

The Centre is giving the money for procuring paddy including 'interest.' The Centre is bearing the entire costs of paddy procurement. What is the problem for the Telangana Congress government in procuring paddy? What will you achieve by conducting Praja Vijayotsavalu? It is better if the Congress government conducts celebrations for betraying the people as it came to power by deceiving the public

— Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs

'Congress hell-bent on breaking OBC-ST-SC unity'

FRAUD
 DETECTION SYSTEM SAVES PUBLIC ASSETS WORTH RS 2,500 CR: SCINDIA

'Matka has no connection with Mumbai's MATKA KING'

DON'T MISS...

NTPC shines at PRCI Collateral Awards

In a proud moment for NTPC Ramagundam, the organisation was honoured with three distinguished awards at the PRCI (Public Relations Council of India) Collateral Awards 2024. The awards ceremony was held on November 9 at Moti Mahal in Mangalore, Karnataka. The accolades include a Gold Award for Internal Communication Campaign, a Bronze Award in Corporate Communication ...

-PAGE: 4

BJP 'disconnected' from people: Priyanka

Congress general secretary and UDF candidate for the Wayanad LS by-poll, Priyanka Gandhi intensified her criticism of the BJP-led Centre on Sunday, alleging its leaders were 'disconnected' from the people. Addressing a corner meeting in Naiketty, Sulthan Bathery assembly constituency, she recalled her grandmother, former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, and her close association with tribal communities ...

-PAGE: 5

In 17 yrs, 5 Indian full service carriers bid adieu

When Vistara folds up into the Air India Group on Monday, the number of full service carriers in the fast-growing Indian aviation space will come down to just one from five in a span of over 17 years. Also, the merger -- that will see Vistara's 49 per cent owner Singapore Airlines holding 25.1 per cent stake in Air India post the merger-- will mark the sunset of another Indian airline jointly owned by an overseas carrier after the liberalisation of foreign direct investment ...

-PAGE: 8

Indian women's hockey targets World Cup

Indian women's hockey team has overcome recent setbacks and is set to start a new journey with World Cup and Olympics in mind, chief coach Harendra Singh asserted on Sunday, saying that the performance in Asian Champions Trophy will serve as base for future. The Indian women's team has endured a very rough and long patch since its historic fourth-place finish at the Tokyo Games. It could not qualify for the Paris Olympics and lost 13 of the 16 FIH Pro League matches ...

-SPORTS

Time to repay Palamuru: CM

Assures that the govt will do everything for its progress



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Palamuru district is synonymous with distress migration and the reason for that is the failure to complete development projects due to the negligence of previous rulers, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said. Even 10 years after the formation of Telangana state distress migrations are continuing, he added.

Addressing a meeting at the Kurumurthy Temple in Ammapur in

the Chintakunta mandal of Palamuru. Revanth said that now the people of Palamuru have given 12

Revanth said that now the people of Palamuru have given 12 MLAs, one MP and one CM to the Congress and that it is his responsibility to clear the debt of Palamuru

CM said that KCR became CM twice with the votes of Mahbubnagar. However, he did nothing for MLAs, one MP and one CM to the Congress and that it is his responsibility to clear the debt of Palamuru.

- KCR did nothing for the district
- Distress migration is the result of such neglect
- Revanth slams BRS

The CM said the government's decisions would enable the district to prosper through dairy farming and agriculture after irrigation projects are executed. After the completion of the Narayanpet Kodangal Project, Krishna water will be supplied to Maktal, Nagar Kurnool and Kodangal, he added.

"Some people are levelling baseless charges and are trying to play petty politics to block our efforts. The children of Palamuru will not forgive anyone who tries to block development. As a person of this district, history will not forgive me if I do not complete projects. If you are angry with me, take sides against me politically, but do not block projects. Do not block the district's development. If you do that, the people of Palamuru district will not forgive you and you will remain in history as villains," the CM said.

The CM said that Amara Raja Batteries has agreed to provide skill training and jobs to 2,000 local people.

Continued on Page 2



Invest in industry-friendly TG

- ◆ Minister Sridhar appeals to Malaysian industrialists
- ◆ Says the state has ease-of-doing-business policies

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

IT, E&C, Industry and Commerce Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu gave a call to Malaysian industrialists to invest in Telangana. The Telangana government has created a favourable environment for industries with easy business policies unlike anywhere else in India, he said. Sridhar was speaking while attending Telangana Decade Celebrations in Malaysia. He had

a meeting with industrialists in Kuala Lumpur organised by Telangana NRIs. Sridhar appealed to the industrialists to invest in Telangana and said that he strongly recommends trade ties between Malaysia and India. "Hyderabad welcomes investors. The Telangana Government will make arrangements for Malaysian investors to tour Telangana in December," he said.

Continued on Page 2

Caste census only to bag votes: KTR

Accuses the govt of making the officials scapegoats



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress government launched the caste census in Telangana only to gain political mileage in the Maharashtra elections as well as to bag BC votes in the local body elections in Telangana, BRS Working President KT Rama Rao said.

"They are asking 175 questions like 'How much money is there in banks? Do you have an AC? Do you have a fridge?' The people are asking the officials who went for enumeration why they are asking for personal data. The Congress gov-

ernment is making officials scapegoats for BC votes," KTR said. Addressing a meeting of BRS activists on Sunday at Hanamkonda, KTR said the BRS welcomes the caste census. The government should conduct local body elections as it gave an assurance that it will implement 42 per cent reservations in local body elections, he said.

He said that the Congress was in power for decades at the Centre but it never set up an OBC ministry. KCR had appealed to the Centre to set up an OBC ministry at the Centre in vain.

Continued on Page 2



Justice Khanna to be sworn in as 51st CJ today

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Justice Sanjiv Khanna, who has been part of several landmark Supreme Court judgements such as scrapping the electoral bonds scheme and upholding abrogation of Article 370, will be sworn in as the 51st Chief Justice of India on Monday.

President Droupadi Murmu will administer the oath of office at Rashtrapati Bhavan in a ceremony scheduled at 10 am. Justice Khanna will succeed Justice DY Chandrachud, who retired on Sunday, and his term will last until May 13, 2025.

The Centre officially notified Justice Khanna's appointment on October 24 following Chief Justice Chandrachud's recommendation on October 16. Friday was the last working day of Justice Chandrachud as the CJ and he was given a rousing farewell by judges, lawyers and staff of the apex court and the high courts.

Continued on Page 2

'Delay in paddy purchase to deny bonus to farmers'

Bandi slams TG, says Centre is giving money for the same

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress Government is adopting delaying tactics while procuring paddy to avoid paying 'bonus' to farmers, the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, said.

Addressing the media after visiting the paddy procurement centre in the Kothagattu village of Shankarapatnam mandal in Karimnagar district on Sunday, Sanjay asked the Congress Government whether it would scapegoat farmers to get commissions from brokers.

"The Centre is giving the money for procuring paddy including 'interest.' The Centre is bearing the entire cost of paddy procurement. What is the problem for the Telangana



Congress government in procuring paddy? What have you achieved by conducting Praja Vijayotsavalu? It is better if the Congress government conducts celebrations for betraying the people as

Continued on Page 2

Trump sweeps all swing states

PNS ■ WASHINGTON

US President-elect Donald Trump has won the election in Arizona, defeating his Democratic rival Kamala Harris in all seven battleground states.

The seven battleground states in this election cycle were Arizona, Nevada, Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and Georgia.

The victory in Arizona took Trump's electoral college tally to 312 against 226 of Vice President Harris. Arizona holds 11 electoral college votes.

The Republican Party has regained control of the Senate and is all set to retain a majority in the House of Representatives.

Currently, the party has 52 seats in the Senate and the Democrats have 47.

In the House, Republicans have so far won 216 seats against 209 of the Democrats. The majority mark is 218. Republicans are confident that they will get the necessary number of seats to cross the halfway mark.

In 2020, President Joe Biden became the first Democrat to win Arizona since

Continued on Page 2



Dozens killed as Israeli jets pound Lebanon and Gaza

PNS ■ DEIR AL-BALAH (GAZA STRIP)

Israeli strikes killed dozens of people including children on Sunday in Lebanon and northern Gaza, where the military has waged a major offensive for more than a month that aid groups say has worsened the

humanitarian crisis in the besieged enclave.

The Israeli airstrike in Lebanon killed at least 23 people including seven children in Aalmat village north of Beirut, far from the areas in the east and south where Hezbollah

Continued on Page 2

45% of cyber criminals educated

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana State Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) has stated that 45 per cent of cyber criminals are graduates and post-graduates, including BTech, MBA and MCA.

In releasing a report as it completed six months of its establishment, TGCSB said that they had apprehended 165 cyber criminals from across the country during the last six months, who were involved in 76 cases of TGCSB CCPs. The arrested cyber criminals are connected to 795 cases in Telangana and 3,357 cases across the country. The information about the arrest of these accused persons by the TGCSB has been shared with the concerned police stations across the country.

Among the criminals 20% are Intermediate, 35 per cent of them are below SSC and illiterates. 34 per cent of them are businessmen which includes hotels, restaurants and real estate, 21 per cent of them are self-employed which includes digital content creators, cab drivers, gym trainers, event managers and RMPs

The accused were arrested from various regions of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, New Delhi, Gujarat, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana,



Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra and West Bengal. Most of them were arrested under extreme challenging conditions

such as the social or demographic and geographical conditions, including the threat of mob attacks and non-

cooperation from the local police in a few cases.

Among the criminals 20 per cent are Intermediate, 35 per cent of them are below SSC and illiterates. 34 per cent of them are businessmen which includes hotels, restaurants and real estate, 21 per cent of them are self-employed which includes digital content creators, cab drivers, gym trainers, event managers and RMPs.

14 per cent private jobs which includes workers in petrol bunks, garment shops, toll plaza, delivery services, 14 per cent of them are unemployed; 9 per cent are students; 5 per cent of them are farmers and labourers; 3 per cent of them are government employees, which includes assistants in irrigation and electricity departments.

Monday Mirchi

RAMAKRISHNA RAO'S IMPENDING ELEVATION AS CHIEF SECRETARY THE TALK OF BABUDOM

The talk of Telangana's bureaucracy is that Finance Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao is in the reckoning for the Chief Secretary position...

IAS and IPS officers hoping for a Telangana posting, but the message is loud and clear that even a Turram Khan will find no special favours from Revanth should there be a mention of Andhra stint on their resume.

ENERGY SECRETARY BLOWS A FUSE OVER SCRIBE'S REPORT

Principal Secretary Sandip Kumar Sultania, who holds full additional charge as CMD for TG GENCO and TG TRANSCO, reportedly blew a fuse with a senior print journalist for a report by the latter that irked him...

KTR'S 'I DID IT' STANCE ON FORMULA E 'SCAM' SPARKS BUZZ

Bharat Rashtira Samithi working president KT Rama Rao, by publicly clarifying that he personally took responsibility for the administrative matters related to the Formula E event's funding and operation...

REVANTH REDDY DOESN'T WANT TO TOUCH AP BABUS WITH A BARGE POLE

A differing line adopted by a chela does not imply that he has outsmarted his ustad; it may simply mean that he does not believe in 'one size fits all' approach.

SMITTEN BY SMITA? NO, PLEASE. SHE CANNOT HELP BEING ALWAYS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Some bureaucrats, whether at the helm or working behind the scenes, have that 'it' factor which keeps them in the spotlight, come rain or shine.

FLYING HIGH AS A REWARD

IAS officer Shrikesh B Lathkar, who has been appointed as the Private Secretary to Union Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu, is among the rare bureaucrats whose reputation arrives before them at their place of posting.

--Yours truly

BRS plans 'Congress Government's Failures Weekly' celebrations

BRS will reveal details of Ministers' corruption dept-wise: KTR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Pointing out that the Congress government has wreaked massive destruction in the state and is celebrating victory, BRS Working President KT Rama Rao said the Congress government should celebrate 'Kumbhakonala Kumbh Mela' instead of organising victory celebrations on its first anniversary.

He said the BRS would conduct 'Congress Government's Failures Weekly' celebrations and that

its dates will be declared soon. He said they would reveal details of the corruption of Congress Ministers department-wise.

"I don't know Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy's ministry but he should be named the Bombs Department Minister. Ponguleti should know who will lose their posts while blasting the bombs," he said.

The Chief Minister and Ministers who award Amrit tenders to their sons-in-law and contracts worth thousands of crores to their sons should not

celebrate victories but they should celebrate a 'Carnival of Corruption.'

In his post on X, KTR asked the Congress government to explain with what face it is holding victory celebrations. Using the six guarantees and the 'Section 420' promises given to the people, you are enjoying people's money without implementing even a single promise, he said.

"When poor farmers are suffering due to lack of loan waiver and investment assistance will you celebrate by burning hundreds of

crores? When the victims of HYDRAA and Musi are suffering, will you celebrate with bajabhjantris? When the elderly are waiting with a thousand eyes for an increase in their pensions, will you give dawat without mercy," he said.

KTR said that the Chief Minister has no grip on governance. "This government has no love lost for Telangana. The Congress government has no regard for the poor. It demolished the houses of the poor and threw them on the road. These incompetent rulers who do not even know what victory celebrations mean have no right to say 'Jai Telangana,'" he said.



Rahul doesn't know his caste but demanding caste census

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Describing the Leader of the Opposition (LOP) in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, as the 'Jaati Man', the BJP commented on X on Sunday that Rahul doesn't know his caste but is demanding a caste census.

The post says "Jaathi Man - He who doesn't know his caste... But keeps asking for caste census! #GoBackRaGa".

The BJP posted the comment on X in response to Rahul Gandhi's Saturday post stating, "Modi ji, caste census has started in Telangana on Saturday. We will use the data obtained from this to formulate policies for the development of every section of the state. Soon this will happen in Maharashtra also. Everyone knows that the BJP does not want to conduct a comprehensive caste census in the country. I want to tell Modi ji clear-

ly that you cannot stop the caste census across the country. We will pass the Bill on caste census in Parliament and break the 50 per cent wall for reservations. In another post, the BJP said the Congress and the BRS are supporting each other as if they are 'friends with benefits.'

The BJP posted, "If there's anyone who can give Lalu Yadav's infamous fodder scam a run for its money, it's the Kalvakuntla sheep scam (thanks to the CAG for unearthing this logistical marvel). Who would have guessed that single-trip invoices could reveal such unbelievable transport capabilities, defying both logic and physics together like an ambulance moving 84 sheep, a two-wheeler valiantly hauling 126 sheep, a cab accommodating 168 sheep and an auto-rick carrying 126 sheep?"

Chandrachud retires as CJI, leaves transformative legacy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Justice D Y Chandrachud on Sunday concluded his tenure as the 50th Chief Justice of India after two years marked by transformative rulings and substantial reforms, carving out a unique legacy in the Indian judicial history.

Beside delivering several landmark judgements like the Ayodhya land dispute, abrogation of Article 370 and the decriminalisation of consensual gay sex that shaped society and politics, he was part of 38 constitution benches during his eight years tenure as a judge in the Supreme Court.

During his tenure at the apex court, he rendered more than 500 judgements, some of them having wide ramifications



audit of the Supreme Court to make the courts accessible to the common man and disabled friendly.

The Chandrachud legacy has a physical manifestation too - a reimagined 'Lady Justice'. The earlier 'Goddess of Justice' in Grecian robes with blindfold and sword has been replaced by a six-ft tall sculpture with scales in one hand and the Constitution in another. She is in a sari, with a crown and sans blindfold.

While that created a stir, so did the decision on his penultimate day at work with the Supreme Court rechristening its summer vacation "partial court working days", an issue that has led to criticism that the apex court judges enjoyed long breaks.

'Delay in paddy purchase ...

Continued from page 1

it came to power by deceiving the public," Sanjay said.

He said that there is no comparison between the Congress Government's action plan to procure paddy and the reality at paddy procurement centres. The Congress Government has failed to open procurement centres in some places, Sanjay added.

He said the Congress Government had targeted to procure 95 lakh tons of paddy in the Kharif season and had announced that it would procure paddy from October 1 onwards and opened 7,572 procurement centres.

The government also announced that it will procure eight lakh tons of paddy in October. The action plan is good but there is no action, he pointed out.

Sanjay said that 40 days have gone by after the opening of procurement centres. "The government should reveal how much paddy it procured so far and how much money it gave to farmers, he said and added

that the government was expected to procure 20 lakh tons of paddy as per its action plan but it procured only 95,140 tons of paddy by November 5," he said.

The government was supposed to pay Rs 220.72 crore to farmers. However, it paid only Rs 6.44 crores. It is shameful that the Congress government could open only 6,017 procurement centres till now. It has to open another 1,724 procurement centres, he said.

Last year by this time, the BRS government had procured two lakh tons of paddy. This time the Congress government could not even procure one lakh tons of paddy, he said. Sanjay said that farmers had waited for a month with 30 lakh tons of paddy on the roads. Disappointed by the attitude of the TG government, the farmers sold their paddy cheaply to brokers and millers, he said.

"The Centre is paying Rs 2,320 for a quintal of paddy and the TG government announced a bonus of Rs 500 per quintal.

Justice Khanna to be ...

Continued from page 1

Justice Khanna, who served as a Supreme Court judge since January 2019, has been part of several landmark judgements such as upholding the sanctity of EVMs, scrapping the electoral bonds scheme, upholding the abrogation of Article 370 and the grant of interim bail to former Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal.

Hailing from an illustrious Delhi-based family, Justice Khanna is the son of former Delhi High Court judge Justice Dev Raj Khanna and the nephew of prominent former apex court judge H R Khanna.

Justice Sanjiv Khanna, who was elevated as a judge of the Supreme Court on January 18, 2019, was a third-generation lawyer before being appointed as judge of the high court. He is driven by the zeal to

reduce pendency and speed up justice delivery.

Justice H R Khanna, the uncle of Justice Khanna, hit the headlines by resigning in 1976 after he wrote a dissenting verdict in the infamous ADM Jabalpur case during the Emergency.

The majority verdict of a Constitution bench, upholding the abrogation of fundamental rights during the Emergency, was considered a "black spot" on the judiciary.

Justice H R Khanna declared the move unconstitutional and against the rule of law and paid a price as the then central government superseded him and made Justice M H Beg the next CJI. Justice H R Khanna was part of the landmark verdict propounding the basic structure doctrine in the Kesavananda Bharati case of 1973.

'Revanth's 'Maha' lies exposed'

Harish alleges CM sending TG money to other states

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is sending money collected from Telangana to other states, BRS MLA T. Harish Rao said.

He said that Revanth told lies in Maharashtra although he said that he went to Maharashtra to reveal the truth. The information given by the CM about the TG loan waiver scheme in Maharashtra was a lie, he said.

Speaking to the media at the Telangana Bhavan on Sunday, he said that Revanth's assurances on the loan waiver scheme, Rythu Bandhu, and bonus for paddy farmers were 'bogus'.

He said the Congress's 6-guarantees have been 'garaged'. The piles of paddy lying on roads are proof of Revanth Reddy's incompetent governance, he added.



Revanth also told lies in Maharashtra regarding the creation of two lakh jobs and his government waiving the farm loans of 40 lakh farmers. He said the CM should complete the loan waiver scheme by waiving the loans of an additional 22 lakh farmers immediately.

He said that Ministers are roaming in helicopters leaving governance to the wind. The Congress government has a history of beating up students, he said, and added that the CM should come forward for an open debate regarding the implementation of the six guarantees.

Caste census ...

Continued from page 1

People doubt the sincerity of Congress leaders, he said and added that the Revanth government scrapped schemes like BC Bandhu and Rythu Bandhu immediately after coming to power. However, the same Congress government has launched a caste census to bag BC votes, he pointed out.

KTR said that a year has gone by after the announcement of the BC Declaration by the Congress. "The Congress deceived people with its BC Declaration. What about the assurances given in the BC Declaration," he said.

Invest in industry ...

Continued from page 1

Sridhar thanked everyone for extending greetings to him for completing 25 years in politics as a public representative. He said that he is indebted to Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjuna Kharge for encouraging him during his two-and-a-half decades in politics.

He said that he has functioned as a Minister with four Chief Ministers and they had supported him.

Meanwhile, Malaysian rice importers assured that they would buy Telangana rice and Sridhar explained to them about the development of agriculture in his state.

Aldas Janaiah, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Agriculture, explained the quality, quality and other aspects of the rice and other grains cultivated in Telangana at the Malaysian business meet.

Industries Minister Sridhar Babu, TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud, SAT Chairman Shivsena Reddy, Agriculture University Vice-Chancellor Aldas Janaiah, Osmania University Vice-Chancellor Kumar and Education Commission Chairman Akunuri Murali attended the Malaysia business meet.

Time to repay ...

Continued from page 1

"It is our responsibility to train and provide jobs to the unemployed of this region, no matter what companies come to this region. We are responsible for laying BT roads from village to village and thandas in the district. Collectors are being asked to take action in this direction. Let us lead the district to development by providing education and medical facilities and employment opportunities," the CM said. The CM said that the Kurumurthy Swamy Temple is famous as the Tirupati of the poor. Apart from Telangana, devotees from Karnataka also come here, he added.

"Considering the problems of devotees, we have initiated the construction of a ghat road and an elevated corridor at a cost of Rs 110 crore. Officials have been directed to prepare estimates for developing the temple and submit a report," the CM added.

Earlier, the CM laid the foundation stone for the ghat road near the Kurumurthy Temple. Later, the CM had darshan of Kurumurthy Swamy and conducted special pujas. The temple's priests offered veda ashirvachanam to the CM. Ministers Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, Damodara Raja Narasimha and others attended the programme.

Today Almanac section with weather forecast and calendar for November 10, 2024.



Badminton Tournament

Venue

N9 Sports Academy, PJR Layout, Miyapur, Hyderabad
November 17.
8 am to 5pm

Telangana Food Festival

A unique journey through the rich and diverse flavors of Telangana's culinary heritage.

Venue

Aidu
November 11 to 14

Comic Con India

This year for the first time, the Hyderabad Comic Con will extend across three action-packed days, offering an extraordinary experience for anime, gaming, and pop culture lovers.

Venue

HITEX Exhibition Centre, Hyderabad
November 15, 16 and 17

Entrepreneurs Meetup

By We Founders Collab, Hyderabad

Venue

The Headquarters, Space Orbit, Hyderabad
November 23

Standup Comedy

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

Venue

Multiple venues, till
November 24

Hyd's Biggest Digital Marketing Summit

12th Edition of Biggest Digital Marketing Summit

Venue

ICBM School of business excellence, X roads
November 30,
9:30 am to 5 pm

'Consider overseas post-doctoral experience for promotions'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Akhil Bharatiya Rashtriya Shaikshik Mahasangh (ABRSM) Telangana State had urged the University Grants Commission (UGC) to consider overseas post-doctoral experience for promotions.

In a release, they said that the UGC is positively inclined to recognise overseas post-doctoral experience in the promotion criteria for faculty at State universities across India. While IITs, NITs and central universities consider foreign post-doctoral experience of researchers for promotion, State universities do not have it as a criteria.

The ABRSM Telangana State has urged the UGC on this issue which affects several faculty across State universities. The ABRSM representatives noted that recognising such experience in State universities could enhance research activities, attract more MoUs, funding, and projects, and potentially improve the NIRF ranking of these institutions. They expressed hope that the UGC will issue clear guidelines on this matter soon.

City Pioneer



HYDERABAD | MONDAY | NOVEMBER 11, 2024

03

CM Revanth's courage to set up HYDRAA recognised nation wide



PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) recently embarked on a three-day tour to Bengaluru, where the team examined policies for lake protection.

Reflecting on the tour, AV Ranganath, Commissioner of HYDRAA, returned to Telangana and emphasised, "It's not only civil servants who can bring change to society; any individual, including administrators, can play a crucial role in societal development."

Ranganath drew on the example of Singapore's renowned leader, Lee Kuan Yew, saying, "Governance is not a game of cards. There will be hurdles in any initiative the government undertakes."

He highlighted HYDRAA's efforts in Telangana, where it's making strides to challenge the status quo, especially in combating lake and land encroachments. "When implementing something as transformative as HYDRAA, a few minor issues may arise. However, focusing on one flaw to discredit the entire system is misguided," he added.

The Commissioner also commended Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's vision and courage in establishing HYDRAA, noting that such agencies are being recognised and discussed nationwide. "Every State should have a body like HYDRAA," is the current discussion in every Chief Ministers office, Ranganath stated.

Collaborative AI Research Labs Foundation launched

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Collaborative Artificial Intelligence Research Labs Foundation (CAIRL) was officially launched at T-Hub in the city on Sunday. This launch aims to drive responsible AI development and innovation in the State.

Managing Director of Colaberry Private Limited, Ramamohan Manamasa opened the event with a speech about CAIRL's mission to advance AI research to benefit society. Meanwhile, Founder and CEO of Colaberry Inc., USA, Ram Katamaraja gave a keynote on the global AI research landscape and CAIRL's potential impact on AI development in India.

Special Chief Secretary to the IT department, Jayesh Ranjan attended virtually as guest of honour and emphasised Telangana's commitment to making Hyderabad a glob-



al AI hub. A panel discussion titled "AI 2030: Envisioning the Future of Artificial Intelligence in Industry and Society," moderated by Dr Suraj Bansali, covered AI's transformative role, focusing on innovation, ethics and industry-specific applications. The panelists highlighted CAIRL's plans to develop AI

talent, promote open-source AI research and collaborate with institutions like IIT, IIIT, BITS, NIT Warangal and ISB. CAIRL's next steps involve collaborating with the Telangana government, academic partnerships, creating an AI researcher database, promoting open-source projects and developing AI talent.



LFJC Principal Rev. Bro. Arun Prakash, former Principal Rev. Bro. Dr. John Kallarackal and alumni releasing the 50 years of excellence, golden jubilee poster on Sunday

LFJC celebrates 50 years of excellence

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Little Flower Junior College (LFJC), Uppal, founded by the Montfort Brothers of St Gabriel, is celebrating its 50 years of excellence.

In preparation for the golden jubilee, LFJC has held gatherings with alumni, former principals and dedicated staff to honour its legacy. On Sunday, a poster was officially released beginning the golden jubilee festivities. LFJC Principal Rev. Bro. Arun Prakash, former Principal Rev. Bro. Dr John Kallarackal, and notable alumni attended the event.

Rev. Bro. Arun Prakash announced that LFJC started in July 1974 as an extension of Little Flower High School. Due to its fast growth, it moved to its own campus in Uppal in 1982. He noted that the main golden jubilee celebration will take place on December 13, 2024, at the Uppal campus.

Rev. Bro. Arun Prakash also emphasised LFJC's impact, stating, "Our alumni's achievements in Medicine, Engineering, Arts, Administration, Sports, Cinema, and Politics showcase LFJC's commitment to excellence and nation-building."

Stool samples from healthy individuals to help treat digestive disorders

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The stool samples collected from healthy individuals will play a significant role in treating digestive disorders in the future, said Dr D Nageshwar Reddy, experienced gastroenterologist at the 8th IMA annual conference.

The International Medical Science Conference held in Hyderabad focused on key topics in gastroenterology and microbiome therapies. Dr D Nageshwar Reddy, Gastroenterologist and the Chairman of the AIG, touched on the advancement of Fecal Microbiota Transplantation (FMT) therapies and the upcoming establishment of stool banks, which will soon be accessible to hospitals world-wide. He emphasised that these therapies, using stool samples collected from healthy individuals, will play a significant role in treating digestive disorders in the future.

Dr Reddy explained that gut microbiomes harvested from healthy stool samples could be transplanted to patients to cure various gastrointestinal diseases, with the potential to treat conditions like Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD), Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) and Clostridium difficile infections (CDI). His team at the AIG Hospital has already initiated FMT therapies on experimental basis, aiming to delve deeper into the impact of microbiomes on health. He said that microbiomes would play a key role in remedying digestive disorders.

69,624 households covered on second day of comprehensive survey

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

On the second day of Telangana State government's Comprehensive Survey, 69,624 households were surveyed under the jurisdiction of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) on Sunday.

Although the survey had a slow start on Saturday, it gained momentum on Sunday.

To ensure effective implementation of the survey, the State government appointed IAS officers as zone-wise supervisors, with HMDA Commissioner Sarfraz Ahmad designated as the coordinator for the GHMC. During the first phase of the survey, from November 6 to 8, teams collected primary details like house numbers and family members' information and affixed stickers on each household.

In the second phase, which began on Saturday, data on families' social, economic, educational, political and caste-related information is being collected. Each survey takes approximately half-an-hour per household due to nearly 70 fields of information required. However, officials expect the time taken to reduce as surveyors become more familiar with the process.

The GHMC has implemented special measures to enter collected data promptly into the system. Zonal commissioners have been instructed to purchase essential equipment and securely store survey forms.



555th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji celebrated from November 11 to 15 in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Sikhs will celebrate the 555th birth anniversary of Sri Guru Nanak Devji from November 11 to 15 with grand processions in Hyderabad and Secunderabad. This major Sikh festival, "Sri Guru Nanak Devji birthday celebrations (Prakash Utsav)," honours the first Sikh Guru who spread peace and harmony world-wide.

To mark the occasion, the Gurudwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha and Gurudwara Sahab

Secunderabad committees are collaborating for grand celebrations. Two grand processions, "Nagar Keertans," will occur: the first on November 11 at 4 pm, starting from Gurudwara Sahab Secunderabad, and the second on November 13 at 4 pm, beginning from Gurudwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Afzalgunj.

Prabhandak Committee presidents S Baldev Singh Bagga (GSS) and S Satvinder Singh Bagga (SGSS) announced that thousands will participate, with the revered Guru Granth Sahibji

carried in a decorated vehicle, accompanied by "Nishaan saheban" (religious flags). The processions will feature Shabad Keertans and displays of 'Gatka', a traditional Sikh martial art.

The committee also announced that the main event, "Vishal Deewan" (mass congregation), will be held on November 15 at the Exhibition Grounds, Nampally. Renowned Ragi Jathas will recite Gurbani keertans and attendees can enjoy a free 'Guru Ka Langar' (community meal).

CSB IAS Academy offers free coaching to top 15 civil service aspirants

DEEPIKA PASHAM
deepikapasham2015@gmail.com
■ HYDERABAD

For countless civil service aspirants, especially those from rural areas, gaining access to top-tier coaching centres remains a distant dream. But with the latest free coaching initiative by CSB IAS Academy, many hopefuls have found a new opportunity.

CSB IAS Academy received an overwhelming response to its Kalpataru exam, a competitive test for free coaching. "We received 10,000 registrations, with 4,000 candidates actually attending the exam. From them, we selected 15 top students for full scholarships and provided study material to 200 others," said Balalatha, founder of CSB IAS Academy.

Of the selected students, five are individuals with disabilities



who dream of serving in civil services. "The Kalpataru Talent Test, held twice a year for the last three years, has become a crucial talent hunt. We are now advocating for its introduction in the government education sector," added Balalatha.

In a motivational speech to the aspirants, HYDRAA Commissioner Ranganath stated, "Disability is in the mind,

not the body. Obsession with achieving these dreams is common between ages 20 and 30, but failing to qualify doesn't make anyone worthless. Many have unique capabilities that can shine elsewhere."

Ramesh, a candidate attending the free coaching at CSB, shared his gratitude, saying, "Joining a coaching centre or accessing quality study material is essen-

tial, but expensive. Many aspirants like me are thankful for this opportunity."

Several other students echoed Ramesh's views, emphasising how costly coaching centres can be. They acknowledged the value of free resources like YouTube videos, sample papers and digital interviews, which have become crucial in their preparation for civil services.

Children's Eye Care Awareness Week begins

PNS ■ HYDERABAD



Vishva Karthikeya, Telugu actor, participating in Children's Eye Care Awareness Walk in Hyderabad on Sunday

The Children's Eye Care Awareness Week kicked off with a walk on Sunday at the L V Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI), focusing on creating awareness about childhood cataracts. This year, the week is being observed from November 7 to 14, across LVPEI's network. This walk is aimed to educate the public about childhood cataracts, emphasising early detection and treatment.

Thaman S, Indian compos-

er, and Vishva Karthikeya, Telugu actor, participated as chief guests at the Kallam Anji Reddy campus. Around 300 children and parents joined, carrying placards promoting awareness. Addressing the walk, Thaman urged parents to act quickly if they notice a white dot in their child's eye, stressing that delays could lead to vision loss. Vishva Karthikeya highlighted that cataracts also affect children and early detection is vital.

According to LVPEI, various activities such as painting,

fancy dress, elocution and Braille reading will be held throughout the week, concluding with a cultural programme and awareness talk on November 14, Children's Day.

The Head of Child Sight Institute, L V Prasad Eye Institute, Dr Ramesh Kekunnaya, along with Executive Chairman, LV Prasad Eye Institute, Dr Prashant Garg, emphasised the importance of early diagnosis to prevent irreversible vision loss and promote better overall child development.

Man attacks parent with rifle

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a disturbing incident within Saroornagar limits on Sunday, a man attacked his childhood classmate's father with an air rifle and shotgun. The accused has been identified as Balveer apprehended and placed in judicial custody by Saroornagar Police.

According to the complaint, Renuka Anand's daughter, Unnati is the classmate of Balveer and he allegedly began harassing her, expressing an unwanted romantic interest.

Approximately six months ago, Renuka Anand, father of Unnati, was informed that the man was planning to harm her. Concerned, he confronted him and organised a counselling session in the presence of his parents.

On November 10, however, the man allegedly executed a premeditated attack. Armed with an air rifle and shotgun, he arrived at Renuka Anand's residence. Spotting his parked car, he fired, injuring his right eye. Renuka Anand managed to escape into a neighbouring apartment and is now receiving treatment.

Mamnoon Airport: Long-cherished dream set to become a reality

Measures initiated to acquire 253 acres for the airport

PNS ■ WARANGAL

The long-cherished dream of the people of Warangal is all set to become a reality. The Congress government in the State, under the leadership of Revanth Reddy, is focusing on the development of Warangal and is making swift progress towards making the Mamnoon Airport operational.

In this regard, on Thursday, the Minister for Forest, Environment, Endowments, and Endowments Konda Surekha, along with the local MP, MLAs, and officials, conducted a site visit for land acquisition related to the construction of the Airport.

During the visit, the Minister met with the residents of Gadipally, Gunturpally, and



Nakkalapally villages and discussed the land acquisition process, involving the acquisition of 253 acres of land for the airport. Earlier, Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, during

a visit to Warangal recently, announced that Warangal would develop as a second capital of the State and that the airport would become operational soon.

The Minister explained to the farmers how their lives would improve with the availability of the airport. She assured the farmers that they would be compensated for their valuable land based on its market value. Surekha also mentioned that the 233 farmers and landowners losing their land would be allocated alternative land in accordance with their preferences. Additionally, she promised that infrastructure facilities such as roads, drainage, electricity, and other amenities would be provided as per the farmers' requests.

The Telangana government is determined to develop Warangal City on a par with Hyderabad. The minister emphasised that the Mamnoon Airport would be developed to meet the future industrial needs of Warangal, with plans to upgrade it into an international airport.

Though it was previously stated that setting up another commercial airport within 150 kilometres of the Hyderabad airport was not feasible, the government has reportedly persuaded the Central government and the GMR Group to pave the way for the establishment of the Mamnoon Airport. The construction work for the airport is likely to commence soon, according to sources.



Corporate Communication Executive Rupali Ranjan receiving PRCI awards on behalf of NTPC Ramagundam, in Mangalore

NTPC Ramagundam shines at PRCI Collateral Awards

PNS ■ PEDDAPALLI

In a proud moment for NTPC Ramagundam, the organisation was honoured with three distinguished awards at the PRCI (Public Relations Council of India) Collateral Awards 2024. The awards ceremony was held on November 9 at Moti Mahal in Mangalore, Karnataka.

The accolades include a Gold Award for Internal Communication Campaign, a Bronze Award in Corporate Communication Excellence, and a Consolation award in the Music Video category.

Kedar Ranjan Pandu, RED (South) and ED (R&T) congratulated the whole team of Ramagundam and Telangana and encouraged them to achieve more heights in future.

These awards underscore the dedication and innovative spirit of NTPC Ramagundam in promoting a wide range of initiatives and engaging effectively with all stakeholders. The awards were presented by Justice P Krishna Bhat, former Justice of the High Court of Karnataka, along with renowned actor, director and producer

The accolades include a Gold Award for Internal Communication Campaign, a Bronze Award in Corporate Communication Excellence, and a Consolation award in the Music Video category.

Ravikiran. Representing NTPC Ramagundam, Rupali Ranjan, Corporate Communication Executive, received the awards on behalf of the organisation.

These achievements reflect NTPC Ramagundam's relentless efforts in creating impactful communication campaigns that not only resonate with its employees and stakeholders but also elevate the standards of corporate communication within the industry. This recognition further cements NTPC Ramagundam's reputation as a leader in the field, committed to fostering transparent and effective communication for sustainable growth.

Officials asked to complete paddy procurement swiftly

PNS ■ YADADRI BHUVANAGIRI

Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector M Hanumanth Rao assured farmers that the paddy harvested by farmers would be purchased at the minimum support price (MSP), and that no farmer would face any issues in the procurement process. He made these remarks while inspecting various paddy procurement centres in the district on Sunday.

The Collector visited paddy procurement centres in several villages under Pochampally mandal, including Pochampally, Narayanagiri, Juluru, Pedda Gudem, Jagatpalli, Narayanagiri, Bheemanapalli, Revnapalli, Shivareddy Gudem. Speaking to reporters, Hanumanth Rao said that so far 46,000 metric tons of paddy had been transported to mills from the district and Rs. 8 crore had been credited into the farmers' accounts. He added that all government



Yadadri Bhuvanagiri Collector M Hanumanth Rao inspecting a paddy procurement centre at Pochampally in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri on Sunday

officials were actively monitoring the situation to ensure the smooth operation of the procurement process.

The Collector emphasised that district officials should visit procurement centres regularly and ensure that the paddy is procured swiftly without any delay or issues for farmers. He also mentioned that the millers and transporters are working in coordination to avoid any disruptions. To ensure transparency, an official

has been appointed at each mill to oversee the process.

Further, the Collector instructed officials to take strict action if paddy is stored in IKP centres (Indiramma Kendra Paddy Centres) and not processed as per the guidelines. He advised farmers to bring their paddy directly to procurement centres and to ensure that the moisture content of the paddy is within the permissible limit of 17 per cent as per government regulations.

Lays foundation stone for Karimnagar court complex

PNS ■ KARIMNAGAR

Chief Justice of Telangana High Court, Justice Alok Aradhe, laid the foundation stone for a new court-building complex in Karimnagar on Sunday. The Telangana government has sanctioned Rs 81 crore for the construction of 12 courts in Karimnagar town.

The Chief Justice, along with Justices K Lakshman, T Vinod Kumar, B Vijaysen Reddy, N V Shrivani Kumar, E V Venugopal, Pulla Kartik, and J Sreenivas Rao, also laid the foundation for residential quarters for judicial officers near the court complex. Former Judge Justice P Naveen Rao, Principal District Judge B Prathima, Telangana Bar Council Member K Lakshman Kumar, Bar Association President P V Rajkumar, and numerous advocates were present on the occasion.

Household survey begins in Bhadradri Kothagudem dist

PNS ■ BHADRADRI KOTHAGUDEM

District Collector Jitesh V Patil on Sunday directed the enumerators to conduct the comprehensive household survey meticulously, ensuring that no one is missed. With the commencement of the survey on Sunday, the Collector visited the 11th ward in the Palwancha Municipality area and inspected the ongoing survey. He interacted with the enumerators to check if there were any difficulties in data collection and advised them to bring any issues to the attention of the supervisors and special officers if required.

During this visit, the Collector mentioned that as part of the survey, sticker fixing at each household was completed between November 6 and 8. From Saturday onward, details related to social, economic, education, employment, political, and caste information would be collected



Bhadradri Kothagudem Collector Jitesh V Patil interacting with enumerators in Palwancha on Sunday

from each family using a government-prescribed form. He emphasised that on the second day of the survey, enumerators should be extremely careful to avoid any mistakes while recording the data. The survey required collecting details on more than 57 different aspects.

He also stressed that each block should have a dedicated enumerator, and every effort should be made to ensure that the survey is conducted carefully. Special officers at all levels should be on the ground to address any issues and bring them to their attention.



Ill-fated container 8 cars gutted as lorry catches fire

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

A container lorry with eight cars being transported on it caught fire in Sangareddy district in Telangana on Sunday and the driver suffered burns, police said. The incident happened on the national highway at Zahirabad town between 1:30 pm and 2 pm.

Three fire tenders were rushed to the spot and the flames were brought under control, police said, adding the lorry driver who suffered 20 per cent burns was rushed to a hospital.

A short-circuit could have led to the fire mishap, a police official said, based on preliminary investigation.

The cars were being transported from Gujarat to Hyderabad, he said.



Rangareddy Collector Narayana Reddy inspecting the process of household survey at Uppariguda village in RR district on Sunday

COMPREHENSIVE HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

Cover every household: Collector to enumerators

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

District Collector C Narayana Reddy conducted a surprise inspection of the ongoing comprehensive family survey at Uppariguda village under Ibrahimpatnam mandal in the district on Sunday. During the visit, the Collector emphasised the importance of adhering to government guidelines while conducting the survey and addressed the enumerators on the process.

The Collector revealed that a total of 5,376 enumeration blocks have been identified across the district for this extensive exercise. To ensure the smooth execution of the survey, enumerators have been appointed, and additional staff have been trained as backup to be deployed wherever necessary. He noted that despite being a Sunday, the survey was being conducted efficiently across all designated blocks without any interruptions.

The Collector urged families to keep their Aadhaar cards and ration cards readily available when the survey teams visit. He also appealed to village heads and local youths to cooperate with the authorities to facilitate the process. He explained that the comprehensive data collected through this survey would enable the government to better understand the needs of eligible households and extend appropriate welfare.

Collector Narayana Reddy assured that the survey would be completed within 15 days, followed by a 10-day period dedicated to entering the collected data. He instructed the enumerators to gather details from every family meticulously, ensuring no household is left out. The inspection was attended by Ibrahimpatnam Mandal Revenue Officer Sunitha, survey staff, and other concerned officials, who actively participated in the programme.

Two youngsters killed as car overturns near Mucharla Gate

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

In a tragic accident on Sunday morning, two youngsters died when a car overturned on the Hyderabad-Srisailem national highway. The youths were from the Old City of Hyderabad. The incident occurred near Mucharla Gate under Kandukur Mandal as the group was traveling from Hyderabad towards Kadtal in an DUV.

The victims have been identified as Nayab and Imtiaz, residents of the Pahadi Shareef area. It was reported that the group was en route to visit the Srisailem Dam when the accident took place. The



other five passengers in the vehicle survived with minor injuries. Green Pharma City Police responded promptly, registering a case and launching an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the crash.

Farmers stage protest seeking MSP for paddy

PNS ■ MIRYALAGUDA

Farmers staged a protest in front of rice mills at Vemulapalli village in Nalgonda district on Sunday, demanding that their paddy be purchased at the minimum support price (MSP). They alleged that traders had formed a syndicate, pressuring them to sell their produce at significantly lower price.

Farmers expressed frustration over the sluggish pace of paddy procurement at the local centres with many stocks being repeatedly rejected because the moisture content exceeded the permissible limits. As a result, they said, their produce was being unfairly discarded.

The protest led to traffic disruption on the Addanki-Narketpally Highway. Vehicular movement came to a halt along the entire stretch. The farmers accused rice



Farmers staging protest on Addanki-Narketpally Highway in Nalgonda district on Sunday

millers of resorting to delaying tactics in purchasing paddy at below market rates and demanded that they buy paddy at MSP. The unrest was part of a broader statewide movement in which farmers are demanding fair prices for their crops. They have called on the gov-

ernment to intervene to ensure that rice millers purchase paddy at the MSP and provide immediate relief to the agricultural community. A large number of vehicles were stranded on either side of the road as the farmers parked their tractors on the highway.

Farmer ends life in Warangal dist

PNS ■ WARANGAL

In a tragic incident in Warangal district, a young farmer from Chandru Tanda in Wardhannapet mandal committed suicide. He had attempted suicide two days ago and died while undergoing treatment at a hospital.

The young farmer resorted to extreme step as he was distressed over the poor yield of his crops and the inability to repay his debts. On Friday, he called his wife and shared his anguish, stating that his crops had failed and he could not afford to pay installments to the bank for loans he had taken to buy a tractor.

Khanapur Greenfield Stadium lies in utter neglect

PNS ■ NIRMAL

In the Khanapur area of Nirmal district, the Greenfield Stadium which came up on the outskirts of the town with all the necessary amenities for the benefit of athletes, youth, morning walkers, and yoga practitioners, has fallen into disuse.

Despite having all the facilities, it has turned almost useless. The previous government spent crores of rupees to build the Greenfield Stadium.

Due to the lack of supervision by the authorities, the Greenfield Stadium premises are teeming with wild plants

and weeds. Residents believe that with minor repairs, the Greenfield Stadium can be brought back into use.

Despite spending crores on its construction, the stadium has been neglected due to the lack of supervision. Visitors to the stadium are greeted with shards of broken windows. The main gate to the stadium has remained broken for long. At night, the Greenfield Stadium has become a hangout for drunkards. There is none to guard the stadium.

Athletes preparing for events like running and jumping, or candidates aiming for positions like army soldiers and police

constables find the stadium not suitable for them to do physical exercises. Many youths believe that if the rocks in the ground are removed and the uneven areas are levelled, the ground can be brought back into use.

Due to the unusable condition of the field, youths preparing for jobs like army soldiers, police constables, and other government positions are now forced to practise on the streets. They are expressing frustration over the situation.

They are requesting the authorities to immediately take the necessary steps to restore the Greenfield Stadium to its pristine glory.



ACROSS THE STATES



Indian submarine INS Vela visits Sri Lanka

Indian submarine INS Vela arrived in Sri Lanka on Sunday on a three-day visit to the island nation, the Indian High Commission said. INS Vela is a 67.5m long submarine with a crew of 53 and it is commanded by Commander Kapil Kumar. The submarine is an indigenous Kalvari-class diesel-electric submarine and it was commissioned into the Indian Navy on November 25, 2021. During the submarine's stay in Colombo, its crew is expected to participate in activities organised by the Sri Lanka Navy to strengthen camaraderie between the two navies, the Sri Lankan Navy said in a statement. In addition, personnel of the Sri Lanka Navy are expected to visit the submarine to take part in an awareness programme on its operational features. Moreover, the crew members of the submarine are expected to explore some of the tourist attractions in the country, it said. Concluding the official visit, INS Vela will depart the island on November 13.



Dedicated bus routes for school children in Delhi

The Delhi government on Sunday introduced two bus routes and increased the frequency of an existing one in a bid to improve public transportation, particularly in underserved areas. Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot, in the presence of Bijwasan MLA Bhupinder Singh Joon, flagged off the 892 SPL -- a dedicated service for schoolchildren. It will run two services each in the morning and the afternoon to align with school schedules, covering a 6.5-kilometre stretch from Dhoolisiras Village to Chhawla School, a statement said. The other new route, 892 STL, is aimed at connecting villages such as Nanak Heri to urban hubs, including Dwarka Sector-10. The service will span approximately 19 kilometres, linking key stops such as Dwarka Sector-21 metro station, Chhawla Village, and the BSF camp, and aims to offer a reliable transport option for daily commuters, the statement said.



Tension in Mandya village as Dalits enter temple

Tension prevailed in a village in Mandya on Sunday after the district authorities made way for the Dalits to enter the temple and worship the deity 'Kalabhairaveshwara' for the first time. The upper caste people, mostly Vokkaligas, allegedly took away the 'Utsava Murthy', the metallic festival idol of the deity for performing rituals outside the temple in Hanakere village. Heavy police force has been deployed in Hanakere in view of the prevailing tension. According to sources, there was an old Kalabhairaveshwara Swamy temple in the village and Dalits were never allowed to enter it. About three years ago, the old dilapidated structure was demolished and a new temple was built. Recently, the shrine came under the control of the Religious Endowment Department of the state government. Soon, Dalits decided to enter the temple but the members of the upper caste communities did not agree. The Dalits complained to the district administration about the discrimination done against them. Subsequently, two peace meetings were conducted but they failed.



'Congress hell-bent on breaking OBC-ST-SC unity'

PNS ■ GUMLA (JHARKHAND)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday attacked the Congress, accusing that its 'shahi parivar' (royal family) is hell-bent on breaking the ST-SC-OBC unity to 'snatch reservations under an evil design'. Addressing an election rally at Gumla, he accused the JMM-led coalition of looting the state's rich resources such as minerals, forest, sand and coal, putting 'Roti-Beti-Mati' (bread, land and daughter) at grave threat. He also accused the ruling dispensation of facilitating illegal immigration. "The Congress knows that if

STs, SCs and OBCs are united, they will pose a threat to the party's existence. This is the reason the Congress 'shahi parivar' is hell-bent on breaking their unity... They want to snatch reservations. "The Congress is trying to pit



one tribal community against another... Munda against Oraon, Lohra against Kharia, Kharwar against Korwa etc. with an agenda to break the tribal society's strength," he said. The Congress cannot tolerate tribals in higher posts, which is why it opposes Droupadi Murmu's elevation (to the post of President) and continues to insult her, the PM said, adding former Jharkhand chief minister Champai Soren was also insulted.

The BJP is committed to restoring tribal pride and 'Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh' will be celebrated for one year from November 15 across the country to honour tribal icon Birsu Munda, he said.

Shah slams MVA's 'appeasement politics'



PNS ■ JALGAON/BULDHANA

Union Home Minister and senior BJP leader Amit Shah on Sunday said the Congress-led Maha Vikas Aghadi could stoop to any level for the sake of appeasement and vote bank politics.

He further said Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole had agreed to the Ulema Council's demand for Muslim reservations.

Addressing rallies in Raver assembly constituency in Jalgaon and Malkapur seat in Buldhana, Shah pointed out to a recent memorandum submitted by the Ulema Council to the opposition Congress seeking 10 per cent reservation in jobs and education for the Muslim community. "Patole has agreed to end reservations for SCs, STs and

OBCs and give it to Muslims as demanded by the Ulema Council," Shah said in Buldhana.

The demand for 10 per cent quota for the Muslim community would eat into the benefits of Dalits, tribals and Other Backward Classes, since there is a 50 per cent cap on quota and any increase will come at the cost of existing ones, he told the gathering.

"Maha Vikas Aghadi leaders' lust for power has blinded them to long-term consequences of their actions on marginalised communities. The BJP is firmly committed to welfare of all communities but is strictly against any form of reservations for Muslims. As long as there is even one BJP MP or MLA, we will oppose religion-based reservation. This is our commitment," he asserted.

'India faces threat from RSS, Modi, and Amit Shah'

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday criticised the "Ek Hai to Safe Hai" and "Batenge to Katenge" slogans, claiming threat to India from the RSS, BJP, PM Narendra Modi, and Home Minister Amit Shah.

Addressing a 'Save Constitution' conference in Mumbai, Kharge targeted the prime minister, alleging discussions and debate are not allowed in Parliament.

"The prime minister says 'Ek Hai to Safe Hai' while other leaders (of BJP) talk about 'Batenge to Katenge' (divided we fall). Who is threatened? Is there any

Kharge on 'Ek Hai to Safe Hai'



problem? In fact, the country faces threat from RSS, BJP, Modi, and (Union home minister Amit) Shah," Kharge said.

Launching BJP's campaign for the November 20 Maharashtra assembly polls, Modi had mentioned 'Ek Hai to Safe Hai' while accusing the Congress of trying to divide OBCs, SCs and STs.

BJP to be uprooted from Jharkhand, claims Lalu

PNS ■ KODERMA (JHARKHAND)

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) president Lalu Prasad Yadav on Sunday claimed that the ruling INDIA bloc would uproot the BJP from Jharkhand in the upcoming assembly elections.

He also alleged that the BJP had become a powerless political force in comparison to the INDIA bloc, of which his RJD is a constituent.

"We will uproot the BJP and it will never return. The BJP is powerless before our strength," Yadav said addressing an election rally in Jharkhand's Koderma district.



The former Bihar chief minister said that he helped form the INDIA bloc, which emerged as a strong force against the BJP in the country.

"I have contributed to the development of Koderma. So, do not forget to vote for our

candidate Subhash Yadav and ensure his victory," the RJD chief said while addressing the rally.

The Koderma assembly segment was a stronghold of RJD till 2014.

BJP's Neera Yadav is contesting from the seat for the third time after two consecutive wins since 2014.

RJD's Subhash Yadav is in the fray as an INDIA bloc candidate this time.

Subhash, who is considered to be one of the close aides of Lalu Prasad, was recently granted bail by the Supreme Court in a money laundering case.



'Even originating point' of Ganga is polluted by STP discharge

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal has been informed that according to an Uttarakhand government's report on pollution in Ganga, even the "originating point" of the pious river is polluted by sewage treatment plant (STP) discharge.

The submission was made during the proceedings about the prevention and control of pollution in Ganga in Uttarakhand. The tribunal had earlier sought a report from the state and others.

A bench of NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava noted the submissions of the advocate of one of the intervening applicants, who referring to the state's report, pointed out that a faecal coliform having the

most probable number (MPN) of 540/100 ml was found in the sample collected from the 1 million litres per day (MLD) capacity sewage treatment plant (STP) at Gangotri.

Faecal coliform (FC) levels show pollution from the microbes from the excreta of humans and animals. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) water quality criteria, an MPN of less than 500/100 ml is desirable for "organised outdoor bathing".

In the order passed on November 5, the NGT bench also comprising judicial member Justice Sudhir Agarwal and expert member A Senthil Vel noted, "She (the advocate) has submitted that even the originating point of the pious river Ganga is polluted by the STP discharge."

SP a production house of rioters, criminals: Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday gave a new definition for Samajwadi Party's coinage 'PDA', terming it as "Production house of Dangai (rioters) and Apradhi (Criminals)."

He also said that the 'CEO' of this production house is Akhilesh Yadav and its "trainer" Shivpal Yadav, with all criminals "business partners" in the party.

"PDA was an acronym coined during the 2022 assembly polls by SP Chief Akhilesh Yadav for the 'Pichhde' (backwards), Dalits and 'Alpsakhyak' (minorities).



Addressing an election rally in Katehari (Ambedkar Nagar) for the November 20 bypolls, Adityanath said, "SP talks of PDA... But tell you what their PDA is. It is the Production House of Dangai (rioters) and Apradhi (criminals). I am giving you this new definition..."

"Remember any big criminal, mafia or rioters... They are party of the production house of SP... Every dreaded criminal, every dreaded mafia, every dreaded rapist is born here (production house). Its CEO (Chief Executive Officer) is Akhilesh Yadav. The trainer is Shivpal

Yadav," he said. He alleged that the very sight of an SP worker is enough to strike fear in the women of the state. "Dekh Sapai, Bitiya ghabrai," he said.

Adityanath also alleged the SP tried to save the man accused in the Ayodhya rape case.

BJP 'disconnected' from people: Priyanka

PNS ■ WAYANAD

Congress general secretary and UDF candidate for the Wayanad LS by-poll, Priyanka Gandhi intensified her criticism of the BJP-led Centre on Sunday, alleging its leaders were 'disconnected' from the people.

Addressing a corner meeting in Naiketty, Sulthan Bathery assembly constituency, she recalled her grandmother, former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, and her close association with tribal communities.

"Those of you who are older may



remember my grandmother Indira Gandhiji and the deep respect and connection she had with the tribal people of India," she said. Priyanka added that Indira had always emphasised the tribal people's connection to the forest, land, water, and earth.

"It was with this understanding that Indira Gandhi did so much for the rights of tribal people," she said. She further highlighted the UPA government's initiatives, such as the Forest Rights Act, MNREGA, and the Right to Education, stating that these aimed to help the poorest.

Gunfire rattles forests, shatters peace in J-K

PNS ■ SRINAGAR

In the first such incident in the past two decades, terrorists exchanged fire with security forces in the dense forests of the Zabarwan range here on Sunday, forcing residents to flee in panic as additional forces were mobilised to strengthen the cordon.

The encounter in the vicinity of Nishat on the banks of the Dal Lake comes close on the heels of a day-long encounter in the Khanyar locality of downtown Srinagar early this month which left a top Pakistani commander of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) dead.

The encounter in Zabarwan lasted several hours before the guns fell silent but the terrorists managed to flee taking advantage of the thick foliage. However, the search for the fleeing terrorists was continuing when the last reports were received, the officials said.

Eyewitnesses said that the forest area resonated with gunshots shortly after a contingent of Army, police and CRPF personnel appeared there and launched a search operation around 9 am. The forested area has a cluster of over a dozen houses and many residents fled the locality due to panic. This forest area serves



the locals in grazing their cattle and also womenfolk bring firewood from the woods to save themselves from the bone-chilling winter of Kashmir.

decades and never witnessed such an incident," Abdul Khaliq, a local resident, said.

"I, along with my wife, immediately left our house and ran for safety. There are at least two dozen houses in this forest area," he added.

Abdul Rashid, another resident of Ishber, has been a frequent visitor to the forest area for quite a long time. This morning, he left his cattle in the forest area and was returning when the encounter started.

Today, I also took my cow and a few sheep into the woods. While I was coming down, I heard some gunshots.

CPI(M) Facebook Page hacked, UDF candidate's video posted

PNS ■ PATHANAMTHITTA (KERALA)

With crucial bypolls in Kerala, the ruling CPI(M) faced embarrassment on Sunday after its official Facebook page briefly featured a campaign video of opposition UDF candidate Rahul Mamkootthil, running for the Palakkad Assembly constituency.

Initially, the district leadership claimed it was not the official page of the party, but later clarified that the page had

been "hacked" to post the video and incite controversy. CPI(M) Pathanamthitta dis-



trict secretary KP Udayabhanu issued a statement saying the

party came to know about the video posted following media reports.

"Upon detailed examination, it was found that someone hacked the page, deliberately posted the video to create controversy, took a screenshot, and shared it with the media," Udayabhanu stated.

The social media team recovered the page and removed the video promptly. A complaint has been lodged with the cyber police and Facebook authorities.



www.dailypioneer.com

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

PAPER WITH PASSION

A rich legacy

Chief Justice DY Chandrachud's tenure leaves a legacy marked by bold decisions, though not without controversies

As Chief Justice DY Chandrachud's tenure concludes on November 10, his impactful decisions will be closely scrutinised for the lasting mark they have left on India's journey toward progress and development. He became the 50th CJI on November 8, 2022. During his tenure as a judge and as CJI, Chandrachud has been involved in more than 700 judgements including constitution bench judgements, many of which he has authored, dissented and concurred with. His tenure stands as one of the most impactful in recent years, marked by bold judicial reforms, significant rulings, and an enduring commitment to upholding constitutional rights. His time in office was characterised by an effort to reshape the judiciary to make it more accessible, transparent, and technologically adept. However, this legacy was not without its share of controversies, reflecting both the high expectations and challenges that come with the nation's highest judicial role. His approach to jurisprudence was firmly rooted in constitutional principles and a progressive interpretation of the law.



His tenure is defined by landmark rulings that addressed some of India's most pressing social and political issues. The free speech and right to dissent that are fundamental to any democracy were close to his heart. Under his leadership, the apex court repeatedly affirmed the rights of individuals to dissent and question authority, especially in cases where government overreach was alleged. His rulings in cases challenging sedition laws and other colonial-era restrictions reflected a judicial commitment to curbing censorship. Chandrachud introduced significant technological advancements within the judiciary to make it more accessible and efficient. His commitment to digitalisation and virtual court proceedings made it accessible to all. His efforts to streamline case backlogs, prioritise the rights of underprivileged communities and modernise the judicial system have left a lasting impact. He championed judicial independence and frequently emphasised the need for an apolitical judiciary. These reforms have set a foundation for future chief justices to build on. However, Chandrachud faced criticism over his handling of certain high-profile political cases, especially those involving state surveillance and alleged misuse of power. His reluctance to prioritise some of these cases was interpreted by some as an unwillingness to confront the government, casting a shadow on his otherwise steadfast stance on judicial independence. His attempts to bring transparency to the controversial collegium system were met with mixed reactions. Indeed, Chief Justice DY Chandrachud's tenure will be remembered as one marked by significant contributions to the evolution of Indian jurisprudence and judicial processes. DY Chandrachud commitment to rights-based judgements, technological modernisation and accessibility reforms represents his enduring contributions to the judiciary.

PICTALK



People take part in a boating competition, in Nadia

The business of power and the politics of loyalty



SANTHOSH MATHEW

As history has shown, when influential businessmen back controversial leaders, the consequences reach far beyond politics—impacting nations and the global landscape

In the world of investment banking, there's an adage: "Insult is an investment." The idea is simple—those who are underestimated and ignored often end up making the most successful moves, purchasing stocks at a lower price before the crowd catches on. In political terms, this strategy mirrors how Donald Trump, after being insulted and sidelined following the 2020 election, has managed to turn his defeat into a powerful comeback. But Trump's resurgence isn't just a matter of political savvy—it's also about alliances, the kind that transcend national borders and redefine power structures. One such alliance is his relationship with Vladimir Putin, which, when examined through a historical lens, resembles the complex political alliances of the past. Trump's approach to Putin could be seen as a Trump card of sorts. A new world order under autocratic rule, with Putin at the helm, is a scenario that increasingly seems possible.



Ford once supported, albeit in a different era and context. Ford, the founder of the Ford Motor Company, became infamous for his admiration of Adolf Hitler and the Nazis. Ford's business interests aligned with the Nazi regime, including lucrative contracts that benefitted Ford's German subsidiary, Ford-Werke. While Ford's connection to Hitler was ideological, it was also financial, a pragmatic alliance that offered both political and economic rewards. Fast forward to today, and we see a striking similarity between Ford's support for Hitler and Musk's endorsement of Trump. Elon Musk, a tech magnate with enormous influence, has embraced Trump's populist message, praising him for his policies on deregulation and free markets. Musk's relationship with Trump may not be rooted in ideology to the same extent that Ford's was with Hitler, but the political and business calculations are eerily similar. Like Ford, Musk sees in Trump an opportunity to align his business interests with a powerful political figure. Musk's recent purchase of Twitter, his vocal support for Trump, and his willingness to use his platform to reshape public discourse are strategic moves, not just personal convictions. At the heart of this dynamic is



AMID THESE SHIFTING GLOBAL TIDES, THERE'S ONE GROUP THAT TRUMP HAS PROMISED TO "SAVE": THE HINDUS. WHILE INDIA'S PRIME MINISTER MODI MAY CLAIM TO BE THEIR PROTECTOR, TRUMP'S DIWALI PLEDGE TO SAFEGUARD HINDUS WORLDWIDE PAINTS A DIFFERENT PICTURE

a simple truth: both Ford and Musk, at their respective times, recognised the value of political alignment in securing economic and business power. Ford saw his admiration for Hitler as a path to financial gain in a fractured Europe. Musk, meanwhile, sees his support for Trump as a means to ensure policies favourable to his empire, such as deregulation, low taxes, and the prioritisation of business over social welfare. Just as Ford's relationship with the Nazi regime was instrumental in expanding his company's reach in Europe, Musk's ties to Trump could bolster his business interests in the current global economy. Musk's approach to Trump is also a form of personal branding. Both men have cultivated larger-than-life personas, largely through social media, and both understand the power of controversy. Just as Ford was able to influence public perception through his business prowess and his political affiliations, Musk uses his platform—Twitter, now X—to shape political discourse. Musk's support for Trump also mirrors Ford's early 20th-century nationalist rhetoric. While Ford's nationalism was overtly racial, Musk's alignment with Trump echoes a modern brand of populism, focused on

nationalism, "America First" policies, and anti-establishment rhetoric. However, the ultimate question remains: What happens when business and politics intertwine in such a way that it threatens the very fabric of democratic institutions? Ford's support for Hitler contributed to the global rise of fascism, and Trump's alliances with figures like Putin raised concerns about the future of democracy and global stability. Musk's role in this political theatre could either be a footnote in history or a major chapter in the ongoing struggle between corporate power and political freedom. The rise of populism, the fracturing of traditional alliances, and the unpredictable actions of powerful business figures like Musk and Trump all point to a future where global stability could be at risk. The future is uncertain, but one thing is clear: as history has shown when powerful businessmen like Ford or Musk align themselves with controversial political figures, the consequences can be far-reaching and transformative. Whether for good or ill, their influence is undeniable, and their alliances, however pragmatic, will shape the world for years to come. (The writer is an associate professor; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CHANDRACHUD'S LANDMARK VERDICTS

Madam — Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud, overall, an eminent, very erudite and well-mannered CJI. Even though he was a woke, liberal, let's give him the credit where he truly deserves. He was completely impartial. He was on the bench for the Ram Mandir verdict which ruled unanimously in favour of the temple. He withheld Article 370, he ruled in the favour of government for demonetisation, granted bail to Arnab Goswami, ruled against MVA in Maharashtra, accepted SEBI report on Adani against Hindenburg allegations, approved Central Vista project, upheld government powers pertaining to ED, CBI and PMLA, left same sex marriage decision on parliament or interpretation of Article on private ownership of resources, Assam Citizenship Amendment Act. Some of the judgements may not align with our preference, but not everything can work in our favour. But my one regret is the Ganapati Aarti he shared with the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his house. No doubt Modi Bhakts forgave him for this sole act. Side by side who forget his overlooking Bhima Koregaon undertrials and Umar Khalid's politically motivated jail. Whatsoever, a judge's task is to interpret the law and he did very creditably. Law making is the function of Parliament and not the Supreme Court. We will miss you a lot, Your Lordship.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

FOCUS ON DEVELOPMENT

Madam— Apropos of the front page news 'Ruckus continues in J and K Assembly' (Nov 8), CM Omar Abdullah should himself evaluate how development and infrastructure have been made priority by the Union Government in comparison to the other states after the abrogation of Article 370 and security preparedness has been enhanced in the state. Jammu & Kashmir has top priority for the country both from a strategic, economic and social perspective. People of the state responded positively to the repeal of Article 370 and have voted for the National

Stop political blame game



Rape, gangrape and murder are social crimes continuing since the dawn of 'civilisation' all across the world and which seem to have no end, proving that human beings are still left with several miles to go before turning truly humane. So whenever any such crime happens any-

where, the real culprits should be nabbed as early as possible, with the judiciary awarding exemplary punishment to the convicted. And if any influential person or persons are found to be protecting the criminals or diluting their crime, he/she/they must also be handed severe punishment. But character-assassinating the ruling party or government of the region along with the administrative head of the concerned region wherever such an unpardonable offence takes place is nothing but cheap, heartless politics within which the BJP and its leaders have scandalously immersed themselves, revolving around the Kolkata hospital case since early August. Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

SAMOSAS CONTROVERSY

Madam — It is full of political crises as general security staff ate away elitist samosas ordered from a 5-star hotel by the CM of Himachal Pradesh. CID has been called in for investigation as to how these staff could not understand that not all samosas are for everyone. This transgression needs Byomkesh Bakshi, RAW, IB, and CBI to find out how dare some poor guy thought he could get away eating Sukku ke samose. Also, the five-star hotel that supplied those Samose might have to be penalised for not writing a caution note on each samosa by writing, Only for Italians, and those Indians whose income is more than 50 lakh per month, etc.

What Jalebi was to Haryana, Samosas will be to Himachal Pradesh. Also, Maharashtra elections are just 10 days away, and Pappu has not yet talked about the Vada Pav factory. It is concerning for Mahayuti. Congress is a complete mess on edibles.

A Subramaniam Krishnan | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Creating a workplace culture that truly supports mental health



ASHA IYER KUMAR

In a workplace where mental health is prioritised, employees would feel confident, heard, valued and supported

The theme for Mental Health Day 2024, which was observed on October 10, was "mental health in the workplace". Although a month has passed since then, it is a theme that will remain relevant at all times of the year, given the rising incidents of burnouts and crashes in the professional sphere. The race has never been this fierce to corner the best bargains in life and in the process of touching the finish line first, we are disintegrating as family, workers and society. Our workspaces are turning into ticking time bombs with a multitude of nerves waiting to snap. The deadlines in front of us are turning into death lines. As someone who has gone through a mental health condition and someone who has been through the trials of having to perform well at work during the ailment, and in the end been let off, I can say this much with certainty: We talk more and walk less. The active discussions that we are having on mental health in offices are not translating into workable actions and responses. Whether we use the word toxic or hostile, or



politics to describe inclement work conditions, there is an amount of disquiet hovering over workstations and cabins. Employees still struggle to define their boundaries and raise concerns without fear of judgment or retaliation. This lack of open communication creates a festering environment where mental well-being takes a back seat to competition, productivity, and ambition. To bridge this gap, I believe every organisation needs a Chief Emotional Intelligence Officer—a dedicated professional to prioritise the mental wellness of employees. This individual would serve as an accessible resource for emotional guidance, creating a safe harbour where employees can speak candidly about their mental and

emotional challenges without fear of repercussions. Why is this crucial? Because mental health issues in the workplace are seldom isolated incidents—they are deeply intertwined with how individuals interact, collaborate, and handle the pressures of their roles. The CEO would not only provide direct support but also foster a culture that values empathy, resilience, and open dialogue. They could organise workshops on emotional intelligence, manage peer support networks, and act as a mediator in times of conflict. By equipping employees with emotional tools and safe channels to address their struggles, companies can create a more harmonious and productive environment. A psychologist or therapist in the workspace would be invaluable in addressing the employees issues. Think about the quiet suffering: employees with anxiety disorders who fear speaking up during meetings, those with depression who find it challenging to meet deadlines or those enduring chronic stress due to workplace politics. When left unaddressed,

these issues don't just impact the individual—they disrupt team dynamics, reduce overall productivity, and lead to higher attrition. By bringing mental health resources in-house, organisations send a powerful message: We care about you as a whole person, not just as a worker. In workplaces that still stigmatise open communication, a CEO can lead by example, showing that seeking help is a strength, not a weakness. Imagine an office where an employee overwhelmed by stress could have a confidential conversation with a professional trained to listen and offer support. Or where tensions between coworkers could be resolved through mediation rather than letting resentment fester. This isn't just about providing a "quick fix" for mental health—it's about creating a sustainable, nurturing workplace culture. If we genuinely wish to prioritise mental health in the workplace, then it's time to go beyond well-meaning words and take actionable steps. (The author is a columnist and writing coach based in Dubai; Views are personal)



FIRST COLUMN

SHARENTING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Only with awareness and proactive choices, parents can create a positive digital experience



SHAINY SHARMA

In the digital age, social media has become an integral part of everyday life, allowing people to connect, share, and communicate across vast distances. Of recent, in one of the studies, it was estimated that over 90 per cent of American children have a social media presence by the time they reach age 2. Today, many parents feel a sense of pride in their children's achievements and milestones and want to celebrate these moments with friends and family. They believe that social media offers an easy, instant way to share updates and receive supportive feedback.

This practice of parents sharing photos, videos and details about their children on social media is termed 'Sharenting' and is becoming a buzz in town. This practice may include baby photos, milestones, family activities, humorous incidents and personal achievements. Sharenting often begins as early as pregnancy announcements and continues through the child's growth, school events and sometimes even into adolescence.

Practicing sharing offers numerous ways to bridge physical distance and bring family members into the child's life virtually by creating family bonding for families separated by geography and maintaining close relations with extended family members; building online support communities where sharing can bring camaraderie and guidance from other parents experiencing similar challenges and preserve memories that can later be revisited by both the parents and potentially the children themselves but on the contrary, sharing faces substantial criticism, primarily concerning privacy, consent and ethical issues. Studies suggest that children who discover their lives



have been publicly documented without their consent may experience trust issues with their parents and may feel a loss of control over their personal stories.

As children grow up in a digital world, having a documented online presence from a young age can influence their self-perception, social development and relationships. Being exposed to a wide audience might increase the likelihood that children develop feelings of shame or insecurity about how they are portrayed online.

The word 'Sharenting' is a double-edged sword, offering benefits in the form of connection and memory preservation but carrying significant ethical and privacy implications. It becomes of utmost importance for the parents to strike a balance and adopt responsible sharing practices such as seeking consent from their child when possible; avoiding sharing sensitive information such as full name, school, location, etc and periodically reviewing and removing older posts, thereby reducing their child's digital footprint and enabling them to control their online presence as they grow.

Only with awareness and proactive choices, parents can create a positive digital experience for their families while protecting their children's future in an increasingly connected world. Today's generation needs to create a new normal and prioritise a child's right to privacy, informed content as well and digital safety over the 'posting dopamine cycle.' Remember, the digital footprint of the child will last a lifetime, and privacy will give them power. Ultimately, responsible sharing will require mindfulness, ethical consideration, and the willingness to prioritise the child's well-being above the immediate gratification of social media validation.

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

Nutrient-based subsidy: Support and scrutiny balance



UTTAM GUPTA

While companies have the flexibility to set their MRP, these prices remain under close government scrutiny, ensuring affordability without undermining competition



Just around the time when the Rabi Crops season (October 2024 - March 2025) has commenced, there was a shortage of di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) in many parts of the country.

DAP is a widely used complex fertiliser that supplies 46 per cent Phosphate or 'P' nutrients besides 18 per cent Nitrogen or 'N' (a ton of DAP contains 180 kg 'N' and 460 kg 'P'). The annual consumption of DAP is around 10 to 11 million tons. Against this, domestic production is less than half at around 4.5 - 4.8 million tonnes. The deficit is made up of imports from countries such as Russia, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt and China.

According to the Department of Fertilisers (DoF), the requirement of DAP during the current Rabi season is assessed to be 5.5 million tonnes. Out of this, 60 per cent or 3.3 million tonnes was to be imported. This much material should have been purchased, transported and placed near the consumption areas before the commencement of the season. But, that was not to be. According to the Fertiliser Association of India (FAI), during April-September 2024, DAP imports were 1.96 million tons down from 3.45 million tons during the same period in 2023-24. The domestic production of DAP was 2.15 million tons down from 2.31 million tons during the same period last year. So, there was a reduction in supply of around 1.65 million tons compared to last year. This is the prime reason behind the shortage of DAP.

A plausible explanation could be that many countries from where DAP comes are in the middle east and the crisis due to the war involving Israel and others has led to disruption in the normal Red Sea route forcing the re-routing of ships through the Cape of Good Hope, South Africa. That involves much longer distance hence, taking additional time of up to 45 days for the consignment to reach Indian ports. But, it isn't simply a case of delay. It has more to do with policy issues. Under the existing policy, the Union Government asks manufacturers or importers to sell fertilisers to farmers at a low maximum retail price (MRP) unrelated to



THE ANNUAL CONSUMPTION OF DAP IS AROUND 10 TO 11 MILLION TONNES. AGAINST THIS, DOMESTIC PRODUCTION IS LESS THAN HALF AT AROUND 4.5 - 4.8 MILLION TONNES. THE DEFICIT IS MADE UP OF IMPORTS FROM COUNTRIES SUCH AS RUSSIA, MOROCCO, SAUDI ARABIA, JORDAN, EGYPT AND CHINA

the cost of production/import and distribution (or cost of supply) which is higher. The excess cost of supply over MRP is reimbursed as a subsidy to the manufacturer/importer.

In the case of urea, MRP is under 'statutory' control and subsidy varies from unit to unit (importer in case of import) depending on the cost. For non-urea fertilisers (there are 25 grades of such fertilisers including DAP) which are de jure decontrolled, the MRP is 'indirectly' controlled.

The government gives a 'uniform' subsidy on a per-nutrient basis to all manufacturers and importers under the Nutrient Based Scheme (NBS). Although they are free to fix the MRP, this is subject to scrutiny by the authorities. In an office memorandum dated January 17, 2024, the DoF has issued detailed guidelines for the evaluation of the "reasonableness" of the MRPs for all non-urea fertilisers covered under the NBS. To be effective from April 1, 2023, the guidelines prescribe maximum profit margins that will be allowed for fertiliser companies - 8 per cent for importers, 10 per cent for manufacturers and 12 per cent for integrated manufacturers (those producing finished fertilisers as well as intermediates such as phosphoric acid and ammonia).

The admissible profit margins are calculated as a percentage of their "total cost of sales", which covers the cost of production (landed cost in case of import), administrative/selling and distribution overheads, net interest and financing charges. Dealer's margin is allowed to the extent of 2 per cent of the MRP for DAP and muriate of potash (MOP), and 4 per cent for all other fertilisers covered under NBS. Companies earning "unreasonable profit", i.e. over and above the stipulated per-

centages, in a financial year (April-March) or FY will have to refund the same to the DoF by October 10 of the following FY. If they don't return the money within the said time limit, "an interest @12 per cent per annum is charged on a pro-rata basis on the refund amount from the next day of end of FY (i.e. in case of FY 2023-24, the interest would be charged from April 1, 2024)". The guidelines require fertiliser companies to "self-assess" unreasonable profits, based on the cost auditor's report along with audited cost data approved by their board of directors. This report and data have to be furnished to the DoF by October 10 of the following fiscal year. The DoF will then scrutinise the "reasonability of MRPs", as submitted by the companies, "for each completed previous FY (i.e. for FY 2023-24) by February 28, 2025". Following this scrutiny, the DoF will finalise a report on unreasonable profits earned, if any, to be recovered from the companies.

Such detailed regulations to the point of 'micro-managing' a firm by itself act as a deterrent to smooth and effective conduct of its operations. It is completely out of sync with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's emphasis on policy reforms and liberalisation. It makes a mockery of the decontrol of all non-urea fertilisers announced way back in 1992 under the economic reforms unleashed by the then government under PV Narasimha Rao. From the perspective of the manufacturer/importer, the 'reasonable' MRP allowed to it by the DoF plus the subsidy also fixed by the government (it is notified twice a year before the commencement of each season Kharif and Rabi) should fully cover the cost of supply. If it doesn't, the manufacturer's/importer's operations will be rendered eco-

nomic unviable. This is precisely what has happened with importers of DAP during the current year. For the Rabi season, the government has announced a subsidy of Rs 21,911 per ton along with the MRP of Rs 27,000. These two add up to Rs 48,911 per ton. Against this, the current landed cost of DAP in the country is US \$ 645 per ton or around Rs 54,000 per ton. Add to this, the cost of movement from the port to the consumption point and distribution cost, and the cost of supply to the farmer would be more than Rs 60,000 per ton. A firm won't go for such import only to incur a substantial loss of over Rs 10,000 per ton. The crux of the problem is the government doesn't want farmers to pay more. So, it has kept MRP unchanged at the level it was three years ago. At the same time, it is hesitant to increase subsidies as it will upset its fiscal budget. Its subsidy allocation for non-urea fertilisers has gone down from Rs 112,875 crore during 2022-23 to Rs 60,303 crore during 2023-24 and further down to Rs 48,894 crore during 2024-25 (it includes Rs 24,474 crore for Rabi season). In the process, it ends up impacting supplies as importers don't find it economical to import. During the previous two years, there wasn't any shortage as during 2022-23, the government was pretty liberal in spending and during 2023-24, the decline in global prices helped. But, during the current FY, none of these reliefs are available. So, there is stress on the supply front. The government can get out of the logjam only when it stops micro-managing the fertiliser business and leaves it to the market forces. As for subsidies, they should be given directly to farmers.

(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

Israel, Palestine and a divided Africa: Seeking a path forward

African nations, with their unique histories, alliances and economic interests, find themselves divided over the Israel-Palestine issue

The ongoing conflict in Gaza between Israel and Palestine, which began on October 7, 2023, marks a significant military engagement in the region, being the largest confrontation since the 1973 Yom Kippur War. This conflict has global ramifications, with the African continent likely to feel its effects profoundly. Africa, with its 55 countries and diverse political landscape, is particularly vulnerable to such geopolitical divides.

Africa's Divided Stance on Israel-Palestine: African countries vary widely in their stance on the Israel-Palestine issue, often shaped by historical, ideological, and economic factors. Pro-Palestinian countries like Algeria, Tunisia, South Africa, Senegal, Mali,



MANISH KARMWAR

Zimbabwe, Namibia, and Libya support Palestine, often viewing the Palestinian struggle through the lens of their anti-colonial histories. In contrast, several nations, including Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda, Morocco, and Chad, have established close relations with Israel, motivated by economic, technological, and security interests. Additionally,

neutral countries such as Nigeria, Ghana, Egypt, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Sudan maintain diplomatic ties with both Israel and Palestine, typically refraining from favoring one side over the other.

At the continental level, the African Union (AU) has traditionally supported Palestine's statehood and criticised Israeli policies.

A Deeper Look at Africa's Reactions: African responses to the Gaza conflict highlight the continent's fractured stance on foreign policy issues. In South Africa, for instance, public protests have likened the Palestinian struggle to the country's anti-apartheid movement. South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has voiced strong support for Palestine,

and his government filed a lawsuit against Israel at the International Court of Justice. Algeria's Foreign Minister similarly condemned Israeli actions, citing international law, while Comoros President Azali Assoumani labeled Israeli actions as genocidal. On the other hand, several sub-Saharan nations, including South Sudan, Cameroon, Togo, and Cape Verde, chose not to support the recent United Nations resolution calling for a ceasefire in Gaza. Even Muslim-majority countries like Morocco, Chad, and Sudan have limited their response to public condemnations without altering diplomatic ties. Malawi and Kenya recently agreed to send laborers to Israel following a halt in work permits for Palestinians,



further signaling the complexities in Africa's stance. Africa and Israel share a complex, long-standing relationship that dates back to before Israel's founding. Theodor Herzl, the founder of the Zionist movement, expressed support for African liberation, envisioning solidarity between Jews and Africans in their quests for self-determination. This vision gained trac-

tion in the 1960s, with Israel maintaining a strong presence in Africa, including 33 embassies across the continent. Israel's model of decolonisation and development attracted the admiration of African leaders who saw parallels in their own struggles for independence.

However, following the 1973 Yom Kippur War, pressure from Arab countries led many African states to sever ties with Israel. This led to a period of estrangement, with African leaders feeling frustrated by unmet promises from Arab allies, particularly in the realm of energy cooperation. Gradually, ties began to thaw, and by the early 21st century, Israel was once again seeking partnerships in Africa, with diplomatic and economic col-

laborations resuming. In recent years, Israel's outreach has intensified. In 2016, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited East Africa, and a year later, he addressed the Economic Community of West African States. In 2022, Israel and several African nations agreed to expand cooperation in renewable energy, trade, and technology. Kenya's President William Ruto visited Israel in 2023, further strengthening ties in agriculture, climate change, security, and other sectors.

These relationships are essential for African nations, many of which aim to modernise infrastructure and boost economic growth through partnerships with technologically advanced countries like Israel. Given the historical context

and current diplomatic landscape, it appears unlikely that the Gaza conflict will irreparably divide Africa. While opinions on the Israel-Palestine issue are undoubtedly polarized, African nations often prioritise pragmatic interests over ideological alignment. The Gaza conflict may not permanently alter Africa's alliances, but it does highlight the need for more cohesive foreign policy coordination on the continent.

Africa's relationships with Israel have historically ebbed and flowed, often dictated by external pressures and internal priorities rather than a single, unified stance.

(The writer is faculty, department of African Studies faculty of social sciences University of Delhi; views are personal)

EXCLUSIVE

PRATEEK KUHAD'S MUSICAL MAGIC IN HYDERABAD AND BEYOND!

SHIKHA DUGGAL
shikhaduggalwork@gmail.com

The crowd was enthralled by Prateek Kuhad's captivating performance in Hyderabad, where the singer-songwriter's heartfelt lyrics and beautiful voice created an emotional tapestry. Kuhad's eerie melodies reverberated through the night as he took the audience to a world of love and longing with his distinctive fusion of folk, rock and pop.

Kuhad's position as one of India's most adored and highly regarded musicians was cemented when he performed a compelling setlist that highlighted his skillful storytelling and sonic exploration of human emotions, as the city's thriving music culture embraced him with open arms! But isn't it incredible that we were able to secure a few minutes of his time for an exclusive telephone conversation before all of this could occur? But isn't it incredible that we were able to secure a few minutes of his time for an exclusive telephone conversation before all of this could occur? Yes, indeed!

"Hyderabad, which has always had a particular place in my heart, was a great place to start the journey. I've given multiple performances here on my past tours. Love abounds among the fans here! Every place I go offers something different. I feel like I can engage with the audience more deeply and personally in more private situations. It's exhilarating and

PRATEEK KUHAD, THE MAESTRO OF EMOTIONAL RESONANCE, SITS DOWN WITH THE PIONEER FOR A HEARTFELT CONVERSATION ABOUT HIS LIFE, MUSIC AND PASSIONS. WITH HIS RECENT HYDERABAD CONCERT CLEALED SILHOUETTES TOUR LEAVING FANS SPELLBOUND, KUHAD SHARES HIS INSIGHTS ON THE POWER OF MUSIC, HIS CREATIVE PROCESS AND THE PERSONAL CONNECTIONS THAT MAKE HIS PERFORMANCES TRULY UNFORGETTABLE!

the energy levels are rather high in bigger cities. I make an effort to connect with the vibe that each show, regardless of location," he shares on the impact of the city's distinct ambiance. It was an amazing opening week of the tour, with performances at Hitex in Hyderabad and Bharatiya City in Bangalore. He is excited for the remainder of the tour!

A wide variety of Hindi and English songs from Prateek's varied musical repertoire appeal to listeners with a wide range of musical preferences. Popular songs that frequently explore themes of love and self-discovery include *Kho Gaye Hum Kaha*, *Kasoor*, *Khone Do*, *Cold-Mess* and *CO2*. "I just try to write what feels authentic to me at the time, without trying to over-think or filter my thoughts. Even if they can't relate to every detail, I believe that people can still feel the feelings. It all boils down to the song writing's honesty, in my opinion," the singer admits.

Although the concert was undoubtedly a symphony of emotions, his soul-stirring voice also left us speechless during the phone chat. Particularly when he informed us that, "I want the audience to experience something personal but private, as if they were sharing a moment with me. A highly skilled group of lighting designers, sound engineers and visual artists have been col-

laborating with me to ensure that we realise this vision. We've been practicing for months and the show's ambiance and graphics are just as important as the music! In my opinion, it's ideal for this tour because it allows the music to flourish and allows listeners to experience a sense of presence."

He always showcases his development as a singer-songwriter by fusing pop, rock and folk to produce a distinctive sound. We are always astonished by his soaring vocals and meaningful lyrics! "Because of human psychology and several situations I've had in recent years, it's a very personal subject for me. The outlines of our souls are symbolised by silhouettes, which might occasionally leave us feeling empty. At other times, it can truly bring you to the forefront and make you stand out. It's a kind of dichotomy," he shares. "I have never really claimed to be a storyteller and I don't consider myself to be one. My music ultimately conjures up images and moods that are tangible, visceral and poignant. I'm a huge music fan! Thus, that is how I convey my ideas to the audience."

On the call, we sang along to a few of Prateek Kuhad's songs, moved to the beat and yearned for more as the singer-songwriter brought his varied style to life. "I've always concentrated on creating music that is true to who I am. The Indian music industry is changing. Since there are so many live music events taking place this year, people are going out to see them. For all artists, that is a fantastic situation!"

Divyanka Tripathi: Family-friendly content, always my goal

TEJAL SINHA
tejal.sinha30@gmail.com

As *The Magic of Shiri* prepares to cast its spell on audiences, Divyanka Tripathi Dahiya shares the story behind her latest web series in an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*

Divyanka Tripathi, India's sweetheart, has woven a two-decade-long tapestry of unforgettable characters, mesmerising performances and countless accolades. From her humble beginnings as Vidya in *Banoo Main Teri Dulhann* (2006-2009) to her iconic, award-winning portrayal of Dr. Ishita Bhalla in *Yeh Hai Mohabbatein* (2013-2019), Divyanka's remarkable journey showcases her incredible range, vulnerability and dedication. With multiple Indian Television Academy Awards, Indian Telly Awards and Asian Viewers Television Awards under her belt, she's cemented her status as a leading lady. Now, she's set to enchant audiences in *The Magic of Shiri*, inspiring millions with her talent, grace, and unforgettable smile!

Get ready to be spellbound by *The Magic of Shiri*, an upcoming web series starring the talented Divyanka Tripathi as Shiri Shah. Directed by Birs Dasgupta and produced by Jio Studios, this captivating show follows Shiri's transformative journey. Defying societal norms, Shiri embarks on an unconventional path, chasing her passion for magic. Blending comedy, drama and adventure, *The Magic of Shiri* whisks viewers away to Delhi's vibrant Paharganj neighbourhood in the mid-1990s.

"Since you began with my journey, I've always tried to take up a different kind of character, something that I haven't done before; otherwise, it would become boring for me. Also, *koi bhi cheez repeat mai karri hoon toh*," the Mrs. and Mr. Sharma Allahabadwale star reveals, highlighting her passion for diverse roles. The storyline and character graph of *The Magic of Shiri* left Divyanka impressed. "The storyline and the character graph—that was just insane—the character graph, especially because it was difficult to conceive and execute. In fact, I was also thinking about how the director is even managing because of the character's journey in the episodes; in every episode, the emotional graph, the character graph and many times even the costume graph, I've seen it changing."

To fully immerse herself in the character, the *Jhalak Dikhla Jaa* star embarked on extensive research. "*Bakaidia maine baithike padhai ki*. I did a lot of homework so that I could understand Shiri perfectly. Her emotions were so beautifully portrayed and were changing so rapidly, which for me was interesting yet challenging."

She was drawn to the relatable aspects of Shiri's character. Her character, she says, Shiri Shroff, has been beautifully made. Talking of how much she connected with it, "I would say

every woman would connect with it. In fact, not just women but every person." She emphasises the show's universal appeal: "Thankfully, the show caters to all age groups. It's a good thing that it's a family-watching show. Anyone who has seen my journey knows that my motive has always been and even today, that for every project that I pick up, the whole family should sit together and watch it. That's an Indian thing that every time we sit and eat with our family, there's some show that goes on and we love to spend time with each other together. It's a slice-of-life kind of show, so it's like you are watching your own house activities. There are also certain comic elements; *drama toh hai hi*, then there's magic for kids."

Also, the *Crime Patrol* presenter notes that the struggles portrayed in the show are universally relatable. "Coming to the struggles, be it a man or woman would relate to it. Somewhere or the other, everybody struggles in one way or the other for their families. So this is a story of these sacrifices only and how with them they achieve their

dreams. This is a story of how every individual makes sacrifices for their families. It's absolutely relatable for everybody who watches it."

"There weren't any sort of my personal experiences but mere mummy ke they (she giggles). This is a very 90s story. The first time when I read my character, I was like, 'Yeh toh meri maa jaisa hai', *Yeh Hai Mohabbatein* fame says, as she draws parallels between her mother's life and Shiri's journey. "Just like how as soon as my mom got married, *unke bhi mummy ke armaan* they and we are like, *aap hotae tab apna B.ED pursue karke aap principal hotae kahin ke*. She really has that in her! Today, she teaches Bharatanatyam free for students who cannot afford it because she loves doing it. It's now that she's been achieving her passion. And somewhere I could see my mom in the character. We are three siblings and all of us are doing well in our work. It's after settling all of us that she learned Bharatanatyam and later became a master and started teaching students."

Meanwhile, to prepare for her role, Divyanka sought inspiration from women around her. "I had certain reference points. I always try to find references for my characters in my surroundings. So there's this Bhabhi of mine; she's also similarly enterprising, fun-loving, *mastikhor*, but *business ke liye alag alag avenues dhundhna* and similarly, taking care of the kids with all the love, so I had taken a few nuances from her."

Then came the Punjabi vibes of her character. "I am very far away from being Punjabi. I have never even seen a 'Punjabi parivesh'. So I hired a Punjabi teacher; he was a theatre person. So I used to interact with him so that I could catch up with the language with fluency."

She further paid close attention to the costumes and magic aspects of her character. "The best thing is that even the costumes—how back then there used to be these fully tailored outfits. I took them up. I had requested the team take reference to what my mom used to wear. I had a lot of old pictures of my *chaachi*, and Mummy's those garden-floral print sarees, so that's what I chose. I also did workshops so that 'haathon ki jaadukari'; I wanted a finesse in it so that it looks all-natural. Even in the show, Shiri's growth and journey have been shown, where initially she didn't know anything and just by learning, she's learned all of it. *Divyanka ke saath bhi wahin chakra hai*. I too didn't know anything when it came to magic tricks and later, I came up to Shiri's level when I practiced all of it in my house. I took a few ballet classes so that I can get that grace of a magician."

She proudly declares *The Magic of Shiri* as one of her finest projects to date. "I would say this (*The Magic of Shiri*) is one of the best and the finest I've done. One is where you enjoy the actor's character and then there is how the audience is receiving it."

Tripathi humbly recognises the role of luck in garnering audience love. "Sometimes we just do our work and if the audience loves it, it is like a 'lucky draw'. I hope I get lucky enough to get people's love. When it comes to the character, I really enjoyed it so much; there was so much variety to it. Every episode has Shiri going through so much. I am just talking about one episode, but when we talk of 10 episodes, we do location-based shooting. So it happens that Shiri's character graph in the first episode is in one place and then in the tenth episode, it is somewhere else only. There's *zameen-aasman ka antar*."

As we come to an end, Divyanka acknowledges the challenges and thrill of portraying Shiri. "Preparing this character was incredibly challenging yet very exciting."



Heartbeats of hope

What started with an aim of bringing the most advanced cardiac care, has now become a mission to make affordable and modern heart treatment available for all in the country!

Founded in 1994 by a leading cardiologist late Dr AK Thakur, Heart Hospital Patna has not only treated over 3 lakh patients so far, but now under the leadership of its chairman and director Rajan Thakur, it is serving as a leading tertiary heart care facility for patients from Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Nepal and neighbouring areas. Dr Rajan, who takes his inspiration from his father adds that his mission is to make advanced cardiac care that meet global standards, affordable for all in the country.

He believes that best medical practices with latest technology at affordable prices are the medicines for India's health challenges such as poor infrastructure, lack of resources, trained staff, burden on hospitals in metropolises and others. After filling his father's shoes, he continued the best practices of the hospital. Taking the legacy forward and opening the doors for modern technology and global practices, he started regular CME workshops for cardiologists and conferences attended by renowned doctors across India and the globe to give maximum exposure to doctors and its peripheral areas.

The migration of patients from India's tier-2,3 cities to major metropolises to avail better healthcare facilities is a common phenomenon. Today, when the need for super-specialty hospitals in smaller cities is at an all-time high, it is fast emerging as a nerve centre for patients from Bihar, Jharkhand, UP, Assam, Nepal, etc for its modern yet economically viable facilities.

"We are taking steps to make sure the best cardiac care that meets global benchmarks and best practices are available and affordable for the masses. Lifestyle diseases, stress and unhealthy work life has increased the risks of heart problems even in the young population and that makes it important to make quality heart care available for all. We never focus on numbers but on value-based services. We want to infuse modern technology and affordability to find a solution to the existing health challenges and make healthcare accessible. We would continue treating needy patients or those who cannot afford treatments. We don't get any donations or grants from any organisation, but



we have several tie-ups with the state and central government to help the poor," he added. Earlier, medical facilities in Bihar were so meagre that heart patients had to go to other cities like Vellore, Delhi, Kolkata, etc in the hope of getting a new lease of life. Realising this, they initially took small footsteps and began as an indoor nursing home. Now, the hospital has become a pioneer in primary and normal angioplasty. Today, it has introduced a new method of pacemaker implantation which is only 3 years old in the world along with very complex and critical angioplasties like CTO and ROTA.

The hospital regularly holds several workshops on ROTA—a complex angioplasty technique and the staff regularly attend conferences in various parts of India and abroad to keep themselves informed of the latest practices in modern cardiology. Many renowned cardiologists of the country and abroad regularly hold workshops for many years now.

"This success is a result of the combined efforts of our team of duty doctors, well trained & experienced consultants, nurses & paramedical, other medical staff and most importantly our patients," he added. Going ahead, the hospital is boosting its infrastructure by adding more staff and beds in departments of pulmonology, nephrology and others, to meet the demands due to the rising number of patients as well as to provide best-in-class and affordable medical facilities to patients.

what's brewing?



● Aadarsh Balakrishna, Gulnar Virk



● Pooja Bedi and Alaya F



● Heba Patel

KOKO, the celebrated luxury Asian restaurant, is now in Hyderabad, marking its highly anticipated debut as the city's first standalone luxury Asian dining destination. Pooja Bedi, Alaya F, Siddhu J, Aadarsh Balakrishna, Gulnar Virk, Hebah Patel and Sofia Sujad, along with the owners Ryan and Keenan Tham, marked their presence at the event.



● Nitya Naresh



● Sofia



● Dimple Hayathi



● Amani



● Aiza

PARTY

Photos by- SV Chary



Texas Review conducted the World Education Fair at Marigold Hotel, Begumpet. Students had the opportunity to engage directly with representatives from over 75 universities based in the USA, UK, Germany, Ireland, France, Canada, Cyprus, Malta, Denmark, etc

Century Mattresses announced the grand opening of its new Century Mattresses Sleep Specialist Store at Banjara Hills, Rd no 12, Hyderabad. GHMC Mayor, Gadwal Vijayalakshmi along with Uttam Malani, Director of Century Fibre Plates Pvt. Ltd and few guests inaugurated the new store.



The 29th European Union Film Festival (EUFF) kicked off with the screening of the opening film Palme d'Or-nominated film *La Chimera* to a packed audience. The Italian film *La Chimera*, took the audience through an adventurous journey. The Film Festival was opened by the Ambassador of the European Union to India Hervé Delphin along with the Italian actress Yile Yara Vianello, among the other dignitaries.

Purple Life Sciences launched PSOCARE, a psoriasis healing oil in Hyderabad.



FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



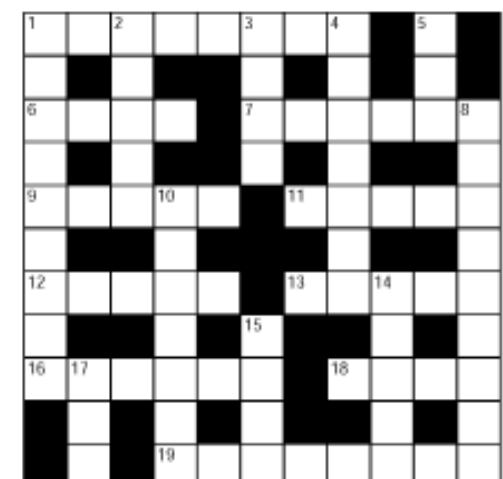
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



NANCY



SUDOKU

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

Yesterday's solution

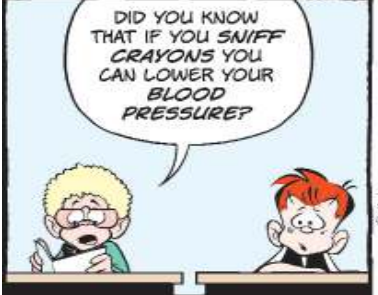
1	8	7	9	3	2	5	6	4
3	2	5	8	4	6	1	7	9
6	9	4	7	1	5	2	3	8
2	4	1	3	6	7	8	9	5
5	3	8	2	9	4	6	1	7
7	6	9	1	5	8	3	4	2
9	7	2	6	8	3	4	5	1
4	1	3	5	2	9	7	8	6
8	5	6	4	7	1	9	2	3

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**
- A game with a bat and ball
 - Wear these on your feet
 - A large group of soldiers
 - School classes
 - A very large bird
 - World's highest mountain
 - See old stuff on display here
 - These are a kind of fungus that people eat
 - A stand for holding an artist's painting
 - World's highest mountain
 - Metal money
 - A greeting
 - Opposite of outer
 - The tiniest particle
 - Too
 - We breathe this
 - A person who shows you to your theatre seat
 - Least dangerous
 - A red sauce is made from these
- DOWN**
- These make a torch work



GINGER MEGGS



'MATKA HAS NO CONNECTION WITH MUMBAI'S MATKA KING'

VARUN TEJ GEARS UP FOR HIS UPCOMING HISTORICAL DRAMA, MATKA, DIRECTED BY KARUNA KUMAR OF PALASA FAME, SET TO RELEASE ON NOVEMBER 14. AS THE FILM NEARS ITS RELEASE, VARUN TEJ SHEDS LIGHT ON THE FILM'S INSPIRATION, CLARIFYING THAT IT'S NOT A BIOPIC OF RATAN KHATRI, HIS SELECTION OF SCRIPTS AND MORE

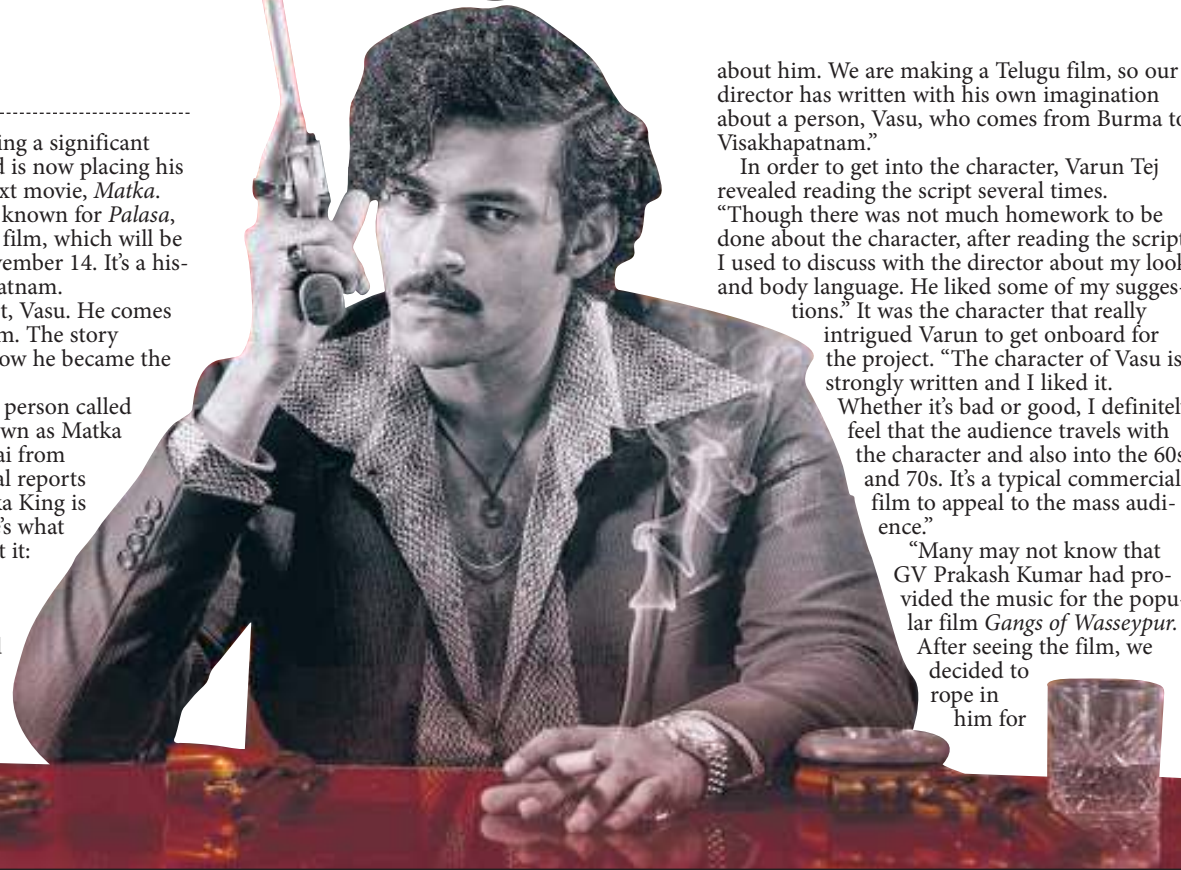
SURESH KAVIRAYANI
sureshkavirayani@gmail.com

Varun Tej is seeking a significant opportunity and is now placing his hopes on his next movie, *Matka*. Karuna Kumar, known for *Palasa*, is directing this film, which will be released on November 14. It's a historical drama set in Visakhapatnam.

"I play the main protagonist, Vasu. He comes from Burma to Visakhapatnam. The story revolves around his life and how he became the Matka King," said Varun Tej.

In Mumbai, there's another person called Ratan Khatri, who is also known as Matka King. He had reached Mumbai from Pakistan. Rumours and several reports claimed that Varun Tej's *Matka King* is a story or biopic of him! Here's what the lead actor has to say about it:

"If the story revolved around him, we would have shot in Mumbai or the surroundings nearby, or would have erected the Mumbai sets of that time. We haven't done any of the above. There are many rumours about him and not any evidential reports



about him. We are making a Telugu film, so our director has written with his own imagination about a person, Vasu, who comes from Burma to Visakhapatnam."

In order to get into the character, Varun Tej revealed reading the script several times. "Though there was not much homework to be done about the character, after reading the script, I used to discuss with the director about my look and body language. He liked some of my suggestions." It was the character that really intrigued Varun to get onboard for the project. "The character of Vasu is strongly written and I liked it. Whether it's bad or good, I definitely feel that the audience travels with the character and also into the 60s and 70s. It's a typical commercial film to appeal to the mass audience."

"Many may not know that GV Prakash Kumar had provided the music for the popular film *Gangs of Wasseypur*. After seeing the film, we decided to rope in him for

our film too and his music is definitely a big plus point for our film," said Varun.

Meanwhile, coming to the old characters, the makers took the AI references for the age. "I maintain a special diet to maintain the body language for the old character and at the same time, it looks mass and I feel it came out well," said the actor. He added that there are a few emotional scenes that definitely come out well. "Why Vasu stepped into this 'matka' business tells in the second half to his daughter, and those are emotional ones," said Varun.

"Regardless of the situation, it is a tough decision to select a script. Audiences taste also changes like the season; sometimes many love stories become hits, sometimes mass films or romantic stories; it's like a cycle," said Varun Tej. He added that he is still thinking about whether to stick to a film for a long time or do films in a faster way. Going further, he praises his co-star Meenakshi Chaudhary for her role in the film. "Her role is also travelled with me in the film and she did well. I hope she brings her luck to our film also. Nora Fatehi also did a fine job," said Varun.

Talking about his wife Lavanya, he said that she is definitely working. "The mindset changed now and she is going to work and looking for better scripts. If you look at her career, her journey is different and now she is in a comfortable position where she doesn't want to do films in a hurry. Two stories are with her and she is listening to many. She will definitely do a film in the coming days," said Varun about his wife.



Ram & Kiara electrify Lucknow with *Game Changer* teaser

The crowd in Lucknow City has observed that this could be the first occasion a Telugu superstar like Ram Charan has come to the city and interacted with them. Numerous Telugu individuals in Lucknow flocked to the Prabhath theater to watch their beloved actor Ram Charan along with Kiara Advani, Anjali and SJ Suryah. The film's teaser was unveiled on with great celebration! The teaser showcases Ram Charan's charisma, flair and attitude in abundance, promising to make the film his most intense action spectacle.

The majority of the audience arrived with placards of Ram Charan and felt delighted to see him up close. Ram Charan and Kiara Advani climbed atop a bus and waved to everyone present at the event. At first, Kiara felt afraid to ascend the ladder, but Ram Charan and producer Dil Raju assist her in reaching the bus' roof. Subsequently, they presented the teaser at the cinema, where Ram Charan viewed it alongside the large audience. The adrenaline-fueled action scenes and captivating plot make *Game Changer* appear to be a sort of event film.

It highlights Ram Charan's two roles: that of a strong bureaucrat (IAS officer) and that of an enthusiastic individual aiming to make a difference in society. Renowned for his remarkable ability to craft grand cinematic experiences, Shanmugam Shankar is ready to present Ram Charan in a part that will transform his persona and fame. The action scenes have been vividly filmed, and the adrenaline-fueled spectacle showcases Shankar's distinctive style.

"I am unpredictable..." The teaser's dialogue by Ram intrigues the audience and makes them want to learn more. Once the teaser came out, fans couldn't contain their enthusiasm! Supporters are going wild to witness their beloved star Ram Charan in a unique new look. Dil Raju and Sirish are the producers and it is scheduled for a worldwide release on January 10, 2025, in Telugu, Tamil and Hindi. This movie is set to be the most significant film of Ram Charan's career and its enormous scale is clear after AA Films secured the North India distribution rights for an unprecedented price.



Kissik: Don't blink or you'll miss Sreeleela's uff-worthy grooves!

South sensation Sreeleela is all set to make a special appearance in a special song sequence in the highly anticipated *Pushpa 2: The Rule*. The sequel to the blockbuster *Pushpa: The Rise*, starring National Award winner Allu Arjun as the fierce red sandalwood smuggler Pushpa Raj and his love interest played by Rashmika Mandanna, Srivalli, is already creating massive buzz across the country. This new addition to the special song featuring Sreeleela is sure to elevate the excitement.

The makers have announced Sreeleela's entry in *Pushpa 2: The Rule* in a special song with an amazing poster, "Team #Pushpa2TheRule welcomes The Dancing Queen @sreeleela14 on board for the #Kissik Song of the Year icon star Allu Arjun and Dancing QUEEN Sreeleela's Dance Extravaganza"

This special song is being filmed on both

stars and an official poster related to it was recently released by the makers. Directed by the brilliant Sukumar, Allu Arjun plays the lead role in this prestigious Indian project produced by Naveen Yeneni and Yalamanchili Ravi Shankar under the Mythri Movie Makers banner in association with Sukumar Writings.

The *Kissik* song will showcase Allu Arjun's superb dance moves and swag, promising to leave his fans and audiences thrilled. Promotions for the film are planned on a grand scale in cities such as Patna, Kolkata, Chennai, Kochi, Bengaluru, Mumbai and Hyderabad. Currently, the film is in its final stages of shooting and post-production work. *Pushpa 2: The Rule*, with Allu Arjun and Sukumar's powerful collaboration, is shaping up to be a spectacular film, ready to break box office records and create a collection storm across India.

JUST FRIENDS?

PNSJ HYDERABAD



Tollywood fans are buzzing after a captivating photograph surfaced from the recent wedding of Shrivya Varma and Srikanth Kidambi, showing Rashmika Mandanna seated beside Vijay Deverakonda's mother, Madhavi Deverakonda.

With a joyful smile, Rashmika appeared to hold Madhavi in a warm embrace, a moment that many think speaks louder than words! This affectionate scene has stirred up fresh rounds of speculation about Rashmika's closeness to Vijay's family and rekindled rumours of a romantic relationship between the two actors. Rashmika and Vijay have shared undeniable chemistry on-screen in films like *Geetha Govindam* and *Dear Comrade*, leading to years of romance rumours and hopeful whispers from fans.

However, both stars have always managed to keep their personal lives private, never officially confirming a relationship. Yet, this photo of Rashmika and Madhavi has added a new layer to the mystery; could there be something more than just friendship here?

Cinematic legend Delhi Ganesh bows out!

Veteran actor Delhi Ganesh, a beloved figure in Tamil cinema, has passed away at the age of 80, leaving a profound mark on Indian film history. Known for his depth and versatility, he began his



career in the mid-1970s and quickly became a mainstay in the industry, appearing in over 400 films across Tamil, Telugu, and Malayalam languages. Delhi Ganesh's roles in films like *Sindhu Bhairavi*, *Nayakan* and *Iruvar* showcased his ability to embody a wide range of characters, from heartwarming to intense, captivating audiences with his nuanced portrayals. A favorite among directors and co-actors, Ganesh brought authenticity to the screen, often infusing his roles with subtle humor, wisdom, and emotional complexity that resonated with audiences. His performances enriched many films and left an indelible imprint on Indian cinema. As tributes pour in from all corners of the film industry, his legacy as an artist who effortlessly bridged commercial and character-driven cinema continues to inspire both fans and aspiring actors. His loss leaves a void, but his timeless contributions ensure he will be remembered for generations to come.



LOOKBOOK

Celebrity stylist Shrivya Varma and celebrated badminton player Srikanth Kidambi tied the knot in a wedding that radiated both elegance and tradition. Surrounded by tollywood celebrities close family, friends and a select few from the world of sports and entertainment, the couple's wedding was a heartfelt celebration.



Indian women's hockey team resets, targets World Cup 2026, Olympics 2028

PTI ■ RAJGIR (BIHAR)

Indian women's hockey team has overcome recent setbacks and is set to start a new journey with World Cup and Olympics in mind, chief coach Harendra Singh asserted on Sunday, saying that the performance in Asian Champions Trophy will serve as base for future. The Indian women's team has endured a very rough and long patch since its historic fourth-place finish at the Tokyo Games. It could not qualify for the Paris Olympics and lost 13 of the 16 FIH Pro League matches. Coach Harendra said his team has worked hard to shrug off the lean run and is preparing for a good show at the 2026 World Cup in Netherlands and the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. "This tournament is a base for our future planning, ACT as on our calendar, what we want to achieve in terms of results. It will be start of journey for mission 2026 World Cup and 2028 Olympics," Harendra said ahead of India's ACT tournament-opener against

Malaysia on Monday. "We have overcome all the setbacks, worked on our mistakes. Everyone realised their role and know their role and understands that. ACT is one of the biggest platforms for the girls to showcase their skill and excel and show that the team is on the right path." Harendra reiterated that fitness is an area which impacted the women's team adversely. "Whatever has happened in the Pro League is a past, we can't keep crying on that. Yes, we know we lost 13 games but there are reasons behind. The reasons are not technical, but tactical, it's about fitness and that's why I took them to Indian Naval Academy. "I am looking at the results, I am looking at the progress they are making day after day," he said. Harendra said together with fitness, mental aspect of the game is also very important. "Modern hockey doesn't compromise on fitness, if you slightly stray you are going to pay the price. Once you are fit you are mentally strong because you know if you lose



the ball you know you have said. the past, that is history for present and the present is Champions Trophy to defend the gas to regain the ball," he "I am not willing to look at me. Always live in the that we have Asian which can get the entire

country out of that setback." "Deepika and Manisha Chauhan I am working their dragflicks and I am confident about them. I am confident they will deliver." The coach said he is pinning his eyes on young dragflickers Deepika and Manisha Chauhan to deliver the goods in the tournament. "Deepika and Manisha Chauhan, I am working their dragflicks and I am confident about them. I am confident they will deliver," Harendra said. India captain Salima Tete said Olympic silver medallist China is the biggest threat in their title defence. "China is the biggest threat for us but we are not underestimating any side. Every team can upset another on the given day," she said. Salima said leading the side at such a young age of 22 is definitely a challenge but she is up for it. "It's a challenge for me and I accept that, very few people get that honour. But my focus is on my own performance which will definitely motivate others," she said.

Palak-Amit pair strikes air pistol mixed team gold in World University Championship

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The air pistol mixed team of Palak Gulia and Amit Sharma struck gold with a commanding performance against their compatriots as India won five medals, including three silver, on day 2 of the World University Shooting Championship here on Sunday. The duo of Palak and Amit defeated the pair of Sainyam and Samrat Rana 16-12 as India grabbed the top-two podium spots in the event at the Karni Singh Range. The Hungarian pair of Sara Rahel Fabian and Redcesi Mate took the bronze defeating Chinese-Taipei 16-12. Earlier, in the qualification round, Sainyam (289) and Samrat (290) had emerged toppers with an aggregate score of 579, while Palak (285) and



Amit (293) were placed second with a combined score of 578. In women's trap, Neeru and Kirti Gupta clinched silver and bronze respectively shooting 43 and 32

out of 125, while Neeru entered the six-shooter final with a score of 115. Olympian and winner of three gold medals at the 2021 World University Games in China, Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar added another silver to India's tally in 50m rifle 3-positions with a score of 458.2 in the final. Czech Republic's Jiri Privratsky secured the gold medal with a score of 462.9. Aishwary, who could not make an impact at the Paris Olympics, earlier shot a superb 592 in the qualification to be placed third going into the eight-shooter final. As many as 220 shooters from across 23 countries are competing in the championship. The event is being hosted by Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies.



McSweeney to open, Inglis also handed maiden Test call up for BGT opener

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Uncapped Nathan McSweeney won the race to open the batting alongside Usman Khawaja in the first Test against India while Australia also handed a maiden Test call up to Josh Inglis on Sunday. These two are the new faces in an otherwise expected 13-member squad announced by Cricket Australia just for the series opener starting in Perth on November 22. The South Australian had emerged as a strong contender for the opener's spot, earning backing from the likes of David Warner and Ricky Ponting. He has been picked ahead of specialist openers Marcus Harris, Cameron Bancroft and Sam Konstas for the spot. "We are just really thrilled with Nathan's game. I think over the last 12 to 15 months, we have seen a player whose growth is on a great trajectory," Chairman of selectors George Bailey said. "He is a very organised, composed player at the crease and he's got a game that will really suit Test cricket. He can probably speak more to that but I don't think it's a huge adjustment to go from three

to opening," Bailey said. "I think in the 15 or so games that he's been batting three for South Australia, he's been in before the 10th over about 20 times, so he's had plenty of experience. And as I said, his game and the way he plays, I don't think the adjustment will be too much." The 25-year-old has been rewarded for his consistent performances in the Sheffield Shield over the past couple of years, as well as his role as captain and batter during the recently concluded A tour matches against India. "Nathan has displayed the attributes we believe will equip him well for Test cricket along with a strong recent record in domestic cricket." "His performances for South Australia and Australia A weighed in his favour and supports our view he is ready for the opportunity at Test level." Inglis, whose family emigrated to Perth from Leeds at the age of 14, has been named as backup keeper to Alex Carey. The in-form wicketkeeper batter, who is leading Australia for the first time in the third ODI against Pakistan, has also been rewarded for a fine domestic

season that included two hundreds in the Sheffield Shield. "Similarly, Josh has been in great touch in the Sheffield Shield competition and deserves his place in his first Test squad," Bailey added. The pace unit will be led by skipper Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood and Scot Boland takes up the reserve quick's spot, while Nathan Lyon is the lone specialist spin option. Australia squad for 1st Test: Pat Cummins (capt), Scott Boland, Alex Carey, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Mitchell Marsh, Nathan McSweeney, Steven Smith, and Mitchell Starc. ANOTHER BAD INJURY A tearful Ilias Akhometiev also had to be taken off on a stretcher after he hurt his right leg following his opening goal in Villarreal's 3-0 win over Alaves. Villarreal, which is in the northern part of the Valencia region, honored the flood victims by having players from both teams wear T-shirts saying "Stay Strong Valencia" before kickoff.

Former top polo player HS Sodhi dies

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Leading former Indian polo player and Arjuna Awardee Harinder Singh Sodhi, who during his peak achieved a handicap of plus-five, has died due to age-related illnesses. He was 86 and is survived by his wife and two daughters. Popular in polo circles as 'Billy' Sodhi, he died here late on Saturday. Sodhi played polo alongside the likes of Hanut Singh, Sawai Man Singh (Maharaja of Jaipur) and later with his son Bhawani Singh. His younger brother, renowned polo player Ravinder Singh Sodhi, is also an Arjuna Award recipient. Harinder was the manager of the Indian equestrian team during the 1980 Moscow Olympics.

Coco Gauff wins WTA Finals for the first time by rallying to beat Zheng Qinwen

AP ■ RIYADH

Coco Gauff won the WTA Finals for the first time by rallying to beat Olympic champion Zheng Qinwen 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (2) in the final. The 20-year-old American came from 2-0 and 5-3 down in the final set and was two points from defeat at one stage. Yet she took the set to a tiebreaker and won the first six points. Zheng threatened a comeback but Gauff took the victory off her third match point with a forehand winner as she came into the net. She is the first American to win the Finals since Serena Williams in 2014, and received \$4.8 million in prize money. She also is the youngest player to win it since Maria Sharapova in 2004, the year Gauff was born. Gauff beat the world's top two



players - Aryna Sabalenka and Iga Swiatek - on her run to the final at the season-ending event in Riyadh. She felt vindicated after that and appeared to take a swipe at observers who wrote her off. "I just love to say I'm right. Specifically today, I got comments about how I was going to lose badly, so I was just like, 'OK, we'll see,'" Gauff explained. "It's honestly just

liking the idea of just proving people wrong and, and letting your racket do the talking. And so, yeah, I use it as motivation." Zheng was looking to complete a season in which she reached a grand slam final for the first time at the Australian Open and delivered China's first Olympic tennis singles gold medal. "The match today, it's just a couple of important points," Zheng said. "The match was very close." Gauff edged the three-hour final which included 26 break points. Gauff also won their only previous meeting, in the Rome quarterfinals on clay in May. Gauff beat Sabalenka at age 19 in last year's U.S. Open final to win her only major in singles to date. She teamed with Katerina Siniakova to win the French Open doubles this year. In the WTA doubles final, Gabriela Dabrowski of Canada and Erin Routliffe of New Zealand beat Katerina Siniakova of the Czech Republic and Taylor Townsend of the United States 7-5, 6-3. They are the first players from Canada and New Zealand to win the doubles title.

Messi and Inter Miami ousted from MLS playoffs by Atlanta United

AP ■ FORT LAUDERDALE (US)

There will be no MLS Cup for Lionel Messi and Inter Miami this year. Atlanta United saw to that with a massive upset, sending the game's most decorated player and biggest-spending team home earlier than anyone imagined. Jamal Thiare scored twice, Bartosz Slisz's header in the 76th minute was the winner, and Atlanta United stunned Inter Miami 3-2 on Saturday night to win their best-of-three first round MLS Cup playoff series in three games. Two free kicks by Messi in the final minutes hit the wall of Atlanta defenders, and time eventually ran out. Messi's header - yes, header - in the 65th minute tied the match at 2-2, but the hosts never reclaimed the lead and Brad Guzan stopped almost everything that came his way in the Atlanta net to seal the upset. It was the fifth win-or-else victory for Atlanta United this season - starting with two must-win matches to keep hope alive at the end of the regular season against the New York Red Bulls and

Orlando City, then a wild-card match at Montreal, Game 2 of this series at home and then Saturday's stunner. And the East is suddenly wide open. Ninth-seeded Atlanta United will play No. 4 Orlando City in the Eastern Conference semifinal, while sixth-seeded New York City FC will face the seventh-seeded New York Red Bulls in the other East semifinal. No. 2 Columbus was already gone. No. 3 Cincinnati was ousted Saturday. And then came the biggest surprise of all - No. 1 Inter Miami's season is over. The team with the best record won the MLS Cup four times in the league's first seven seasons. In the 22 seasons since, the top overall seed has gone on to win the title only four more times. And on paper, there may never have been a bigger upset than this one - a No. 9 seed vs. a No. 1 seed, and not just that, a No. 1 seed with Messi in the lineup. Messi's \$20,446,667 in total compensation from Inter Miami this season was about \$5 million more than the entire Atlanta



payroll, and Inter Miami spent a record \$41.7 million on payroll this season. It got Inter Miami the Supporters' Shield, the best regular-season record in MLS history and an invitation to next year's Club World Cup, which came as no surprise. But it didn't even get the club into Round 2 of the playoffs, which will be remembered as a massive flop. And Atlanta fully believed it was going to pull this off. For whatever reason, Atlanta was a matchup nightmare for Inter Miami this season. It beat Inter Miami three times, all of them with Messi in the lineup; every other MLS team combined to get three wins over Inter Miami. A five-minute, three-goal barrage in the first half set the tone. Inter Miami opened the scoring and Atlanta United punched right back - twice. Thiare was denied by the goalpost 14 minutes into the contest, when his deflection of a flick into the box narrowly missed opening the scoring. And Inter Miami grabbed a 1-0 lead about two minutes later - Messi was stopped

by a diving Guzan, but Diego Gómez was there to lift the rebound into the net from a tight angle near the right post. The lead didn't last long. Thiare saw to that. He took a pass and was completely unmarked, firing into the upper right corner to beat Inter Miami goalkeeper Drake Callender - who had no chance - to tie the match in the 19th minute. And not even two minutes later, Alexey Miranchuk tapped a pass to Thiare who went over Callender for a 2-1 Atlanta lead. Just like that, the best team in MLS regular-season history - and the best player in the sport's history - was in big, big trouble. Inter Miami thought it tied the match in the 25th minute, only for Gómez to be called offside. And the hosts argued wildly for a penalty kick later in the half, arguing that there was a handball in the box (replay suggested they had a case), but they still went into the half down 2-1. Messi tied it, one last hurrah on the season. But it ended about a half-hour later, leaving the Inter Miami side in stunned disbelief.