

"BRS speaking about sarpanches' pending bills is akin to 'a cat going on pilgrimage after eating 100 rats'. The leaders who were the reason for the suicides of sarpanches are staging dharnas. The sarpanches' dharnas are a reflection of the sins committed by the previous BRS government."

- Ponnamb Prabhakar, Transport and BC Welfare Minister



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'Firecracker ban hardly implemented'

THE BHAVANA PANDEY YOU DON'T KNOW

After a long time I ventured into a commercial space

HEBAH PATEL

DON'T MISS...

'Awareness on buffer zones ...'

Renowned environmentalist Prof. K Purushottam Reddy praised the proactive initiatives of HYDRAA (Hyderabad Disaster Response and Management Authority), emphasising that collaboration from all government departments, such as the PCB, GHMC, HMDA, Irrigation and Revenue, is essential for HYDRAA to achieve its goals efficiently. "Since the advent of HYDRAA, there has ..."

-PAGE: 3

Warangal Airport to be revived ...

The Congress government led by A Revanth Reddy is poised to cross another milestone. The Congress government is preparing to make another airport operational soon. Along with the Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad and the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Shamshabad, there has not been another airport operational in the state until now. Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy made a key announcement regarding ...

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Nearly 98 pc of Rs 2000 ...

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday said 98.04 per cent of the Rs 2000 banknotes have been returned to the banking system, and only Rs 6,970 crore worth such notes are still with the public. On May 19, 2023, the RBI announced the withdrawal of Rs 2000 denomination banknotes from circulation. The total value of Rs 2000 banknotes in circulation was Rs 3.56 lakh crore at the close of business on May 19, 2023. It has declined ...

-PAGE: 8

'Superman' Wriddhiman, one ...

Spectacular with the big gloves, quietly assured with the willow and yet happy to be in the shadows, Wriddhiman Saha, in his 40 Test matches for India, has certainly been more than the sum total of all his parts. But having been out of India reckoning for over three years now, the 40-year-old has decided to call it quits from the game at the end of his team Bengal's ongoing Ranji Trophy campaign. The announcement was made on his social media page late ...

-SPORTS

36 killed as bus falls into gorge in Uttarakhand



PNS ■ MARCHULA (UTTARAKHAND)

A packed beyond capacity bus carrying passengers returning to work after Diwali fell into a deep gorge in Uttarakhand's Almora district on Monday, killing at least 36 of the about 60 people on board. Twenty-four people were injured, four of them critically, when the 43-seater bus, operated by the private Garhwal Motor Owner Association, was on its way from Pauri in Garhwal region to Ramnagar in Kumaon about 250 km away. The accident took place around 8 am, almost the fog end of the overnight journey, said District Magistrate Alok Kumar Pandey. The bus plunged into a 200-metre gorge in Almora's Marchula area 35 km before its destination Ramnagar, he said. Visuals from the area pointed to the magnitude of the accident, the vehicle reduced to a mangled mess as it rolled down the forested, rocky slope and stopped just short of a stream. Rescuers could be seen working to pull out the passengers. Of the 36 killed, 10 are women. A magisterial probe has been ordered and the assistant regional **Continued on Page 5**

'Quicken paddy procurement'

CM tells special officers to visit purchase centers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Monday ordered the officials concerned to take all steps required for smooth paddy procurement across the state. The state government has already designated IAS officers as Special Officers for various districts to ensure effective implementation of government schemes and developmental programmes. The Chief Minister directed the officials concerned to speed up paddy procurement and suggested that the special officers should visit purchase centers. He asked the authorities to address farmers' grievances, if any, on the spot, and to closely monitor paddy



procurement from time to time. The Special Officers are: Krishna Aditya (Adilabad, Nirmal, Komaram Bheem Asifabad and Mancherial districts), RV Karnan (Karimnagar, Jagtial, Peddapalli, Rajanna Sircilla districts), Anita Ramachandran (Nalgonda, Yadadri Bhongiri, Suryapet), Dr. A Sharat (Nizamabad and Kamareddy), D. Divya (Rangareddy, Vikarabad and Medchal Malkajgiri districts), Ravi (Mahbubnagar, Narayanpet, Wanaparthy, Jogulamba Gadwal and Nagarkurnool), T. Vinaya Krishna Reddy (Warangal, Hanmakonda, Jangaon, Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Mulugu and Mahabubabad), Harichandana Dasari (Medak, Sangareddy and Siddipet), and K. Surendra Mohan (Khammam and Bhadradi Kothagudem).

Uttam seeks millers' support

Civil Supplies and Irrigation Minister Capt N Uttam Kumar Reddy urged millers to support in procuring paddy. He announced that Telangana State was poised to achieve record paddy production, estimating over 150 lakh metric tonnes this season. Further, the Congress government intends to make history by paying a bonus of Rs 500 per quintal on fine paddy, benefitting lakhs of farmers. Speaking to the media after inaugurating the new DSP office building **Continued on Page 5**



CABINET SUB-PANEL ON RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

'Resolve disputes in joint ventures to boost revenue'

Focus on increasing revenue without burdening the public

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Ministers have emphasized the need to find ways of boosting government revenue without imposing any additional burden on the public. At a Cabinet Sub-Committee meeting on Resource Mobilization, held at the BR Ambedkar Secretariat on Monday, Ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy and Duddilla Sridhar Babu, among others, discussed the importance of resolving disputes in joint ventures to generate more revenue. "There are valuable assets involved in joint ventures, but private parties are creating legal disputes and taking them to court. To address these issues and to ensure revenue generation, a committee of four senior officials be formed," a Minister suggested. With Special Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao as chairman, the panel could comprise officials from the municipal, housing, and law departments, he added. He instructed the committee to develop a plan within a week to resolve the disputes in question. The Sub-Committee also reviewed petitions from operators of industrial units facing pollution-related challenges who had expressed their willingness to relocate outside the Outer Ring Road (ORR). The authorities concerned have been asked to support these industries in establishing themselves beyond ORR and to promote zero pollution initiatives in Hyderabad. The Sub-Committee questioned officials about the regular auctioning of plots overseen by the municipal and urban development department and suggested that auctioning a portion of land **Continued on Page 5**

Shameful to appoint social media coordinators in temple panels: Bandi

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar has observed that it is shameful on the part of the Congress to try to appoint social media coordinators in temple committees. Exuding confidence that the Bharatiya Janata Party would come to power in 2028, Bandi Sanjay said that the BJP will ensure services to people in temples, instead of treating shrines as money machines. The BJP would develop temples in tune with the ideas of the people and for the sake of upholding Hindu dharma.



Participating in a zoom meeting on Monday with 'Overseas Friends of BJP' involving NRIs in the US, Bandi Sanjay said that the Congress government had antagonized people in a very short period. There was no value to the assurances being given by the Chief Minister. Still, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy had been resorting to a campaign of falsehood in the name of 'injustice being done to south India by the BJP'. The Congress government did nothing for the people, he asserted. Bandi Sanjay suggested to the NRIs that each of them should strive to send at least 5 foreigners on India visit.

Apologise for 'betraying' TG

KTR writes open letter to Rahul



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a scathing attack, Telangana's Bharat Rashtira Samithi working president KT Rama Rao (KTR) has addressed an open letter to All India Congress Committee leader Rahul Gandhi, questioning the party's achievements during its nearly year-long governance in the state. KTR accused the Congress-led administration of causing "unprecedented disruption and betraying the trust of the people". "Where is Rahul Gandhi, who once declared that he would come at a moment's notice when called by the people of Telangana? Does he have the courage to **Continued on Page 5**

Busani to head Commission for BC Reservation

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has appointed a dedicated commission to enumerate Backward Classes in the state and conduct an empirical enquiry into the backwardness of local bodies for determining the proportion of reservations for the



Backward Classes (BCs). The Commission, chaired by retired IAS officer Busani Venkateshwar Rao, will be responsible for assessing the nature and implications of backwardness among local bodies for ensuring their eventual alignment with constitutional provisions. **Continued on Page 5**

No increase in ticket fares: TSRTC



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) has clarified that reports about an increase in bus ticket fares are false. Regular services continue to operate with standard charges and fare revisions were applied only to special buses arranged during the Diwali return travel rush as per the State government's directive. The TSRTC management emphasized that special services are arranged during major festivals and special occasions to ensure safe travel for the public and to avoid inconvenience. Due to the low return passenger load, these special buses often travel back empty. To cover the basic cost of diesel, the State government issued GO No. 16 in 2003, allowing a fare revision of up to 1.50 times the regular ticket price for special buses during festivals and special occasions. This has been a standard practice for the past 21 years. During the Diwali season, regular services were used to transport passengers to their home towns. However, the return journey from districts like Karimnagar, Warangal and Khammam to Hyderabad witnessed high demand. To accommodate this, the TSRTC management decided to run special buses from various districts to Hyderabad on Sunday and Monday. On Sunday, the corporation operated 360 special buses, including 127 from Karimnagar, 105 from Rangareddy, 66 from Warangal and 16 from Adilabad. By Monday evening, an additional 147 special services were arranged from these regions. Only these special buses had fare adjustments as per the GO, while the remaining buses continued to operate with regular fares.

Harish Rao protests arrests of ex-sarpanches

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

After journalists were shunted out of the Tirumalagiri Police Station on Monday, former minister Harish Rao spoke to media persons separated by wall. He criticized the recent arrests of former sarpanches and described the situation as "a serious blow to democracy in Telangana". "We strongly condemn the arrest of these former sarpanches," Harish

remarked, highlighting the failure of the current government to uphold democratic values. "The six guarantees they promised have proven to be empty words. For 11 months, these sarpanches have been pleading for the release of their pending bills, yet they are being arrested, dragged by their collars, and loaded onto DCM vehicles, subjected to public humiliation," he said. **Continued on Page 5**



Harris vs Trump goes to the wire: Polls



PNS ■ WASHINGTON

The electoral battle between Vice President Kamala Harris and former president Donald Trump appears to have gone to the wire, according to latest opinion polls. Harris, 60, is the nominee of the Democratic Party and Trump, 78, is the Republican nominee. Their party members and support bases are united with their respective parties, and independent votes might decide who would be the next occupant of the White House. To win the elections, a candidates

Arson attacks on ballot boxes in US spark security concerns

PNS ■ NEW YORK

Last week, two ballot drop boxes in the Pacific Northwest were damaged in a suspected arson attack destroying hundreds of

ballots at one location. In neighbouring Portland, Oregon a fire suppression system contained a similar blaze, limiting damage. These attacks involving ballot collection **Continued on Page 5**



AP emerging as India's clean energy titan

Andhra Pradesh, a state rich in culture and history, is rapidly emerging as a leader in India's green energy revolution. With an abundance of natural resources and a focused strategy on renewable energy, the state is positioning itself as a global clean energy superpower. Particularly in the energy-rich Rayalaseema districts, Andhra Pradesh is outpacing states like Rajasthan in renewable energy production. This shift is driven by a comprehensive approach that not only emphasizes energy generation but also the development of skilled labour and robust power evacuation infrastructure. These efforts place Andhra Pradesh at the forefront of the global clean energy transition.

The state's geographical endowments play a key role in this transformation. Andhra Pradesh enjoys over 300 days of sunshine each year, making it an ideal location for solar energy projects. The Kurnool Ultra Mega Solar Park -- the world's largest single-location solar facility -- stands as a testament to the state's ambitions. With a capacity of 1,000 MW, the park symbolizes Andhra Pradesh's commitment to large-scale renewable projects. Beyond Kurnool, the state's solar capacity exceeds 33 GW, and with the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) planning an additional 7,000 MW, Andhra Pradesh is rapidly becoming India's solar energy titan.

However, Andhra Pradesh's green energy success is not confined to solar power alone. The state has also recognized the importance of wind energy, with an impressive wind power potential of 44 GW. Wind farms are scattered across the state, providing clean energy and balancing the solar power grid. By combining solar and wind energy,

However, Andhra Pradesh's green energy success is not confined to solar power alone. The state has also recognized the importance of wind energy, with an impressive wind power potential of 44 GW. Wind farms are scattered across the state, providing clean energy and balancing the solar power grid

Andhra Pradesh has developed a sustainable and reliable energy mix that addresses the state's growing power needs with minimal environmental impact.

Yet, the inherent variability of solar and wind energy, where generation depends on the availability of sunlight and wind, presents challenges. Andhra Pradesh has tackled this head-on with its ambitious pumped hydro storage projects. These systems store excess energy during peak solar or wind activity, ensuring

ing a consistent supply when natural conditions fluctuate. The state has identified 29 locations with a combined capacity of 33.2 GW for these projects. The Pinnapuram Integrated Renewable Energy Project (IREP), set to become the world's largest renewable energy storage project, exemplifies Andhra Pradesh's leadership in energy storage technology. This integration of solar, wind, and hydro storage underscores the state's commitment to reliable, clean energy generation.



DR. ARJA SRIKANTH
(Former Special Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh)

Driving this clean energy revolution is Andhra Pradesh's forward-thinking policy framework. The Renewable Energy Export Policy-2020, for instance, envisions the creation of 120 GW of renewable energy parks by 2025. The policy aims to meet both local energy needs and position Andhra Pradesh as a significant

exporter of renewable power to neighbouring states and even international markets. This dual focus on local and global energy solutions is both economically and environmentally sound, reinforcing Andhra Pradesh's position as a clean energy leader.

The New & Renewable Energy Development Corporation of Andhra Pradesh (NREDCAP) has been instrumental in facilitating these developments. NREDCAP ensures smooth integration of renewable projects into the state's power grid and promotes decentralized renewable energy solutions, particularly in rural areas. By expanding renewable energy access to remote regions, Andhra Pradesh is empowering communities and significantly reducing its carbon footprint.

The results of Andhra Pradesh's renewable energy drive are already impressive.

Renewable energy now accounts for 28% of the state's total power production and meets 56% of its overall energy demand. This marked shift away from traditional fossil fuels like coal and gas highlights the state's firm commitment to clean, sustainable energy.

Looking to the future, Andhra Pradesh is aligning itself with global clean energy trends. As demand for renewable energy rises, the state's role in the global clean energy economy will only grow. Andhra Pradesh's potential as both a producer and exporter of renewable energy positions it as a key player in India's and the world's green energy transition.

In conclusion, Andhra Pradesh's remarkable journey toward becoming a leader in renewable energy highlights its commitment to sustainability and economic growth. With an ambitious focus on

harnessing solar, wind, and energy storage technologies, the state is setting a new benchmark for clean energy production in India. Its strategic policies, large-scale infrastructure projects like the Kurnool Solar Park, and the integration of innovative energy storage solutions are ensuring a reliable energy supply while reducing environmental impact. Moreover, Andhra Pradesh's emphasis on workforce development, private sector participation, and regulatory streamlining is driving investment and creating jobs. As it aligns with global clean energy trends, Andhra Pradesh is not only meeting its energy demands but also positioning itself as a key player in the renewable energy revolution. The state's vision for the future is clear: to lead the charge in green energy, ensuring both environmental sustainability and economic prosperity for its people.

Komatireddy: How long should Nalgonda people suffer due to Musi River woes?

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy held a meeting at his residence in Banjara Hills to address the pressing issues of Yadadri district ahead of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's tour. Government Whip Beeral Aylayya, MP Chamala, MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy, Yadadri district party president Sanjeeva Reddy, and other leaders attended the meeting.

Highlighting the necessity of Musi river purification, Komatireddy called for extensive public awareness on the issue. He urged party cadres to counter the negative propaganda by Opposition parties and expressed frustration, stating, "No one with humanity would oppose the cleaning of the Musi river."

The Minister announced that the ground-breaking ceremony for the project to supply drinking water from Mallannasagar

to Yadadri and Medchal districts would be held on November 8, with the project estimated to cost Rs 210 crore.

Minister Komatireddy criticised the Opposition for creating confusion among the public regarding the Musi purification project. He pointed out that people in the erstwhile Nalgonda district have suffered severe health issues for decades, including cancer and physical deformities. He lashed out at the previous BRS

government, accusing it of neglect. "In just 10 months of Congress rule, we provided free bus travel for millions of women, supplied gas cylinders at Rs 500, raised Arogyasri coverage to Rs 10 lakh, provided free electricity to thousands of households, waived farm loans up to Rs 2 lakh for 22 lakh farmers, and offered a Rs 500 bonus for farmers. We also created 50,000 job opportunities and established a skill university to train millions," he listed.

Rahul to discuss with intellectuals caste census on Nov 5

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Leader of the Opposition (LOP) in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi is coming to Hyderabad on Tuesday November 5 to participate in a consultation programme on caste census at Bowenpally Gandhi Ideology Centre. Rahul Gandhi will hear the opinion of the intellectuals on caste census in this programme.

Rahul Gandhi will come to Hyderabad at 5 pm in a special flight and will go to Bowenpally Gandhi Ideology Centre by road from Begumpet Airport directly. He will talk to intellectuals from 5.30 pm to 6.30 pm. Caste organisations, students organisations, MPs, MLAs, MLCs would also participate in the programme. In fact, Rahul Gandhi will explain the benefits of the caste census.

The Congress party is making a huge arrangement to welcome Rahul Gandhi in Hyderabad.

Rahul Gandhi is coming to Hyderabad for the first time after the oath-taking ceremony of CM A Revanth Reddy and Ministers last December. The party cadres erected flexes, wall posters, welcome arches and huge cutouts on the road from Begumpet Airport to Bowenpally.

Congress colluded with BRS: Alleti Alleges this as the reason for no cases against BRS leaders

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Bharatiya Janata Legislative Party (BJLP) leader Alleti Maheshwar Reddy alleged that the Congress and BRS parties colluded with each other and hence there are no cases against the BRS leaders.

Alleging that the Congress has the history of dethroning several governments, Maheshwar Reddy found fault with IT Minister D Sridhar Babu for commenting that the BRS and BJP colluded with each other to dethrone the Congress government. He alleged that Sridhar Babu was



making baseless allegations. He said that the BJP has no need to dethrone the Congress government. Congress has a history of running the government in alliance with the BRS, he pointed out. However, the BJP had no understanding

with the BRS at any time. BRS and Congress are enemy parties to the BJP, he said. Alleging that Sridhar Babu was intentionally speaking to defame the BJP, Maheshwar Reddy said that his comments show his political bankruptcy.

Six-year-old boy dies as faulty gate collapses at govt school

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A six-year-old boy died after an iron gate fell on him at a government school in Hayathnagar on Monday. The boy was studying in the same school in first standard and a single child of parents who are working in the sanitisation department of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation.

Hayathnagar Inspector P Nagaraju, speaking with The Pioneer, said that the incident happened after the school hours at 4 pm when the child was waiting for his auto to arrive as he lives in Mudhiraj Colony in Hayathnagar. The child was playing near the iron gate along with other children and he was swinging on it while others were pushing the iron gate for him.

The gate being under repairs fell and the child suffered a severe head injury. Initially, he was shifted to private hospitals for treatment and later to a Government hospital in Hayathnagar where the doctors pronounced him dead.

A case has been registered against the management of a government school under Section 106(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which deals with causing death by negligence, he added.

Kishan Reddy has no Telangana in his DNA:Ponnam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Do geographical preferences come encoded in a person's DNA? Keeping aside science, Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Monday commented that Union Minister of Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy had 'no Telangana in his DNA', adding: "Kishan Reddy would have done something for Telangana if he had Telangana in his DNA."

Ponnam Prabhakar claimed that Kishan Reddy could become BJP Telangana unit president on the advice of former chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao.

Ponnam Prabhakar observed: "Should we keep quiet if such a leader criticizes the Congress government? I demand Kishan Reddy to tell us to what he has done for the sake of Telangana before questioning the Congress government? Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay have to tell what they have done for Telangana over the last 10 years."

During his chit-chat with scribes on Monday, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar lamented that the Centre gave mere Rs.400 crore, though the State government had submitted a report on Rs.10,000 crore loss

caused by floods to Union Agriculture Minister Shivaraj Chouhan.

Ponnam Prabhakar said that Bharat Rashtira Samithi leaders were provoking people living on the banks of the Musi River. However, Congress leaders would go to people along the Musi after BRS leaders' programme. He alleged that BRS was a party that would "collect money on dead bodies". However, the Congress was a party whose leaders had sacrificed their lives for the sake of nation.

Ponnam Prabhakar said, "BRS speaking about sarpanches' pending bills is akin to 'a cat going on pilgrimage after eating 100 rats'. The leaders who were the reason for the suicides of sarpanches are staging dharnas. The sarpanches' dharnas are a reflection of the sins committed by the previous BRS government. The Congress government has guaranteed payment of pending bills of sarpanches and urged them not to fall in the trap of political parties. There is no need to get agitated."

Ponnam Prabhakar appealed to sarpanches to wait until March end as the government would pay the bills in phased manner as everybody knew the economic condition of the state.

Demand for Rahul Gandhi to visit Ashok Nagar grows

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

With Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's visit to Hyderabad on Tuesday, calls for him to address pressing issues at Ashok Nagar, the hub for competitive exam aspirants, have intensified. The Telangana State Public Commission (TGSPC) aspirants took to X (formerly

Twitter) to voice their concerns and urge Gandhi to visit and hear their grievances.

A collective post by the aspirant community read: "Dear Shri @RahulGandhi Ji, Welcome to Hyderabad! We, the aspirant community, invite you to visit Ashok Nagar, the hub for competitive exams, where you met us during the last assembly

elections. We seek to review the promises made to us, as we feel betrayed by the @INCTelangana led by Shri Revanth Reddy ji. Despite our support, we now face oppression, with peaceful protests being met with violence, cases filed against us, and the rule of reservation violated (GO29) in the #Group1 exam."

BRS and Cong are family parties: Kishan Reddy

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Alleging that the BRS and the Congress are family parties, Union Minister of Coal and Mines and Telangana BJP president G Kishan Reddy commented that their aim is to bring loans, from wherever possible. He pointed out that the situation turned out that they are bringing loans to clear loans. Kishan Reddy alleged that Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka



Gandhi gave assurances to the people indiscriminately during elections and questioned as to what happened to those assurances after coming to power and said that the Congress deceived the people to come to power.

Speaking to the media at the State BJP office on Monday, Kishan Reddy said the conditions in Telangana, Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh, where Congress is in power, are the same because the Congress came to power by giving impos-

sible assurances to the people. Kishan Reddy alleged that the poor and common people would be at the receiving end if states become bankrupt. The Congress government is implementing only one assurance in Karnataka by giving 5 guarantees to the people. He alleged that the Congress leaders are looting the government lands in Karnataka. The Congress is habituated to deceive the people with deceitful declarations.

DELHI EXCISE POLICY CASE Court directs ED to supply charge sheet, to accused

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A court here on Monday directed the ED to supply copies of the charge sheet and other documents to the accused in the alleged money laundering case related to the Delhi excise policy. Special Judge Kavari Baweja directed the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to carry out the exercise by November 13, when the matter would be heard next.

Delhi's former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal and AAP leader Manish Sisodia, both currently out on bail, appeared before the court through video conferencing. The judge was told by some of the defence counsel that they had not received soft copies of the charge sheet and other related documents.

Expect Canada to ensure justice, uphold rule of law Modi slams attack on Indian temple

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday slammed the attack on a temple by a pro-Khalistani mob in Canada and asked the government there to ensure justice and uphold the rule of law.

In a post on X, Modi also flayed the "cowardly attempts" to intimidate Indian diplomats. He said, "I strongly condemn the deliberate attack on a Hindu temple in Canada. Equally appalling are the cowardly attempts to intimidate our diplomats. Such acts of violence will never weaken India's resolve."

He added, "We expect the Canadian government to ensure justice and uphold the rule of law." Official sources noted that this is the first statement by Modi since the recent slump in

India-Canada ties over the North American country's alleged support to Khalistani separatists and its accusation of India's involvement in the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Canadian citizen and

Khalistani separatist who has been designated a terrorist by India.

The strong statement underscores that Modi stands up for Indians across the world, they said.

'Violence unacceptable': Trudeau

PNS ■ OTTAWA

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Monday condemned the attack on a Hindu temple in Brampton by alleged Khalistani extremists and said that every Canadian has the right to practice their faith freely and safely.

On Sunday, Peel Regional Police said that a protest occurred at a Hindu temple in Brampton and unverified videos circulating on social media appeared to show

demonstrators holding banners in support of Khalistan, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation reported.

TODAY
ALMANAC
Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha
Tithi: Chaturthi: Nov 04 11:24 PM to Nov 06 12:17 AM
Panchami: Nov 06 12:17 AM to Nov 07 12:41 AM
Nakshatram: Jyeshtha: Nov 04 08:04 AM to Nov 05 09:45 AM
Moola: Nov 05 09:45 AM to Nov 06 11:00 AM
Rahukalam: 2:49 PM to 4:14 PM
Yamagandam: 9:09 AM to 10:34 AM
Varjyam: 09:19 AM to 11:00 AM
Gulika: 11:59 AM to 1:24 PM
Abhritakalam: 04:21 AM to 06:02 AM
Amrit Muhurtham: 11:37 AM to 12:22 PM
HYDERABAD WEATHER
Forecast: Mostly Sunny
Temp: 32°C
Humidity: 56%
Sunrise: 6:20 AM
Sunset: 5:39 PM
Updated: November 4, 2024 5:00 PM

IAF's MiG-29 jet crashes near Agra, pilot ejects safely

Court of Inquiry ordered

PNS ■ AGRA/NEW DELHI

A MiG-29 fighter jet of the Indian Air Force crashed in a field near Uttar Pradesh's Agra on Monday during a routine training sortie after it encountered a "system malfunction", officials said. The pilot manoeuvred the aircraft to ensure no damage to life or property on the ground before ejecting safely, the IAF said, adding, a Court of Inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the cause of the crash. Visuals emerged on social media platforms showing the fuselage of the crashed jet engulfed in flames billowing a thick cloud of smoke. A large number of curious onlookers gathered near the crash site in the field. "A MiG-29 aircraft of the IAF crashed near



Agra during a routine training sortie today, after encountering a system malfunction. The pilot manoeuvred the aircraft to ensure no damage to life or property on ground, before ejecting safely. An enquiry has been ordered by the IAF, to ascertain the cause of the accident," the IAF posted on X.

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CITY EVENTS

Prateek Kuhad

Silhouettes tour.

Venue

Hyderabad international convention centre
November 8

66th Annual Art Festival of SICA-2024

South Indian Cultural Association presents:
November 5: Vocal by Sikkil C Gurucharan
November 6: Vocal by Sankaran Nambudhiri
November 7: Violin concert by A Kanyakumari
November 8: Dance ballet by Deepika Reddy

Venue

Main Hall, Ravindra Bharati, Hyderabad
6.30 pm on all days

Standup Comedy

Vivek Muralidharan brings in his signature show "Death by Laughter", where he brings his newest material to stage.

Venue

Multiple venues, till November 24

Arijit Singh Live in concert

HSBC presale is live for now. General sale on October 23, 1 pm. Get tickets only on insider.in and paytm.

Venue

Concert in Hyderabad on December 7.

City Pioneer



HYDERABAD TUESDAY | NOVEMBER 5, 2024

03



At home, CM Revanth interacts with students

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy engaged in a discussion with students, addressing key issues affecting the education system in Telangana. He emphasised that the education system has suffered neglect over the past decade but assured that the current government is committed to bringing transformative changes.

In light of the recent increase in diet and cosmetic charges for students in government hostels, several welfare hostel students visited the Chief Minister's residence in Jubilee Hills, led by Mancheril MLA Prem Sagar, to express their gratitude. The students expressed their happiness and appreciation, saying, "Thank you, CM Sir."

During the interaction, the Chief Minister listened to the students' concerns and was asked for a dedicated hostel building. Revanth Reddy assured them that a hostel building would be sanctioned after the completion of land acquisition by local authorities.

"The people's government is dedicated to implementing foundational changes in the education system. We have decided to provide free electricity to government schools and colleges. Additionally, we have established a Skill University to offer skill training to youth and are in the process of transforming ITIs into ATCs. Plans to set up a Sports University are also underway," he announced.

The Chief Minister urged youth organizations to take the initiative in enrolling school dropouts back into educational institutions and emphasised the collective responsibility to reduce dropout rates in schools and colleges. "This is a significant duty on the younger generation, and youth should not neglect education," he advised.

Addressing the dangers of substance abuse, Revanth Reddy said, "Marijuana and drugs are more dangerous than anything else. Students should steer clear of such addictions." He encouraged students and unemployed youth to prepare diligently for competitive exams and not be swayed by provocative statements from political parties.

He further stated, "Both education and social awareness are crucial for students. Educated individuals become productive members of society, while those who serve with social consciousness become future heroes." The Chief Minister also urged teachers to facilitate group discussions in schools to foster social awareness alongside academic learning.

"We want you to pursue higher education and contribute to the rebuilding of 'Telangana,'" he added.

'Awareness on buffer zones and FTL increased after HYDRRAA ops'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Renowned environmentalist Prof. K Purushottam Reddy praised the proactive initiatives of HYDRRAA (Hyderabad Disaster Response and Management Authority), emphasising that collaboration from all government departments, such as the PCB, GHMC, HMDA, Irrigation and Revenue, is essential for HYDRRAA to achieve its goals efficiently.

"Since the advent of HYDRRAA, there has been an unprecedented awareness among people about lakes, buffer zones and catchment areas. Even common citizens are now informed about the government status of land and whether a property falls within lake boundaries before purchasing," Prof. Purushottam noted.

He pointed out the rapid urbanisation of Telangana and stressed the need for a comprehensive urban policy that consid-

ers environmental preservation, the functioning of the PCB and sustainable city planning. "Clear policies and strict enforcement of laws are necessary to ensure a better future for the coming generations," he said, urging everyone to take collective responsibility for preserving the city's environment.

Prof. Purushottam spoke at an awareness programme led by HYDRRAA Commissioner AV Ranganath on Monday, which discussed cost-effective strategies for the protection and restoration of chain-linked lakes and canals.

HYDRRAA Commissioner Ranganath elaborated on the steps being taken under Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's direction, including measures for the protection and revitalisation of lakes as part of environmental conservation efforts.

Prof. Purushottam highlighted the importance of not only protecting lakes but also addressing sources of pollution. He advised HYDRRAA to implement



rainwater conservation practices to prevent underground water depletion and soil degradation.

"If we study the flow of water into lakes and its movement post-filling, we can avoid urban flooding during the monsoon and maintain groundwater lev-

els during summer," he explained. Citing the example of Gottigaripalle in Kohir mandal near Zaheerabad, he noted how lake preservation has transformed a once water-scarce village into an area producing three crops annually.

Prof. Purushottam suggested holding meetings involving GHMC, PCB, Irrigation, Revenue departments, environmentalists, and youth aspiring for urban development to engage the public in lake and canal conservation efforts.

Rs 1.5 cr restored to cyber victim

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police has restored Rs one crore five lakh to a victim of a cyber fraud involving fraudulent investment promises.

A complaint was received from a 52-year-old male victim, a private sector employee in Hyderabad. The victim reported that cyber fraudsters, under the guise of investment opportunities, deceived him into transferring Rs 1,22,26,205 to accounts associated with a fake trading platform.

Inspector K Madhusudhan Rao and his team coordinated with bank officials to freeze the fraudulent accounts, assisted the complainant in filing a court petition to recover the funds and promptly obtained court orders authorising the return of money.

Teacher Eligibility Test in January

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Department of School Education, Telangana, has announced that the Telangana State Teacher Eligibility Test (TG-TET-2024-II) for aspiring teachers would be held in January.

Applications are now open for candidates who wish to qualify as teachers in the State. The test will be conducted online as a Computer-Based Test (CBT) from January 1 to January 20, 2025.

Starting November 5, 2024, candidates can access the Information Bulletin and detailed notification at the School Education website. The online application window will remain open from November 5 until November 20, 2024.

Sarees to Anganwadi teachers and helpers by Sankranti

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Women and Child Welfare Minister Seetakka held a meeting with Anganwadi teachers and helpers at the Secretariat to gather their opinion on the selection of sarees to be distributed. The teachers requested better-quality sarees compared to previous years.

Minister Seetakka displayed various designs and invited the teachers to choose the ones they preferred. The teachers and helpers suggested changes in design and colors, and the Minister assured them that the sarees would be modified according to their feedback and distributed soon.

"Anganwadi teachers play a motherly role in shaping the future of children, and we are grateful for their dedication," said Seetakka. "We decided to distribute sarees only after consulting with you to ensure they meet your preferences.



Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has instructed us to provide high-quality sarees. Although there are some financial challenges, we are committed to addressing all Anganwadi issues."

Seetakka directed officials to finalise the saree selection and ensure that sarees are distributed to teachers and helpers by Sankranti. The government plans to distribute two sarees to each of the 35,700 Anganwadi centres' teachers and helpers across the State. Minister Seetakka also dis-

cussed retirement benefits, acknowledging that technical issues have caused delays. "Today, we had a discussion with Finance Minister, and the government is positive about resolving retirement benefits. A Government Order (GO) is expected within 10 days," she informed.

She further stated that the government is prioritising solutions to Anganwadi issues, including building facilities for centres currently operating in rented spaces and providing free electricity to Anganwadi centres. Seetakka highlighted the importance of crèches, saying they help women work freely and boost employment opportunities. "Crèches will be operated as extensions to Anganwadi centres, ensuring that there are no issues for Anganwadi staff," she added.

The Anganwadi teachers welcomed the Minister's assurance about the crèches.

CM is prioritising temple development: Min Surekha

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

As part of the 'Karthika Deepotsavam' celebrations organised by the Telangana Department of Forest, Environment, and Endowments, Minister Konda Surekha visited the Sri Ramalingeswara Swamy temple in Keesaragutta on the first Karthika Monday. The Minister was welcomed with temple honours by officials and priests, while traditional artists greeted her with a kolatam performance.

Minister Surekha lit the lamps in the presence of the idol of Lord Ramalingeswara and released them into the water, accompanied by devotees. She also took part in special rituals, including Rudra Puja, Rudrabhishekam and Bilva leaf offerings. The priests presented sacred offerings and Vedic blessings to the Minister and her grandson, Shriyansh Muralikrishna Patel.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Surekha noted that the event marked the beginning of the Karthika Deepotsavam celebrations at the historic Keesaragutta temple. She emphasised that since the Congress government came to power, measures have been taken to ensure that even common devotees can visit temples comfortably and with satisfaction. She also highlighted that the gold plating work for the Yadadri temple gopuram would be completed before the Brahmotsavams.

Additionally, plans are underway to develop Keesaragutta as a significant temple tourism destination, with detailed project reports being prepared.

Minister Surekha shared that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy is prioritising the development of temples, supported by funds from the Prasad Scheme and the State government's special initiatives. She stressed that nurturing a spiritual atmosphere through events like the Karthika Deepotsavam helps guide society towards a positive path. To support this, the government will distribute puja kits, including turmeric and vermilion, to women.

JNTUH selects men and women karate teams

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Hyderabad (JNTUH) has selected men's and women's karate teams to represent the South West Championship.

The selection process was conducted under the guidance of Professor NS Dilip, Secretary of the Sports Council and Dr Nalgonda

Ashok, Physical Director.

The selected athletes will represent JNTUH at the South-West Championship, which will take place at LNCT University in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, from November 16 to 20. International coach Keerthan and physical directors from various colleges were present at the trials and congratulated the athletes on their selection.



Special drive against helmetless and wrong side driving

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Starting on Tuesday, the Hyderabad Traffic Police will launch a special drive aimed at curbing helmetless driving and wrong side/route driving. This initiative follows a series of tragic road accidents in the past three days, which claimed the lives of three motorcyclists under the jurisdiction of the Hyderabad Police Commissionerate.

On November 1, a 48-year-old motorcyclist succumbed to head injuries after a collision with an unidentified DCM vehicle at Alaska Junction, Goshamahal. The next day,

a 25-year-old woman was killed instantly when she came under the wheels of an RTC bus near Tarnaka. On November 3, a 49-year-old motorcyclist, driving without a helmet and in the wrong direction, died after a head-on collision with a car on NTR Marg. In all these cases, the victims were not wearing ISI standard helmets.

Statistics reveal that motorcyclists are among the most vulnerable road-users. Head injuries are the most common fatal injuries among road accident victims. This year alone, out of 215 fatal road accidents, 100 involved motorcyclists who

were not wearing helmets, constituting 46% of total fatalities. Studies indicate that wearing a helmet can reduce the risk of head injury by 70% and fatality by 40%, while not wearing one increases the risk of fatal injuries by threefold.

To prevent such accidents and achieve 100% helmet compliance, the Hyderabad Traffic Police will commence this special drive from November 5, targeting two-wheeler riders without helmets and motorists driving against the flow of traffic. The police have been conducting traffic education and awareness programmes.

Govt plans to expand Mee-Seva services

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister for IT and Industries Duddilla Sridhar Babu reassured the public that the government is fully committed to delivering on all the promises outlined in the Congress manifesto. Speaking at the 14th anniversary celebrations of Mee Seva at RTC Kalabhavan on Monday, Sridhar Babu stated that the government will implement the six guarantees without hesitation, ensuring that each one is realised in a phased manner.

The Minister took the opportunity to criticise the previous decade of BRS governance, asserting that it had caused significant damage to the State. He expressed confidence that, under the leadership of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, the Congress government would steer the administration back on track and deliver impactful results to the people of Telangana.

Sridhar Babu accused Opposition parties of spreading false information to create public doubt and urged citizens not to fall for such misinformation. He reminded the audience that it was the Congress government that first



launched the transparent Mee Seva online services in 2011, enabling citizens to access public services without repeated visits to mandal or district offices. The Minister revealed that the government plans to expand Mee Seva offerings with additional services in the near future.

He called upon the Mee Seva staff to serve with increased humility and

commitment, emphasising the importance of their role in public service. The Minister also noted that the establishment of a welfare board for Mee Seva personnel was under consideration. Addressing concerns voiced by federation leaders about the welfare and job security of the 4,754 staff members employed in Mee Seva centres across the State, Sridhar Babu assured them that

the government would review these issues and take necessary action.

The event was attended by TGTSO Chairman Manne Satish, Mee Seva Commissioner Ravikiran, Deputy Directors Varalakshmi, Vijay Bhaskar, Federation State president Shankar, and leaders Abdul Mohammed, Balaraju, Srinivas, Shekhar Reddy, and Naresh, among others.

Technical snag delays Hyd Metro services on Blue Line

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Metro Rail services on the Blue Line which run between Nagole and Raidurg via Ameerpet and Parade Ground have caused slight delays due to technical snag on Monday morning.

The Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited (HMRL), however, clarified that the delay was brief and normal services were restored quickly.

"Due to a technical snag, there was a slight delay in the

trains running on the Blue Line on Monday morning. Normal operations have been restored. We regret the inconvenience caused and thank you for your cooperation," said the HMRL in a post on X.

A daily commuter Bhargavi explained to The Pioneer, "The wait was nearly 15 minutes and usually the morning hours are considered peak office hours and I was in Parade stop when it hit the services. In general, there is suffocation due to the

crowds and imagine that large number of people waiting for more than 10 minutes," she added. Another commuter Shashank said, "My first thought was if there are any elderly women, men travelling because they have health ailments and they definitely need assistance in such emergency hours as they might panic. The Hyderabad Metro Rail must think about having emergency doctors to contact in such situations."

AP Labour Secretary escapes unharmed in road accident

PNS ■ SURYAPET

Principal Secretary of the Labor in Andhra Pradesh Vani Prasad narrowly escaped a major accident. While traveling in her car near Akupamula under the Munagala mandal in Suryapet district, the car in which she was travelling veered off the road and careened into roadside fields. Fortunately, she emerged unscathed from the incident, thus avoiding a serious accident.

After receiving information about the accident, the Kodad Revenue Divisional Officer Surya Narayana arrived at the scene and initiated rescue efforts, inquiring about the circumstances of the incident. She was later taken to the government hospital in Suryapet.

Vani Prasad was previously serving in the Telangana cadre until recently, when the Central government assigned her to the Andhra Pradesh cadre. She is currently working as the Principal Secretary of the Labor Department in the Andhra Pradesh government.

Warangal Airport to be revived soon

Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy revealed that plans are afoot to make the Mamnoon Airport operational

PNS ■ WARANGAL

The Congress government led by A Revanth Reddy is poised to cross another milestone. The Congress government is preparing to make another airport operational soon. Along with the Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad and the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Shamshabad, there has not been another airport operational in the state until now.

Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy made a key announcement regarding this.

The Mamnoon Airport, which has been dormant since 1980, is set to be revived for regional air traffic, pending Central government approval. The Central and State governments are reportedly considering the reactivation of the Mamnoon Airport to facilitate regional connectivity.

Located about 170 km from the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Mamnoon is the first among six proposed airports in Telangana to offer services under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS-UDAN). The Airports



Authority of India (AAI) has already prepared around 700 acres for the airport, with hopes of making it operational by the end of 2024. Minister Ponguleti's statements have sparked considerable interest in this development.

During his visit to Warangal, Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy also visited the Bhadrakali temple,

where he was welcomed by priests with a ceremonial pot. After conducting special prayers, the Minister addressed the media, stating that he would work on the comprehensive development of the Bhadrakali temple. He mentioned plans to expedite the completion of the streets surrounding the temple and transform the

local reservoir. The Minister warned of strict action against those who have encroached on the Bhadrakali Lake and stated that structures would be removed after conducting a survey. However, he expressed frustration when officials did not respond adequately regarding the reservoir's details.



Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar and Municipal chairman K Narender launching underground drainage system in Shadnagar on Monday

Underground drainage project launched in Shadnagar

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar inaugurated the new underground drainage system in Ward 9 of Shadnagar Municipality. This essential infrastructure project, funded by the municipality's general funds at an estimated cost of Rs 10 lakh, aimed to improve sanitation and waste management for local residents.

The inauguration was attended by several key officials and community leaders, including Municipal Chairman Konduti Narender, Municipal Commissioner Venkanna, and

Councilor Pratap Reddy (Chintu). Prominent Congress Party leaders, including Town Party President Konkalla Chennaiah, Mohammed Ali Khan (Babar), Block Congress President Balaraju Goud, Chendi Tirupati Reddy, Baswam Appa, Mubarak Ali Khan, Koppunuri Praveen, and Bachali Nareish, also participated in the event.

Colony residents and Ward In-charge Madhavulu were present to witness the launch of the drainage project, marking a significant step towards enhanced civic amenities in the ninth ward of Shadnagar.

MLC condemns arrest of ex-sarpanches

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

MLC Naveen Reddy has strongly condemned the recent arrest of former sarpanchs seeing clearance of unpaid bills. According to Naveen Reddy, these ex-sarpanchs have been demanding the release of funds long overdue, while the Congress-led government continues to mislead the public with unrealistic promises and unfulfilled promises.

Expressing his disapproval, Naveen Reddy criticised the State government for neglecting these issues for over a year and using police action to suppress peaceful demonstrations.

He stated that the authorities are attempting to silence the former sarpanchs' protests instead of addressing their legitimate concerns.

"The situation is worsening under the current administration, with families of these local leaders forced onto the streets in their



Uttoor Integrated Tribal Development Agency Project Officer Khushboo Gupta visiting Ashram School girls undergoing treatment in Peddapalli hospital on Monday

Provide quality education to students: ITDA PO to teachers

PNS ■ KUMRAM BHEEM ASIFABAD

Uttoor Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) Project Officer Khushboo Gupta emphasised the need to provide quality education to students in Ashram Schools. During a surprise inspection of the girls' Ashram School in Wankidi mandal on Monday, she inquired about the education, healthcare, and food being provided to the students.

She reviewed the attendance of teachers and examined stock registers. On this occasion, the project officer stated that in addition to quality education, students should receive nutritious food according to the daily menu, including fresh leafy vegetables, eggs, and milk. She stressed the importance of teaching subjects in a manner that students can understand.

She also suggested implementing daily sanitation activities, ensuring that the kitchen, store room, drinking water, and toilets are kept clean. Following this, she taught lessons in a classroom, asking questions related to various subjects to assess students' understanding. She instructed teachers to ensure that every student learns to read and write.

The officer checked the medicine register, ensuring that medications are always available. To prevent the spread of diseases like dengue and malaria, particularly during the rainy season, she advised the staff to remove stagnated water in the hostel surroundings. Subsequently, she visited a hospital in Mancherial where students are receiving treatment. This programme was attended by school principals, teachers, students, and others.

Man dies after choking on egg in Nagarkurnool

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

In an unfortunate incident, a man choked on an egg and died. This tragic incident happened in the Nagarkurnool district.

Tirupatiah (60), a resident of Nandi Vaddeman village under the Bijnapalli mandal, visited a relative's house in Lingala on Sunday. Afterward, he headed to the Lingala bus stand to go to another relative's house in Appaally.

Feeling hungry, he bought a chicken egg from a roadside vendor. While eating the egg, it accidentally got stuck in his throat. As a result, Tirupatiah collapsed right there, unable to breathe.

Local people, not understanding what had happened, tried to help him by giving him water and performing various measures, but it was all in vain. By then, Tirupatiah had already lost his life.



Nirmal District Collector Abhilasha Abhinav receiving petition from people at Prajavani programme in Nirmal on Monday

Officials told to address public grievances promptly

PNS ■ NIRMAL

District Collector Abhilasha Abhinav has directed officials to take immediate action to address public grievances.

On Monday, during Prajavani programme held at the Collectorate conference hall, the Collector received applications from people across various regions. Citizens submitted their grievances related to education, healthcare, agriculture, pensions, land issues, and two-bedroom housing, among others.

Speaking on this occasion, the Collector emphasised the need to resolve the issues without delay. He instructed the officials that applications received during the Prajavani programme should be addressed within a specified

timeframe and that pending applications from various departments and those submitted to the Chief Minister's public grievance portal should be monitored and resolved at the field level.

The Collector also stated that when issues are resolved, relevant details should be included in the remarks section and communicated to the respective applicants.

Additionally, the Collector ordered that the process of purchasing paddy in the district should be conducted systematically.

The special officers were advised to inspect the purchasing centres and ensure that farmers do not face any difficulties by providing drinking water, gunny bags, tarpaulins, and weighing machines.

Dialysis centre inaugurated

PNS ■ MEDAK

The State government has sanctioned a dialysis centre at the Narsapur area hospital in Medak district with a capacity of five beds at a cost of Rs 50 lakh. The centre was inaugurated by Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha, Narsapur MLA Sunitha Laxma Reddy, and Medak Lok Sabha member M Raghunandan Rao, along with District Collector Rahul Raj on Monday.

The new dialysis centre is expected to benefit 22 dialysis patients, the Minister said.

During the inauguration, the Minister mentioned that over 100 dialysis patients are receiving treatment at the Medak district hospital. Of these, 22 patients are from the Narsapur constituency. The distribution of patients from Narsapur constituency includes 7 from Narsapur, 5 from Kaudipalli, and 10 from Kulcharam mandal. He noted that 14 patients are being



Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha inaugurating a dialysis centre in Medak on Monday

treated three times a week.

In addition to these 22 dialysis patients, there are others receiving treatment at government hospitals in Sangareddy district, NIMS, Hyderabad, and Mallareddy Hospital. He also announced plans to establish ICU and trauma emergency departments in the Narsapur area and mentioned that the government will

implement a new health policy. Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha also inaugurated a new building for the Muhammad Nagar Primary Agricultural Cooperative Society. Following this, he interacted with students at the government degree college in Kaudipalli, inquiring about their well-being and advising them to pursue their studies.



A victim of suspected food poisoning undergoing treatment in hospital

13 take ill after lunch at hotel

PNS ■ NIRMAL

At least 13 people took ill after having lunch at a hotel at Shashri Nagar colony here, on Sunday night. They experienced vomiting and diarrhoea. Those who fell seriously ill were

admitted to the local government hospital.

As many as 13 people fell ill due to suspected food poisoning. Of them, seven were discharged on Monday, while six others are still in hospital. The incident sparked public outcry.

REJECTION OF PROPOSAL

College student stabbed by youth

PNS ■ MEDAK

A 19-year-old college student was hospitalised, with injuries to her hand after a youth she had befriended online, allegedly attacked her with a knife, in Medak district on Monday, for rejecting his romantic proposal, police said.

A youth, identified as Chaitanya, has been named an accused in the crime.

The incident took place when the first-year college student, from an open university came to take an exam at the Government Degree College. The accused, from Bengaluru, reportedly argued with her near the college before attacking her with a knife and fleeing the scene.

The student, who sustained injuries, was admitted to a hospital. She stated that the accused approached her, expressed his feelings, and, upon her rejection, "attacked" her with a knife, injuring her right hand.

According to a police official, the victim knew the accused through a



College girl who suffered injury at the hands of youth

social media platform, and they had previously met in Bengaluru.

Based on a preliminary investigation, police suspect that he attacked her due to her rejection, though the exact motive is still under investigation. The accused is currently absconding. A case has been registered, and further investigation is underway, police added.

Uttam inaugurates newly constructed DSP office

PNS ■ SURYAPET

The newly constructed office of the Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) at Suryapet was inaugurated on Monday by Minister for Irrigation N Uttam Kumar Reddy. The ceremony was attended by Inspector General of Police Ramesh Reddy, Inspector General of Police Satyanarayana, District Collector Tejas Nandlal Pawar, and District Superintendent of Police Sunpreet Singh.

The sub-divisional police office, which encompasses both the DSP office and residential quarters, was built at a total cost of Rs 90 lakh, with Rs 70 lakh funded by the Police Housing Corporation and Rs 20 lakh by the Panchayati Raj Department.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy expressed his satisfaction with the completion of this vital facility and commended the police for their dedicated service.

The Minister highlighted the police force's essential role as a disciplined body that tirelessly serves the community, praising their continuous efforts to ensure public peace and safety. He congratulated the police for being recog-



Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy inaugurating DSCP office in Suryapet on Monday

nised as the top force in the country.

Additionally, the Minister announced plans for new police station buildings in Ananthagiri, Chintalapalem, Palakeedu, Maddirala, and Nagaram within the district. He acknowledged the dedication of the Telangana State Police Housing Society in improving police facilities and assured ongoing support for future developments.

Indiramma houses will be distributed to poor transparently: Ponguleti

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy has assured the homeless poor that the State government would implement Indiramma Housing Scheme transparently. The Minister, along with Additional Collector P Srija on Monday, toured Danaivaigudem in 59th division and laid the foundation stone for the canal development works taken up with SDRF funds Rs 25 lakh.

Later, talking to media, the Minister alleged that the previous regime in 10 years indulged in delaying tactics only,

promising 2BHK houses for the homeless poor only at the time of elections. It showed fictitious images about 2BHK houses in media and bade its time. Vexed with it, the people got rid of the previous regime, he said.

During the Congress regime of united AP, headed by YS Rajasekhara Reddy, at least 19.56 lakh houses were built in 10 districts of Telangana region and distributed them to the homeless poor. Similarly, the Revanth Reddy government will allot houses to the homeless poor identifying beneficiaries, he said.

Indian Bank ZONAL OFFICE - KARIMNAGAR.
 Recovery Department, 3-1480, CVR Road, Opp. CB. Mission Hospital, KARIMNAGAR - 505 001. Email: zonaloffice@indianbank.com

APPENDIX - IV-A. [See provision to rule 8 (6)]
Sale notice for sale of immovable properties
 E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Constructive/Symbolic/Physical** (whichever is applicable) possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Indian Bank, **Potluriddypally X Road Branch, Sangareddy (CBS code 6479) Secured Creditor**, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whoever there is" on **11.12.2024**, for recovery of **Rs. 14,82,983/- (Ru. Fourteen Lakhs Eighty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Three Only)** as on **12.06.2024** due to the Indian Bank, **Potluriddypally X Road Branch, Sangareddy (CBS code 6479) Secured Creditor**, from **Borrower Mortgagee: Mr. Padunoori Akash S/o P. Sarayasthana Address: 3-5-36, Venkatesh Nagar, Sangareddy, Telangana-505001. Address 2: Flat No. 2689, 54, Sri Krishna Residency, Old Enclave, Kakulurta, Sangareddy, Telangana - 502001.** The specific details of the property intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below:

Detailed Description of the Property
 All that the Residential Flat bearing Nos 8 & 9 (5+3 Floors) in the Ground Floor constructed on open place of demarcated Pl. No. 3-2-15, m. Sq. No. 2261 and 2 known as: " Sri Sai Krishna Residency" with an undivided share of land measuring 29.83 Sq. yds out of total measuring 650.00 Sq. Yds. With a plinth area of 1165. Sq ft, including common areas balcony, lift and Car parking area of 8584 Sq. ft, total plinth area 1245 Sq ft, situated at Ward No. 5, Block No.2, Kakulurta, near New Bus stand surrounding, Sangareddy under the city Municipal limits of Sangareddy Town, Mandal and District, Telangana State, Registration Sub-District Sangareddy, Registration District Sangareddy belonging to **Padunoori Akash** and bounded by-North : Flat No.07 South : Sharanee, Corridor and Lift East : Open to Sky West : Open to Sky

Encumbrances on property	Nil
Reserve Price (In Lacs)	31.48 Lacs
EMD Amount (In Lacs)	3.15 Lacs
Bid Incremental amount (In Lacs)	0.10
Date and time of auction at the platform of e-auction	11.12.2024 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM
Service Provider (https://www.ebay.in)	
Property ID No.	00B5046E1485280

The intending Bidders/Purchasers are requested to register with online portal (<https://www.ebay.in>) (PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd.) using their mobile number and email id. Further, after completing their eKYC, the intending Bidders/Purchasers have to transfer the EMD amount in their e-Wallet by **10.12.2024** (a) before the e-Auction Date and time in the portal. The registration, eKYC and transfer of EMD is a must and must be completed well in advance, before auction.

Remarks: Bank can appropriate sale proceeds remaining balance amount in other (own) accounts sanctioned to

A Square Enterprises (Proprietor: Padunoori Akash)
 1. Account No: 5046806044 Acc. Type: OGC-ANDHRA-REPO: Date of sanction: 06.07.2019 Sanction amount: 6.00 Lacs Total Dues as on 13.09.2024: Rs 6,20,313/- &
 2. Account No: 5800067827 Acc. Type: MSME TL-MUDRA-IND GECLS19: Date of sanction: 20.06.2020 Sanction amount: 1.20 Lacs Total Dues as on 13.09.2024: Rs 12,215/-

Ms. Padunoori Lakshmi (Daughter of Padunoori Akash)
 1. Account No: 5046806044 Acc. Type: ETI-AB VIDYA-IND IIT-MCLR: Date of sanction: 27.11.2018 Sanction amount: 4.93 Lacs Total Dues as on 13.09.2024: Rs 6,21,433/-

Date : 18.10.2024
 Place : Karimnagar

Sd/- Authorised Officer,
 Indian Bank

ACROSS THE STATES

Modi: Congress will snatch reservation from tribals

PNS ■ RANCHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday accused the Congress of making attempts to snatch reservations meant for tribals and hand them over to its "vote bank".

Addressing an election rally in Chaibasa in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district, the PM said he worships those who have been rejected by the others.

"Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar has ensured the provision of reservation to protect tribal rights but Nehru-ji had opposed it. The Gandhi family opposed reservation till they were in control of power post-Nehru. Now once again they have openly announced that they will scrap reservations for tribals. They will snatch tribal reservations and hand it over to their vote bank," he said.

"They (Congress) have devised one more strategy. They are declaring schools, colleges and universities as minority institutions. By this, the reservation of tribals, Dalits and backward castes is being stopped. Beware of this conspiracy by Congress," he added.

Modi alleged that the JMM-led ruling coalition in the state has put tribal "identity, dignity and existence" at stake by "facilitating" Bangladeshi infiltrators to make fake documents.



"Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar has ensured the provision of reservation to protect tribal rights but Nehru-ji had opposed it. The Gandhi family opposed reservation till they were in control of power post-Nehru. Now once again they have openly announced that they will scrap reservations for tribals. They will snatch tribal reservations and hand it over to their vote bank," he said.

"Infiltrators are snatching your daughters, grabbing land and devouring your bread," he said, claiming that efforts were being made to change

Jharkhand's demography. The PM said that if the BJP is voted to power in the state, it will bring stringent legislation to return land grabbed by infiltrators. Panchayats would be

strengthened through the implementation of the Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act, he said.

Modi also attacked the Congress-led opposition for "humiliating" BJP candidate Sita Soren in Jharkhand and a woman leader in Maharashtra, saying "insulting women is their habit".

He was referring to Congress minister Irfan Ansari's derogatory remarks against Sita Soren, the sister-in-law of Chief Minister Hemant Soren who joined the BJP recently.

Modi also targeted the chief minister for remaining silent on the issue.

'JK govt to make all efforts for restoration of full statehood'

Says LG Sinha in address to Assembly



PNS ■ SRINAGAR

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha assured the newly elected legislative assembly on Monday that the Omar Abdullah government will make all efforts to restore full statehood and constitutional guarantees to the state.

Restoration of full statehood and constitutional guarantees would be a "befitting reciprocation" of the faith reposed by the people of Jammu and Kashmir in democratic institutions, he said in his maiden address to the assembly.

Sinha said the government is "fully geared up to realise" the hopes and expectations of people. In the backdrop of the demand for restoration of statehood, the LG said that this aspiration remained strong, pointing out that Prime Minister

Narendra Modi had, on several occasions, expressed his commitment to it.

"The Council of Ministers of Jammu and Kashmir has recently passed a unanimous resolution calling for the immediate restoration of statehood. This resolution reflects the collective will of the elected representatives, echoing the aspirations of the people for the reinstatement of full democratic governance.

"My government will make all efforts for restoration of full statehood and constitutional guarantees available to the state. It would be a befitting reciprocation of the faith reposed by the people of Jammu and Kashmir in our democratic institutions," he said in the ceremonial speech that puts forward the government's agenda and is cleared by the cabinet.



Goa will be ready to host IFFI: CM

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Monday said that the preparations for the upcoming International Film Festival of India (IFFI) are in the final stages and are expected to be complete by November 15. The 55th edition of IFFI will be held in Goa from November 20 to November 28. "We will be ready to host the festival by November 15. I will chair a meeting on November 18 to review the preparations," Sawant told reporters. As an added attraction, the chief minister said the government will hold a special float parade on November 22 to showcase the best of Shigmo and Carnival, two of the prominent festivals in the coastal state. The float parade will start from Kala Academy and will take the route alongside River Mandovi, he added. Sawant said the Entertainment Society of Goa (ESG) will be the nodal agency to host IFFI in association with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Till date, 3,659 people have registered online as delegates for the festival, he said.



3 staffers held for Rs 31 L robbery at credit society

Three employees were arrested for allegedly stealing cash and gold cumulatively valued at more than Rs 31 lakh from a cooperative credit society in Maharashtra's Jalna city, a police official said on Monday. The theft of Rs 11.56 lakh cash and gold worth Rs 19.76 lakh at Aditya Urban Cooperative Credit Society in Old Monda area took place on October 31 and was discovered on Sunday, the official said. "Our probe zeroed in on the cooperative society's cashier Govardhan Savade (22), clerk Laxman Dongre (26) and peon Jagdish Lolewar (21). The accused have confessed to carrying out the crime to pay off loans obtained by mortgaging fake gold," the Sadar Bazar police station official said. "They broke the bank's shutter and opened the locker using firecrackers. They also destroyed the fake gold. Further probe into the incident is underway," he added.



After grenade attack, security beefed up in Srinagar

Security was beefed up in Srinagar city on Monday, a day after a grenade attack near a market left 11 people injured, officials said. Terrorists lobbed a grenade at a CRPF bunker near the crowded flea market in the heart of the city here on Sunday. The attack came a day after security forces eliminated a top Pakistani commander of the Lashkar-e-Taiba in downtown Srinagar. "After yesterday's attack, the security apparatus has been beefed up. We have heightened security, especially since the assembly session began today," an official said. Checkpoints have been put in place across the city, especially at all the entry and exit points, and random frisking and checking of people and vehicles is being undertaken, the official said. Mobile vehicle checkpoints have also been established while security forces are undertaking area domination exercises and maintaining a strong vigil in the sensitive areas of the city, he said. Deployment of security forces personnel has been increased around vital installations and sensitive areas, especially where the presence of non-locals is high, the official said.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Expressing serious concern over high pollution levels in Delhi during Diwali festival, the Supreme Court took exception to the violation of court orders and said its directives on firecrackers ban were "hardly implemented".

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih referred to newspaper reports mentioning a considerable violation of court orders and sought the Delhi government's

'Firecracker ban hardly implemented'

SC expresses concern over Delhi's pollution level



response on "perpetual ban" on firecrackers in the national capital. The top court asked the Delhi government and the police on the steps that were taken to implement the orders completely banning manufacture, sale and bursting of firecrackers in the

national capital and the action they have taken against the violators.

"We want the Delhi government to immediately respond as to why this has happened. We want all the orders to be placed on record banning the sale,

manufacture and bursting of firecrackers in Delhi. "We are also issuing notice to the Delhi police commissioner on the action police has taken so far against the violators and the steps it is taking to implement the orders of the court," the bench said. It

directed the Delhi government and police commissioner to file their responses within a week saying, "there cannot be any dispute that the orders of the court banning firecrackers were hardly implemented".

"Firecracker bursting was the major cause of pollution during Diwali and if the orders of the court are not implemented, it will be a chaotic situation," the bench told Additional Solicitor General Archana Pathak Dave, appearing for the Centre, and the counsel for Delhi government.

36 killed as bus falls into gorge..

Continued from page 1

transport officers of Pauri and Almora suspended.

The news of the death of many people, including women and children, in a road accident in Almora, Uttarakhand is heart-rending. I express my deepest condolences to the bereaved families and pray for the speedy recovery of those injured," President Droupadi Murmu said in a post on X.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge were among those who expressed their grief at the loss of lives in the accident and prayed for the quick recovery of the injured. The prime minister

announced an ex-gratia payment of Rs 2 lakh for the next of kin of the deceased and an assistance of Rs 50,000 for the injured. He said the local administration is making every possible effort for relief and rescue.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami announced a compensation of Rs 4 lakh for the next of kin and financial assistance of Rs 1 lakh for the injured.

The injured were taken to the nearest hospital in Ramnagar. Of the four critically injured, three were airlifted to AIIMS, Rishikesh, and one to the Sushila Tiwari Hospital in Haldwani, Almora District Disaster Management Officer Vineet Pal said. According to Pal, around 60 people were on

board the 43-seater bus when the accident took place. The overloading of the vehicle could have led to the tragedy, he added.

At the hospital in Ramnagar, doctors, nurses and medical staff stepped into high gear to treat the injured, many of them bleeding and in visible agony. Only one of the three admitted to the trauma centre at AIIMS, Rishikesh, was in a position to speak and give his name. "He introduced himself as Ashok Kumar. The rest have been registered as unidentified," the institute's PRO Sandeep Kumar said.

A doctor from AIIMS, Rishikesh, has gone to the spot in an air ambulance to see if more help is needed, he said.

Busani to head Commission...

Continued from page 1

The government's decision, articulated in G.O.Ms.No.49, comes after a directive from the High Court for the State of Telangana, which called for a focused investigation to support reservation policies in the upcoming elections to local bodies. The court's order highlighted the need for compliance with Supreme Court judgments, notably K. Krishna Murthy (Dr.) and Others Vs. Union of India and another (2010) and Vikas Kishanrao Gawali Vs. State of Maharashtra

(2021). These cases underscore the constitutional requirement for data-backed decisions to ensure equitable representation.

The Commission is expected to deliver a comprehensive report to the state government promptly, perhaps within a month. It has been granted access to existing data from previous BC Welfare Department and General Administration Department reports and is authorized to collaborate with institutions, government bodies, and experts as needed. The Commission may also arrange

study tours and leverage research assistance for effective data analysis and reporting.

B. Saidulu, IFS, Secretary of MJPTBCWREIS, has been appointed to support the Commission's activities. The government has assured that necessary staff and facilities will be provided, with separate orders detailing remuneration and operational logistics to follow. This dedicated effort reflects the Telangana government's commitment to upholding constitutional mandates and addressing the needs of backward communities through evidence-based policy decisions, according to an official note.

Uttam seeks millers'..

Continued from page 1

in Suryapet district on Monday, he assured that the State government was prepared to purchase every grain from farmers and had allocated Rs 20,000 crore for the procurement drive. He added that additional funds would be arranged if necessary to ensure smooth operations.

The Minister stressed that all necessary arrangements had been made to prevent any inconvenience to farmers. He advised them not to worry about potential delays, reiterating the government's commitment to facilitating a seamless procurement process. The State has already set up 7,572 procurement centres, with plans to add more if required.

As part of an important election promise, the Congress government will pay a bonus of Rs 500 per quintal for fine varieties of paddy to encourage farmers to grow fine paddy.

Additionally, he announced that fine rice would be distributed to all ration cardholders starting in January 2025, describing this as a 'historic' initiative expected to benefit 2.8 crore residents.

For smoother operations, Uttam Kumar Reddy highlighted that infrastructure at procurement centres had been upgraded. He acknowledged the State government's awareness of challenges faced by rice millers and assured that these issues would be resolved through consultations. He also noted that the Telangana government aimed to support the growth of the rice milling industry. The initiative will also involve recycling coarse rice to facilitate the distribution of fine rice, according to the Minister. Following Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's directive, a senior IAS officer has been appointed to oversee the procurement process and coordinate with stakeholders, including rice millers.

Arson attacks on ballot boxes...

Continued from page 1

boxes have raised concerns about the security of the US presidential polls ahead of the main Election Day.

In New York, the officials of the Board of Elections say a "stolen election" isn't possible and elaborate measures have been put in place to counter any subversive attempts.

"A multi-jurisdictional national, state and city wide

security plan is in place for NYC. Some of these you see, some you don't. All the ballots are secured by the NYPD and we work closely with them. A stolen election in NYC is not possible. We are always trying to stay ahead of the bad guys for sure," says Vincent Ignizio, Deputy Executive Director Board of Elections in New York. Ballot drop boxes have become an increasingly important part of the voting process in many states.

Resolve disputes...

Continued from page 1

first would help maximize revenue for the state treasury. The committee also reviewed the status of pending plots under the Rajiv Swagruba scheme. Instructions were issued to officials to set up industrial parks on five-acre plots in every Assembly constituency to encourage small and medium-sized industries so as to create significant employment opportunities for rural youth and boost rural economy. Officials were asked to come with an action-taken report for the next Sub-committee meeting to be held in a week.

The meeting was attended by Special Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao, Principal Secretary of Revenue Naveen Mittal, Principal Secretary of IT Jayesh Ranjan, Finance Secretary Sandeep Kumar Sultania, Housing Secretary Buddha Prakash, Special Secretary of Industries Vishnuvardhan, and District Collectors Narayan Reddy (Rangareddy) and Kranti (Sangareddy), among others.

Harris vs Trump...

Continued from page 1

North Carolina and Wisconsin, the polls show, while Trump leads in Arizona. "The polls show them locked in close races in Michigan, Georgia and Pennsylvania. But the results in all seven states are within the margin of sampling error, meaning neither candidate has a definitive lead in any of them," the daily reported. The Real Clear Politics, which tracks all the major national and battleground polls, said it's a tie between Trump and Harris. In the national polls, Trump leads by 0.1 percentage points, and in battleground states the former president has an edge of 0.9 percentage points.

In the battleground states, as per Real Clear Politics, Trump has a lead, though within the margin of error, in Georgia, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Arizona; while Harris has an edge in Michigan and Wisconsin.

"The presidential race is tight, and neither candidate has a clear lead," The Hill said.

Apologise for 'betraying'...

Continued from page 1

step out and meet the public now, beyond the confines of Gandhi Bhavan?" KTR asked, while demanding that Rahul Gandhi should apologize to the people of Telangana for what he called the betrayal of their trust through the unfulfilled "six guarantees and 420 promises made before the elections".

KTR pointed out that within a year, the Congress government had driven various sections of society to protest on the streets. He accused the administration of failing the unemployed, students, farmers,

Anganwadi workers, police personnel, and other communities, which had been staging daily protests. "No other government in history has pitted the police against their own, resulting in such chaos," he remarked.

Highlighting unfulfilled election promises, KTR criticized the Congress for failing to deliver on key pledges, such as loan waivers for farmers and other welfare measures. "Despite claiming full loan waivers on social media, the reality is that only a fraction of farmers received any relief. The Congress has turned Telangana into a state defined

by corruption," he stated, alluding to issues such as the Musi project and dubious tax practices.

KTR challenged Rahul Gandhi to visit various affected groups, including farmers, students, weavers, and victims of the Musi project and HYDRABAD operations. "Do you have the courage, Rahul Gandhi, to face those whose homes and livelihoods have been destroyed under your government's rule?" he questioned, citing widespread public discontent.

The letter also accused the Congress of hypocrisy in their national and state-level policies. "You criticize (industrialist Gautam) Adani at the national level but maintain alliances in Telangana.

Continued from page 1

Rao emphasized that the sarpanches had set an example for the nation through their commendable work. He lambasted the Congress government for its contradictory actions, pointing out that while in Opposition, they had incited protests over unpaid bills and made grand claims during elections. "Now, in power, they have resorted to shackling the very hands that worked for the progress of villages," Rao added, citing the diversion of Rs. 1,200 crore from MGN-REGS, Rs. 300 crore from the 15th Finance Commission grants, and Rs. 500 crore from the National Health Mission funds. "Why hasn't the state government released these

Harish Rao protests arrests...

funds to the gram panchayats? Are they diverting even the funds that come from the Centre," he questioned.

Rao mentioned that the president of the Sarpanches Association, also under arrest, stood with him. "Is the Chief Minister so preoccupied that he cannot spare time to even meet these representatives?" he asked.

Touching on election promises, Rao said, "During the campaign, they assured the public of democratic restoration as part of the six guarantees. Today, the state is witnessing unrest every day due to these arrests." He called on Congress

leader Rahul Gandhi, who is expected to visit Telangana, to review the current situation. "Unemployed youth from Ashok Nagar met me today, reminding us how leaders promised two lakh jobs during the election, speaking at the Ashok Nagar Library steps," he recalled. "Rahul Gandhi should come to Ashok Nagar and address their concerns," Rao suggested.

Rao demanded that GO 29 be revoked and insisted that election promises must be honored beyond victory. "Rahul Gandhi should review the implementation of the six guar-

antees that, even after 300 days, remain unfulfilled," he said. "Tell your obstinate Chief Minister, Rahul Gandhi, that he is demolishing the homes of the poor and running a police state," Rao remarked. "He arrests anyone who questions him. Appointments are denied, and police stations are so underfunded that they use shackles as locks."

Concluding his address, Rao stressed on the maxim "Actions speak louder than words"; adding, "Putting up Rajiv Gandhi's statue is not enough. If you truly value what he stood for—the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments that empowered local bodies—then address the issues of the sarpanches and clear their pending bills," he said.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Smogged capital!

Delhi's air has taken a hazardous turn with the city enveloped in a thick blanket of smog and the AQI reaching alarming levels

Delhi's pollution levels have once again reached alarming highs, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) crossing the 400 mark just two days after Diwali. As of Sunday morning, the city witnessed hazardous air conditions, recording AQI values that are 65 times above the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended limits. The city's air quality entered the "hazardous" category as a thick blanket of smog descended. For context, an AQI level above 450 is classified as 'severe-plus,' posing serious health risks, especially for vulnerable populations like children, the elderly and individuals with respiratory issues. On Saturday night, Delhi's AQI stood at 327, but within just 12 hours, it shot up to 447, marking a significant spike. This worsening air quality is not limited to isolated pockets of the city; regions across Delhi-NCR, including Jahangirpuri, Mundka, Narela and Sonia Vihar, also recorded dangerously high levels.



Many people reported respiratory issues due to the poor air quality and eye irritation, a direct effect of the dense smog. These symptoms highlight the immediate health repercussions of Delhi's worsening air quality, especially after Diwali. Firecrackers during Diwali celebrations have a substantial impact on Delhi's air quality. The smoke and particulate matter released from fireworks contain pollutants like sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide and heavy metals that remain suspended in the air, exacerbating pollution levels. The annual agricultural practice of stubble burning in neighbouring states, including Punjab and Haryana, contributes to Delhi's smog. Its persistence remains a critical factor in the air quality crisis. During winter, Delhi's colder temperatures and lack of

strong winds trap pollutants close to the ground. This natural 'trapping effect' worsens in the days following Diwali as pollutants from firecrackers and stubble burning accumulate in the air, creating hazardous conditions. In an effort to tackle this recurring issue, the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP-II) was implemented in Delhi-NCR starting October 21, following the dip in air quality to the 'Very Poor' category. This plan mandates restrictions on activities that contribute to pollution, such as construction and industrial operations. However, despite GRAP-II's implementation, the AQI remains alarmingly high, showing the need for stricter enforcement and possibly, more robust solutions to address the city's persistent air quality issues. Delhi's post-Diwali pollution crisis is a reminder of the complex and multifaceted nature of air quality management. Efforts to control pollution through initiatives like GRAP and public awareness campaigns have had limited success, underscoring the need for more effective and sustained interventions. A multi-pronged approach involving stricter restrictions on firecrackers, better stubble management practices, and real-time pollution control is essential to bring lasting improvement to Delhi's air quality. As Delhi faces yet another winter of hazardous air, urgent, long-term solutions are crucial to protect the health and wellbeing of its citizens.

PICTALK



People purchase bamboo baskets and other items ahead of the 'Chhath Puja,' in Gurugram

Providing a fulcrum for the new global order



SUDHIR HINDWAN

The Indo-US partnership stands out as a stabilising force, rooted in shared democratic values and a commitment to security, peace and technological progress

The global power structure has undergone profound changes, shifting from the Cold War's rigid bipolarity to an era of unipolar dominance, and now, to a complex multipolar framework. This transition has amplified the voices of countries that were once sidelined, making their contributions essential to shaping international relations. For a stable and cooperative world, active participation from all nations is necessary in this evolving paradigm of global politics.

A key relationship in this multipolar world is the strengthening bond between India and the United States, founded on shared respect and strategic interests. Over the past decade, their alliance has evolved significantly, propelled by a common vision for regional stability and global security. Regions like West Asia and conflicts like Russia-Ukraine illustrate how global geopolitical tensions are often rooted in complex interplays of power, ideology, and rivalry. Maintaining peace requires transparent diplomacy, cooperation, and trust-based dialogue among nations. To sustain global stability, countries must collaborate on critical fronts such as climate action, renewable energy, and technological innovation.

China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is an example of how emerging powers are asserting influence, sparking responses from other nations. India's growing partnership with the US stands as a stabilising counterforce in this landscape. Key agreements like the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) have enhanced defense and data-sharing capabilities, primarily to counter security threats in the Indo-Pacific region. Additionally, India and the US have institutionalised their cooperation through strategic initiatives like the 2+2 Dialogue, a platform that enables regular high-level discussions and reinforces a multi-layered security partnership. These collaborations reflect the importance of joint efforts in combating modern challenges, from chemical weapons control to



counter-terrorism initiatives, underscoring the need for stringent international regulations.

The role of smaller nations is also evolving within this multipolar order. These countries are adapting to shifting global dynamics, often requiring support from larger nations for economic, strategic and cultural integration. India's growing recognition as a mediator in international disputes, as seen in its balanced stance on the Russia-Ukraine conflict, reflects its increasing diplomatic stature. This approach not only underlines India's commitment to global peace but also highlights its ability to bridge divides as a neutral party.

With an evolving international landscape, new security frameworks and collaborative information-sharing networks have become critical for countering emerging threats. India's active role in tackling these challenges showcases the potential of soft diplomacy. This diplomatic approach resonates with India's cultural philosophy of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* (One Earth, One Family), which advocates for inclusive governance and unity. This ethos aligns well with the India-US partnership, which is also rooted in shared democratic values and mutual respect for sov-



IN AN ERA WHERE POWER IS INCREASINGLY DISPERSED, THE INDO-US RELATIONSHIP REFLECTS A PROACTIVE RESPONSE TO THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED BY MULTIPOLARITY

eighty. Recent technological agreements, including the US support for the production of F414 engines, advanced drones, and fighter jet components in India, symbolise the strides both countries are making toward a robust defense alliance. Such agreements not only solidify defense cooperation but also pave the way for smoother technology transfers.

Beyond defense, India and the US are deepening cooperation in areas like artificial intelligence (AI) and information technology (IT), underscoring India's expanding role in global tech markets. Indian companies, particularly in the IT sector, have successfully established a presence in international markets, creating jobs, fostering trade, and contributing to the US economy. With an Indian diaspora of about 5.6 million living, working, and studying in the US, these contributions further strengthen the economic ties and cultural connections between the two democracies. This vibrant Indian-American community enhances mutual understanding and shared aspirations between the two nations, fostering a unique bond that complements strategic cooperation.

The Indo-US partnership holds strategic importance not only for bilateral benefits

but also as a pillar for building broader international coalitions to address global security threats. As two of the world's largest democracies, India and the US are in a unique position to lead efforts against transnational terrorism and other pressing security issues. By jointly developing a forward-looking security framework, both countries can drive global initiatives for peace and stability. Through shared commitments, this alliance has the potential to shape a diplomatic roadmap that champions prosperity, security, and harmony on a global scale.

In an era where power is increasingly dispersed, the Indo-US relationship reflects a proactive response to the challenges and opportunities presented by multipolarity. As both nations continue to strengthen their alliance, they contribute not only to their own security but also to a collective effort aimed at promoting peace, economic stability, and shared progress. This partnership is more than just a bilateral relationship; it embodies the hope for a cooperative, resilient global order that values inclusive growth and sustainable peace.

(The author, a recipient of the Bharat Gaurav Award, is a professor and expert in strategic affairs; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EDUCATION SYSTEM REVAMP

Madam — The article 'Reforming India's education...' (November 2) presents suggestions that could be considered positively. The education system we had for long could produce creative brains and talents that have been absorbed by the knowledge and talent seeking institutions all over the world. Most of the scientists and technocrats contributing to most inventions and developments in various countries are Indians, who had their basic education in India. The country is caught in the grip of confusion over the type of education we need to provide to our students.

The act of leaving education to market forces dominated by avaricious private players has converted the essence of education from learning to just scoring high marks, which helps in gaining seats in educational institutions and nothing more. The cream is able to gain placement in the IT sector, and the rest are left to be satisfied with a degree that cannot fetch them a job. It is all the more a serious concern that now the system is made to suffer the onslaughts of the communal flare ignited in every sphere of life. As a result, those who have a degree but no employable skill are taken up for infusing help in them to make them employable. We need to wait and see how this is going to yield the desired result. It is time to leave education to the States to compete themselves in creating skilled and knowledgeable forces for mutual benefit.

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

INDIA-CANADA TENSIONS

Madam — Apropos of 'MEA summons Canadian diplomat' (November 3), Canada's baseless and unsubstantiated allegations against Union Home Minister Amit Shah under pressure from Khalistani extremists, have taken Indo-Canadian diplomatic relations to a new low. The surveillance of the Indian diplomats in Canada is beyond all diplomatic norms and is illegal. Even earlier, Canada failed and refused to provide any proof or congenial evidence of India's involvement in Canada-based Khalistani extremist Nijjar's murder.

Toxic work culture



The recent tragic death of a 26-year-old Chartered Accountant from Kerala working in a MNC in Pune has reignited discussions about exploitative work conditions prevalent in many Indian organisations. In fact, her mother wrote a letter to the chairman of the company, blaming the toxic work environment as the reason for her daughter's death. The woman's case is not an isolated

incident. Stories of young professionals suffering from burnout, stress and even physical collapse due to inhumane work hours are becoming disturbingly common in India.

While many Indian companies boast of initiatives aimed at employees' engagement and their wellbeing, these things appear to be at the surface level, failing to bring meaningful change to daily work experiences. While many issues can play a role in attributing to toxic workplace cultures, the most pervasive is weak leadership. In the pursuit of chasing profits, companies often overlook the human cost of overworking employees. Meaningful change is urgently needed to address the exploitative practices rampant in Indian MNCs.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Urapakkam

No terrorist or extremist organisation activates itself or indulges in separatist, destructive or terrorist activities without state support and sponsorship. Pakistan is the best example of such state-sponsored terrorist organisations. Justin Trudeau is facing fierce opposition within its ranks and in the country while the parliamentary elections are approaching fast. Khalistani extremists do have some political support in India, but such political parties and leaders miserably lost elections in recent Lok Sabha and Assembly elections. It is very strange that anti-India Khalistani extremists have no support in India and are not relevant for Canada too, so Justin Trudeau's support for them is highly undiplomatic and unbecoming of his Government. The large Indian diaspora in Canada may not be favourable of their Khalistani support.

Vinod Johri | Delhi

NEW ZEALAND'S CLEAN SWEEP

Madam — This is one of the most humiliating defeats for team India at home and Skipper Rohit Sharma can't have any

excuse for this shocking performance of the players and especially the batters. Full credit goes to New Zealand for their absolute commitment and application in all departments of the game and Captain Latham led by example with his cool strategies to record 3-0 by cleanly whitewashed India. The Indian batters who have taken their place for granted so far played miserably throughout the series.

The performances of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli were crestfallen and we don't see any kind of seriousness from them in the middle to realise the match situation. After their dismal outcome at Bengaluru and Pune, when the fans expected a turnaround at Mumbai by expecting the captain to stay in the middle for longer, the post-match press conference for Rohit became longer than the time he spent at the wicket, which was a very sorry affair and a huge disappointment for the Indian fans across the nation.

A P Thiruvadi | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Finding strength in the face of life's deepest sorrows



SANJAY CHANDRA

Adversities are integral to our lives. However, we possess a wellspring of strength that enables us to recover and move on

First read about resilience in my physics classes in school as the ability of a material to absorb energy and release back that energy as it springs back to its original shape.

Later, I understood a third element, the ability to spring back without creating a permanent distortion. Human resilience is no different. I have met many people who bounced back. I then understood its meaning in daily life. It was about humans and their strength to face adversities and move forward with renewed vigour. I remember an incident from almost four decades back.

I was only 26-years-old. My colleague was 56. His only child, a son around my age, died in a boat accident while on vacation with his friends in the Sundarbans. I went with my wife to condole and realised that words were superfluous. What do you tell an old couple who had just lost their only child? I had tears in my eyes, and I found the gentleman consoling me instead. He sought solace



and strength from the scriptures. Another colleague lost her 41-year-old son. She wanted to write about it, had even tried multiple times, but could not bring herself to articulate her feelings. I encouraged her to write. She shared her innermost thoughts, 'A woman goes through severest of physical pains and mental suffering through labour pain at the time of her child's birth. This is the natural cycle of life. But what is unnatural is when this cycle of life breaks due to the untimely death of the younger per-

son, whom the woman had given birth to, and nurtured, to become a good and strong human being to face the world.'

The lady now lives through her son's memories. She also expresses her emotions by writing poetry or short stories. This is her way of coming out of her traumatic experience and honouring her son's life. Another lady that I recently interviewed for an episode of a virtual show lost her young son of 22 a few years back. She 'transcended' her grief cherishing the fond memories of a limited time spent together. She helps others transform their grief into growth.

The loss of a child is probably the most difficult form of adversity. We face challenges and find the inner strength to deal with them. There are a few, who unfortunately are not able to cope, and sometimes take extreme steps.

There are also a few people who may require additional medical help to deal with feelings of depression. Above all, they require love

and support from the near and dear ones. Each human is a wellspring of resilience. All that is needed is to tap within and for others to help. We may adopt a few lessons from the lives of resilient persons. They believe they are masters of their destiny, they are aware of their strengths and weaknesses, they adapt to situations, they do not obsess over factors over which they do not have control, they are optimists and many more.

However, resilience does not require us to present a brave facade at all times. It is also important to create a social environment and not hesitate to seek help. I close the article, with a prayer that all of us find the courage to be resilient, and with a quote from Emil Dorian, a Romanian poet, prose writer, and physician, "Strong people alone know how to organise their suffering so as to bear only the most necessary pain."

(The author is an electrical engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative writing; views are personal)



FIRST COLUMN BUILDING WORKPLACE RESILIENCE

Resilience is more than just bouncing back from setbacks; it's about adapting and staying steady



SAKSHI SETHI

Quite often we come up with research studies that state that employees with access to mental health resources, such as counselling and stress management programmes, reported higher resilience levels while those who received mindfulness training and stress-reduction workshops were better equipped to handle workplace challenges, leading to lower absenteeism and higher engagement. But the question arises are we workplace resilient? In today's fast-paced and often unpredictable business environment, resilience has become a critical quality for both organisations as well as individuals.

The term resilience usually refers to something more than just the ability to bounce back. It is the ability to adapt to challenges, recover from setbacks and maintain a steady course even in times of uncertainty. It is an adaptive skill that enables employees to handle stress and maintain productivity under pressure. Effective resilience management helps businesses not only survive but thrive during challenging periods by fostering a resilient workforce that can navigate complex and shifting landscapes.

The need for resilience, in recent years, has undoubtedly become increasingly evident due to factors such as economic fluctuations, organisational restructuring and external crises like the COVID-19 pandemic. The ability to manage resilience allows organisations to build a workforce that can handle continuous change without compromising the wellbe-



ing of employees or the quality of work. Resilient employees contribute to a positive workplace culture by handling stress effectively and collaborating with others to solve problems. They also tend to show higher levels of job satisfaction, reduced burnout and a greater sense of purpose in their roles. These attributes are beneficial not only to the individual but to the organisation, as resilient employees contribute to a stronger, more cohesive team dynamic.

Several approaches such as encouraging a positive work culture; providing access to training and development; promoting work-life balance and encouraging team cohesion and collaboration can help organisations promote resilience at both individual as well as organisational levels. Only when employees feel valued and supported, they are more likely to develop a strong sense of belonging and purpose. An environment where employees feel safe to express concerns and seek help when needed promotes emotional resilience. Additionally, professional development opportunities build confidence, thereby helping employees feel more competent and ready to face obstacles.

Leadership plays a crucial role in resilience management. On the other hand, leaders too, who show resilience, especially during challenging times, inspire confidence in their teams can also provide the necessary guidance, recognise stress signs early on, and take action to support struggling employees. Resilient leaders foster a growth mindset within their teams, viewing setbacks as learning opportunities rather than failures.

Only fostering a team-based environment where collaboration and mutual support are encouraged enables employees to rely on one another in times of need. When employees trust their teammates, they are more likely to share concerns, ask for help and aid others, which collectively contributes to a resilient workforce. In conclusion, managing resilience in the workplace is essential for creating a thriving, adaptable, and supportive work environment. Investing in resilience is ultimately an investment in organisational success and individual wellbeing. By prioritising resilience, businesses will be better prepared to face future challenges, ensuring a sustainable and positive work environment.

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

India's gold repatriation: Safeguarding India's wealth



SHIVAJI SARKAR

India has taken a bold step by repatriating 214 tonnes of gold from the Bank of England, signalling a strategic move to protect national wealth against global shock



In a striking move to safeguard national wealth, India has repatriated 214 tonnes of gold from the vaults of England, a signal of heightened concern over escalating geopolitical tensions and looming sanctions. This shift reflects a broader trend, with central banks globally ramping up their gold purchases.

In May alone, India recalled 100 tonnes from the Bank of England, reinforcing a strategy to shield assets amid global uncertainty. Now, as global gold prices soar toward a potential \$3,000 per ounce, the world is watching closely, with India emerging as a key player in the race to secure precious metals in these volatile times. The government of India has decided to prioritise protecting its assets in the face of global geopolitical unrest. About 100 tonnes were returned from the Bank of England in May.

A total of 324.01 metric tonnes of gold were held in the custody of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) and the Bank of England, while 510.46 metric tonnes were retained domestically. Additionally, 20.26 metric tonnes of gold were stored as deposits. The gold in the world market is projected to rise to \$3000 per ounce, according to Goldman Sachs. The Diwali 2024 market sparkle appears subdued for several reasons despite cracker sales going back almost to the fuzzy pre-ban era of the National Green Tribunal.

The traditional gold sales could not touch previous years' highs as the metal was priced at around Rs 78,430, almost 30 per cent higher than last year. "Silver sales rose 33 per cent, while gold volume fell by 15 per cent," according to the Indian Bullion and Jewellers Association. The market is stated to be as dizzy as it was in 2015 or 2019, marked by slowdown. In its report titled "43rd Half Yearly Report on Management of Foreign Exchange



GOLD HAS RISEN TO MULTIPLE ALL-TIME HIGHS THIS YEAR. SIZABLE CENTRAL BANK PURCHASES OF GOLD BARS HAVE RESET THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RATE AND PRICE LEVELS SINCE 2022

Reserves: April - September 2024," the RBI stated that it had a total of 854.73 metric tonnes of gold in both domestic and foreign repository facilities.

The RBI has been buying gold to diversify its forex reserves and hedge against external risks. In 2024, the RBI added 54.7 tons of gold to its reserves, the highest acquisition in three years. After the Ukraine war, \$ 300 billion worth of Russian currency and other assets, kept as reserves in the US dollar, Euro and sterling pound, were seized by the US and the G7 countries. The assets are being used to bolster funding arms and other supplies to Ukraine. India has since acted cautiously even in deals with the purchase of Russian crude. The recent spat with Canada and the US-Israel escalation of the war to Lebanon and Iran has added to the caution.

This forced the repatriation of gold by RBI, which has been purchasing gold and stocking it abroad for payments in terms of gold instead of dollars. The RBI saves huge amounts in terms of vault rents as well. Robust demand in the world's second-biggest gold consumer could further push up global prices, which hit record highs last week. Rising demand for imports of gold could also widen India's trade deficit and put pressure on the rupee. Yes, India's gold purchases have contributed to rising global gold prices.

India's gold demand in 2024 is likely to fall to its lowest in four years as a rally in prices to a record high is seen denting purchases during the peak festival season, the World Gold Council

(WGC) said on Wednesday. Gold demand in the world's second-biggest consumer of the precious metal could stand around 700 and 750 metric tonnes in 2024, the lowest since 2020 and down from last year's 761 tonnes, according to Sachin Jain, CEO of WGC's Indian operations. This Dhanteras, gold sales dipped in India to 35 tonnes, down from last year's 42 tons.

Gold has risen to multiple all-time highs this year. Sizable central bank purchases of gold bars have reset the relationship between rate and price levels since 2022. Goldman Sachs Research estimates that 100 tonnes of physical demand lifts gold prices by at least 2.4 per cent. Credit card usage also hit new highs, with card spending reaching Rs 80,000 crore in September, a 57 per cent increase from last year. The retail mom-and-pop shops have problems as the footfall was subdued due to many turning to online shopping. Both Amazon and Flipkart reported a strong Diwali season, with Flipkart leading with a 64 per cent market share during the initial October sales.

Sales from online platforms saw year-on-year growth of 23 per cent, with goods worth Rs 32,000 crore sold. More are BNPL or Buy Now Pay Later customers, or paying in instalments helped by credit cards, indicating a cash shortage among the people.

This trend was especially pronounced among new shoppers from tier 2 and tier 3 cities. Car sales have suffered during most of the year before just margin-

ally picking up during the Dussehra and Diwali festive seasons. Maruti profits lowered to Rs 3102 crore in September, by 18 per cent, as against Rs 3762 crore a year ago.

Maruti CEO RC Bhargava says "Affordability is a concern". The demand for cars below Rs 10 lakh is in demand. Small cars inventory levels hit a "historic high" of 80-85 days, leaving dealers with a stock of 790,000 vehicles worth 800 billion rupees, the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations says.

Despite high inflation, Indian consumers opened their wallets wide this Diwali season, pushing festival-related spending to about Rs 1.25 lakh crore, claimed Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) general secretary Pravin Khandelwal. Delhi alone saw spending of Rs 25,000 crore, including FMCG goods, consumer durables and home décor earthen lamps and electronic goods, traditional and modern products, he says. Mobile phones in the below Rs 20,000 range had brisk sales.

Mobile phones were among the hottest sellers this season, with a 12-15 per cent rise in the average selling price, driven partly by a shortage in device availability. This scarcity led to consumers grabbing whatever stock was available, increasing the average price of phones sold. Rising gold and commodity prices, a fall in rupee value, crunch in income and manufacturing are concerns amid a global unstable war-like situation.

(The author is a senior journalist; views are personal)

India and Israel: A Bond forged in intelligence and shared threats

From R&AW's inception in 1968 to today's advanced defence collaborations, the Indo-Israeli alliance has quietly strengthened in the face of shared security challenges

It was three years after the Indo-Pakistan war. The year was 1968. India's external intelligence agency, The Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) was formed and its director was firmly advised by the then Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, to develop deep ties with Mossad; Israel's formidable intelligence agency. The two have been working closely together to eliminate potential threats and impending security challenges. The interests of both agencies aligned; obliterating the similar nature of terror emanating from their borders.



ISHAAN SAXENA

Taiba, daily in the restive state of Jammu and Kashmir; which also happens to be one of the world's most heavily militarised zones. Pakistan, a nuclear-armed country, also happens to be the epicentre of global terrorism. Fast-forward to the year 1999 when India was engaged in the Kargil conflict with Pakistan. It was then that Israel provid-

ed India with drones to monitor the treacherous Himalayan terrain. Now, as Israel is entangled in its battles, India's Adani group has delivered several Hermes 900 drones which are also capable of aerial bombardment. They have been deployed in Gaza. This, of course, is beyond the ambit of the Indian Government's control since it's a joint venture between Adani Defence and Aerospace and Israel's Elbit systems. Besides, allegedly India sent two shiploads of arms to Israel early this year. Over the past few years, Mossad has conducted a series of assassinations. These have included top Iranian nuclear physicists, professors and the head of

Iran's nuclear programme. Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed that Israel will not tolerate a nuclear Iran. So, in the foreseeable future, it is very likely that Israel will strike Iran's nuclear facilities because Iran is going to relentlessly pursue the nuclear path. This is irrefutable.

In recent times, the agency in collaboration with the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) has assassinated the top leadership of Hamas and Hezbollah; Ismael Haniyeh-the Hamas political leader in Tehran, Hassan Nasrallah-the Hezbollah leader and Yahya Sinwar who was the chief architect of the 7th October 2023 attacks on Israel. The very recent precision



strikes in and around Tehran would have sent shockwaves in the power corridors of Iran. The reverberations of these calculated strikes would have sent Iran's security cabinet scrambling to fathom how Israel could pursue such an accurate military operation. One will have to wait and watch Iran's reaction. Will it retaliate and escalate the exacerbated situation in the West Asia or

will it choose to mitigate the situation and let its proxies corner Israel?

But this outcome was almost certain. Israel had to engage in a limited military response. But what captured the imagination of the world was how Hezbollah paggers and walkie-talkies exploded simultaneously. Contentious debates regarding such a deadly operation were circulating to the centre stage. The vociferous debates focus on the morality and ethics of such an unprecedented operation.

After all, it does set a precedent for future attacks anywhere in the world. But as Israel's Ambassador to New Delhi put it; you have to surprise your enemy in a manner that does not involve the

conventional use of force. They say necessity is the mother of all inventions. Israel's campaign epitomises it perfectly.

They say that offence is not the best form of defence but in Israel's case, this chain of thought is unconvincing. The state exists in a precarious security zone. Israel may find itself alienated from the rest of the world as the valiant men and women of the IDF battle on various fronts, but the war and Israel's meticulous planning must continue.

Iran's proxies must be annihilated. Its relentless campaign to eliminate groups like Hamas and Hezbollah must not end anytime soon. Political parties or not, these actors harbour a twisted,

malicious and hostile ideology. There is no space for such entities to exist in a modern world. Israel must never forget that the long-lasting ties between the two nations will continue and India's explicit support will not fade anytime soon. The Indo-Israeli ties will be a durable bond in the years to come. This relationship which hinges on mutual respect and specific interests will bloom and crystallise in the years to come. Golda Meir, the fourth Prime Minister of Israel, articulated it quite clearly; 'peace will only usher in when Arabs love their children more than they despise us.'

(The writer is a socio-economic commentator; views expressed are personal)

IN BRIEF



US firm Alkomex to expand R&D footprint in India

Global pharma company Alkomex GBN looks to expand its research and development footprint in India and has roped in nutraceuticals expert Sanjay Agrawal to spearhead its strategic initiatives in the country, a statement said on Monday. Alkomex GBN has formed a partnership with Dr Sanjay Agrawal, a renowned Indian expert in health management and nutraceuticals, and has appointed him as the Scientific Advisor for Alkomex GBN, the statement said. "His leadership will be instrumental in driving our growth as we continue to expand our footprint in the nutraceutical and functional food sectors," Alkomex CEO Alex Meneses Vega said. Agrawal will be based in Ahmedabad and will spearhead the US firm's research and strategic initiatives, it said, adding that he will guide the company's R&D efforts and integrate Indian research into Alkomex's global operations.



UP amends policy to attract foreign investors

Foreign firms investing in Uttar Pradesh by bringing in equity as well as loans will now be eligible to avail benefits under the state government's incentive policy. A decision in this regard was taken by the cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath here on Monday. The incentive policy has been rechristened as 'Foreign Direct Investment, Foreign Capital Investment and Fortune Global 500 and Fortune India 500 Investment Promotion Policy 2023'. Earlier, incentives under the policy were available to only equity investments. "Through this amendment, the Yogi government has given big relief to foreign investors. Through this, now foreign companies will also be able to invest in the state which brings in investment through equity as well as loan or any other source. With this decision of Yogi government, there is a possibility of increase in foreign investment in the state," an official statement said. Briefing about these decisions, UP Finance Minister Suresh Khanna said that a slight amendment has been made in the policy, though the minimum investment for eligibility in the policy will continue to be Rs 100 crore.



Rupee falls 4 paise to hit all-time low against US dollar

The rupee on Monday fell 4 paise to a record low of 84.11 (provisional) against the US dollar, tracking a weak trend in domestic equities and relentless foreign capital outflows. Forex traders said the Indian rupee touched new all-time lows weighed down by negative domestic markets which fell nearly 1.18 per cent. A recovery in crude oil prices and FI outflows also dented investor sentiments. However, the softening of the US dollar prevented a sharp fall. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 84.07 against the US dollar. During the session, the local currency oscillated between a high of 84.06 and a low of 84.12. It finally settled at its all-time low of 84.11 (provisional), a loss of 4 paise from its previous close. On Thursday, the rupee edged up 1 paise to 84.07 against the US dollar. The forex market remained closed on Friday on account of Diwali.

White-collar hiring grows 10 pc in India: Report



PNS ■ MUMBAI

White-collar hiring activity increased 10 percent year-on-year in October, mainly due to a rise in recruitment in sectors such as oil and gas, pharmaceuticals, FMCG, and IT, a report said on Monday.

The Naukri JobSpeak Index, India's leading indicator of white-collar hiring activity, demonstrated robust growth in October, reaching 2,733 points compared to 2,484 in the same month of 2023, marking a significant 10 per cent year-on-year increase.

Key sectors, including oil & gas (18 per cent), pharma/biotech (12 per cent), FMCG (8 per cent), and IT (6 per cent) emerged as primary

drivers of this positive trend, with AI/ML roles showing exceptional growth at 39 per cent year-on-year, the report stated.

Hiring in the IT sector showed positive growth in four out of the seven months this financial year, auguring well for balance of year trends, added the report.

The Naukri JobSpeak is a monthly Index representing the state of the Indian job market and hiring activity based on new job listings and job-related searches by recruiters on the resume database of Naukri.com.

The report further revealed that overall, global capability centres (GCCs) demonstrated consistent growth with a 17 per

cent year-on-year increase in October.

GCCs showed significant traction in emerging hubs like Kolkata (68.46 per cent) and Ahmedabad (47.68 per cent) indicating a growing preference among international companies to expand beyond traditional tech centres for their India operations, it added.

The festive period also witnessed a significant growth in data-focused positions -- data/big data testing engineer (64 per cent), full stack data scientist (46 per cent), data platform engineer (26 per cent) and data scientist (23 per cent), it said. The report also found that after a sluggish performance throughout 2024, hiring for freshers showed encourag-

ing signs with a 6 per cent year-on-year growth in October.

When it came to locations, southern states demonstrated exceptional growth in white-collar hiring, with multiple cities showing strong year-on-year gains, said the report.

Tamil Nadu emerged as the strongest performer with a 24 per cent year-on-year growth, followed by Telangana (16 per cent), Karnataka (12 per cent), Andhra Pradesh (9 per cent) and Kerala (7 per cent), it stated.

"The accelerating pace of fresher hiring is a strong indicator of business confidence and presents exciting opportunities for upcoming graduates," Naukri Chief Business Officer Pawan Goyal said.

Sebi cautions investors against illegal trading platforms

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi on Monday cautioned investors against undertaking trading activities through virtual trading or gaming platforms and asked them to deal only through registered intermediaries.

The advisory statement came after the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) noticed that some apps / web applications / platforms are offering virtual trading services or paper trading or fantasy games to the public based on stock price data of listed companies. Such activities are in violation of Securities Contract (Regulation) Act, 1956 and Sebi Act, 1992 which are laws



designed to protect investors, the regulator said.

In a statement, Sebi reiterated that the public can invest and undertake trading activities in the securities markets only through/with registered inter-

mediaries. "Participation in unauthorized schemes, including sharing of confidential and personal trading data, is at the investors' own risk, cost and consequences, as such schemes / platforms are not registered with Sebi," it added.

Cautioning investors, Sebi asked them not to engage with or undertake investment or trading activities through unregistered intermediaries / web applications / platforms / apps.

For any kind of disputes relating to engaging with such activities, mechanisms such as benefits of investor protection under Sebi or exchanges would not be available to investors, it added.

Gold drops Rs 1,300 to Rs 81,100 per 10 gm Silver plummets Rs 4,600

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices retreated from record high in the national capital on Monday, declining Rs 1,300 to Rs 81,100 per 10 grams following fresh selling by stockists and retailers, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had traded flat at Rs 82,400 per 10 grams -- its all-time high -- on Thursday.

Silver also remained under selling pressure and slipped below the Rs 95,000-mark, depreciating Rs 4,600 to Rs 94,900 per kg. It had closed at Rs 99,500 per kg on Thursday. Traders said tepid demand



from jewellers and retailers in local markets weighed on gold prices.

Prices of gold of 99.5 per cent purity decreased Rs 1,300 to Rs 80,700 per 10 grams. The yellow metal had closed at Rs 82,000 per 10 grams -- its all time high -- in the previous ses-

sion on Thursday. In futures trade on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) on Monday, gold contracts for December delivery fell Rs 329, or 0.42 per cent, to trade at Rs 78,538 per 10 gm. "Gold prices experienced volatility as Comex gold found support near USD 2,730 but struggled to break above USD 2,750. "With the US election results due in the next two days, market participants are expected to have mixed sentiments, likely resulting in a range-bound session between Rs 78,000 and Rs 79,000 in MCX," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst of Commodity and Currency at LKP Securities, said.

NTPC, ONGC join to work in renewable energy space

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Power giant NTPC and oil major ONGC on Monday announced that they have joined hands to explore opportunities in the area of new and renewable energy.

The two entities will form a joint venture through their respective subsidiaries, NTPC said in a statement.

"NTPC and ONGC have collaborated to form a Joint Venture Company (JVC) through their Green Energy Subsidiaries (NTPC Green Energy Ltd and ONGC Green Energy Ltd) to further promote their interest in renewable and new energy arena," it said.

NGEL has also submitted an application to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs for the incorporation of a 50:50 Joint Venture Company with OGL, the statement said.

Stock investors become poorer by Rs 5.99 lakh cr as Sensex tanks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Investors' wealth eroded by Rs 5.99 lakh crore on Monday due to heavy sell-off in stock markets with the BSE Sensex tumbling more than 1 per cent. Markets were dragged down by Reliance Industries, banking shares and unabated selling by foreign investors. Investors also turned cautious ahead of the US presidential elections and Federal Reserve interest rate decision scheduled to be announced later this week.

The BSE benchmark tumbled 941.88 points or 1.18 per cent to settle at 78,782.24, the lowest closing level since August 6. During the day, it slumped 1,491.52 points or 1.87 per cent to 78,232.60.

In line with a weak trend in equities, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms eroded by Rs 5,99,539.5 crore to Rs 4,42,11,068.05 crore



(USD 5.26 trillion).

"Markets witnessed broader sell-off as investors turned risk averse ahead of key US election outcome and Federal Reserve's policy decision in the next few days time. While stretched valuation concerns have been weighing for some time, the persistent foreign fund outflows have created a lot of uncertainty amongst the investors resulting in a steep correction.

"Also, corporate earnings have failed to meet expectations, which has further dampened investors' sentiment," said Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd.

From the 30-share Sensex pack, Adani Ports, Reliance Industries, Sun Pharma, NTPC, Bajaj Finserv, Tata Motors, Axis Bank and Titan were among the major laggards.

India re-elected as President of International Solar Alliance

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi on Monday said India has been re-elected as the President of Indian Solar Alliance (ISA) from 2024 to 2026.

Addressing the press conference at 7th General Assembly of the ISA, Joshi informed that France has been reelected as Vice-President of the ISA.

India's election to the President post is a testament to the impactful work the country, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has been doing over the years for the global good in advancing solar energy adoption across the globe and boosting investment in

essential solar projects, including mini-grids and healthcare solutions, Joshi opined. Eight Vice Presidents of the Standing Committee, two from each of the four ISA geographical regions, were also selected by the Assembly.

From the Africa Region, Ghana and Seychelles have been selected as the Vice Presidents, while South Sudan and the Comoros will support the Vice Presidents as Vice-Chairs of Africa. From the Asia and the Pacific Region, Australia and Sri Lanka have been selected as Vice Presidents, with the United Arab Emirates and Papua New Guinea as the Vice-Chairs, he informed. Germany and Italy have been selected as Vice Presidents from the Europe and the Others Region, along with Greece and Norway as Vice-Chair. Leading the Regional Committee of the Latin America and the Caribbean region will be Grenada and Suriname, Jamaica and Haiti as Vice-Chairs, he said.

Air purifier sales spike as air quality worsens

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Demand for air purifiers has witnessed a surge as air quality, especially in Delhi-NCR, dropped to hazardous levels, according to manufacturers of the product.

Companies, including Kent RO Systems, Xiaomi, and LG Electronics India, said in the festive season, air purifiers sales grew up to 50 per cent as the Air Quality Index (AQI) of Delhi and the adjoining moved towards an alarming level.

Like the previous year, the appliance makers have witnessed growth in the last 2-3

weeks in sales and enquiries for air-purifiers and expect a further uptick with the increase in the AQI index in the coming weeks.

Air purifier is a very small segment of the appliances market and its sales generally peaks in October and November, when the pollution level in North India, particularly Delhi NCR, and some other parts worsens due to stubble burning and Diwali celebrations.

LG Electronics India Senior VP- Home Appliances Sanjay Chitkara said: "As Delhi battles one of its worst pollution seasons yet, suddenly the demand



for air purifiers has surged in Delhi NCR."

The city's AQI has crossed hazardous levels, with pollutants that are much smaller than the common PM2.5 par-

titles, making them extremely dangerous and hard to filter out, he said.

Kent RO Systems CMD Mahesh Gupta said sales of air purifiers and filters witnessed a significant surge during the winter months in India, coinciding with the deterioration in air quality.

The alarming levels of pollution, especially in the northern regions, create a sense of urgency among consumers to protect their health, he said.

"During the festive season, we observe a noticeable increase in sales of about 20-25 per cent as consumers become more conscious of indoor air quality and their overall well-being," he said.

Xiaomi said amid rising pollution levels, particularly in the North region, there has been a noticeable shift in consumer behaviour, with a growing focus on health and cleaner indoor environments.

"This has driven a sharp rise in Xiaomi's air purifier & air purifier filter sales, with numbers climbing over 50 per cent higher than usual in the past month," said a Xiaomi spokesperson. According to a report from EMR, the India air purifier market size attained a value of Rs 777.75 crore in 2023. The market is expected to grow at a CAGR of 16.30 per cent between 2024 and 2032, it said.

CREATED HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
TENDER NOTICE
 NT No. 20/GHMC/MPT/EE/2024-25 Date: 04-11-2024
 Name of Work: Chair Pools, Estimate Amount / ECV: Rs. 1.00 Lakh, Start Date/ Last Date & Time for receipts of Bids: 05.11.2024 @ 10.30 AM / 06.11.2024 @ 10.40 AM. Name & Address Officer: Sri. V. Srinivas, Executive Engineer, GHMC, Moosapet Circle-23, Cell: 9849906745. For Further details can be seen at e-procurement @ www.tender.eprocurement.gov.in
 Sd/- Executive Engineer GHMC, Moosapet Division - 23
 P.O.No: 6187/PCL/ADVT/192024-25, Dt: 04-11-2024

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA MISSION BHAGIRATHA DEPARTMENT
 D/o Engineer in Chief, Mission Bhagiratha, Barramanji Colony, Hyderabad
TENDER NOTICE
 Tender Notice: 01/AEE-I, DEE-IV / Tender / Tender Releases / 2024-25, Dt: 04.11.2024
 Name of the work: Laying of New Mission Bhagiratha GRID Pipe Line for Newly Sanctioned in Kondaradityapur. Estimated Cost: Rs. 200.00 Lakhs, Tender Documents are available in the e-procurement website: tender.telangana.gov.in: 12.11.2024 to 26.11.2024 upto 3.00 PM. The tender will be received up to 26.11.2024 up to 3.30 PM. Technical Bid opening Date: 26.11.2024 at 4.00 PM. Financial Bid Opening Date: 29.11.2024 at 11.30 AM. Officer Concerned: Superintendent Engineer, MB Circle, Mahabubnagar, Contact No: 9100122221/9100120921. The Contractors are requested to furnish their experience and other details in Zip format. Further details can be obtained from e-procurement web site tender.telangana.gov.in. Note: Further amendments if any, will be notified on E-Procurement platform only.
 Sd/- Chief Engineer -IV
 P.O.No: 6203/PPEL/ADVT/192024-25, Date: 04-11-2024 Mission Bhagiratha, Mahabubnagar



THE BHAVANA PANDEY YOU DON'T KNOW

Unmasking the magic of Bhavana Pandey, *The Pioneer* presents an exclusive conversation with the reality TV sensation. Join us as she delves into her life's passions, challenges and triumphs and reveals the secrets of her captivating on-screen presence

SHIKHA DUGGAL
shikhaduggalwork@gmail.com

As we watched *Fabulous Lives vs Bollywood Wives*, we saw Bhavana Pandey, a stunningly beautiful woman with a golden heart who also adds warmth and elegance to our screens. Her inspirational journey as a devoted mother and fervent businesswoman is evidence of her fortitude and tenacity. She is a cherished character in the lives of those around her in the show because of her contagious smile and giving nature, which skillfully combined glamour and humility. Prepare to be amazed by her wit, insight and unflinching optimism as she unlocks the doors to this exclusive interview with us once again. Because of her unreserved confidence, Bhavana has been the show's breakthrough star and viewers consistently refer to her as the most relatable cast member. In an interview with *The Pioneer*, Bhavana opens up about her public persona, the camera's gaze, rivalry portrayed on the show and more! She has a personal philosophy that reads, "I went into the show really excited, but I didn't realise how much attention and exposure it would bring. I believe the show has given viewers a better understanding of me outside of my persona as 'Ananya's mom' or an entrepreneur. Connecting with followers who value us as genuine individuals, with all of our eccentricities and imperfections, has been energising. Despite all of the highs and lows, the experience has taught me to love being in the spotlight and simply being myself."

She certainly knows how to handle the camera gaze! "Being so conscious of the camera makes it difficult to be authentic, but I do my best to remain grounded and true to myself. Although appearing on a reality show can highlight some aspects of our lives, the main goal is to be genuine. The show is relatable to viewers, in my opinion, because there are times when we are laughing, sobbing, or even disagreeing. In order to stay genuine and hopefully connect



with the audience, I try not to overthink things."

Bhavana has become an inspiration to young women since the show's premiere. You can view anything in the comments if you scroll down to any part where she is mentioned. "I strive to instill the same principles in Ananya and Rysa and staying grounded is really essential to me. Despite the glamour, I want to instill in my girls a spirit of hard work and thankfulness. At home, we place a strong emphasis on staying loyal to who we are, helping one another and keeping our roots in mind. I remind them that even if we are blessed to lead a particular lifestyle, it is crucial to maintain a strong foundation of family values and to be modest," adds the television personality.

Oh, let's talk about the infamous Delhi vs. Mumbai rivalry: "The dynamic between Delhi and Mumbai gave the season new vitality! Scrutinising the variations in the two cities' personalities, fashions and even thoughts was fascinating and the rivalry gave a playful element. However, everyone was in a cheerful mood. In the end, it all comes down to savouring each other's

company and recognising the unique flavours that each member contributes to the group. It's what, in my opinion, made this season even more thrilling for both me and the audience."

As the founder of LoveGen, she is well-known for being a prominent person in the fashion business. She says, "Fashion has always played a significant role in my life and working in the industry has shaped my style and how I express myself. I enjoy showcasing my unique style and originality on the show since it's a fun opportunity to express who I am. I strive to instill confidence in every episode since fashion is more than simply clothes. I want to demonstrate my boldness, even on camera, as LoveGen taught me to do." Well, that's just Bhavana for you!

"I am thankful for friendships that have endured, particularly those with Seema, Maheep and Neelam. Finding people you connect with on such a deep level is uncommon in any industry, but I believe the secret is to be honest with one another and support one another without passing judgment. Together, we have experienced a great deal, both on and off screen and our friendship is maintained by our honesty and loyalty. The difference is that we always have each other's backs," conveys an emotive Bhavana.

One of the most satisfying things she has experienced as a mother is seeing Ananya flourish. As a mother, she experiences the anxieties that accompany having a daughter in the spotlight, but she is also immensely proud of her. The family always finds time to spend time together and encourage one another, even though it can be difficult to strike a balance between Bhavana's goals and theirs. Her daughter's graceful handling of fame and criticism validates all the effort and motivates Bhavana to continue on her path. Bhavana also remembers, "I wish the audience could see more of my entrepreneurial side and my love for fashion. Work, family and friendships are all very important and although the glitz is a part of our lives, there is a lot of effort and commitment that goes on behind the scenes. I want viewers to understand that I prioritise personal development and meaningful friendships in addition to the amazing parties and events."

Because, as she concludes, "Privacy is a luxury in today's world, especially with social media. We've learned as a family to set limits and value our private time away from the spotlight. Whether it's a private weekend getaway or a family supper, we make time for ourselves. With Ananya and Rysa, I also stress the importance of striking a balance between sharing and protecting. It all comes down to holding onto the things that are most important to us."

TURNING BACK CLOCK WITH MICRONEEDLING, MESOBOTOX & THREAD LIFT

Climate change, pollution and a stressful lifestyle are leading to premature aging, fine-appearing lines, and sun damage. While medical science offers a host of choices to combat these, non-invasive procedures are fast gaining ground in India and overseas. Consumers are turning to mesotherapy, microneedling and thread lift procedures for their aesthetic needs. According to studies, the global non-invasive aesthetic treatments market was valued at \$61.2 billion and it is expected to grow 15.40 percent between 2023 and 2030. One of the primary reasons for their increasing popularity is quick results and minimum risk.

Let's now talk about the procedures of microneedling, mesobotox and thread lifting in detail:

MESOBOTOX

In contrast to regular Botox treatments, which target deeper muscles, Mesobotox often referred to as micro-botox, is a cosmetic procedure in which minute doses of diluted botox are injected into the skin's superficial layers. The main goals of this treatment are to tighten pores, improve the texture of the skin, minimise fine wrinkles and give the face a smoother, younger-looking appearance without preventing facial expressions.

The advantages of mesobotox include better skin texture and pore tightening. This treatment also minimises the appearance of larger pores by lessening the activity of fine muscle fibers that are immediately beneath the skin. This results in tighter, smoother skin, especially around the eyes, on the forehead and on the cheeks.

MICRONEEDLING

Microneedling is referred to as 'collagen induction' therapy and like mesotherapy, it is a minimum risk non-invasive procedure. Microneedling involves controlled micro-injuries made to the skin using very

small, fine and sterile needles. The main thrust here is to ensure that the body's natural healing reactions are catalysed to enhance the collagen levels. The latter are key ingredients for ensuring that the skin looks much younger and healthier besides giving it a glowing, refreshed look. It takes care of fine lines, wrinkles, crow's feet, uneven skin texture and also enlarged pores and acne scars. Microneedling causes the collagen to fill the scars and pores and also make the skin a lot less oily.

THREAD LIFT PROCEDURE

If you are looking for something that has lasting results and is also a non-surgical solution, then thread lift procedure is the right procedure to choose. A minimally invasive cosmetic surgery called a thread lift is used to tighten and raise drooping skin, particularly on the neck and face. To lift the skin and give the illusion of younger skin without open surgery, temporary, dissolvable sutures are inserted beneath the skin. Over time, the firmness of the skin is improved by the collagen formation that is stimulated by the threads used in the process.

Like the other two procedures, you can resume your activities after undergoing this treatment. The plus point here is that as soon as this procedure is done, the effects are almost instantly visible and in the forthcoming weeks and months, the collagen built up continues making the skin appearance brighter and younger.

A gentle, natural-looking improvement is achieved through the gradual tightening of the skin and the synthesis of collagen. Though not permanent, thread lifts can last one to three years, depending on lifestyle and skin type.

Experts say that dryness, redness, swelling, and bruising are some of the common side effects of these procedures, but they subside in a few days. Therefore, it's a good idea to consult a seasoned professional to understand all aspects of these procedures and watch out for any allergic reactions.



Crafting cinematic brevity

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When it comes to capturing India's socio-political landscape on screen, few filmmakers do it with as much raw intensity as Tigmanshu Dhulia.

Known for iconic works like *Gangs of Wasseypur*, *Paan Singh Tomar* and *Raag Desh*, he has established himself as a storyteller, unafraid to delve into the complex layers of human nature and history. Yet, with his recent venture into short films, the seasoned director faced a whole new challenge that required him to make every second count.

In the world of cinema, where feature films often take hours to unravel their magic, creating a short film poses a unique challenge for any director. For the mind behind *The Promise*, this challenge was not just about condensing a story but about honing the visual craft, conveying emotion and igniting impact in a matter of minutes.

"It's a great challenge as a director," he reflects, noting that the shorter format demands a distinct approach. "You have to say a lot in a short time, often in ways that words can't capture, so your visual skills really come into play." And it's this very challenge that excites him, calling short filmmaking "a true test of creative dexterity." Platforms like the Royal Stag Barrel Select Large Short Films are, in his view, a godsend for filmmakers aiming to master this nuanced art form. "Short films celebrate select storytelling in a way that full-length features often can't," he shares, adding that festivals like MAMI not only offer exposure but also cultivate a dynamic space for networking and connecting with audiences on a deeper level. "At a festival, you're not just watching the film. You're meeting the creator, engaging with the story and broadening your horizons." But what inspired *The Promise*? "Honestly, I was just looking for a story," he says candidly. "I didn't set out with a grand message; I wanted something understated, emotional—a love story with minimal drama." When a friend shared a simple story with him, he immediately saw potential in its quiet depth. The short film format allowed him to push his boundaries, sharpening his storytelling skills by working within the constraints of time and budget. "Making a 10-minute film has its own pros and cons," he reflects, "but I relished the challenge."

Short films, as he explains, demand a technical finesse that differs from feature filmmaking. "Every technical aspect becomes crucial in a short film. Aspect ratios, shot composition, pacing—all of these come to the forefront in a way I don't always get to explore in full-length films. It's like trying on a different lens," he says with evident excitement.

Known for his full-length films like *Raag Desh* and *Paan Singh Tomar*, which delve into socio-political landscapes, he admits that such themes remain close to his heart. "Addressing social issues is essential to me," he says, underscoring his belief that cinema should reflect the world's stories, especially those that provoke thought and inspire change.

Having worn the hats of actor, director, and producer, he acknowledges that each role brings fresh insights into the filmmaking process. "Filmmaking is ever-evolving," he says. "With new technologies, distribution models and even AI shaping our industry, there's always something to learn. But at its core, it's still all about telling a story."

In *The Promise*, he captures the essence of storytelling within a tightly woven narrative, proving that sometimes, a few well-chosen frames can resonate as profoundly as a full-length feature.

With his foray into short films, **Tigmanshu Dhulia** tackles the unique challenge of cinematic brevity, mastering the art of conveying complex emotions and socio-political commentary in just a few minutes. In this exclusive interview with *The Pioneer*, he shares his creative process, technical finesse and passion for storytelling, revealing what drives him to push boundaries in the ever-evolving world of cinema



what's brewing?

START YOUR MONTH ON RIGHT NOTE WITH THESE TITLES AS THEY PREMIERE THROUGHOUT NOV

DISNEY TITLES

An Almost Christmas Story (November 15) (English)

An Almost Christmas Story follows Moon, a curious young owl who unexpectedly finds himself stuck in a Christmas tree destined for Rockefeller Plaza. In his attempts to escape the bustling city, Moon befriends a lost little girl named Luna. Together, they embark on a heartwarming adventure, discovering the magic of the holiday season and forming an unlikely bond as they journey back home to their parents.

Out of My Mind (November 22) (English)

Melody Brooks, a sixth grader with cerebral palsy, has a quick wit and a sharp mind, but because she is non-verbal and uses a wheelchair, she is not given the same opportunities as her classmates. When a young educator notices her student's untapped potential and Melody starts to participate in mainstream education, Melody shows that what she has to say is more important than how she says it.

November on Disney+ Hotstar is set to light up your screens with a magical mix of festive and thrilling new content! Leading the charge is *An Almost Christmas Story*, a heartwarming holiday tale, get ready for more adventure with *Descendants: The Rise of Red*, taking you deeper into the iconic universe and the much-anticipated adaptation of *Interior Chinatown*, a unique and powerful story blending identity and cultural exploration. With these titles and more, November promises to be a month of unforgettable entertainment.

OTHER TITLES

Gangnam B-Side (Season 1) (November 6) (Korean)

A series of missing person cases has turned Seoul upside down. The stakes rise with the disappearance of Jaehye, the top call girl at a club in Gangnam. Detective Kang Dongwoo returns to solve the case, while Prosecutor Min Seojin sees the case as a chance to advance her career. As the investigation unfolds, Yoon Gilho, a notorious pimp in Gangnam emerges as a key suspect. The three must navigate a web of hidden connections to uncover the truth behind the case.

The Fiery Priest (Season 2) (November 8) (Korean)

On the day of Father Gabriel Lee Yeongjun's fifth memorial mass, a young altar boy at Gudam Cathedral suddenly collapses, later revealed to be from a drug overdose. Father Michael Kim Haeil follows the trail to a dangerous district in Busan, a place rife with gangs, corrupt politicians, and dirty cops, all tied to a major drug cartel. Haeil heads to Busan

with a message: God is watching. Disguised as a seminary teacher, he mentors students while secretly investigating the drug network preying on the vulnerable. At the heart of it all lies a complex web of crime. Haeil is determined to stop the senseless deaths, dismantle the forces of evil, and deliver divine justice to the wicked.

FX's Say Nothing (November 14) (English)

FX's limited series *Say Nothing* is a gripping story of murder and memory in Northern Ireland during The Troubles. The 9-episode series is based on the book by Patrick Radden Keefe. Spanning four decades, the series opens with the shocking disappearance of Jean McConville, a single mother of ten who was abducted from her home in 1972 and never seen alive again.

Interior Chinatown (Season 1) (November 19) (English)

Interior Chinatown follows the story of Willis Wu, a background character trapped in a police procedural trying to find his way into

the larger story--and along the way discovering secrets about the strange world he inhabits and his family's buried history.

Beatles '64 (November 29) (English)

Beatles '64: The impact of the Beatles' first trip to the United States is well known: their lightning bolt rose up the charts, battalions of screaming teenage girls and a record-breaking performance on Ed Sullivan, witnessed by 73 million people. *Beatles '64* tells a more intimate story. Filmmakers Martin Scorsese and David Tedeschi reveal the four Beatles at the moment of their musical breakthrough and unimaginable fame. The film showcases rare behind-the-scenes footage filmed by pioneering documentarians David and Albert Maysles, beautifully restored in 4K. Newly filmed and archival interviews with the Beatles, along with fans whose lives were transformed by the band's music, illuminate this singular cultural moment and its continued resonance today.



Shalini Reddy



Cutis International has announced its expansion into the vibrant city of Hyderabad. Dr. Shajeer Machinchery, founder & chairman of the group, along with K Jayan who is the vice chairman and CEO and Dr Gowri Shankar, Executive Director, marked their presence at the inauguration.



Preethi Reddy



Dr. Lavanya



Dr. Shajeer machinchery, Jayan and Dr Gowri Shankar



Jayanthi



Dr. Daisy



Dr. Priya



Sruthi

PARTY

Photos by- SV Chary

FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



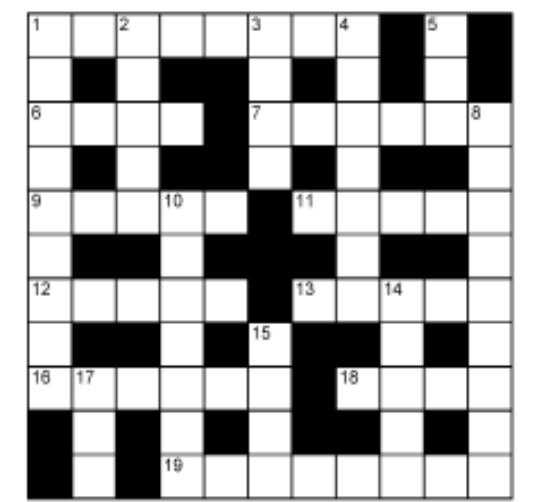
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



NANCY



GINGER MEGGS



SUDOKU

	2		1	3				
9	6	7						
1	7		8		4			
	4	2						
2	1			9		5		
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Yesterday's solution

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

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

ACROSS

- Air-holes in your nose
- Become larger
- A spider's trap
- Topic
- A chopping tool
- An insect that flutters by
- Baby cats
- Sea
- Second-hand
- A month

DOWN

- A frightening dream
- Small seat without a back
- A feeling that makes you want to scratch



BANKING ON LUCK

DULQUER SALMAAN'S BOLD DIVE AS BHASKAR!

With a filmography that transcends borders and languages, Dulquer has established himself as a cinematic force to be reckoned with, delivering memorable performances. In an exclusive interview, Dulquer Salmaan, the versatile and captivating actor, opens up about his latest role as 'Bhaskar' in the film *Lucky Bhaskar*

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Dulquer Salmaan is not just a name; he's a cinematic force that transcends borders and languages, captivating audiences with each role he embraces. He captured hearts with his charming portrayal of Charlie, where his character's free-spirited nature resonated with audiences. Later, he went on to deliver a powerful performance in *Mahanati*, where he embodied the legendary actor Gemini Ganesan, adding depth to the biopic about the celebrated actress Savitri. Dulquer has also impressed audiences with his roles in *Kali*, where he navigated the complexities of anger and love and in *Zoya Akhtar's Karwaan*, he brought a delightful blend of humour and heart to the screen. From *Bangalore Days* to *Ustad Hotel* to *O Kaadal Kammani*, with back-to-back over-packed performances, he has not just won hearts but also souls.

In addition to his stellar work in Malayalam cinema, Dulquer has made significant inroads into other film industries, starring in Tamil hits like *Kali* and *Vaanam Kottattam* and showcasing his talents in Telugu. In an interview that seamlessly wove together insights on the complexities of

banking and the actor's craft, he shared his experiences working on *Lucky Bhaskar*, a film set against the backdrop of finance and scandal.

For the *Kurup* star, stepping into Bhaskar's world was about more than memorising banking terminology—it was about fully inhabiting the life of a character grounded in a familiar, yet risky, reality. "Venky's attention to detail was so thorough that every question I had about banking, he had an answer for," he recalled. "Knowing a director has done so much homework gives you confidence. It's like you're in safe hands and you're part of a story that respects both the narrative and the field it represents."

But beyond the script's financial intricacies, the *Hey Sinamika* fame appreciated the universal appeal that Bhaskar's story held. While finance might seem a domain reserved for urban multiple audiences, the film's treatment of Bhaskar as a relatable man with dreams and aspirations bridges the gap between city dwellers and rural communities.

In discussing the challenges of portraying Bhaskar, he highlighted how the setting and authenticity of the production made it easier to connect with the character. The set's detailed recreation of Bhaskar's home was particularly impressive. Although only parts of the house were physically constructed, CGI brought the street and neighbourhood to life. "It felt incredibly real; I didn't feel like I was acting in a fabricated world. Every day on set felt natural, like I was stepping into Bhaskar's life," he said, clearly cherishing the film's immersion.

While *Lucky Bhaskar* veers towards intellectual storytelling, a refreshing divergence in his filmography, he recognised the risk of making complex subjects palatable. For him, Venky managed to strike the delicate balance of creating a smart film without alienating audiences. "You can't make it so dense that people feel lost," he emphasised. "But you also can't simplify it to the point where you're underestimating the audience's intelligence. Venky did an exceptional job with that balance."

The *King of Kotha* star's journey from apprehension to acclaim in the world of cinema reveals both his meticulous approach to acting and his love for stories over stardom. Reflecting on one of his latest roles, he chuckles, "We wanted Bhaskar to have that touch of arrogance—a character that isn't so easy to root for." Despite playing a character with a darker edge, it's clear his own charm has little to do with arrogance.



Though his films have brought him closer to a pan-Indian market, he seems genuinely at ease with the idea that he may never capture the sheer volume of Bollywood fans like some of his contemporaries. "I'm just enjoying the journey," he says, a statement that reflects his grounded nature. Language, he reveals, is one of his greatest loves—and strengths. "I like languages," he explains, sharing that Hindi was his second language in school. Yet his heart remains closer to the southern film industries. "Films made here have an appeal that just travels so seamlessly across Tamil, Malayalam and Telugu audiences. With Hindi, though, I feel like it's tougher to achieve that level of crossover."

He also spoke about his journey of adapting to various languages and cultural nuances within Indian cinema. While Malayalam, his native language, posed unique challenges, Telugu and Tamil felt slightly more intuitive. "Telugu was easier to dub and surprisingly Tamil as well," he admitted, noting the intricacies each language brings to the screen.

His breakthrough in the Telugu industry with the monumental *Mahanati* nearly didn't happen. When director Nag Ashwin approached him to portray the legendary Gemini Ganesan, Dulquer initially balked. "It's an ambitious film with beloved icons and I didn't want people to watch it and think, 'Why cast this guy who doesn't speak Telugu?'" With unfamiliar language came a unique challenge: "When you're new to a language, there's a delay in how you respond emotionally to lines. Initially, I relied on prompts, which affected my timing." But he is as much a perfectionist as he is passionate and he was willing to put in the work, knowing the rewards would be worth it. The reassurance of the *Mahanati* team and their trust in his abilities gave him the confidence to make the role his own.

His deep respect for portraying nuanced roles, often set in the grey areas of morality, underscores his commitment to exploring complex characters. "Characters with shades of grey are more satisfying. As actors, we're drawn to roles that feel real, layered," he explained. "We spend our lives following rules, but on screen, we get to take risks and break rules. Bhaskar's one of those characters—someone willing to push boundaries and take risks."

One trait that has set Dulquer apart is his deep commitment to character development, eschewing any notion of 'typecasting' in favour of well-crafted stories. For him, stories always come before any specific 'dream role' and it's a belief

he's carried since the beginning of his career. Even his father, Mammooty, who has played every kind of character imaginable, has advised Dulquer to follow the story rather than get stuck on the character. "The role has to feel real," he reflects, sharing that he dives into each role by carefully studying the character's quirks, mannerisms and backstory. And it's the smallest details—a pair of glasses, the way a bag hangs from his shoulder—that often help him unlock a character's essence.

For *Mahanati*, he remembers, "Gemini Ganesan had such distinct mannerisms. He'd sit with the chair turned around; he loved cooking—these were details his family shared with me." And he ensured every nuance came through in his performance, down to the way he sat in every scene.

Reflecting on his own success and grounded by his iconic lineage as the son of Mammooty, he expressed gratitude for the opportunities and freedom he's enjoyed in his career. "I've been very lucky in every way. Being my father's son opened doors, but I also had the safety net to say no to roles that didn't resonate. That privilege lets you be selective, to wait for the right films."

For now, he remains focused on choosing roles that challenge and intrigue him, with sequels on the backburner as he continues his quest for originality in storytelling. Yet, as he laughed off the notion of preempting a "career checklist," his love for fresh stories and dynamic scripts was evident, making him one of the most versatile actors in Indian cinema today.

Breaking out of the 'chocolate boy' image took time, but he laughs it off today. "I'm 41, a father. I kept trying to move away from those romance-centered roles, but they somehow keep finding me." Still, he's grateful for the audience's unwavering affection and even enjoys their attention with a hint of nostalgia. Fans send him handmade crafts and photo albums filled with memories of his films and thoughtful gestures he treasures. "When I was younger, no one noticed me like this," he admits, smiling. "Now, they know every detail about my family, my wife and my daughter—and they're still incredibly respectful."

The conversation shifts to the lighter side of being a public figure, the occasional pitfalls of fame. He recalls some close calls with cybersecurity risks, noting, "Sometimes I see attempts from places like New Zealand trying to access my accounts!" Even in this, there's a careful thoughtfulness; he is at once the dreamer, the realist, and the actor who holds his craft above all else, forever looking for stories that resonate across screens, languages and hearts.

JATHARA BASED ON TRUE INCIDENT: DIRECTOR SATISH BABU

Satish Babu, the director of the upcoming film *Jathara* will also be seen playing the lead actor. "I completed the script in 2016. I met the



producer at an event where we exchanged our ideas. He liked the story and he narrated the story to his family, which they also responded positively and then we decided to start. The producers asked me to direct the film and I wanted to rope in a big actor for it. We approached a big actor, but we couldn't get how to get him on board and roaming around for six months, then I decided to act as the lead actor in it," added Satish Babu when asked how he became a director and leading actor of the film. Deeya Raj will be seen playing the female lead, while Radhakrishna Reddy and Shiva Shankar Reddy are the producers of the film. "We wanted to rope in a Telugu speaking girl and went in search of the same to Mumbai

to get a female lead. Later finalised Deeya Raj, who speaks Telugu. She is from Vijayawada," said Satish Babu about the female lead. The film has completely Chittoor slang, he added. Talking about the upcoming film's plotline Satish said that the film is based on a true incident. "One human turned cruel and decided to harm the Goddess, on the other hand another human fought against the cruel man and put the Goddess back in the temple. It's a real incident and I added a few cinematic scenes to it," said Satish Babu. He added that he told the incident in the same way, it became a documentary. "If I made this story as it happened it would become a documentary, so I took cinematic liberty to tell it in a commercial way," he said. The director said that the Goddess's temple is located in the Madanapalle area of Chittoor district, where people from 18 surrounding villages come to worship. "Over a year and a half, I interacted with local people and conducted research to craft the script. Gangamma, the Goddess, is revered with great devotion by the Telugu people and my film *Jathara* is a film that pays tribute to her," said Satish Babu.

Satish Babu earlier worked as clinical scientist and later as an advocate. "I also worked as intellectual property and I was in immigration law. I have a lot of liberty to work on a lot of scripts, so that's how I came up with the script," said Satish Babu. "From my childhood I wanted to work in the film industry. I would like to continue in the industry as an actor or director whichever comes to me. I have a few stories to narrate and also met a couple of producers. With this film's experience I know, I can narrate some good stories in the future," said Satish Babu.

After a long time I ventured into a commercial space: Hebah Patel

HEBAH PATEL OPENS UP ABOUT HER UPCOMING FILM *DHOOM DHOOM*, RELATIONSHIP STATUS, WHAT GIVES HER HIGH AND FUTURE PROJECTS

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Hebah Patel is playing the female lead in the film *Dhoom Dhaam* opposite Chetan. Directed by Sai Kishore, the film is releasing on November 8. "Sai Rajesh told me that Gopi Mohan and Ramkumar are searching for a lead actress and he had suggested my name and asked me to go for it, in case I liked it," said Hebah. Later, both Gopi Mohan and Ram Kumar narrated the script to Hebah and she was in awe. "After doing many thriller and serious roles, this came as a refreshing change to me. It's complete commercial entertainment and I am playing a glamorous role in it and it's a very lighthearted one too," she said about her role. The shooting took place in Poland for nearly a month. "It was like a picnic for us. There are many people who I worked with earlier, like cinematographers, choreographers and so many. I play the role of Suhana; interestingly, the director's daughter's name is also the same, so he wanted to add the name to my role. I play a rich, spoiled girl who goes on a vacation to Europe and meets the protagonist there," she said about the story. The team had travelled to Poland during the beginning of the winter. "I had to wear mostly wear sarees, which I felt to be slightly tough there," she said. The actress didn't have many scenes with other actors; the reason being she comes from a really small family in the film. "The protagonist's family is very big," she said. She added that she follows the director for this film to play her character. *Dhoom Dhaam* is a complete entertainer with many hilarious scenes. "It is very tough to do a comedy scene rather than a glamorous or romantic scene.



Because when I do a comedy scene, people should laugh; otherwise, I didn't do well, so doing comedy is tough," said Hebah Patel.

The actress said that the film is an easygoing one. "The director made us do our work in a more comfortable way. There were no tough scenes and it is really a cakewalk for me. The director is a fun person and it is easy to work with him and he makes you comfortable on the sets," said Hebah. Talking about her co-actor Chetan, she said, "I am very hyperactive and he is completely opposite to me; he is very calm and focused on work. I want to be like that after seeing him," she said. The actress said that she doesn't have any regrets till now. "I am happy where I am now. It is not like that I am not getting work; I was busy with work," she said. She added that she did a web series, OTT film, or a feature film. "Facing the camera is difficult for me. Whether it's an OTT, feature film, special song, or a web series or if it is a photo shoot, I get myself in front of the camera and always feel high," she said.

The actress said that she has done so many content driven roles in the recent times. "After a long time, I have ventured into commercial space with this film. I am expecting that everyone likes me in this glamorous role," she said. For another question she said that she is single and not in a relationship. "I have to like a person and then get into a relationship with him, after that I then prepare for a marriage. I am hyperactive and talkative, so the person should be calm and composed. I am looking for a person like that, till then I want to be single," said about her marriage proposal.

Hebah Patel is very active on social media, but after some negative comments, she took a decision. "I used to read the comments, but there are negative comments which make me feel sad. So, from then onwards I decided not to read comments or never look at likes. I used my Instagram page as a photo album, where I like some photos which I wanted to post like an album," she said. The actress is busy with work with her upcoming films. "I am playing an extended cameo in *Odela 2*, signed a horror film with Srinivas Raga, another film is also there and a Tamil film is releasing," she said about her future projects.



NITHIIN'S THAMMUDU LOCKS RELEASE DATE

Actor Nithiin joined hands with Sriram Venu, *Vakeel Saab* fame and director for their upcoming film *Thammudu*. The shooting going at a brisk pace, produced by Sri Venkateswara Creations. The movie is titled *Thammudu*, which is Pawan Kalyan's old film title and the makers announced the release date of this film.

The film is going to hit the screens on Maha Shivaratri 2025. The makers said that it is a perfect festival day to bring an impactful story to the big screen. The festival day happened to be on February 26. According to the poster, the story revolves around a village and Nithiin looks captivating. It is a known fact that, Nithiin is a big fan of Pawan Kalyan; now he gets the title of his favourite actor, which is interesting.

Yesteryear actress Laya is playing a key role in the film. Director Sriram Venu earlier delivered the successful *Vakeel Saab* that stars Pawan Kalyan and now he is coming up with this *Thammudu* film. After *Di* and *Srinivasa Kalyanam*, this is the third collaboration of Nithiin with the production house.

RANA TO PLAY VILLAIN IN JAI HANUMAN?

After the successful *Hanuman*, the director of the film Prashanth Varma announced that he is coming up with a sequel to it titled *Jai Hanuman*. Initially, Niranjan Reddy, who produced *Hanuman*, was supposed to produce this sequel also. However, due to some differences between the director and producer, the film is now being produced by Mythri Movie Makers.

Post that, Prashanth Varma announced that Rishabh Shetty is playing Lord Hanuman in this sequel, which was announced a few days back. Now, Prashanth Varma made another surprise on his social media where he shared a picture of him along

with Rishabh Shetty and Rana Daggubati. According to the latest buzz, Rana Daggubati is playing the character of the antagonist in this film. The film is now into new heights with Rana's entry into it.

With Rishabh Shetty as Lord Hanuman, the villain had to be a powerful actor to play the villain and Prashanth chooses Rana Daggubati to do it. Prashanth didn't mention whether Rana is acting in the film or not, but he captioned it as *Jai Jai Hanuman*. This picture is now going viral on the internet and everyone comes to the conclusion that Rana is definitely playing an important role in this *Jai Hanuman*.

'Jai Hanuman came to me at the right time like a divine blessing'

National Award winner Rishabh Shetty spoke about his highly anticipated release *Jai Hanuman* which was announced recently. He said that he will begin shooting for the film after *Kantara: Chapter 1* releases in theatres. "Pragati and I were lucky to visit the Hanuman Garhi temple! It is too early to speak about *Jai Hanuman* now. I will join the team only after *Kantara: Chapter 1* releases in theatres. We did a test shoot and my role was announced, because the makers had some commitment to do so."

Spilling the beans on *Jai Hanuman*, Rishabh shared a few anecdotes about his childhood memories on *Ramayana*. "*Ramayana* was a big part of my life growing up. When I was young, I used to attend these Akhanda Bhajane, where they would narrate *Ramayana*-related stories and recite songs for 24 hours non-stop. Then, many stories in Yakshagana are based on *Ramayana*." "When I went to Ayodhya during the Ram Mandir consecration, I had landed a day early and Pragati and I were lucky to visit the Hanuman Garhi temple. I feel

everything just came together right on time," he concluded. Marking the beginning of the Indian superhero cinematic universe on a new scale, the first look poster of the film was recently released and promises the dawn of the world's biggest superhero universe, rooted in rich Indian mythology. Producers Naveen Yeneni and Y Ravi Shankar, known for their commitment to quality, assure that *Jai Hanuman* will showcase unparalleled production values and top-notch technical standards like never before.

Series defeat against NZ will impact India's performance against Aussies: Gilchrist, Warner

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Australian legends Adam Gilchrist and David Warner have little doubt that Indian players' psyche would have been scarred after the recent whitewash at home by New Zealand, but they said it will be naive to consider Rohit Sharma's side "easy beats" in the five-Test Border-Gavaskar Trophy, beginning at Perth from November 22. The Tom Latham-led Kiwis blanked India 3-0, marking one of the lowest points in their Test history, also denting the chances of qualifying for the World Test Championship (WTC) final next year. "It does (series defeat has an impact), more for the Indian players and the Indian team internally. They have to be asking themselves pretty hard questions," former wicketkeeper batter Gilchrist told Fox Sports. "But I'm not expecting them to come out and be easy beats,

but I do think on the back of that loss and the fact that it was a clean sweep - I cannot remember when that's happened to them, just losing a series, let alone a clean sweep - I think that will raise some questions internally. "The pressure and the expectation and the desire from a passionate cricketing nation to see that change around, that'll ride heavily on those shoulders of all those players." Gilchrist said India has the wherewithal to regroup after the heavy setback. "There are a few ageing players (with the Indian team) who may start to even second guess themselves a little bit. There're some high-class cricketers in that Indian squad. It's going to be fascinating to see how they rebound from that challenge," he added. **WE NEED RUNS AGAINST BUMRAH, SIRAJ:** Warner said the series defeat



against the Black Caps will certainly be playing in Indian cricketers' minds. "It (the series defeat) helps the Australian guys. They're coming here after being beaten at home 3-0 for five Tests against the Australian boys, (who have) three world class quicks and a world class spin bowler, and I'd be nervous if I'm in they're batting order. I would be nervous," said Warner. The left-hander felt that countering pacers Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj would be key to Australia's success in the upcoming series. "The Australian top order needs to make runs against Bumrah and Siraj who are their spearheads. I think if Australia can get through those two gentlemen, there could be some big runs put on the board. "But we're going to have to come out with our chest out against India. We have lost our

last two series here against India (and) they have got a lot to play for." Warner also did not read too much into the modest form of Indian veterans like Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli. "You have got Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Ashwin, Jadeja. You got these guys there who are in the back end of their careers. So, there's a lot to play for there, and whether or not they finish their careers this year or next year, they will want to finish on a high. "I know those guys very, very well, and they will be so determined to come out here and score big runs." Former Australian batter Mark Waugh said India will miss the services of seamer Mohammed Shami, who is still recuperating from a surgery. "If Mohammed Shami is not on the tour, that is a huge blow for India because I think their pace attack would worry us with Shami in there. He is a big loss," reckoned Waugh.



So proud of you: Ravindra reveals rare message from dad after NZ historic series win

PTI ■ MUMBAI

New Zealand's Rachin Ravindra revealed a rare text message he received from his father, expressing pride in the batter's achievements after the Black Caps notched a "special" Test series win in his parents' place of birth. New Zealand wrapped up a memorable tour of India, becoming the first team in history to register a 3-0 Test series sweep against the Asian giants in their own backyard. The 24-year-old, who was the star of the first Test, was born and brought up in Wellington but his familial roots are firmly entrenched in Bengaluru. "I haven't heard my dad say to me, 'so proud of you' often in my life, so it was nice to get that message when we won," Ravindra said on Sen Radio. The stylish left-hander's parents Ravi Krishnamurthy and Deepa hail from Bengaluru, while his grandparents T. Balakrishna Adiga, a noted educationist, and Poornima still stay in the Indian city. He revealed that his father was present to witness Ravindra's match-winning exploits first-hand in Bengaluru where he scored a century and an unbeaten 39 in his two innings to fashion New Zealand's eight-wicket win in the series opener.



up cricket, waking him up at 5 a.m. Each day for throwdowns in the driveway. "Obviously I'm just very grateful for everyone in my inner circle. I was making him get up and he'd come and throw balls for me two hours before school. "Mum getting me ready every day for school, training and games - that unconditional love, which I'll never forget. That's stuff I'll never take for granted." New Zealand ended India's 12-year unbeaten home run in Tests by winning the first two matches. It is also their first-ever series victory in India since they started touring the country in 1955-56 under Harry Cave. The Black Caps also scripted history by becoming the first team to notch a 3-0 series win in India, winning the third Test by 25 runs in Mumbai on Sunday. "It was unbelievable. On the field, it was a different feeling. I think it's nothing like I've quite experienced before. "Just seeing everyone's elation, running towards each other. Ajaz's sixth wicket, and being in Mumbai and seeing all the boys together in a huddle jumping around. "It's hard to quite quantify, but it's pretty special," Ravindra said.

I've come to know the feeling of running the drinks really well: Will Young

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Replacing a player of Kane Williamson's stature can be a daunting task but Will Young, who played a pivotal role in New Zealand's historic 3-0 Test series win in India, saw it as an opportunity to create his own mark after "running the drinks" as a reserve batter for four years. If New Zealand's batting appeared thin with Williamson not making it to India for the first Test in Bengaluru due to injury, the 31-year-old Young banished any such doubts with his unbeaten 48 as the Kiwis hammered the hosts by eight wickets. As it became evident that Williamson would not make it to India in time to help New Zealand clear trials by spin at Pune and Mumbai, Young had given enough indications that he was ready for the challenge. "Since my debut about four years ago, I've been in and out through form (or) through selection. "I've been a reserve batter for a number of years now so I've come to know the feeling of running the drinks really well," Young told media here after New Zealand's historic win, insinuating that

he was always ready. "When I do get an opportunity to play, I'm more excited to go out and do my own thing in my own way and not try to replace Kane or whoever it might be, just play my own game and see it as a great opportunity rather than big boots to fill," he added. Young acknowledged the role Williamson played in New Zealand's training camps back home and also during his presence on the earlier assignments in the Indian subcontinent. "Unfortunately Kane's not here and if he was, he'd be a great person to lean into and to ask what he thinks in certain situations. We also had three really good camps leading into the series back home and he was at those camps. "But it's great at the moment because we've got fantastic batters all throughout our lineup and they've all got slightly different methods and on the day you've just got to pick what method you think will work and you've got to have the courage to back that and show your skills. "Yeah, I try not to bat like Kane, I try to bat like me and do it my own way," he added.

For New Zealand to beat India at their own game on spinning wickets was as special as their series win in this part of the world, and Young conceded scoring runs on turning tracks in Pune and Mumbai was more satisfying. "If you look at all three matches, there was different challenges in each. In Bangalore, a lot of wickets fell to spin and then (in) Pune and Mumbai it was a lot more challenging against spin." "As a New Zealander coming over here and playing in Indian conditions, it's always going to be slightly more satisfaction of scoring runs against spin, so I'd suppose scoring runs in Pune or Mumbai felt more special," said Young, who ended the series as the third highest run-getter. With 244 runs at 48.80 across three Tests, Young finished behind India's Rishabh Pant (261 runs) and compatriot Rachin Ravindra (256 runs). However, his biggest contributions came in the third Test at Mumbai when Young's 71 and 51 across the two innings helped New Zealand become the first team ever to beat India 3-0 in their own backyard.

Shami's return to competitive cricket delayed

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Mohammed Shami's return to competitive cricket has been further pushed back after the veteran pacer was not named in the Bengal squad for the next two rounds of the Ranji Trophy against Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. Bengal will take on Karnataka at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium here from Wednesday, before travelling to Indore to take on MP from November 13. Shami was expected to play the fixture against Karnataka to test his fitness in a real-match situation as he bowled at full tilt at nets after India's recent Test match against New

Zealand here, though with bandage on his operated leg. On that occasion, he was also monitored by India's bowling coach Morne Morkel. Later Shami said during a promotional event that he was feeling "100%" at nets. "I had been bowling with half a run-up on and off since I can't put too much stress on my body. So, we decided that I would bowl properly, and I gave my 100%. "It felt great, and the results are good. Hopefully, I'll be back on track soon," he had said. India skipper Rohit Sharma had also opined against taking an undercooked Shami to Australia. "We don't want to bring undercooked Shami to

Not to play for Bengal against Karnataka, MP



recent series against New Zealand, was also not named in the state squad. However, veteran wicketkeeper batter Wriddhiman Saha, who has announced his retirement from cricket after the ongoing domestic season, has been named for the two matches. **Bengal squad against Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh:** Anustup Majumdar (capt), Wriddhiman Saha (wk), Sudip Chatterjee, Sudip Gharami, Shahbaz Ahmed, Wriddick Chatterjee, Avilinn Ghosh, Shuvam Dey, Shakir Habib Ganthi, Pradipta Pramanik, Aamir Gani, Ishan Porel, Suraj Sindhu Jaiswal, Mohammed Kaif, Rohit Kumar, Rishav Vivek. Australia. We are keeping our fingers crossed," Rohit had said in Bengaluru recently. Other than Shami, Bengal will also miss the services of prolific opener Abhimanyu Easwaran, wicketkeeper batter Abhishek Porel and pacer Mukesh Kumar, who are with India A squad in Australia. Pacer Akash Deep, who was part of the Indian team for the

'Superman' Wriddhiman, one of India's finest keeper-batter to retire

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Spectacular with the big gloves, quietly assured with the willow and yet happy to be in the shadows, Wriddhiman Saha, in his 40 Test matches for India, has certainly been more than the sum total of all his parts. But having been out of India reckoning for over three years now, the 40-year-old has decided to call it quits from the game at the end of his team Bengal's ongoing Ranji Trophy campaign. The announcement was made on his social media page late last night. "After a cherished journey in cricket, this season will be my last. I am honoured to represent Bengal one final time, playing only in the Ranji Trophy before I retire," Saha said. "Let's make this season one to remember," he added in a post that went up late on Sunday night, typically unambiguous from the unassuming player. He never had the aura of a Mahendra Singh Dhoni or the insane daredevilry of a talented Rishabh Pant but Saha, with his hands as safe as a house, was more than a mere hyphen between the two powerhouse performers of

Indian cricket. The 104 dismissals behind the stumps, including 92 catches in Tests, some of them absolutely splendid, Saha's three centuries and six fifties aren't always spoken about for their effectiveness. Neither the eight six-laden century in a losing cause for erstwhile Kings XI Punjab in the 2014 IPL final. But Saha, for the better part of the 17 years since his Ranji debut in 2007, was happy to stay out of the spotlight. Patience came easy to him as he had to wait nearly two years between his debut and second Test and nearly three years between his second and third Tests. He was always that ever present understudy to Dhoni, knowing well that he will have to wait till the great man called time in whites. Saha was an old fashioned Indian keeper like Syed Kirmani or Nayan Mongia -- brilliant behind the stumps and a safe batter, who could be used as a floater in the middle order. Whether keeping up to R Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja on perennially under-prepared Indian tracks or gauging the



wobbly seam movement of Ishant Sharma's deliveries, between 2015 and 2018, Saha was undoubtedly one of the world's best glovemen at work. And one can say that with assurance despite his contemporaries being Matthew Wade, BJ Watling, Mushfiqur Rahim, and Jonny Bairstow. There were moments behind the stumps that one simply cannot forget. A flying catch to pouch South Africa's Faf du Plessis off Ashwin's delivery in front of silly point, which earned him the moniker of 'Superman WriddhiMan', was a moment of sheer brilliance. His keeping was so exceptional that despite an IPL hundred, three Test tons and a brilliant Irani Cup double ton in a tricky chase, his batting never got the due it deserved. And when Pant burst into the scene with his 'X-factor' batting, he was again confined to being the second keeper. Once Gabba happened, the writing was on the wall for Saha and Rahul Dravid, the new coach, in a frank discussion during the tour of South Africa decided to show him the mirror that at 38, it makes no sense to be a second

keeper behind a 20-something. Having scored a fifty (vs New Zealand) in a preceding series and probably misunderstanding former BCCI president Sourav Ganguly's generic encouragement as an assurance, his impregnable patient "defence" was breached as he fired some verbal salvos. A spat with a Cricket Association of Bengal office-bearer saw him leave for Tripura for a couple of years before coming back home for a final hurrah. His attitude towards life remained the same. From the time he was a 16-year-old, who came from North Bengal's Siliguri and stayed at a dingy PG in central Kolkata's Koley Market area, to the time he became a known figure with a posh South Kolkata apartment and a luxury car, all he wanted to do was complete his tasks and answer only in mono-syllables. Trust Virat Kohli to find that enduring. "You particularly feel happy when a team-man like Saha does well. Such a nice person, never cribs about anything, does not have a bad word to say about anybody, ready to bat at Nos 8, 9, or 10; the skipper had once said about his teammate.