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ICONIC SPACES, FROM SUPREME COURT TO RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN

CITADEL: HONEY BUNNY

SAMANTHA IS ACTION QUEEN IN THIS SPY-VERSE



People are facing hardships due to potholes. Instead of taking immediate action, why are you officials delaying with estimates and tenders? Words aren't enough—we need results. Neighboring states are using advanced jet patching and velocity patching machines to quickly fill potholes, providing better roads to the public. In

contrast, Telangana continues with outdated repair methods. Why Rs. 500 crore allocated for road repairs had not been efficiently utilized by R&B officials, as roads worth Rs. 4-5 thousand crore could be repaired

- KomatiReddy Venkatreddy, Minister P2

Cyber security is buzzword for ...

Pointing out cyber security as a buzzword and stressing the need for digital hygiene maintenance as much as we care for our health, IT Minister D Sridhar Babu emphasised that the government is here to understand what you seek and guide us to build a safe, inclusive and strong digital ecosystem. He stressed the importance of cybersecurity in achieving digital excellence and transformation for all citizens. He was the ..

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Senior citizen

A senior citizen reclaimed land that was previously registered in his son's name as a gift due to the latter's mistreatment of him at a village in Hanumakonda district. The incident took place in Mustafapoor village of Bheemdevarapalli mandal. According to Tahsildar Praveen Kumar, Maddela Raj Komurayya, a resident of Mustafapoor, had previously registered a little over 4 acres of land in the name of

-PAGE: 4

reclaims land ...

Home-cooked meals become ...

Both vegetarian and nonvegetarian home-cooked meals became costlier in October due to a pick up in vegetable prices, a report said on Wednesday. The cost of a vegetarian thali increased by 20 ner cent t 33.3 per plate compared to the year-ago period and was also up from Rs 31.3 in September primarily due to the surge in vegetable prices, a division of rating agency Crisil said. The monthly 'roti rice rate' report ...

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Stokes missing as Draca, Netravalkar...

England Test skipper Ben Stokes is missing from the list of 1,574 players while his former teammate James Anderson, Italian quick Thomas Draca and India-born USA medium pacer Saurabh Netravalkar have all registered for the IPL mega auction to be held in Jeddah on November 24 and 25. The list. which will be shortened after the franchises provide their inputs, has all the marquee Indian players who were released from their teams including

DONALD TRUMPS HARRIS, WINS BACK USA PRESIDENCY

Former President Donald Trump on Wednesday won the US presidency for a second term in one of the greatest political comebacks in American history, cruising past his Democratic rival Kamala Harris in a bitterly fought election.

The 78-year-old Republican leader cleared the 270 electoral votes needed to clinch the presidency by securing a victory in the key battleground state of Wisconsin.

According to races up to 4 pm (IST), 277 electoral votes had gone to Republican candidate Trump and 224 to Democratic Party's Harris.

Trump addressed his supporters at West Palm Beach in Florida, declaring victory and promising a "golden age of America'

This will be the golden age of America. America has given us an powerful mandate," Trump declared

with his family by

his side amid cheers

of his jubilant sup-



This is a magnifi-

and frankly, this was, I believe, the greatest political movement of all time. There's never been anything a like this in this country, and maybe beyond," Trump said.

'And now it's going to reach a new level of importance because

"Every single day, I will be fighting for you and

with every breath in my body, I will not rest until we have delivered the strong, safe and prosperous America that our children deserve and that you deserve. This will truly be the golden age of America"

we're going to help our country heal. unprecedented and We'll help our country...we have a country that needs help, and it needs help very badly," he said.

We are going to fix our borders. We are going to fix everything about our country. And we made history for a reason tonight, and the reason is going to be just that we overcame cent victory for the obstacles that nobody thought pos-

ment like nobody's ever seen before, achieved the most incredible polit-

Trump also promised to usher in "golden" period in the US.

I want to thank the American people for the extraordinary honour of being elected your 47th president and your 45th president," he said. "I will fight for you, for your family and your future.'

"Every single day, I will be fight-ing for you and with every breath in my body, I will not rest until we have delivered the strong, safe and prosperous America that our children deserve and that you deserve. This will truly be the golden age of America," he added.

The victory by Trump is largely being seen as a remarkable comeback after he lost the 2020 presidential election to Joe Biden which appeared to be the end of his political career.

Trump won the battleground states of ennsylvania, Georgia and North Carolina Wisconsin.

Counting of votes is still underway in some Continued on Page 5





Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday congratulated "friend" Donald Trump on his "historic" presidential polls victory, and said he looks forward to renewing their collaboration to further strengthen the India-US Comprehensive Global and Strategic Partnership. Former US President Trump was cruising towards winning the White House

Trump win a slap in the face of media

QUICK EDIT



BY B KRISHNA PRASAD

Donald Trump's landslide victory in the 2024 US Presidential election makes it clear that a majority of people in American society, irrespective of race, religion, economic status, gender and sexual orientation, voted for him without being swayed by skewed and distorted narratives of most of the United States' mainstream media. In all the swing states, Trump received overwhelming support.

Till yesterday, everyone thought that it would be a close contest, almost neck and neck or going to the wire. But the verdict that came out on Wednesday is clearly one-sided. This means that the bulk of the US media failed to gauge the mood of the public or worse still (God for-bid!) misled the world!

Throughout the campaign period, Trump did not get legitimate coverage, leave alone support or endorsements, from the bulk of the influential segments of the US media, except, of course, his own Fox News.

It was rightly described by Elon Musk Such inconsequential and misleadon his handle in 'X' (formerly Twitter) as "US media news coverage was 84% in favour of Kamal Harris and 89% Donald Trump was shot at during an open-air campaign rally near Butler, Pennsylvania on July 13, 2024. Trump was then the presumptive nominee of the Republican

Although the attempt was on the life of a former POTUS, most of the US media reported it as if it was of no significance, going by the headlines and column space. The shocking headlines for the shooting included: 'Simple aberration in a rally: Trump shifted away'; 'Donald Trump was taken away from an election rally after some noise'; 'Donald Trump falls in the rally and he was shifted away'.

ing headlines, given for an assassination bid on a former President of the United States' speak volumes about against Donald Trump". The best the skewed coverage in the American example of this biased coverage was media. This also implies that, though the media stooped to that leve support one candidate against another, instead of maintaining absolute neutrality; most of the US citizens relied on their gut feelings, knowledge, and wisdom to cast their vote. They did not rely on information dished out by the mainstream media, but read between the lines of the dis-

torted reportage.
All told, the most important takeaway from the 2024 US Presidential election for enlightened sections of the media is that the media, even in what is considered the most democratic country, cannot influence people's verdict.



TG cancels Keshavapuram Reservoir contract

Unveils new plan to cut costs, extend water supply to city

PNS HYDERABAD

In a significant policy shift, the Telangana government has cancelled the contract for building the Keshavapuram Reservoir, originally a component of the Godavari Phase 2 project to supply drinking water to Hyderabad. This project, initiated by the previous Bharat Rashtra Samithi administration, was designed to transfer the Godavari water from the Kondapochamma Sagar to Keshavapuram and then to

However, the state government, having scrapped these plans, proposes to adopt a new approach ostensibly to improve efficiency and cut

The contract, previously awarded to Megha Engineering, was annulled through an official order issued by the Department of Municipal Administration and Urban Development. This decision is anticipated to help the government save approximately Rs. 2,000 crore. With the funds so saved, the government now intends to extend the the Godavari Phase 2 scheme from Mallannasagar to Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar reservoirs, aiming to better serve Hyderabad's expanding water needs.



HMWSSB waters down KTR's claims on projects

In response to certain allegations leveled by BRS working president KT Rama Rao regarding the Sunkishala project, the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) provided a detailed clarification on Wednesday.

At a press meet, KTR had questioned the lack of action on the part of the state government against the contractor involved in the collapse of Sunkishala's intake well **Continued on Page 5**

The revised plan includes pumping 15 TMC (thousand million cubic feet) of water from Mallannasagar, with 10 TMC designated for Hyderabad's drinking water requirements and 5 TMC allocated for the twin reservoirs. This change has already received cabinet approval, with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy directing the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board to call for tenders for the updated work in the coming days.

The original alignment involved routing Godavari water from

Yellampalli through Mallannasagar to Kondapochamma Sagar and then lifting it to Keshavapuram. However, due to persistent land acquisition challenges and alignment issues, including the previous administra-tion's plan to Continued on Page 5 tion's plan to

KTR to Revanth: Act against 'East India Company'

PNS HYDERABAD

Bharat Rashtra Samithi legislator KT Rama Rao has vehemently opposed Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's handling of Telangana's irrigation and infrastructure projects.

At a press conference here on Wednesday, KTR recalled that Revanth Reddy, while in Opposition, had characterized Megha Engineering as the 'East India Company' and accused it of corruption. KTR questioned why no action had been taken against the company that was once criticized as an 'Andhra company' and an 'East

India Company'.

KTR alleged that CM Revanth Reddy had ignored essential projects like the Sunkishala water project, meant to bring water to

controversial initiatives. According to KTR, criminal negligence by the 'East India Company' had caused the collapse of the retaining wall at Sunkishala; yet, the government, including the CM, concealed the incident. "I have already demanded a judicial inquiry into this incident and called for the contractor to be blacklisted," he stated, reiterating his call for accountability.

KTR further criticized the Congress for allegedly downplaying incidents, including the Medigadda mishap, while making false claims about the Kaleshwaram project. He pointed out that only four officials had been suspended, while no action had been taken against the company.

Continued on Page 5

CM briefs Guv on caste survey

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy met with Governor Jishnu Dev Varma at the Raj Bhavan and briefed him on Telangana's ambitious social, economic, educational, employment, political, and caste survey, which began in the state on Wednesday. Revanth was accompanied by Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, MPs Chamal Kiran Kumar Reddy and Balaram Naik, as well as government advisors Vem Narender Reddy, Shabbir Ali, and Gutta Amit Reddy.

The Chief Minister highlighted the scope of the survey, underscoring its potential to establish Telangana as a model for similar initiatives across the country. "Our aim is to present a comprehensive picture of the state's social and economic landscape, allowing us to identify key areas for growth and reform,"



Revanth noted, expressing his confidence that Telangana's detailed approach could inspire other states.

During the meeting, Revanth conveyed his intention to bring Telangana's survey findings to the attention of the central government, advocating for their inclusion in the national Census scheduled for 2025. He emphasized that this move could enable a more accurate representation of diverse socio-eco-

nomic dynamics within the country. Adding a personal touch, the Chief Minister also warmly invited the Governor to his niece's upcoming wedding, reflecting cordial relations between the state's executive and constitutional heads.

Caste Census Survey begins under GHMC limits

'MISDEEDS' UNDER BRS RULE

ACB begins regular enquiry into Formula E racing

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has escalated its investigation into alleged irregularities in the organization of the Formula E Car Racing event held during the BRS government's tenure.

The ACB has reportedly initiated a Regular Enquiry (RE) to examine records and determine the nature of the suspected corruption in the project. According to sources, the ACB has identified payments totaling Rs. 55 crore made to foreign entities in connection with the Formula E race.

Within the next two days, the ty at all levels involved.

ACB is reportedly expected to register a formal case, issue notices, and begin questioning individuals involved. Based on records held by the Municipal Administration and Urban Development department, the ACB plans to issue notices to these foreign firms and their representatives There are also indications that

notices may be sent to key officials from the previous administration who had played significant roles in managing the event. The probe aims to clarify the extent of alleged financial misconduct in organizing the race and address accountabili-

BJP casts Rahul in 'Caste war' again

PNS HYDERABAD

A 'caste war' has erupted among politicos in state with the TG unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party, taking a leaf out of the playbook of its national leaders in Delhi, demanding to know from the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee the caste of Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, who has been projected as the moving force behind the just-launched path-breaking Comprehensive Family Survey in the state.
Initially, TPCC leaders coun-

tered with a suggestion that the BJP should take up a nationwide caste census to know the caste of Rahul Gandhi. Later, TPCC veteran V Hanumantha Rao sought to know whether BJP leaders were unaware that "Rahul's caste is Brahmin and his religion Hindu".





It all started when BJLP leader

Go to him with nationwide caste census form. retorts TPCC

He is a Brahmin and his religion is Hindu, chips in

Congress party to clarify whether Rahul Gandhi had the 'moral right' to speak about caste census. Digging into Rahul's parentage, Maheshwar Reddy asked the Congress party to specify Rahul 's caste and religion." Was not Rahul Gandhi's grandfather. 'Feroza Labangie'?" be gues ther 'Feroze Jahangir'?" he questioned and wanted the party to specify whether he ought to be called

Rahul Gandhi' or 'Rahul Jahangir'. 'How did 'Rahul Feroze Jahangir' become Rahul Gandhi? It is ironic that Rahul Gandhi talks about caste without revealing his caste, religion and heritage. Did Rahul Gandhi fall into Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's diversion?" Maheshwar Reddy asked whimsically.

In response, Forest, Environment and Endowment Minister Konda Surekha sought to know from the BJP TG unit leaders where was the need for knowing Rahul Gandhi's caste, adding: "BJP should take up a nationwide caste census to know Rahul Gandhi's caste. Rahul Gandhi would tell his caste if BJP leaders go to his residence with caste census form". She then commented that BJP was the party that created differences among castes and religions. "BJP will do justice to only a few sections of the people. BJP will do communal politics", she

Seeking to put the record straight, Congress senior leader V Hanumantha Rao then rhetorically asked the BJP leaders whether they did not know that Rahul Gandhi was a 'Brahmin' and a Hindu. Hanumantha Rao then said that Rahul Gandhi was trying to do iustice to all castes, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi was trying to create differences among castes using Rahul Gandhi's name. He said that Rahul Gandhi would become Prime Minister if caste census was done. Hanumantha Rao then remarked: "The Congress government should be congratulated for taking such a great decision. Why this criticism?"

CABINET APPROVES PM-VIDYALAXMI SCHEME

Center to provide financial support to deserving students

PNS NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the PM-Vidyalaxmi scheme to provide monetary support to meritorious students so that financial constraints do not prevent them from pursuing quality higher education, Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

As per the scheme, anybody who gets admission in Quality Higher Education Institutions (QHEIs) will be eligible to get collateral-free, guarantor-free loan from banks and financial institutions to cover the full amount of tuition fees and other expenses related to the course.

An outlay of Rs 3,600 crore has been approved for the scheme under which education loans will be facilitated to students securing



admissions in top 860 QHEIs of the country based on the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF). This will cover more than 22 lakh students every year.

"The Cabinet has approved PM-

CM to hold a public meeting with 15,000 students on Children's Day

PNS HYDERABAD

Students from Mahatma Jyotiba Phule social welfare Jyotiba Phule social welfare hostels, schools and colleges in the Wyra and Madhira Assembly constituencies expressed their gratitude to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Wednesday for increasing their diet and cosmetic allowances. During a face to face interaction held at face-to-face interaction held at the Secretariat, CM Revanth Reddy addressed the students, accompanied by Minister P Srinivas Reddy, MPs Balaram Naik and P. Baghuram Reddy Naik and R Raghuram Reddy, Government Advisor Shabbir Ali and MLA Manohar Reddy. Revanth Reddy promised to

hold a large event on November 14 with 15,000 students, where he will announce Phase-2 of the Integrated Residential Schools programme, further expanding opportunities for students

In his speech, CM Revanth Reddy emphasised the government's commitment to provid-ing quality education, health-

care, and employment opportunities. "Our main goal is to ensure a bright future for all students, which is why we have increased diet and cosmetic charges," he stated. He highlighted recent efforts, including the promotion of 21,000 teachers and the filling of 11,062 teaching positions, as part of the government's mission to improve education. Discussing the government's

broader plans, the CM noted the launch of a caste survey to promote social justice and the construction of Young India Integrated Residential Schools on 20 to 25 acres in each constituency, specifically for SC, ST, BC, and Minority students. These integrated schools are expected to be completed by the next academic year.

He also emphasised the importance of skill develop-

ment alongside education, sharing that the state has established Young India Skills University to provide practical training to students and the unemployed. Additionally, ITIs are being upgraded to Advanced Training Centers (ATCs) with support from Tata Institute to enhance technical skills and job securi-

ty for the youth.

The CM encouraged students to excel not only academically but also in sports. He announced the establishment of the Young India Sports University, aimed at helping Telangana students compete and win medals in future Olympics.

Acknowledging the students as future leaders, Revanth Reddy expressed hope that some of them would eventually work as employees in the State Secretariat. He also urged students to take social responsibility, encouraging them to report drug-related activities by dialing 100, noting, "Drug addiction destroys lives, and it's essential for everyone to act

How many BC Ministers are there in the Cabinet: Alleti

PNS HYDERABAD

Questioning the BRS leaders to tell the secret behind not keeping the 'Comprehensive Family Survey in public domain, Bharatiya Janata Legislative Party (BJLP) leader Alleti Maheshwar Reddy alleged that former chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao deceived the people in the name of 'Comprehensive Family

Survey' and now the Congress government is trying to deceive the people in the name of Caste Census. Making it clear that the BJP is not against the caste census, Maheshwar Reddy alleged that the Congress government is

conducting caste census for the

sake of political benefits. Maheshwar Reddy questioned the Congress government to tell whether it has clarity on caste census. He questioned the Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to tell how many BC Ministers are there in his Cabinet? He demanded the Congress government that it should first fulfill the 21 assurances given to the BCs.

Komatireddy vents ire over officials' laxity in repair roads

Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy expressed strong displeasure over the state of road repairs, urging officials to act promptly in a review meeting on Wednesday. Addressing the Roads and Buildings (R&B) department officials, he questioned their complacency while citizens suffer due to

roads damaged by recent rains.
"People are facing hardships due to potholes, and instead of taking immediate action, why are you delaying with estimates and tenders?" the minister solved adding "Words" ister asked, adding, "Words aren't enough-we need results." He highlighted that while officials claim roads are in good condition during reviews, public feedback paints a different picture, and he urged officials to conduct field inspections to understand the ground reality.

The Minister also pointed out the delay in patchwork, questioning why it was taking so long to address potholes. He reminded officials that they are in service for the public, and this awareness should reflect in their work. Komatireddy criticised

R&B officials for lagging behind other states in road repairs. He cited neighbouring states using advanced jet patching and velocity patching machines to quickly fill potholes, providing better roads to the public. In contrast, he noted, Telangana continues with outdated repair methods. The Minister pointedv questioned State Roads Chief Éngineer, Mohan Naik, on why Rs 500 crore allocated for road repairs had not been efficiently utilised, emphasising that with this budget, roads worth Rs 4-5 thousand crore could be

The Minister also raised concerns about junior engineers failing to inspect field conditions and questioned why engineers are more focused on preparing new road proposals instead of addressing existing potholes. Komatireddy emphasised the importance of weekly reviews, directing Special Chief Secretary Vikas Raj and Special Secretary Dasari Harichandana to keep him informed on the progress.

During a separate review of

Mamnoor Airport in Warangal, Venkat Reddy discussed land

repaired.

acquisition progress with Aviation Director Bharat Reddy, Special Chief Secretary Vikas Raj, Special Secretary Dasari Harichandana, and other senior officials. The Minister directed them to expedite land acquisition to complete the airport within two years. He stressed building with future needs in mind, warning against temporary solutions.

Komatireddy pĺans to review the airport's progress every fortnight, indicating a no-compromise approach toward delays. He instructed the Aviation Director to focus on air traffic for the Warangal Airport and to connect it with the UDAN scheme to improve connectivity with other major towns.

Discussing the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, Komatireddy instructed Special Chief Secretary Vikas Raj to identify critical roads for this model to minimize the financial burden on the public. Officials noted that 1787.06 kilometers of 20 roads had been identified, adopting models similar to those in states like Karnataka, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra.

KTR's bad political predictions stir trolls

PNS HYDERABAD

predictions have not aged well, sparking reactions online as outcomes turned contrary to his expectations. Known for his active presence on social media, the BRS working president had recently shared thoughts on both the US and State politics, which have since faced public scrutiny.

In September, following his trip to the United States, KTR expressed optimism about Vice-President Kamala Harris potentially becoming the first female President of the United States. His tweet read, "She looked truly 'Presidential' @KamalaHarris. United States might just have their First ever Woman President later this year." However, with the conclusion of the U.S. election, it was Donald Trump is the president elect, leaving KTR's hopeful forecast unfulfilled. The tion, with online users questioning the accuracy of his assessment.

This instance wasn't isolated. KTR had also last year tweeted his confidence in a "hat-trick" victory for his party, the BRS, in the Telangana state elections. In a show of confidence, he shared a post hinting at a "3.0 celebration" for the party's victory. Despite this, the Telangana elections saw the Congress party clinching the win, leading KTR to humorously retweet his own post, acknowledging that it isn't going to age well.'

Adding to the list, KTR had predicted that YS Jagan Mohan Reddy would retain power in the Andhra Pradesh elections.

MVA unveils poll guarantees, promises Rs 3.000 per month to women

PNS MUMBAI

Seeking to outdo the ruling Opposition's Maha Vikas Aghadi alliance on Wednesday promised women in the state Rs 3,000 per month and free travel in state transport buses. Under the Krishi Sammruddhi Yojana, farmers will get loan waiver up to Rs 3 lakh and Rs 50,000 as an incentive for regular repayment of crop loans, the Shiv Sena (UBT)-NCP(SP)-Congress alliance announced ahead of the November 20 state assembly elections.

Allowance of Rs 4,000 per month for unemployed youth, health insurance up to Rs 25 lakh and free medicines were the other guarantees announced at a gathering addressed by top MVA leaders at the BKC ground here.

Bahubali gate of Secretariat to be closed permanently



PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has initiated major changes in the layout of the Secretariat gates, with the prominent Bahubali gate now permanently closed. In its place, a new gate is set to be constructed in the northeast direction, aligning with the State's reorganisation of entry points for enhanced accessibility and aesthetics.

To further improve connectivity, the government is reportedly constructing of a tarred road linking the South-East and North-East gates. This road,

planned to be twenty-seven feet in width, will be anchored by a central statue of Telangana Thalli, symbolising the State's cultural heritage and pride.

The government has already issued tenders valued at Rs 3.2 crore for the entire project, marking an investment in both functionality and symbolism at the Secretariat. The initial phases of construction have commenced. Speculations are rife about Vaastu changes, however, sources claim that it is to facilitate the Telangana Talli

Sports review meeting conducted by TG Sports Authority

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana Sports review meeting Wednesday at the Gachibowli stadium, focusing on the development of a new sports policy, establishment of a Sports Hub, planning for the CM Cup, and other sports-related initiatives. The meeting saw participation from several key officials and sports leaders dedicated to advancing the State's sports infrastructure and poli-

government State Special Secretary Jayesh Ranjan, PCC president, Telangana Karate Association president and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud attended the ses-

Usha Chilukuri, Telugu-origin woman, set to become Second Lady in US

PNS VIJAYAWADA

In a remarkable turn of events, Usha Chilukuri, a woman of the Second Lady of the United States, as her husband, JD Vance, is projected to be elected as Vice President after the Republican Party's victory in the US presidential election. Vance's anticipated success follows a significant lead in electoral votes, securing the Republican majority, while his political mentor, Donald Trump, is expected to secure a second term as President.

While the US presidential race traditionally garners global attention, this time, Usha's family roots in Andhra Pradesh have brought a fresh wave of excitement and pride among the Telugu-speaking community in India. Usha's rise to prominence parallels the achievements of Kamala



South Asian descent to serve as US Vice President. This time, Usha's connection to the Andhra Pradesh region has sparked discussions across the state, particularly in her ancestral village of Saipuram, located in Vyyuru mandal of Krishna district. Usha Chilukuri's lineage is

steeped in academic distinction. She is the granddaughter of the esteemed physicist C Shanthamma, a 96-year-old professor who taught at Andhra University and now resides in Visakhapatnam.

TODAY **ALMANAC** Month & Paksham Sukla Paksha Nov 07 12:41 AM to Nov 08 12:35 AM Shashthi Nov 08 12:35 AM to Nov 08 11:56 PM Nakshatram: Nov 06 11:00 AM to Nov 07 11:47 AV Uttara Ashadha: Nov 07 11:47 AM to Nov 08 12:03 PM 1:24 PM to 2:49 PM Rahukalam: Yamagandam: 6:20 AM to 7:45 AM 07:52 PM to 09:29 PM 9:10 AM to 10:35 AM Gulika: 06:49 AM to 08:28 AM Amritakalam: Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:37 AM to 12:22 PM HYDERABAD WEATHER Forecast: Sunny Temp: 32[∞] Humidity: 50% Sunrise: 6:17 AM Sunset: 5:42 PM Updated: November 6, 2024 5:00 PM

TDP to instal 100-foot statue of NTR in city by Dec

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) has decided to instal a 100-foot statue of TDP founder and former chief minister late Nandamuri Taraka Ramarao (NTR) in

TDP senior leader TD Janardhan on Wednesday revealed that the party would instal NTR's statue at the spot where NTR had founded the party in the city. Janardhan pointed out that NTR had floated TDP with the aim of uniting Telugu people. He said that TDP activists were spread across the world. Already NTR's services had been recognised across the

Six Indian Americans win elections of US House of Representatives

PNS WASHINGTON

Six Indian Americans have won the elections to the House of Representatives, increasing their number from five in the current

Indian-American lawyer Suhas Subramanyam created history by becoming the first from the community to be elected from Virginia and the entire East Coast.

Subramanyan defeated Mike Clancy of the Republican Party. He is currently a Virginia State Senator. There is a possibility that the number of Indian Americans in the House of Representatives could increase to seven as Dr Amish Shah was leading by



a slender margin against his Republican incumbent in the first Congressional District of Arizona.

"I am honoured and humbled that the people of Virginia's 10th District put their trust in me to take on the toughest fights and deliver results in Congress. This

district is my home. I got married here, my wife Miranda and I are raising our daughters here, and the issues our community faces are personal to our family. It is an honour to continue serving this district in Washington," Subramanyam

India slams Pakistan for 'peddling lies' on Kashmir

Slamming Pakistan for "peddling lies and falsehood" and using the UN forum for its "divisive, political agenda" after it raised the Kashmir issue at the UN, India has said that no amount of disinformation and misinformation will change facts on the ground.

Addressing the General Debate of the Fourth Committee of the UN General Assembly on Questions relating to Information, Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament Rajeev Shukla on Tuesday stressed that inclusive access to information is essential for fostering trust, accountability and good governance.

"A (Pakistani) delegation has yet again used this august



falsehood. It is habitual for this delegation to resort to disinformation and misinformation, including in this forum. This delegation tends to measure the world's largest democracy using similar yardsticks," he said. Delivering a strong retort in the UN debate after Pakistan raised the issue of Jammu and

forum for peddling lies and Kashmir, Shukla said, "Let me be clear. Real democracies function differently. The people of Jammu and Kashmir turned out in record numbers in the recently concluded free and fair elections." Assembly elections were

held in Jammu and Kashmir in three phases from September 18 to October 1.

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CITY EVENTS

Freedom Park @ **Kukatpally**

Gemini Edibles & Fats India Ltd (GEF India) cordially invites you for the Inauguration of "Freedom Park @ Kukatpally"

Freedom Park, KK Residency, HIG-77, Beside Sanjeevani Hanuman temple. Balajinagar, Kukatpally, Hyderabad November 7, 11:00 am

Prateek Kuhad

Slhouettes tour.

Venue

Hyderabad international convention centre November 8

66th Annual Art Festival of SICA-2024

South Indian Cultural Assiciation presents: 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

Silhouettes Tour

Artist: Prateek Kuhad.

Venue

Hitex Exhibition Centre, Hitex Road, Izzathnagar, Kothaguda, Hyderabad November 8, 6.00 pm onwards. Ticket Price: Starting from Rs 1,799

Flea Market Book Fair

"Fantasy" showcases some of Bakkali's masterpieces through print, augmented reality and immersive art

Venue

Second Floor, Ashoka One Mall, Kukatpally till November 9.

Standup Comedy

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

Multiple venues. 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.

Concert in Hyderabad on December 7.

Texture art workshop

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

Venue

Multiple venues in Hyderabad till December 8

Janwada raid: Madduri Vijay questioned

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Mokila Police have questioned Madduri Vijay on Wednesday related to the party raid in Janwada house of Raj Pakala.

Madduri Vijay appeared before Mokila Police along with his advocates.

The Mokila Police have questioned Madduri Vijay on the consumption of the drugs and who brought it to the party. He was tested pos-itive for drugs during the raid on October 26.

Following the raids, Madduri spoke to the media that Mokila Police made false allegations in the FIR and he had returned from another country just a day before the

City Pioneer



HYDERABAD THURSDAY | NOVEMBER 7, 2024



IT Minister D Sridhar Babu unveiling HACK 2.0 Summit poster at The Park,

HACK 2.0 SUMMIT

Cyber security is buzzword for digital hygiene: Sridhar Babu

SAMUEL JOSHUA samuelmjoshuamjmc@gmail.com HYDERABAD

Pointing out cyber security as a buzzword and stressing the need for digital hygiene maintenance as much as we care for our health, IT Minister D Sridhar Babu emphasised that the government is here to understand what you seek and guide us to build a safe, inclusive and strong digital ecosystem. He stressed the importance of cybersecurity in achieving digital excellence and transformation for all citizens.

He was the chief guest at the Hyderabad City Security due to lack of attention, Sridhar Council (HCSC)'s H.A.C.K. Babu appreciated the

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Electoral Officer C

Sudharshan Reddy held a

meeting on Wednesday with

political party representatives

Summary Revision

(SSR) of the elec-

toral rolls for

2025. He noted

that the Draft

Electoral Rolls

released on

October 29,

2024, is open

for corrections

until

November 28.

The CEO invited

suggestions from the

parties to ensure the elec-

toral rolls are accurate and reli-

Representatives from the

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP),

Indian National Congress

(INC), Bharat Rashtra Samithi

(BRS), Telugu Desam Party

CEO shares Special Summary

Revision of electoral rolls

2.0 (Hyderabad Annual Cybersecurity Knowledge) Summit 2024 at The Park Hyderabad on Wednesday.He said that technological disruptions occur frequently, adding that the main challenge is how to harness them effectively while ensuring citizens are safe and alert. The Minister stressed

the need for digital hygiene,

warning that reckless behavior

makes people vulnerable to

cyber attacks. Drawing attention towards the Telangana Police's utilisation of ethical hackers, recognising their talent to prevent them from turning unethical

(TDP), Aam Aadmi Party

(AAP), Bahujan Samaj Party

(BSP), Communist Party of

India (CPI-M), and All India

Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen

Reddy highlighted ongo-

ing efforts to register

marginalised

groups, includ-ing the third

gender, PwD

electors, and

Particularly

Vulnerable

Tribal

Groups (PVTGs).

Special cam-

paign days on

November 9 and 10

will help the public update voter details.

novo preparation of electoral

rolls for graduates and teach-

ers constituencies and shared

form submission statistics as

on November 5

Reddy also announced a de-

(AÍMIM) attended.

Telangana Police for recovering the highest Rs 137 crore from cyber crimes in a year.

He mentioned that over 7,000 cyber crimes happen daily and projected these crimes will surge to 10.5 trillion globally in five years.

He also commended the Police's proactive approach through sensitisation programmes and cybersecurity frameworks. Highlighting cyber phishing threats, he noted that while technology brings benefits, it also poses a double-edged sword-like risk. He stressed the importance of collaboration between academia and industry, mentioning the government's plan for a

96% of cyber attacks are caused due to human errors: Shika Goel

Director of the TG Cyber Security Bureau, Shika Goel, highlighted that 96% of cyberattacks are caused by human errors, during a panel discussion at the HACK 2.0 Summit. She welcomed suggestions and ideas for Al solutions for India's first Cybercrime Helpline 1930, and mentioned that seven cybercrime police stations across the State are working 24/7 to fight cyber attacks using high-end technology. Shika also pointed out that a major challenge is the potential for AI to be used by criminals, noting that both local and international criminals are already active. She stressed the importance of following basic rules to prevent cyber crime.

Skills University.

The Minister concluded by expressing confidence that HSIC will take it to the next level in terms of cyber securi-

ty and encouraged the public to come out with solutions, commending Telangana Police for their challenging efforts in creating a safer city.

HUMTA's Multi-Modal Integration Project aims to boost Metro, bus, MMTS ridership

DEEPIKA PASHAM

deepikapasham2015@gmail.com ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority (HÚMTA) has initiated a Multi-Modal Integration (MMI) Project aimed at enhancing connectivity across key Metro stations, bus terminals, MMTS and railway stations. This project is designed to allow commuters to transition smoothly between different modes of transport, addressing various issues that often hinder convenient trav-

According to a HUMTA official, commuters commonly face challenges in switching from buses to Metro trains, autos, or even walking along footpaths due to factors like traffic congestion, lack of dedicated footpaths and insufficient parking facilities. The MMI Project will identify these barriers and implement solutions to enable seamless connectivity within a



500-meter radius of each major transport terminal or Metro sta-

"One of the anticipated outcomes is an increase in public transport ridership. By addressing issues such as parking shortages, for instance, HUMTA plans to introduce on-street and off-street parking solutions, including multilevel parking facilities on available government land, near Metro stations where current parking spaces are often fully occupied," explained B Jeevan Babu, Director of

An additional component of the MMI Project focuses on reducing traffic congestion on commercial roads, where vendors often occupy road space illegally, contributing to bottlenecks. The first phase of this implementation has begun in Ameerpet, where designated vending zones are being

These zones will feature 100 kiosks equipped with electricity and essential utilities, offering vendors a legal space to operate without blocking the road. Local bodies will manage these zones with minimal charges to cover maintenance. At present, HUMTA is analysing 53 Metro stations, with vending zones initially planned at two locations near Satyam Theatre and Shesh Mahal in Ameerpet.

Another objective of the project is to improve pedestrian safety and access. HUMTA plans to develop Refugee Islands or dedicated pedestrian spaces, such as footpaths and zebra crossings, to facilitate safer road crossing for those



Caste Census Survey begins under GHMC limits

PNS HYDERABAD

Transport and Backward Classes Minister Ponnam Prabhakar has launched the Caste Census Survey under the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Córporation (GHMC) limits on Wednesday.

The comprehensive household survey is to collect social, economic, employment and caste data across Telangana, said Ponnam Prabhakar. The State-wide survey, set to encompass all districts in Telangana, received Cabinet approval on February 4th and a Rs 150 crore allocation was passed by the Assembly on February 16th. Each enumerator will cover 150 households with the process starting with home identification stickers for the next three days, followed by direct vicits beginning on Navember 18th

direct visits beginning on November 9th. Minister Prabhakar emphasised the survey's confidentiality and urged residents to cooperate, stating, "The data collected will ensure equitable justice for all, as intended by the Telangana government." In Hyderabad alone, around 85,000 enumerators will survey 1.744 million households.

Highlighting the survey's role in socio-economic planning, Minister Prabhakar quoted Rahul Gandhi, likening the survey to a diagnostic X-ray for society. He appealed to the public and political leaders to support the initiative, reassuring citizens of data confidentiality. Observers and data operators will supervise groups of 10 enumerators each to ensure accuracy and smooth operations.

This comprehensive caste census marks the first of its kind since 1931 and aims to make Hyderabad a model for similar surveys nation-wide. Participation in the survey is voluntary, with Aadhaar optional for verification.

Minister Prabhakar called upon Telangana citizens to support this effort, saying, "This survey is about the collective good and should not be misinterpreted or politicised." He added the information gathered will help the government deliver targeted benefits to those in need.



Live cockroach, fungal infestation found in restaurants

PNS HYDERABAD

The Task Force team Telangana's Food Safety inspected restaurants in Santosh Nagar and found multiple violations.

The Task Force team inspected Hotel Sri Raghavendra Udipi and found live cockroach and fungal infestation growth in the store room. The pest control records and medical fitness certificates for food handlers were missing. The kitchen floor was uneven, with patchy and slippery areas, and water was stagnant.

unhygienic, and food inside was not covered or labelled. Wheat flour bags were stored directly on the floor, and there was a gap between the bags and the walls. The temperature records for the refrigerators were missing. Food handlers were not

wearing head caps, gloves, or aprons. Dustbins in the kitchen were open. Meanwhil

Task Force also

inspected Sweekar and found live cockroach infesta-

Refrigerators were the store room, and there were no dust-bins in the kitchen. Vegetables like onions and potatoes were stored directly on the

tion in the kitchen racks. The FSSAI licence was not displayed, and medical fitness certificates for food handlers were missing. The walls and ceiling had flaking paint, and the kitchen floor was slippery with water stagnation. Doors and windows did not have insect-proof screens. Some food handlers were not wearing headgear, caps or aprons. Three packs of expired Malabar parotas were discarded. Rice bags were stored improperly in

IGDC-2024 to be held in city from Nov 13 to 15

PNS HYDERABAD

South Asia's largest and oldest conference, the India Game Developer Conference (IGDC) 2024, is set to take place in Hyderabad from November 13 to 15 at HICC Novotel. This 16th annual edition of the conference is attracting 100 investors and publishers, with over 5,000 attendees and 250+ speakers.

President of Game Developers Association of India Sridhar Muppidi announced that the two-day conference will feature over 150 sessions. Industry veteran Jordan Weisman, the mind behind iconic franchises like BattleTech, MechWarrior and



Shadowrun, has confirmed his participation, adding significant depth to this event.

Sridhar also highlighted that the new and expanded IGDC will include over 100 booths in a large expo area. To keep the focus on core gaming, the event will host the IGDC Awards Night, Indie Initiative, Policy Round Tables, work-

shops and more. On the agenda are potential partnerships with studios and developers seeking investment or publishing deals.

Sridhar emphasised that India's gaming industry, driven by 442 million gamers and 30% annual growth, makes IGDC a key platform for collaboration and innovation.

Three arrested for gang-rape

PNS HYDERABAD Three men were arrested for

Madhura Nagar in Hyderabad. The Madhuranagar Police have identified the accused as Chandu Chauhan, 24, Ajay Kumar, 25, and Mohd Arif, 35, who have travelled from Uttar Pradesh and are working in a construction field. The gangrape case was reported under

the Madhuranagar police sta-

tion jurisdiction on Monday.

gang-raping a woman at

According to the Madhura Nagar Police, the victim who works as a labourer was stalked and then offered work for money and then she was brought to the house of the accused and assaulted. A neighbour has rescued the woman and the accused men left the scene of the crime

Divya Dakshin Yatra to cover tourist places in south

PNS HYDERABAD

The Karthika Masam special train, Divya Dakshin Yatra, began its journey from Secunderabad railway station on Wednesday. This tourist circuit train will visit key locations in Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The 25th Bharat Gaurav train was launched by 70-year-old Someshwar Sang, a rail traveller, along

with P Rajkumar, Group General Manager of IRCTC. The nine-day tour offers pilgrims from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh a chance to visit important places of Tiruvannamalai, Rameswaram, Madurai



Trichy and Thanjavur. Passengers can board or deboard at stations in both states, including Secunderabad, Kazipet, Warangal and Khammam in Telangana, and Vijayawada, Tenali, Ongole, Nellore, Gudur and Renigunta in Andhra Pradesh. The train offers both AC

and non-AC services with 2AC, 3AC and sleeper coaches. General Manager of SCR, Arun Kumar Jain, appreciated the positive response from passengers, noting that the Bharat Gaurav train is boosting spiritual tourism.

the pioneer Hyderabad | Thursday | November 7, 2024

Bheemdevarapalli Tahsildar Praveen Kumar handing over the title deed to senior citizen Raj Komurayya at Bheemdevarapalli on Wednesday

Senior citizen reclaims land as son mistreats him

PNS HANUMKONDA

A senior citizen reclaimed land that was previously registered in his son's name as a gift due to the latter's mistreatment of him at a village in Hanumakonda district. The incident took place in Mustafapoor village of Bheemdevarapalli mandal

lage of Bheemdevarapalli mandal. According to Tahsildar Praveen Kumar, Maddela Raj Komurayya, a resident of Mustafapoor, had previously registered a little over 4 acres of land in the name of his only son, Maddela Ravi's name.

However, recently, the son, Ravi, physically assaulted his father and drove him out of the house.

This left Raj Komurayya deeply distressed, and he attempted suicide in a nearby hill area. However, he was saved by some shepherds who

Huzurabad, where he worked as a

Upon learning about his condition, some senior citizens advised him to reclaim the land he had given to his son under the Senior Citizens Act. Following their advice, Raj Komurayya filed a complaint with the local Revenue Divisional office to regain control of the land. After an inquire recommendation of the land.

of the land. After an inquiry, rev-

enue officials confirmed the facts,

gatekeeper at a rice mill.

cancelled the gift registration, and transferred the land back to Raj Komurayya's name. The name change was officially

recorded, and the new title deed was handed over to Raj Komurayya by Tahsildar Praveen Kumar.

This incident serves as a reminder of the importance of respecting one's parents and is a noteworthy example of children encouraged him to stay strong.

Later, Raj Komurayya moved to

abandoning their parents and the consequences that follow, the offi-

Primary schools face shortage of teachers

Government primary schools in Regode mandal are struggling with a critical shortage of teachers, despite the State government's recent recruitment efforts. While many believed that the teacher shortage issue had been addressed after the recruitment of new staff, the situation remains dire.

One of the key reasons for the persistent problem is the recent teacher transfers. Despite a significant number of teachers being recruited, more teachers were transferred out of the schools than the number of new teachers. This has brought the teacher shortage issue back to square one.

In the latest round of transfers, 33 Secondary Grade Teachers (SGTs) were moved out of Regode mandal's government primary schools. During the recent District Selection Committee (DSC) recruitment, the Education Department allotted just 21 teachers to the area, leaving 23 of the 44 teacher vacancies unfilled.

At Regode government school where there are 180 students, the headmaster (HM) and five teachers were transferred, leaving only four teachers in place to teach the students.

In Alladurg, 16 SGTs were posted to replace 22 vacant positions caused by teacher transfers. Similarly, at Muslapur government school, the number of teachers was reduced from five to three, despite having 125 students. Gadipeddapur Primary School, which previously had eight SGTs, now has only three teachers for 175

Chevella Upper Primary School, with just 53 students, was allocated an unusual combination of two school assistants, two SGTs, and two language pundits, an arrangement that seems ill-suited for the school's needs.

Munnuru Kishan, a member of the Telangana Pradesh Congress also been raised with Health



Committee (TPCC), criticised the teacher allotment to Regode mandal, calling it an injustice to the area. He stated that a memorandum was submitted to the District Education Officer (DEO) requesting more teachers, and the issue has

Minister Damodara Raja Narasimha.

The parents at Regode also voiced concern over the inadequate teacher allotment, stating that the shortage is creating significant difficulties for students. They

that more teachers, specifically from the 2008 DSC recruitment, would be posted to the mandal. However, this situation is expected to persist until the new teachers arrive, leaving students and schools in a difficult position for the time being.

Cybercriminals target senior citizens, says CP

Police Ramagundam Commissioner M Srinivas has advised retired employees and elderly businesspersons to be cautious and avoid falling victim to cybercriminal scams targeting them.

As part of the Cyber Awareness Day programme, an awareness session was held on Wednesday at the Millennium Hall in NTPC, Ramagundam, where Assistant Commissioner of Police Venkataramana, Cyber Crime Division, briefed the senior citizens from the industrial area about the latest cybercrime scams. During the event, the Police Commissioner mentioned that a recent review of

PNS ■ PATANCHERU

University, Hyderabad, proud-

ly announces the commence-

ment of its placement activi-

ties for the 2024-25 academic

year, showcasing remarkable

success with participation

from prestigious multination-

al corporations. With an

impressive highest CTC of Rs

60 lakh per annum, GITAM

continues to solidify its repu-

tation as a premier institution

Dr Mamata Reddy, Director

of the Career Guidance

Centre, shared insights on the

current placement season, stating, "We are thrilled to

kick-start our placement activ-

ities this year with leading

global companies such as

Atlassian, Microsoft, Silicon

for higher education.

GITAM

Deemed-to-be



Ramagundam Police Commissioner M Srinivas speaking at Cyber Awareness Day programme in Ramagundam on Wednesday

Labs, and Pega Systems. Our Other notable placements

cybercrimes showed that a significant number of victims are senior citizens. He explained that cybercriminals would take advantage of the needs and vulnerabilities of elderly people, often contacting them over the

GITAM, Hyderabad launches campus placements

students are consistently

demonstrating their excep-

tional skills and readiness to

achievements, BTech CSE stu-

dent Yerram Anusha has

secured a coveted position as

Atlassian, earning an impres-

sive annual package of Rs 60 lakh (ESOPS 20 LPA).

Additionally, she, along with fellow student Korrapati

Sameena, has been offered a

role at Microsoft with an annu-

dents in this placement season

reflects not only their hard

work but also the university's

strong industry-academia link-

ages and commitment to providing high-quality education.

The success of GITAM stu-

al package of Rs 51 lakh.

Software Developer at

Among the standout

meet industry demands."

phone, engaging them with friendly conversation, and then resorting to fraud and other criminal activities, causing fear among them. Srinivas further highlighted that senior citizens may lack awareness about inter-

include, Silicon Labs: one stu-

dent at Rs. 22 lakh per annum,

Pega Systems: 7 students at Rs.

15.48 lakh, Deliveroo: 3 stu-

dents at Rs 12.07 lakh, Oracle:

5 students at Rs 10 lakh,

Reliance Jio BP: 1 student at Rs

9 lakhs, Deloitte PPO: 5 stu-

dents at Rs 8.64 lakh, Asian

Paints: 3 students at Rs 8.5

lakh, ICICI Bank: 14 student at

Rs 8.29 lakh, Naukri.com: 1

student at Rs. 7 lakhs, PGS: 3

students at Rs. 8 lakh, Keyloop:

6 students at Rs 7.2 lakh,

ViaPlus: 5 students at Rs 7

lakhs, H&R Block: 4 students

at Rs 5.27 lakh, Musigma: 17

students at Rs 5 lakh, EY GDS:

49 students at Rs 4.83 lakh,

Accenture: 92 student at Rs 4.5

lakh, and Tech Mahindra: 85

students at Rs. 4 lakhs per

net-based scams, and their retirement benefits, gratuity, and savings make their bank accounts attractive targets for criminals.
Additionally, many elderly people have substantial amounts in their accounts, and with their children often living abroad, they are more vulnerable. Cybercriminals are using deceptive tactics, pretending to be active in stock markets, officials offering home loans, insurance, or work-from-home opportunities to perpetrate crime.

The event was attended by Godavarikhani ACP M Ramesh, Cyber Crime ACP Venkataramana, Ramagundam CI Praveen Kumar, senior citizens, retired employees, and

Massive fire cause extensive damage to Kamson **Healthcare**

PNS RANGAREDDY

In the early hours of Wednesday. Healthcare's diaper manufacturing factory at Nandigama in Rangareddy district, causing extensive damage to the facility. Fortunately, no casualties were reported, though the property damage is expected to be significant, with initial estimates suggesting losses around Rs 20 crore. Authorities suspect a short circuit as the likely cause of the fire. The blaze erupted around 1 am and quickly spread throughout the manufacturing unit, engulfing large quantities of raw materials used in diaper production. Fire department personnel from nearby stations responded swiftly to the incident, battling the flames for several hours before bringing the fire under control. Despite their efforts, the fire left the property entirely destroyed. Nandigama police launched an investigation into the incident to find out the exact cause and estimate the total property damage

Two drowned as bike falls into canal

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

In a tragic incident, two men lost their lives after their bike skidded and fell into a canal. The incident came to light late on Wednesday in Narsapur.

According to Narsapur Circle Inspector John Reddy and Sub Inspector Lingam, the deceased were Bhoga Ramulu (40) and Napari Narsinglu (32). Both from Kagazmaddur village in Medak district, had come to Narsapur for work and were returning to their village when the accident happened.

On Tuesday night, while passing by the cul-vert near the Raiarao Cheruvu Kattu Canal, the bike lost control and fell into the canal. Since it was night, no one saw the accident, and the the duo drowned in the water. On Wednesday noticed the incident and informed the police. Immediately, John Reddy and Lingam reached the spot, conducted an inquest, and sent the bodies for post-mortem to the Government Hospital.

A case has been registered, and an investigation is underway based on the family's complaint.

The deceased, Bhoga Ramulu and Napari Narsinglu were agricultural laborers who supported their families. Bhoga Ramulu is survived by his wife Lakshmi, two daughters, and a son. Napari Narsinglu is survived by three young sons. The tragic deaths left both families in despair. The village of Kagazmaddur is mourning the loss of the

Collector inspects household survey in Kothagudem

PNS BHADRADRI **KOTHAGUDEM**

As part of the prestigious comprehensive household survey initiated by the State government, District Collector Jitesh V Patil launched the survey in the 15th ward of Kothagudem Municipality. During the launch, he reviewed the details being collected by enumerators and then affixed stickers to the surveyed households. He also provided necessary instructions to the enumerators regarding the precautions to be taken during the

survey. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector stated that the comprehensive household survey had officially commenced. He mentioned that there are a total of 2761 enumeration blocks in the district and that enumerators have been appointed for each block. Each enumerator has been



Bhadradri Kothagudem Collector Jitesh V Patil interacting with enumerators of household survey in Kothagudem on Wednesday

assigned 150 households. He further explained that for the next three days, a household identification programme would be conducted, and stickers would be affixed on the identified houses.

As part of the survey, the people are requested to provide accurate information, which will be used to prepare and implement various plans to improve the social, economic, educational, employment, and political opportu-nities for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, backward classes, and other marginalized groups in the state.

In this program, the Additional Collector of Local Bodies, Vidya Chandana, Kothagudem Municipal Commissioner Sheshanjana Swamy, and other survey staff participated.

CPR awareness programme launched in district

PNS RAJANNA SIRISILLA

District Superintendent of Police Akhil Mahajan emphasised that providing immediate first aid to accident victims is a social responsibility.

Under the guidance of the District Police Department and as part of the Road Safety Village Committee, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and first aid training is being given to people running shops, hotels, puncture shops, and petrol pumps located along major roads. First-aid kits are also being distributed. In case of accidents, the first

responders are often the people working in nearby shops, and if they are trained in CPR and first aid, they can save many lives.

With this objective in mind, as part of the Road Safety Village Committee, CPR and first aid training programmes have been organised for people running shops, hotels, puncture shops, and petrol pumps along major roads in



A youth taking part in CPR training programme under the supervision of Rajanna Sircilla Superintendent of Police Akhil Mahajan in Sircilla on Wednesday

the district. Akhil Mahajan explained that in recent times, many people died due to the delay in receiving first aid after an accident. He mentioned that there is a "golden hour" immediately after an accident, during which every possible effort should be made to save the person. Providing first. In this context, the Superintendent of Police mentioned that in the present day, many people are dying

due to the unavailability of first aid at the time of acci-

He stressed the importance of providing first aid to the injured during accidents and quickly transporting them to the hospital to save their lives. Medical experts from Renee Hospital Karimnagar and Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Hospital Siricilla explained the first aid treatments through a Power0Point presentation.

Caste-based survey is a must: ML

PNS RANGAREDDY

Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar has emphasised the need for a comprehensive family and household survey. The survey, aimed at assessing socio economic conditions across the community, was inaugurated in the presence of Municipal Commissioner Cheema Venkanna, Municipal Chairman K Narender, and Ward councillors Shravani and Pilli Sarada.

In his opening remarks, i Shankar hailed the courage of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi for initiating the caste survey. The MLA highlighted the importance of the survey in addressing caste-based inequalities and fostering social justice, especially for Backward Classes

"Even though Revanth



survey in Shadnagar on Wednesday

Reddy comes from an upper caste background, he has prioritised the welfare of BC communities by backing this survey," Shankar stated. He further recalled Rahul Gandhi's commitment to promoting social equality, a promise made dur-

He pointed out that the ruling elites, representing merely per cent of the population, have held sway over united Andhra Pradesh for years, often with minimal representation from marginalised communities. He argued that the lack of unity and political, social, and

economic advancement among BC communities has contributed to their underrepresentation. Shankar expressed hope that the caste survey would bring about significant changes in fields such as education, employment, and economic stability for BCs and other

underrepresented groups. MLA Shankar voiced his disappointment over the persistence of caste discrimination even after decades of independence. "Economic, social, and political inequalities still exist between castes, especially in rural and urban areas. It's disappointing that, even today, only a small percentage of elites wield significant power," he commented. He also criticized the fact that for the last ten years, the state has been governed by leaders representing just 0.5 percent of the population, reflecting the deep-seated issues of social imbal-

The event witnessed the participation of key officials and community leaders, including Special Officer Rama Rao, Municipal Chairman Narender, and several councilors. Congress and BRS leaders,

MLC pledges support to construction of temple

PNS RANGAREDDY

In a significant step towards enhancing religious infra-structure in Shadnagar, MLC Nagar Kunta Naveen Kumar Reddy attended a slab construction pooja ceremony for the new Bhavani Mata Temple in the 14th Ward of Shadnagar Town Municipality, Ranga Reddy District. The ceremony marked an important milestone in the construction of the temple, which is eager-

Indian Bank VEHICLE AUCTION REGISTRATION RESERVE END PRICE (Rs.) PRICE (Rs.) & ADDRESS TYPE NEM Sint Vegesna WLLAKUMTA Kousalys and VEHICLE REGISTRATION NO: TS07,JT4567 MODEL: GURKHA 4004 CHASIS NO: MC1D4EKAXPP

WB (3+0) BSW

BLACK COLOUR 002277 DIESEL VEHICLE ENGINE NO Open Auction will be conducted for participants who deposits as above mentioned EMD on a before 27.11.2824, 11.80 AM by DDPay order to Indian Bank/New Nislakaria Branch, Hyderatak Date & Time of Auction: 28.11.2004 at 11.00 AM Branch Manager; at Mr. A VENKATES/AWSL, BRANCH MANAGER 9948123054, and SADA agent: MS WIN WIN FINANCIAL SERVICES M: SUNIL 9985506415. Mithide inspection on 26.1112024. Successful bidder should NEFT! RTGS Bank of on the same day. The vehicle shall be auditoned on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" condition For further details, terms and conditions, the interested biodiers can Contact Indian Bank, New Natiation to Branch. The Authorised Officer I may accepticancel the auction without assigning an

ly awaited by local residents. ing the last election. along with local dignitaries.



ACROSS THE STATES



Haryana to instal CCTV cameras at ration depots

aryana Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Minister Rajesh Nagar on Wednesday directed the officials to ensure CCTV cameras are installed at all ration depots in the state. This measure is intended to enhance transparency in the operations of depots, said an official statement after the minister held a meeting here. Nagar emphasized that any irregularities in the distribution of rations to the underprivileged will not be tolerated. He said the CCTVs will be monitored at both the district and headquarters levels. Nagar, who was presiding over a meeting with the senior officials from the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department here, also directed the officials to ensure that all depot holders in the state distribute rations as promptly as possible. Action will be taken against those depot holders who deliberately delay distribution, he said.



Kharge dissolves PCC in Cong-ruled Himachal

ongress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday dissolved the entire Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) Unit in Himachal Pradesh along with the district and block units with immediate effect. The move is seen as part of the Congress' plan to restructure the Himachal unit of the party. There has been no change in the PCC ever since the Congress formed its government in the hill state. Outgoing president of Himachal Pradesh Congress Pratibha Singh has already become a member of the Congress Working Committee (CWC), the highest decision-making body of the party. Singh, who is wife of former chief minister Virbhadra Singh, was appointed as state Congress chief in 2022. "Congress president has approved the proposal to dissolve the entire state unit of the PCC, district presidents and Block Congress Committees of Himachal Pradesh Congress Committee, with immediate effect." an official communication from AICC general secretary K C Venugopal said



Air quality remains 'very poor' in Delhi

espite recording a marginal improvement, the air quality in Delhi continued to remain in the "very poor" category on Wednesday. The 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) recorded until 4 pm on Wednesday was reported at 352, down from 373 on Tuesday, 381 on Monday, and 382 on Sunday. However, Delhi's air quality still ranked as the third worst in the country, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), which provides hourly AQI updates. Across India. Hanumangarh in Raiasthan recorded the worst air quality at 396, followed by Sri Ganganagar in the same state at 369. CPCB data showed. In Delhi, five monitoring stations -- Bawana (403), Jahangirpuri (419), Mundka (417), NSIT Dwarka (440), and Wazirpur (420) -- remained in the "severe" category on Wednesday. On Tuesday, 13 stations recorded severe AQI readings above 400.

KTR to Revanth: Act against ...

Continued from Page 1

He also cited a report published by Congress leader Vivek's newspaper that called for the firm to be blacklisted. Still, no steps had been taken

Alleging corruption, KTR demanded the cancellation of certain contracts awarded, including the Rs. 4,350 crore Kodangal Lift Irrigation project, which was "fraught with irregularities". He accused the government of deliberately disqualifying other competent companies like L&T and NCC in technical bids to favor two companies, including one associated with Minister Ponguleti Srinivas

Reddy.
KTR alleged a conspiracy between the government and the company to siphon funds from Telangana to other states and questioned Revanth Reddy's motives. He cautioned IAS officers and engi-

neers against signing on irregular contracts, stating that they would be investigated "if a new government comes to

KTR pointed out that projects that had been closed at lower costs were now being inflated for profiteering. He specifically mentioned the project meant to supply Godavari water to Hyderabad. The project, estimated at Rs. 1,100 crore, had been re-evaluated to cost Rs. 5,500 crore. He alleged that similar agreements were being prepared to award other projects to 'East India Company' under questionable circumstances.

"Revanth Reddy, if you have any integrity, take action against the very company you once labeled as an East India Company," KTR demanded, reiterating his commitment to exposing corruption and calling for transparency in the administration's dealings with contractors

'India-US relations will be on a very firm footing'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and US relationship will be on "a very firm footing" with Donald Trump returning to the White House, as the cooperation between the two nations extends from environment to technology, space and defence, Union Minister Jyotiraditya

Scindia said Wednesday.

As a candidate, Trump had spoken of revamping US foreign policy, focusing on 'America First' principles, and has also talked about imposing tariffs on foreign goods, raising concerns in New Delhi.

Scindia's comments, the first by a senior Indian government functionary after Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Trump on his victory, indicate that India remains optimistic that it will continue to have unhindered trade and economic ties with the world's largest economy and strongest military power. The United States is also India's largest trading partner with the total annual trade crossing USD 190

"I think that the US-India relationship under the steward-ship of both Prime Minister Modi and President-Elect Donald Trump will be on a very, very firm footing forward," Scindia said in a video and text interview with PTI.

Scindia said that the India-US relationship in the last decade under Modi has led to huge amounts of trade, economic thrust as well as strate-



Trump is very tough on China which is good for us: Tharoor

NEW DELHI: Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Wednesday said there will be basic continuation of the India-US relationship with Donald Trump staging a comeback and noted that his being tough on China "is Tharoor, the chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs and former minister of state for external affairs, also flagged concerns on immigration and trade with Trump coming to power and noted that the US leader has a "transactional attitude

on many matters. Trump was

elected the 47th president of the

United States on Wednesday, an

extraordinary comeback for a for-

mer president. "Frankly there

should not be major surprises because the gentleman has been an open book for some time. He was president for four years, so we have the experience of dealing with him. He has been quite outspoken on various

issues." Tharoor said "We know for example that he has a transactional attitude on many matters. He essentially will say 'what you will do for me before he decides to do anything for you'. He also has a very tough line on trade, he has criticised

India for its tariffs and said that 'if India raises tariffs we will also raise tariffs for India', that is something we should be watching out for because that is what it will effect companies on their viability of their exports to America," the Congress leader added

countries on many global issues.

The election result makes Trump the only US president after Grover Cleveland to serve non-consecutive terms in more than 130 years. Cleveland was both the 22nd and 24th president, serving from 1885 to 1889 and then again from 1893

Noting that India is the world's largest democracy and the US is the world's oldest democracy, Scindia said, "There have been huge parts of inter-section between Indo-US rela-

"Those relationships have taken a much more concrete form in the last decade since Prime Minister Modi has forged an independent relationship with the US. It has resulted in not only a huge amount of trade and economic thrust coming to the fore but also led to a strategic relationship on many global issues," he noted.

Trump has during electioneering alleged that India imposes the highest tariffs on foreign products and vowed to introduce a reciprocal tax if elected to power. This, it was construed, may disrupt the ties between the two nations.

Scindia said that besides cooperation in the field of environment, technology, and space to defence, India and the US have signed an agreement to set up a semiconductor manufacturing unit that will supply chips to US defence



INDIA bloc's guarantees are like 'dud bombs': Chouhan

PNS BHOPAL

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Wednesday termed the INDIA bloc guarantees for the upcoming Jharkhand assembly elections as "lies" and "dud bombs".

Talking to reporters here, Chouhan claimed the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) and Congress had made promises during the previous assembly elections, but none were fulfilled.

"They (JMM and Congress) had said that they will provide five lakh government jobs. Not given. They promised to give Rs 2,000 monthly for chulhakharch (domestic expenses). Not given. They brought a scheme to give Rs 1,000 just two months ahead of elections. They promised unemployment allowance to the jobless. Not given," Chouhan said.

These parties had promised to purchase the paddy crop by giving bonus on the minimum support price (MSP), but it was also not given, the BJP leader said.
"The JMM had made 117

promises (in the last assembly elections), Congress made 344 promises. Not even one of them was fulfilled in the last five

years and they have now come up with new promises. These guarantees are the dud bombs which never burst and the people have no faith in them," he

On the other side, the BJP fulfils all its promises, as witnessed in Chhattisgarh and Odisha, Chouhan said. "We are fulfilling all the guarantees in Chhattisgarh and Odisha, where elections were held recently, because our leader and Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the guarantee of fulfilling all the guarantees. Nobody has faith in INDI alliance guarantees because they speak lies," he

On Tuesday, the INDIA bloc unveiled its manifesto for the upcoming Jharkhand assembly elections, assuring 10 lakh jobs for youth and health insurance coverage of up to Rs 15 lakh for the poor among other promises.

Asked about Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's statement about breaking the reservation cap of 50 per cent after a caste census, Chouhan remarked, "On a foreign land, Rahul Gandhi also said he will end the reservation when time comes

There is no Chinese infiltration on Himachal border, says Governor



PNS SHIMLA

Himachal Pradesh Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla on Wednesday said there is no infiltration by China on the

His remarks came days after Revenue Minister Jagat Singh Negi said that drones have been spotted on the Indo-China border in Kinnaur dis-

"China has now understood that they cannot take even a single inch of Indian land," Shukla said.

He was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an event organised by the Panchayati Raj Department at the Raj Bhawan here.

"China has now understood that they cannot take even a single inch of Indian land," the governor said. The tribal districts of Kinnaur and der with China which is traversed by nine high altitude mountain passes.

When asked about the statement of Revenue Minister Negi that drones have been spotted on the Indo-China border in Kinnaur district and that they are likely being used for surveillance and espionage purposes, Shukla said, "I have visited the border areas of the state and met the soldiers. There

Lahaul and Spiti share a 240-km boris no infiltration by China on the border of Himachal Pradesh.

Negi, the MLA from Kinnaur, had on October 12 said that multiple drones frequently flying near the border area have been spotted in the past week and several people have informed him about such sightings.

He had said that public representatives should visit the border to boost the morale of the soldiers.

'Won't allow Assembly to function'

BJP demands withdrawal of resolution on Art 370

Opposition BJP on Wednesday said it will not allow the proceedings of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly to go on until a resolution asking the Centre to hold talks with the elected representatives from the region for the restoration of the erstwhile state's special status was withdrawn.

This is an illegal resolution and until they roll it back, we will continue our protest and not allow the proceedings of the House. They will have to roll it back and then we will debate it," Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Sunil Sharma told reporters here.

He said the resolution was not part of the Assembly's listed business and reflects the mindset of the newly-elected government in the Union Territory.

Sharma said the provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution, which had conferred special rights on the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, was abro-



gated in Parliament, the highest temple of democracy.

'Then some people challenged the Parliament's decision in the Supreme Court. The court ruled that the Parliament's decision was right. So what constitutional right do they have to bring this resolution? We have opposed it strongly and the BJP will continue its protest and not accept it at any cost," he said.

Taking a dig at Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather, Sharma said he behaved as an agent of the ruling National Conference (NC) and "ripped apart" the dignity of

He also asked the Congress, an alliance partner of the NC, to clear its stand on the resolution.

"Congress leaders should come out and clearly say whether they support it or not. If they support it, the people of the country will question them. If not, then without their six MLAs, the resolution as well as the government is in minority," Sharma

TG cancels Keshavapuram ...

Continued from Page 1

route the pipeline through forest and defense lands, the move forward over the past

Megha Engineering, in its recent correspondence with the government, had sought rate revisions based on 2024 estimates. However, the government declined the request and took the decision to cancel their tender.

Under the new plan, the government aims to use a gravity-based alignment from Mallannasagar, which would reduce operational and maintenance expenses. The number of required pumping points has been reduced from five to two, allowing more efficient water transport with lower energy costs. Additionally, the total pipeline length will be extended to around 162 kilometers to reach Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar.

This adjustment not only aligns with the growing water demands of Greater

Hyderabad but is also expected to significantly cut down water supply costs, projecting an estimate of Rs. 4 per kiloliter (KL), compared to the current Rs. 48 per KL.

The government's updated route avoids the need for additional infrastructure near the Kondapochamma Sagar and will instead rely on Mallannasagar, which has a larger storage capacity of 50 TMC compared to Kondapochamma Sagar's 15 TMC. Officials noted that the larger capacity and grav-

ity-based design would allow continuous water pumping, even from dead storage levels, enhancing reliability in water supply. The state administration

has expressed its confidence that this new approach will also support the state's Musi river rejuvenation project by redirecting more Godavari water to Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar, thus bringing long-neglected reservoirs fully back into

MENTAL WELL-BEING OF LAWYERS

SC refuses to entertain plea

PNS NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to entertain a plea over the mental wellbeing of advocates and allowed the petitioner to approach the Bar Council of India (BCI) with a representation. A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra observed that the bar associations should take voluntary steps to address the issue. The bench said the issue of mental well-being concerned

other professions as well. "The union of India will say why only for lawyers? What about chartered accountants, engineers, doctors and others," observed the bench. Senior advocate Balbir Singh, appearing for the petitioner, said the Indian Medical Association had a mechanism to address the issue of mental well-being of medical professionals.

Donald Trumps Harris, wins back USA ...

Continued from Page 1

other battleground states of Arizona, Michigan

As a clear trend in the counting of votes emerged earlier, Harris cancelled an election watch party in her alma mater Howard University.

The results are a big disappointment for Harris. She joined the race after President Biden dropped out from his reelection campaign in July, weeks after he came under severe scrutiny following his incoherent performance at a televised debate with Republican nominee Donald Trump.

Generally, there is not much surprise over the candidates picking up victories in states other than the pivotal battleground ones. Overall, a total of 538 electoral college votes are up for grabs. The swing states of Pennsylvania, Michigan and

Wisconsin, known as part of the Rust Belt, have been traditionally the strongholds of the Democratic Party.

Earlier, exit polls showed the state of democracy, the shape of the economy and abortion are the

Almost six in 10 people ranked the state of democracy as their number one issue, according to exit polls released by CBS News.

most important issues for American voters in the

HMWSSB waters down KTR's ...

Continued from Page 1

structure and raised concerns about cost escalations in various water

The Water Board clarified that it had constituted an inquiry committee to investigate the Sunkishala retaining wall collapse. The committee's report recommended issuing notices for failure to complete the work in time before the monsoon season. It also advised a comprehensive technical examination by a committee of experts. Acting on these recommendations, the Telangana government has directed the State Vigilance and Enforcement Department to conduct a detailed investigation into the incident. Further action will be taken based on the final report.

Addressing concerns regarding the Godavari water supply project to Hyderabad, KTR had alleged that the project's cost was inflated from Rs. 1,100 crore to Rs. 5,500 crore to benefit specific contractors, including

Megha Engineering.
The Water Board responded by

explaining that the project under the Godavari Phase-2 scheme was designed to support the rejuvenation of Himayat Sagar and Osman Sagar reservoirs by transferring water from Mallannasagar. The plan involves A 3,600 mm diameter pipeline from Mallannasagar to Ghanpur for 15 TMC of water; a 2,400 mm diameter pipeline from Ghanpur to Muthangi, linking with a 3,000 mm diameter ring main for distribution; a 2,200 mm diameter pipeline from Ghanpur to Osman Sagar for Musi rejuvenation, transferring 5 TMC of

water. Additional provisions include filling lakes around the ORR, such as Shamirpet, Kishtareddypet, and Dundigal, to maintain water levels. The Water Board clarified that it had not yet prepared estimates for supplying Hyderabad's drinking water needs from Kondapochamma Sagar at Rs. 1,100 crore, as alleged.

The Water Board reiterated that Hyderabad's requirements include 10 TMC of water for drinking and 5 TMC for reservoir replenishment and Musi River rejuvenation.

Modi calls for boosting Indo-US...

Continued from Page 1

race in one of the greatest political comebacks in American his-

"Heartiest congratulations my friend @realDonaldTrump on your historic election victory. As you build on the successes of your previous term, I look forward to renewing our collaboration to further strengthen the India-US Comprehensive Global and Strategic Partnership," Modi said in a post

on X. "Together, let's work for the betterment of our people and to promote global peace, stability and prosperity," he said.

The prime minister also posted pictures of his previous meetings with Trump, who was the

US president from 2016-2020. Last month, Trump had praised Prime Minister Modi as the nicest human being", saying the Indian leader is "a friend of

Trump had made the com-

ments in response to a question during the Flagrant podcast.

"Modi, India. He's a friend of mine. He's great... Before him, they were replacing them every year. It's very unstable. He came over. He's a friend of mine. But on the outside, he looks like he's your father. He's the nicest, but

he's a total killer," he had said. Trump had also recalled Modi's visit to Houston in 2019 to attend the 'Howdy Modi' event during his tenure, saying, "It was beautiful. It's like 80,000 people going crazy. We were

The Republican candidate

had said he shares a "very good relationship" with Modi. The 'Howdy Modi' event was

walking around...'

followed by Trump's 2020 visit to India, where he was welcomed with the 'Namaste Trump' rally, organised by PM Modi in Ahmedabad, with about 100,000 people attending the event at a cricket stadium. Modi and Trump had also met in 2017 in Washington DC.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Trump wins hands down

Donald Trump makes a sensational comeback in the closely fought US presidential elections

he US presidential election is one of the most influential political events worldwide, with major implications not only for domestic policy but also for international relations, economic stability, and global security. In 2024, the election has been particularly charged, with significant issues driving the race. Though the counting is still on and the winner is yet to be officially announced but going by the trends, Trump has won and he has already claimed victory. Kamala Harris failed to perform in the swing states leading to her defeat. Trump's victory brings a mix of continuity and radical shifts in several key areas. The 2024 US election has revolved around several pressing issues which were important not only for the Americans but for the people across the world. High inflation rates and concerns over economic recovery post-pandemic have been at the forefront. Voters were focused on job security, rising costs of living, and access to affordable healthcare. Trump's stance included pushing for lower taxes, reducing gov-



ernment spending, and deregulation to stimulate growth, which he claims would address inflation and boost job creation. Another major issue that was widely debated was immigration. The debate over immigration intensified, with Trump advocating for stricter border controls and policies aimed at reducing illegal immigration. His focus includes building stronger physical barriers at the US-Mexico border and increasing enforcement, framing immigration as a matter of national security and economic stability. Besides, Healthcare accessibility and costs remain contentious topics.

Trump in his campaign emphasised reducing healthcare costs and revisiting the Affordable Care Act. His

approach included providing tax credits and fostering competition among providers, but it also drew criticism for potentially reducing access to affordable care for some citizens. Interestingly Trump has taken a critical stance on climate regulations, advocating for energy independence through expanded oil and natural gas production. His stance contrasts with those calling for robust climate action, as he argues that deregulation is essential for economic stability and growth. However the issue that is of utmost importance for the world at large is the US foreign policy. Foreign policy has emerged as a defining factor, particularly in relation to China and Russia. Trump's "America First" strategy focuses on reducing overseas military commitments and renegotiating trade agreements to protect American interests. This stance resonates with some voters concerned about national sovereignty but worries international allies and those advocating for a more collaborative global approach. However, Trump's victory may be well taken in New Delhi as he has had good chemistry with Prime Minister Modi and has supported India's stand. It would be interesting to see how Trump would steer international choppy waters this time as Ukraine war and Palestine issue would be two major issues he would need to handle immediately after assuming the office.



A photographer takes a photo of a macaque monkey at the Shrine Galtaji temple, in Jaipur

Hazardous Delhi air is putting lives at risk



As Delhiites face a significant decline in their health and life expectancy due to pollution, there is an urgent need for finding solutions to tackle this menace

elhi's air quality has reached dangerous levels, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) crossing into the "hazardous" zone shortly after Diwali celebrations. This post-Diwali spike is not new, as the city frequently ranks among the most polluted in the world. In early November 2024, AQI levels in Delhi surged to nearly 500 in some regions, a threshold considered extremely harmful.
According to the Central
Pollution Control Board (CPCB),
key areas in Delhi like Anand Vihar, Alipur, and RK Puram reported AQI readings above 300. This rise indicates severe pollution levels far above the World Health Organisation's (WHO) recommended safety limits, posing substantial health risks for millions of residents.

The AQI measures air quality on a scale that categorises air quality into six levels: "good," "satisfactory," "moderate," "poor," "very poor," and "hazardous." Readings above 300 signal critical pollution, while values over 400 reach the "severe" range. At such levels, exposure to fine particulate matter (PM2.5) becomes dangerous, as these minuscule particles can infiltrate deep into the lungs, affecting respiratory and cardio-vascular health. The factors behind this annual pollution crisis are complex, involving both local and regional contributors. Delhi's high vehicular emissions, industrial output, construction dust, and waste burning are persistent contributors. However, during the harvest season, stubble burning in nearby states like Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh intensifies the problem. In October and November, farmers often burn leftover crop residue, producing vast smoke clouds that drift toward Delhi and blend with local pollutants. Vehicular pollution is another sig-

nificant factor, with over 15 million registered vehicles in Delhi alone. Despite policies mandating regular Pollution Under Control (PUC) checks, enforcement remains a challenge. Emissions from diesel vehicles and twowheelers, which lack proper pollution controls, further degrade the air quality. Attempts by the



pollution have included measures like the odd-even traffic scheme, a firecracker ban during festivals, and incentives to use public transport. However, these initiatives have only provided limited relief. Residents continue to experience issues like breathlessness, sore throats, headaches and dry cough, compounded by longterm respiratory conditions. This year, the Supreme Court criticised Delhi's inadequate enforcement of pollution control measures during Diwali, particularly the lack of compliance with firecracker bans. The court expressed frustration over the non-implementation of its orders, highlighting the collective failure to safeguard public health. The Delhi government has also activated the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), designed to address pollution levels as they rise. GRAP consists of multiple stages, with Stage III activated only when AQI reaches "severe" levels. At this stage, vehicle movement and construction activities are restricted, and educational institutions may close to protect students' health. While GRAP has achieved some improvements, its impact is often temporary, as citizens and businesses frequently ignore these directives.

The severe air pollution in Delhi has profound effects on public health and quality of life.



THIS YEAR, THE SUPREME COURT CRITICISED DELHI'S INADEQUATE **ENFORCEMENT OF POLLUTION** CONTROL MEASURES DURING DIWALI, PARTICULARLY THE LACK OF **COMPLIANCE WITH** FIRECRACKER BANS.

THE COURT **EXPRESSED** FRUSTRATION OVER THE NON-IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS ORDERS

like children and the elderly, are advised to stay indoors to avoid severe respiratory and cardiovascular issues. Outdoor activities are restricted, with schools occasionally closed to protect students from toxic air exposure. Additionally, dense smog disrupts transportation, leading to frequent flight and train delays due to poor visibility. As residents increasingly rely on air purifiers to maintain indoor air quality, the economic and psychological impacts of Delhi's air pollution

crisis only deepen. In response to the deteriorating situation, the Delhi Government announced a series of measures to tackle pollution. These include developing green pathways, walkways, and open spaces along roads to reduce dust and

improve urban greenery. Efforts are underway to enhance municipal waste management, including recycling 100 per cent of construction and demolition waste by 2025. To further manage waste, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi is establishing a fifth awareness and enable quicker recycling unit in Tehkhand, responses. India's dedication to capable of processing 1,000 tons daily. Biomining is also planned at major landfill sites, such as Okhla, Ghazipur, and Bhalswa, to excavate and treat years' worth of accumulated waste. Expanding public transportation is another goal, with

plans to grow Delhi's bus fleet to 10,500 by next year, 80 per cent of which will be electric. This is accompanied by a focus on impounding older, polluting vehicles. Such measures aim to address longstanding pollution sources sustainably. Experts emphasize, however, that reducing air pollution in Delhi will require more than Government policies; public engagement and behavioral change are also essential.

A multi-pronged approach is crucial to effectively reduce air pollution. Introducing alternative methods to stubble burning, such as subsidising cropresidue management equipment, is one solution. Increasing urban greenery and limiting industrial emissions are further steps toward a healthier environment.

On an individual level, Delhi residents can contribute by using public transportation, minimising car usage, and adopting energy-efficient practices at home. Additionally, improved air quality monitoring and early-warning systems could help raise public conservation aligns with the broader goal of creating a healthier environment for future generations.

(The writer is Programme Executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti; views are

Why are women overlooked for leadership? It's time for a change!



Deep-rooted biases and outdated stereotypes frequently overshadow women's capabilities, despite evidence that women leaders enhance company performance and culture

quently overlooked for management and senior leadership roles despite their proven capabilities in both personal and professional settings. It's a complex issue often attributed to stereotypes, unconscious biases, and a society that still grapples with entrenched gender roles. Yet, if we pause and consider the day-to-day roles women play, particularly in an Indian household, it becomes evident that they possess an array of skills crucial to any organisation's success.

Imagine a typical day for a woman managing her household. She coordinates with household help, ensures that her family's needs are met, oversees children's schedules, and often also supports extended family members. Each of these tasks requires quick thinking, negotiation skills, empathy, and time management. Such daily acts of coordination and problemsolving are, at their core, management skills.

The inquiry at hand is, why do we fail to acknowledge these abilities when they are

showcased in a professional setting?

Do these skills lose their validity simply because thev originate from home-based experience? Many argue that women's ability to blend emotional intelligence with logical decision-making makes them especially adept at leadership roles.

Their approach is often holistic—they not only focus on completing tasks but also on nurturing relationships, fostering team morale, and ensuring that the process is as smooth as the outcome. Research indicates that companies with gender-diverse leadership teams tend to achieve better financial performance and foster a more satisfied workforce, contributing to a healthier com- to embrace mentorship pro-

pany culture. Women bring different perspectives and problem-solving approaches, which complement male colleagues' styles. When to balance personal and women are given a seat at professional responsibilithe table, companies gain a ties. more nuanced understanding of their markets and customers.

And yet, despite clear fit into traditionally mascuvastly underrepresented in rooted in a long history of gender bias. Women are essential leadership skills often pigeonholed as too "emotional" or too "soft" for the challenges of executive positions, while men are assumed to be inherently them the opportunities they more decisive and resilient. Yet, resilience is something that women exemplify every day-balancing multiple roles in a society that demands more of them both at home and at work. Change is on the horizon, with many organisations now actively working to bridge the gender gap in leadership. However, it requires a deeper cultural shift to truly unlock the leadership potential of

women. Organisations need

grams, implement unbiased hiring practices, and encourage flexible work policies that allow women

Moreover, celebrating women's leadership styles rather than forcing them to advantages, women remain line roles can create more authentic, powerful leadsenior roles. The reasons are ers. The argument is simple: women already demonstrate every day, whether in boardrooms or in households. It's time to recognise their contributions and give deserve.

For any organisation that values growth, empathy, and resilience, overlooking women isn't just unfair—it's a missed opportunity. Let's champion a future where leadership is based on talent and vision, not on outdated biases. Women are ready for the challenge, and it's time we give them the space to

(The writer is a motivator and a freelance journalist; views expressed are personal)

PAPER BALLOTS OVER MACHINES

Madam —In spite of being at the top of technologically advanced countries, the United States of America falls back on ballot paper voting to root out any suspicion of foul play stemming from voting through EVM. Over the last two decades, the United States has gradually moved back from electronic voting machines to paper ballots. Given ballot paper voting, unlike EVM, builds confidence among voters and opposition party members, it undoubtedly strengthens democracy. Another highly commendable step the USA election authorities have taken.

They have printed the ballot papers in all major languages of a state, depending on its demography. While a voter in New York can choose a ballot paper in Bengali instead of English, Chinese, Spanish, and Korean, voters in Illinois can opt for a ballot paper printed in Hindi. It also shows how a democratic country should honour the mother tongue of even those voters who have origins in different countries. These actions reflect the attitude of catering and prioritising the interests of the demos (people) above everything. India needs to get back to ballot paper voting without any delay. It must also be remembered that to impose a language ignoring the major languages spoken in a particular area flouts democratic principles. There is no room for the 'one nation, one language' policy in a mul-

DIVISION OVER CASTE Madam— Since the last Lok Sabha elections, immediately followed by the state Assembly election and ensuing Assembly in Maharashtra and Jharkhand and byelections in several states, demand for caste census is in top gear in the demand of the caste census has been per-Opposition camp, while the BJP has been ceived as a tool for dividing society on the silent on it and is meekly supportive. Though not constitutionally valid and having no authentic official database of individuals' caste identity, the caste pol-

itics in the facade of the caste census is

tilingual democratic country like India.

Sujit De | Sujit De

Prioritise student wellbeing

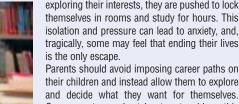
C tudent suicides are rising worldwide. Every day, we read news about young students taking their own lives due to overwhelming pressure. Many of these students are studying far from their families, aiming to crack high-stakes exams like JEE, NEET, UPSC, and CA. Parents often send them away at a young age, where they're not fully prepared to handle the intense stress. At a time in life meant for playing, making friends, and

retrograde and has its own misgivings. While the political spectrum finds this issue as a crowd-puller and hot for winning formula in elections, it lacks commitment to empowering the backwards impartially and fairly and is selective on favouring region wise dominant castes. which is against the principles of equality and natural justice.

Several reports, news, opinions and articles have been published in all the leading newspapers and magazines, as well as on social media. Though the issue of the caste census has not yet come under the judiciary's lens and scrutiny, the issue is a presser in desperation, as if the political class is failing to address the upliftment of the downtrodden, who genuinedeserve governments' welfare schemes with the entire society's helping hand. The caste lines, and a counter has emerged, 'Batenge to Katenge,' which appears to have caught the nerve and put the caste

census demand on defense. Vinod Johri | Delhi

exploring their interests, they are pushed to lock themselves in rooms and study for hours. This isolation and pressure can lead to anxiety, and,



and decide what they want for themselves Governments can also take steps to address this crisis, such as offering personal counselling sessions for students where they can discuss their struggles and implementing mental health awareness programmes in schools and communities. Ultimately, pressuring children to study hard for the sake of a "better future" can end up damaging their wellbeing and happiness. It's far bette to let children decide what they want to work towards rather than forcing them into paths that might not be right for them

Priya Thakur | Ujjain

TEMPLE ATTACK CONDEMNED

Madam — The Canadian soil is becoming a battleground for the anti-India sentiments these days, as the Khalistani groups and supporters managed to score win after win in their anti-India agendas. The recent terror attack in the Hindu temple based in Canada is getting a global backlash and condemna-

India is particularly annoyed with the Canadian authorities for not paving the way for the miscreants who are spoiling India's image and hurting Indian sentiments as a whole. India in particular is condemning this carefully crafted attack on Hindu temples, and this is another low in the Indo-Canadian relationships as a whole. We Indians in particular wish strong Canadian intervention and demand speedy justice from the side of Canadian government and authorities as soon as possible.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

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THE ART OF **HEALING**

True healing must be comprehensive, nurturing both the physical and spiritual self



RAVI VALLURI

umans are creatures of their habits. I was addicted to smoking, drinking and consuming 'Gutakha'. It had become almost a quotidian habit and had taken a severe toll on my health. Ailments could be self-inflicted or they could be a professional hazard. In all such cases, the victim suffers physically and emotionally. The healing must be both physical and spiritual. I vividly recall how the Sri Lankan cricket team was a victim of terror and violence in Lahore. They underwent therapeutic care by psychiatrists and underwent several mind management and mental strengthening therapies. Similarly, the Tsunami victims of 2004, those affected by the 26/11 Mumbai terror strikes and the earthquake victims of Gujarat (2001) and Uttarakhand (2013) were revved up by the bouquet of self-healing courses by several spiritual organisations and professional help offered by numerous self-help groups. Such tragedies are traumatic experiences. Cities, towns, villages and settlements are razed to rubble.

I come back to my story, where like an ignoramus I started consuming liquor, ignoring all warnings. Thus, my moral compass fell prey to the predilections of a weak mind. It was at this time that my mother, a trained social worker, and a practitioner of Siddha and Pranic healing, refused to entertain my supercilious and specious arguments and extolled certain dormant virtues in me so that I could upend the pyramid. My mother was afflicted by repeated attacks of Paroxysmal Atrial Tachycardia (PAT). This is a type of arrhythmia (irregular heartbeat) that is accompanied by severe sweating, dizziness, palpitations, angina and acute breath-



lessness. I had seen my mother suffering from this condition on several occasions and being admitted to the ICU. However, after undergoing the ten-day Vipassana spiritual sojourn, she recovered from the debilitation. She simultaneously learnt Siddha and Pranic healing, which augured well for her recovery.

These healing techniques along with proper medication and diet helped her in healing. This is the unbounded power and scientific attribute of the breath. Breathing techniques, meditation proper medication and diet are all healthy habits. These can change the traction of our lives and rejuvenate the body and mind. During 'Operation Parakram' our defence forces, after a protracted stay of more than a year at our borders, returned to their cantonments. The fractious behaviour of our unfriendly neighbour did not make them lose their sanity. It is not only the deaths, but defence personnel get maimed during such operations.

Further, their mental state becomes foggy and they become highly irritable. Mere administration of drugs does not act as a panacea. It is medication plus something more to revive their physical and mental bodies. As our defence and para-military forces work in hostile environments it is heartening to know that yoga, Vipassana and Art of Living Courses are conducted for them so that they can maintain physical and mental equilibrium. A soldier asked Gurudev whether he would become passive if he continued with his sadhana, to which Guruji responded, "Most certainly not." Further, he added that Gita Upadesh itself was revealed by Lord Krishna during the Mahabharata war. Arjuna regained the power of discrimination after witnessing the "Divine Spectacle." Be it an individual or a cricket team, those affected by environmental disturbances or our defence forces, all require continuous physical and mental healing to continue their journey. The mystic Rumi has succinctly said, "The wound is the place where the light enters you."

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

CoP 29: A pivotal moment to act on climate crisis



BK SINGH

With the upcoming CoP 29 summit in Azerbaijan, world leaders face mounting pressure to deliver on pledges for climate finance and reduced fossil fuel reliance



ack-to-back hurricanes Helene and Milton originating from the Gulf of Mexico, that have battered the western coast of Florida in the United States have led to political debates and blame games ahead of the US Presidential election. The Republican team targeted the Biden-Harris duo for not doing enough to save lives and restore electricity. More than 200 people have perished in each of the hurricanes and also people have lived without electricity for more than 24 hours. Tropical typhoon Trami over the South China Sea claimed more than 150 lives in the Philippines, and 10 in Vietnam, injured thousands and damaged properties and infrastructures in both countries. Further, the deadliest flood in 50 years in Spain has also claimed more than 250 human lives. As against this, India's disaster management response during cyclones has been praiseworthy.

Whether it was cyclone Nisarga on our West coast in 2020 cyclone Fani in West Bengal in 2019, or the recent Dana in Odisha and West Bengal we have evacuated million of people on each occasion in a record time of 24 to 48 hours and as a result, there has hardly been any loss of life. Recent images from Valencia and other regions of Spain, last month's image from Italy where vehicles were swept away as roads became rivers, and before that similar flooding in France, Poland, Austria, and Czech are reminders of frequent flooding and associated misery to people. The global physics of fossil fuels has destabilised the world. The warmer the atmosphere gets; the more moisture it can hold. This would mean more intense downpours and longer

In Spain, a year's worth of rain was dumped in half a day. While India's track record in dealing with disasters is good, what it should relook is its decisions to sacrifice natural forests for infrastructures, development projects and mining. Consumption of coal, oil and natural gas is swelling worldwide, despite leaders knowing that the surge in emission of greenhouse gases leads to increased warming of the planet and we face more destructive and frequent climatic catastrophes. Forests are the best sink for carbon and sacrificing them for GDP is only

to invite more frequent disasters. Earth is already warmed by 1.2 degrees Celsius. The year 2023 has been the warmest in the recorded history of post-industrialisation.

The trend from 2024 till July suggests that we are on course to break the 2023 temperature record. Developed countries are responsible for the warming so far. Scientists are consistently forecasting that beyond 1.5 degrees Celsius warming, part of many countries especially island nations will be submerged in the Sea. United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) has provided a forum for World leaders to meet annually and decide on actions to be taken to keep the warming with-

in 1.5 degrees. In the annual conference (CoP 25) in Paris in 2015 countries pledged their nationally determined contributions (NDC) to DEVELOPED mined continuations (1.2.2.) cut the consumption of fossil fuel COUNTRIES and to develop renewable energy at speed and scale by 2030. Among G20 countries India is the only one, which is on course to fulfil the pledge. Donald Trump as US President in 2017 refused to toe the line with the Paris Agreement and said that climate

> No CoP meeting took place till he was in office. Corona pandemic delayed it further even after Biden took over and CoP 26 at Glasgow was held in November

SPEED AND Here again, leaders reiterated their pledge at Paris and also SCALE IS revived climate finance of \$100 billion that developed countries TO CLIMATE would contribute towards the cost of climate adaptation in the MITIGATION developing world annually. Another rhetoric was started during CoP 27 at Sharm el Sheikh that developed and some developing countries like China would pay for loss and damage in global south countries. This has again not been complied with. The climate finance of \$100 billion and Western nations have gone

Copenhagen CoP in 2009 but has not been complied with so far. African countries and island nations are suffering from extreme climate events like droughts and floods as well as supply chain disruptions owing to geopolitical tensions in West Asia

and Ukraine. Countries like Namibia and Zimbabwe have ordered to cull of thousands of wild elephants (a threatened species) for food. If climate finance and loss and damage funds were made available, there was no need to cull threatened species and endangering the ecological security of the region further. The pledge regard-ing cutting fossil fuel consumption and transition to renewable energy especially by Western nations and China has been overlooked. There has been unprecedented growth in oil and gas drilling in the US and coal production in China.

ers are not on course to fulfil their commitment to bring down fossil fuel consumption by 2030 and achieve net zero by 2050. China has pledged net zero by 2060 and India by 2070. Scientists are telling us to keep the warming within 1.5 degrees lest we face the consequences. 2050 and 2060 are far ahead and the question is whether we will be able to stand the disasters till

During the nomination as Republican presidential candidate in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Trump in his address said to abandon climate - drill baby drill. He cut jokes in his election rallies saying that if the Sea level rises due to warming, the people will have more buildings facing the Sea. The transfer of technology from developed countries to developing and third-world countries for transition to renewable energy at speed and scale is another key to climate mitigation. India, China

annually has been agreed upon in ahead substantially, yet they need to step up their efforts.

Renewable energy transition should take place at such a pace that we automatically cut fossil fuel consumption. Countries' demand at Glasgow CoP 26 to 'phase out' fossil fuel did not have total acceptance and was modified to 'phase down' on the insistence of China and the support of India. Further at Dubai CoP 28 another phrase 'transition away from fossil fuel' was agreed upon. Irrespective of the phrases used in the CoP resolutions, leaders are only concerned about the growth and GDP and are not inclined to bring down fossil fuel consumption.CoP 29 is scheduled to commence in Baku, Azerbaijan on November 13th, when world leaders will again take stock of the situation and roll out further actions.

Unfortunately, the host country along with its neighbours Armenia and Georgia is experi-Biden and other European lead- encing relatively more warming as compared to the global av age. While every nation should put in their efforts to cut emissions, India should have relook at the projects requiring the sacrifice of natural forests, whether for linear infrastructures in the Himalayas, in Western Ghats or deforestation of 130.75 sq km forests for great Nicobar Development projects.

India's track record for growing compensatory afforestation for the trees lost is very poor. Supreme Court recently threatened contempt against agencies for not taking up planting ten times the trees lost in the project. 3700 trees were sacrificed in 2015 for the widening of NH 123 Bharatpur Dholpur road and Apex court's condition to plant up 37000 trees has not been fulfilled

(The writer is retired principal chief conservator of Forests-Head of Forest Force-Karnataka; views are personal)

How AI, big data and personalisation are transforming B-school curricula

THE TRANSFER

TECHNOLOGY

TO DEVELOPING

THIRD-WORLD

TRANSITION

ENERGY AT

COUNTRIES FOR

TO RENEWABLE

ANOTHER KEY

FROM

From integrating AI into decision-making processes to adding global perspectives, B-schools are merging traditional education with innovative technology

n 2024, technology is influencing every aspect of life, Ltransforming the way we communicate, learn, and run businesses. With advancements in Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, IoT, Big Data, Blockchain, and other digital technologies, we are currently navigating the fourth wave of the industry revolu-

Businesses primarily prioritise automation and machinery to enhance workforce operations, with 88 per cent of small business owners using automation to increase their workforce efficiency, according to an Unmudl study. This shift is driving up the demand for digitally literate and tech-savvy professionals in the industry,



PRABHU AGGARWAL

ricula. Following are the revolutionary ways technology is reshaping the business

Reshaping **Business** Education through AI: According to the Future of Jobs Survey, 75 per cent of companies plan to adopt AI technologies in the coming years. This signals a significant shift brought about by technology

Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning are revolutionising how future business leaders think and make decisions, disrupting the traditional learning models. Emerging technologies such as generative AI provide realtime feedback and high-level interactivity, inspiring Bschools to employ learning approaches to develop AI skills in students, thus, preparing them to meet the demands of rapidly evolving business landscape. Integration of Data Analytics into Business Intelligence: Data has become the primary currency in business intelligence, helping businesses make informed decisions to enhance their growth. Technological trends such as inspiring business schools to in business education; the statistical techniques, predicredesign their academic cur- integration of AI and ML. tive analysis, machine learning,

and artificial intelligence allow businesses to identify leading patterns and tailor their offerings. As recent studies by Edge Delta point out, more companies will adopt big data and technology, increasing the employment rate by 58 per cent. To help students stay competitive, B-schools actively embed data analysis into their offered curriculum, improving students' data proficiency. Incorporating data analytics into higher education curricula, particularly in PGDM and MBA programmes, will promote innovation and solution-oriented thinking among students. Experiential Learning and

Real-World Applications: With the rapid inclusion of technology in business, the leading employers are exces-



sively prioritising professionals with industry-ready technical and soft skills. The technologically integrated method of business education complements the traditional teaching pedagogy, preparing students to tackle real-world challenges and provide futuristic solutions. Through industry internships, consultation projects, case studies, and business simulations, B-school students gain hands-on experience and practical skills necessary to shift is especially impactful in

excel in today's competitive job market. While a business degree holds significant importance, practical experience allows students to turn their learnings into actionable

Personalised Learning Approach: The amalgamation of technology and education has made education personal. The traditional learning model employs a one-size-fits-all approach, ignoring individual learning needs. On the other hand, the modern learning model is tailored to meet individualistic demands, making learning seamless for every student. Through tech-integrated personalised education, students can adapt the learning materials and understand at their own pace. This business education, where personalised learning helps students stay current with industry trends, bridge the skill gap, and learn based on their

proficiency. Balance Between Human **Creativity and Automation:** While many view the current era as Industry 4.0, others argue we are swiftly moving towards Industry 5.0. Unlike its predecessor, Industry 5.0 emphasises the well-being of professionals, fostering prosperity beyond jobs and promoting ecologically balanced economic growth. The upcoming industrialisation era envisions close collaboration between humans and AI tools, enhancing operational effi-ciency and cost-effectiveness. This has led top B-schools to thoughtfully curate the core

management courses, integrating human-centricity, sustainability, and automation. Bringing Global Perspective

to Classrooms: Business challenges today are inherently global in nature, such as sustainability issues, supply chain management, foreign regulations, and cultural diversity. By embedding a global outlook in business education, B-schools equip students with essential tools to effectively address these problems. Facilitating worldly industry collaborations and connecting peers from diverse cultures through virtual modes fosters a deeper business understanding in the students, enabling them to

drive positive changes. (The writer is Dean BMS Hyderabad; views are

IN BRIEF



Gold falls Rs 150 to Rs 81,150 per 10 gm

Old prices fell by Rs 150 to Rs 81,150 per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday in line with weak global trends, according to the All India Sarafa Association. Subdued demand from jewellers and retailers also impacted the prices, the association said. However, silver remained flat at Rs 96,700 per kg. Gold of 99.5 per cent purity declined by Rs 150 to Rs 80,750 per 10 grams against the previous close of Rs 80,900 per 10 grams on Tuesday. In the futures trade, gold contracts for December delivery fell by Rs 333 or 0.42 per cent to Rs 78,174 per 10 grams on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX). During the day, the yellow metal plunged Rs 1,007 or 1.3 per cent to hit a low of Rs 77,500 per 10 grams. "Gold prices experienced intense volatility, fluctuating sharply between Rs 78,500 and Rs 77,500, as the US election outcome bolstered the dollar index. "This dollar strength pushed gold to lows of Rs 77,500 and USD 2,700 in dollar terms.



IGX sees three times jump in gas volume trade

he Indian Gas Exchange (IGX) traded 8 million MMBtu of gas volume in October, nearly triple as compared to the previous month, the exchange said in a statement. Decreased administered gas allocations to the city gas sector and high global LNG prices contributed to increased trade volumes, it said. The Gas Index of India (GIXI) for October 2024 was Rs 1,098 (USD 13) per million British thermal unit (MMBtu), lower by 4 per cent from last month. GIXI-South was Rs 986 (USD 11.7) per MMBtu and GIXI-West Rs 1,102 (USD 13.1) per MMBtu. Different spot international gas benchmark prices were recorded in October. "A total of 124 trades were executed in October 2024. The most active delivery point for free market gas was Dahej and KG Basin for ceiling price gas, other trading delivery points were - Hazira. Suvali, Mhaskal, Ankot, and Bokaro," the statement said. Around 72 per cent of the total volume was traded at Dahej delivery.



Reserve Bank amends master direction on KYC

he Reserve Bank on Wednesday made changes to the Know Your Customer (KCC) norms to align them with recent amendments carried out in the Prevention of Money Laundering (Maintenance of Records) Rules and revised certain existing instructions. According to the Amendment to the Master Direction - Know Your Customer (KYC) Direction, 2016, regulated entities (REs) will have to apply the customer due diligence (CDD) procedure at the unique customer identification code (UCIC) level. "Thus, if an existing KYC-compliant customer of a RE desires to open another account or avail any other product or service from the same RE, there shall be no need for a fresh CDD exercise as far as identification of the customer is concerned." it said. The amended provisions in the Master Direction have come into force with immediate effect, said the circular issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in this regard. Amendments have also been made regarding CDD Procedure and sharing KYC information with the Central KYC Records Registry (CKYCR).

TRUMP 2.0 MAY BRING NEW CHANCES

India better placed than China in trade with US: Experts

Donald Trump's Presidency of the United States will open new opportunities for India though certain sectors, especially pharma and IT, may face the heat if the incoming president decides to impose restrictions on imports and H1B visa regulations, experts said on Wednesday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's friendly relationship with Trump will have a positive bearing on Indo-US relations but India may have to adapt its strategies to maintain cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

Former Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar said: "Trump's presidency can be a new opportunity for India. Trump will impose tariffs and import restrictions on countries that he thinks are not friendly to the US, like China and even some European countries, and this can open markets for Indian exports".

Barclays, in a research report on Wednesday, said trade pol-



icy is where Trump is likely to Kumar said Trump will see India as a friendly country, and be "most consequential" for emerging Asia, which includes it can expect larger invest-India and China. ments by US firms into India.

"We estimate Trump's tariff ...overall, Trump's victory is proposals would subtract 2 per a very positive development cent from China's GDP - and for the Indian economy," he greater pain on the more open added. Madras School of economies in the rest of the Economics Director NR region," Barclays said. The Bhanumurthy said: "I doubt, more domestically oriented Trump will impose tariff on economies, including India, Indian products because my Indonesia and the Philippines, own feeling is that the concern would be less vulnerable to for the US is not much of higher tariffs, it added. India, but more of China. So,

ference in the way they are going to deal with India when compared to the way they deal with China". However, some experts feel

that his trade protectionist views could have some negative views could have some negative impact on India's exports and might exert some pressure on the rupee in the short term. Since Trump's protectionism philosophy of economics is well known, the process of globalisation may become more globalisation may become more strategic and less fair to emerging economies, including India, NIPFP visiting Professor Pinaki Chakraborty said. The Trump administration is likely to bring renewed trade tensions, with potential adverse effects on Îndia's key export sectors and capital inflows, said Client Associates director (investment, research and advisory) Nitin Aggarwal.

The economic outlook for India will depend on how quickly the US economy adjusts to the policy changes coming after the Trump administration

PSBs asked to meet loan targets for agri-allied sector

PNS NEW DELHI

The finance ministry has asked public sector banks (PSBs) to meet loan targets for the agri-allied sector during the current financial year.

Department of Financial Services Secretary M Nagaraju in a meeting held on Tuesday reviewed the progress of credit disbursement to agri-allied activities

husbandry, dairy-ing and fisheries with Public Sector Banks (PSBs), NABARD and State/ UT Level Bankers' Committee.

ties like animal

Representatives of state governments/UTs, the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying and the Department of Fisheries also participated in the discussions, the finance ministry said on Wednesday.

The secretary urged PSBs to take all necessary steps to ensure that respective targets are met during the current financial year and stressed

the state governments to facilitate banks in improving the flow of credit to these sectors.

Nagaraju underscored the importance of the allied sector in driving agricultural growth and its employment potential in rural areas and highlighted the trend of regional disparity in credit

disbursement in allied activities.

He also directed banks to conduct regional-level assessments/meetings to ensure disbursement of cred-

it in all areas as all regions have huge potential in allied activities. During the meeting, NABARD was asked to coordinate with state line departments and LDMs in the identification of fish farmers and providing them with the benefit of the KCC scheme.

He underlined the central government's focus on seamless access to affordable credit to allied sectors and urged all stakeholders to take all necessary steps to increase credit flow to the sector.

Trump win ignites crypto frenzy

PNS LONDON

The price of bitcoin hit a new high Wednesday as investors bet that former President Donald Trump's victory in the US presidential election will be a boon for cryptocur-

Bitcoin jumped nearly 8% in early trading, climbing above \$75,000 and smashing its previous record set in March. Other cryptocurrencies also soared, including ether, the world's second most popular cryptocurrency after bitcoin, which rallied 8%.

Trump was previously a crypto sceptic but changed his mind and took a favourable view of cryptocurrencies ahead of the election.

He pledged to make America "the crypto capital of the planet" and create a "strategic reserve" of bitcoin. His campaign accepted donations in cryptocurrency and he courted crypto fans at a bitcoin conference in July. He also launched World Liberty



tocurrencies. Bitcoin is up 77% this year.

"Bitcoin is the one asset that was always going to soar if Trump returned to the White House," said Russ Mould, investment director at AJ Bell, a British online investment platform. After touching its new high, the market is now speculating about "when, not if, it will smash through \$100,000," he said.

"Trump has already declared his love of the digital currency and crypto traders now have a new narrative by which to get family members to trade cryp- the price could go," Mould said. Congress to deliver it."

Crypto industry advocates welcomed Trump's victory, in hopes that he would be able to push through legislative and regulatory changes that they've long lobbied for.
"Tonight the crypto voter

has spoken decisively — across party lines and in key races across the country," said Brian Armstrong, CEO of Coinbase, one of the biggest cryptocurrency exchanges.
"Americans disproportion-

ately care about crypto and want clear rules of the road for digital assets. We look forward working with the new

Will work closely with new US administration: Nasscom

PNS NEW DELHI

Nasscom on Wednesday said it looks forward to working closely with the new US administration to strengthen the dynamic technology partnership between the two nations, as the IT industry association described the tech sector as the "key lynchpin" of the US-India bilateral engagement.

The US is the largest market for India's USD 254 billion tech sector where its overall contribution is USD 80 billion to American GDP, Nasscom said in a statement.

Notably, the industry plays a key role in supporting US companies in strengthening the American economy.

Conversely, India is a prime destination for American businesses, with over 1,000 US companies driving innovation and leverstructure to create competitive solutions, according to

"Huge congratulations to President Donald J Trump on his election victory," Nasscom

The tech sector is the key lynchpin of the US-India bilateral engagement, Nasscom noted.

As the tech industry association in India representing both Indian and the US tech companies, Nasscom said it looks forward to working closely with the new US administration to strengthen the dynamic tech partnership between the two nations.

"As the largest and oldest democracies, we look forward to collaborating on various areas including AI and cybersecurity," it further said.

Nasscom emphasised it remains committed to advancing this collaboration for a democratic, inclusive innovation

Earlier on Wednesday, Nasscom Chairperson Sindhu Gangadharan had emphasised that India and the US have maintained

strong ties in strategic areas

of cooperation and technol-

ogy over the years and that focus is expected to contin-Nasscom's views assume

significance as there have been concerns in certain quarters about the implications of US Presidential elections for the USD 254 billion Indian outsourcing industry as well as on employmentbased immigration. On how she sees the US

election outcome impacting the Indian industry, Gangadharan told PTI: "I think India and the US have always focused on strategic areas of cooperation, when it comes to tech...there's no doubt that the cooperation over the last years.'

'Tremendous opportunity for growth in India, APAC region'

US-based Zero Motorcycles sees tremendous growth opportunity in India where it has tied up with Hero MotoCorp for co-developing premium electric bikes, according to CEO Sam Paschel.

The California-based firm, which specialises in electric motorcycles and powertrains, feels that it needs to have a product which could help it penetrate the price-sensitive market.

"We see tremendous opportunities for us in those (APAC and India) markets. But I think you have to have a product that fits the use case and the price points of those markets," Zero Motorcycles CEO Sam Paschel told PTI here in an interaction.

In future, the company will have models that should allow it to start penetrating the Asia



Pacific and India as key markets, he added.

Zero Motorcycles, which is a global leader in electric motorcycles and powertrains, currently sells the majority of its vehicles in the US and

Terming Hero MotoCorp as a long-term committed development partner, Paschel noted that partners are developing electric vehicles togeth-

ner for us to attack the Indian market. For us, Asia, APAC are very large two-wheeler markets. Most of them end up being mid or low-price. So you need vehicles that are within the strike zone of what the price for most consumers are, and we're moving there quickly," he noted.

In September 2022, Hero MotoCorp's board approved an equity investment of up to USD 60 million in Zero. In 2023 the companies announced collaboration for the development of premium electric bikes.

When asked about the company's long-term plans for the Indian market, Paschel said: 'That's definitely where it will start (partnership with Hero MotoCorp). That's the first step. They are absolutely the right partner. We are so proud of the partnership."

IPO subscribed 52 pc on day 2

Sagility India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The initial public offer of Sagility India Ltd, a technology-enabled services provider in the healthcare space, received a 52 per cent subscription on day two of bidding on Wednesday.

The initial share sale received bids for 20,09,58,500 shares against 38,70,64,594 shares on offer, as per NSE data.

The portion for retail

individual investors (RIIs) fetched 2.24 times subscription while the quota for non-institutional investors got subscribed 24 per cent. The qualified institutional buyers (QIBs) part received a 7 per cent subscription.

Sagility India Ltd on Monday said it has mobilised over Rs 945 crore from anchor investors.

IT stocks sparkle; TCS, Infosys jump over 4 pc

PNS NEW DELHI

IT stocks appreciated sharply on Wednesday, fuelling a rally in the benchmark indices after it became clear that Donald Trump will take over as the next US president for the second

Shares of Tata Consultancy Services surged 4.21 per cent, Infosys jumped 4.02 per cent, Tech Mahindra soared 3.85 per cent, and HCL Technologies climbed 3.71 per cent on the BSE. Also, Persistent Systems zoomed 5.86 per cent, LTIMindtree jumped 4.75 per cent, and Wipro advanced 3.75

The BSE IT index surged 4.04

Trump on Wednesday won the US presidency for a second term in one of the greatest political comebacks in American history, cruising past his Democratic rival Kamala Harris in a bitterly fought election.

"Given their significant presence in the US market, IT companies may benefit from a rebound in US equities following the Republican sweep in the US elections, which is one of the major factors behind today's gain in the Indian stock market.

"Strong quarterly results from IT companies or optimistic profit expectations could stimulate purchasing interest. Another reason is that Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) may be reviving their interest in Indian IT stocks, which would raise buying pressure," Pravesh Gour, Senior Technical Analyst, Swastika Investmart Ltd, said.

Home-cooked meals become dearer on costlier vegetables

PNS MUMBAI

Both vegetarian and non-vegetarian home-cooked meals became costlier in October due to a pick up in vegetable prices, a report said on Wednesday.

The cost of a vegetarian thali increased by 20 per cent to Rs 33.3 per plate compared to the year-ago period and was also up from Rs 31.3 in September primarily due to the surge in vegetable prices, a division of rating agency

Crisil said. The monthly 'roti rice rate' report said onion prices were up 46 per cent on year in October, while potato prices were up 51 per cent primarily due to the continuing rains, which led to lower arrivals and also impacted harvests in Maharashtra and Karnataka, it The report also said that the

prices of tomatoes more than doubled to Rs 64 per kg from Rs 29 per kg in the year-ago period as rains impacted the arrivals, the report said, adding that prices of this commodity are likely to stabilise from November with supplies from Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Himachal



The report said vegetable prices have a 40 per cent weightage in the overall thali cost and hence fluctuations impacted the overall costs.

Prices of pulses which have an 11 per cent weight in a veg-etable meal, were up by 11 per cent during the month due to lower opening stock, lower stock pipeline and festive demand, the report said, adding that a cool down in prices is expected from

December on fresh arrivals. An 11 per cent drop on year in fuel cost helped restrict the jump in meal costs, the report

In the case of a non-vegetarian thali, a 9 per cent decline in broiler prices which accounts for half of the thali cost led to a relatively slower uptick in costs, the report

A home-made non-veg thali cost Rs 61.6 in October as against Rs 59.3 in the month-ago period and Rs 58.6 in the year-ago period, the report said.

Vegetable prices, which account for 22 per cent of the non-veg thali costs, also influenced the overall non-veg thali cost, it said

NORTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED CIN No.U40109TG2000SGC034119 nort Tender Notice No. 02/2024-25(As per ROR Point No.16 (ST Reserved), ROR Point No: 21 (SC Reserved)) of specification Nos. 15/2024-25 to 23/2024-25 of DEEIOP/

Sealed tenders are invited from TGNPDCL registered contractors of Karimnagor Distric Erstwhile) for verious electrical works in Poddapally division of operation circle Peddapally The details of works and other information can be obtained from our website www.tgnpddi.in Sd/- Divisional Engineer Elect

Operation, Peddapalh eProcurement Short Tender Notice No.02/24-25 to 07/24-25 of the SE/OP/

TGNPDCL / NZB. Bid No. 02/24-25 to 07/24-25 of the SE/OP/TGNPDCL/NZB arme of the Work : Erection or 33KV Interlinking Lines at various locations in Operatio ww.tgnpdcl.com Sd/- Superintending Engineer

TENDER NOTICE No. 04/2024-25 OF SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER/ OPERATION/KHAMMAM WITH SPECIFICATION Nos: 01, 02, 03, 04 & 05/2024-25 Seeled tenders are invited from TGNPDCL registered contractors towards the Erection

wallous 33KV interlinking Lines for providing of alternative supply to various 33KH KV Stu Stations in Operation Circle, Khammam. The details of works and other information can be obtained from our vebsite: www.tgnpdcl.in. Sd/- Superintending Engine Operation Circle, Khamma

R.O. No.: 6285-PP/CL/ADVTH12024-25, Dt. 66-11-2024

ELVACE Pioneer Dack

TEJAL SINHA tejal.sinha30@gmail.com

ith the gentle rustle of leaves, the soft whisper of prayers and warm rays of the sun dancing across the city, a city that embraces diversity and culture, Hyderabad gears up to celebrate the majestic festival of Chhath Puia, an evidence of Bihar's rich cultural heritage. With Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh's biggest festivals of the year beginning with Nahay Khay, Lohanda and Kharna coming to an end, today we celebrate the main day

to an end, today we celebrate the main day of this auspicious festival in Hyderabad.

Keeping alive this tradition of the Bihari community, the Bihar Association in Hyderabad plays a pivotal role in recreating the authentic spirit of Chhath Puja in the city, fostering unity, cultural exchange and social bonding. With elaborate rituals, traditional folk songs and cultural events, the association recreates the tural events, the association recreates the magical ambiance of Bihar's Chhath ghats in Hyderabad. From sunrise to sunset, devotees gather to offer arghya to the Sun God, seeking blessings, prosperity and well-being. As the association celebrates well-being. As the association celebrates Chhath Puja, it reaffirms its loyalty to preserving Bihar's cultural legacy, fostering a sense of belonging among the Bihari community and enriching Hyderabad's cultural landscape. Established in 1986, the Bihar Association in Hyderabad has been a beacon of community and cultural preservation for the Bihari diaspora. Manvendra Mishra, trustee member and advisor, shares the association's journey.

"The association was started in 1986 when people of the Bihari diaspora were when people of the Bhart diaspora were increasing in the city. Our seniors thought, 'Why don't we all come together and make a group of our own?' Mishra recounts. "Even then, we used to do many social activities and cultural gatherings. However, in the late '90s, the association got dull since the body was not so dynamic. In 2008, it was again reactivated and since then has been rigorously working."

Looking back at their history, they had

Osmania University. Back then, there were not many Biharis residing here in Hyderabad! It would be a moment of happiness to even know there's anyone, Bihari. Today, the association comprises people from different corners of Bihar, Jharkhand and UP, representing

MAHASANGAM OF BIHARI **CULTURE IN HYDERABAD**

Behind the vibrant celebrations of Chhath **Puja in Hyderabad lies a** story of community and culture. Uncovering the spirit of the Bihari community in Hyderabad, **The Pioneer** engages in an exclusive conversation with Manvendra Mishra. **Trustee Member and Advisor of Bihar Association**, exploring the association's contributions to cultural preservation

all sub-castes of Biharis.

"We organise many gatherings like Holi Milan, Diwali Milan, so people from the city can get to know each other. We also facilitate marriages within the community, making it easier for people to find suitable matches," explains Mishra. The association's efforts have transformed the community's social landscape.

Coming to the Chhath Puja, the association begins to start preparations for it, about a month back itself. Adding to Manvendra, Binod Kumar Gupta, the treasurer of the association, says, "In all



these places, we've been getting the cleaning and lighting done. We also have got area-wise incharges for the Chhath Puja ghats, where the association takes care of including Tank Bund, Uppal, Nagole, Fox Sagar, Suraram, Miyapur, Patancheru,

Hafeezpet, Durgah, Ameenpur, Mallapur, Hasmathpet, Gangaram, RC Puram, Katedhan, Shamirpet, Nallagandla, Shamshabad, Balanagar, Necklace Road and many other baby ponds in and around the city." Amongst these ghats, the

ghat in Tank Bund, opposite Marriott, has the biggest crowd gathering. Every Ghat has all the facilities for the devotees. "Last year, we invited Kesari Lal and Pawan Singh for the Chhath Puja celebrations. During the chhath puja, one

can just not recognise if it's Bihar or Hyderabad," adds Gupta. Then Mishra continues, "One of our achievements is making a Bihar Bhavan here in Hyderabad. We have approached the government many times; however, we haven't

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got it from them yet. The previous government had helped many people get land and had given funds too. Somehow, the Bihar association has still not gotten their chance yet. So what we did was, we ourselves brought a 200 gaj ki zameen and made a 2-story building and named it Bihar Bhavan. We organise our meetings and all of it there itself." The association has played a significant role in transforming the perception of Biharis in Hyderabad. "Earlier, Biharis were associated with low-level jobs," Mishra notes. "Now, many are IAS and IPS officers and business leaders. Arvind Kumar, the former Chief Secretary of Telangana, for example, hails from Bihar." The community's growth is evident in the increasing recognition of Chhath Puja and Bihari culture. "People today eat Litti chokha with so much delight."

The office bearers of the association have The office bearers of the association have made sure to yearly approach the government and make representations about the pooja and its importance for the community. This year, the 1st *Argh* will take place on November 7, 2024, from 3:00 pm to 1:00 pm and the 2nd *Argh* will be held on November 8, 2024, from 4:00 am to 8:00 pm at Pathylarman Chat at Tarla Rund am at Bathukamma Ghat at Tank Bund opposite Marriott hotel, which will mark the presence of Tourism Minister G. Kishan Reddy, Sanath Nagar MLA Talasani Srinivas Yadav, along with other dignitaries of the association.

As the Bihar Association continues to thrive, its impact extends beyond the community. Manvendra Mishra aptly puts it, "It's heartening to see people from other backgrounds participate in our celebrations." This sentiment encapsulates the association's vision of unity, inclusivity and cultural preservation. As the Bihar Association moves forward, its legacy as a beacon of community spirit and cultural pride will continue to inspire generations to come. Through its various initiatives, including Chhath Puja celebrations, social gatherings and charitable activities, the association has created a sense of belonging among Biharis in Hyderabad. This year, just like previous ones, the city is all set to welcome Bihari superstars and their presence is making the celebrations even livelier.

As the association continues to grow and thrive, its impact extends beyond the community. By promoting cultural exchange and understanding, the Bihar Association has helped break down barriers and build bridges between different communities in Hyderabad. Its efforts have not only preserved Bihari heritage but also contributed to the city's rich culture.

Designing iconic spaces, from Supreme Court to Rashtrapati Bhavan

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e interviewed Dr Masooma Rizvi today because it appears that she has worked on projects that will last a lifetime, including the Supreme Court of India, Rashtrapati Bhavan, the New Parliament Building, 27 airports and a representation of Lord Ram's Return at the Maharishi Valmiki International Airport in Ayodhya Dham. Her work narrates India's fascinating cultural story with passion and elegance, combining tradition and modern flair in a wonderful way! Her creative ventures provide a visual and emotional experience that speaks to the heart and uplifts the spirit by skillfully fusing art and culture.

She explains: "Respect for India's heritage and a desire to create environments that connect our rich cultural history to the present are the driving forces behind my work. Every project should make people feel proud and like they belong, especially those located in iconic locations like Rashtrapati Bhavan or the New Parliament Building. For this reason, I adhere to ideas like Vocal for Local, which guarantees the participation of underrepresented local artists and contributes authentic stories to the venues I curate." She sees art as a bridge that depicts the journey of our nation while bringing disparate cultural components together. The selection of each selected item and space design is based on its capacity to provoke discussion between the past and the present in addition to its aesthetic value. These works of art serve as storytellers in certain respects, emulating the values of fortitude, solidarity, and inventiveness that form the cornerstones of our national identity.

She says: "Maintaining this balance calls on both competence and accountability. My strategy is to see modernity and heritage as complementary forces that may strengthen each other. Every choice is motivated by the desire to respect tradition while embracing modernity, creating spaces that seem timeless and current. I emphasise the enduring qualities of old art forms, techniques and narratives when working on projects that protect India's cultural legacy. But I also make use of contemporary architectural features and materials to guarantee longevity, usefulness and relevance in the modern world." Traditional art is exhibited in ways that align with contemporary space aesthetics, demonstrating the careful integration. For instance, advanced technologies and environmentally friendly materials could be used as the base, with aspects of our history included into the surface design. In addition to maintaining cultural significance, this integration keeps the areas creative and appealing to audiences today.

She adds: "When designing public areas like courts and airports, a whole new design criterion is used. The airports act as entry points to Indian culture and welcome millions of visitors. This calls for striking a delicate balance between unique cultural identity and inclusivity. Accessibility, or areas that are both aesthetically pleasing and physically hospitable to people from all backgrounds, is, in my opinion, the first step in creating an inclusive atmosphere. To ensure that everyone feels included and at ease, this is achieved through clever layout planning, user-friendly design and universal symbols that speak to a variety of demographics." She used a palette of symbols, motifs and colours derived from our background to highlight aspects that encapsulate India's diverse culture and give these locations a distinctively Indian feel. She gave each location a unique character while connecting it to the larger Indian story by fusing regional art forms, such as paintings and sculptures, that represent the local culture. She worked with regional artists and craftspeople to produce décor that honours India's

From airports to iconic government buildings, Dr Masooma Rizvi's work seamlessly integrates art, culture and tradition, reflecting India's diverse story. In this exclusive conversation, she reveals the driving forces behind her creative genius, her approach to inclusive design and her vision for **India's evolving national aesthetic**



rich cultural heritage while also preserving traditional techniques and environmentally conscious ideals.

She clarifies, "By using this method, locations that embody Indian culture are created, allowing tourists to take in a little bit of our nation's depth and artistic diversity. Every visitor will have a memorable and significant experience at these locations, which reflect India's variety and togetherness by fusing historical customs with modern ideas. When creating courts, the subject must be clear and the artwork must be understated. An excellent illustration is the Supreme Court of India Annexe, which features themed artwork inspired by the Court's several seminal rulings."

Storytelling is essential to her design for the Maharishi Valmiki International Airport in order to create an atmosphere that deeply connects with guests. She tackled this by using visual art that embodies the spirit of the area to weave together historical and cultural narratives. More than merely a stunning feature, the mural of Lord Ram's Return connects visitors to the spiritual and cultural significance of Ayodhya by acting as a narrative thread. After all, the sole reason people travel to



Ayodhya is to worship Lord Ram in his home and it truly does feel like a farewell! "For instance, the 180-foot-long Madhubani panel honours traditional inventiveness while adding a contemporary twist to historical themes and improving the airport's atmosphere. Overseeing a multicultural team of more than 100 painters from several states enabled the blending of regional styles and methods, which enhanced the story. In addition to encouraging inclusivity, this collaborative endeavour honours the diverse fabric of Indian culture and makes sure that each visitor may relate to the tales being told. Consequently, the airport becomes a gateway to understanding and valuing Ayodhya's cultural heritage," she shares.

She believes that women contribute a distinct viewpoint to Indian architectural and cultural spaces, one characterised by empathy, teamwork and a deeper understanding of community needs as a woman in a traditionally male-dominated field. Her own experiences were characterised by doubts about her abilities, particularly when she first began working in architecture. She had to confidently assert her position when others asked her, 'Where is the main architect?' She now has a better understanding of the value of representation and the contributions of diverse voices to the design process as a result of the journey.

A more harmonious fusion of traditional and modern architectural styles will characterise India's national aesthetic as it develops and grows. The three main ideas that will characterise this advancement are inclusivity, cultural authenticity and sustainability. Using ancient methods and local resources as inspiration, architects will give priority to eco-friendly materials and energy-efficient designs that blend in with the environment. Future designs will continue to emphasise cultural authenticity by reinterpreting ancient forms and themes from a modern perspective. She concludes, "Lastly, I want my work to make an impression that people will remember and encourage others to share their experiences and opinions. By doing this, I want to rekindle interest in India's cultural treasures, allowing people to engage with our common history more deeply and appreciating the narrative and connecting potential of art and architecture. During Sushma ji's stint as Minister of External Affairs, I incorporated Indian textile themes into architectural spaces in our embassies overseas, giving them a distinctively Indian feel! I encourage women who are just starting out to have huge aspirations and to pursue them with unshakable determination. Even though your path may not always be straightforward, keep in mind that every significant achievement starts with a vision and the will to follow it. Since you may achieve your goals if you are passionate and determined, embrace setbacks as learning opportunities.



Heal, grow, thrive

he state of your mental health affects how you think, feel, and ultimately act. It's crucial that we express these emotions with others daily. We are talking about mental health these days, but are we really taking care of ourselves? It is very difficult to accept the fact that I have some stress or anxiety that needs immediate

Mental health is critically important because it affects every aspect of a person's life, including their emotional well-being. relationships, physical health, and daily functioning

Good mental health helps people cope with stress, make sound decisions, and handle life's challenges with resilience. It supports a sense of inner peace, balance, and emotional stability. This state leads to poor physical health: poor mental health can contribute to physical issues like weakened immune systems, high blood pressure, and chronic diseases. Conversely, good mental health can lead to healthier habits and better overall well-being. It impacts positive relationships. It enhances communication, empathy, and emotional connection, which are essential for family, friendships, and work-related

Prevention of disorders: Prioritizing mental health can prevent the development or worsening of mental health disorders such as depression, anxiety, or substance abuse. Early intervention and support are key to avoiding long-term consequences.

How can you take care of vour mental health?

Asking care of mental health involves adopting techniques and habits that promote emotional well-being and resilience. Here are some effective techniques:

Mindfulness and meditation: Everyone is talking about mindfulness and meditation.

Meditation is a technique that teaches you to control your thought process, and it takes time. It is important to practice in the right way with the right mindset. This involves staying present and fully engaging in the current moment. It can reduce stress and improve emotional regulation.

2. Physical activity: Any physical activity that you like the most and that is easy to adapt to is important. It releases endorphins, the body's natural stress relievers. Whether it's walking, running, yoga, or sports, moving your body can improve mood and reduce anxiety. Outdoor activities are better than

3. Sleep cycle: A regular sleep routine: Prioritise 7-9 hours of sleep per night and maintain a consistent sleep routine to maintain emotional balance. Avoid screens before bed and inculcate the habit of reading.

4. Healthy diet: Nutrient-rich foods, including fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and omega-3 fatty acids, support brain health. Reducing caffeine and sugar can also help prevent mood swings. Drink enough water throughout the day to maintain optimal brain function.

5. Emotional awakening: talk about your feelings, sharing your emotions with friends and family wherever you are comfortable. It is important to take professional help.

8. Relaxation techniques: Deep breathing: Slow, deep breathing helps calm the nervous system, reducing stress and anxiety.

9. Positive thinking and gratitude: By incorporating these techniques into daily life, we can build resilience and maintain better mental health. Your brain is listening to you!

the pioneer Hyderabad | Thursday November 7, 2024

/IBES has opened its sixth Hyderabad center in Habsiguda through





wellness and aesthetic services. Equipped with advanced

rejuvenation and hair care treatments.









Tejaswi Madivada

what's brewing?

TASTE THE HEART

Introducing AIDU's latest culinary chapter: an authentic Telangana-inspired menu that brings the vibrant flavours of the state to life, nestled within the unique setting surrounded by nature. This new menu is a celebration of Telangana's rich culinary heritage, featuring traditional ingredients and locally-inspired techniques. From the smoky allure of *Kalchina Kodi Kebab* and *Nalla Karam Chicken Wings* to the tender richness of *Karimnagar Lamb Chops*, each dish pays homage to the heart of Telangana. For vegetarians, highlights like *Karivepaku Paneer* and *Palleturi Mushroom Vepudu* bring the depth of regional spices and flavours to the fore. Main courses include Telangana clas-

sics such as Pachi Pulusu with Mudda Pappu, Mulakada

sics such as Pachi Pulusu with Mudda Pappu, Mulakada Mamsam and the soul-warming Talakaya Kura.

The menu also offers a variety of biryanis and rice dishes, including the aromatic Hyderabadi Chicken Dum Biryani and the tangy Gongura Mutton Pulao, all crafted to evoke the true spirit of Telangana. For a sweet finale, desserts like Shahi Tukra Tart with Sitafal Cream and Double Ka Meetha add a delectable, regional twist to beloved classics.

The ambiance is designed to transport diners into the cultural heart of South India, where each dish is artistically plated on a plantain leaf and set against interiors that reflect southern luxury and warmth.



Student tribe, held an empowering tribe meet in Hyderabad on Wednesday, uniting 1500 students from 60 colleges for a day of networking, learning and inspiration. The event honoured resilience by awarding the Rs 50,000 Diva scholarship to determined students overcoming financial hardships to pursue higher education in memory of Diva, a former student of the tribe.



Johnie Walker Refreshing Mixer presents the Silhouettes *Tour*, featuring the singer, producer and songwriter, Prateek Kuhad They have orchestrated this musical spectacle to bring the magic and madness of Prateek Kuhad to Hyderabad.



Building blocks groups founded by M. V. Mallikarjuna Reddy, headquarted in Hyderabad has become a leader in plotted real estate development across India. With over 240 projects in regions like Shadnagar, Sadashivpet and Vishakapatnam, it has empowered 1.4 lakh land investors provided financial ndependence to over 20,000 business associates.

ARCHIE







CALVIN AND HOBBES



REALITY CHECK

THE KINGDOM WAS DOING

WELL UNTIL THAT WHOLE "LET THEM EAT CAKE" THING-

STATE of the KINGDOM



SPEED BUMP

SCREEN FOR BIO







GARFIELD



I'M MY OWN PERSON!

NO, I DON'T WANT TO BUY A RUBBER MEOW MEOW MOUSE

MEOW









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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 5 Wash the soap out of 6 A green vegetable

- 1 A shawl keeps these warm 6 Move along on hands and knees
- 7 Parts of a skeleton
- 9 Young males
- 10 Picture theatre
- 12 Reply 14 A hard black fuel
- 17 Vote into power
- 18 Thoughts 19 Exactly the same
- DOWN 2 Very weighty 3 Grotesque

4 Capital city of the

Republic of Ireland



8 Housing for horses

13 How quickly something

moves or happens

15 A sung stage drama

11 Defeated

16 Short skirt

GINGER MEGGS









CITADEL: HONEY BUNNY SAMANTHA IS ACTION QUEEN IN THIS SPY-VERSE

Citadel spans two timelines, 1992 and 2000, tracing the story of Honey (Samantha), a small-town woman who moves to Bombay with dreams of becoming an actress. The road to stardom, however, is fraught with obstacles and she finds herself struggling to gain a foothold in the industry. Her boyfriend (Varun Dhawan), who works as a stuntman, harbours a hidden life as an undercover agent. When Honey uncovers his secret, she is drawn to his world, hoping it might bring her the sense of purpose that the film indus-try hasn't. But when one of their missions goes wrong, the repercussions follow them into the future, forcing them to confront past choices and the stakes they now face.

Performances

Samantha delivers a compelling performance as Honey, portraying her journey from hopeful actress to determined field agent with intensity and grit. Her character's transformation is relatable, infused with resilience that makes her stand out. Varun Dhawan, as her partner leading a double life, balances the demands of action scenes with moments that reveal his character's vulnerability, bringing depth to his role. The sup-porting cast, comprising seasoned actors, enhances the authenticity of the spy agency environment, especially in high-tension scenes involving covert operations and loyalty tests.

Highlights

Directors Raj & DK infuse Citadel with their distinctive style, blending Indian elements into the global spy narrative. Known for their previous successes like *The Family Man* and *Farzi*, they collaborate here with



the Russo Brothers (Avengers: Endgame), creating a storyline that's rooted in India while appealing internationally. The series examines themes of ambition, secrecy and betrayal, all while exploring the high-stakes world of espionage. Samantha and Varun's chemistry adds a compelling layer, especially in moments charged with trust and tension. The overarching plot keeps viewers engaged with its intrigue and suspense, centering on two opposing agencies vying for ground-breaking technology. A young actor playing a significant role impresses with a standout performance.

Drawbacks

The storyline occasionally leans on familiar spy tropes, making certain plot points feel predictable. The character arcs, though strong, could benefit from a deeper exploration of their psychological struggles, particularly Honey's journey as she transitions from aspiring actress to agent.

Technical aspects

The cinematography effectively immerses viewers in the look and feel of the 1990s and 2000s, capturing both the lively atmosphere of Bombay and the intensity of undercover operations. Action scenes are skillfully choreographed with a focus on realism, though the series sometimes suffers from pacing issues, with certain transitions between timelines feeling abrupt.

Citadel offers an engaging spy thriller with standout performances by Samantha, Kay Kay Menon and Varun Dhawan. While some aspects of the storyline feel familiar, the series is visually strong and fast-paced, promising plenty of suspense for fans of espionage.

CHETAN ON TREND OF THRILLERS

Why *Dhoom Dhaam* stands out?



SURESH KAVIRAYANI

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hetan is known for films like First Rank Raju, Beach Road hetan is known for films like First Rank Raju, Beach Road Chetan, Rojulu Maaray and Gulf. Now, the actor is playing lead in the film Dhoom Dhaam which is hitting the screens on November 8. "The movie is complete entertainment and this is going to be a typical commercial film for me," said Chetan.

The actor said writer Gopi Mohan is his father's friend. "Gopi Mohan is known for his kind of comedy films, so we approached him for a story and he provided this Dhoom Dhaam," said Chetan. Sai Kishore is the director, while Hebah Patel is the heroine. "Earlier I tried different concept based films and now for the first time I am try-

tried different concept based films and now for the first time I am trying an entertainment film with this," said the actor. He hopes that this film gives the commercial a break!

The actor is talking about the film and why it got delayed. "At Covid time we discussed this subject and the film has a lot of combination actors, so it takes time," said Chetan. He added that he is a fan of Gopi Mohan's scripts because he creates stories that can be enjoyed by the whole family. Talking about this film, he said that it is based on the concept of a father doing anything for his son and vice versa. "This film has all the commercial ingredients into the narrative. I played a rich, spoiled kid," he said about his character. He added that the first half of the film is going smoothly and in the second half the hilarious scenes start. "Especially after Vennela Kishore entered, the film is a laugh-riot," he said. "There are many popular artists in this film and I made sure to prepare thoroughly to match their performance levels. But the real challenge is to match Vennela Kishore's timing. He is not only quick in his dialogues but also adds his inputs to them spontaneously. So, to match his timing is very difficult, but I manage. He also helped me in between the shots and how to prepare for the scenes," said Chetan about the film. The entire second half is filled with the

chaos of a wedding.

Chetan said that though Vennela Kishore is the highlight, he too is along with him in all the scenes. "The story progresses with both of us," he said. "We would discuss the scenes before filming them. It was a pleasure to work with Hebah Patel as well. She is hyper active and full of energy, but when it comes to the camera, she is completely normal

of energy, but when it comes to the camera, she is completely normal and gets into her character," said about his co-star.

The actor felt happy that the film is releasing through a big distribution house like Mythri Movie Makers. "This movie was made on a grand scale and in terms of quality; the film stands out in every aspect. We have secured good theaters for our release. There was some concern about small dubbed films getting more screens, but we've managed to get the theaters we need," he said. The actor said that he wanted to do differently from film to film. "The present trend in the industry is thrillers and if I had gone that route, it would have been just another thriller, but in a different way. My main aim is that the audience should enjoy it after watching my film. Once this movie is released, I'll start planning my next project," said Chetan. released, I'll start planning my next project," said Chetan.

SATHYARAJ TO PLAY LEAD IN TRIBANADHARI BARBARIK

A new wave of young and innovative filmmakers has been captivating audiences with fresh and original subjects. The demand for content-driven films is growing, surpassing that for traditional commercial fare. Vijaypal Reddy Adidhala is making his debut as producer and his first film titled *Tribanadhari Barbarik*. Mohan Srivatsa is the director.

The makers on Wednesday unveiled the film's title as Tribanadhari Barbarik and the motion poster hints at a blend of mythology and contemporary elements. They talk about the legend of Barbarik, the son of Ghatotkacha, to a young listener, emphasising his status as 'a great warrior unnoticed by the world.'
Though the makers reveal mythological touch in the post, the film's story is a contemporary one.

The motion poster itself is a testament to the director's grand vision and the producer's dedication to high-quality storytelling. For the first time in Indian cinema history, a Band named Infusion Band provides the music! Sathyaraj is playing an important and main role in this film, according to a source. The film's shooting is completed and at present it is in post-pro-



NARA ROHITH UNLEASHES ITENSITY IN *BHAIRAVAM* FIRST LOOK



irector Vijay Kanakamedala of Naandi fame is nov coming up with a multi-starrer titled Bhairavam. Bellamkonda Sai Sreenivas, Manchu Manoj and Nara Rohith are playing the lead actors in this film, while KK Radhamohan is the producer. The makers released the ferocious look of Nara Rohith from this film. Earlier they released the first look of Bellamkonda Sai Sreenivas and now they released the look of Nara Rohit. Set against a temple backdrop filled with fire, Rohith appears in an action-packed avatar. According to the makers, this particular action part will be one of the major highlights in

Bhairavam is billed as a neo-noir action drama, featuring a stellar ensemble cast. Manoj Manchu's first look will be revealed soon: the combination of Bellamkonda Sai Sreenivas, Manoj Manchu and Nara Rohith sharing screen space has already sparked excitement among fans and film enthusiasts. According to a source, the film is a remake of the Tamil hit film *Garudan* that was released this year. RS Durali Senthilkumar is the director of this Tamil film, while Soori, Unni Mukudan and Sasikumar played the lead actors.

Virinchi Varma returns with a bang, 8 years later

fter directing films like *Uyyala Jampala* and *Majnu*, director Virinchi Varma is coming up with a biopic, *Jitender Reddy*. The film is releasing this Friday and the director said though it is a biopic, the film is a typical commercial thriller film. "Actually I unexpectedly directed it, but at the same time I felt that it was my luck to direct the film" said director. was my luck to direct the film," said director Virinchi Varma.

Cinematographer Gnansekhar actually asked Virinchi Varma to do the direction. "When Gnanasekhar told me about this film, I had a doubt in the beginning whether I could be directing it or not, but once I met people who are close to Jitender Reddy, I then decided to work on this film," said Virinchi. He added that he put a condition on Gnanasekar. "If Gnanasekar worked as a cinematographer, then I want to

worked as a cinematographer, then I want to direct this film and he agreed to do it; that's how this film was shaped up," said Varma.

Jitender Reddy was a powerful leader in Jagityal of Telangana and died at a young age. His brother Ravinder Reddy now wanted to make a film on his brother and tell the present generative that him "Triville and the present generative." tion about him. "Initially, we thought of a small budget film, but once we heard the story, the incidents and the character span became huge. In Jitender Reddy's life there were attacks and



killings, so there are a lot of commercial elements in it. So we decided to make it in a big way," said the director, who is directing after an

8-year gap.
The director praises the producer Ravinder Reddy for encouraging him, though the budget is going high. "This is once for a kind of film, so we decided to make it as a tribute to Jitender Reddy," said the director. Virinchi said after actor Rakesh Varre joined him on board, who played the title role, he gets more boost. "He is simply superb and brought life to the character with his performance," said Virinchi.

In the trailer, it shows the differences between RSS, ABVP and Naxals. "Jitender Reddy has some ideology, which he started from his child-hood. He joined ABVP and RSS when he was student and at the same time fought against the Naxals. Those incidents shown in this film are more focused on the person's life," said Virinchi.

The director said his career may be at risk if it

is a complete political film. "There are few political agendas in the film, but we projected the heroic journey of Jitender Reddy. We are trying to give a message through the film. I made this film like a typical commercial thriller and if you like the film first, then you definitely like Jitender Reddy," said Virinchi Varma.

Stokes missing as Draca, Netravalkar line up in long list for IPL mega auction

¬ngland Test skipper Ben Stokes is missing from the list of 1,574 players while his former teammate James Anderson, Italian quick Thomas Draca and India-born USA medium pacer Saurabh Netravalkar have all registered for the IPL mega auction to be held in Jeddah on November 24 and 25.

The list, which will be shortened after the franchises provide their inputs, has all the marquee Indian players who were released from their teams including Rishabh Pant, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, R Ashwin and Yuzvendra Chahal.

Each of these five cricketers have listed themselves at a base price of Rs 2 crore.

India quick Mohammed Shami, who has been sidelined from action due to various injuries since last November, was also released by his former team Gujarat Titans and has listed himself at Rs 2 crore and so has left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh. Among the other Indian players in the list with the maximum base price of Rs 2 crore are Khaleel Ahmed, Mukesh Kumar, Venkatesh Iyer, Avesh Khan, Deepak Chahar, Ishan Kishan and Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

This list also includes Shardul Thakur, Mohammed Siraj, Devdutt Padikkal, Krunal Pandya, Harshal



Prasidh Krishna, T Natarajan, Washington Sundar and Umesh Yadav.

India batters Sarfaraz Khan and Prithvi Shaw, who were unsold in the last IPL auction, have registered themselves at the base price of Rs 75 lakh each.

Stokes, who had decided to give the last season of the IPL a miss in order to manage his workload and

focus on his fitness, has opted out for the 2025 edition as well.

The 42-year-Anderson, who retired from Test cricket earlier this year, has registered for the IPL for the first time. The veteran pacer last played a T20 10 years ago in 2014. He has never competed in a global franchise T20 league. He has a base price of Rs 1.25 crore. Netravalkar, who

prominence due to his stupendous performance for USA during the T20 World Cup earlier this year, has also lined up to go under the hammer in Jeddah. The software engineer in Óracle has a base price of Rs 30 lakh.

Ace Australian off-spinner Nathan Lvon, who has gone unsold in previous auctions, has also entered the fray with the a base price of Rs

Australian pacer Mitchell Starc, who was the most expensive buy in the IPL's last auction at a price of Rs 24.50 crore, is back in the pool for this year's auction with a base price of Rs 2 crore.

England quick Jofra Archer, who last played in the 2023 edition, is also listed for the same base price.

DRACA BECOMES FIRST

ITALIAN PLAYER

Medium

REGISTER:

Thomas Draca has become the first player from Italy to register for the IPL. The 24-year has played four T20 Internationals since making his debut for Italy in June this year. He impressed with his recent performance at the Global T20 Canada in August. Draca was the joint second-highest wicket-taker

of the tournament with 11 wickets to his name from six innings at an average of 10.63 and an economy of

The Italian pacer was recently signed by the Mumbai Indians owned MI Emirates for the upcoming season of the ILT20 in

Draca has registered himself at abse prices of Rs 30 lakh in the all-

rounders' category.
With up to six players permitted to be retained ahead of the mega auction, IPL teams can build a squad of 25 players each and there will be 204 slots available after 46 players were retained by 10 teams put together.

Each team will have a total purse of Rs 120 crore as Punjab Kings have Rs 110.5 crore available with them, followed by Royal Challengers Bengaluru with Rs 83 crore, Delhi Capitals with Rs 73 crore and Gujarat Titans with Rs 69 crore.

Lucknow Super Giants will also have Rs 69 crore in their purse while five-time winners Chennai Super Kings will have 1 Rs 55 crore. Last year's winners Kolkata Knight Riders will come into the auction with Rs 51 crore in purse while five-time champions Mumbai Indians will have Rs 45 crore, last vear's runner-up Sunrisers Hyderabad will have Rs 45 crore and Rajasthan Royals will have Rs



Rishabh Pant climbs five places to sixth spot in ICC Test batters' rankings

India wicket-keeper batter Rishabh Pant on Wednesday rose five places to sixth spot in the latest ICC Men's Test Batter Rankings following his strong performance in a losing cause in third Test against New Zealand in Mumbai last week. Pant made the jump on the back of a pair of half-centuries during the Mumbai Test, in a sure sign that he is back to his best following a serious car accident, with the attacking left-hander now just one spot behind the career-best fifth position he first occupied in July 2022. The other Indian batter in top Test batter's chart is young left-handed opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, who dropped

a rung to fourth.
New Zealand secured a narrow 25-run victory in Mumbai to claim an unprecedented 3-0 series whitewash over India, with Pant and visiting side's Daryl Mitchell the main beneficiaries in the top 10 Test

batter rankings. Mitchell jumped eight places to seventh after scoring 82 in the first innings against India in the Mumbai Test, joining teammate Kane Williamson (second) as the only New

Zealanders inside the top-10. England right-hander Joe Root maintained his healthy lead at the top of the list, with Williamson, Harry Brook (third), Jaiswal (fourth) and Steve Smith (fifth) his closest

challengers. India's Shubman Gill (up four places to 16th) also makes some ground on the list for Test batters following a score of 90 in the first innings against New Zealand in Mumbai, while player-of-the-series Will Young of New Zealand gained 29 spots to move to 44th overall.

Ravindra Jadeja climbed two spots to sixth in the Test bowler rankings after taking 10 wickets against New Zealand, placing him just behind topranked Kagiso Rabada. Australia's Josh Hazlewood

occupied the second spot ahead of India pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah and Pat Cummins and Ravichandran Ashwin.

Teammate Washington Sundar jumped seven places to move to 46th on the same list for Test bowlers, while spin duo Ajaz Patel (up 12 places to 22nd) and Ish Sodhi (up three rungs to equal 70th) are among the gainers from New Zealand.

Ponting predicts 3-1 win for Australia, says India will struggle without Shami **PTI** ■ DUBAI Mohammed Siraj, Akash Deep, Prasidh Krishna and the uncapped Former captain Ricky Ponting reckons Australia will clinch the Harshit Rana.

Ponting said, "Shami just leaves such a big hole in that bowling group. Back then (in August), there was still some Border-Gavaskar Trophy 3-1 against India as the visitors will find taking 20 wickets in a Test as their "biggest challenge" in absence of Mohammed conjecture whether Shami would be fit or not."

"I think taking 20 wickets in a Test match for India is going to be the biggest challenge. I think they'll bat well enough out here with the current

group of batters that they've got."
While hailing Australia as a more settled unit, Ponting backed India to not be absolute pushovers when the series gets underway from November 22 in Perth. "I think India will win a Test match somewhere through the five Test matches," Ponting predicted. "But I still think now, Australia probably look a bit more settled, a bit more experienced and we know that they're a very hard team to beat at home. So I'll stick with the 3-1."

Ponting feels one among the veteran Steve Smith or the flamboyant Rishabh Pant would be the highest



run-scorers over the five Tests. "Leading run scorer, I'm going to go Steve Smith or Rishabh Pant," Ponting

"I think Smith, the fact that he's moved back down from opener to No 4 probably makes it feel like he's got more of a point to prove...that maybe

he shouldn't have gone up to open in the first place," he added.

...And that No 4 is his spot and where he should have probably been the whole time and where he probably finished his career now."

Pant, who was the highest run-getter during the series against New Zealand, appeared to be the only in-form batter heading to Australia. "With Rishabh back in the side and

probably coming into bat in the middle order when the ball's probably lost a bit of its shine and a bit of its hardness, and the form that he's in, I'll go for him as one of the leading run scorers as well," Ponting said.

The legendary Ponting picked Josh Hazlewood to get more wickets for Australia than his fast bowling partners Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins.

"I think Hazlewood out of the Australian quicks, is right at the moment, is probably at the peak of his powers more than the other guys. So I'll go with him for the leading wickettaker," Ponting said.

India A players protested against replaced ball, claims report

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Shami.

2018-19 and 2020-21.

ICC Review Show.

Australia are keen on ending their barren run in the Border-Gavaskar with India winning each of the four series since 2014-15, including the historic triumphs Down Under in

However, with India suffering the

historic low of a first-ever whitewash

by 0-3 against New Zealand, Ponting

believes the hosts have a better chance

of defeating India now. "Probably

more so now (than before)," Ponting

said about Australia's chances on the

Shami has been out of action since

last November due to injuries and

Ponting believes his absence leaves a

big hole in India's bowling attack comprising Jasprit Bumrah,

ndia A players expressed dissatisfaction over the condition of the replaced ball provided during the final day's play against Australia A in their first unofficial Test, a report has claimed, even as David Warner and Ed Cowan have called on Cricket Australia to clarify what transpired.

On the final day of the fourday game in Mackay last week. the umpires provided the Indian players with a different ball to use at the start of play. Indian The Indian players, particularly Ishan Kishan, were unhappy with the decision with the wicketkeeper-batter terming it

"a very stupid decision." A report in Sydney Morning Herald said on Wednesday that the argument from the Indian camp was not about the replacement of the ball but the condition of the ball which was provided as replacement.

"What has not been known before now is that the angst on show from India A, led by Ishan, was not because the ball had been changed," the media house said on its website.

"Instead, it was because the touring team were unhappy with the condition of the replacement ball: a drama, but not a major one, since umpires and players have debated the condition of replacement balls for decades," it added.

The report described umpire Shawn Craig for his "straight shooting" who was heard on the stump mic telling the Indian players, "You scratch it, we change the ball. There will be no more discussion, let's play. This is not a discussion, you will be playing with that

Kishan retorted: "So we are going to play with this ball...that's a very stupid decision."

Former Australia openers David Warner and Ed Cowan have now called on Cricket



Australia to clarify what transpired on the final day of the match at Mackay.

Warner, whose years-long leadership ban has just been lifted by CA, has said the board "squashed" the matter "as quickly as possible" since the Indian senior men's team is bound for a five-Test series Down Under.

Warner named Sydney Thunder Captain, returns to

"I think the ultimate decision's with CA, isn't it? I think they've obviously squashed it as fast as they could, given that India's coming out here this

summer," Warner said. "But if the umpires deem that something happened, then I'm sure there'll be a follow-up and I think the umpires or the match referee should be standing here answering those auestions. I think the match referee

should be coming out and addressing his own staff, who are the umpires, and if they're sticking by the umpire's decisions, then you've got to stand up for that. I think that's obviously a statement that CA probably need to release," he added.

Warner's former opening partner and current board director of the New South Wales Cowan said the reaction perhaps could've been different if the opposition team wasn't India. Part of me just thinks if this wasn't India there would be a totally different reaction,"

Cowan said. "If that was Pakistan A, or England A, or choose any A team, or even a Shield game, the reaction would be totally different and for me, that's the

dots. These dots may be

totally incorrect, we'd have imperfect information, but I do think it's on Cricket Australia to clarify this, and it's also probably imperative on the BCCI to clarify this," he said.

Hours after the game finished, CA issued a statement saying, "The ball used in the fourth innings of the match was changed due to deterioration. Both teams' captain and manager were informed of the decision prior to the start of play. No further action is being taken."

Under the laws of cricket, a five-run penalty is imposed if the umpires change the ball after determining it has been unfairly altered.

However, CA's playing conditions include an additional clause that allows the umpires to change the ball without applying penalty runs if it's unclear how the ball wrong approach." became damaged. Australia A "To be fair, it's just us joining were not awarded five penalty

PTI SYDNEY

David Warner was on Wednesday appointed as captain of Big Bash League side Sydney Thunder, returning to a leadership role in Australian cricket six years after being implicated in the ball-tampering scandal on a tour of South Africa. His lifetime leadership ban was overturned by Cricket Australia last month, paving the way for his captaincy before he bids goodbye

to competitive cricket.

He had retired from the international game after international game after Australia's elimination from the T20 World Cup in the Caribbean

in June. Warner, 38, served a one-year ban from the game for his involvement in the Newlands ball-tampering scandal in 2018 alongside Steve Smith and Cameron Bancroft.

Returning to the leadership role is a huge moment for Warner and the significance was not lost on the swashbuckling opener who

regaled everyone with his explosive batting.
"Captaining the Thunder again this season means a lot to me. I

leadership role in Australian cricket after six years was part of the team from the start, and now to be back with that 'C' next to my name feels fantastic. I'm looking forward to leading from the front and sharing my experience with the young talent

coming through," Warner said in a statement on Wednesday. The former Australian player replaced all-rounded Chris Green as Thunder's captain ahead of this year's campaign. The 2016 BBL winners finished at the bottom of

the table in the last edition. Despite CA imposed leadership ban, Warner has captained teams in franchise cricket around the world including Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) and Delhi Capitals (DC) in the IPL.

Warner, who has played 110 T20 Internationals for Australia, has previously led Thunder back in 2011.



Warner became eligible for on the board, but I think you look captaincy after Cricket Australia's further down the track as well. I Code of Conduct Commission revoked the ban citing it has "achieved its purpose", after the combative cricketer had appeared before the independent panel comprising three members.

BACKS MCSWEENEY TO OPEN AGAINST INDIA: backed Australia A Warner captain Nathan McSweeney to open for Australia in the upcoming five-match Test series against India.

Since Warner's retirement from older. We're in a good position, and we've got a lot of talent, which is exciting," he added.

McSweeney has so far scored 2213 runs in 33 first-class matches at an

the format in January, Australia have struggled to find a player good enough to fill the huge void at the top of the order. But Warner has picked McSweeney as the man for the challenge against India, terming him a "complete player". "I think McSweeney's got the runs

know you've got Marnus (Labuschagne) and Travis Head and Mitch Marsh, but he's got leadership potential as well," Warner was quoted as saying by Fox Sports.

"He looks a complete player, and I think he's a good fit with Uzzie (Usman Khawaja) at the top of the order. We're in a good position,

average of 38.82.

The upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy will start on November 22 in Perth, followed by matches in (December 6-10), Adelaide Brisbane (December 14-18), Melbourne (December 26-30), and Sydney (January 3-7).