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Most satisfying achievement is delivering crop loan waiver of Rs 18,000 cr to 22 lakh farmers. It was a great feeling to fulfil the Congress' guarantee in very short time



CHIEF MINISTER REVANTH'S OPEN TALK WITH the pioneer

'PATH IS REFORM'

OUR GOVERNMENT'S AIM IS COMPREHENSIVE PROGRESS

It took 10 long years to break the iron barriers before Pragati Bhavan and transform the once-unapproachable complex into an easily accessible Praja Bhavan. The credit goes to Anumula Revanth Reddy, the second Chief Minister of Telangana. On Thursday, he set another record by opening his heart with one-on-one with senior journalists from the print media -- a practice that had been ignored for 10 long years in Telangana with incalculable damage to the media's role as a watchdog of democracy. Infusing a refreshing element of informality in the setting, the Chief Minister shared his vision and ideas, countered his detractors, and did a lot more during his one-hour interaction with *The Pioneer* in the lush green lawns of his residence at Jubilee Hills.

NAVEENA GHANATE
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■ HYDERABAD

S tating that delivering Crop Loan waiver to farmers as most "satisfying thing in last 11 months", Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy describes himself as a "Reformist". When asked, YSR is known for agriculture, Chandrababu for IT, Revanth Reddy said,

"I am a reformist. I want to bring reforms like P V Narasimha Rao. Like Man Mohan Singh who is known for reforms. In that direction, be it sports university, Skill university, Integrated residential schools, Musi rejuvenation, Future City, I am bringing policy reforms. We saw what happened in Spain and Paris floods. I want the city to thrive and have a safe future.". He cited the example of ISB or Nalsar and said

who knew what's it future would be when the foundation stone was set. "I am preparing policy document for every sector and we are not rushing it. The vision is for 10 years and all our plans are not just for 5 years". Speaking on Musi Rejuvenation CM said, "We have only made marking RB-X to tell them that you are in buffer zone or FTL Limits."

Continued on Page 2



HYDRAA is not slowing down. We are evaluating legal aspect, going to demarcate. Now, there is a fear among those who have encroached and those who think of encroachments

My target is 51% and I know I cannot satisfy all people. BRS and other parties have their own cadre. So that 30% should work for them and can never be satisfied



Megha is participating in tenders and getting the contracts. I can't block them from participating as it is a fair competition. Ponguleti and Prathima did contracts in BRS regime- when they were in power - what happened to Office of profit then?

'Gandhi family's trust'

When asked the secret behind earning trust of Gandhi family, Revanth smiled and replied that it was may be his sincerity and hardwork.

'Harish, KTR fighting for president post'

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy pointed out that there is a race going on between K T Rama Rao and Harish Rao for the BRS party president post.

'Efficient officers are few'

When asked if bureaucratic delays are hampering his speed, CM Revanth said, "Officers who are efficient are very less."

DON'T MISS...

HYDRAA team visits Bengaluru...

Following a visit to the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre in Bengaluru, a delegation from the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Management Authority (HYDRAA), led by Commissioner AV Ranganath, conducted an on-ground assessment of the restoration efforts at Yelahanka and Jakkur lakes. The HYDRAA team examined the lake rejuvenation methods employed by the ...

-PAGE: 3

12 students take ill, principal...

District administration placed Ashram School headmaster D Madhav under suspension after 12 students took ill due to suspected food poisoning on Wednesday. In yet another incident of suspected food poisoning in a government-run residential school, 12 students from a tribal welfare school in Mancherial district fell ill on Wednesday and were rushed to the government hospital for treatment. The incident ...

-PAGE: 4

India's second line stars look for a...

As India firmly embraces a transition phase, a clutch of second line stars such as Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma will be hoping for a breakaway series in the four T20Is against South Africa, starting with the first contest here Friday. It is imperative for them to shed the tag of sidekicks and establish themselves as the first-choice players in this format. The recent home T20I series against Bangladesh was a precursor. Samson received a chance to open consistently against the neighbours, and he made most of it slamming a 47-ball 111. In the post-Rohit Sharma era in T20Is, ...

-SPORTS

CM to lead 'Musi Rejuvenation Yatra' today

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will lead the 'Musi Rejuvenation Yatra' on Friday, beginning with a helicopter journey from Begumpet to Yadagirigutta in the morning. The day's events will commence with a visit to the renowned Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple at 10 am, where the Chief Minister will conduct a prayer. After that, at 11:30 am, he is scheduled to hold a review meeting with the Yadadri Temple Development Authority to discuss temple development initiatives. At 1:30 pm, the Chief Minister



will travel by road to Sangam, marking the official start of the Musi rejuvenation initiative. This significant environmental project aims to restore and preserve the Musi River, with the CM's personal commitment underscoring its importance. As part of the programme, he will lead a 2.5-km 'padayatra' along the right bank of the Musi River, from Sangam to Bheemalingam, and then proceed along the canal embankment from Dharmareddypalli. After the march, the Chief Minister will address the public from a specially designed chariot, emphasizing the government's commitment to revitalizing the Musi and promoting sustainable water management practices. After the public address, the CM will return to Hyderabad.

Continued on Page 2

'Telangana knows my DNA'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Commenting that Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar was speaking without decorum, the Union Minister of Coal and Mines, G. Kishan Reddy, said that the people of Telangana knew what his DNA is. There is no need for anybody's certificate, Kishan Reddy said. During a chat-chat with journalists on Thursday, Kishan said that the state government should clean the Musi and supply water. The BJP has no objection if the government brings water from Krishna and Godavari, he said.



Kishan said that the BJP will not remain silent if even a single house is demolished near the Musi River.

Continued on Page 2

'Atom bomb' will explode soon instead of country bombs: Ponguleti

'I touched KCR's feet but you people cut my throat with a wet cloth'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Revenue, Housing, Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said that an 'Atom Bomb' will explode soon instead of country bombs or Laxmi Bombs. Ponguleti, who had said that political bombs would explode before Diwali, said that KTR had asked him "Who is Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy to say that?" The Minister said that he had not mentioned the names of KTR and



other BRS leaders in his comments but KTR had responded sharply.

KTR should go and surrender before the police if he thinks that he is in the wrong, Ponguleti suggested. KTR should respect the court's verdict, the Minister said. BRS leaders know very well that they looted public funds. Everybody knows what KTR has done and what I am doing, he said. Criticising BRS Working President KT Rama Rao's comment that Ponguleti touched the feet of Adani, he said that he would not touch anybody's feet.

Continued on Page 2

No corruption in Formula E: KTR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

BRS Working President KT Rama Rao (KTR) has vigorously defended his efforts to elevate Hyderabad's global image, through the Formula E race, amidst alleged criticism. KTR addressed accusations from Congress leaders and some media outlets, asserting that he has devoted substantial time and resources to promote both the city and the state. "If anyone intends to imprison me out of political vendetta for bringing investments to Hyderabad, creating an incredible brand for the city, and generating employment through these investments, I will not back down," he said. KTR said that Rs 55 crore was



approved for the event by him as Minister and that it was his responsibility. Based on my instructions, Arvind Kumar moved the file. It is completely my responsibility and the officer has nothing to do with it, KTR added.

Continued on Page 2

Harish criticises CM for changing Secretariat gates

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former Telangana minister T Harish Rao recently criticised Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's approach to the Secretariat building. Harish Rao remarked, "When we built the new Secretariat using green technology and fire safety norms, making it a benchmark in the country, Revanth Reddy mocked it as a 'vaastu obsession,' causing a stir with his comments. Now, as Chief Minister, he's making changes to the Secretariat almost every day."

Continued on Page 2

Modi, Trump commit to strengthening bilateral ties: MEA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President-elect Donald Trump have "reaffirmed their commitment" to working together to further strengthen bilateral ties across a range of sectors, the MEA said on Thursday. In a statement on the phone conversation Modi had with Trump a day ago, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the prime minister highlighted that the US leader's "spectacular and resounding victory" in the election reflected the "deep trust" of the American people in his leadership and vision. Modi warmly congratulated him on his "re-election as the president of the United States of America as well

Continued on Page 2

Conduct Comprehensive Family Survey carefully: CS

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari has directed officials to work with utmost dedication and complete the Comprehensive Family Survey launched by the TG government. During a teleconference held on Thursday with special officers overseeing the survey, Shanti Kumari reviewed the progress of the state-wide door-to-door family survey. Planning Department Principal Secretary Sandeep Sultania also attended the session. During the conference, Shanti Kumari said that the process of gathering household information and applying stickers would conclude by Friday, with the main survey set to begin on November 9.

Continued on Page 2

Adityanath, Acharya get SC relief

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said a prior sanction will precede the prosecution of public servants accused of money laundering charges in discharge of official duty, thus giving a clean chit to retired IAS officers Bibhu Prasad Acharya and Adityanath Das. A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih, therefore, dismissed a plea of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) challenging a high court verdict that quashed the cognisance order of the agency's complaint (chargesheet) against two IAS officers. The Telangana

High Court had quashed a trial court order taking cognisance of the ED's prosecution complaint filed on money laundering charges against the two senior bureaucrats in the Andhra Pradesh government. The bench referred to Section 197(1) of the CrPC (corresponding to Section 218 of the Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023) dealing with prosecution of judges and public servants. Section 197 (1) says, "When any person who is or was a judge or magistrate or a public servant not removable from his office save by or with the sanction of the government, is accused of any offence alleged to have been committed by him while acting or

purporting to act in the discharge of his official duty, no court shall take cognisance of such offence except with the previous sanction." The bench said the object of Section 197 (1) of the CrPC was to protect public servants from prosecutions and it ensured they were not prosecuted for anything they did in the discharge of their duties. "This provision is for the protection of honest and sincere officers. However, the protection is not unqualified. They can be prosecuted with a previous sanction from the appropriate government," it said. It said, "Considering the object of Section 197(1) of the CrPC, its applicability cannot be excluded unless there is any provision in the PMLA which is inconsistent with Section 197(1). No such provision has been pointed out to us."

Continued on Page 2

Slowdown: A cause of concern in real estate sector

The real estate business in Telangana has slowed down much over the past six or seven months, causing concern among the stakeholders. The developers, builders, investors, workers, buyers and all the other groups that depend on the industry are in disarray. Investments made involving thousands of crores of rupees are hanging in balance. Hundreds of projects, under construction, in around Hyderabad are staring down the barrel. Real estate boom in Hyderabad and adjoining areas began in the 1980s and it had never waned until recently. The statistics of registration of sale deeds in around Hyderabad would lay bare the prevailing situation. In the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority region, the number of deeds being registered was 2.44 lakhs and income received by the government was Rs 2,228 crore in 2016-17. In 2017-18, the number of documents registered was 2.95 lakhs and income to govern-

ment was Rs 30,002 crore. The number of documents registered in 2018-19 was 4.13 lakhs and the income to government was Rs 3,786 crore. The government got Rs 3,944 crore as income through the registration of 3.90 lakh documents during 2019-20. Registration of 2.24 lakh documents fetched an income of Rs 2,825 crore to the government in 2020-21. During 2021-22 about 4.07 lakh documents were registered and the government mopped up an income of Rs 6,759 crore. The income rose to Rs 6,854 crore in 2022-23 with the registration of 2.83 lakh documents. The revenue to government reached Rs 7,476 crore during 2023-24 with the registration of 2.68 lakh documents. However, the situation deteriorated right from the beginning of the present financial year -- 2024-25. For instance, the income through registrations in October 2023 was Rs 803 crore and it was Rs 665 crore in October, 2024. If the

Although the sector bucked the trend of less business during the elections period, i.e. from December, 2023 to April, June, 2024, it could not do so upon completion of the elections. The real estate people expected the business to soar after the elections period. But their hopes have been dashed with many of the buyers going back.

trend continues, the government may not reach its targeted revenues. Although the sector bucked the trend of less business during the elections period, i.e. from December, 2023 to April, June, 2024, it could not do so upon completion of the elections. The real estate people expected the business to soar after the elections period. But their hopes have been dashed with many of the buyers going back. According to PropEquity, Hyderabad experienced a 54% decline in new housing launches and a 42% drop in sales from July to September, marking the highest decreases

among major metropolitan areas in India. As per KV Raman Ayyala, founder & CEO of PCM Proptech India Pvt Ltd, Hyderabad's real estate and infrastructure development have hit a significant pause. Builders and agents are referring to this as the worst downturn since the pre-2014 Telangana State formation period. Currently, around 2.8 lakh apartments are ready for sale, but buyers are hesitant to invest in residential properties, whether land or houses. He says that the change of government has impacted sales in the market. People had high expectations from the new govern-



GUDUR NARAYANA REDDY

ment on launching new projects and infrastructure plans. However, these expectations were not met. Existing infrastructure plans were altered, and no new projects were initiated. For instance, the relocation of Pharma City has added to the market's instability. Furthermore, LRS and BRS regulation confusions and the increase in registration prices from August 31 have further impacted the market negatively.

Despite Chief Minister Revanth Reddy having a real estate background, his administration is struggling to make decisive moves toward new developments or attract foreign investments confidently. The lack of clarity in investment strategies and the influence of the All India Congress Committee on state decisions have exacerbated the downturn. If this trend continues, foreign investors may perceive Hyderabad as an unfavorable investment destination. Apart from this the Musi Rejuvenation Project, establishment of the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA), delay in taking up the marking of full tank levels of tanks and lakes in Hyderabad and in its surroundings, delay in issuing permissions to the builders and others are the reasons for the slump in the market. The demolition drives being taken up by the HYDRAA has instilled fear among the people of Hyderabad.

I feel that the present Master Plan 2031 would not help in the development of Hyderabad in any way. The related zonal regulations would not work in the present scenario of Hyderabad region. The HMDA did not take any interest in this regard. The previous BRS government did not bother to relook into the plan. The Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India, Hyderabad (CREDAI) has pointed out that there were no grid roads in the growth corridors. In the peri-urban zone only 25 per cent has been allowed for making layouts. This has resulted in no layout development in these areas. The rule that layouts must have a 60 ft approach road has been impeding the layout development activities. All told, the government needs to focus on key areas like establishing the best committees and marketing teams to attract new investments in various sectors. It must make committed efforts to secure investments in IT and Pharma

industries. The government may have to hire good consultants to market Telangana on a global scale. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy must prioritize Hyderabad's urban development. The government has been attributing the slump in the market to slowdown of the economy in the country at large and in the real estate sector in particular. This is partially true. While other cities are doing well, Hyderabad has been lagging behind. The Chief Minister himself must look into these issues and come up with policies that would boost the investor sentiment. The government should hold meeting with the stakeholders on a large scale and identify the impediments in the real estate sector development. The government must come up with real estate friendly policies.

(The writer is BJP Telangana unit executive council member)

'Path is reform...

Continued from Page 1

We will be compensating the people. Just because we are marking doesn't mean we will demolish. CM said that during TRS regime permissions were given and lakes nad parks were occupied. On HYDRAA, CM said that here is no slowdown. He said, "Those that were already marked as encroachments were demolished. Now we are making framework and evaluating the legal aspects. The lakes in the city have not been demarcated. While there are lake boundaries for Osman Sagar, there are no boundaries for Himayath Sagar. BRS government didn't even do that, so how will we know whether someone's house is encroached or not? We are working on this technical aspects" When asked if HYDRAA and Musi impacted real estate, CM Revanth said, "Real estate slowdown is across the country including Delhi, Pune, Bengaluru and so with Hyderabad. During TRS they allowed outrightly illegal construction without following rules like floor space index,

Common areas, connecting roads. Even in a 30ft road they gave permission to 18floors building. How to even demolish it. Such illegal practices needs to be checked. We are giving permissions based on rules. I want to make it online. They used to give permissions offline as and when they wanted". When asked about one month curfew in Hyderabad, CM said, "Business is as usual in the city. There is no difference and whenever there are festivals, the cp's have powers. BRS is trying to portray as if something wrong or curfew, but the lives of people have not been impacted". CM said, "Have we stopped any protests? 4homeguards are enough to arrest Harish Rao or KTR, but we don't want to do it. We are democratic. If someone wants to do Dharna we are allowing at Dharna Chowk. Even without an invite, he (KTR) went to Dharna and we didn't stop". Speaking about fulfilling six guarantees he said, "Mallikarjun Kharge is a senior politician and he said it is as a caution. BJP is driving the narrative as if we are unable to implement".

CM Revanth Reddy said that Implementing Crop Loan waiver is the most satisfying thing. "I am doing everything at saturation. Be it free bus scheme, all women got it, 200units of free power, Rs10lakh ArogyaSri, Rs500gas Cylinder. Even for Rs2lakh crop loan waiver, I said I will do upto it. We already did for 22lakh farmers and the remaining are pending due to issues, which will also be done. I know I haven't delivered everything yet, but we need to do lot of correction before we go ahead". On Paddy procurement, CM said that the money is being credited in just couple of days unlike before. "Not just now, generally at start there are always procurement issues which are all being sorted. We are also giving Rs500 bonus to fine rice", he said. CM Revanth Reddy addressed the issue of giving contracts to Megha Engineering Infra. He said, "Yes I called it East India Company. It is open tender and I can't stop him from not participating. It is rule of law to allow him to participate. Where did the "office of prof-

it" go when Ponguleti was MP in BRS regime. In last 10years Ponguleti did works nearly worth 10000crores and he was MP in BRS. Likewise, Prathima group associated with BRS MP has done many projects. A media house in which KCR is investor, his daughter-in-law is MD - Isn't all this office of profit?" They are saying I gave project to Srujan Reddy, but it is open tender of which only a share of works has been given to this company. It is not even few hundreds of crores but KTR is claiming it to be Rs8888crore scam. On Adani, CM said that he is taking investments from them and not giving off everything. On good relations with Centre he said, So far we haven't given any DPRs or anything, so it hasn't been tough with them and largely cordial. On being termed as "RS Brothers" (Revanth Sanjay brothers), KTR said, "Can BJP and Congress ever be together. Does KTR ever have sense to say something like that? When BJP wants to attack they will allow aggressive leaders to talk. BJP and Congress can never collude".



A day ahead of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's birthday, Resident Editor of The Pioneer and chief of Swatantra TV Channel B Krishna Prasad greeted him at his residence in Jubilee Hills on Thursday.

'Gandhi family's...

Continued from Page 1

"Everyone thought Congress would win in Chattisgarh and Rajasthan states. Telangana was not even part of winning, but we won and formed a government. We worked hard and we delivered. So they started trusting our work". Chief Minister stated that Congress is like a joint family. "Some work more, some workless and some enjoy.

There will be all kinds of people in the party", he described. CM said that Ministers are not heavy weights but colleagues. "Some may be senior. But see some become IAS directly, some become group1 officer and become IAS and some remain as group1. At different ages how you grow is what your path is". He said that he doesn't have any hidden agenda and working 18hours a day.

'Harish, KTR fighting ...

Continued from Page 1

He said, "Both Billa-Ranga are in race to get the BRS Chief post and so are picking up issues. If you see, none of these issues are actual or being pursued continuously. They want 3minute visual in tv media and 2minutes in social media to circulate. They may have upper hand in social media, but on ground people know who is working, accessible and fulfilling promises. Social media campaign doesn't work completely". KTR wants to go to jail so he can become party president and eventually Chief Minister. When asked about the delay in the governor's consent for the Formula E race, CM Revanth said that "Maybe BRS may have spoken to someone at top in Delhi. I don't know what is going on. I don't understand KTR's fantasy of going to jail. May be becos he wants to become State president and then CM". On being termed as "Chitti Naidu" by KTR, Revanth said, "He wants to term me as Chitti Naidu linking to Chandrababu Naidu. But Chandrababu Naidu known as Progressive leader. So let him do it. Earlier I called his son Chitti Naidu some 10years ago and he is trying to use the same again on me. He tried Gumpu Mestri but didn't work out". Speaking about On Power Purchase probe, CM Revanth said that Justice Lokur submitted the report, but government don't want to bypass rules because KCR will go court or try some other means. "We will place it before Cabinet and then decide as per rules on disclosing report to public", he said. On Kaleshwaram probe, Revanth said that it is going on and he (KCR) is not coming out to speak on it. He said that there is no response for protests called by BRS. "In voting pattern, they also got share, so whenever they call for protests it is the BRS guys coming out. It is their duty as party member. They tried to protest for DSC and group1. But what happened, ultimately, exams were conducted and people wrote exams. We filled 50000jobs"

Chandrababu Naidu. But Chandrababu Naidu known as Progressive leader. So let him do it. Earlier I called his son Chitti Naidu some 10years ago and he is trying to use the same again on me. He tried Gumpu Mestri but didn't work out". Speaking about On Power Purchase probe, CM Revanth said that Justice Lokur submitted the report, but government don't want to bypass rules because KCR will go court or try some other means. "We will place it before Cabinet and then decide as per rules on disclosing report to public", he said. On Kaleshwaram probe, Revanth said that it is going on and he (KCR) is not coming out to speak on it. He said that there is no response for protests called by BRS. "In voting pattern, they also got share, so whenever they call for protests it is the BRS guys coming out. It is their duty as party member. They tried to protest for DSC and group1. But what happened, ultimately, exams were conducted and people wrote exams. We filled 50000jobs"

Conduct Comprehensive...

Continued from Page 1

The survey has to be conducted meticulously, leaving no house-

hold unaccounted for, says a press note issued by the Special Commissioner of the Information and Public Relations Department.

Adityanath, Acharya get...

Continued from Page 1

The bench, therefore, held the provisions of the section were applicable to a complaint filed under Section 44(1)(b) of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) while rejecting the ED contention that Section 71 of the PMLA had an overriding effect over the provisions of the other statutes. The agency had contended that considering the object of the PMLA, the requirement of obtaining a sanction under Section 197(1) of CrPC will be inconsistent with Section 71 of the PMLA. The bench, however, pointed out that Section 65 of the PMLA made the provisions of the CrPC applicable to all proceedings under the PMLA, provided the same were not inconsistent with the anti-money laundering law. "Section 65 is a prior section which specifically makes the provisions of the CrPC applicable to PMLA, subject to the condition that only those provisions of the CrPC will apply which are not inconsistent with the provisions of the PMLA. Therefore, when a particular provision of CrPC applies to proceedings under the PMLA by virtue of Section 65 of the PMLA, Section 71(1) cannot override the provision of CrPC which applies to the PMLA," it held. The ED had challenged the high court order on the plea of Bibhu Prasad Acharya and Adityanath Das, who were civil servants, and therefore, satisfied the first condition of Section 197(1) according to the top court. The apex court noted that ED's allegation that Acharya

conspired with former Andhra chief minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy and allotted 250 acre land meant for a SEZ project to a private company by violating the existing norms. It also noted that Das, at the relevant time, was the principal secretary in the state government and he too conspired with Reddy and extended favours to another firm by allotting additional 10 lakh litre of water from River Kagna without referring the matter to the Interstate Water Resources Authority in violation of the existing norms. "In the case of both respondents (Acharya and Das), the acts alleged against them are related to the discharge of the duties entrusted to them. It is not even the allegation in the complaints that the two respondents were not empowered to do the acts they have done. There is a connection between their duties and the acts complained of," the bench said, noting the second condition for the applicability of Section 197(1) also stood satisfied. The top court upheld the high court order outlining the latter's correct view as the cognisance of the chargesheet was taken without obtaining a previous sanction under Section 197(1) of CrPC. "We must clarify that the effect of the impugned judgment is that the orders of the special court taking cognisance only as against the accused B P Acharya and Adityanath Das stand set aside," said the bench. The top court, however, said that ED may move against the two senior IAS officer after obtaining a prior sanction for the prosecution.

CM to lead 'Musi Rejuvenation Yatra' ...

Continued from Page 1

The Rachakonda Police has imposed traffic restrictions in the Bhongiri zone to ensure smooth traffic and to minimize inconvenience to the public. These traffic diversions will be in effect from 8 am until the completion of the Chief Minister's programme. As per the directive issued by G. Sudheer Babu, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Rachakonda, heavy vehicles like lorries, dumpers, water tankers, earthmovers and RMC trucks will face restrictions in the designated areas during this time.

The traffic diversions include specific route changes. Traffic from the Nalgonda underpass bridge heading towards Bollepally will be diverted at the Nagireddypally X road towards Valigonda. Traffic from Choutuppal towards Bollepally will be redirected at Sherella Road and will pass through Pedda Kondur towards Pochampally. The Rachakonda Police has requested the public to take note of these diversions, plan their journeys accordingly, and cooperate with the authorities to ensure a smooth and safe journey during the Chief Minister's Musi Rejuvenation Yatra.

'Telangana knows...

Continued from Page 1

He warned that the BJP will not keep quiet if the Congress government engages in the real estate business after demolishing houses. The Union Minister said that it was enough if the government constructed a retaining wall and set up drainage systems in the city. He said

that they would stay at night in the Musi area and would eat and stay there for a day. Kishan also made it clear that the BJP is not against the caste census. However, the government should implement 42 per cent reservations in local body elections. Kishan said the BJP will announce the names of candidates for MLC elections.

TODAY

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham: Sukla Paksha

Tithi: Saptami: Nov 08 12:35 AM to Nov 08 11:56 PM

Ashtami: Nov 08 11:56 PM to Nov 09 10:45 PM

Nakshatram: Uttara Ashadha: Nov 07 11:47 AM to Nov 08 12:03 PM

Shravana: Nov 08 12:03 PM to Nov 09 11:47 AM

Rahukalam: 10:35 AM to 11:59 AM

Yamagandam: 2:49 PM to 4:13 PM

Variyam: 04:00 PM to 05:35 PM

Gulika: 7:46 AM to 9:10 AM

Amritakalam: 01:30 AM to 03:05 AM

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:37 AM to 12:22 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Sunny

Temp: 31°

Humidity: 54%

Sunrise: 6:18 AM

Sunset: 5:42 PM

Updated: November 7, 2024 5:00 PM

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CITY EVENTS

Prateek Kuhad

Silhouettes tour.

Venue

Hyderabad international convention centre November 8

66th Annual Art Festival of SICA-2024

South Indian Cultural Association presents: November 8: Dance ballet by Deepika Reddy

Venue

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

Silhouettes Tour

Artist: Prateek Kuhad.

Venue

Hitec Exhibition Centre, Hitec 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 Bakali's masterpieces through print, augmented reality and immersive art

Venue

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

Education Fair

UK and Europe Education Fair by Orient Spectra

Venue

Hyatt Place, Banjara Hills November 9

TechBook with augmented reality launched

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Partnering with the top 500 CBSE schools in the Telugu states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, TechBook with augmented reality has been launched to transform traditional textbook-driven learning for students from Classes 1 to 8.

In a round-table at Taj Krishna on Thursday, Lead Group Co-founder and CEO Sumeet Mehta stated that TechBook is designed using three advanced technologies: Augmented Reality, Personalised Reading Fluency and Personalized Practice, with a curriculum aligned to the NCF to create learning for thousands of students.

He highlighted that teachers struggle to meet the unique needs of all students in a 40-student classroom and traditional textbooks offer no flexibility as every student receives the same book.

With TechBook, learning is customised for each student within existing classroom systems. Sumeet described TechBook as the first product, resulting from years of research in technology, pedagogy and curriculum, aimed at transforming student learning.

He announced that the TechBook software is integrated with Gen AI and is available at an affordable price, between Rs 2,700 and Rs 3,000, covering Maths, Science and English.

City Pioneer



HYDERABAD FRIDAY | NOVEMBER 8, 2024

03

MANAGEMENT QUOTA

ED probes seat blocking scam in TG medical colleges

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a crackdown on alleged irregularities in medical college admissions, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) is investigating a seat-blocking scam involving management quota seats in Telangana's private medical colleges.

The investigation centres on Mallareddy Medical College, where the ED is currently questioning Administrative Officer Surender Reddy regarding his role in allegedly blocking seats and reallocating them under the management quota. The ED's probe began after reports surfaced about individuals, agencies, and some NEET students blocking postgraduate (PG) medical seats in private colleges across Telangana.

According to officials, some students appeared to occupy seats by using the details of high-scoring NEET candidates, only to cancel them at



the last moment. This tactic reportedly left seats open for allocation under the management quota, where they were sold for sums ranging from Rs 1 crore to Rs 2.5 crore each.

The registrar of Kaloji Narayana Health University lodged a complaint with Mattewada police station in Warangal, alerting authorities to the practice. Investigators are scrutinising college records and bank statements, with early findings suggesting that seat cancellations just before

deadlines were strategically used to enable high-priced management quota allocations.

As per the rules, each last-minute seat cancellation incurs a fee of Rs 5 lakh, which agencies allegedly paid to facilitate the process under the guise of students themselves canceling their admissions. The ED is examining whether this manipulation violates any financial and administrative regulations, with further actions expected as the investigation progresses.

HYDRAA team visits Bengaluru for lake restoration study

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Following a visit to the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre in Bengaluru, a delegation from the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Management Authority (HYDRAA), led by Commissioner AV Ranganath, conducted an on-ground assessment of the restoration efforts at Yelahanka and Jakkur lakes. The HYDRAA team examined the lake rejuvenation methods employed by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), with a focus on wastewater treatment and sustainable practices to restore and preserve urban lakes.

During their visit, HYDRAA officials engaged with BBMP authorities to understand the strategies utilised for diverting sewage inflow into lakes and recharging them using Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs). The team also held discussions with representatives from Vimos Technocrats Pvt Ltd, the company involved in lake restoration efforts, to gain insights into the technical aspects and challenges of the projects.



The delegation observed the vital role played by local residents in supporting lake restoration and beautification initiatives, highlighting the community's involvement in maintaining these natural resources. They reviewed the transformation of Yelahanka

Lake, spanning 300 acres, and Jakkur Lake, covering 164 acres, which are being developed into freshwater reservoirs through systematic restoration.

In addition to beautification, the HYDRAA team examined innovative measures to prevent sewage from entering the lakes. This included the construction of upstream

ponds designed to separate silt from water before it flows into the lakes, ensuring cleaner and healthier water bodies.

This visit aimed at gathering knowledge and best practices in lake restoration, which can potentially be applied to similar water bodies in Hyderabad, contributing to the city's environmental and water management goals.

TG Drug Control Admin seizes overpriced antibiotics

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Drugs Control Administration (DCA) of Telangana conducted a significant raid on November 7, uncovering the sale of overpriced Mupirocin ointment by Medzine Life Sciences. The manufacturing unit, located in ALEAP Industrial Estate in Gajularamaram, Medchal-Malkajgiri district, was found violating the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 by selling 'Mupigrer Ointment' at an inflated price.

Medzine Life Sciences labeled the 5-gram ointment with a Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of Rs 144, exceeding the approved ceiling of Rs 113.62 per 5 grams. This overpricing, amounting to Rs 30.37 per unit, disregarded the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority's guidelines, which mandate the price control of essential medicines.

The seized batch, labeled GH-97, was manufactured in October 2024 with an expiry in September 2026. The product is marketed by Sri Sri Datta Sai Go Green Health Care in Andhra Pradesh.



MISSION FOR A SEWERAGE OVERFLOW-FREE CITY 50,000 manholes cleaned in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Water Board's ambitious 90-day special drive to achieve a sewerage overflow-free city has seen remarkable progress, with over 50,000 manholes cleaned across the city. In addition, desilting operations have been carried out along 700 kilometers of sewerage pipelines, covering 6,140 locations to improve drainage efficiency.

Managing Director Ashok Reddy praised the dedication of officials and staff, commending their efforts and

commitment to the task. Highlighting the significant improvement in performance over the past 15 days, he encouraged the team to maintain this momentum for the remaining duration of the drive.

The 90-day special drive aims to address Hyderabad's long-standing sewerage issues while also preparing the city for future water challenges. The initiative includes measures for constructing soak pits, ensuring sustainable water management, and mitigating potential water scarcity.

Lecturer and DEO caught in bribery case

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) arrested Sri Auti Ravinder, a lecturer at DIET College and the FAC District Education Officer in Mahabubnagar district, for accepting a bribe. The accused was caught red-handed while

demanding and receiving Rs 50,000 from a complainant in exchange for a favorable adjustment in the seniority of the complainant's wife. This adjustment would grant her parity with a junior in the school assistant promotion cadre, along with related benefits.

The tainted money was found

in Ravinder's possession, and a chemical test confirmed contact with the bribe. He is accused of using his position improperly to seek personal gain. The ACB has arrested him, and he will be presented before the Special Judge for ACB cases in Hyderabad. The case remains under investigation.

Freedom Park unveiled at Kukatpally as part of CSR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Promoting community wellness with green space for the neighbourhood, Freedom Park was unveiled at Balajinagar and Kukatpally. Developed by Gemini Edibles & Fats India Limited (GEF India), makers of Freedom Healthy Cooking Oils, the park is part of their corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative. It

offers a place to relax, exercise, play and bond.

The park was unveiled on Thursday by Akshay Chowdhry, Group Vice President of GEF India, and P Chandra Shekhara Reddy, Senior Vice President, Sales & Marketing, GEF India, in the presence of representatives from the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) and local residents.

According to GEF India, it invested Rs. 2.76 crore to develop Freedom Park, which features a jogging/walking track, an amphitheatre, a covered zone for community gatherings, a children's play area with colorful swings, outdoor gym equipment, a yoga zone, benches, washrooms and beautiful landscaping.

This park serves as a peaceful retreat in the heart of the city.

FESA 2024 SEMINAR

'Tech key for 24/7 monitoring of fire safety'

SAMUEL JOSHUA samueljoshua@jmc@gmail.com ■ HYDERABAD

Highlighting the need for technology in 24/7 remote monitoring and maintenance for fire safety, Director General of Fire Services, Y Nagi Reddy, said that prevention is everyone's responsibility. He participated in the inauguration of the two-day Fire, Electrical, Security and Automation (FESA) 2024 Pharma Industry Seminar at HICC Novotel on Thursday.

Addressing the inaugural session, Nagi Reddy highlighted that fire safety is crucial in the pharmaceutical industry. Over the past 10 years, 97 major fires occurred in pharma industries, resulting in a property loss of Rs



Director General of Fire Services Y Nagi Reddy lighting the lamp at the inauguration of the FESA 2024 Pharma Industry Seminar at HICC Novotel on Thursday

93 crore. He mentioned a recent incident where property worth Rs 30 crore was destroyed by fire.

Reddy explained that handling fire in the pharmaceutical sector is challenging due to the variety of gases and chemicals

used. He discussed the Telangana Fire Service Act 1999. Section 13 mandates that buildings and hazardous industries must obtain a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Fire department. According to Section 19, the owner or occu-

paint is responsible for the fire safety system in their establishment.

He also spoke about the National Building Code 2016, noting that pharmaceutical industries face added hazards from solvents.

Areas such as cleanrooms, laboratories, warehouses, utility/mechanical service rooms, chemical rooms and production areas require special attention.

Meanwhile, Special Chief Secretary of the IT Department, Jayesh Ranjan, emphasised that any type of accident can disrupt an industry.

He urged FSAI to collaborate with Young India Skill University to create practical learning programmes and design relevant courses.

Advertisement for Freedom Park featuring portraits of officials and text in Telugu: 'నీ ఆశయాలకు తిరుగులేదు... నీ ఆలోచనలకు ఎదురులేదు... జనం మెచ్చిన జననేత తెలంగాణ రాష్ట్ర ముఖ్యమంత్రివర్గులు గౌ. శ్రీ. అనుముల రేవంత్ రెడ్డి గారికి హృదయపుష్పక జన్మదిన శుభాకాంక్షలు మెట్టు సాయి కుమార్ M.Com., LL.B., చైర్మన్ - తెలంగాణ ఫిషరీస్ ఫెడరేషన్'

ACROSS THE STATES

'Canada blocked media outlet for reporting EAM presser'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India on Thursday said Canada blocked an Australian media outlet hours after it broadcast the press conference of External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar and his Australian counterpart Penny Wong.

External Affairs Ministry spokesman Randhir Jaiswal said the Canadian action of blocking the social media handles and certain pages of Australia Today smacked of hypocrisy towards freedom of speech.



"We understand that the social media handles, pages of this particular outlet, which are important diaspora outlets, have been blocked and are not available for viewers in Canada. This happened just an hour or few hours after this particular handle carried the press conference of EAM Dr S Jaishankar with Penny Wong," Jaiswal said in response to a question at the weekly media briefing.

"We were surprised. It looks strange to us. But nonetheless, what I say is that these are actions which yet again highlight the hypocrisy of Canada towards freedom of speech," the external affairs ministry spokesman said.

He said Jaishankar, in his media interactions in Australia, had spoken about the allegations levelled against India by Canada without sharing any specific evidence.

"You would have seen that the External Affairs Minister, in his media engagements, spoke about three things. One was Canada making allegations and a pattern has developed without any specific evidence," he said.

The spokesperson said the second thing he highlighted was surveillance of Indian diplomats happening in Canada, which he termed as unacceptable.

"The third thing which he highlighted was the political space which has been given in Canada to anti-India elements. So you can draw your conclusions from that, why the Australia Today channel was blocked by Canada," Jaiswal said.



I'm not anti-business, but anti-monopoly: Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi asserted on Thursday that he is not "anti-business" as being projected by the BJP but "anti-monopoly" and "anti-creating oligopolies".

Gandhi also claimed that after an article written by him was published in a newspaper, many play-fair businesses have told him that a senior minister has been calling and forcing them to say good things on social media about Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the government's programmes.

The Congress leader's remarks came a day after he wrote an opinion piece in "The Indian Express". The article said the original East India Company wound up its operations more than 150 years ago but the raw fear it used to generate then is back now, with a new breed of monopolists having taken its place.

Gandhi, however, had also asserted that a "new deal for progressive Indian business is an idea whose time has come".

In a video posted on X on Thursday, Gandhi said, "I want to make something absolutely clear, I have been projected by my opponents in the BJP to be anti-business. I am not anti-business in the least, I am anti-monopoly, I am anti-creating oligopolies, I am anti-domination of business by one or two or five people."

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"I started my career as a management consultant and I understand the type of things that are required for a business to succeed. So I just want to repeat, I am not anti-business, I am anti-monopoly," the former Congress chief said.

In a post accompanying the video, Gandhi said, "I am pro-Jobs, pro-Business, pro-Innovation, pro-Competition. I am anti-Monopoly."

"Our economy will thrive when there is free and fair space for all businesses," he asserted.

In another post on the microblogging platform, Gandhi said, "After my article, many play-fair businesses are telling me that a senior minister has been calling and forcing them to say good things on social media about PM Modi and the gov't programmes. Proves my point exactly!"



SC expresses 'shock' over meagre pension of ex-judges

The Supreme Court on Thursday expressed "shock" over some retired high court judges receiving meagre pensions of Rs 6,000 and Rs 15,000. A bench of Justices B R Gavai, P K Mishra and K V Viswanathan was hearing a petition filed by a retired high court judge who said he was receiving a mere Rs 15,000 pension. The petitioner, who was elevated as a judge of the Allahabad High Court after serving as a judicial officer in the district court for 13 years, claimed that the authorities had refused to consider his judicial service while computing the pension. "If there are retired high court judges before us who are getting Rs 6,000 and Rs 15,000 as pension, it is shocking. How can that be?" the bench remarked. Justice Gavai said the post-retirement facilities for judges differed in each high court and some states provided much better benefits. The apex court thereafter posted the hearing on November 27. While hearing a separate plea in March, the apex court had said there cannot be any discrimination in computing the pensionary benefits of retired judges of high courts based on whether they were elevated from the bar or the district judiciary.

Mahayuti govt has failed, says Sharad

PNS ■ NAGPUR

NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar on Thursday hit out at the Mahayuti government in Maharashtra, saying it has failed to safeguard the interests of farmers, protect women and provide jobs, and urged people not to allow them to continue in power.

He also targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accusing him of working in the interest of a particular state.

Pawar was addressing a campaign rally for NCP (SP)'s Nagpur East candidate Duneswar Pethe here. Assembly elections are scheduled to be held on November 20.

"Nagpur has a deep relationship with the Congress and its ideology, with leaders from Vidarbha, including Vasant Naik and Sudhakarrao Naik, serving as the chief minister of Maharashtra and empowering the state," he said.

But those who are in power today have failed to solve the problems faced by farmers and the number suicides by farmers in Vidarbha is very big. Farmers had to take the path of suicide because the government not solve their issues, the former Union agriculture minister said.

Urges people to overthrow it



On the law and order situation in Maharashtra, he said around 630 females, including girls, have gone missing from Nagpur and nearby areas in the last six months.

"The state government has the responsibility of protecting women and it has failed to carry out this responsibility," he alleged.

Pawar further said, "Those leaders in power who cannot protect the interest of the farmers, cannot provide protection to women and cannot give jobs to the youth should not be given power again. People have to take a decision to snatch away the power from these people.

Political leaders were expected to carry out the industrial development of Vidarbha. When the Congress and allies were in power, they brought industries in Butibori and other areas of Nagpur, according to him.

"But today, we can see that no industries are coming to Vidarbha and even if they come, they are shifted out of the state," he said, and cited the example of Vedanta-Foxconn semiconductor plant that was shifted to Gujarat from Maharashtra.



No. of farm fires reduced considerably: Punjab

The Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) has informed the National Green Tribunal (NGT) that the number of stubble-burning incidents in the state has "considerably reduced" between September and November. The NGT had sought a report from the board regarding the rising number of stubble-burning incidents in Punjab causing air pollution in the National Capital Region (NCR) and other areas. The report dated November 5 and uploaded on the tribunal's website on Thursday, said, "With the unceasing efforts of various departments of the Punjab government, the stubble-burning incidents have considerably reduced for the period from September 15 to November 4 in 2024 as compared to the same period of the years 2023 and 2022." The report said 26,583 stubble-burning incidents were reported in 2022, followed by 14,173 incidents the next year and the number has reduced to 4,145 this year.



Cop, two wives arrested with heroin in Jammu

Police arrested a constable posted in the Crime Branch and his two wives during a raid on their house here on Thursday, and seized 33 grams of heroin and more than 2.5 lakh cash from their possession. The raid, conducted at constable Parwaiz Khan's residence in Janipur, also led to the recovery of 22 mobile phones, a weighing machine, and materials used for packaging the narcotic, known locally as 'chitta', a police spokesperson said. Khan, along with his two wives Margis Bhat and Parveen Akhtar, were allegedly preparing and selling small packets of heroin, targeting local youths, when they were held during the raid, the spokesperson said. A case has been registered under various sections of the NDPS Act, and further investigation is underway. Khan, who was posted in the Crime Branch, has been suspended following the arrest, the spokesperson said. Janipur police are also investigating Khan's finances, as he reportedly owns two houses in Janipur and has accumulated substantial properties.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a significant verdict, the Supreme Court on Thursday held the "rules of the game" for appointment in government jobs cannot be changed midway unless the procedure so permits.

The top court said the ultimate object of any process of selection for entry into a public service was to secure the best and the most suitable person for the job, avoiding patronage and favouritism.

Observing candidates in a recruitment process had a legitimate expectation of the selection process being fair and non-arbitrary, a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud unanimously ruled that placement in the select list gives no indefeasible right to a candidate for appointment to a government job.

"Eligibility criteria for being placed in the select list, notified at the commencement of the recruitment process, cannot be changed midway through the recruitment process unless the extant rules so permit, or the advertisement, which is not contrary to the extant rules, so permit," the bench held.

The bench, also comprising Justices Hrishikesh Roy, P S



Narasimha, Pankaj Mithal and Manoj Misra, said even if the change in eligibility criteria was permissible under the extant rules or the advertisement, the change would have to meet the requirement of Article 14 (right to equality) of the Constitution and satisfy the test of non-arbitrariness.

It said the doctrine proscribing change of rules midway through the game, or after the game was played, was predicated on the rule against arbitrariness enshrined in Article 14.

"What is suitable for one post may not be for the other. Thus, a degree of discretion is necessary to be left to the employer to devise its method/procedure to select a candidate most suitable for the post albeit subject to the overarching principles enshrined in Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution as also the rules/statute governing service and reservation," the bench said.

It pointed out that the recruitment process commenced from the issuance of advertisement calling for applications and ended with filling up of vacancies and the recruiting bodies could adopt an appropriate procedure.

"Recruiting bodies, subject to the extant rules, may devise appropriate procedure for bringing the recruitment process to its logical end provided the procedure so adopted is transparent, non-discriminatory/non arbitrary and has a rational nexus to the object sought to be achieved," it said.

Penning a 44-page verdict for the bench, Justice Misra said extant rules having statutory force were binding on the recruiting body, both in terms of procedure and eligibility.

However, where the rules were non-existent or silent, administrative instructions may fill in the gaps, he said.

The bench said placement in the select list gave no indefeasible right to the appointment and the state or its instrumentality for bona fide reasons may choose not to fill up the vacancies.

BJP works for welfare of people, asserts Chouhan

PNS ■ BUDHNI

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Wednesday said his party BJP works for the welfare of people by framing schemes for them, while the Congress has nothing to do with development and treats citizens just as a "vote bank".

Citing an example, Chouhan said "The Madhya Pradesh government sends every month Rs 1,250 into bank accounts of nearly 1.25 crore women covered under the Ladli Behna Yojana."

"The BJP works by framing schemes for the welfare of people, while the Congress has nothing to do with development and treats people merely as a vote bank," the former CM noted while addressing a rally in the bypoll-bound Budhni assembly constituency in Sehore district, his home turf.

He said under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the central government is working on the 'Lakshmi Didi' scheme to ensure that every woman earns at least Rs 10,000 per month. Chouhan said under the PM Awas Yojana, the BJP-led government is giving guarantee to people to provide pucca (concrete) houses and appealed to voters to ensure the saffron party's landslide victory in the November 13 bypoll. The BJP has fielded former Lok Sabha MP Ramakant Bhargava from the Budhni seat and his main rival is Congress candidate Rajkumar Patel. Praising the BJP, Chouhan said it is a wonderful party which made an ordinary worker like him chief minister of Madhya Pradesh for several years.

Now, the party has given him a chance to serve the farmers of the country as the Union Agriculture Minister, he told the gathering.

'Recruitment criteria for govt jobs can't be changed midway'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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Effects of premature birth could persist into adulthood: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Effects of being born prematurely could continue to affect an individual till they turn nearly 30 years of age -- 17 per cent could be less likely to enroll in a university, while 16 per cent less likely to graduate with a university degree, a new study has found.

Premature or preterm birth is said to affect about 10 per cent of all births globally and could account for one in every five child deaths.

The researchers, including those at The Hospital for Sick Children, Canada, looked at all live births in the country between 1990 and 1996, and fol-



The researchers, including those at The Hospital for Sick Children, Canada, looked at all live births in the country between 1990 and 1996, and followed the children for over two decades. About seven per cent of the births were preterm. Data on 24 lakh individuals was analysed

lowed the children for over two decades. About seven per cent of the births were preterm. Data on 24 lakh individuals was analysed.

On an average, people born before 37 weeks of gestation -- preterm infants -- were found to have lower levels of education and earn lower incomes through 28 years of age. The researchers found that the average yearly income of prematurely born individuals at age 18-28 years was six per cent lower compared to those born at term.

"Preterm-born individuals, on average, had CAD 958 less employment income per year, 6 per cent lower income per year, than term-born individuals, and

were 2.13 per cent less likely to be employed," the authors wrote in the study published in the journal PLoS ONE.

"Preterm birth was negatively associated with college or university enrollment (17 per cent less likely to enroll in a university program). Preterm-born individuals were also 16 per cent less likely to graduate with a university degree," they wrote.

Further, among those born between 24-27 weeks of gestation, which was "extremely preterm", yearly incomes were found to be 17 per cent lower and university enrollment and graduation rates decreased by 45 per cent, the authors found.

"While clinical care during the neonatal period is critical, our findings suggest that the development of long-term supports (including psychological, education and vocational resources) that go beyond clinical care may help mitigate the longer-term effects of preterm birth," said author Petros Pechlivanoglou, The Hospital for Sick Children.

"Policymakers and society as a whole must recognize that the socioeconomic impact of preterm birth may extend into early adulthood and that considerations for ongoing support could be vital to ensuring this population has equal opportunity to thrive," Pechlivanoglou said.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA WANAPARTHY DISTRICT GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY							
No. G/998/2024 WANAPARTHY TUESDAY DATE: 16.10.2024							
The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013							
As per Section -11 (1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Central Act No. 30/2013) and sub Rule (1) of Rule -25							
FORM - VIII DECLARATION							
Where as it appears to the Government / District Collector that a total of 04-14 gts land is required in the Gopipatla Village of Pargal in Wanaparthy District, for a public purpose of proposed MGKLRSP canal minor-3L on Major 4 of distributed 4L canal Km 0.000 to Km 0.950 (Package No. 29). The said Land Acquisition for the project is exempted from the Chapter - II and Chapter - III of the LA Act 2013 i.e., Social Impact Assessment (SIA) and Food Security as per Section 10 (A) of Right to Fair Compensation and Resettlement 2013.							
Now, therefore, a declaration is made here by that a piece of land measuring Ac. 04-14 gts in under acquisition for the above said project in the Gopipatla Village of Pargal Mandal in Wanaparthy District whose detailed description is as follows:							
SCHEDULE							
S. No.	Sl. No.	Particulars of the land to be acquired	Total extent to be acquired	Name of the Paddartha/Cultivator	Category of the land	Category of the land	Category of the land
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	38	Govt Dry	0.05	00.17 Boleddu Balaraju S/o Balaraju	No		
				00.16 Medda Chaitrabu S/o Balaraju	No		
				00.07 Medda Manne S/o Balaraju	No		
				0.05/1 Marigilla Bharathamma W/o Thirupataiah	No		
				0.05/1 Medda Raja S/o Balaswamy	No		
				00.07 Medda Bhichanna S/o Balaswamy	No		
				00.15 Medda Ramchandraiah S/o Medda Ramulu	No		
				00.15 Medda Arjaneyulu S/o Medda Balaswamy	No		
				00.02 Sakali Dolekiah & Srinu S/o Narasimha	No		
2	35	Govt Dry		00.16 Noolam Narsimha & Krishnakshi S/o Kurnama	No		
				00.12 Noolam China Rayudu S/o Noolam Gutabala	No		
				00.15 Noolam Srinivas S/o Chensiah	No		
				00.05 Noolam Ravinder S/o Kurnama	No		
				00.05 Noolam VenkatRamulu S/o Kurnama	No		
				00.04 Vellaku Keshanna S/o Narasimha	No		
				00.04 Pulla Devamma W/o Bharganath	No		
				00.04 Vellaku Keshanna S/o Narasimha	No		
3	28	Patla Dry	00.09	1.Vellaku Daresiah 2.Vellaku Shivudu 3.Vellaku Shantiah 4.Vellaku Srinu S/o China Balaraju	No		
				00.10 Vellaku Venkatesamma W/o Balaswamy	No		
TOTAL				04.14			
This declaration is made after hearing of objections of persons interested and due enquiry as provided under section 15 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Central Act No. 30 of 2013) and there are no displaced families come under this acquisition.							
Mines of coal, iron-ore, state or other minerals lying under the said land or any particular portion of the said land, except such parts of the mines and minerals which may be required to be dug or removed or used during the construction phase of the project for the purpose of which the land is being acquired, are not needed.							
A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Special Deputy Collector (Land Acquisition), R.L.I.S.P.-II, Peethar Hill at IDOC, Wanaparthy and on working days.							
Sd/- Spl.Dy. Collector, (L.A)		Sd/- Addl. Collector, Wanaparthy		Sd/- Dist. Collector, Wanaparthy		Sd/- RLSIP-II, Peethar Hill at IDOC, Wanaparthy	
DIPR No.345/A/PP-Pub/2024-25							



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PAPER WITH PASSION

A turning point

While the US-India relationship is poised to deepen in defence and trade, there will also be hurdles in some areas

Donald Trump's return to the presidency brings a new chapter in US foreign policy that holds considerable implications for India. The outgoing Biden administration though not averse to India had reservations about the way domestic politics was shaping in India. But with Trump at the helm of affairs that reservation may quietly go and the Trump administration may go an extra mile to accommodate New Delhi. Trump's victory could reshape strategic alliances, redefine trade relations and impact key regional dynamics that matter to New Delhi. The US-India defence relationship saw considerable progress during Trump's previous tenure. He promoted India as a key strategic partner in the Indo-Pacific to counterbalance China's rising influence, leading to initiatives such as increased military sales and the signing of defence agreements, including BECA (Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement). Trump's victory may reinforce these policies, as he is likely to continue focusing on Indo-Pacific security. A renewed



push for defence cooperation, joint military exercises, and arms deals could bolster India's military capabilities in the region.

However, not all his policies may be to India's liking. In his earlier tenure, Trump prioritised American industry, his trade policies often led to increased tariffs and renegotiations that impacted India. His "America First" approach pressured India into trade reforms to reduce the US trade deficit. This time, India might face similar pressures, particularly in the technology and pharmaceutical sectors, but could also see openings to negotiate more favourable terms, especially if Trump seeks to reduce dependency on Chinese goods. There

is potential for renewed trade deals, but both sides will likely need to balance protectionism with mutual growth. Trump's previous immigration policies, which included tighter visa regulations, impacted the Indian IT workforce, particularly regarding H-1B visas. If his administration continues down this path, it could further restrict Indian tech talent. However, there may be room for negotiation to secure beneficial terms for skilled Indian workers, especially if Trump seeks closer ties with India on other fronts. Both Trump and India share a common concern over China's assertive actions in Asia. Trump's firm stance against China aligns with India's interests, especially in light of the India-China border standoff. Trump's support for a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" and his scepticism towards Chinese trade practices resonate well with India's own strategic goals. Under Trump, the US could be a more vocal supporter of India's position on regional issues, potentially even playing a bigger role in multilateral forums like the QUAD. Trump's stance on energy independence for the US could be beneficial for India's energy security goals. Trump's victory offers both opportunities and challenges for India. For India, the priority will likely be to build on common ground, particularly in areas where interests align, and work diplomatically to address any points of contention.

PICTALK



A trader with his camel at the annual Camel Fair at Pushkar, in Ajmer

Donald Trump's historic comeback



KALYANI SHANKAR

With a Republican majority in the Senate, Trump re-enters the White House with renewed authority, poised to reshape both American politics and global dynamics



The much-awaited US presidential election ended on November 5, and former President 78-year-old Donald Trump triumphed by winning the White House. This would be his second inning and an extraordinary comeback for Trump. He will be the 47th president of the US. Reactions to Trump's election performance started coming in even before the final votes were counted in the US some leaders, like Israel's, showed enthusiasm as they dealt with an ongoing multi-front war. Others like Ukraine President Zelenskyy expressed anxiety. In contrast, some of America's long-standing European allies expressed anxiety about the election results. It was a nail-biting wait. Vice President Kamala Harris and Donald Trump were virtually tied in the polls, adding to the suspense. The odds that the race comes down to a few swing states are high, further prolonging the anticipation. Trump vowed to remove Democrats from the White House by defeating Kamala Harris. Kamala lost to Trump, just like Hillary Clinton lost in 2016. Clinton was the first woman nominated for president by her party. Trump built

a diverse group of voters, more than any Republican nominee in the last 20 years, even though he ran a campaign that was racially charged and attacked immigrants. Trump's election is not just a national event, but a global one. Its impact will be felt not only in American politics but also in global affairs, particularly in the ongoing Middle East and Ukrainian conflicts. The historic polls have denied a chance for a woman to preside over the White House. Vice President-elect JD Vance has an Indian connection as his wife, Usha, is an Indian. In the last 20 years, the most recent Republican presidential candidate to win the nationwide popular vote was George W Bush in 2004. This historical context is crucial as it underscores the unique nature of the US election process. In 2000, he won the Electoral College and the presidency but lost the popular vote to Al Gore. Donald Trump became president in 2016 by securing more than 270 votes in the Electoral College, a system where each state is assigned a certain number of votes based on its population. Despite losing the popular



ITS IMPACT WILL BE FELT NOT ONLY IN AMERICAN POLITICS BUT ALSO IN GLOBAL AFFAIRS, PARTICULARLY IN THE ONGOING MIDDLE EAST AND UKRAINIAN CONFLICTS

vote to Hillary Clinton by more than 2.8 million votes, Trump's victory in key states gave him the necessary Electoral College votes. In 2020, Trump lost the Electoral College and the popular vote to Joe Biden by over 7 million. The final results of the 2020 election hinged on the meticulous absentee ballot procedures in four crucial swing states - Arizona, Nevada, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. These procedures, which can take days to conclude, hold the key to the outcome as they determine the validity of votes cast by mail. It was these battleground states and their absentee ballots that ultimately decided Trump's win. Donald Trump won the presidency in 2016 by getting more than 270 votes in the Electoral College. However, he lost the popular vote to Hillary Clinton by over 2.8 million votes. In 2020, Trump lost the Electoral College and the popular vote to Joe Biden by more than 7 million votes. With Trump's victory, the fears of potential violence have been allayed. The predicted disturbances during the oath-taking ceremony of President Biden in

January 2021 are less likely to occur. The power transition is expected to be peaceful, bringing a sense of reassurance to the nation. Trump was not willing for a smooth transition in 2021 claiming the results were not correct and he was cheated by becoming the victim. Trump's victory can be attributed to the diverse issues he addressed, such as immigration and the economy. In this election, Trump not only secured the White votes but also a diverse group of voters, a testament to the complexity and diversity of the American electorate. Exit polls show that nearly 20 per cent of Trump voters were people of colour. In his first election in 2016, only about 13 per cent of his voters were people of colour. Simultaneously, Republicans have snatched control of the Senate, propelled by wins in West Virginia and Ohio. Democrats previously held a narrow majority in the Senate. It will make Trump's job easy. (The writer is a popular columnist currently travelling the US; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TRUMP WINS AGAIN

Madam — It's Trump again in America and the Americans cast their votes for reclaiming the presidency for Trump over Kamala Harris, and probably the voters were colourblind by giving an edge over to Trump to lead again. The last few weeks were certainly a grinding one for Trump and Harris and it was an evenly poised battle till the end. When Biden opted himself to bring in Kamala Harris into the fray, it was appreciable on the part of Harris to put up a brave fight to win over the hearts of voters in a closely contested election in America. The voters' keenness was visible even on election day while the voters continued to queue, adding to the record-breaking 84 million early ballots already submitted. Though the economy, immigration, and the preservation of democracy were among the pressing issues driving the voters to the polls, Trump gained momentum in his campaign after the attempt of assassination and was probably lucky enough to escape for a rebirth as the President again by winning the Presidency. By his victory, the Americans may have to wait for some more time to elect their first female president, which has been eluding the country for a long time.

A P Thiruvadi | Chennai

ARTICLE 370 CONTROVERSY

Madam—The present NC-Congress Govt in J and K is posing a grave danger to the parliamentary democracy and the constitution and thus be sacked forthwith for taking up and passing a resolution for restoration of Article 370, which was abrogated by the Parliament of Bharat. As everybody knows the problems it created in the way of integration of Jammu and Kashmir with the rest of Bharat and ultimate elimination of Kashmiri Pandits from the valley with continuing Jihadi Terror till date. The Supreme Court unnecessarily interrupted into the matter and forced premature election in the state,

Canada must take action



Propos to "Cowardly attack" published on November 6. The violence at Hindu Sabha Mandir in Brampton is reprehensible, and it has once again exposed Canada's inept handling of a sensitive situation. The

Trudeau government has been burning bridges with India after Nijjar's murder last year. On one side, he says that every Canadian has the right to practice his or her faith freely, but sadly, he cannot protect them and provide safety.

When the Canadian government can appoint India-designate terrorists like Pannun, Sandeep Singh Sidhu, and Sgt Harinder Sohi in the government or government agencies, then nothing better can be expected out of the Trudeau government. Canada, which otherwise proudly claims to be a peace-loving nation, has to deal strictly with all those elements who are destroying communal harmony and public order. Trudeau cannot allow to spew venom against India in the name of freedom, and he will have to salvage India-Canada ties before it is too late.

Bal Govind | Noida

which was limping back to normal steadily under the central rule. Muslims in the valley are still against Bharat and Hindus while expecting everything to be free from the state and are still intolerant against the return of Pandits in the valley. The regiment that supports the restoration of Art. 370 cannot be allowed to run the affairs of the state. The Supreme Court should be told in no uncertain terms not to interrupt J&K affairs any more.

Jai Prakash Gupta | Ambala Cantt

INDIA BIDS FOR OLYMPICS

Madam — India has taken a concrete step towards hosting the Olympics and Paralympics by formally expressing interest in hosting the big ticket events. The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) officially submitted a Letter of Intent to the Future Host Commission of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), formally expressing India's interest in hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2036, officially known as the Games of the XXXVI

Olympiad. India's top sports administrators, including IOA President PT Usha, were at the Paris Olympics earlier in the year to lobby for the country's selection. There have been reports that India would push for the inclusion of indigenous disciplines like yoga, kho kho and kabaddi if the bid is successful.

IOC President Thomas Bach had also supported India's case, claiming that there was a "strong case" for India to host the Olympic Games. In the process, India joined nine other countries that have expressed interest in hosting the 2036 Games. The 10 countries that have shown initial interest in hosting the 2036 Games include Mexico (Mexico City, Guadalajara-Monterrey-Tijuana), Indonesia (Nusantara), Turkey (Istanbul), India (Ahmedabad), Poland (Warsaw, Krakow), Egypt (New Administrative Capital), and South Korea (Seoul Incheon).

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Gen Z: Hyper-connected yet shallow relations

In an age where friendships are as easy as a "follow" or a "like," Gen Z finds itself paradoxically more isolated than ever

In a world where friendships are just a tap away, Gen Z is paradoxically more connected and yet more alone than ever. With countless social media networks, endless group chats, and online "friends," you'd think they'd feel fulfilled. But under the endless likes, comments, and selfies, there's a haunting emptiness. I often meet young people who, despite their vast online networks, feel utterly isolated. They are connected to everyone, yet truly close to no one. Take Rhea, a 22-year-old with a picture-perfect online life. Her feed is filled with smiling photos, exotic vacations, and witty captions. But behind this flawless facade lies a young woman scarred by painful experiences. She lost her father at five, faced years of abuse, and carries a deep, invisible wound. Rhea carefully hides this pain, crafting an online persona that feels safe and acceptable. "I keep thinking if I post the right picture, maybe I'll finally feel like I belong," she admitted once, her voice breaking. Yet the emptiness doesn't fade. Her online "friends" see



the bright exterior, but none see the broken girl within. Another story is of Arjun, a young man shaped by a chaotic home and constant content bombardment. Now 20, he spends hours scrolling through his feed, comparing himself to others who appear effortlessly perfect. "Everyone seems so complete," he said, "but I feel like I'm failing." In a crisis, Arjun realises he has no one to truly rely on. His friendships, based on memes and brief exchanges, feel hollow when life gets tough. The endless scrolling only deepens his loneliness, as he sees everyone's best

moments while silently suffering through his worst. Rhea and Arjun's stories echo a painful truth for many in Gen Z. Friendships today are often shallow, based on convenience rather than commitment. They form and dissolve easily, leaving young people adrift in a sea of acquaintances who vanish when things get real. This generation's friendships are filtered through screens, built on quick likes and superficial messages. The traditional bonds of trust and time are slipping away, leaving behind connections that feel fleeting and, ultimately, empty.

What's missing here is depth — the kind of friendship that stands the test of hardship, that offers warmth and understanding beyond a screen. For Rhea, there's a wounded inner child who craves a friend who will listen and care beyond the "perfect" image she shows online. For Arjun, there's a desperate need to find a friend who sees his struggles, not just his shared posts. As a society, we need to understand that true friendship isn't about quick exchanges or temporary validation. It's about sharing real moments, both joyful and painful. It's about listening, being there, and caring without conditions. Perhaps, as Felice Buscaglia once said, "It's not enough to have lived." True living means creating joy, sharing love, and holding each other through life's storms. Until Gen Z learns to build friendships beyond the screen, they'll remain in search of bonds that can truly make them feel seen, safe, and understood. (The writer is a a psychologist and mindset coach; views are personal)



KAVITA KABIRA



FIRST COLUMN

UNDERSTANDING THE MIND OF GOD

Aligning our actions with divine wisdom can only steer us through life's hardships



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

We want to live a nice life, but we do not know how. Individually, we all try but come up short except for a few, who seriously take shelter of God. Because God only can make a difference. A big percentage of us, if not all humans, are aware of God but are unable to become serious about making a proper attempt to link with God – the Creator. I will try in this article to get you interested in getting started in this noble act. I am using similes and contrasts – the usual ways to compare. And I have chosen an example of a businessman for this purpose. God is the Creator; we are aware of this fact. A businessman is a prime mover for a business venture. God creates the entire solar system. In the case of a businessman, he starts small and tries to grow it into a vast business empire. A businessman is intrinsically small, i.e., will always remain small, no matter how big his business empire may become. God is incomprehensibly big and will always be. Our problem is to think of God to be a person like us, just as He incarnates to teach us what is proper for us. Our ignorance is not limited to this fact only but extends to what we know. A businessman falsely assumes that what he knows about a business is sufficient. What happens? Many businesses fail. What he could have done? He could have prayed to God for guidance. God would have given him instructions through mediums, those around him. And the business would have succeeded, because God is omniscient, i.e., He



knows past, present and future also; God always knows what will work. God is also omnipresent, i.e. present everywhere all the time. A businessman tries to replicate and over-stress himself frequently. God can help if one remains in His shelter. Then, it becomes God's business, literally so. The businessman will get a partner, who owns everything in the first place. All businesses face challenges of many kinds because this earth's planet is a place of misery. (The Bhagavad-Geeta 8.15) Smooth sailing is out of the question. When God – the Controller gets involved, then, success is guaranteed, no matter what challenges come. The Omnipotent God takes care of them. A businessman is limited to what his 'karmaphalas' (fruits of past 'karmas') ordain. We can understand this by the fact that the extent of success of a business is widely varied. All work hard but destiny rules. With God in the picture, He becomes the 'Karta' (doer). My business survived even in the extreme conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic. We even paid bonuses to our employees in this period, because God is involved. Where do many businesses falter? They don't follow 'dharma' (the highest religious/moral principles). And God is all for upholding dharma. So there is no help from God. You cross 'maryada' (acceptable limits) and face the music. Failed businessmen blame their luck for it. It is true because that was ordained. Bad luck could have been nullified if one had pleased God by staying within the dharma. The conclusion is to start with accepting that God is one and incomprehensibly big, and we are small parts of Him. We should take shelter from God and remain there. Then, we will be best served in whatever proper, i.e. according to dharma we do. God will guide help, and even micromanage our lives.

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

Trump 2.0: What lies ahead in his second term



NILANTHA LANGAMUWA

For ardent supporters, it's a long-anticipated victory, a "Make America Great Again" revival, while critics recoil at the reality of his return



He's back. Brace yourselves: Donald Trump is set to reclaim the White House as the 47th President of the United States. He would become the first president since Grover Cleveland in 1892 to serve two terms that were not consecutive. Love him or loathe him, this moment is nothing short of historic. For his supporters, it's a long-awaited reckoning; for his critics, it's a nightmare realised. Hollywood elites—George Clooney, Leonardo DiCaprio, and Oprah Winfrey among them—are likely stewing in disbelief, unable to reconcile with the stark message that America is prepared to usher in another Trump era. Meanwhile, personalities like Megyn Kelly and Tucker Carlson bask in the triumph of what they perceive as the return of their "Messiah," the man who vowed to Make America Great Again. This is democracy in action, like it or not. In his first victory speech, Trump wasted no time hammering home his agenda: "I will not let my supporters down," he declared. "America's future will be bigger, better, bolder, richer, safer, and stronger than it has ever been." Bold words, indeed. Yet the question hangs—what will the cost of 'greatness' be in a nation this divided? This time, he returns stronger, fortified by allies like Elon Musk, while other titans—Jeff Bezos, for one—strive to remain neutral. Yet the fallout is profound. Influential voices such as Robert Kagan, a staunch advocate of liberal internationalism and husband of the American diplomat Victoria Nuland, have resigned, signalling that the ground is shifting. For mainstream media—outlets like The New York Times, NBC, and CNN—the election results are a rebuke they cannot ignore. These media powerhouses, which for years wielded narratives against Trump, now face a public that feels increasingly alienated from the polished, elitist stories they've been fed. The trust gap widens as citizens see the chasm



THIS IS DEMOCRACY IN ACTION, LIKE IT OR NOT IN HIS FIRST VICTORY SPEECH, TRUMP WASTED NO TIME HAMMERING HOME HIS AGENDA: "I WILL NOT LET MY SUPPORTERS DOWN," HE DECLARED

between elite narratives and their lived realities. Trump's second term will likely turn a blind eye to the domestic affairs of other nations, signalling potential cuts in funding to so-called civil society organisations and other international interests maintained by the US State Department and its clandestine bodies. Immigration policy, too, could see a harsher edge, as tensions over border security and the influx of immigrants under Biden intensify. This stricter stance could stoke the fires of domestic unrest as Americans grapple with yet another transformation of national priorities. The war in Ukraine may come to an end sooner rather than later, potentially through a bitter compromise with Russia, as many countries in Europe may not align with Trump as they did under the Biden administration. However, if Ukrainian President Zelenskyy has a different understanding of the situation, it may be time for him to seriously consider pursuing the Chinese peace proposal. Meanwhile, the conflict in West Asia is likely to pause, but tensions could rise, possibly leading to new forms of attacks on Iran. The relationship between Iran and the Trump administration will be crucial in determining the future scenario in West Asia, as decisions made in this context could significantly alter the region's geopolitical dynamics. One should not forget that it was during Trump's first administration that Qasem Soleimani, an Iranian military officer who served in the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, was assassinated in Baghdad, Iraq, using a reaper drone (Predator B).

Soleimani was a key enabler of Iranian actions, and even now, he is widely regarded as a major influence in Iran and its alliances. On the home front, the controversial Project 2025 blueprint stands as a bold bid to remodel US government institutions in line with a nationalist, ultra-conservative vision. Critics warn of an authoritarian slide. Trump himself claimed he had "no hand in the policy," even as his campaign speeches echoed its themes. Dismantling regulatory agencies, installing ideologically driven personnel, and consolidating executive power—such moves could test the very checks and balances that underpin the American system. The potential cost? A dramatic weakening of civil liberties, environmental protections, and democratic norms, is likely to spark deep political divisions and civil unrest. If realised, this vision would also redefine America's role on the global stage. The "America First" doctrine, which shaped Trump's prior foreign policy, may once again destabilise multilateral efforts on urgent issues like climate change, nuclear disarmament, and trade. Trump's rhetoric could erode US alliances, and as Washington retreats from the mantle of democracy promotion, a vacuum forms—one that China, no doubt, is eager to fill. Worth noting is Trump's first note during his visit to the CIA headquarters, right after becoming the 45th president. Mainstream narratives often painted him as dismissive of the intelligence apparatus, but Trump's note challenged that view, acknowledging the agency's

importance. Now, as political winds shift, Trump is rumoured to be eyeing Kash Patel, an Indian-American with roots in counterterrorism and intelligence reform, as his new CIA head. Patel's controversial stance on challenging the so-called "deep state" marks a radical shift in US intelligence policy—likely a step towards Trump's broader agenda of power consolidation within the federal government. Patel, known for his book Government Gangsters: The Deep State, the Truth, and the Battle for Our Democracy, is expected to tackle intelligence reform head-on, aligning with Trump's vision of shaking up entrenched power structures. A second Trump administration would also stoke tensions with China, particularly in the Indo-Pacific, where US-China rivalry is reaching new heights. Trump's hawkish stance on Taiwan and the South China Sea could signal increased military presence, arms deals, and strengthened alliances with Japan, South Korea and India. The administration is likely to challenge China's Belt and Road Initiative and impose sanctions on Chinese firms, aiming to limit Beijing's influence. Smaller nations in the region, meanwhile, could find themselves stuck in a high-stakes dilemma—aligning with the US risks Beijing's wrath while leaning towards China risks Washington's ire. With Trump redefining US foreign policy, these nations may face an impossible choice in a tightening geopolitical vice. (The writer is a journalist and author; Views are personal)

PM-Vidyalaxmi: A yet another 'Modi Kee Guarantee' for learners

The Government has initiated this financial aid programme to harness the potential of the youth from the weaker sections

India has the largest number of millennials and Gen Zs in the world. This population constitutes a critical mass for increasing GER in higher education from the current 28 per cent to 50 per cent by 2035 as envisaged in NEP-2020. Moreover, India's working population in the age bracket of 15-64 is nearly 68 per cent. The current demographic dividend will not be available for a longer period as the youth population will turn old and thus will become non-productive. Precisely for this reason, PM Modi called the current time window in the lifespan of Bharat the 'Amrit Kaal' and has given a clarion call for making it 'Viksit' by 2047 through self-reliant measures. Skilled youth are in high



RAGHAVENDRA P TIWARI

demand the world over and this trend will always remain as skilling, upskilling and reskilling will always be required to cope with ever-evolving job profiles in the workplace. However, owing to the economic transformation that the nation has witnessed over the last decade, living standards have greatly improved leading to an enhanced cost of living. And, education is no exception.

The Central Government has taken several initiatives to ensure hassle-free access to quality higher education, especially regarding NEP-2020 implementation. These include multidisciplinary and learning outcome-based curriculum for holistic learning; innovative pedagogy (experiential learning, internship, field immersion, etc); evaluation to test the learning outcomes; Academic Bank of Credits; Multiple Entry-Exit; Dual degree, joint degree and twin degree programmes; emphasis on Indian Knowledge System and Universal Human Values, etc. The latest edition to the long list is the PM-Vidyalaxmi scheme to provide collateral-free, guarantor-free financial loans to needy meritorious students covering all categories to ease them from financial constraints for pursuing quality higher education. Approved by the Cabinet on November 5, 2024, as a Deepawali Gift to the nation, PM-Vidyalaxmi is a mission mode, simple, transparent, student-friendly and fully digital mechanism to facilitate easy access to loans to meritorious students admitted in, to begin with, top 860 quality higher education institutions. This initiative provides a single-window integrated platform for students seeking educational loans to apply for it and to track their applications. PM Vidyalaxmi will add to the scope and reach of earlier initiatives of the current government for maximising access to quality higher education for socially deprived sections



of society. Under this scheme, students will be eligible to obtain collateral-free, guarantor-free loans from banks and financial institutions to cover the full amount of tuition fees and other expenses to be incurred for pursuing academic programs. Under PM Vidyalaxmi, the government will also provide a 75 per cent credit guarantee of outstanding default for loan amounts up to 7.5 lakhs to support banks to

expand coverage. The scheme will also provide for 3 per cent interest subvention on loans up to Rs 10 lakh during the moratorium period for those students having an annual family income of Rs 8.00 lakhs and are not covered under any government scholarship of interest subvention. This will be in addition to full interest subvention already offered to students with up to Rs 4.5 lakhs annual family income. Interest subvention will be paid through E-vouchers and Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) wallets. An outlay of Rs 3,600 Crore has been made available for the period from 2024-25 to 2030-31, and 7 lakh fresh students are expected to get the benefit of this interest subvention during the above timeslot. PM-Vidyalaxmi will supple-

ment the two components of the scheme of Pradhan Mantri Uchcharat Shiksha Protsahan (PM-USP), namely, the Central Sector Interest Subsidy (CSIS) and Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme (CGFS) for education loans, already offered by the Ministry of Education. Under the PM-USP-CSIS, students pursuing technical/professional courses from approved institutions. PM Vidyalaxmi, in a nutshell, is an entirely new scheme launched for empowering youth, especially of the middle class, with necessary financial support for pursuing the education of their choice. The scheme will operate in tandem with PM-USP to provide financial support to all deserving students to pursue quality higher education and techni-

cal/professional education in select quality Higher Education Institutions in India. The newly launched scheme, apart from making quality higher education available to meritorious students, will ease the impounding stress of students opting for loans and will enable them to fully concentrate on learning. Kudos to PM Narendra Modi and Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan for launching a new learner-centric scheme for spearheading the implementation of NEP-2020. PM Vidyalaxmi is in fact, a confluence of Vidya, the Goddess of Knowledge, and Laxmi, the Goddess of Wealth! (The writer is Vice Chancellor, Central University of Punjab, Bathinda; views are personal)

IN BRIEF



TCS bags multi-year deal from Air France-KLM

India's largest IT services company Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has bagged a multi-year deal to assist Air France-KLM in transitioning to an advanced, AI-ready, and cloud-native data landscape, according to a release. The deal will help Air France-KLM - a Europe-based global aviation leader in passenger transport, cargo transport and aeronautical maintenance - become the most data-centric airline group in the world, the release added. It will facilitate Air France-KLM's transition to an advanced, AI-ready, and cloud-native data landscape. "Over the next three years, TCS will modernise the airline group's data by moving it to cloud, promoting the next generation of data-driven aviation," it said without disclosing the financial details of the contract. This shift will help Air France-KLM exit data centres and harness the strength of the cloud, supporting the sustainable and adaptive aviation industry.



Irdai proposes to amend regulatory sandbox norms

Regulator Irdai has proposed to amend the norms related to 'regulatory sandbox' by incorporating principle-based approach and further facilitate adoption of innovative ideas and new concepts across the insurance value chain. Regulatory sandbox usually refers to live testing of new products or services in a controlled/test regulatory environment for which regulators may or may not permit certain relaxations. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) had constituted an internal committee to review the Irdai (Regulatory Sandbox) Regulations. Based on the recommendations of the committee, it has proposed amendments to the regulatory sandbox regulations and seeks comments from the public at large on the proposed amendments. Issuing an exposure draft on regulatory sandbox regulations, Irdai said the amendment seeks adoption of principle based approach over rule based approach.



'Bengal to announce policies on GCC, semiconductor'

The West Bengal government plans to announce policies on global capability centres (GCC) and semiconductor in the coming months to position the state as the next IT destination in the country, IT and Electronics department minister Babul Supriyo said on Thursday. Speaking at an interactive session organised by CII here, the minister said that West Bengal aspires to be the next IT hub in India. "By facilitating a conducive environment to technological companies like 100 per cent electric duty waiver, 100 per cent waiver of stamp duty and 50 per cent waiver of property tax, the state will become a favourite destination for the firms", he said. The government is in the process of coming up with policies on GCC and semiconductor with the view to create digital infrastructure in the state. GCCs are offshore units of multinational companies that operate across the globe and generate substantial employment opportunities.

CII pitches for further reform in taxation system, sustaining capex

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Industry chamber CII on Thursday pitched for further reforms in the tax system, including through simplification of taxes, as well as sustaining the capital investment momentum in the Budget for 2025-26. In a meeting with Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra, CII urged the government to increase the capex by 25 per cent over 2024-25 (BE) with a sharp focus on infrastructure related to rural areas, agriculture, and the social sector.



The Budget for the 2025-26 fiscal year is set to be presented on February 1, 2025.

CII President Sanjiv Puri said given the intrinsic strength of the economy and with growth aspirations of the people, this is an opportune time for India to design a blueprint and a template outlining the next phase of reforms.

"India has emerged as the beacon of stability and growth in a fraught world, in the last decade. We are looking at the Union Budget to further consolidate this position and create a competitive India, that is pro-

perous, inclusive, equitable, environmentally advanced," Puri said.

CII Director General Chandrajit Banerjee said the Budget comes at a time when the world is going through some period of geopolitical and economic uncertainty.

"With the kind of progressive budgets that we have seen in the last few years, we are very

hopeful that the trend would continue and we shall see a strongly growth oriented budget. Especially important would be to see how the budget gives a boost to consumption and also gets private sector investments to kick start again," Banerjee said. CII called for sustaining the cycle of capital investment in areas such as infrastructure to provide a further fillip to growth through a boost to employment and consumption.

CII also made a strong pitch for further reforms in the tax system, including through simplification of taxes, increasing India's tax competitiveness, broadening of tax base and reducing tax litigation to build a globally competitive Indian economy.

EAM Jaishankar meets CEOs, business leaders in Australia

PNS ■ SYDNEY

The world would be moving to a much more integrated global workplace prompting many countries, including the US, to make a distinction in immigration and mobility, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said here on Thursday.

It will be the Corporates that will decide whether the talent goes to the business or the business goes to the talent, Jaishankar said as he harped on mobility of talent and skills during a meeting with the CEOs and business leaders in Australia.

"Even as there is a re-globalisation, or reworking of the current architecture, apart from the technological changes, I think, the demographic unevenness of the world is beginning to bite us," Jaishankar, who is on a five-day official visit to Australia, said.

Pointing out that there would be economies where the demand would be high, the talents may not be plentiful, he said, "We will be moving, perhaps in the next few years, to a much more integrated global workplace that many countries, including even the United States, will make a distinction in immigration and



Economically justified mobility will have to be fostered by those where the economic value is less or negative (and) will have to be managed, he said. He also spoke about priorities for India -- how do you create and manage and optimise a global workplace? "And now the global workplace doesn't mean that the talent alone has to move. Businesses can move as well

mobility."

Economically justified mobility will have to be fostered by those where the economic value is less or negative (and) will have to be managed, he said.

He also spoke about priorities for India -- how do you create and manage and optimise a global workplace? "And now the global workplace doesn't mean that the talent alone has to move. Businesses can move as well."

already seen that happening in the last few years, the Minister said, "At the last count, we have about 1,800 global capability centres in India, which, between them, generate about USD 150 billion worth of experts." India sees this trend as intensifying, because the more technology driven, more digital era is going to require a certain concentration and access to skills and talent, he pointed out. "So, whether the talent goes to the business or the business goes to the talent,

that's a decision which Corporates will be making."

Among the possibilities arising after the Republican Donald Trump winning the presidential election in the US on Wednesday, Jaishankar said, there will be in a way, "more geopolitical hedging that what will inevitably happen as a consequence of policies which we can safely predict -- many more of us would be seeking more relationships to keep life steady."

The election result in the US would help accelerate the reordering of supply chains which is already taking place in India, he said.

Jaishankar was also optimistic about how, politics notwithstanding, the world will be greener even if the pace of the greening of the economy may vary.

India is certainly taking "a big bet on green hydrogen, on green ammonia and thinking of green shipping corridors, electric mobility is already on us and we are looking at (bio) diesel," the minister said, adding, India is also very strongly pushing sustainable aviation fuel.

Earlier, Jaishankar listed India's achievements, especially over the last decade in various fields.

IMPORTS OF SOLAR GLASS FROM CHINA, VIETNAM DGTR for anti-dumping duty

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The commerce ministry has recommended imposition of an anti-dumping duty of up to USD 677 per tonne on imports of a certain type of solar glass from China and Vietnam, with an aim to guard domestic producers.

In its preliminary findings, the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), a wing of the ministry, has concluded that "Textured Toughened (Tempered) Coated and Uncoated Glass" have been exported to India at a price below the normal value, resulting in dumping.

The notification of the directorate said that the imports from these countries have caused material injury to the domestic industry.

"The authority recommends

imposition of provisional anti-dumping duty on the imports," it has said.

It added that the domestic industry has made significant investments to manufacture the glass and make India self-reliant. The impact of the duties on the downstream industry is only 2.52 per cent and is insignificant.

The recommended duty ranges between USD 565 per tonne and USD 677 per tonne.

The finance ministry takes the final decision to impose duties. The DGTR conducted the probe following applications regarding the same from Borosil Renewables Ltd on behalf of the domestic industry. Anti-dumping probes are conducted by countries to determine whether domestic industries have been hurt because of a surge in cheap imports.

Sensex, Nifty tank more than 1% after 2-day rally

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Snapping its two-day winning run, benchmark Sensex tanked 836 points due to profit-taking in banking and auto shares as investors turned cautious ahead of the US Federal Reserve policy decision and unabated foreign fund outflows.

As the optimism over Donald Trump's win in the US presidential polls waned, the BSE Sensex dropped by 836.34 points, or 1.04 per cent, to settle at 79,541.79. During the day, it slumped 958.79 points or 1.19 per cent to 79,419.34. The NSE Nifty declined 284.70 points or 1.16 per cent to finish at 24,199.35.

From the 30-share Sensex pack, Tata Motors, Tech



Mahindra, UltraTech Cement, JSW Steel, Sun Pharma, Asian Paints, IndusInd Bank and ICICI Bank were the major losers.

State Bank of India emerged as the only gainer from the pack.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 4,445.59 crore on Wednesday, according to

exchange data.

"The domestic market ended with a deeper cut while eroding the previous day's gains. Disappointing Q2 and persistent selling by FIIs continue to dampen market sentiment.

"The broader market saw a widespread sell-off as optimism over Trump's election victory waned. However, investors are now shifting their attention to the upcoming Fed policy meeting and domestic public outlay, which are anticipated to offer more insight into the future trade path," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said.

The BSE midcap gauge declined 0.67 per cent and a smallcap index went lower by 0.44 per cent.

Brazil can be major source for India's urad, tur imports: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India on Thursday said Brazil has the potential to become a major source for the import of black gram (urad) and pigeon peas (tur) for the country.

The issue was discussed by a Brazilian delegation led by senior Agriculture Ministry official Julio Cesar Ramos during a courtesy call to Consumer Affairs Secretary Nidhi Khare here.

"Brazil has emerged as a supplier of urad in recent years and has the potential to become a major source of India's urad and tur imports," the consumer affairs ministry said in a statement after the meeting.

Gold slides Rs 1,650 to Rs 79,500 per 10 grams

Silver plunges Rs 2,900

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Gold and silver prices slumped in the national capital on Thursday, with the precious metal declining Rs 1,650 and slipping below the Rs 80,000-mark, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

Trepid demand by local jewellers amid weak trend overseas as the primary reason behind the fall in prices, traders said.

The precious metal slipped Rs 1,650 to Rs 79,500 per 10 grams against the previous close of Rs 81,150 per 10 grams on Wednesday.

Silver, too followed suit, plunging Rs 2,900 to Rs 93,800 per kg on reduced offtake by industrial units and coin makers. It had traded flat at Rs

96,700 per kg on Wednesday. Prices of gold of 99.5 per cent purity also slipped Rs 1,650 to Rs 79,100 per 10 grams. In the previous session, it had settled at Rs 80,750 per 10 grams.

Sentiment weakened on the back of subdued global trend, and the fall in demand in local jewellers put pressure on prices of gold, traders said.

Meanwhile, in futures trade on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold contracts for December delivery is traded flat at Rs 76,655 per 10 grams.

"Gold traded in a flat to range-bound manner as market participants awaited the outcome of the Federal Reserve's (Fed) meeting tonight, with expectations



leaning toward a 0.25 per cent rate cut," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities, said.

However, silver contracts for December delivery fell Rs 9, or 0.01 per cent, to trade at Rs 90,811 per kg.

Comex gold futures fell USD 1.90 per ounce, or 0.07 per cent, at USD 2,674.40 per ounce in the Asian market hours.

I-T dept searches Truecaller India offices

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Income-Tax Department Thursday carried out searches at offices of global caller ID platform Truecaller on charges of tax evasion, official sources said.

The Stockholm-headquartered company said it was cooperating with the investigators.

Tax officials said the searches were aimed to gather detailed information and check documents in connection with certain charges of tax evasion including those pertaining to transfer pricing (TP) issues. According to the company's website, Truecaller has offices in Bengaluru, Mumbai and Gurugram in India.

INOX India to supply cryogenic tanks to UK

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

INOX India on Thursday said it will supply five specialised cryogenic tanks to UK-based Highview Power for their Liquid Air Energy Storage (LAES) project.

The tanks will be supplied from its facility in Gujarat to the LAES project coming up at Manchester in the UK. In a statement, INOX India said this is the company's first order for a liquid air energy storage project.

FEMA PROBE

ED searches 19 premises of Amazon, Flipkart vendors

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate Thursday conducted searches against some of the "main vendors" operating on platforms of e-commerce giants Amazon and Flipkart as part of a foreign investment "violation" investigation, official sources said.

A total of 19 premises of these "preferred" vendors located in Delhi, Gurugram and Panchkula (Haryana),

Hyderabad (Telangana) and Bengaluru (Karnataka) were covered as part of the action, the sources said.

It is learnt that the ED inspected documents and took copies of some from the premises of about six such vendors who were not named.

The sources said a probe has been initiated by the federal agency under the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA)



after it received several complaints against the two large e-commerce companies where it is alleged that they

were "violating India's FDI (foreign direct investment) rules by directly or indirectly influencing the sale price

of goods or services and not providing level playing field for all the vendors".

There was no immediate response from the two e-commerce companies. Meanwhile, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) welcomed the ED action. "The CAIT, along with several other trade bodies, has been raising these issues for the past few years. I welcome the Enforcement Directorate's actions as a step

in the right direction," CAIT secretary general and BJP MP from Delhi Praveen Khandelwal said in a statement.

He claimed that the the Competition Commission of India (CCI) had also issued "penalty notices" to Amazon and Flipkart, and their "preferred" sellers, for "engaging" in anti-competitive practices that have adversely affected small traders and 'kirana' (grocery) stores.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT, GANDHI HOSPITAL, SECUNDERABAD

Rc.No. GHS/MS/SP/2/2024-25/2864 Date: 05-11-2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sub:- P2-OHS-Sec-Bad - Procurement of Automated Leica Microtome to use in Pathology Department for Gandhi Hospital -Tender Notification Issued - Regarding. Ref:- This Office Note Approved Rc.No.GHS/MS/SP/2/2024-25/ Dt.08-10-2024.

Sealed Tenders are invited from the authorized/Dealers/Agencies/Vendors towards procurement of Automated Leica Microtome to use in Pathology Department of Gandhi Hospital, Secunderabad.

1. Tender form fee Rs. 2,000/- by way of D.D. in favour of the 'Society for Improvement of Teaching Hospital', Gandhi Hospital, Sec-Bad.
2. Sale of tender form will commence from 07-11-2024 up to 14-11-2024 on all working days between 10.30 AM to 4.00 PM from P1-P2 Section of GHS.
3. Last date for submission of sealed tender is on 18-11-2024 along with EMD of 5% of Total Cost in favour of "Society for Improvement of Teaching Hospital" Gandhi Hospital, Secunderabad to be submitted at Inward Section of Gandhi Hospital, Secunderabad.
4. Opening of sealed tenders in the Conference Hall, Ground Floor, GHS at 3:00 PM on 18-11-2024 in the presence of the representative of the vendors/agencies/Officials of Gandhi Hospital, Sec-Bad.

The Superintendent, Gandhi Hospital, Sec-Bad, has all rights to accept/ reject/ cancel any or all tenders without any notices thereof. Sd/- Superintendent Gandhi Hospital, Secunderabad

R.O.No: 621-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2024-25, Dt. 07.11.2024

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA MISSION BHAGRATHA DEPARTMENT, Nalgonda Circle

PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

Annexure to Letter No. Lc.No: TIGEE-LWB Infra/Net & Spw/PHC/InfProc/2024-25, Dt. 05.11.2024

Tender Notice No & Date	No. of Call	Name of the Work	Approx. Sale Value	Start Date	End Date	Opening of Bid Date	Financial Bid Date	Technical Bid Date	Officer concerned
14 Procurement Notice No: 22/2024/MS/2024-25, Dt. 05.11.2024	2nd Call	Construction of Secondary grid line and Extension of PVC Pipeline, New PHC in Konda Malapally Pilo Konda Malapally GP of Konda Malapally Mandal under SDF 2023-24 Grant (Invited under e-marketed works-5Ts/5Ts Societies are only eligible to participate)	15,000	11-11-2024 to 28-11-2024	28-11-2024	04:00 PM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	Superintending Engineer, MS, Konda Malapally GP, Dist: Nalgonda, SE-99000302
24 Procurement Notice No: 23/2024/MS/2024-25, Dt. 05.11.2024	1st Call	Construction of Borewell, Room and Pipelines of Chandrapur GP of Chivara (M), Suryapet (D)	24,000	11-11-2024 to 28-11-2024	28-11-2024	04:00 PM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	SE-91012041
34 Procurement Notice No: 34/2024/MS/2024-25, Dt. 05.11.2024	3rd Call	Construction of PHC Sub Centre at 11 locations in Nalgonda District with Estimated cost of 20.80 lakhs under NHM/159-Finance Grant.	228.00	12-11-2024 to 19-11-2024	19-11-2024	04:00 PM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	SE-91012041

NOTE: In S.No 3 (PHC Works) Tender Notice No. 02,14/2024/MS/2024-25, Dt. 05.11.2024 are invited under e-marketed works only eligible to participate and Tender Notice No. 10/2024/MS/2024-25, Dt. 05.11.2024 are invited under e-marketed works only eligible to participate. The bidders are requested to furnish their details in 2d format. Further details can be obtained from e-procurement market place on <https://tender.telangana.gov.in/> the bidders are requested to contact Superintending Engineer for any details. Sd/- Superintending Engineer MB Circle, Nalgonda

R.O.No: 634-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2024-25, Date: 07-11-2024

TRAVELOGUE



TEJAL SINHA
tejal.sinha30@gmail.com

'SIDDHARTH AND I JUST LOVE TO HIT THE TRAIL IN A NEW CITY'

For Aditi Rao Hydari, travel is more than just a getaway—it's an ongoing journey of exploration and connection. In an exclusive conversation with *The Pioneer*, she reveals how her wanderlust goes hand-in-hand with her belief in inclusivity and understanding

Where the spotlight fades, a new script unfolds. For Aditi Rao Hydari, an acclaimed actress and wanderlust enthusiast, the world is a cinematic canvas waiting to be explored. Beyond the silver screen, Aditi's true blockbuster is the uncharted territory of travel—a journey that weaves together culture, creativity and self-discovery. With an ancestral heritage rooted in Hyderabad's rich history and a heart that beats for the unknown, she traverses the globe with an insatiable curiosity. Her travels are a sensory exploration of the world's diverse landscapes, cuisines, art forms and human stories. From the majestic forts of Rajasthan to the tranquil beaches of the Maldives and from the vibrant streets of Europe to the mystical monasteries of the Himalayas, the *Hey Sanamika* fame's adventures are an attestation to her zest for life. As she navigates the intersection of tradition and modernity, her travels inspire her craft, nourish her soul and broaden her perspective. Through her experiences, she uncovers hidden gems, forges meaningful connections and celebrates the beauty of our world—one frame, one story and one journey at a time.

As a self-proclaimed wanderlust, her love for travel stems from her curiosity about different cultures and her belief in inclusivity. "I love travelling because I'm one of those wanderlusts," says the *Ajeeb Daastaans* fame as her enthusiasm was pretty evident in this chat with *The Pioneer*.

Her love for travel goes far beyond sightseeing; it is deeply rooted in her curiosity for different cultures and her belief in the power of human connection. The *Maha Samudaram* fame views travel as an opportunity to immerse herself in the stories of people and places rather than just observe them from a distance.

"I love it! I'm curious about different cultures. I never look at anybody as the other. I believe in inclusivity." Travelling for her isn't just about exploring new landscapes but about understanding the diverse ways in which people live, think and express themselves. "It's really about human beings," she gushes as she adds, "It doesn't matter where they're from, where you are from, or what food they eat. It's just about the connection of hearts and you do that when you travel."

The *Murder 3* actress' love for travel extends to the way she experiences new places. She is not one for rigid itineraries or



packed schedules. "I am a traveller with a vivid imagination. When I travel to a place, I prefer for the day to happen smoothly. I dislike busy schedules. I favour genuine and engaging experiences," she enthuses. The *Sammoohanam* leading lady firmly believes that the best way to truly experience a city is with the guidance of a local. "The most effective way to discover a city is with the guidance of a resident. This enhances the overall experience," she affirms. For Aditi, travel is about connecting with the heartbeat of a place and this is something she learned early in life. She recalls her favourite travel moments, particularly with her partner, Siddharth, who shares her passion for spontaneous exploration. "We love to just get lost in a new city," she says with warm love for her hubby. "I think that's the fun of travelling with him." Their last adventure together took them to Milan and Florence, where Aditi had the added joy of

connecting with family, as her cousin lives in Milan. "It was a lot of fun," she reflects with a warm tone.

India, with its vibrant diversity, is another source of inspiration for her travels. "India is so rich and diverse. I can't say one place because there are so many places in India and that's what makes us special," she shares. For her, celebrating India's cultural diversity and unique stories is essential and she hopes the country will continue to embrace and celebrate these differences. While she has travelled extensively, she expresses a particular longing to explore parts of India she hasn't yet discovered, especially the Northeast and parts of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. "At this point, my bucket list is the North East," she says with excitement.

Reflecting on an early travel experience, our dearest Bibbojan recalls her trip to Udaipur at the age of 19, where she went with her teacher and friends to attend a dance concert. "I recall visiting the Shrinathji Temple in Nathdwara at four o'clock in the morning," she says, her voice softening at the memory. "The simple beauty of the temple left me in awe. Additionally, being there on January 1 added to the uniqueness of the morning." These moments of spiritual connection remain etched in her mind as some of the most powerful experiences of her life.

Growing up in Hyderabad, Aditi was surrounded by warmth and hospitality, which, in her view, is a hallmark of Indian culture. "I hail from Hyderabad, where the locals are extremely generous and welcoming towards visitors," she explains. "I believe Rajasthan reflects similar feelings—the locals are welcoming and amiable, they go out of their way to ensure visitors feel comfortable and the cuisine is outstanding." She admires how Rajasthan's local culture, with its deserts, lakes, mountains, art forms and music, creates an enchanting atmosphere. "There is a vast array of things to discover, ranging from deserts, lakes and the Aravalli mountain range to various traditional art forms, music, delicious food and handicrafts. Rajasthan possesses a lively essence that gives daily life a sense of enchantment."

Of course, known for its rich culture and stunning architecture, as a child, the 17 Aditi was captivated by the traditional arts of Rajasthan. "My mother would bring me to see puppet shows and *Kalbaliya* dance performances. I was captivated by every performance in the past," she recalls. The music of the *Manganiyars* and *Langas* also holds a special place in her heart. "Their songs evoke strong emotions in me, making me feel overwhelmed by their hauntingly beautiful melodies." "During my childhood, I was taught to embrace a wider array of individuals, customs, societies and languages," the *Bhoorni* fame says. "When you immerse yourself in the local lifestyle, you gain a deeper insight into the heartbeat of the location—sociologically, historically and culturally." For Aditi, travel isn't just about seeing new places—it's about truly understanding and connecting with them on a profound, human level. Her approach to travel is deeply personal and profoundly enriching. It's not just about visiting new places, but about forming lasting connections and gaining a deeper understanding of the world through the eyes of its people. As she continues to explore the uncharted corners of India and beyond, her journey is a reminder that travel is not just about destinations—it's about the stories we gather, the experiences we cherish and the hearts we touch along the way.



I HAVE MY FAVOURITE TRAVEL PARTNER WITH ME, SIDDHARTH, WHO IS VERY MUCH LIKE ME AND WE LOVE TO JUST GET LOST IN A NEW CITY. I THINK THAT'S THE FUN PART OF TRAVELLING WITH HIM

INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO ELECTRONIC MUSIC

SHIKHA DUGGAL
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The dynamic House/Techno identity of Faraz Ehsan, '8-Bit Culprit', comes from the colourful streets of India. Known for pushing the envelope, this creative artist creates captivating soundscapes and lights up dance floors with performances that are unforgettable. Thus, this artist electrified us with an exclusive interview as well as by bursting into the scene and elevating India's flourishing electronic music culture! "Incorporating new components and methods into my fundamental styles while maintaining their emotional resonance and core energy has always been a challenge for me," in his distinctive manner, he says.

At the age of 15, Faraz began DJing and in 2008, he got his first residency at a nearby nightclub. He is greatly influenced by musicians that led his early forays into avant-garde electronic music, including *Sphongle*, *Perfect Stranger* and *Trentemoller*. Today, when the electronic music scene is brought up, he says, "Over the past ten years, India's electronic music industry has grown significantly, thanks to societal changes and a growing underground movement. I've actively worked on honing my skills over the years by concentrating on performance dynamics, modifying my sets as needed to fit the space and producing immersive experiences."

Soon after, production became involved as Faraz wanted to compose music to give his performances more depth and hypnotism. In 2016, he released his debut single, *Sluger*. "My approach to music production has been greatly influenced by my knowledge of how to operate a room as a DJ. In order to keep things interesting during breakdowns, I've naturally tended to create tracks that reflect my DJ approach, with surprising switches or shifts. Every piece of music I write aims

to disrupt monotony and infuse it with new vitality."

Then he remembers, "The creative process may be both very individualised and group-based. For me, a song usually begins with an idea or feeling I wish to express. I might write down a melody or rhythm that encapsulates that concept and let it develop naturally. I occasionally use field recordings or samples as inspiration, incorporating textures that speak to my experiences. Whether it's through complex beats, atmospheric layers, or sudden changes that keep the dance floor moving, the aim is to create a sound experience that captivates listeners. It's a combination of exploration and intuition, with each component adding to the track's overall story."

His nickname, '8-Bit Culprit', conjures nostalgia with a twist of the future! "For me, the name has a particular meaning. I can remain true to myself since it reflects my upbringing and worldview, which are based on traditional values. A key component of my music and brand is nostalgia. I grew up playing video games a lot, thus the name '8-Bit' reminds me of that bygone age. I was always a little bit of a threat as a naughty child and I was caught for both things I did and things I didn't do, which is how I got the moniker 'culprit'. I still have that naughty child inside of me that is ready to release the dirtiest and funniest songs to make the dance floor lively."

Faraz has a very straightforward approach to music and follows the maxim "less is more" when creating his compositions. His idea for clever underground music is to communicate a tale without regard to genre. Every performance set or song he creates is in tune with his current mood, making music the primary means of communicating his feelings to his audience. "Beyond any particular style or genre, my music is a genuine reflection of who I am. I enjoy writing music of all genres, incorporating elements from my life while always

trying to maintain authenticity and originality. I strive to create a unique vibe within the well-known frameworks of house music, jungle/breaks, etc., by primarily merging textures and rhythms that represent my particular interests from other musical genres. I want to keep my songs trending while being distinctively my by subtly pushing the boundaries of sound design and groove," he adds.

He is adamant that progression is essential and that his music should have a beginning and a finish. His setups typically aim to take viewers on a memorable journey while compromising a somber, dark and melancholic atmosphere. "I think the EDM world is taking notice of the enormous talent and uniqueness of Indian DJs and producers. India will soon emerge as a significant player in the global electronic music scene thanks to its distinctive fusion of many influences and expanding fan base. By automating difficult production procedures and facilitating more dynamic, immersive live performances, AI and machine learning can open up new creative possibilities. My imprint will begin in early 2025 and I have a number of exciting releases and partnerships planned. I'm excited to collaborate with *We Do We* campaign to create a collective moment, strengthening bonds and community ties with my listeners."

His next professional step will be to transition to a full live presentation featuring just his own musical compositions! He has been performing a semi-live set lately, receiving some humble criticism from Indian music fans and influential figures. Undoubtedly a little-known gem, 8-bit-culprit contributes significantly to the expanding Indian electronic music scene.

In an exclusive interview with *The Pioneer*, electronic music artist Faraz Ehsan, better known as '8-Bit Culprit', delves into his journey of redefining India's underground House and techno scene. With his innovative soundscapes and evocative performances, Faraz has become a key figure in shaping the nation's electronic music culture, leaving audiences captivated on dance floors across the country



Demystifying Alzheimer's: Who needs genetic testing and what it reveals?

Alzheimer's, one of the most progressive neurodegenerative diseases, impacts millions across the globe. Lifestyle factors and other environmental elements contribute to this disease, but genetics play a significant role. Genetic testing can give people insight into their inherent dispositions and risk profiles for developing Alzheimer's, especially in those with a family history. WHO reports that Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia and may contribute to 60-70% of cases worldwide.

Who should consider genetic testing?

Genetic testing is also recommended for individuals with a family history of Alzheimer's disease, especially if those affected were diagnosed before the age of 65. Genetic Alzheimer's tends to begin early in life; however, a test may allow a level of assessment of the degree of risk. This can be very useful if diagnosed within the first line of relatives. APOE-ε4 is the most common gene associated with Alzheimer's, but it does not guarantee the development of the disease. Approximately 20%-25% of those suffering from Alzheimer's have this genetic disposition. In India, there are about 8.8 million citizens over 60 who are diagnosed with dementia, which gives some indication that genetic clues can contribute to future planning and prevention strategies. The rising incidence of dementia, including Alzheimer's, necessitates a dedicated focus on spreading awareness and early intervention.

What does genetic testing reveal?

GENETIC TESTING TYPICALLY IDENTIFIES TWO TYPES OF GENES:

APOE-ε4: The most common gene implicated in Alzheimer's is best described as APOE. There is a proven association between a copy or two of the APOE-ε4 gene and the prevalence of risk, but again, it does not guarantee the development of Alzheimer's. People can possess one or two copies of this gene; the risk of developing the disease is directly proportional to the number of copies. Many people inherit the gene but never develop Alzheimer's, while others without the gene may still develop the disease or other forms of dementia later in life.

PSEN1, PSEN2 and APP: These are associated with familial Alzheimer's disease (FAD), accounting for early-onset Alzheimer's in only a few percent of all cases. Mutations in these genes ensure that Alzheimer's will be expressed if the genes are inherited, often under the age of 65. Though these mutations occur infrequently, they have a near 100% chance of resulting in the disease if passed down.

Benefits and limitations of genetic testing

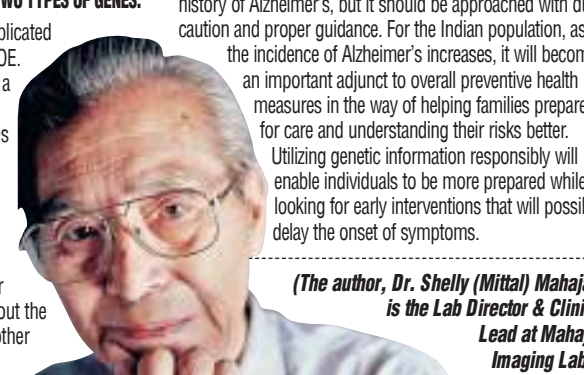
Genetic testing can give valuable insight into the absence or presence of an inherent disposition for Alzheimer's. A positive result may promote a change in lifestyle towards improving cardiovascular health and cognitive activities that would hold off the onset of the disease. Additionally, it helps in preparing, emotionally and financially, for what's to come. However, genetic testing has its limits: a positive result, such as for the APOE-ε4 gene, doesn't guarantee the development of the disease, and a negative result does not rule out the risk of developing it. Apart from this, a positive result may also cause considerable emotional stress; thus, genetic counselling is required to aid and assist the individuals in understanding and managing the results. In India, generally, the disorder's prevalence is higher in rural areas and among women; hence, genetic testing needs serious consideration with regard to available care and support systems.

Takeaway

Genetic testing is necessary for those who have a family history of Alzheimer's, but it should be approached with due caution and proper guidance. For the Indian population, as the incidence of Alzheimer's increases, it will become an important adjunct to overall preventive health measures in the way of helping families prepare for care and understanding their risks better.

Utilizing genetic information responsibly will enable individuals to be more prepared while looking for early interventions that will possibly delay the onset of symptoms.

(The author, Dr. Shelly (Mittal) Mahajan, is the Lab Director & Clinical Lead at Mahajan Imaging Labs.)



what's brewing?



● Shraddha Das



● Dimple Hayathi



Bajaj Electronics made the festive season brighter with the highly anticipated Bumper Draw, offering a staggering cash prize of Rs. 30 lakhs. The event featured special guests, actresses Shraddha Das and Dimple Hayathi, who drew the winning coupon in an exciting moment that had everyone on edge. The lucky winner, holding coupon number 3631393, walked away with the grand cash prize, making this festive offer a memorable celebration of joy and fortune.

● Vishal Pandur



● Simran



Step into a world where fantasy collides with reality as Comic Con India, the biggest pop culture celebration in the subcontinent, prepares to dazzle Hyderabad once again! This year for the first time, it will extend across three action-packed days- the 15th, 16th and 17th of November 2024, offering an extraordinary experience for anime, gaming and pop culture lovers in Hyderabad.



Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu launched the *Jai Dwarka Campaign* to honour the historic underwater city of Dwarka. Led by historian Ravindrajit and *ITS 6TH WOW*, the campaign seeks UNESCO recognition for Dwarka. On "World Tourist Race Day," 700 participants will create a "Jai Dwarka" logo in the sea, symbolising ancient civilisations, aiming for a Guinness World Record.

PARTY

Photos by- SV Chary



Sri Chaitanya Educational Institutions set a world record with 10,000 students from 20 states reciting 600 math formulas simultaneously. Recognised by the World Book of Records, UK, the participants, aged 3 to 10, showcased exceptional talent. Academic Director Seema Boppana celebrated the achievement as a "miracle in education," adding to the institution's previous record-breaking feats.



Continental Hospitals in Hyderabad has received its fourth JCI Gold Seal, marking excellence in patient safety and care. Joint Commission International is a global leader in accrediting healthcare organisations, setting benchmarks for quality and safety worldwide. It is a mark of excellence, awarded only to hospitals that demonstrate a consistent commitment to providing safe, effective and patient-centered care.



The Padmaraga Group of Restaurants unveiled its revamped restaurant at D-Mart, Kompally, revealing a striking new look and enhanced dining experience designed to delight food enthusiasts. Inaugurated by children from the Adharsha Foundation NGO, this refreshed venue now features a vibrant, modern aesthetic paired with comfort-driven amenities and a mouthwatering menu that promises an unforgettable culinary journey. The event also saw the inauguration of Padmaraga's sophisticated banquet facilities, perfectly suited for weddings, corporate events and social gatherings.



GEF India unveiled 'Freedom Park' in Kukatpally on November 7, 2024, as part of its CSR initiative. The Rs. 2.76 Crore park features amenities like a jogging track, amphitheater, play area, outdoor gym and yoga zone, promoting wellness and community engagement.



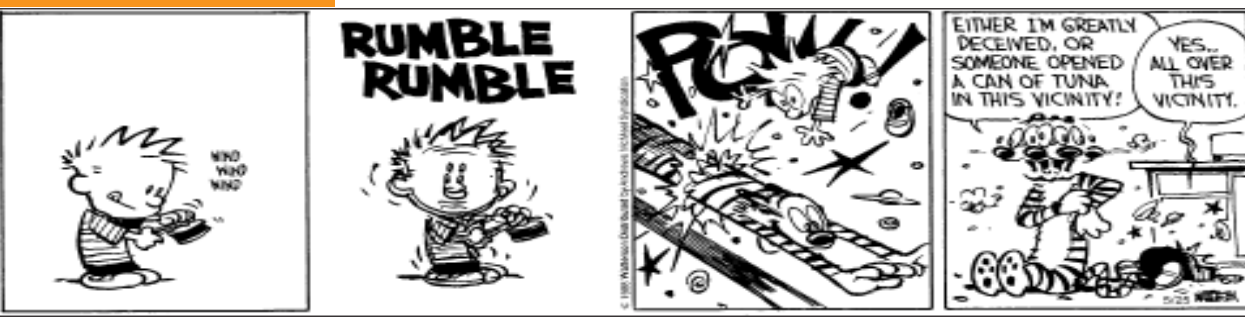
WAAYU, goes live in Hyderabad, disrupting the industry with strong ONDC support. Partnering with Telangana State Hotels Association (TSHA), it expands in the twin cities and collaborates with Tala Neu, PayTM, Ola and Pidge. The app is also active in Mumbai, Pune, Jaipur and Bengaluru.

FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



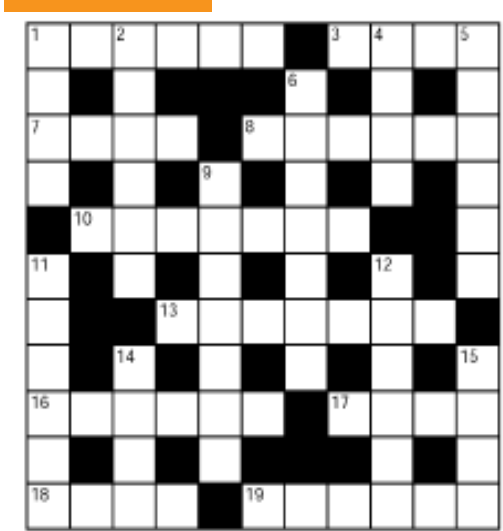
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



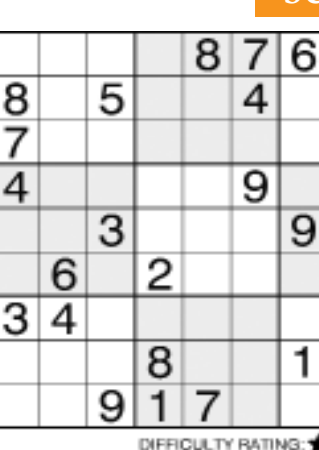
CROSSWORD



NANCY



SUDOKU



Yesterday's solution

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

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

- Bleeding injuries
- Counts up
- This heavy metal is used for making fishing sinkers
- Took part in a game
- Write this on an envelope
- A two-wheeled ride-on you push along with a foot
- Of greater height
- Young female
- Gritty stuff on beaches
- A small river

DOWN

- Go on foot
- Ugandans live here
- Parts of a week
- Australia's largest city
- A flower on a fruit tree
- A game with bats and wickets
- A prickly desert plant
- Make up your mind
- A map of a building
- This fruit has a stone

SOLUTION

S	H	O	L	D	E	R	S	
E	G	G	I	T				
C	R	A	W	L	B	O	N	E
A	V	E	L	I	S	T		
B	O	Y	S	C	I	N	E	M
B	I	N						
A	N	S	W	E	R	C	O	A
G	P	A	M	P	A	E		
F	L	I	C	I	T	I	D	I
B	E	N	E					
I	D	E	N	T	I	C	I	A

GINGER MEGGS



Krish to marry a city doctor!

According to reports, director Krish is set to remarry. The renowned Tollywood director will wed Dr. Priti, a local doctor, on November 16, according to a source. Krish and Priti have been in a relationship for the past few years and have now decided to marry, the source adds. Krish is known for films like *Gamyam*, *Vedam*, *Kanche* and *Gautamiputra Satakarni*. He is currently directing *Ghaati*, starring Anushka Shetty in the lead role. Krish was previously married to another doctor in 2017, but after four years, the couple divorced in 2021.

Interestingly, Krish is once again marrying a doctor, this time a well-known gynecologist. The source revealed that Krish and this gynecologist have been in a relationship for a few years and are now ready to marry. This gynecologist was previously married, has children from her first marriage, and is now tying the knot with Krish, the source shared.



I WAS NEVER COMFORTABLE AS AN ACTOR: VENKY ATLURI

Director Venky Atluri is now on cloud nine as his latest film, *Lucky Bhaskar*, is doing well at the box office. Malayalam superstar Dulquer Salmaan plays the lead in this film, which was released in multiple languages. "I am very happy to receive a completely positive response, not only from critics but also from the audience," said Venky Atluri. "In my earlier films, there might have been some criticism or a few negative points, but for this film, everyone had only positive things to say," shared the director.

Venky watched the film in Cochin and in Hyderabad with the audience. "I don't watch my films at premieres. I always prefer to see them with a regular audience in a cinema hall," he said. There are reports that Venky had narrated the same story to other actors as well. "Due to their commitments and other reasons, they couldn't do it. But when I narrated the story to Dulquer, he immediately gave the green signal after the first half itself," said Venky.

The director initially wanted to shoot the film in live locations, but the production house made the final call. "Producer Naga Vamsi wanted to

Director Venky Atluri started his career with acting and then writer, settled as director. He talks about his latest film *Lucky Baskhar* and why he left acting, his inspiration and upcoming projects

make it on a grand scale, so he decided to build large sets for this film, costing nearly Rs. 11 crore," Venky explained. He added that working with Dulquer was a major source of motivation. "Every morning or after the shoot, Dulquer would send me a message praising a dialogue or a scene, which gave me a boost to work with energy. In that way, Dulquer is a big motivator and easy to work with," Venky remarked. The director revealed that some of the dialogues were written on set and turned out beautifully. "I was an 80s kid, so I understand the value of getting something after negotiating with parents for hours or days. I wrote some of the dialogues and scenes with those

experiences in mind," he said.

Venky also mentioned that he is a fan of Trivikram Srinivas and that his influence shows in his dialogue writing. "But as a producer, Trivikram never interferes with my work or suggests anything about the story. Like any other producer, he watches the film and shares his opinion," Venky said about Trivikram. Venky began his career as an actor before transitioning to writing. After writing for a few films, he made his directorial debut with Tholi Prema. "Writing gives me more satisfaction than all three. I used to feel very uncomfortable as an actor. When I put on makeup, it felt like a plastic bag on my face, so I decided to quit acting. When I got an opportunity to direct, I took the plunge and became a director," Venky said. He added that he always enjoys writing, which is why he tends to shoot lengthy films. "But at the editing table, I become a director alongside my editor and cut unnecessary scenes," he said.

Talking about the child artist Rithvik, Venky shared that he first noticed him in the film *Sardar*. "I wanted an experienced child artist, and I saw his performance in *Sardar*. Later, I found out that he's also a popular YouTube star, so I brought him on for this film," Venky said.

As for his upcoming projects, Venky stated that he hasn't decided yet. "But I am going to work with Sithara Entertainments production house," he said.



Thug Life set to hit theaters on June 5 next year

On the occasion of Kamal Haasan's birthday, the makers of *Thug Life* released a teaser from the film. Directed by Mani Ratnam, the project marks his reunion with Kamal Haasan after 37 years; their last collaboration was *Nayakan*, released in 1987. *Nayakan* was a pivotal film in both their careers, earning Kamal a National Award for Best Actor and it was India's official Oscar submission in 1988.

Now, after all these years, the duo returns with *Thug Life*, Kamal Haasan's 234th film. The teaser showcases Kamal Haasan's action-packed scenes, where he steps into the gritty role of Rangraya Sakthivel Nayakar. His performance promises a raw, seasoned portrayal in an intense narrative of underworld survival.

Thug Life is a cinematic collaboration between two legends of Indian cinema—director Mani Ratnam and Kamal Haasan—following their acclaimed work in *Nayakan*. With A R Rahman's electrifying score and Haasan's remarkable screen presence, audiences are in for a thrilling ride filled with high-octane action. Simbu and Trisha play key roles alongside Kamal Haasan. This teaser promises an enthralling mix of tension and high-stakes action, raising the bar for cinematic storytelling. The film's release date is set for June 5, 2025.

Malavika's intense fitness routine for *Sardar 2* revealed

Malavika Mohanan is taking her fitness game to the next level for her highly anticipated action film, *Sardar 2*. Known for her determination to health and fitness, the actress has adopted a rigorous new regimen specifically designed to prepare her for some challenging action scenes.

Insiders from the *Sardar 2* team shared that Malavika, who already maintains an active lifestyle, is now training twice daily to enhance her stamina and strength. According to sources, "Malavika is giving her all for *Sardar 2*. Her mornings are filled with strength and endurance workouts, while evenings are dedicated to flexibility exercises like Pilates and yoga." In addition to her intensified workouts, Malavika has adjusted her diet to support her fitness goals for the film. The actress has reportedly shifted to a high-protein diet, significantly reducing her intake of carbs and completely avoiding junk food. "She's always mindful of her diet, so this adjustment is an extra layer of focus for the film," shared the source.

To ensure her body stays resilient for the demanding scenes, Malavika has also incorporated regular deep-tissue massages into her routine. "She's incredibly committed to delivering her best in the action sequences, and these massages are helping her maintain peak physical condition," the source added. Malavika recently took to social media to offer fans a sneak peek into her action preparation. You can catch a glimpse of her rigorous training here: Instagram link. *Sardar 2*, which also stars Karthi in a dual role, is set to hit theaters in 2025.



Laggam Time promises heartfelt romance

From the banner of 20th Century Entertainments, they unveiled the title and the first look of their inaugural production, titled *Laggam Time*. The film introduces Rajesh Meru and Navya Chityala as its lead pair, alongside Nellore Sudharshan, Preeti Sundar, Praneeth Reddy and others who play significant roles. Prajith K Vennam, a debutant writer and director, collaborated with producer K. Hima Bindu. Pavan Guntuku captured the visuals, while Pavan composed the music. Director of blockbuster movie *Bheemla Nayak*, Saagar K Chandra, launched the poster and expressed best wishes for the entire team of *Laggam Time*, as they embark on this exciting venture. *Laggam Time* promises to be a wholesome family entertainer, weaving a captivating love story amidst the backdrop of a marriage. More details about the film are awaited!

Not Shraddha Kapoor, it's Sreeleela

The special song shoot for *Pushpa 2*, a collaboration between Allu Arjun and director Sukumar, is currently underway at a private studio. Previous reports indicated that Hindi actress Shraddha Kapoor was cast for this special song, but it's now confirmed that Sreeleela has been brought in instead. According to sources, while the makers initially approached Shraddha Kapoor and she was interested in doing the song, her commitments to corporate agencies made it too challenging for the makers to secure her for this project.

Consequently, the team decided to go with Sreeleela, and the shoot began on Wednesday at a private studio. "Two songs are pending, one of which is this special number and the other is a duet. The makers chose to film the special song first and if time permits, they'll shoot the duet," added the source.

The film, slated for release on December 5, stars Rashmika Mandanna as the female lead and is produced by Mythri Movie Makers. As one of the year's most anticipated films, the team is focused on meeting the release deadline. "That's why they opted for Sreeleela—to complete the song on time without waiting for another actress," said the source.



Anushka's look from *Ghaati* unveiled

On the occasion of Anushka Shetty's birthday on Thursday, the makers of her upcoming film *Ghaati* released her look from the film. Krish Jagarlamudi the film maker is working for the second time, the filmmaker and Anushka joined hands for this film after their earlier hit *Vedam*. Rajeev Reddy and Sai Babu Jagarlamudi are the producers. The first look poster is stunningly fierce and showcases a ruthless avatar of the actress. In the poster, Anushka is seen smoking a Banga.

With this first look, *Ghaati* seems to be a film that doesn't shy away from the brutal reality of its protagonist's life. It's clear that the story will delve deep into the murky, dangerous world she inhabits, a place where survival requires not just resilience but a certain ruthless edge. The poster sets the tone for a journey that's bound to be emotionally charged, intense, and perhaps even tragic. With Kristi's direction and this intense visual setting the stage, audiences can expect a gripping, visceral experience. The film is currently in its final stages of production. Chintakindi Srinivas Rao provided the story, while Sai Madhav Burra penned the dialogues.

THE CHRONICLES OF AMARAGIRI: TELANGANA'S FIRST-EVER DETECTIVE SERIES

ZEE5, one of India's premier streaming platforms, is bringing audiences a tale steeped in mystery and history with its latest Telugu original series, *Vikkatakavi: The Chronicles of Amaragiri*. Marking a milestone as Telangana's first-ever detective series, the show dives into a suspense-filled narrative that captures the cultural heartbeat of the 1970s. The trailer, unveiled by popular actor Vishwak Sen, sets the stage for a high-stakes thriller that transports viewers to a world of political intrigue, age-old secrets and the mystique of Telangana's landscape. *Vikkatakavi*, produced by Ram Talluri of SRT Entertainments, is directed by Pradeep Maddali and written by Teja Desharaj. The series stars Nareesh Agastya as the determined detective Ramakrishna, alongside Megha Akash as Princess Lakshmi. This marks Agastya's second collaboration with ZEE5 after his success in *Paruvu*.

Set in the soon-to-be-flooded province of Amaragiri, *Vikkatakavi* follows Ramakrishna as he unravels a mystery surrounding villagers who suffer from amnesia after venturing into the Nallamalla Forest at night. The eerie phenomenon is believed to be the curse of a goddess, and as



Ramakrishna delves deeper, he discovers a darker truth. The narrative uncovers the tragic death of a royal heir, a deep-rooted conspiracy and a province on the verge of losing its

history forever as it faces submersion beneath the Krishna River.

Agastya, who brings to life the layered character of Ramakrishna, expressed his excitement: "Ramakrishna's journey is not only about solving a mystery but also dealing with his own past. His resilience and determination will resonate with viewers, who I hope will be captivated by the thrilling twists and profound emotional depth of his character."

For producer Ram Talluri, *Vikkatakavi* is more than just a series, it's a tribute to Telangana's heritage. "This project is close to my heart because it beautifully merges the cultural essence of Telangana with an intriguing storyline. We're also thrilled about our growing collaboration, with two more releases, *Matka* and *Mechanic Rocky*, on the horizon. I'm grateful for the opportunity to work with such a dynamic platform that brings these stories to life."

With exceptional sets, atmospheric storytelling and a suspenseful plot that keeps viewers on edge, *Vikkatakavi* promises to captivate audiences from its premiere on November 28 on ZEE5.

INDIA'S SECOND LINE STARS LOOK FOR A BREAKAWAY SERIES AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

PTI ■ DURBAN

As India firmly embraces a transition phase, a clutch of second line stars such as Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma will be hoping for a breakaway series in the four T20Is against South Africa, starting with the first contest here Friday. It is imperative for them to shed the tag of sidekicks and establish themselves as the first-choice players in this format.

The recent home T20I series against Bangladesh was a precursor. Samson received a chance to open consistently against the neighbours, and he made most of it slamming a 47-ball 111.

In the post-Rohit Sharma era in T20Is, Samson would like to further buttress his claim for a regular opening slot with a few fruitful outings against the Proteas.

This is an important series for Abhishek as well. The dashing left-hander showed his impressive skills while hammering a 47-ball hundred against Zimbabwe at Harare in July, but his other six international innings have produced -0, 10, 14, 16, 15, 4. Abhishek will be keen to be more consistent to safeguard his place, and he will also be looking to be more penetrative with his left-arm spin. Tilak Varma offers a similar case. The left-hander has somewhat fallen off the radar after making a solid beginning to his T20I career against the West Indies in August 2023.



Since then, his 12 outings in the shortest format have produced just one fifty and has not featured in the blue jersey after appearing against Afghanistan earlier this January. So, the Hyderabad will be keen to impress the selectors with some meaningful efforts against the Africans, and he has also started using his off-spin more regularly.

This series also offers an excellent opportunity for wicketkeeper batter Jitesh Sharma, who has slipped a few rungs below in the pecking order, and spinner Varun Chakravarthy, who impressed against Bangladesh taking five wickets, to keep themselves afloat over the competition. The selectors will also closely monitor how a new-look pace bowling unit

- Arshdeep Singh, Avesh Khan, Vyshak Vijaykumar and Yash Dayal - fare against South Africa. While Arshdeep and Avesh have their moments at the top-level, Vyshak and Dayal will look to carry their success in domestic circuit and in the IPL to international cricket. Ramandeep Singh, who was retained by Kolkata Knight Riders after a productive IPL

2024, will be eager to replicate his success here. Ramandeep brings to the table exciting multiple skillsets - a daring batter down the order, useful medium pacer and a gun outfielder. The seniors in the side like skipper Suryakumar Yadav and Axar Patel, the only member from the Test side

here, will be hoping for a strong outing so that India can apply some balm over the wounds from their recent home series defeat against New Zealand.

On a personal level, four players - Arshdeep, Avesh, Jitesh and Vyshak - will want impact outings here after not getting retained by their respective franchises ahead of the IPL mega auction November 24 and 25.

All other 11 players in the side have managed to get a retention from their IPL teams.

South Africa will be looking to add a touch of revenge to the series after losing to India in the T20 World Cup final in June, the last time these two sides met.

Teams (from)

India: Suryakumar Yadav (C), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (WK), Rinku Singh, Tilak Varma, Jitesh Sharma (WK), Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Ramandeep Singh, Varun Chakravarthy, Ravi Bishnoi, Arshdeep Singh, Vijaykumar Vyshak, Avesh Khan, Yash Dayal.

South Africa: Aiden Markram (c), Otneil Baartman, Gerald Coetzee, Donovan Ferreira, Reeza Hendricks, Marco Jansen, Heinrich Klaasen, Patrick Kruger, Keshav Maharaj, David Miller, Mhlangeni Mpongwana, Nqaba Peter, Ryan Rickelton, Andile Simelane, Lutho Sipamla (3rd and 4th T20Is), and Tristan Stubbs.

Jurel shines, Rahul fails as India A flounder bounce test



PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Dhruv Jurel showcased his sound technique and cool temperament while wickets fell like ninepins at the other end in another shoddy batting display by India A on the opening day of the second unofficial Test against Australia A at the iconic MCG on Thursday. Jurel (80 off 186 balls), who came to bat in the third over scored nearly half of India A's paltry first innings total of 161 in 57.1 overs with only other batter to cross 20-run mark was Devdutt Padikkal (26). Veteran KL Rahul (4), opening the batting, done in by a peach of a delivery from Scott Boland (1/51 in 15 overs). Michael Neser (4/27 in 12.2 overs), one of the finest and unluckiest among contemporary Australian pacers, dealt a telling blow in the opening over from which India A couldn't recover. At stumps, Australia A were 53 for 2 in reply with Mukesh Kumar again looking best among Indian bowlers. What stood out during the day was Jurel's composure and ability to play late, using soft hands. When there was extra bounce, he would quickly loosen his bottom hand grip to ensure that the ball didn't go to slip or gully region. He judged the length perfectly and the flicked six off Boland was a

treat to watch. While Rishabh Pant is the first-choice wicketkeeper batter, Jurel's ability to leave deliveries on length should put him in a better position than Sarfaraz Khan in the middle-order batter role. It was also the day when one got an indication that India senior team might bank on Rahul's experience of opening the innings if Rohit Sharma skips a match. However, Boland got him with a perfectly pitched delivery that straightened to take his outside edge. But Rahul would be any day better than Abhimanyu Easwaran (0) who is increasingly looking out of sorts at this level. This was after Neser bowled a hostile opening over with Easwaran left in a complete tangle to a well-disguised short ball that ballooned to gully. In-form Sai Sudharsan (0) then got a Neser delivery that was aimed at his midriff and he tried to fend it, resulting in a regulation catch in the slips. Skipper Rituraj Gaikwad's suspect technique got exposed when he jabbed with hard hands at a delivery that bounced a tad extra from length to be caught at slips. Nitish Reddy (16) played the most indiscreet shot as he tried to dance down the track to counter the steep bounce, getting ousted by Beau Webster.

Sinner and Alcaraz headline the ATP Finals with Djokovic out

AP ■ TURIN (ITALY)

Jannik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz are poised to add another entry into their rapidly developing rivalry when the ATP Finals open Sunday without any members of the Big Three for the first time in nearly a quarter century. The top-ranked Sinner and No. 3 Alcaraz evenly split the year's Grand Slam titles between them with two apiece and it would be fitting if the pair meet again in Turin.

And since Alcaraz was overtaken by Alexander Zverev in the rankings this week, the Spaniard could be placed in the same round-robin group as Sinner. The draw for the eight-man event is scheduled for later Thursday.

After the round-robin stage, the top two finishers in each group advance to the semifinals. The other qualifiers are: Zverev, Daniil Medvedev, Taylor Fritz, Casper Ruud, Alex de Minaur and Andrey Rublev. The big name missing is that of defending champion Novak Djokovic, who withdrew on Tuesday due to an unspecified injury.



23 years since Djokovic, Federer and Nadal missed the finals. Not since 2001 has the finals been held without at least one of Djokovic, Roger Federer or Rafael Nadal. This season also was the first since 2002 without at least one Grand Slam title for a member of that trio. Djokovic has won the ATP Finals a record seven times. He beat Sinner for the title last year. Federer, who announced his retirement in 2022, won the event six times after making his debut in 2002; Nadal, who is retiring after

playing in the Davis Cup the week after finals, was the runner-up twice at the finals but never won it. Sinner withdrew from last week's Paris Masters due to a virus and showed up early in Turin for training. "This is for me the main event of the end of the year," Sinner said. A final decision in Sinner's doping case is still pending. As an Italian, Sinner will be the main focus of attention in Turin. It's the first time that Sinner will be playing at home since it was announced before his U.S.

Open title that he had tested positive in two separate drug tests earlier in the year. A decision to clear Sinner of wrongdoing was appealed by the World Anti-Doping Agency in September and the Switzerland-based Court of Arbitration for Sport is expected to make a final ruling on the case early next year. Alcaraz has won all 3 of his official meetings with Sinner this year. Sinner opened this year by winning the Australian Open to become the first Italian man to win a Grand Slam singles title in

nearly a half-century - since Adriano Panatta raised the French Open trophy in 1976. Alcaraz then claimed the French Open and Wimbledon titles to raise his career total to four Grand Slams. Sinner responded by winning the U.S. Open. Alcaraz won all three official meetings with Sinner this year and holds a 6-4 advantage in their career head-to-head rivalry. Last month, Sinner beat Alcaraz in the Six Kings Slam exhibition in Saudi Arabia. Zverev won in Paris last week and looks for a 3rd title at finals. The only two players in the field to have won the finals are Zverev and Medvedev.

Zverev won in London in 2018 and in Turin in 2021; while Medvedev triumphed in 2020 - the final year the event was held in London. Zverev enters in solid form coming off a title at the Paris Masters. Fritz is looking to add another big result after his maiden Grand Slam final at the U.S. Open; Ruud was a finalist in 2022; De Minaur is making his tournament debut; and Rublev is making his fifth straight appearances.

Harmanpreet features in 50-player for WBBL Team of the Decade

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Captain Harmanpreet Kaur is the lone entry from India in the 50-player shortlist for the Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) Team of the Decade, which was released on Thursday.

The shortlist comprises cricketers who have played a minimum of 60 WBBL matches prior to this season. The list will be pruned to 12 by a selection panel of experts after taking into account public voting.

The public voting will be open between November 11-24 on the Big Bash App.

The Team of the Decade will honour the greatest players from across the 10-year history of the WBBL.

The selection panel is being chaired by Cricket Australia Director Clea Smith, and also includes Mel Jones, Lisa Sthalekar, Matthew Mott, Quentin Hull, Laura Jolly and Alistair Dobson.

Public voting will be given equal importance and the panel will then review and combine those votes with their own selections to finalise the 12-player side, to be announced at the WBBL 10 final on December 1.

The final XI will have a



maximum of three overseas players in keeping with league's rules.

WBBL Team of the Decade shortlist:

Sarah Aley, Samantha Bates, Suzie Bates (International), Alex Blackwell, Nicole Bolton, Nicola Carey, Lauren Cheatle, Sarah Coyte, Hannah Darlington, Sophie Devine (International), Mignon du Preez (International), Jess Duffin, Rene Farrell, Ashleigh Gardner, Heather Graham, Nicola Hancock, Grace Harris, Laura Harris, Rachael Haynes, Alyssa Healy, Sammy-Jo Johnson, Jess Jonassen, Marizanne Kapp (International), Harmanpreet Kaur (International), Delissa

Kimmince, Alana King, Heather Knight (International), Meg Lanning, Lizelle Lee (International), Katiem Mack, Hayley Matthews (International), Tahliia McGrath, Tegan McPharlin, Sophie Molineux, Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Rachel Priest (International), Georgia Redmayne, Amy Satterthwaite (International), Megan Schutt, Natalie Sciver-Bruno (International), Molly Strano, Annabel Sutherland, Stafanie Taylor (International), Dane van Niekerk (International), Elyse Villani, Georgia Wareham, Amanda-Jade Wellington, Laura Wolvaardt (International), Danni Wyatt-Hodge (International).

Barcelona, Inter and upstart Brest win again in Champions League

AP ■ Paris

Barcelona and Inter Milan won again in the Champions League though both former title holders are looking up in the standings toward upstart newcomer Brest.

Aston Villa started the week atop the 36-team table but its winning run ended on Wednesday after a bizarre penalty was awarded when defender Tyrone Mings picked up the ball in the area at Club Brugge, resulting in a 1-0 loss that sent the English club plummeting to eighth place.

Paris Saint-Germain, in its first season without Kylian Mbappé, trails far behind in 25th after Atletico Madrid scored in stoppage time to seal a 2-1 win for the Spanish team at Parc des Princes. Barcelona's blistering scoring form continued in a 5-2 win at Red Star Belgrade - a seventh straight win since the start of October at a rate of

four goals per game. Robert Lewandowski scored twice and has 21 this season.

Inter Milan stifled Arsenal in a 1-0 win at San Siro sealed by Hakan Calhanoglu's penalty in first-half stoppage time. Inter is unbeaten on 10 points and in fifth place, one below Brest which won 2-1 at Sparta Prague. The French debutant looks sure to advance to the knock-out phase starting in February. Atalanta won 2-0 at Stuttgart to stay unbeaten on eight points and Salzburg got its first goals and points in a 3-1 win at Feyenoord.

Bayern Munich won 1-0 at home to Benfica in a game that was delayed 15 minutes by crowd congestion and then was played in a muted atmosphere because of a medical incident for a fan. Shakhtar Donetsk playmaker Heorhiy Sudakov had a fine assist and an even better goal in a 2-1 win for the Ukrainian champion against Young Boys. Shakhtar's No. 10 showed why he is expected to



be the club's next big-money sale. Liverpool, which on Tuesday routed Bayer Leverkusen 4-0, leads the standings at the midway point of the eight-round program. Liverpool is the only team with four straight wins, while

five teams have four losses. They are Leipzig, Sturm Graz, Young Boys, Red Star and Slovan Bratislava. Two Italian teams - Inter Milan and Atalanta - have yet to concede a goal in four games. Another Italian side,

Bologna, is the only team with no goals scored.

Villa slides

Villa had led the standings in the new league-phase format after three straight wins without conceding a goal - and it took a bizarre incident

before goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez was eventually beaten.

Mings was punished for picking up the ball when Martinez seemed to restart play with a goal kick passed forward to his teammate.

Mings walked a couple steps to gather the ball with his left hand and returned to place it in the six-yard box.

"It's the biggest mistake I witnessed in my career," Villa coach Unai Emery said. "It has only happened one time in all my life. Today."

Brugge captain Hans Vanaken placed the 52nd-minute spot-kick to Martinez's left as the World Cup-winning Argentina goalkeeper dived to his right.

Bayern and Dinamo

It was the standout result of the inaugural week of the new Champions League in September: Bayern Munich 9, Dinamo Zagreb 2.

It was the first time a team had scored nine times in a game in the 32-year Champions League era, and Dinamo fired its coach two days later.

Since then? Bayern lost twice, including a 4-1 rout at Barcelona, and Dinamo won play on Wednesday, Bayern was 17th

on six points, one place below Dinamo on seven. If those placings hold until January, they meet again twice more in the knockout playoffs round.

Next up

The fifth round in three weeks' time has perhaps the stellar attraction of 144 games in the league phase: Liverpool vs Real Madrid.

That game on November 27 is a rematch of the 2022 and 2018 finals, both won by Madrid, and the 1981 European Cup title match that Liverpool won.

There is another final rematch: Bayern Munich hosts PSG on November 26 in a repeat of the pandemic-season final played in August 2020 without fans in Lisbon.

Also, sixth-place Barcelona hosts Brest, a fixture which might have been overlooked when the draw was made in August yet the French team is currently fourth.

Only the top eight teams in January advance directly to the round of 16 in March.