on-dip strategy," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said.

The broader market outperformed, maintaining its positive trend led by mid and small-caps. The BSE IT index reached record high of 45,154.10 in anticipation of improvement in US IT spending. From the 30-share pack,

ICICI Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Titan were among the gainers. Bharti Airtel, Adani Ports,

Tech Mahindra, Reliance Industries, Axis Bank, Larsen & Toubro were the laggards.

The BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.33 per cent and the midcap index gained 0.30 per cent. Among sectoral indices, realty rose 1.22 per cent, focussed IT by 0.84 per cent, IT by 0.70 per cent, metal by 0.41 per cent, and commodi-

PNB FRAUD

ED begins restitution of over

PNS NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate Tuesday said it has begun restituting assets worth more than Rs 2,500 crore as part of a money laundering investigation against absconding businessman Mehul Choksi in connection with the alleged Rs 13,000 crore PNB loan fraud

properties worth more than Rs

Outgoing Reserve Bank Governor

Shaktikanta Das on Tuesday said he

gave his best to the institution, and

asserted that ties between Mint Road

and the finance ministry were "the

day of his term, Das said the "perspec-tives" of the central bank and the

finance ministry can be different on many issues and the phenomenon is

been able to resolve all such issues

through internal discussions," Das,

the career bureaucrat-turned-cen-

"...in my tenure, I think we have

Speaking to reporters on the last

best" in his six-year stint.

seen the world over.

tral banker, said.



125 crore have been handed over to the Liquidator of

"The handed over properties include six flats in Kheni Tower at Santacruz in east Mumbai and two factories/godowns situated at Santacruz Electronic Export Processing Zone (SEEPZ) in the capital city of Maharshatra," it said.

seized assets worth Rs 2,565.90

crore in this PMLA case against Choksi and the court has allowed "monetisation" of all these properties.

The agency said it took "proactive steps" to initiate the restitution process and the probe agency, along with the affected banks, "agreed to take a common stand" and moved the court.

The court, on September 10, ordered that the ED would 'facilitate" the banks, liquidators in different Gitanjali Group companies to carry out valuation and auction of the attached or seized properties. It also directed that after auction of the said properties, the sale proceeds would be deposited in the Punjab National Bank (PNB) and ICICI Bank (affected lenders) as fixed deposits.

'Released Rs 122.50 cr to agri-startups in last 5 years'

PNS NEW DELHI

on Tuesday.

The government has released Rs 122.50 crore to over 1,700 agri-startups in last five years under the Innovation AgriEntrepreneurship Development programme, Parliament was informed

The programme, implemented in 2018-19 under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), aims to promote innovation and agri-entrepreneurship, by providing financial and technical support for nurturing startups. Minister of State for Agriculture Bhagirath Choudhary, in his written reply to the Lok Sabha, said a financial assistance of Rs 122.50 crore has been released to 1,708 agri startups from 2019-20 to 2023-24.

Govt: 3,000 MW electrolyser manufacturing capacity coming up

PNS NEW DELHI

India is in the process of providing viability gap funding for electrolyser manufacturing capacity of about 3,000 MW per annum to boost green hydrogen production in the country, Parliament was informed on Tuesday.

This assumes significance as India had launched the National Green Hydrogen Mission with an initial outlay of Rs 19,744 crore in January 2023.

The Mission aims to develop green hydrogen production capacity of at least 5 MMT (Million Metric Tonne) per annum with an associated renewable energy capacity addition of about 125 GW in the

"For Electrolyser Manufa cturing, contracts have been awarded/are under process for a capacity of 3,000 MW per annum," Minister of State for New & Renewable Energy Shripad Yesso Naik said in a written reply to Rajya Sabha.

He further said for Green hydrogen production, capacity has been awarded for 4,12,000 tons per annum.

The Mission also aims to attract over Rs 8 lakh crore in total investments and creation of over six lakh jobs with cumulative reduction in fossil fuel

imports over Rs 1 lakh crore and abatement of nearly 50 MMT of annual greenhouse gas emis-

The Mission is facilitating demand creation, production, utilization and export of Green Hydrogen. the Under Strategic

Interventions for Green Transition Hydrogen Programme (SIGHT), two distinct financial incentive mechanisms - targeting domestic manufacturing of electrolysers and production of Green Hydrogen are being provided under the Mission.

The Mission will also support pilot projects in emerging end-use sectors and production path-

Regions capable of supporting large scale production and/or utilization of Hydrogen will be identified and developed as Green Hydrogen Hubs under the Mission.

In line with the Prime Minister's announcement at COP26, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is working towards achieving 500 GW of installed electricity capacity from non-fossil sources by 2030, the minister informed the House.

As on October 31, 2024, a total of 211.40 GW non-fossil power capacity has been installed in the country, he said.

ELANGANA MEDICAL SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION or, DM & HS Campus, Sultan Bazar, Koti, Hyderab Ph.No.040-40032888: email: cetsmsido@gmail.c

Tender Notice No.19/TGMSIDC/Tech/2024-25, Dated: 10.12.2024 Tenders are invited through e-procurement platform for the following works: (1) Establishment of (100) beckled Area Hospital at Thomur, Mahabubabad District. (2) Establishment of new (100

bedded Area Hospital at Maripeda, Mahabubabad District. (3) Upgrading CHC Palakurfry Jangson District from 30 to 50 bedded hospital. The other details can be seen at our website http://www.tsmsidc.telangana.gov.in and https://tendectelangana.gov.in SALHANAGING DIRECTOR R.O.No: 7716-PPICLIADVT11/3024-35, Dt. 19-13-3024

Rs 2,500 cr assets of Choksi

case.

The federal agency said in a statement that it initiated the 'restitution of assets' to the rightful owners in this case following an order passed by a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court based in Mumbai.

"In pursuance to the order, the process of handing over of assets has been initiated and



Gitanjali Gems Ltd (a company of Choksi).

The ED has attached or

Finmin-RBI ties the best in my stint: "The relationship between the government, and the finance ministry in

excellent coordination," Das added. Das, who had served as the secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs and also worked closely on demonetisation in 2016, was appointed as the RBI Governor in 2018 following the sudden resignation of Urjit

particular, and the Reserve Bank of

Îndia... I think they have been at their

best. We had excellent cooperation,

Under Patel, the ties between the finance ministry and the RBI had touched a new low, after the government invoked a sparingly used statute which undermines the autonomy of the central bank

the pioneer derabad

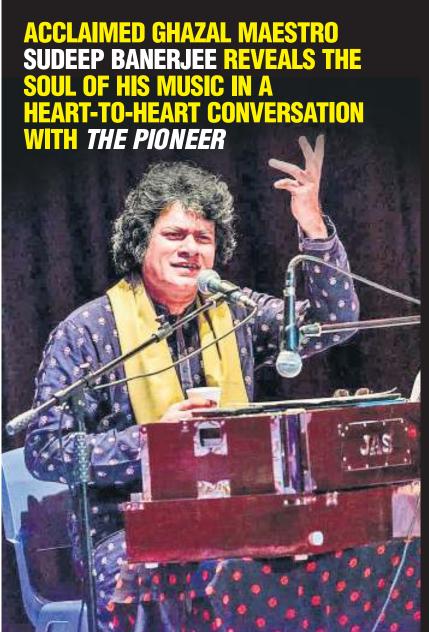
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Wednesday December 11, 2024

Exploring world of ghazals



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s the silken threads of Urdu poetry weave a tapestry of emotions, the ghazal-an ancient and revered form of Indian classical music—continues to enthrall audiences with its haunting beauty. In a world where musical trends ebb and flow, the ghazal remains an enduring testament to the power of art to transcend time and

In this exclusive conversation, we delve into the world of ghazals with Sudeep Banerjee, a masterful exponent of this classical genre, as he shares his insights, inspirations and the timeless

It was a privilege to have the distinguished ghazal singer onboard with *The Pioneer* as he shares his experiences and insights with us. Fresh from his latest performance, Banerjee spoke about his musical journey, inspirations and the importance of promoting good literature and poetry.

Born in Allahabad, his musical journey began in Delhi, where he received his basic music education from Shrimati Shanti Hirananda ji, a senior disciple of the legendary Begum Akhtar. Trained in Khayal and Dadra, Banerjee performed extensively in Delhi before moving to Mumbai to pursue his dreams. In Mumbai, he not only established himself as a singer but also as a music composer, working on numerous music albums, feature

Banerjee's journey has been marked by collaborations with legendary singers. He reflected, "I have done recordings with Jagjit Singh, Ustad Rashid Khan, Bhupinder Singh, Hariharanji, Anup Jalota, Pankaj Udhas and Shreya Ghoshal, among others.' These experiences have not only honed his craft but also exposed him to different styles and approaches to music. When it comes to ghazal singing, he draws inspiration from two legends: Begum Akhtar and Mehdi Hassan. He confessed, "Mehdi Hassan has been a huge inspiration for me. Whatever he has sung, his style of singing has inspired me a lot." He also acknowledged the influence of Jagjit Singh, with whom he worked closely for several years. "After Mehdi Hassan, Jagjit Singh has been a very important person in my life because I worked with him for 5-6 years, so I knew him. I knew how he was working. There was so much to learn from him," he added.

In a musical landscape that is increasingly dominated by commercial and popular genres, his commitment to ghazal



singing and his passion for promoting good literature and poetry are truly commendable. As he continues to enthrall audiences with his soulful renditions, his contributions to the world of Indian classical music and ghazal singing remain invaluable The singer reflected on their early life and influences, mentioning their work with various artists, including Jagadish Singh and Pankaj Udhas. "I have learned from my dear son, but I have also learned from Jagadish Singh sir and Pankaj Udhas ji. I have been personally working with Pankaj Udhas and unfortunately, we lost

When asked about the current state of the ghazal industry, the singer noted that despite the loss of legends like Pankaj Udhas and Jagadish Singh, the genre is experiencing a resurgence. "In fact, ghazal is now going back to its big form because a lot of singers are coming into ghazal singing and a lot of youngsters

are coming into ghazal singing."
The singer attributed this growth to events which they have been a part of for the past 12 years. "We always include new singers every year, and we do a talent hunt called *Khazana Talent Hunt* for the best ghazal singers." They noted that the event receives numerous entries, primarily from young singers, indicating a

strong interest in ghazal singing. However, the singer also highlighted the challenges faced by the new generation of ghazal singers. "Ghazal is not just music; it's poetry; it's Urdu. You have to know the language; you have to learn Urdu; you have to learn about poets." They emphasised the importance of understanding the literary context and the lives of poets like Mirza Ghalib, Jigar Moradabadi and Faiz Ahmed Faiz. The singer noted that the new generation's desire for instant

success and fame can be a hindrance to truly mastering the art of ghazal singing. "They want everything instant. They want instant success. They want to get fame very fast, but they forget that this

The singer concluded by discussing their upcoming projects, including a concert series based on the poetry of Begum Akhtar, which they will be performing with Rekha Bhardwaj. "Rekha Bhardwaj and I are old friends from college. We did that show and we are taking that show to other cities also.

They also mentioned a new project that explores the history of Urdu poetry over the past 350 years, featuring the works of 15 prominent poets. "I've compiled around 15 of the greatest poets. and we do concerts on those 15 poets. We will also do an album

As he travels across the country, performing in various cities, he was asked which city intrigued him the most. He revealed that Delhi holds a special place in his heart, "Because Delhi has a culture of Urdu poetry, and all big poets love Delhi. So Delhi is always one of my favorite cities." However, he also shared a recent memorable experience in Kolkata, where he performed a tribute show for Pankaj. "I was surprised to see a packed audience and people were enjoying the puzzles. So every city has its own benefits and every city has its own fan following, but I still think North India, especially Delhi, Punjab and Gujarat, again has a very good audience for ghazals.

When asked about his advice to upcoming singers who want to make a career in ghazal singing, he emphasised the importance of clarity and perseverance. "It's very tough to be a singer in the first place, even if you want to be a film singer. It's very difficult. Any kind of art form is difficult, whether it's for a painter, writer, or singer." He stressed that focus, clear goals and a willingness to put in years of hard work are essential

For those interested in pursuing ghazal singing specifically, he highlighted the importance of learning the language and understanding the poets. "They must know not just the ghazal but about the poet also. Unless they don't know about the poet, they won't be able to give that expression in their ghazals." He shared his own experience of learning Urdu literature and poetry which took several years.

"I learned several years ago. I learned Urdu literature. I can really write Urdu poetry in the language also. When I went to my guru, Shanti ji, the first thing she told me was that I should go and learn Urdu—not just speaking, but also reading and writing. So I have read and written in Urdu. I learned it from the Urdu Academy. I took a 2-year course, and then I could read it in Urdu and it was hard work, but that is all paying me now."

Groundbreaking study debunks single-serum solution for hair loss

results from a first-of-its-kind industry standard. on the efficacy of hair loss treatment over Minoxidil in hair loss management. Conducted over six months with 135 male participants aged 18 to 45, the study revealed a landmark finding for hair density: customised hair regimen proved to be thrice as effective as the single use of the world's most efficacious molecule, Minoxidil, in reducing male pattern hair loss. This study marks an astounding revelation in the field of hair loss solutions, challenging a widely marketed belief that a single serum can successfully treat hair loss.

With a strong emphasis on researchdriven, customer-centric solutions, the brand initiated the study in association with MS Clinical Research Pvt Ltd to conduct this study. They boldly challenged market myths that promise rapid hair loss reversal through the application of single products like oils, shampoos & serums. Participants were divided into three groups: Group A, which used customised hair regimen; Group B, which used a 5% minoxidil topical solution and Group C, which used a placebo (distilled water).

The research employed advanced assessment techniques such as Trichoscan imaging, comb testing, dermatological evaluations and self-assessments to ensure the highest reliability in measuring efficacy. Trichoscan Imaging, recognised as the gold standard for clinically determining results in hair loss studies, played a pivotal role in this trial. (Group A) emerged as a clear leader, reducing hair fall thrice as effectively as Minoxidil alone (Group B). While they have relied on comb tests, which often mislead consumers by measuring temporary hair breakage instead of actual follicular hair loss, this six-month clinical trial focused

¬raya announced revolutionary on real hair fall reduction, setting a new

The study conducted on 135 participants in line with CTRI (Clinical Trial Registry India) and ethics committee guidelines, provided highly reliable insights. Participants were equally divided into groups based on common underlying issues like indigestion, acidity, low energy, constipation, bloating, stress and sleep deprivation, which tend to serve as key root causes of hair loss, ensuring the research addressed a wide range of concerns. The customised hair regimen combines Ayurveda with dermatology & a curated diet plan to address specif-

ic root causes that lead to hair loss. Serum and that showed exceptional results, outperforming the minoxidil serum alone in essential parameters like hair regrowth, hair density, hair fall reduction, smoothness and shine. Saloni Anand, co-founder of Traya, shared, "I understand that hair loss is

deeply personal and can significantly impact one's confidence and well-being. In fact, for years, doctor-prescribed minoxidil has been seen as the go-to solution, which provides superficial relief but falls short in fully tackling the root causes of hair loss. We aimed to challenge the belief that 5% minoxidil alone can solve the problem by offering a more result-driven approach. We invested 6 months in this research to test hair loss treatment efficacy against minoxidil alone. \

The beauty of this test was that we added a consumer group with a place-bo to negate any biases. The study proved that the Traya 3X approach to hair loss is effective in reversing genetic hair loss and it goes beyond surfacelevel remedies, addressing the root causes of hair loss through a mix of Ayurveda and modern science."

BRUSHING NEW HORIZONS

stores, aiming to revolutionise the Indian paint market through innovative customer engagement and a

ous Paints stands o a bold expansion strategy. Part of the Aditya Birla Group's flagship firm, Grasim Industries, the rapid growth trajectory is reshaping India's decorative paints market. It's latest milestone: the inauguration of two new franchisee stores in Hyderabad, Telangana, further solidifying its footprint in one of the country's most vibrant and fast-growing markets. These stores are not merely retail points but pivotal hubs for customer engagement.

In an exclusive interview with *The Pioneer*, Rakshit Hargave, CEO of Birla Opus Paints, shared his vision for growth, its innovative franchisee model and why Hyderabad remains a critical market in their expansive iournev across India

"The vision for Birla Opus, as we have declared when we launched in Panipat in February this year, was that, firstly, we want to get Pan-India distribution. We put some markers for that and those markers were like we want to enter into 6,000 towns by end of this year. We want to cover nearly 50,000 outlets. We also said that we want to be having a market share, which is like high single digits by the time we exit the year in March," explain Hargave.

Revolutionising paint industry

Birla Opus Paints' franchisee model is a strategic innovation aimed at improving the customer experience, setting it apart from traditional paint retailing. By focusing on creating an engaging, consultative environment, it aims to build lasting relationships with its customers. Hargave explains that the paint industry, until now, had seen a lack of consumer engagement and sophisticated retail experiences.

'Our franchise stores are a breath of fresh air for the paint industry. They offer a full range of products, expert consultations and an immersive shopping experience, something that has been largely missing in the market," he states.

The franchise model has been met with considerable success. With over 200 franchise stores already in operation, the model is delivering impressive results in terms of footfall, consumer engagement and revenue generation. The stores, equipped with shade decks and texture displays, offer consumers the opportunity to explore an extensive range, ensuring they find the perfect match for their

"The success of the franchise model is evident in the rising number of customers visiting these stores. They bring their families, spend time selecting products and engage in deep consultations. This allows them to develop a strong connection," he says.

Hyderabad, with its flourishing real estate

market and growing construction activities, has proven to be an ideal city for the expansion. The new stores in Hyderabad—Sri

irla Opus Paints expands rapidly in Hyderabad with new franchise Mahalaxmi Agencies at Cross Road and Choudhary Birla Opus Paint Studio in Choudhary Birla Opus Paint Studio in Medchal Malkajgiri—are strategically located to cater to the diverse needs of the city's consumers. "We have divided the whole city into clusters so that each cluster can have one In the bustling and ever-evolving paint franchisee that is self-sufficient and that can cater to the neighboring market. So this out let, this franchisee, obviously is a part of that plan where this will cater to its neighborhood and will be a destination for architects and designers who want to come here, see the whole range," he accentuates.

Riding on trust factor

One of the significant differentiators is the trusted legacy of the Birla name. Consumers and dealers in the building materials sector are already familiar with Birla's long-standing reputation in cement, white cement and other building materials. This reputation has facilitated a smoother market entry, as Hargave points out. "The trust has been invaluable for us. We entered the market with an already established name in construction and building materials, which helped us gain the confidence of our dealers and contractors. Our product quality, backed by research and development in India, further reinforced this trust.

It has also set itself apart by focusing on high-quality, locally developed products. From emulsions to enamel paints, the products have garnered praise for their superior performance. The company's commitment to quality is further evident in its state-of-theart manufacturing facilities, with six plants spread across India, ensuring both efficien-

cy and a steady supply of products.

"We have invested heavily in manufacturing infrastructure. With six factories already operational and more planned in the coming years, we are setting the stage for longterm success."

The rapid growth is particularly evident in its strong foothold in Hyderabad and Telangana, where Birla Opus Paints is now the second-largest player. But the company's ambitions extend beyond market share—they aim to be an iconic name synonymous with quality and reliability.

"Our team tells me that we're already the second-largest player in Hyderabad and that's something we're incredibly proud of," the leader notes. "But it's not just about growth—it's about becoming what's deeply desired. We're hearing that customers are coming into stores asking for products by name. That's the kind of pull we're building, and it's growing every day."

Contractors, too, are taking notice. The superior product quality has made it a favorite among professionals who are seeing increased profitability thanks to the paint's exceptional coverage and hiding capabilities. As more contractors benefit from offerings, the momentum continues to build.

"Our expectation is to keep gaining market share, month on month, quarter on quarter," the leader says confidently. "And the feedback we're getting from both contractors and customers tells us we're already on the right







BOOK LAUNCHES

NALANDA: HOW IT CHANGED THE WORLD

- Abhay K

Much about Nalanda remains a mystery. When was it founded? Who founded it? Who studied and taught there? What subjects were

taught? How many students and teachers were there? Was Nalanda a university in the modern sense? And what led to Nalanda's downfall? Nalanda: How It Changed the World by Abhay K. seeks to unveil these mysteries and more.

MONEY, MYTHS AND MANTRAS: THE ULTIMATE **INVESTMENT GUIDE**

- Devina Mehra

Money, Myths and Mantras by Devina Mehra

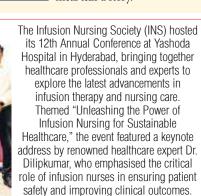
is the ultimate guide for retail investors looking to demystify the complex world of finance. Written with clarity and expertise, the book dispels common myths surrounding investing and offers a balanced perspective on various asset classes.



— Sadaf Hussain

The curry leaf speaks of Kerala's monsoons. The Kashmiri chili remembers mountain winds. The Bengal mustard oil carries the breath of paddy fields. In the mustard-slicked kitchens of Bengal, where every wooden spoon drips with

golden memories, and the coconut-drenched shores of Kerala, where curry leaves dance like emerald whispers, a story simmers. This is *Masalamandi*. From the cardamom-perfumed valleys of Kashmir to the tamarind-stained coastlines of Tamil Nadu, Masalamandi is a pilgrimage — a journey that transcends mere cooking. Each page is a kitchen, laden, drenched and infused with the essence of India and its people, where every dish holds a secret, every spice carries a memory and every meal tells a story.





Media Day Marketing (MDM), a renowned expos organiser based in Hyderabad, is set to host three prominent expos simultaneously at the Hitex Exhibition Centre in Madhapur, Hyderabad, from December 12 to 14. The events include the 4th Edition of the Dairy & Food Expo, the 6th Edition of India Green Energy Expo and the 4th Edition of the Green Vehicle Expo

Celebrate essence of Mongolian-inspired interactive dining

yatt Hyderabad Gachibowli's TG's – The Oriental Grill unveils its first-ever Mongolian-themed lunch buffet in Hyderabad. The freshest buffet offers an immersive Teppanyaki-style dining experience that combines the essence of communal cooking with a modern flair. This new offering transforms dining into a vibrant, interactive celebration of bold flavours, fresh ingredients and the artistry of live and choicest cooking. Embracing the concept of "Eat What You See," diners can select fresh ingredients and watch expert chefs craft their meals live, creating a unique connection between preparation and indulgence. Mongolian cuisine is renowned for its hearty mix of freshly hunted meat, vegetables, rice, noodles, and flavourful sauces cooked together to create a nourishing meal. By pairing selections with signature Japanese and Thai sauces, diners will enjoy a distinctive and unforgettable Teppanyaki dining journey.

OSS Burger by SOCIAL is unveiling crave-worthy new additions to its menu that are bold, indulgent and designed to satisfy every craving. The new menu combines high-quality ingredients, innovative flavours and indulgent fillings, bringing a premium burger experience to your doorstep. Whether ordering at home or hosting a gathering, it is set to elevate your burger moments like never before.

The new menu is a available in double-patty variants for those seeking an extra bite of decadence. For spice anced with creamy guacamole and crunchy Burger adds an exciting Asian twist with its every bite is designed to crush your cravings.

saucy glaze and bold flavours, promising a taste adventure like no other. And for those craving something truly unique, the Shams' Signature Steak Burger brings together succulent steak bits, a sunnyside-up egg and hot mayo for a savoury masterpiece.

Vegetarian options shine just as bright, starting with the chatpata Samosalicious Smash Burger, which combines a spicy aloo patty with classic chutneys for a desi delight. The Paneer

bold celebration of flavours and indulgence, Cheese Bomb Burger offers a mouthwatering introducing a lineup of drool-worthy burgers bite of panko-crumbed paneer, mozzarella and crafted to satisfy every craving. Leading the crunchy veggies that's hard to resist. With every charge are the indulgent Smash Burgers, burger crafted using premium ingredients and where the juicy Tenderloin Smash Burger, the served on toasted brioche buns, it's new introrich Lamb Smash Burger and the succulent ductions ensure there's something for every-Chicken Smash Burger take center stage, each one to indulge in, from cheesy to spicy to indulgently meaty.

Each burger is thoughtfully crafted to bring enthusiasts, the fiery Peri-Peri Grilled Chicken out bold flavours, premium ingredients, and Burger delivers a kick of heat, perfectly bal- an irresistible combination of textures. Whether it's the juicy smashed patties, the veggies. Meanwhile, the Korean Fried Chicken melty cheese, or the perfectly balanced sauces,

Telangana Vidya Samiti is gearing up to host a 2K run on December 21 at Necklace Road in Hyderabad and the event's poster was recently unveiled by BC Welfare & Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Goud. Notably,

the event garnered significant support, with prominent figures from the organisation like Tarak Goud, Kethuri Venkat and Shyam Reddy participating in the program.



Accelerating success with a brand new season

s the FIA Formula E World Championship gears up for a thrilling new season, VT Markets announced its continued partnership with Maserati MSG Racing. Building on the success of Season 10, Season 11 promises to be an exciting chapter in the partnership, with the arrival of new drivers Stoffel Vandoorne and Jake Hughes. The team will face a critical season ahead, with the debut of the Gen3 Evo car and 17 action-packed races on the calendar. VT Markets will be proudly featured across the Maserati MSG Racing Gen3 Evo cars, driver suits, and team gear, reinforcing the shared values of precision, performance, and opportunity. As Dandelyn Koh, Global Brand and PR Lead at VT Markets, notes, "Season 11 marks a pivotal moment in our partnership with Maserati MSG Racing. We're thrilled to continue our journey together, driven by our shared values of excellence and innovation.'

ARCHIE









CALVIN AND HOBBES







GARFIELD

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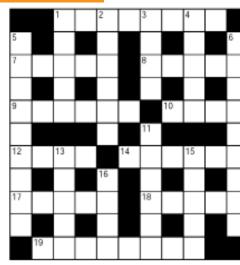
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SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD





I LOVE THE FEEL OF NATURE





GINGER MEGGS







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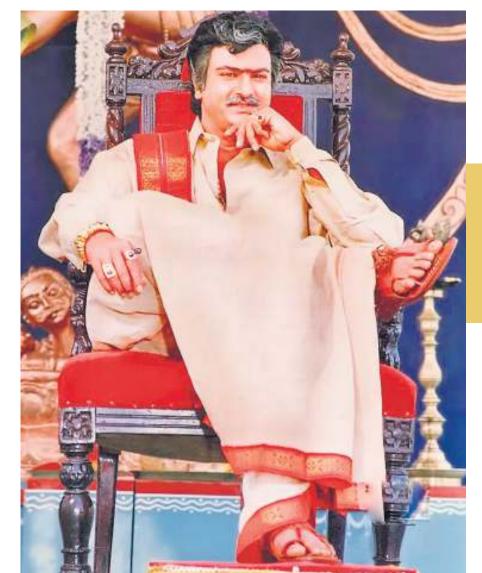
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13 A witch's power

16 Tame animals

15 Small tree branches

Hyderabad | Wednesday December 11, 2024



PEDARAYUDU'S REAL-LIFE VERDICT AWAITS!

The real life and reel life are completely different when it comes to Mohan Babu. Throughout his film career, he has played many roles and *Pedarayudu* holds a special place. In this film, he delivers just verdicts and no one dares to challenge his judgment. Now, many are eagerly waiting to see how he will judge the ongoing family dispute in real life.

SURESH KAVIRAYANI

sureshkavirayani@gmail.com

The Manchu family has been the talk of the town lately. Mohan Babu, the versatile actor, is known for being one of the most disciplined persons not only in the Telugu film industry but also in real life. He is renowned for his roles like Pedarayudu, where he portrays a disciplined man who maintains order not only in his family but also in the entire village. In the film, he sits on the ancestral throne to dispense justice and his judgment is final. He metes

to dispense justice and his judgment is final. He metes out punishments for wrongdoings.

In real life, Mohan Babu is equally disciplined, but he is currently facing a difficult situation. He has filed a police complaint against his son, stating, "I fear for my safety, my valuables and my property." Mohan Babu's complaint is against his younger son, Manoj and daughter-in-law, Monica. Given Mohan Babu's reputation as a nice person who avoids conflict, the fact that

he has filed a complaint suggests that something serious must have transpired between him and his son.

The contrast between Mohan Babu's real life and reel life is striking and people are eagerly awaiting his next move in addressing this ongoing family problem. Will he act as Pedarayudu and deliver his judgment, or will he leave the decision to his sons? Everyone is watching with bated breath.

Manchu Manoj, on the other hand, claims that he Manchu Manoj, on the other hand, claims that he is not fighting for properties or money but for self-respect. After Mohan Babu filed his complaint, Manoj also filed a counter-complaint, stating that the allegations made by his father are untrue. "The claims made against me and my wife are completely fabricated. We are self-employed, independent and have always lived with dignity," he stated in his complaint. Manoj also alleged that CCTV footage had gone missing and that the drive had been taken by Vishnu's associates, Vijay Reddy and Kiran.

Interestingly, Mohan Babu has helped others set-

tle their family disputes in the past. He has always shown utmost respect to his guru, Dasari Narayana Rao and treated him like a father. After Dasari's demise, his sons fought over properties and money and there were reports that Mohan Babu had intervened to resolve the issue. However, when it comes to his own family, he seems unable to do the same, as his two sons

are openly fighting.

Meanwhile, Vishnu, Mohan Babu's elder son, has returned to Hyderabad and gone straight to his father's house. There are rumours that Mohan Babu and Vishnu have taken one side, while Manoj is on the other. Mohan Babu's daughter, Lakshmi, seems to have distanced herself from the issue, leaving Hyderabad for Mumbai. She announced her departure on her

Instagram page, saying, "Bye, Hyderabad."

Even people from the film industry are hesitant to get involved in Mohan Babu's family issue. Some want to reach out to him, but they dare not, unsure of how he will react.



Love blooms on-screen with Pranayagodari

Now, it's time for smaller films to hit the screens, and one such film, *Pranayagodari*, is set to release on December 13. The film features Sadan and Priyanka Prasad as the lead pair, with Sai Kumar playing an important role. PL Vignesh has directed and produced the film.

The pre-release event was recently held and it was attended by prominent guests, including MLC Teenmaar Mallanna, producer Raj Kandukuri and actor Sohail. On this occasion, director and producer Vignesh revealed that assets and took loans to make it. I did this film for my brother Markandeya, who composed the music for this film. Although I finished the film, I struggled to release it and took more loans for it," said Vignesh.

He added that making a film and releasing it is not an easy task, which he realised after

working on this film. The film's lead actress, Priyanka Prasad, thanked the director for giving her the opportunity. "I thank the director and producer for believing in me and giving me this opportunity," she said.



POOJA HEGDE'S NEXT WITH

fter a dull period in the South Indian film industry, Pooja Hegde is now securing big projects and is once again busy with a multitude of films. The actress is currently shooting a film with Suriya and has also signed another film with Vijay, which will be his last project before he ventures into full-time politics.

his last project before he ventures into full-time politics.

In addition to her South Indian projects, Pooja Hegde is also working on a Hindi film opposite Varun Dhawan, which was officially announced a few days ago. Now, according to a source, Pooja Hegde has signed another Telugu film, this time opposite Malayalam superstar Dulquer Salmaan. In recent times, Dulquer Salmaan has been focusing more on Telugu films and has signed another project with a newcomer as director. Cherukuri Sudhakar is producing the film and Naga Shaurya is also on board as another lead. The source added that the makers have roped in Pooja Hegde to play the female lead and her

role is crucial to the plot.

The film's shooting is scheduled to take place next year. With this new project, Pooja Hegde is back to her busy schedule in the South Indian film industry and also in Hindi. Interestingly, the actress didn't sign any films in the last two years as she took a break from Telugu cinema. She was initially supposed to work on *Guntur Kaaram* opposite Mahesh Babu, but she left the project due to delays. Sreeleela eventually replaced her and the film released during this year's Sankranthi,

receiving mixed reviews and underperforming financially.

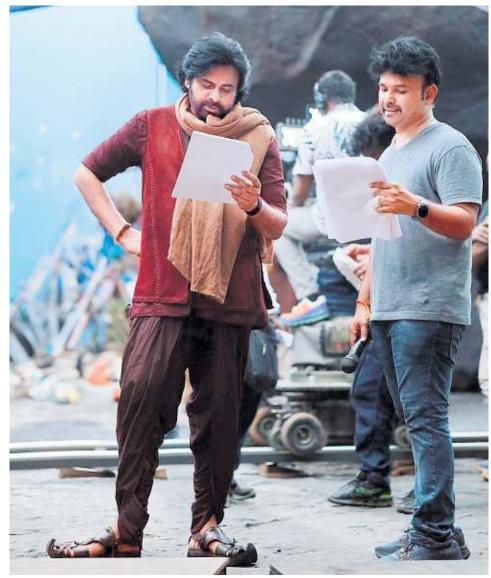
There are also reports that Pooja Hegde may reunite with Allu Arjun in his upcoming film, directed by Trivikram

Siddharth sparks debate with comments on Pushpa 2's promotional hype he promotional campaign for *Pushpa 2: The Rule* was a massive success, culminating in a political rallies and those at film promotional events. "Just because a political party can muster a large crowd doesn't mean they'll win the elecrecord-breaking opening on December 5. However, actor Siddharth has expressed skepticism tion," he said. He implied that many attendees at such events are motivated by incentives, such as food and drink. The actor's comments have

about the film's reach, attributing its success to clever marketing. In a recent podcast, Siddharth stated, "It's all about marketing. In India, it's not difficult to gather crowds. People will assemble to watch anything, even construction work." He downplayed the significance of the large turnout at the film's promotional event in Patna, Bihar, suggesting that it was merely a result of organized efforts.

Siddharth drew an analogy between the crowds at

sparked a heated debate on social media, with many fans of Pushpa 2 taking exception to his views. Siddharth's remarks have been perceived as dismissive of the film's genuine popularity and the enthusiasm of its fans.



Finally, Pawan Kalyan completes Hari Hara Veera Mallu

Pawan Kalyan, the actor-turned-politician, is jug-gling his busy schedule as the Deputy CM of Andhra Pradesh while also completing his pending film projects. He had signed three films—Hari Hara Veera Mallu, OG and Ustaad Bhagath Singh—which were delayed due to his political commitments.

When Chandrababu was in jail, Pawan Kalyan supported him and at that time only he openly announced his alignment with the Telugu Desam Party. From then on, he is busy in politics and keeps these films at bay. Now, the elec-tions are over and Pawan Kalyan became Deputy CM of Andhra Pradesh. Then he is busy with government affairs. Now, after a long time, he gave some time to complete the films he accepted and gave dates for *Hari Hara Veera Mallu*. AM Ratnam is the producer and his son, Jyothi Krishna, is the director.

The makers released a photo of Pawan Kalyan, where he is preparing for the shoot. They also said that it is the final

schedule of the film and with this Pawan Kalyan is going to complete this film. They already announced the release date of this film on March 28, 2025. Now, with Pawan completing the film, the makers are happy that

Now, the focus is on the other two films and the makers of those films are also looking for Pawan Kalyan dates. He assured them that he will complete those films too. OG needs only a few days for him to complete and he will focus on it, says a source.

they can release the film on time.



The anticipation for Bachhala Malli is building up! Recently, the film's team organised a thrilling bike rally from Srinivasa Theatre in Tuni, which was attended by the film's lead actor, Allari Naresh. With the film's worldwide release just around the corner on December 20, the excitement is palpable.

Indian batters start preparations for Brisbane Test

Reeling from their humiliating 10-wicket defeat in the pink-ball Test, the under-fire Indian batters, led by Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, turned their attention to red-ball preparations with an intensive net session here on Thesday, aiming to bounce Tuesday, aiming to bounce back in the Border-Gavaskar

Trophy. While Australia moved to Brisbane for the third Test Brisbane for the third Test from Saturday, the Indian team chose to stay back, focusing on honing their red-ball skills, particularly their defensive techniques and judgment in leaving deliveries deliveries.

deliveries.

"It's time to look ahead. Preparations for the Brisbane Test starts right here in Adelaide," the BCCI posted on X, sharing a video of Team India's practice.

Struggling with poor form, having scored just 142 runs with only one fifty (52) in his last 12 innings, the Indian skipper, who rejoined the team after the birth of his team after the birth of his son, aimed to quickly regain



his rhythm as he faced both Indian spinners and pacers. Dropped himself to No 6, Rohit capped scores of three and six in Adelaide; first, he

was adjudged LBW to a fuller delivery that nipped back, while in the second essay he was cleaned up a by length ball from his Aussie

loss in the opening Perth Test, bounced back by

registering an emphatic 10-wicket win in the second game to level the five match

"You could see just through

his (Cummins) celebrations

that... every wicket that he

took he was more aggressive in his celebration," Gilchrist

"Not in that lose control

said on Fox Cricket.

counterpart Pat Cummins that held its line and clipped the off stump.
Kohli, who ended his 16month century drought with

a hundred in Perth, fell victim to edging two deliveries - first to second and then wicketkeeper in the pink ball

Gilchrist says Australia were 'stung' by criticism

Test. The star Indian batter looked full of intent as had a watchful start to his net session before slowly finding his flow.

KL Rahul looked more subdued, focusing more on his defence, while Rishabh Pant played a few pick up shots.

shots.
Young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, who starred with a 161 in India's massive 295-run win in the opening Test, was the aggressor among the all, displaying his cheeky shots and even stepped out to the Indian bowlers.
The bowling unit consisted the likes of Harshit Rana, Akash Deep, Yash Dayal and

the likes of Harshit Rana, Akash Deep, Yash Dayal and the spin trio of Ravindra Jadeja, Ravichandran Ashwin and Washington Sundar, while there were a few throwdown specialists as

The key Indian pace duo of Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj along with seam-bowling allrounder Nitish Kumar Reddy looked to have a lean day.

India are scheduled to reach Brisbane on Wednesday

had "a grease and oil change" after the lacklustre performance at Perth.



Mark Taylor urges senior India teammates to address Siraj's premature celebrations

PTI ADELAIDE)

Former Australian captain
Mark Taylor believes
Mohammed Siraj has a
tendency of celebrating
wickets prematurely without
waiting for the umpire's
decision and his senior India
teammates should have a teammates should have a word with the pacer to address this as it is giving him a "bad look".

Taylor said Siraj charges down the wicket towards his teammates, without checking the umpire's decision when he thinks that he has got a

he thinks that he has got a batter out.

"I think with Mohammed Siraj, I'd like to see some of the Indian players have a chat with him, not so much what happened with Travis Head but how when he thinks he's got a batter out he doesn't

but how when he thinks he's got a batter out he doesn't turn around and actually acknowledge the umpire whether he's given it out or not," Taylor told Nine News.
"I think that's the bad look for him and the game."
"I love his exuberance, I love his competitive nature, I love the fact we've got a really good series going on but there is also the respect of the game that needs to be upheld. I think a little word from one of the senior players would go a long way." Siraj has become a topic of discussion after his brief showdown with Travis Head performance at Perth.

"Cummins was outstanding, he looked like if there needed a bit of a grease and oil change after Perth and a tune up, he was purring by the end of it, so that was terrific to watch."

In the pink ball Test, the pace trioka of Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Scott Boland took all 20 Indian wickets with spinner Nathan Lyon bowling just one over.

"They were just a unit, the three bowlers, Nathan Lyon only had one over (in the match) and Mitch Marsh four, but other than that the showdown with Travis Head on day two of the Adelaide Test, which Australia won by 10 wickets to level the series

Head had struck a splendid 141-ball knock of 140 before being castled by Siraj, who went on to give him an aggressive send-off following an exchange of words. The Indian endured booes from the Adelaide crowd following the confrontation.

Both players were handed one demerit point each on their disciplinary records with Siraj also receiving a fine of 20 per cent of his match fee.

"I love the combative nature "I love the combative nature of Head and Siraj, but it has to be kept in check because the last thing we want to see in this game is that developing into a batsman maybe whacking a bowler. "They get close together in that sort of situation and you don't want to see that. So the

don't want to see that. So the administrators need to keep a check on that, and so do the two captains," Taylor added. Former Australia batter Simon Katich felt Siraj had a "brain fade" moment, which

the Indian regretted later. "It's a shame that Siraj had a bit of a brain fade...There's no need for that in the game," Katich said SEN Radio.

"He would regret that Siraj... It was all spur of the moment and when he got Mitchell Starc out not long after that he was pretty sheepish.

"You don't know what head space some of the players are in at times... he was probably disappointed with his performance and something like this can happen," he

Sunny Dhillon banned by ICC for 'attempt' to fix matches

Sunny Dhillon, a former assistant coach of an Abu Dhabi T10 League franchise, was on Tuesday banned from all forms of cricket for six years by the sport's governing body for "attempting" to fix matches. Dhillon was charged last year. The ban has been back dated to September 13, 2023, the date Dhillon was provisionally suspended.

"Sunny Dhillon has been found to have breached the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) Anti-Corruption Code and has been banned from all cricket for a period of six years," said the ICC in a statement.

Dhillon, a former assistant coach of a franchise team, was one of eight individuals charges are related to the 2021 Abu Dhabi T10 Cricket League and alleged attempts refusing, without to influence the outcome of compelling justification, to during matches

tournament. "These efforts were disrupted by the ICC and Designated Anti-Corruption Official (DACO)

for the purposes of the ECB's Code for the tournament," the ICC said.

Two other individuals Parag Sanghvi and Krishan Kumar Chaudhary were among the eight individuals charged by the ICC on different counts for of corruption during the 2021 edition of Emirates T10 League.

After a full hearing and presentation of written as well as oral argument, the Tribunal found Dhillon guilty. Dhillon was banned under

the following provisions: "Article 2.1.1 – Being party to an attempt to fix, contrive or influence improperly matches or aspects of matches in the Abu Dhabi

"Article 2.4.4 - Failing to disclose to the DACO full charged last year for details of any approaches or breaching the Anti-Corruption Code. The engage in Corrupt Conduct under the Code.

T10 2021.

"Article 2.4.6 - Failing or refusing. without cooperate with any investigation carried out by the DACO in relation to possible Corrupt Conduct under the Code," statement added.

post Perth loss, praises 'aggressive' Cummins Legendary wicketkeeper-batter Adam Gilchrist believes Australia were "stung" by the criticism following their loss in Perth, but have returned to their best, driven by captain Pat Cummins' controlled aggression. Australia, who had drawn a lot of flak for the 295-run

extent but you could just see that clearly they'd been stung by a bit of criticism around after their performance (in Perth) and they internally would have been so disappointed with the way they played in Perth.

between India and Australia sold out

"So it (Adelaide celebrations) showed you what it meant to them and they knew that they were back at the level they want to play their cricket," Gilchrist added. The former wicketkeeper-batter said it felt the captain

Gilchrist added.

PTI MELBOURNE

 T^{ickets} for the opening day of the fourth Test of the between India and Australia at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground have sold out, highlighting the public's strong interest in the prestigious Border-Gavaskar Trophy. The strong demand for tickets comes a couple of

days after hosts Australia made a stunning comeback, handing India a 10-wicket defeat in Adelaide to level the five-match series 1-1. The two rivals will head to the MCG for the Boxing Day Test, starting December 26 after the third Test in Brisbane starting Saturday.

"All available public tickets for Day 1 of the NRMA Insurance Boxing Day Test have been sold," Cricket Australia posted on their 'X' account on Tuesday.

"There will be a possible final release of a small number of public tickets on December 24 for non-members to get their seats," CA added. The pink ball Test in Adelaide drew a crowd of 135,012 across three days, setting a record turnout during a five-day game featuring the two sides.

As many as 36,225 fans went to the Adelaide Oval on the first day of the second India-



Australia Test, exceeding the previous record of 113,009 for a Test against India, which was set over five days in 2014-15.

The single-day attendance record for a Test against India in Adelaide was also shattered on the opening two days with over 50,000 fans attending the game.

Fans had also turned up in record numbers at the Optus Stadium in Perth for the first Test, which the visitors won by 295 runs for their biggest victory on Australia soil.

Tickets for day one of Boxing Day Test | Voll added to Australia squad for New Zealand series

PTI ■ BRISBANE

 $F^{\mathrm{resh\ from\ a\ splendid\ start}}_{\mathrm{to\ her\ career,\ 21-year-old}}$ Georgia Voll was on Tuesday selected in the Australia women's squad for their upcoming

four, but other than that the big three, Starc, Boland, Cummins hunted as a pack

and bowled as a unit and that

was really fun to watch,"

The top-order batter made her debut in the ongoing ODI series against India with a 46 not out in the first match.

She went on to score century (101) in her second appearance. Australia take an unassailable 2-0 lead in three-match ODI series with a massive 122-run

Australia Cricket confirmed Gavan Twining, the current head coach of the New South Wales Breakers, as the full-time assistant for fielding and coach



wicketkeeping with the women's team for the next two years, in a newly created role.

Twining joins fellow assistant coaches Scott Prestwidge and Dan Marsh.

The third and final ODI of

the series is slated at the WACA here on Wednesday. Australia and New Zealand will battle it out for the coveted Rose Bowl Trophy, with Australia looking to retain the trophy they held

India aim to avoid clean sweep against Australia ahead of World Cup at home

PTI PERTH

battered and bruised Abattered and Similar Address clean sweep and address some glaring issues ahead of next year's 50-over World Cup at home when they face Australia in the third and final women's ODI here on Wednesday.

The three-match series against the seven-time defending world champions has served as a harsh reality check for India, who have faltered in batting, bowling and fielding, with each area contributing to their struggles.

A record 122-run defeat in the second ODI highlighted India's vulnerability. Even thought the batters shone in patches, they never truly looked to chase down Australia's 371/8.

In batting, the biggest disappointment has come from India's two big stars -

Mandhana.

Mandhana has capped scores of 8 and 9 in Australia following her century in India's 2-1 home series win over New Zealand in October.

The flamboyant opener had been in fine form earlier this year, scoring 450-plus runs at a 70-plus average and she would look to regain her form.

Harmanpreet, on the other

hand, failed to convert her starts with 57 runs from two matches as her captaincy and batting both have come under scrutiny following India's early exit from the T20 World Cup earlier this year. In absence of out-of-form opener Shafali Verma, India tried out some different combination and the bright spot has been the promising return of Richa Ghosh, who slammed a spirited fifty at the top in the last ODI.

Richa's 54 has been the contrast to the two centuries highlighting the skipper Harmanpreet Kaur highest score by an Indian and her deputy Smriti batter in the series, in stark



highest score by an Indian and two fifties scored by Australian batters,

Muzumdar-coached side's batting struggles.

In the opening ODI, only Amol four Indian batters could reach double digits.

The bowlers have also been off the mark, conceding eight runs in wides in the second

ODI. The Indians were also guilty of dropping several crucial catches, allowing Australia to amass their third-highest ODI total of all time.

"We need to bat a bit longer and bat a full 50 overs moving forward.In bowling, we need to go back and think about plans," Harmanpreet said after the last game.

Australia's next generation has stepped up in style in the series, with the Tahlia McGrath-led side delivering a performance dominant

despite missing regular skipper Alyssa Healy. Uncapped 21-year-old 21-year-old Georgia Voll, handed the opener's role in Healy's absence, has been a revelation.

On her debut in the first ODI, she displayed remarkable composure, anchoring a modest 101-run chase with an unbeaten 46.

Voll followed it up with a stunning maiden century, forming a formidable forming

partnership with veteran Ellyse Perry as the duo dismantled India's struggling bowling attack. For India, rookie leg-spinner

Priya Mishra has been a bright spot in an otherwise challenging series. The 20-year-old has shown promise, picking up two wickets while defending a small total. Squads

India: Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Smriti Mandhana (vc), Priya Punia, Jemimah Rodrigues, Harleen Deol, Uma Chetry, Richa Ghosh (wk), Tejal Hasabnis, Deepti Sharma, Minnu Mani, Priya Mishra, Radha Yadav, Titas Sadhu, Arundhati Reddy, Renuka Singh Thakur and Saima Thakor.

Australia: Tahlia McGrath (c), Ashleigh Gardner (vc), Darcie Brown, Kim Garth, Alana King, Phoebe Litchfield, Sophie Molineux, Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Annabel Sutherland, Georgia Voll and Georgia Wareham.