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Dil Raju to encourage

QUOTE OF THE DAY the pioneer All Reddys in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh are my relatives. Just because one is a Reddy doesn't mean

he got work through me. Srujan Reddy is the son-in-law of BRS MLA Upender Reddy and he got work during BRS rule. The BRS and KTR once said that the BJP is the most corrupt party and vowed to end it.

Now, the same people are appealing to BJP leaders and aligning with them. KTR should challenge it 🜒 legally instead of making baseless claims to deflect attention from his family's actions

- A Revanth Reddy, Chief Minister

Only one drug testing lab in TG

Only one Drug Testing Laboratory available in Telangana is limiting the inspections in the State, said Drug Control Authority (DCA) officials, at a review meeting held by Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha This one drug testing lab in the State was established in 1956, which has a maximum testing capacity of 400 samples per month. This year, only 3,255 samples

Student's suicide triggers outrage

Bharat Rashtra Samithi Vidyarthi (BRSV) on Tuesday leaders staged a protest at the main gate of the Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge and Technologies demanding immediate resolution of problems being faced by students. The police arrested the protesters when they tried to force their way into the university. The protest followed the suicide of an 18-vear-old second-year PUC student Swathi Priya at her hostel

Russia keen to boost trade ties with India

Russia, which is mulling diversifying to urad and tur production, is keen to strengthen pulses trade cooperation with India, the government said on Tuesday. A Russian delegation led by Denuty Minister Maxim Titov had on Monday met Consumer Affairs Secretary Nidhi Khare, discussing in details the possibility of enhancing the trade cooperation in the field of pulses. The consumer affairs department, in a statement, said Russia .

India eye batting revival against SA

Indian batting line-up needs to get its mojo back against a resurgent South Africa to regain the lost ground on rather unfamiliar SuperSport Park conditions when the two teams clash the third T20I here Wednesday. Since 2009, India have played only one T20I at this venue, which they lost by six wickets in 2018 and have only one survivor from that squad in this side -- Hardik Pandya. Along with that unfamiliarity factor, India will also grapple with ..

-SPORTS

Pharma triggers furore

'Attack on Collector planned'

Will probe and expose plot: Sridhar Babu



PNS HYDERABAD

PNS VIKARABAD

Declaring that the Congress Government will not remain silent if anyone tries to threaten government officials, the Ranga Reddy district in-charge Minister, D. Sridhar Babu, said the government will conduct a comprehensive probe into the Lagacharla incident in which the public attacked the

The opposition BRS leaders of

Vikarabad district were detained by

the police when they attempted to

visit farmers arrested during a

protest over land acquisition for the

proposed Pharma Village in

Speaking to the media at the CLP Media Hall on Tuesday along with Deverakonda MLÁ N. Balu Naik, Sridhar said the government has taken the issue seriously. The attack was planned and it will come out in the probe, he said.

Nobody will be spared: CM

BRS leaders on way to support farmers held

Kodangal constituency.
Legislative Council Opposition

Madhusudhanachari, RS Praveen

Kumar, Patnam Narender Reddy,

Karthik Reddy and others were

stopped at Manneguda Cross by the police and later taken to the

Sirikonda

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has issued a stern warning after the attack on Vikarabad District Collector Prateek Jain and other officials regarding land acquisition for the Pharma village.

Reacting strongly, Revanth condemned the incident and questioned the stance of the BRS, which he claimed is indirectly supporting the attackers instead of condemning

Additional SP.

57 detained for attack

The Vikarabad district police arrested 57 people on Tuesday in connection with the attack on officials during a public hearing on the proposed 'Pharma Village.' Of those detained, 16 have been remanded following a thorough investigation while the remaining were released. The injured officials were taken to the Parigi Government Hospital for medical examination under tight security, while the police presented the accused before the Kodangal Magistrate.

IG Satyanarayana said that a person named Suresh had a hand in inciting the mob. Police teams are Continued on Page 2

'Farmers' land should not be taken forcibly'



Declaring that the government has no powers to take over the lands of farmers forcibly, the BJP's Malkajgiri MP, Eatala Rajender, said the people voted Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to power not for engaging in broker business. engaging in broker business.

Eatala said that there is no need for the government to be a broker between pharma companies and farmers. Pharma companies can directly acquire land if they want, he said.

He said that he condemns the government's misdemeanour and warned that Telangana would revolt if false cases are filed against Lagacharla villagers. He said the BJP will Continued on Page 2

MLAS DEFECTION CASE

HC reserves verdict

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana High Court has reserved its verdict on the disqualification petitions filed against MLAs accused of defection. The judgement, initially expected fast, was put on hold after the court heard the arguments of both sides.

The court indicated that a final ruling on the matter will be delivered on November 12 causing a stir in political circles.

The disqualification petition targets MLAs Danam Nagender, Tellam Venkatarrao and Kadiam Srihari, who were elected on the BRS symbol in the Assembly elections held last November. These MLAs, however, later switched allegiance to the Congress, sparking allegations of defection.

BRS leaders subsequently moved

the High Court, requesting a directive to the Speaker to disqualify these MLAs for abandoning the party on whose symbol they were elected.

During the hearing, the High Court issued instructions to the Assembly Secretary, urging the establishment of a timeline to resolve the disqualification process of the defecting MLAs.

The court move to reserve its judgement has heightened political tensions, with both parties closely watching the case's out-

India successfully test-fires long-range cruise missile

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India on Tuesday successfully carried out the maiden flight-test of a Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile from an integrated test range off the coast of Odisha.

The defence ministry said all subsystems of the missile system performed as per expectation and met the primary mission objectives.

It said the missile followed the desired path using way point navigation and demonstrated its capability to perform various manoeuvres while flying at various altitudes and speeds.

The missile is also equipped with advanced avionics and software to ensure better and reliable performance.

'The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted the maiden flight-test of Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM) from the Continued on Page 2

Guv in Delhi, all eyes on Formula E probe file

Minister Revanth Reddy and BRS MLA KTR too are in the national capital.

The Chief Minister has raised questions over the New Delhi visit of KT Rama Rao (KTR), suggesting a potential undisclosed agreement between the BRS and the BJP.

A file was sent to the Governor by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) around 15 days ago, seeking permission to prosecute KTR.

The Governor, after consulting legal experts, has referred the mat-Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev ter to the Attorney General for his Varma was in New Delhi on opinion. With both KTR and the Tuesday. This comes at a time Governor in New Delhi, the Chief Minister hinted at the possibility of behind-the-scenes discussions.

police station. There, they submit-

ted a memorandum to the

Speaking to the media,

Madhusudhanachari condemned

the actions of the Revanth govern-

ment, accusing it of disregarding

"If there is no hidden deal between BRS and the BJP, why was KTR in New Delhi at this crucial moment?" he asked, suggesting that KTR's visit could be linked to the ACB's prosecution request.

The Governor is in New Delhi to attend a meeting connected to AYUSH on Wednesday. However, while there **Continued on Page 2** while there

'Mere allegations don't work' KTR demands Modi to probe corruption in AMRUT tenders

PNS HYDERABAD

BRS Working President KT Rama Rao (KTR) urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to address the cortender process.

He criticized Modi for labelling Telangana as an 'ATM' of the Congress for funding election campaigns but remaining silent on local corruption allegations.

"Modi said Telangana has become an ATM of the Congress. I agree with him but why are you not taking action? The BJP must act on the Amrut scam," KTR said.



leaders have accused the Congress of committing corruption in Telangana, they must now take action to justify their statements.

KTR said the BRS had submitted

nies have expressed interest, with 2-

3 firms already stepping forward to

Under this new policy, individuals

'Contracts not awarded on caste basis

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy fired back at KŤ Rama Rao (KTR) over allegations

regarding the Amrut Scam, addressing KTR's claims about the involvement of Srujan Reddy, who is the son-in-law of BRS MLA Upender Reddy.

government, **Continued on Page 2**

Discounts lure for scrapping old vehicles

The Telangana Government is likely to implement a new vehicle scrapping policy on January 1, to address the growing number for old vehicles on the road.

Out of the 80 lakh vehicles regis tered in the state, approximately 18 lakh are older than 15 years, a number that is increasing daily. Despite efforts to encourage the scrapping of old vehicles, many vehicle owners have been hesitant to come forward to dispose of their outdated vehicles, even though the policy aligns with Central guidelines.

New Scrapping Policy from Jan 1



The Road Transport Authority including Shamshabad, Nandigama (RTA) has identified potential locaand Tupran, for setting up dedicattions on the outskirts of Hyderabad, ed scrapping plants. Several compa-

establish these facilities.

who scrap their old vehicles and obtain a scrapping certificate will be eligible for discounts on the purchase of new vehicles. This incentive aims to make the process more appealing for vehicle owners and to accelerate the replacement of old vehicles with newer, environmentally friendly models. RTA officials are optimistic that the policy will help reduce pollution and improve road safety, as older vehicles typically contribute more emissions and are less safe than newer models.

Speaking on the matter, Revanth clarified, "KTR is naming Srujan Reddy, pointing out his relationship to Upender Reddy. Yes, Upender Reddy is a BRS MLA, and under the BRS

TG outlines plan to tone up livestock sector

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana State Level Executive Committee of the National Livestock Mission (NLM) which met on Tuesday under the leadership of Sabyasachi Ghosh, the Special Chief Secretary for Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries, decided to outline a five-year strategy to strengthen the state's livestock sector.

The meeting held at the Directorate of Animal Husbandry in Hyderabad brought together District Veterinary Officers and senior officials and discussed comprehensive plans, particularly the provision of free fodder

seeds for livestock farmers. Ghosh directed the officials to develop a detailed action plan and project report for the next five years, underscoring the necessity of accessible fodder resources.

The Telangana State Seed Development Corporation and private entities have been tasked with analysing these projects to ensure feasibility and impact. Their findings are expected to support the department's commitment to sustainable livestock development.

Banks have agreed to provide loans for 67 sheep and goat projects, along with three poultry ini-

Directorate of Animal Husbandry in Hyderabad brought together District Veterinary Officers and senior officials and discussed comprehensive plans, particularly the provision of free fodder seeds for livestock farmers

meeting held at the

builds upon the Animal beneficiaries that subsidies will only be Husbandry Department's

efforts under the NLM's Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP), under which 412 projects have already been approved. Field officers, tasked with vetting projects at the grassroots level, recommended viable proposals for Central

granted to projects approved by the Central Level Committee after a thorough evaluation. All documents submitted under the NLM scheme have been meticulously examined. Livestock owners will be provided with complete information about the programme to promote participation and maximise approval. Ghosh emphasised to district officials the importance of informing farmers across the state. the scheme's benefits for cattle

SM glitter for TG temples

408 temples to have coordinators

NAVEENA GHANATE naveena.ghanate@gmail.com ■ HYDERABAD

In a first 408 temples are going to get social media coordinators in Telangana. The Telangana Government has issued notifications to appoint administrators to manage temple committees under the Endowments Department.

Aspiring coordinators must secure a recommendation letter from the local MLA or the in-charge minister.

It is learnt that this approach is similar to RSS strategies, where critical posts in areas like public relations, social media, public affairs and the BJP party are entrusted to dedicated Sangh Parivar activists. Sources indicated that the

Congress is adopting a similar model hoping to empower local youth and encourage their participation through active social media The social media coordinators

will focus on content dissemination through WhatsApp groups, X, Instagram and YouTube. Highly placed sources said that this is a strategic move by the

Congress to strengthen its grassroots presence. Recently, notifications were issued for administrators for 408

temples across the state, and Congress activists have been encouraged to get involved in this. Notifications have been issued for 27 committees under government

administration

Continued on Page 2

Skipping Assembly session amounts to disrespecting constituents!

hen one considers the duties of lawmakers parliamentary democracy, they include taking up needful struggles, mounting pressure on POINT the state for resolving problems being faced by people, and making relentless efforts for ensuring that grievances of various aggrieved sections are addressed. Only then can they be counted as 'public' représentatives. This perhaps is something that those who have grown in pol-

understand. There is a raging debate over the decision of former chief minister of Andhra Pradesh and YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) president YS Jaganmohan Reddy to not attend the ongoing budget ses-

itics due to their family back-

ground may not properly

rion of the Assembly session ostensibly because he could not get the status of Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the AP Legislative

Assembly due to lack of numbers. YSRCP failed to get even 10% of the total seats in the House, though it is the mandatory minimum required for being conferred such status.

Jagan was elected to APLA from the Pulivendula constituency of Kadapa district, which has been the bastion for his family for over four and half decades. It may be mentioned here that Jagan's father and former chief minister Dr.YS Rajasekhara Reddy, paternal uncle YS Vivekanandar Reddy, mother YS Vijayalakshmi and he himself have represented Pulivendula so far.

Aiming to retain power in

As things stand, Jagan might be afraid of getting bulldozed in the House with the active participation of the National Democratic Alliance members. For, YSRCP members, including then CM Jagan, along with his cabinet colleagues and active party members might not have forgotten how they had heckled then LoP N. Chandrababu Naidu during Jagan's regime

2024, Jagan had given utmost priority to welfare measures. He doled out monetary benefits to lakhs of beneficiaries of various welfare schemes with borrowed money totaling Rs.2.7 lakh crore, thus pushing the state into a debt trap. This state's debt burden rose to Rs. 10 lakh crore by the end of YSRCP's rule (2019-2024). If the consequent crushing defeat of his party has rendered him

ineligible for Leader of Opposition status, he cannot disown his responsibility to electors, more so those who had voted for his party.

The Leader of Opposition is entitled to raise any issue, insist that any subject be taken up for discussion, and intervene during discussion on anything on the floor of the House on par with the Leader of the House i.e. the



Chief Minister. As things stand, Jagan might be afraid of getting bulldozed in the House with the active participation of the National Democratic Alliance members. For, YSRCP members, including then CM Jagan, along with his cabinet col-

bers might not have forgotten how they had heckled then LoP N. Chandrababu Naidu during Jagan's regime. Fearing he could be paid in his own coin, Jagan is perhaps avoiding the House. Since the question of his Leader of Opposition status is sub judice; it is not proper on the part of Jagan to skip the Assembly session, and that too the budget session, as a responsible member of the House. That apart, he is not just an MLA, but has experience of ruling the state for five years with a clear people's mandate.

Jagan might be of the view that the TDP-led NDA gov-

ernment in the state may go against him and his party with a vindictive attitude to get back at YSRCP's tactics during the previous regime so much so that Chandrababu Naidu had once wept after being humil-

PNS HYDERABAD

The TPCC NRI Cell

Chairman, Ambassador Dr

BM Vinod Kumar, called on

the families of Gulf migrants to

take part in the door-to-door

survey undertaken by the

Telangana Government to col-

lect social, economic, employ-

ment, political and caste details.

Addressing a press conference at the Gandhi Bhavan on

Tuesday he said that people

should not believe the false

propaganda of the BRS and the BJP that if they say they are working in the Gulf their

ration card will be seized, their

iated in the House and vowed to return to it only as Chief Minister. He kept his word.

Given this background, how long will Jagan and the key members of his party keep themselves out of House? Is it proper on their part, considering those who had elected YSRCP candidates? Don't the 11 MLAs of YSRCP, including their leader, have responsibil ity towards their constituents?

In the past, YSRCP has opted to be out of the House. During its stint as an opposition party (2014-19), the party chose not to attend session in the last year of that period, despite being the principal opposition party with 45 members. For YSRCP, the march (Padayatra) that was to be taken up for a very long time might have triggered the thought of skipping the Assembly session.

Gulf migrants' families must

cooperate with survey: TPCC

Rythu Bandhu allowance will

be cut and that they will

become ineligible for welfare

He said that all Gulf work-

ers are of the same caste and

same class and that as per a

recent GO, an ex-gratia of Rs

5 lakh has been given to the

families of deceased Gulf migrants, their children given

admissions in Gurukul schools

and a 'Pravasi Prajavani'

counter for addressing their

through the survey will be cru-

Information collected

problems has been set up.

Now, the party must honour the decision of people. People are the ultimate bosses in a democracy and political parties have to accept their quinquennial verdict. Skipping Assembly sessions may lead to adverse impression among the public over YSRCP's credentials as a political party that

leaders working effectively in the House without the status of LoP. For instance, former Congress Legislature Party leader P Janardhan Reddy had given a tough fight to then TDP government headed by Chandrababu Naidu during his first stint (1995-99) with just 26 members in the House.

is paramount for political parties. There is no reason for YSRCP to be an exception.

The TPCC's NRI Cell

Convenor, Mandha Bheem

Reddy, said that KCR did not

disclose information on Gulf

workers collected during the

'Comprehensive Family

Survey' conducted by the BRS

government on August 19,

2014. The BRS admin did not

provide it even after asking for

it under the Right to

omy's soldiers. The foreign

exchange they send strength-

ens our economy," said Gulf

"Gulf migrants are our econ-

Information Act, he added.

Govt to provide subsidised

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao held a meeting on Tuesday with Agriculture Secretary Raghunandan Rao, Agriculture Director Gopi and representatives of cooperative organizations to discuss funding and implementation strategies for

tives, the Agriculture Department has prepared a make the necessary arrangeplan to provide machines like rotavators, MB ploughs, cultivators, Taiwan sprayers, balers, power-weeders, corn shellers, tractors and drones to farmers

cific to each district has been prepared.

The department, in collaboration with equipment manufacturers, is also organising exhibitions to showcase the latest agricultural technology. These exhibitions aim to create awareness among farmers about modern equipment, with local administrations told to



Tummala said that although the Centre has provided funds for agricultural mechanization in the last five years, the lack of corresponding contri-Gopi confirmed that a list of butions from the state led to setbacks, and the Centre even-

the Congress government's

failures through the padaya-

BJP decided to stay at night in

the houses of the poor in the

he said the failure of the

Intelligence wing would also

come out during the probe

Reacting to BRS Working

President KTR's New Delhi

trip, Sridhar said that KTR

might have gone there due to

Sridhar said the Congress

government is taking steps to

ensure the welfare of journal-

ists and that the government

has already solved the journal-

ists' long pending housing

their village.

problems amicably.

'Farmers' land ...

stand by the people of Lagacharla. Stating

that the attack on the Collector was painful, the BJP's Mahbubnagar MP, DK

Aruna, said the local people are saying that

they do not want a pharma company in

The officials went to the village without

security and people attacked them after los-

ing their cool. However, it is not right to

attack officials, Aruna said. She said that

it would be good if the people solved their

She said the Chief Minister is represent-

She said that the people of six villages

are strongly opposing the move to estab-

lish pharma companies in their area. She

said the BJP will find out facts by sending

ing Kodangal. So the people have a chance

to discuss matters with the CM.

senior leaders to the spot.

Continued from page 1

his problems.

and action would be taken.

Before the padayatras, the

tually halted giving its share of

He urged officials to ensure that the exhibitions are impactful by engaging local representatives. During a recent review meeting with agricultural secretaries from soybean-producing states, Joint Secretary Samuel of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare acknowledged Telangana's top position in

soybean procurement.
Telangana surpassed states
like Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, by collecting 24,252 tons of soybean worth Rs 118.64 crore from 1,464 farmers through 47 procurement centres. The Telangana Government has increased the yield limit per acre from 6.5 quintals to 10 quintals, responding to requests from public representatives.

Markfedofficials highlighted Telangana's proactive approach in securing fair prices for

BRS incited people to attack Collector: Kiran

Revanth tried to dupe

Maharashtra people: Kishan

PNS HYDERABAD

BRS activists incited people to attack the Vikarabad Collector and officials in Lagacharla village in Kodangal, the Congress's Bhongir MP, Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy,

In a video message issued on Tuesday, Kiran said that this kind of violence had never occurred in connection with land acquisition and that a public hearing must be held for the sake of development projects.

He said that the BRS has thrown a challenge to democracy by engaging in violence. He appealed to the people of Kodangal to understand the development projects taken up by Chief Minister Revanth

In another statement, Nagarkurnool MP Mallu Ravi said the BRS is strategically hatching conspiracies to trouble the Congress government. He said that BRS activists had attacked the Collector posing as farmers and that the police

had evidence regarding this.
The BRS is inciting people as the public has no hostility towards the Congress gov-ernment, he said. He said that BRS activists had made phone calls to the defeated former BRS MLA and had attacked the Collector after consuming liquor. Mallu Ravi said that that attack was not an attack on the CM but was an attack on democracy itself.

It should be Cantonment merger or board

PNS HYDERABAD

Secunderabad Cantonment MLA Sriganesh raised key issues of merger into Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) in a meeting with Secunderabad Cantonment CEO Madhukar Naik and members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee.

Sriganesh said, "It should be Cantonment merger or its board elections. This integration would streamline governance, enhancing civic amenities and infrastructure development." Concerns were raised regarding the absence of public representative the Cantonment Board since five long years. Elections are essential for democratic representation and addressing local issues.

elections: MLA Sriganesh

India successfully ...

Continued from page 1

integrated test range Chandipur off the coast of Odisha from a mobile articulated launcher," the ministry said.

It said the missile performance was monitored by several range sensors like radar, electro optical tracking system and telemetry deployed at different locations to ensure complete coverage of the flight path.

LRLACM has been developed by the Aeronautical Establishment, Bengaluru along with contribution from other DRDO laboratories and Indian industries.

Development

'Contracts not ...

an issue, he's free to raise complaints or pursue it legally. However, instead of addressing the wealth amassed by his own family, he's attempting to divert attention by making accusations against me." Revanth emphasized his connections with the Reddy community across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, dismissing any implication that contracts were awarded based on caste.

Touching on KTR's past statements against the BJP, Revanth questioned BRS's current stance.

believes in fairplay.

In the undivided AP, there have been instances of floor

Respecting people's verdict

farm machinery, plans expos

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Government is trying to rejuvenate its agricultural mechanization scheme and plans to organise districtlevel exhibitions and provide subsidised equipment to farm-

the scheme. As per the Minister's direc-

high-demand equipment spe-

The BJP will launch padaya-

tras in all Assembly con-

stituencies from December 1

to protest against the

Continued from page 1

The Vikarabad Collector went

to the village to find out the

problems of the people.

However, some people incited

farmers to attack the Collector,

he said. The government is

conducting a probe and the

investigation will expose the

are trying to prevent the gov-

ernment from setting up

industries in the district.

TODAY

Dwadash

Trayodashi

Nakshatram

Revati

Ashwini

Rahukalam:

Varjyam:

Gulika:

Yamagandam:

Amritakalam:

Temp: 32°

Abhijit Muhurtham

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Partly Cloudy

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham

He said that BRS activists

Responding to a question, problem.

Sukla Paksha

Nov 12 04:05 PM

to Nov 13 01:01 PM

to Nov 14 09:43 AM

Nov 13 05:40 AM to Nov 14 03:11 AM

to Nov 15 12:33 AM

12:00 PM to 1:24 PM

7:47 AM to 9:12 AM

08:59 PM to 10:24 PM

10:36 AM to 12:00 PM

01:02 AM to 02:28 AM

Nov 14 03:11 AM

conspirators, Sridhar said.

not implementing its assurances given to the people.

November 15 or 16.

Accepting Chief

'Attack on Collector ...

ances given to the people. Accepting Chief Minister The BJP is planning to expose Revanth Reddy's challenge that

PNS HYDERABAD

BJP plans padayatras in Assembly constituencies

Musi catchment area, the BIP

decided to ask its workers to

stay in the houses of the poor

night under the leadership of

Telangana BJP President G.

Continued from page 1

such actions. "In a state

where the BRS held power

for a decade, one would

expect them to condemn

attacks on officials, police

officers, and Collectors.

Instead, they are standing by

the attackers, which reveals

their mindset towards the

state's development," Revanth

said speaking to the media in

New Delhi. He stressed that

no one whether in govern-

ment, as public representa-

Nobody will be ...

Declaring that the Congress is running the TG government with lies, Telangana BJP President G. Kishan Reddy said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy told lies to the BJP leaders who are opposing people of Maharashtra. Speaking to the media in Mumbai on Tuesday, Kishan the Musi Project should stay one night in houses in the

PNS HYDERABAD

explain how the Congress govple after coming to power in the name of the 6-guarantees. He said the Congress gov-

tives, or in the media can jus-

tify attacks on government

He said that while discus-

sions on land acquisition are

legitimate, attacks on officials

involved in the process are

opinions, and those affected

by land acquisition can

protest. But attacking offi-

cials and attempting to harm

them is indefensible. How

can BRS justify this? What

message are they sending if

"The BRS can voice their

officials.

57 detained ...

searching for him. His call data is being

analysed. The IG said that since such

incidents are anticipated, grama sab-

Vikarabad Collector Prateek Jain,

Additional Collector G. Lingya Naik

and Kodangal Area Development

Authority (KADA) Chairman Venkat

Reddy were attacked by a mob in the

Lagacharla village of Dudyala mandal

BRS leaders on way...

six guarantees and endangering the

livelihoods of Hyderabad residents

under the guise of HYDRAA and

Kodangal residents under the Pharma

He said that former Chief Minister

has were held outside the village.

Continued from page 1

unacceptable.

said that he came to Mumbai as

the Telangana BJP President to

ernment has not implemented 99 per cent of its assurances. The Congress backstabbed farmers, women, youth, labourers, government employees and all other sections, Kishan added.

He said that Revanth and the Leader of the Opposition (LOP) in the LS, Rahul Gandhi, are trying to dupe Maharashtra people like they deceived Telangana. Kishan challenged Rahul

Mumbai Press Club if he claims that the Congress developed Telangana.

tomorrow BRS leaders visit a

village and face a backlash

from the people who feel

wronged by them in the past?"

The Chief Minister assert-

ed that the state government

would take strict action

against those responsible for

lence, no matter how influen-

tial they may be, will face jail.

The state will not stay silent

if our officials are attacked,"

when they were trying to collect the

opinion of farmers who are losing their

The incident occurred as the offi-

cials, including Additional Collector

Lingya Naik and Special Officer

Venkat Reddy, were engaging with vil-

lagers to discuss the acquisition of

1,350 acres in Dudiyala, Lagacharla

and Polepally for the proposed indus-

Yet, the current administration, he

Madhusudhanachari criticised

alleged, ignored this plan and instead

chose fertile farmlands creating unrest.

Revanth for applying pressure on gov-

ernment officials to proceed with the

acquisition, despite widespread public

villages.

'Those behind this vio-

he asked.

the attack.

Continued from page 1

the same company bagged projects worth thousands of crores. If KTR has

"Any Reddy in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh are either distant or close relatives of me. Just because he's a Reddy doesn't mean he got work through me or my relatives. If there are concerns about the tenders, KTR should challenge it legally instead of making baseless claims to deflect public attention from his own family's actions," he

cial for undertaking welfare JAC leader Chennamaneni programmes in future, Vinod

> 'Mere allegations ... Continued from page 1

corruption in AMRUT tenders to the Centre. A delegation led by KTR, including BRS MPs, recently met Union Urban Development Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and requested an inquiry and cancellation of the AMRUT tenders.

Khattar assured that an investigation would be ordered, and promised updates during the next parliament session. KTR warned that if no action is taken, the BRS would raise this issue in Parliament, particularly in the Rajya Sabha.

KTR criticized BJP's Sanjay and cited his failure to address Congress corruption in Telangana despite having eight BJP MPs in the state.

He took a dig at Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and invited him to witness Congress's "horse trading" in Telangana.

Mocking Kharge's recent comment on BJP "buying MLAs like goats" in Maharashtra, KTR asked elangana to see its "thriving go industry," and labelled Congress the "leading goat purchaser." He detailed corruption in the AMRUT tender process, claiming that tenders worth over Rs 8,888 crore were awarded to firms connected to the Chief Minister's family. He specifically named Shoda Constructions, owned by Sudini Srujan Reddy, the Chief Minister's brother-in-law, which was allotted contracts against norms.

SM glitter for ...

Continued from page 1

41 under the Dharmika Parishad, and 340 temple committees under the Commissioner.

Officials have been directed to complete the appointment process within 20 days for those committees that have already received notifications. Congress members involved with the NSUI, Youth

Congress or with local Congress membership are invited to apply for social media coordinator roles associated with temple committees, a position that has honorarium payments. Under the leadership of Minister Konda Surekha, this initiative is intended to increase visibility and

local engagement and the process is expected to be completed in a month. A total of 546 committees are being formed to oversee temple operations, with 56 committees

directly under government supervision, 118 under the Dharmika Parishad and 372 under the Commissioner's jurisdiction.

Of these, notifications have already been issued for 408 committees, while 81 committees remain pending. In addition, the court has granted exemptions to 47 committees and temporarily stayed the formation of 10 others. Out of the 81 committees pending approval, 22 are under government supervision, and 59 fall under the Dharmik Parishad.

Guv in Delhi, all ...

Continued from page 1

is nothing in the planned schedule to meet BJP big-

wigs, sources hinted that there can be changes. Meanwhile, the Governor sitting on the file for two weeks has led to speculation on why the BJP is not acting against the BRS.

BIP sources asked what can the party gain if the file is approved immediately. "Our focus is on Maharashtra elections. It is the Governor's discretion. What will we gain if we sit on the file or approve the file immediately," the sources said.

KCR had allocated approximately 15,000 acres near Hyderabad for a zero-**Humidity:** 57% Reacting to the Lagacharla incident, opposition. Sunrise: 6:24 AM Chevella MP Konda Vishweshwar Reddy, He emphasized the connection added. Sunset: 5:36 PM waste, pollution-free Pharma City locals have to ancestral lands, stating said the attack took place due to a perfect conspiracy and asked the government to Project, which had received environthat Revanth's actions were inhumane **Updated:** November 12, 2024 5:00 PM find the conspirators. and irresponsible. mental and forest clearances

Continued from page 1

initiative.

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CITY EVENTS

3rd Graduation Day

Nizam College, Basheerbagh to celebrate 3rd Graduation Day. Prof. Basuthkar Jagaddeswar Rao, Vice-Chancellor, University of Hyderabad, to be the chief guest. Prof. Kumar Molugaram, Vice-Chancellor, Osmani University to preside.

Ravindrabharati Auditorium, Hyderabad. November 13. 9.30 am.

Telangana Food **Festival**

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

Venue

till November 14

Travernia Fest

Travernia fest will give you the thrill of exploration, the joy of discovery and the beauty of cultural exchange.

HITEX Exhibition Center, Hyderabad November 15, 11 am

The Joyful Mix

Annual fruit mixing soiree.

Venue

Sheraton Hyderabad Hotel, November 15th, 4pm to 6pm

Shaam-e-Rekhta **Festival**

A magical evening dedicated to rich heritage of Urdu poetry and culture hosted by Rekhta Foundation.

Venue

Paiga Palace, Hyerabad November 16, 6 pm onwards

Comic Con India

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

Venue

HITEX Exhibition Centre, Hyderabad November 15, 16 and 17

City Pioneer



STATE VIGILANCE CELL PLANNED TO HANDLE COMPLAINTS

Only one drug testing lab available in TG limiting inspections: DCA

PNS HYDERABAD

Only one Drug Testing Laboratory available in Telangana is limiting the inspections in the State, said Drug Control Authority (DCA) officials, at a review meeting held by Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha. This one drug testing lab in the State was established in 1956, which has a maximum testing capacity of 400 samples per month.

This year, only 3,255 samples were tested due to capacity constraints. Notably, the number of medical shops has surged from 20,000 in 2014 to 45,000 in 2024, while no new drug testing laboratories have been established in the past decade, and the number of drug inspectors has remained

In response, the Minister assured that steps would be taken for upgrading the current lab in Hyderabad and to establish four new laboratories to meet current requirements. Additionally, he directed preparations to increase the number of drug inspectors from the existing 71 to a minimum of 150, as per Mashelkar Committee recommendations.

Officials of the Drug Control Authority (DCA) and the Telangana Medical Services and Infrastructure Development Corporation (TGMSIDC) said that in all 21,639 inspections were carried outresulting in action against 3,416 establishments, including medical shops and manufacturing units.

The agenda of the meeting focused on intensifying regulatory measures against the manufacturing and distribution of substandard and counterfeit medicines.

Speaking to The Pioneer, DCA Director General, VB Kamalasan Reddy said that not all the inspections will have samples to be tested, so there could be approximately 400 samples left for testing and in terms of action, the licence of some pharmaceutical manufacturing units was suspended and



Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha at a review meeting with Health Secretary Christina Z Chongthu, DCA DG VB Kamalasan Reddy, TGMSIDC MD Hemant Sahadeva Rao and DCA Joint Director G Ramdan

others cancelled as per the illegal-

The Minister underscored the critical importance of uncompromising standards in drug quality

complaint cells at collectorates to facilitate easy filing of grievances regarding drug quality. At the State level, he recommended

and directed the setting up of establishing a State Vigilance Cell dedicated to handling complaints and conducting surprise inspections to identify violations promptly.

Advocate stabbed, robbed in Khairatabad

PNS HYDERABAD

An advocate Kalyan Vanshikar was stabbed and robbed of his mobile phone

during his morning walk on Tuesday. The 48-year-old Kalyan of Khairatabad resident was approached by two men on a scooter who initially enquired about his pet dog. When he responded, one suspect pulled a knife, demanding his phone, said his colleague lawyers in a statement.

As he resisted, they stabbed him in the ribs and hand before fleeing towards Necklace Road, said Khairtabad Police. A robbery case was registered and is under investigation.

Telangana High Court advocates have condemned the attack and requested the State government to react to stop such attacks. "He is undergoing treatment in Global Hospital and we demanded strinagainst the attack Sunkari Janardhan Goud, BJP State Legal Cell joint convenor.



ensure observance of safety guidelines and safe working Arun Kumar Jain, practices. He instructed the offi-General Manager, Central cials to ensure prophas er working of CCTV instructed the officials to ensure safecameras at loading ty and punctuality and unloading of train operations with the help of fog

also held a detailed review on the status of elimination of level-crossing gates across the zone.

cient stocks in view of the ensuing foggy weather conditions. General advised the officials to enhance surprise safety inspections to

Ensure use of fog safety

devices to run train

punctually: SCR GM

PNS HYDERABAD

safety devices during

He reviewed the

stock position of fog

safety devices over

the zone and instructed the offi-

cials to ensure suffi-

Manager

winter season.

South

Railway,

points at all railway sidings to avert any errors. Arun Kumar Jain

He advised the officials to speed up the construction of Road Under Bridges (RUB) and Road Over Bridges (ROBs) so as to complete them within the tar-

RYTHU NESTHAM

Solar-powered pest control device launched to aid farmers

PNS HYDERABAD

Delta Things, an innovative agricultural technology firm, has launched a solar-powered pest control device specifically designed to help Telangana farmers tackle pest challenges efficiently.

This introduction was part of the 'Rythu Nestham' initiative by the Telangana government, in collaboration with Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, to raise awareness among farmers about modern agricultural practices. Priced at Rs 4,500, the device operates on solar energy, making it suitable for a range of crops. By installing one device per acre, farmers can effectively control pest infestations, reducing overall cultivation costs. Rini Reddy, the creator of the device, shared

its benefits with farmers, highlighting its capability to combat pests such as the pink bollworm in cotton and thrips in chili crops. Telangana government, in collaboration with scientists from Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, has initiated an interactive program called 'Rythu Nestham' to directly engage with farmers across 566 Rythu Vedikas, ensuring one audiovisual setup in each mandal.

Aimed at improving farmers' awareness

of ongoing agricultural practices, Rythu Nestham is held every Tuesday and has already conducted 32 weekly sessions, providing training to the farming community on various agriculture and allied activities. On November 12, the session highlight-

ed 'Innovations in Agriculture,' with N Vijay rom Agri Hub of the Agricultural Univers enlightening farmers on the role of technology in addressing agricultural challenges. He emphasised that the adoption of modern technologies that help resolve critical issues in farming, with sessions organised to educate Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs). Notably, incubation facilities to promote rural innovations are available, especially in Jagityal and Tandur, offering ongoing support to local

probe into raid case

Police intensify

PNS HYDERABAD

In the Janwada case, Mokila police have intensified their investigation as Vijay Madduuri tested positive for cocaine.

Following this, a case was registered under the NDPS Act at Mokila police station.

To prevent him from fleeing the country, lookout notices have been issued ensuring he remains within Indian bor-

Mokila Police have questioned Madduri Vijay on Wednesday related to the party raid in Janwada house of Raj On November 6 Mokila Police have questioned Madduri Vijay on the consumption of the drugs and who brought it to the party. He tested positive for drugs during the raid on October 26. Following the raids, Madduri spoke to the media that Mokila Police made false allegations in the FIR and he had returned from abroad just a day before

GLOBALLOGIC'S DELIVERY CENTRE OPENED

Al City to be ready in 4 months, says IT Minister Sridhar Babu

PNS HYDERABAD

Highlighting that the AI City will be ready in the next four months under a public-private partnership (PPP), IT Minister D Sridhar Babu, inaugurated the new delivery centre of GlobalLogic, a Hitachi Group company in the city on

Addressing the event, Sridhar Babu stated that the AI sector will see significant growth in Telangana. He emphasised that the government is committed to supportng investors in the St mentioned Hyderabad is an ideal city for all types of investments.

IT companies are being set up in smaller cities as well, providing jobs to the local youth. Currently, IT exports account for 12%, and the goal is to increase this to 20% in the next

Sridhar Babu added that Telugu industrialists based in



Hyderabad.

He also highlighted that Telangana is home to over 220 GCCs, a world-class digital infrastructure and a strong talent pool, with 2.5 lakh graduates added annually, including 1.5 lakh engineers. This positions the State as a leader in global digital advancements. The new facility will create jobs and develop cutting-edge talleadership in high-impact sec-

The Minister mentioned that GlobalLogic plans to increase its workforce in Hyderabad, tapping into the city's vast engineering talent pool. Following the acquisition of Mobiveil, many of its employees will also work at the new 38,000 sqft centre in Hyderabad.

PRAJAVANI

Encroachment neglected by GHMC despite complaints

samuelmjoshuamjmc@gmail.com ■ HYDERABAD

A minor encroachment in the city was neglected by the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) despite complaints over a year. A total of 748 grievance applications were submitted in Prajavani on Tuesday at the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Praja Bhavan. When asked, Yadaiah, a private employee and resident of Krishnanagar, Kacheguda, shared that his own house has not had a toilet for 10 years due to an issue with a neighbouring house. He explained that the neighbours installed a gate, blocking the lane between their houses. This lane, meant for drainage, is now obstructed. He mentioned that his house's drainage, locat-

updates status as 'resolved'



Special Officer of Public Administration D Divya hearing the grievances of the people at Prajavani

ed in this lane, has been affected. He stated that he submitted a grievance at GHMC Prajavani on January 28, 2024, but received no response till now and noted that the police claimed it was a civil matter, offering no help. Yadaiah

said that his fundamental rights are being violated and currently he lives in a rented house due to this issue. Yadaiah added that despite getting permission from the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and to construct a drainage line, work could not begin due to the blocked lane by the neighbours. He criticised GHMC Prajavani for falsely updating the online status, claiming his grievance was resolved without any action, and for stating a showcause notice was sent, though it has been more than a month without such a notice. Yadaiah said that minor encroach-

Sewerage Board on November 9, 2020,

ments by neighbours in the city matters and urged officials to address the issue to prevent bigger legal issues. Meanwhile, junior lecturer aspirants) expressed their concern about not receiving appointment orders. They staged a dharna at Prajavani, demanding to immediately issue appointment orders to 1,392 TGPSC junior lectur-

TG leads nation in soybean procurement

PNS HYDERABAD

In an effort to enhance agricultural mechanisation Telangana, Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao held a strategic meeting on November 12 with Agriculture Secretary Raghunandan Rao, Director of Agriculture Gopi and representatives from cooperative organisations. The discussion focused on securing funds and refining implementation methods for the upcoming season, ensuring farmers gain access to essential equipment on subsidy. The plan includes identifying and supplying machinery based on district-specific demands.

During a review meeting with agricultural secretaries from major soybean-producing states, Joint Secretary of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Samuel, commended Telangana for its leadership in soybean procurement. Telangana has surpassed traditional soybean powerhouses like Madhya

Pradesh and Maharashtra, collecting a record 24,252 metric tonnes of soybean valued at Rs 118.64 crore from 1,464 farmers.

With 47 procurement centres across the State, Telangana has been paying a support price of Rs 4,892 per quintal. In response to requests from public representatives, the State government increased the yield limit per acre from 6.5 quintals to 10 quintals, benefiting a larger num-

ber of farmers. Markfed

officials from Telangana

State's proactive approach in securing farmers' livelihoods through these mea-Following the Minister's directives, the Agriculture

department is preparing to provide equipment such as rotavators, MB plows, cultivators, Taiwan sprayers, balers, power weeders, corn shellers, tractors and Kisan drones at subsidised rates. Gopi, the Agriculture Director, announced that a list of high-demand equip-

who attended the review

meeting highlighted the

ment tailored to each district is being prepared. Minister Tummala

Nageswara Rao emphasised the need for a robust awareness drive, pointing out that while the Central government has released funds for the scheme over the past five years, the lack of corresponding State contributions led to setbacks. He urged officials to ensure the exhibitions are impactful, encouraging participation from local representatives and securing locations convenient for farmers.

UoH partners with MIIH to drive microinsurance inclusion

PNS HYDERABAD

The University of Hyderabad (UoH) has entered into a strategic partnership with MicroInsurance Innovation Hub (MIIH) to advance micro insurance initiatives and promote insurance inclusion. The two organisations signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on projects focused on capacity development, research, data-driven innovation and sustainable development in the field of microinsurance.

Prof Debashis Acharya from the School of Economics at UoH will serve as the project coordinator for the university, while Supriya Goli, Executive Director of MIIH, will coordinate from MIIH's side.

This partnership will focus on



several initiatives to enhance microinsurance penetration and insurance inclusion, including:-

Stakeholder engagement: Working with major partners like T-Hub, insurers and NGOs to train stakeholders, share knowledge and build expertise.

Data-Driven innovation: Conducting research and leveraging data analytics to create and test innovative microinsurance products through pilot projects.

Knowledge Management: Generating educational resources and conducting research to raise awareness of microinsurance ben-

Policy advocacy: Engaging with stakeholders to promote supportive regulations for microinsurance through informed research.

Sustainability and growth: Securing diverse funding sources to ensure program continuity and

30th Indian plumbing meet from Nov 21 to 23

PNS HYDERABAD

Making water recycling mandatory in over 150 upcoming high-rise projects in Hyderabad will be the focus of the 30th Indian Plumbing Conference to be held in the city from November 21 to 23. The largest gathering of plumbing, water, sanitation and building industry experts from around the globe is being hosted by the Indian Plumbing Association (IPA), which has 28 chapters across the country.

At a curtain-raiser event at The Plaza on Tuesday, Sanjay Bhilare, Chairman of the Hyderabad Chapter of the IPA, announced that this is the largest threeday conference featuring advanced water-saving

products, to be showcased during the grand finale on the third day. The event will host 30 to 40 teams and target 30 to 35 builders from Hyderabad.

Bhaskar, an IPA National Committee member, highlighted that the conference theme, "Water as the New Currency," focuses on water's role in sustainability and climate action, supporting initiatives like Green and Water Credits to help India achieve net-zero emissions by 2070. Over 1,500 delegates from India and abroad will attend, with 80 exhibitors displaying their products. An estimated 8,000 visitors are expected.

Meanwhile, the committee stated that Telangana will remain water-positive for 20-25 years and noted that water conservation has to addressed

the pioneer hyderabad | wednesday | november 13, 2024

Police engage students as brand ambassadors to combat crime

PNS ■ KAMAREDDY

In an innovative approach, the Kamareddy district police department has enlisted students as brand ambassadors to raise awareness about various social issues. including road safety, cybercrimes, crimes against women, ragging, and drug abuse. By forming specialised clubs, the department aims to leverage the influence of students and their families to spread critical safety messages across the community.

Superintendent of Police Sindhu Sarma believes that students, as influential members of society, are key to effectively communicating the police department's messages to the broader

As part of this initiative, 122

school students were appointed as brand ambassadors specifically focused on reducing road accidents. Additionally, a new Road Safety Club has been established, comprising 1,000 college students. The clubs, spanning across 21 colleges in the district, include a range of awareness-focused groups: the Cyber Safety Club, Women's Safety Club, Social Responsibility Club, Anti-Ragging and Drug Awareness Club, and Health and Wellness Club. Each club will have 10 members, consisting of students, their parents, and their college lecturers.

Kamareddy, located near Hyderabad, has seen significant development in education and healthcare. However, the district has also witnessed an increase in crime, with 4,500 First



Information Reports (FIRs) registered so far this year. Among these, cybercrimes have been particularly cause for concern, with 860 cases reported by the end of October. Victims of cyber fraud have included both literate and illiterate individuals, many of whom have lost significant

amounts of money to cyber criminals. Despite ongoing awareness campaigns in villages and towns, cybercrimes continue to rise.

To tackle this issue, the district police have launched six specialized clubs to educate the public. The clubs focus on important issues like preventing road acci-

dents, avoiding cyber fraud, curbing eve-teasing, and raising awareness about the dangers of drug use. Students involved in these clubs are trained on the importance of safeguarding personal information (such as phone numbers, bank details, and OTPs), recognising and reporting cybercrimes, and taking steps to prevent harassment. They are also encouraged to educate their families and local communities on these issues.

By encouraging students to share what they learn with their families and communities, the police hope to foster a greater sense of awareness and accountability. The goal is that such efforts will lead to a shift in public behavior, ultimately reducing cybercrime and road accidents in

Government employees staging black badge demonstration in Asifabad on

ATTACK ON OFFICIALS AT LAGACHARLA VILLAGE

Govt staff stage black badge protest

PNS KUMRAM BHEEM ASIFABAD

On Tuesday, government employees held a black-badge demonstration in front of the Integrated District Offices Complex, protesting the recent assault on district officials. The attack occurred on Monday when District Collector, Additional Collector, RDO, and Tahsildar went to Lagacharla village under Dudyala mandal to conduct a public opinion exercise for land acquisition.

The protestors demanded swift and stern action against those responsible for the assault on the government officials. Leaders of

various government employees' associations expressed concern over the lack of security for public servants, highlighting that even senior officials like the Collector were not spared from violence.

The demonstrators called on the state government to take immediate measures to ensure the safety of government employees and to restore

Tahsildars' Association leaders Madhukar and Pramod, divisional panchayat officer Umar Hussian, Panchayat Raj department employees, all officials and employees of Collectorate took part in the event.

Officials told to ensure smooth paddy procurement

In an effort to streamline the paddy procurement process and ensure fair practices, District Collector Ila Tripathi on Tuesday conducted surprise inspections at paddy procurement centres. She also inspected the procurement centre at Haliya Agricultural Market Yard, under the Primary Agricultural Cooperative Society's management.

The Collector visited various procurement centers and reviewed the process, emphasising the need to purchase paddy swiftly with the correct moisture content and send it to mills. During the inspection, she inquired about the volume of paddy being brought to private mills and government procurement centres, and the types of paddy being produced in the

The Chairman of the Haliya Agricultural Reddy Chandrashekhar informed the Collector that the area predominantly prroduced 'Sanna' paddy and that the harvest was expected to be completed by December 15. He also mentioned that farmers were



Nalgonda Collector IIa Tripathi interacting with officials at a paddy procurement centre in Nalgonda district on Tuesday

indeed taking their paddy to private mills. The committee chairman raised concerns that the Mahendra variety of paddy was taking longer than expected to reach safe moisture con-

The Collector thoroughly examined samples of different varieties of paddy, including BPT, Mahendra, and others, and She observed that a large percentage of the paddy arriving at the markets did not meet the required quality standards. She urged farmers to clean and dry the paddy properly before bringing it to procurement centres. The Collector stressed that paddy with the correct moisture content should be purchased immediately, and unnecessary delays should be avoided.

Later, she visited the paddy procurement center at Utkuru village by the Integrated Kisan Empowerment Program (IKEP). She instructed the staff to immediately transport the

The Collector was accompanied by District Civil Supplies Officer Venkateshwarlu, Municipal Commissioner M Durgareddy, MPDO Sujata, Tahsildar and other officials.

MLA assures farmers of swift procurement of paddy

The main goal of the Congress government is to ensure that every farmer in Telangana is treated with respect and that no farmer faces any hardships, said Ramagundam MLA Raj Thakur Makkhan Singh. On Tuesday, he inaugurated a paddy procurement centre in Gunturpally village under Palakurthi mandal, Peddapalli district.

Speaking at the event, MLA Raj Thakur assured farmers that any attempt to do injustice to the agricultural community or to deceive them would not be tolerated.

He advised farmers not to trust middlemen when selling their produce and urged them to avoid the middlemen. The MLA directed officials to ensure there were no issues at the

procurement centers and encouraged farmers to bring any issues to his attention. He reassured the farmers that paddy would be procured at the support price through these centres without any deductions.

Raj Thakur also appealed to farmers not to believe the negative propaganda being spread by opposition leaders and assured them that the State government would provide bonus for every grain of paddy sold. He advised farmers to dry their paddy properly to maintain the required moisture content as per regula-

He also appealed to farmers to grow rice varieties that are resistant to pests and diseases in the ongoing season. After the event, the MLA toured the village and addressed various issues raised by the local people. Former



Ramagundam MLA Raj Thakur Makkhan Singh inaugurating a procurement centre at Gunturpally village in Peddapalli district on Tuesday

Patancheru MLA Gudem Mahipal Reddy submitting a memorandum to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy in Hyderabad on Tuesday MLA urges CM to allocate fund

for developmental works **PNS** ■ PATANCHERU

MLA Gudem Mahipal Reddy has requested Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, to allocate funds for various development projects. He also urged the implementation of the Government Orders (GOs) for the establishment of the Revenue Divisional Officer's office, Registration office, and were approved during the previous government's tenure.

On Tuesday, MLA 1 Reddy had a meeting with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy at the Chief Minister's residence in

Hyderabad. During the meeting, he presented a report outlining the ongoing and upcoming devel-Patancheru constituency.

He highlighted the fact that with new colonies and gated communities being established in the constituency, it is essential to plan and implement developmental programmes accordingly. He requested the Chief Minister to allocate funds that would align with the needs of these projects.

The MLA also requested action on the establishment of ne Registration office RDO office, and Polytechnic College, for which land has already been identified and made available. Currently, the residents of Patancheru have to travel to Sangareddy, the district headquarters, for services related to registration and RDO offices.

The Chief Minister responded positively, assuring the MLA that the issues would be resolved soon.

Harish challenges CM for debate on loan waiver

PNS RAJANNA SIRCILLA

Former minister and Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Siddipet MLA T Harish Rao on Tuesday challenged Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to a debate on the losses suffered by the people of Telangana in 11 months since the Congress took power. His challenge came in response to Revanth Reddy's remarks that the people had not lost anything. He called for a discussion on various sectors including agriculture, farmer debts, healthcare, drinking water, irrigation, power supply, and education, among others. He asserted that every section of society had been adversely affected under the Congress



Former minister T Harish Rao speaking to the media in Sircilla on

government. Harish Rao made these comments while speaking to the media after offering prayers at Sri Rajarajeshwara Swamy temple in Vemulawada.

The BRS leader expressed anger at Revanth Reddy, stating that he had broken his promise before August 15 even after taking oath in the name of deities. He criticised that Revanth Reddy, who swore before Vemulawada Rajarajeswara Swamy, had gone back on his word.

Harish Rao said that people were facing hardships due to the absence of support prices for farm produce and unseasonal rains. He expressed concern that farmers had to sell their produce to middlemen due to the lack of support prices.

He recalled that during the tenure of Minister Gangula Kamalakar in the Department of Consumer Affairs, the BRS government had bought every grain produced by farmers.

He also alleged that Revanth Reddy was lying about giving bonus to fine variety of paddy farmers.

Harish Rao questioned the implementation of the six guarantees and 420 promises that Revanth Reddy made ahead of the elections but later went back on them after coming to power. Harish Rao also highlighted the deaths of 36 Gurukul students in the State and pointed out that while K Chandrashekar Rao when he was chief minister was provided Rythu Bandhu even during the Covid-19 period. Now, under the Congress rule, the farmers were denied Rythu

Bandhu benefit.

Student's suicide triggers outrage at RGUJKT

Suicide scary, but had no option: Victim

PNS NIRMAL

Bharat Rashtra Samithi Vidyarthi (BRSV) on Tuesday leaders staged a protest at the main gate of the Rajiv Gandhi University Knowledge and Technologies demanding immediate resolution of problems being faced by students. The police arrested the protesters when they tried to force their way into the university.

The protest followed the suicide of an 18-year-old second-year PUC student Swathi Priya at her hostel room on Monday.

The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) staged a protest on Monday. In an alleged clash between the ABVP activists and security guards, a student leader was injured and it led to heightened tension. The injured student leader has been identified as Sai Kumar.

Following the suicide of a student who hanged herself, ABVP attempted to storm the Triple IT campus. In the

attack by the security guard, 18 people were injured, according to ABVP activists.

Meanwhile, it has been revealed by the police that a suicide letter was found in Swathi Priya's room. The police have reportedly seized the entire 6-page suicide letter, but some content in the letter has been leaked. The contents of the letter revealed her trauma.

0She expressed that although she was afraid to take her own life, she felt she had no option except to commit suicide. She also requested all her friends

attend her funeral. "Mom... Dad... Please forgive me. I am sorry for leaving you. I am very scared to commit suicide, İ just don't have the courage. I know I shouldn't, but I feel like there's no other way... I miss you so much. Please take good care of my sister and brother. Sister, brother... if you ever face any trouble, tell Dad about it. Dad, please stop smoking," she said in the letter.





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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarant) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the hysical/Constructive(Symbolic) (whichever is applicable) possession of which has been taken b he Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, Vewfalapelly branch, Secured Credice, will be sold on "A is where is", "As is whot is", and "Whatever there is" on 19.12.2024 for recovery of Ra 5.25,6800- (Ra. Five Lace Thirty Five Thousand Six hundred and Ninety only) (as or 91.08.2024) due to the Indian Sank, Vavilalapally branch, Secured Creditor, from 1 Borroweri Mortgagor Mr. Ballmuri Vishnu Prasad Rao Sio Mr. Verikstrehwer Rao - Address Fiel No 103, "Weeksnanda-Arcade", Weeksnandaguri Colony, Arepally Road, Karimmagar-50500 2.Borrower/Montgagor Mrs. Balmuri Haritha Wio Balmuri Vishniu Presed Rao Address: File No 103, "Vivekananda Accado", Vivekanandapuri Colony, Arepaily Road, Karimnagar- 50500 3.Guarantor: Mr. M Thirusathalah Address : H No 7-2-230, MW Thota, Karimnagar-50500 Active: 9440611464.The specific details of the property intended to be brought to sal brough e-auction mode are enumerated below:

Detailed Description of the Property

Schedule A:An undivided share of 38.00 Sq.Yds land in the total area 1028.00 Sq.Yds (or) 863.5: Bounts relating to "VIVEKANANDA ARCADE" IN THE PREMISES OF By No. 1343/1, situated a Anpally Road (Vivekanandapuri Colony) locality of Karimmagar City, within the limits of City Municipal Corporation, Karimnegar under the jurisdiction of Sub-district and District Regardation Karimnegat (Near H. No.10-3-5K3) boundaries of Total PlotEast: H.No.10-3-402 of others, West: No 10-3-543 of Jagan Mohan Rao, North : 30"-0" wide Prop. Road, South : 30"-0" wide Prop. Road Schedule B:All the part and percel of Flat No 103 admeasuring 868.00 Sq ft, ROC structure is round Floor with a common area 217,00 Sq. Pt or 24.11 Sqyda, in addition to this the car parking ress (60,00 Sqlf) in still floor provided this Flat, relating to "VIVEKANANDA ARCADE" in the remises of SY No 1343/1, situated at Arepally Road (Vivekanandapon Colony) locality: arimnagar City, within the limits of City Municipal Corporation, Karimnagar under the jurisdictio of Sub-district and District Registration Karimnager Boundaries of FlattSast: Open to Sky & Then after Flat No 102, West: Lift & Open to Sky, North; 7-0" wide-conider, South; Open to Sky

Encumbrances on property	NI				
Reserve Price (In Lacs)	35.21 Lacs				
EMD Amount (In Lacs)	3.52 Lacs				
Bid incremental amount (in Lacs)	0.10				
Date and line of e-action at the platform of e-action Service Provider https://www.ebkray.in.	19.12.2024 10.00 am to 5.00 pm				
Property ID No	IDIB0500296931710				

ervice provider PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. to participate in online bid. For Technic

Assistance Please call 6291220220. For Registration status and for EMD status alease email to support at Knay@psbellance.com. For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms are conditions please visit https://www.ebkray.in.and.for.clastifications.related to this ortal, please contact PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. Contact No. 829 1220220.

Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while so for the property in the website with https://www.ebkray.in. Sd/-Authorised Office

Contact Person: 1. Branch Manager (Bathula Shakhar and 8985451918)



to fulfil promises made to farmers, BRS leaders said

PNS JAGATIAL

K Sanjay Kumar, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) MLA from Korutla, launched 'Rythu Padayatra' on Tuesday morning, demanding that the State government fulfil its promises to farmers. The padayatra commenced from Korutla after Sanjay Kumar sought blessings from his mother.

Former Minister and Balkonda MLA Vemula Prashanth Reddy, formally flagged off the march.

A large number of people, including BRS district president and former MLA Vidyasagar Rao, former Zilla Parishad



BRS MLA Sanjay Kumar launching Rythu Padayatran at Korutla

chairperson Tula Uma, farmers, BRS workers, and others, joined the padayatra in support of

Sanajay Kumar Senior BRS leader and Siddipet MLA T Harish Rao will join the march at Chelgal village, on the outskirts of Jagtial, after visiting the Sri Rajarajeshwara Swamy temple in Vemulawada.

Kumar and other participants up to Jagtial, where a public meeting is scheduled to take place. On this occasion, on Tuesday, the Rythu Padayatra (farmers' march) was launched in Kothur by Balkonda MLA Vemula Prashant Reddy, along with BRS district president Kalvakuntla Vidyasagar Rao. The padayatra, led by MLA Sanjay Kumar saw the participation of farmers, agricultural labourers, farmer leaders, as well as BRS public representatives, former ministers, leaders, and activists in large numbers. The streets were filled with

He will walk alongside Sanjay



ACROSS THE STATES



Govt sanctions first allwomen battalion for CISF

first-ever all-women CISF battalion comprising more Athan 1,000 personnel has been sanctioned by the Union government keeping in mind the burgeoning duties of the force in VIP security, airports and other vital installations. Officials told PTI that the unit will be raised from within the sanctioned manpower of the force of about two lakh personnel. The Union home ministry issued a sanction order on Monday approving an exclusive women unit called "reserve battalion" in the force with a total strength of 1,025 personnel led by a senior commandant-rank officer, they said. Women personnel constitute over seven per cent of the force whose present strength is about 1.80 lakh. A force spokesperson said preparations for the early recruitment training and selection of location for stationing the new reserve battalion has been initiated.



Actor Shahid rents out apartment for Rs 20 lakh

Bollywood actor Shahid Kapoor and his wife have given on rent a luxury apartment in Mumbai for over Rs 20 lakh per month, according to Square Yards. The apartment, originally purchased in May 2024 for Rs 58.6 crore, was jointly acquired by Shahid and Mira Kapoor. In a statement on Tuesday, real estate consultant Square Yards said Kapoor recently rented out the luxurious apartment in 'Three Sixty West' project at Worli. The property spans 5,395 square feet of carpet area and 6,175.42 sq ft of built-up area, with three dedicated car parking spaces. The project 'Three Sixty West', developed by Oberoi Realty, is a high-end residential project spread over 1.58 acres, offering 4 and 5 BHK ready-to-move-in apartments. The lease agreement, registered in November 2024, is for a tenure of 60 months with an initial security deposit of Rs 1.23 crore



Delhi: SI held for taking bribe of Rs 10,000

he vigilance department has apprehended a Delhi Police sub-inspector for taking a bribe of Rs 10,000 to issue notice to accused persons in a fraud case, an official said on Tuesday. The accused SI, Shripal, was posted at Laxmi Nagar police station. The vigilance unit received a complaint from a Laxmi Nagar resident who runs a business of agricultural products alleging that he was defrauded in July by some persons based in Karnataka and Bengal, an officer said. "He lodged a complaint in the matter at Laxmi Nagar police station and the matter was transferred to SI Shrinal. When no action was taken on his complaint, the complainant approached Shripal and requested him to initiate action. But Shripal demanded Rs 20,000 for issuing notice to the accused persons," the officer said. On November 11, Shripal asked the complainant to pay the first instalment of Rs 10.000.

India, Bangladesh discuss infra, land port issues

India and Bangladesh on Tuesday decided to enhance cooperation in building infrastructure and operational efficiency at the various land ports and check-posts located along the 4,096-km long shared international border.

The commitment was made during the 6th Subgroup meeting of the Land Port Authority of India (LPAI) with the Bangladesh Land Port Authority (BLPA) here. The LPAI functions under the Union home ministry.

The bilateral meeting aims to strengthen ties and discuss issues related to cross-border infrastructure, connectivity and facilitation of trade between the two

The Indian delegation was led by LPAI Member (Planning and Development) Sanjeev Gupta with officials drawn from the border management division of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Border Security Force (BSF), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), and Customs, among others.

The Bangladeshi side was led

by BLPA Joint Secretary and (Development)



Tahmina Yeasmin along with officials from the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and ministries of industries and shipping,

"Building on the discussions held at the last subgroup meeting in Dhaka in November 2023, the meeting reviewed the progress made on the previous initiatives and identified new areas for cooperation to enhance infrastructure and operational efficiency at the land ports," an

official statement said.

The major agenda items discussed included developing port facilities at Gede (Darshna in West Bengal) and Bholagani (Meghalaya), expediting clear-ance of Bangladesh's export cargo at Petrapole (West Bengal) and Agartala, prioritising the development of land ports and integrated check-posts (ICPs), and considering a common cargo gate at Bhomra (Ghojadanga in West Bengal),

the statement said.

The meeting also discussed facilitating the movement of Bangladeshi trucks carrying exports to Nepal and Bhutan through Burimari and Banglabandha ports in that country, operationalising the land port at Sabroom (Tripura), developing the Tegamukh (Bangladesh)-Kawrpuichhuah (Mizoram) port, and establishing certain ports operational 24x7, it

MAHARASHTRA POLLS

Uphold fair play, CEC tells central observers

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar on Tuesday asked the Election Commission's central observers deployed for the Maharashtra assembly polls to uphold fair play, respond promptly to candidates' concerns and maintain professional conduct.

At a review meeting held with the central observers for the Maharashtra polls, Kumar directed them to be accessible to all candidates and parties without any favouritism.

"Any complaints in this regard will be viewed seriously," a functionary aware of the deliberations quoted the CEC as

saying.
Addressing the observers from the national capital via video conference, he also asked them to maintain strict vigilance over the law-and-order situation and flow of any inducements like drugs, liquor, freebies and cash that can be used to vitiate the election space.

Kumar asserted that checking and screening by enforcement agencies should be done as per the established protocol and in a completely impartial manner, maintaining a level playing field. Observers should see that

central forces and state police forces maintain neutrality and their deployment is not favour-ing any political party or a can-didate, he said.

CEC Kumar was of the view that observers can particularly ensure that the whole election process, specifically the campaign discourse, does not in any manner affect the dignity of

During the polling hours, observers should visit as many polling stations as possible and take an assessment of the situation inside the polling stations regularly and ensure polling is free and fair, he underlined.

Observers should conduct themselves in consonance with the highest standards of professional, personal and ethical conduct and must abide by the commission's guidelines strictly, Kumar said.

India aiming to become global drone hub: Rajnath

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India is aiming to become a global hub to manufacture drones as new technologies are bringing fundamental changes to the concept of warfare, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Tuesday.

In an address at an event, Singh also said that the Modi government is creating an approach of 'adaptive defence' to deal with emerging security challenges.

Elaborating on it, he said adaptive defence is not merely responding to what has happened but anticipating what could happen, and preparing for it proactively.

"In essence, it involves cultivating a mindset and capability to adapt, innovate and thrive, even in the face of unpredictable and evolving circumstances," he said.

'Situational awareness, flexibility at strategic and tactical levels, resilience, agility, and integration with the futuristic technologies are the keys to understand and create adaptive defence," he added.

The defence minister said adaptive defence must be the "mantra" of India's strategic formulations and operational responses.
Singh described adaptive defence

as not merely a strategic choice but

'As the threats to our nation have evolved, so too must our defence systems and strategies. We should be prepared for all future contingencies. It is more than just protecting our borders; it is about



securing our future," he said. In the address at the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, Singh said India is aiming to become a drone

"Several initiatives have been taken in this regard. This would not only help the Indian economy but also significantly contribute to our Make in India and the Aatmanirbhar Bharat programme," he said.

"Drones and swarm technologies are bringing fundamental changes in the ways and means of warfare. The development has changed the post-World War II understanding of warfare completely," he observed.

"The traditional notions and concepts of warfare in all three dimensions -- "land, air and water -- have been rapidly changing. These dimensions are being seen as overlapping due to drone and swarm technology interventions," Singh

He noted that traditional notions of war are being reshaped by emerging technologies and evolving strategic partnerships, with new perspectives, doctrines and concepts of operations emerging within the armed forces.

The defence minister threw light on the diverse range of security challenges faced by India -- from the traditional border-related threats to unconventional issues such as terrorism, cyber-attacks, and hybrid war-

He asserted that the government recognised the need for an adaptive defence strategy in a changing geopolitical and technological scenario, and has taken several initiatives to build a robust and self-reliant

'Poet Kalidas' works make us realise need to save environment

PNS ■ UJJAIN

Stressing on raising awareness about tackling the problem of climate change, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Tuesday noted that legendary poet Kalidas' literary works in ancient India dwelt on the need to save the environment.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the 66th All-India Kalidas Festival in Ujjain, Dhankhar said, "Today's burning problem is related to the environment. From the compositions of Mahakavi Kalidas, we realize that protection of the environment is important for our existence.

The Vice-President called for participation from all stakeholders in addressing the serious problem of climate change, a phenomenon that refers to longterm shifts in the Earth's temperatures and weather patterns. 'We must remember that we have no other place to live except the Earth," Dhankhar told the gathering.



Kalidas is called the "Kulguru (a person occupying exalted position) of the poet community" and his immortal works in Sanskrit like "Abhigyan Shakuntalam", "Meghadutam", "Kumar Sambhavam" and "Ritu Sanhar" and "Malavika Agnimitram" have a wonderful confluence of human emotions, he maintained.

Notably, more than 190 countries, including India, have gathered at Azerbaijan's capital Baku for the 29th round of annual climate talks, the Conference of Parties, COP29. The session of the COP to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change is being held from November 11

For every rupee spent on ISRO, society got back Rs 2.50: ISRO

PNS BENGALURU

A recent study by ISRO on whether the money invested in the space agency has benefited the society, found that for every rupee that the organisation spent, the return is Rs 2.50, said ISRO chairman S Somanath on

Somanath was answering a question during the interaction with the students of Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society (KREIS), organised by the Social Welfare Department and Science and Technology Department of the Government of Karnataka.

According to him, ISRO's goal was to serve the country rather than to compete for supremacy among the spacefaring nations. To make this happen, ISRO needed freedom to do what it wanted; That freedom could be achieved by creating an ecosystem for business opportunities in



space technology, he said.

"Going to the moon is a costly affair. And we cannot depend only on the government for funding. We must create business opportunities. If you have to sustain it, you have to create a use for it. Otherwise, after we do something, the government will tell you to close down," said Somanath.

He also emphasised that ISRO

does much more than space exploration.

Answering another question, he cited an example of ISRO's project directly benefitting people. "The advisory that we issue to fishermen, for instance, is a good example. With the help of our advisory, they know where to go for the best catch. We use Oceansat to gauge the sea and issue the advisory after studying

various parameters. By using this service, the fishermen not just get a good yield of fish, but they also save diesel required for the boats substantially," said Somanath.

Responding to students who asked about the things that influenced his life, Somnath said that his teachers played a very important role in guiding him. He spoke about his physics teacher Rajappa and maths teacher Paul who were instrumental in him getting not only good grades but also getting a solid grasp of the subject.

He also said he would always be grateful to his Class X teacher late Bhagirathiamma, who first told him about IIT and was confident that he would be an engineer one day.

"The only way someone can become great is when the teacher is great," added Somanath. He also told the students to use the failures as stepping stones.

IISc develops method to break antibiotic-resistant biofilms

PNS ■ BENGALURU

A team of scientists at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has developed a method to break down biofilm barriers, which protect bacteria from antibiotics and contribute to drug resistance.

The breakthrough involves using an enzyme from the cow's digestive tract, according to a press statement, issued by IISc on Tuesday.

Klebsiella pneumoniae, an opportunistic bacterium, infects hospital patients and causes conditions like pneumonia, urinary tract infections, and meningitis, said Dipshikha Chakravortty, professor at the department of Microbiology and Cell Biology (MCB) and a corresponding author of the

In individuals with diabetes, it infects wounds that heal slowly, sometimes leading to complications requiring limb amputation, she added.



Klebsiella pneumoniae, an ppportunistic bacterium, infects ospital patients and causes conditions like pneumonia, urinary tract infections, and meningitis, said Dipshikha Chakravortty, professor at the department of Microbiology and Cell Biology (MCB) and a corresponding author of the study

The bacterium secretes a tough biofilm matrix composed of sugars, fats, proteins, and DNA. Polysaccharides, formed by strings of sugar molecules in this matrix, play a crucial role in strengthening the biofilm, Chakravortty of the study.

explained. To address this, the IISc team sought a biocompatible strategy to disrupt the biofilm by targeting polysaccharides. "We realised that polysaccharide-degrading enzymes could serve the purpose, and a cow's gut was the ideal place to look for them," said Debasis Das, assistant professor in the department of Inorganic and Physical Chemistry (IPC) and another corresponding author

The team identified glycoside hydrolases (GH) enzymes from the rumen, the largest compartment in a cow's stomach, and synthesized a specific enzyme, GH-B2, in the lab. Testing GH-B2 on four strains of Klebsiella pneumoniae isolated from hospital patients revealed it effectively broke down biofilms in all

The enzyme was tested in lab mice with wounds infected by Klebsiella pneumoniae. A combination of GH-B2 and meropenem successfully cleared the biofilms.

The chances of bacteria gaining resistance are minimal

because our enzyme targets the biofilm matrix, not the bacteria directly," said Reshma Ramakrishnan, PhD student in Das's lab and the study's first author. She noted the "potential for combinatorial therapy using the enzyme and antibiotics to treat biofilm-associated infections." The researchers plan to incorporate the enzyme into wearable wound dressings. "For local infections, especially in diabetic individuals, this is very promising," said Chakravortty. Das also suggested the enzyme could be used as a coating on medical devices to prevent piofilm formation.

"It is vital to develop innovative strategies to disrupt bacterial lifestyles," stated Chakravortty, adding, "We must continuously identify potent enzymes to combat infectious diseases, which remain a significant threat."

The findings were published in Nature's 'NPJ Biofilms and Microbiomes'

'Don't impose new conditions'

TN urges Centre on solar rooftop scheme

PNS CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government on Tuesday urged the Centre not to impose new conditions under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, as they would impact the scheme's feasibility.

Additionally, should a Memorandum Understanding be executed, then the targets might be finalised in concurrence with the Tamil Nadu government "so that they are practical and achievable," state Electricity

Minister V Senthil Balaji said. The scheme, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in February this year, aims to provide free electricity to households across India by subsidising the cost of installing solar panels on rooftops.

In a memorandum submitted to the Union Power, and



Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal during the recent state power ministers conference in the national capital, Balaji in June 2024, tĥe Ministry of Power introduced an additional requirement to sign an MoU under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana which requires the state to achieve targets set by the monitoring committee, despite these

targets not being clearly defined. A release here said Balaji

sought the REC and PFC (nodal agencies for Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme) to consider reducing the interest rate to 8 percent given the commitment shown by Tamil Nadu in improving the financial and operational performance of the state power utilities.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Deliver tangible results

With 2024 set to be the hottest year on record, the stakes for COP29 are higher than ever

■he 29th annual UN climate summit, COP29, has officially begun in Baku, Azerbaijan. This year's conference brings together diplomats, climate experts, activists, and political leaders from nearly 200 countries to address critical issues in the fight against climate change. However, the event is already facing challenges, both from the host country's fossil-fuel-centered economy and the re-election of Donald Trump as US President, which could impact future climate commitments from one of the world's largest emitters. COP29 is being held in Azerbaijan's capital, Baku, a decision that has sparked criticism from environmentalists worldwide, with activists like Greta Thunberg referring to the summit as a "greenwash conference." This year's COP has been dubbed the "Finance CoP" due to its focus on securing adequate funding for climate action. Low-and middle-income countries are advocating for significant financial support to help them reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition to renewable energy. The UN esti-

mates that developing countries, excluding China, need more than \$2 trillion annually by 2030 to make mean-

The current debate centers on who will finance these initiatives. In 2009, wealthier nations pledged \$100 billion annually in climate financing for developing countries, a goal they only reached two years behind schedule. Now, many of these recipient countries are calling for a new target of at least \$1 trillion per year to effectively address climate challenges. Countries such as China and the UAE, which are still classified as "developing" but are major emitters and fossil-fuel producers, face pressure to contribute more substantial-

ly to the climate finance fund. Another core issue at COP29 is the review of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the plans each country submits outlining their goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. With the next round of NDC updates due in early 2025, this summit is a crucial opportunity to solidify targets that align with the Paris Agreement's goal of limiting global temperature rise to 2 degrees Celsius by 2100. The hope is that countries will commit to more ambitious emission reductions and be transparent about their paths toward net-zero emissions. COP28, held in Dubai in 2023, marked the first time a COP agreement openly called on countries to transition away from fossil fuels. However, progress has been inconsistent. The International Energy Agency's (IEA) tracking tool, established in April 2024, shows mixed results, with many countries struggling to meet their renewable energy targets. COP29 in Azerbaijan faces substantial challenges, from balancing climate goals with fossil fuel interests to addressing the financial needs of developing nations. If COP29 is to be a success, it must result in tangible commitments to climate finance, renewable energy, and unity among nations. This will be essential to ensuring that COP29 is remembered as a turning point in the global response to climate change—not as a missed opportunity.



Students pass by a wall painting depicting a scene from 'Krishna Leela', in Prayagraj

Domestic tensions add to Oli's predicament



Amid a mounting internal criticism, Nepal's Prime Minister KP Oli faces daunting challenges, from managing a coalition to dealing with China

y Diwali and Tihar vacation in Nepal is continuing. Here is a ■flash report from Pokhara. After a turbulent 18month rule, in which former Prime Minister Prachanda had to seek a vote of confidence five times, the two leading parties Nepali Congress and Unified Marxist Leninist unholy alliance ended CPN(Maoist) kingmaker Prachanda's rule of just 32 seats in a 205-member house. PM KP Oli-led coalition is short of a two thirds majority. They share 4 to 3 in NC's favour in ruling the seven provinces. The promise of Ram-Rajya is unlikely to materialise. Two things stand out: an uneasy stability in government; and Oli's apparent unpopularity . Oli's only claim in his first 100 days is a positive stock market. And breaking the tradition of a Nepalese PM's first overseas visit to India by going first to China from 2 to 6 December, which high profile foreign minister Arzu Rana is organising. India not inviting Oli to become PM is a deliberate omission which was served to late PM Sushil Koirala

Oli's standing as a leader has diminished because he is a junior partner to NC which is seen favoured by India, and due to his apparent loss of control and power over UML. A front-page report in Kathmandu Post (5 November) illustrates this. But alleged corruption cases against him and his supporters including the super department store chain Bhat Bhateni owner Min Bahadur Gurung have dimmed his reputation. On occasions, he was greeted with the chant "Oli chor, desh chhod". Still, Oli retorted: "wait and watch my party perform during 2027 elections". He is hoping to resuscitate his image from his visit to China. His stock with India is low. While Rana was given a red carpet welcome in India - meeting PM Modi. NSA Ajit Doval and Secretary to Prime Minister PK Misra – Óli's meeting with Modi on the sidelines of UNGA was low-key. The China visit will have the Oli hallmark. He will meet President Xi Jinping, his counterpart Li

also a decade ago.



Qiang and Foreign Minister Wang Yi. He will try to convert the USD 250mn loan from the Exim Bank of China for the China-constructed Pokhara International Airport - a white elephant like Hambantota in Sri Lanka – to grant though China has insisted it is part of the BRI loan. Oli is expected to sign the BRI implementation plan which China has been pressing but so far, Nepal has resisted as Kathmandu wants BRI to come under a grant scheme and not a highinterest loan. The BRI deal has been pending since 2020. Oli during his 2018 China visit had outlined 35 projects which were trimmed to nine projects under BRI. If Oli can persuade China of his 'grant scheme for BRI' or place some of the nine projects under it, he will have made a big breakthrough. Strangely few protest about Chinese intrusions in the north. The Jeevan Bahadur Shahi report which had recently mapped Chinese encroachments, missing border pillars and illegal construction, has been quashed. Nepali leaders willingly oblige

Beijing over the One China policy that has ensured the Great Wall of China' on the border to prevent Tibetan infiltration and migration to Dharamsala. Only one or two Tibetans slipped through this year. China wants Nepal to sign and ratify 'the Border

OLI'S ONLY CLAIM IN HIS FIRST 100 DAYS IS A POSITIVE STOCK MARKET. AND **BREAKING THE** TRADITION OF A NEPALESE PM'S FIRST OVERSEAS VISIT TO INDIA BY GOING FIRST TO CHINA FROM 2 TO 6 DECEMBER, WHICH HIGH PROFILE FOREIGN MINISTER ARZU RANA IS

ORGANISING

upgraded to Strategic Partnership during Xi's historic

2019 visit. The Xi visit was unique because none of the agreements signed had been implemented. A power trade agreement may be facilitated now after the completion of the 220 KVA transmission line from Rasuwagarhi to Kirung to sell power from Chinese hydro projects.It is in the energy sector that Nepal will eventually prosper. Bangladesh, Nepal and India signed a tripartite agreement for the 40MW sale of Nepal electricity to Bangladesh in the rainy season. India holds the key to the development of Nepal's power sector. Nepal is complaining about the Bureau of Indian Standards withholding certification of exports, especially with Chinese components which will hit Kathmandu, not Beijing. The opposition is in disarray with former Home Minister, once a rising star, Rabi Lamichhane, been recruited in the Indian back in jail for the Pokhara Army for five years. Cooperative fraud. His party and his image have taken a beating though independents like Kathmandu Mayor, Balen Shah and Dharan Mayor, Harka Sampang, are progressing relentlessly to clean politics. While King Gyanendra's pop-

ularity may appear to be rising, a return to constitutional monarchy is unlikely despite his recent visit to Bhutan which triggered unusual speculation. It is India that is making quiet gains, the embassy keeping a low profile, letting PMO Delhi run the show. Lingering negativity about Indian interference has all but vanished. On Agniveer, the feeling among Indian Gorkha ex-servicemen is that Nepal should lift the embargo on it. "Something (even four years service) is better than nothing". Foreign Minister S Jaishankar's remarks in July on Agniveer (relating to Nepal) were clear. "India's foreign policy is determined by its national interest. Not by any other country". The message reportedly conveyed to Arzu Rana in Delhi was: "no change in terms of engagement on Agniveer" even as a review

is ongoing. COAS Gen Dwivedi is arriving here on November 21 for a ceremonial appointment as Honorary Chief of Nepal Army which has lost its lustre because not a single Nepali has

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

Organic farming: Cultivating a climate-conscious future



Organic farming is emerging as a sustainable agricultural solution, offering an eco-friendly alternative to conventional farming practice

ith a growing focus on environmental issues, organic farming has emerged as a powerful ally in the fight against climate change. As global temperatures climb and natural ecosystems deteriorate, there is a shared conviction among scientists, environmental activists and farmers about the pressing need to create sustainable methods for food production.

Organic agriculture holds significance not just for cultivating food without synthetic pesticides and fertilisers, but also for fostering farming systems that harmonise with nature. Could organic farming be the answer to the climate crisis?

The fundamentals of organic farming lies in its significant potential to greatly diminish greenhouse gas emissions. The production of these, in conjunction with chemical pesticides, demands significant amounts of fossil fuels, whereas organic farms prioritise natural fertilisers and composts that enhance soil over time. Environmental scientists, states, "Soil in organic farms often contains more carbon

because of the organic matter used." Healthier soil retains more moisture and serves as a carbon sink, effectively capturing CO? from the atmos-

Organic farming promotes a rich variety of life forms. The importance of biodiversity cannot be overstated when it comes to creating resilient ecosystems. Traditional monoculture farming strips the soil of essential nutrients, reduces the diversity of habitats, and leaves crops vulnerable to numerous pests and diseases. Organic farming often embraces a variety of crops, fosters the growth of wild plants in and around the farm, and supports pollinators like bees and butterflies.

species richness than conventional farms, allowing for a greater diversity of birds, insects, and other wildlife to flourish alongside agricultural activities. This is similarly true regarding the conser-

vation of water. Organic farms utilise techniques such as mulching and crop rotation to effectively conserve water. These methods enhance the soil's composition and increase its ability to retain moisture. This is why the organic farm is more adept at managing droughts, as numerous regions impacted by climate change are grappling with this issue. Through organic farming, we're cultivating more than just crops; we're fostering a Organic farms can have as much as 30 per cent greater while there are several advan-

tages to consider, some contend that relying solely on organic farming may not suffice to nourish the global population, as it tends to produce lower yields compared to traditional practices. Incorporating organic practices, such as crop rotation and minimising reliance on chemicals, into extensive agricultural operations significantly impacts the fight against climate change. Organic farming may not be

a perfect solution, yet its environmental advantages are clear: reducing carbon emissions, conserving water, and boosting biodiversity are integral components of a comprehensive strategy in sustainable agriculture. As consumers, we can contribute by opting for organic products whenever we have the chance. Together, we can achieve significant strides towards a more sustainable world. The path to achieving climate resilience is intricate; nonetheless, by embracing organic farming, we can certainly sow the seeds for a greener future.

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

Madam — Apropos your editorial, "A rich legacy," published on November 11. Justice

CHADRACHUD'S IMPACTFUL TENURE

DY Chandrachud's tenure as the CJI of India, which concluded on last Sunday, was marked by transformative rulings and substantial reforms, carving out a unique legacy in the Indian judicial history. The list of judgements penned by him is long and covers almost all aspects of law. They blend scholarship and jurisprudence and are likely to inform both future decisions and how the law is studied. Striking down the Electoral Bonds Scheme and upholding the abrogation of Article 370 are among his influential verdicts that stand

pillars of his legacy. His decisions resonate not only within the corridors of the Supreme Court but also in the lives of countless Indians whose rights and freedoms he defended. Through humour, resilience, and an unwavering dedication to constitutional ideals, Chandrachud exemplified judicial leadership. As India's judicial landscape evolves, his tenure will be remembered as a testament to the power of law to uphold equality, integrity, and the spirit of democracy.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

PRIORITISE MENTAL WELLBEING

Madam—Apropos to "Creating a workplace culture that truly supports mental health," published on November 11. It is good that they chose to focus on mental health in the workplace on Mental Health Day on October 10. Because the way few professionals in both the private and government sectors have taken their lives due to undue work pressure in the last few

months is alarming, to say the least. Now a days, whoever is entering the corporate world is expected to be mentally strong to cope with the rising pressure and huge mismatch in work-life balance, but how would we justify the death of a young girl who has done well academically to clear CA and get into one of the top 4 consulting firms in the country and was forced to take her life in Pune? We in India have a very abysmal psychiatrist-patient co consumption in government offices

A boost to women entrepreneurs

he Finance Minister launched five Nari Shakti branches of Union Bank of India for women entrepreneurs in a step to boost women's power. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman virtually inaugurated five Nari Shakti branches of Union Bank of India

ratio. We have 0.75 psychiatrists per 100,000 mental patients against the prescribed 3 psychiatrists. Though things are changing a bit and people are approaching mental health professionals after many celebrities have opened up about this, we still need to cover a long distance in terms of enhancing mental health infrastructure and speak openly about this.

GoI would need to go all out to open thousands of mental health education institutes and hospitals to bridge this huge gulf and encourage young students to take up this profession. We will have to teach our children about the importance of mental and emotional health and need to bring a drastic change in our society when it comes to talking about mental health issues. There should not be any stigma attached to it.

Bal Govind | *Noida*

SMOKING BAN Madam — The decision of the Karnataka government to ban smoking and tobacfrom Bengaluru. She urged the bank to develop technology-driven, cluster-based schemes specifically tailored to support women, aiming to empower female entrepreneurs and strengthen financial inclusion for women across the country. Furthermore, she encouraged women entrepreneurs to make use of these schemes and contribute to job cre-

The Nari Shakti operates with a focus on extending credit to women entrepreneurs. In addition to financing women-owned manufacturing and service units, the bank will also focus on advisory services, workshops on start-ups, skill development programs, mentorship, networking, and collaborations. Union Bank of India has opened Nari Shakti branches in Bengaluru, Chennai, Visakhapatnam and Jaipur. It is a right step in the right direction. Akhilesh Krishnan | Mumbai

and on its premises, though laudable, boils down to its efficacious implementation. Moreover, the state government circular has said precious little about the punishment for flouting rules. Having said that, the move is indeed praiseworthy because it will send a strong message to all stakeholders about the perils of smoking and chewed tobacco. Furthermore, passive smokers can heave a sigh of relief as they

stand to suffer as well from smoke. It is also time the Centre revisits COTPA and contemplates better execution of the Act. By "The Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act 2003," also referred to as COTPA, smoking and consumption of other tobacco products in public places is prohibited nationwide. This Act also encompasses other requirements like displaying

signage and enforcement. Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

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FIRST COLUMN BLESSINGS OVER BILLIONS

If we want to be happy, then we should earn blessings which is our real wealth



RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR **NIKUNJ JI**

e all love money ...don't we? It's a fact that money makes the world go round because it can make the impossible possible and the unimaginable real. Hence, it won't be an exaggeration to say that money can do almost everything. (At least those who have it feel so for sure) There is a famous Hindi film song that says "The whole thing is that ki bhaiya Sabse Bada Rupaiya". We all have experienced how money can make people change their moods and colours in a jiffy. Haven't we? It can close the eyes, seal the mouth and deafen the ears wherever needed. We have seen in many scenes of movies how witnesses of crime turn a blind eye and a deaf ear and maintain a stony silence even though they know the truth.

Similarly in the world of business, money is the prime force behind the movers and shakers of mega deals, mergers and break-ups. Whether it's sports, entertainment or any other business, money can make cutthroat competitors get into cooperative mode in mutual interest. Money can match the mismatched, miss targets and change roles. At present it is observed that money has a considerable clout even in matters of faith. Like, it can gain you easy access to the holy citadels of godmen who may anoint you as their ardent follower. With money, you can also have a quick darshan of your favourite lord at the temple without having to wait in long queues. The list is unending. In short, money can buy anything and everything under the sun that can be bought. Though money creates this illusion that we are living in paradise money cannot



do any of the following for us. Like, money can buy us a beautiful house but not a happy home; it can buy us delicious food and expensive healthcare but not good health; it can provide us with high security but it cannot guarantee even minimum safety; it can buy us countless things for entertainment but not cheer and joy; it can buy us a comfortable bed but not sound sleep; it can buy name and fame but not real respect; it can buy the best contacts and relations but not true and honest love; it can buy crowns and thrones but not real power; it can buy good education but not intelligence and wisdom & lastly it can bail us out from the worst crimes but it cannot help us escape divine justice & buy us liberation from our sins and sufferings.

So, no matter if money does make the world go round, at the end of all the going round, we reach nowhere and get nothing substantial and real and end up being more impoverished than ever. Since ages, our scriptures and sages have spoken about the vices and virtues. Of all the vices like lust, anger, attachment, greed and ego, the most dangerous and subtle is "Greed". It is said that greed is such a kind of hunger that's never satisfied. Our desire for food ends when our hunger is appeased, our anger also subsides when its purpose is achieved, but! Greed is not satisfied even if we get the kingdom of the whole world.

Hence. it is this tendency, which is created by wealth, in a person who possesses it, that leads to corruption at all levels. So, does it mean one should not recognise the importance of money? Not really! Instead, we must understand that money or wealth is merely a tool that has to be used wisely and without greed, attachment or selfishness to create happiness for all. Hence, as long as we use it as a master's, it will bring us benefit and happiness. As soon as we become slaves to it, it will bring loss and misery. An enlightened person would always use money for the maximum good of a maximum number of people, whereas for a spiritually empowered soul, money becomes a tool to create good karma and a good destiny for the self and others. So, the story's moral is that money has never made man permanently happy, nor will it. Hence if we want to be happy, then we should earn blessings which is our real wealth and which would go along with birth after birth. Think about it!

(The writer is a spiritual educator and popular columnist; views are

IFFI 2024: A global stage for cinema, culture and talent



This year's edition reaffirms IFFI's role as a powerful force in global cinema, connecting storytellers, industry leaders and audiences in a shared appreciation of the cinema



he 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) is set to bring a fresh wave of cinematic celebration to the scenic coast of Goa from November 20th to 28th, 2024. This year's festival promises to be more than just a film showcase; it's a convergence of global cultures, a launchpad for emerging voices, and a profound tribute to India's cinematic legacy. IFFI 2024 is a bold step forward, not only in its evolution but as a distinctive international film festival that celebrates both India's vibrant culture and the art of cinema on a global stage. This year, IFFI spotlights Australia as its "Country of Focus," emphasising the festival's commitment to bridging cultures and fostering international understanding. This section invites Indian audiences to dive into the heart of Australian cinema, exploring a curated selection of films that range from gritty dramas to adventurous comedies and reflective documentaries.

Through this focused lens, audiences will experience the unique and evolving cinematic language of Australia, making IFFI a powerful platform for cross-cultural appreciation and dialogue. In doing so, IFFI 2024 goes beyond traditional film screening to create an immersive experience that positions the festival as a bridge between the stories, people, and cultures of the world. IFFI 2024's newest addition, the "Best Debut Director of Indian Feature Film" award, shines a spotlight on the next generation of Indian filmmakers. This award isn't just a recognition; it's a pivotal moment in a young director's career, marking a path for fresh perspectives in Indian cin-

By dedicating this category to first-time directors, IFFI signals its commitment to nurturing innovative voices and helping them gain visibility in an increasingly competitive industry. While many international film festivals focus on established talents, IFFI's recognition of debut filmmakers reflects its dedication to fostering growth and embracing the future of Indian cinema. This year's festival also pays homage to four towering icons of Indian cinema: Raj Kapoor,



WITH OVER 200 FILMS FEATURED IN ITS VIEWING ROOM, FILM BAZAAR IS WHERE

STORIES FIND **FILMS CONNECT WITH** DISTRIBUTORS, **COLLABORATIONS**

ARE BORN

Rao (ANR), and Mohammed Rafi. These legends shaped India's cinematic legacy and captured the hearts of audiences across generations. By featuring restored classics and specially curated presentations, IFFI brings their artistry to life for a new generation and provides international attendees with a meaningful glimpse into India's rich cinematic history. This tribute serves as a reminder of the depth of Indian cinema, its transformative impact on culture, and the enduring relevance of these trailblazers. IFFI's Film Bazaar, now in its 18th year, stands out as a dynamic marketplace that brings together filmmakers, financiers, distributors, and international industry leaders.

Tapan Sinha, Akkineni Nageswara

With over 200 films featured in its Viewing Room, Film Bazaar is where stories find investors, films connect with distributors and colaborations are born. This dedicated platform sets IFFI apart from other festivals focused solely on screenings by creating opportunities for projects to grow and flourish beyond the festival circuit. For both Indian and international filmmakers, Film Bazaar represents a gateway to global audiences and a rare chance to network and secure support for future projects. The Indian Panorama section of IFFI has become a hallmark of the festival, offering audiences a diverse selection of contemporary Indian cinema. With 25 feature films and 20 non-feature films selected for their cinematic excellence, thematic resonance and aesthetic creativity, Indian Panorama showcases the vibrancy and diversity of Indian story-

For international attendees, it provides an authentic insight into India's socio-cultural landscape, spotlighting everything from regional narratives to avant-garde experiments. This section rein-

Indian cinema in all its depth and diversity, making it an invaluable part of the global film conversation. One of IFFI 2024's standout initiatives is "Creative Minds of Tomorrow" (CMOT), a program me by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) dedicated to nurturing young filmmakers. CMOT provides a platform for emerging voices to showcase short films, documentaries and animations, facilitating connections with seasoned industry professionals. Through CMOT, IFFI is not only showcasing young talent but also empowering the next generation of Indian filmmakers with the resources and connections to suc-

This initiative solidifies IFFI's role artists also provides a rich culturas a festival that goes beyond cel- al context that enables internationebration to become a nurturing al guests to appreciate the legacy ground for creativity and growth In line with the essence of Bharat Parv, which captured the world's attention at Cannes 2024, IFFI brings forth a celebration of India's diverse cultural heritage. Bharat Parv, a campaign highlighting India's rich traditions and unity in diversity, finds its cinematic expression at IFFI, where films, events, and programming reflect India's multifaceted identity. This celebration of Indian culture provides international visitors with an immersive experience and a deeper understanding of India's story, offering a window into its heritage through the powerful lens of cin-

IFFI 2024 arrives at a transformative moment for Indian cinema, serving as a platform to elevate Indian filmmakers onto the world stage. The festival's emphasis on emerging talent, global collaboration, and cultural exchange aligns with India's aspirations to be a global leader in the arts. IFFI's unique combination of industry

forces IFFI's mission to present initiatives, recognition of fresh voices and celebration of cinematic heritage enables it to play a pivotal role in the growth of Indian cinema and its reception on the global stage. This year's edition promises to leave an indelible impact on the industry, redefining IFFI as a festival that doesn't just reflect India's cinematic culture but actively shapes its future. For international filmmakers, IFFI 2024 offers an unparalleled opportunity to connect with India's vibrant cinematic landscape.

By providing exposure to a diverse Indian audience, access to Film Bazaar's resources and engagement with sections like the Australian showcase, IFFI offers international filmmakers insights into India's tastes, trends, and opportunities. IFFI's homage to iconic Indian and contributions of Indian cine ma. Through these interactions, IFFI creates a unique, collaborative environment that enriches both Indian and global cinema.

The 55th IFFI is a festival that seamlessly merges tradition with forward-thinking innovation, paying tribute to the giants of Indian cinema while embracing the voices of tomorrow. From the spirit of Bharat Parv to the debut of a new award for emerging talent, IFFI 2024 embodies the evolving nature of cinema and celebrates the power of storytelling as a tool for connection. As the festival draws international filmmakers, industry leaders, and audiences together, it positions India as a key player in global cinema and reaffirms IFFI as a festival of lasting impact and

(The writer is former additional DG, DFF and festival director, IFFI; Inputs provided by Zoya Ahmad and Vaishnavi Srinivasan; Views expressed are

Staying grounded: Lessons from the 1984 elections and anti-Sikh riots Both politicians and journalists risk misjudgment when they distance themselves from the realities on the ground

he 1984 election results were a shock to many. Rajiv Gandhi won a record-breaking 414 seats, toppling major political figures. Veteran leaders like Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Chandra Shekhar faced unexpected defeats— Vajpayee in Gwalior and Chandra Shekhar in Ballia. But this story is less about the triumphs or losses and more about a crucial lesson this journalist learned from an open-hearted conversation with Chandra Shekhar. In an interview, this journalist asked the seasoned leader their perspective going forif he had anticipated the wave that swept away even stalwarts like himself.

Chandra



RAGHUVANSHI

disconnected from the grass roots. I didn't realise there isation left a lasting impact on the journalist, shaping

The same kind of shock had reverberated through the nation during the 1977 elecher own seat in Rae Bareilly, while her son Sanjay Gandhi lost in Amethi.

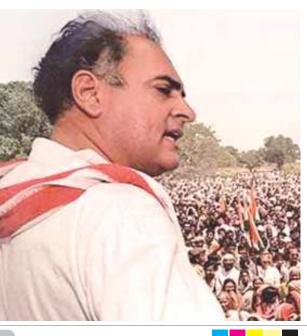
The Congress party was routed, failing to win a single seat in Uttar Pradesh or Bihar. Despite her stature and the counsel of her closest advisors, Indira Gandhi had also become detached from grassroots sentiment. This disconnect was something this journalist later witnessed in the field of journalism itself. During the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, this journalist returned from the field after witnessing the violence firsthand.

His editor, Ayub Syed, was discussing the events with a senior journalist, OP

Sabherwal likened the situation to 1947, predicting that the riots would continue indefinitely.

The journalist respectfully intervened, sharing what he had observed in RK Puram: a Gurdwara under attack, granthis being rescued by the army, looters scattering when a single soldier raised his hand, and a crowd dispersing with just a shout. He explained to his seniors that the violence was being stoked by the Congress government, with rioters emboldened by police assurances of impunity.

The journalist conveyed that the riots were far from uncontrollable and could be stopped whenever the gov-Shekhar replied candidly: tions, but in the opposite "To be honest, I had become direction. Indira Gandhi was analysing the riots from afar." proven right; the violence proven right; the violence



ceased once the government decided it had gone too far. The lasting lesson? Whether a politician or a journalist, detachment from reality clouds judgment. Without a connection to the ground, even the most obvious forces

at play can go unseen. The 1984 election and subsequent events taught a vital lesson about staying connected to the grassroots. Rajiv Gandhi's landslide victory, which swept aside prominent leaders like Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Chandra Shekhar, highlighted how even seasoned politi-cians could lose touch with public sentiment.

İn a candid interview, Chandra Shekhar admitted his own disconnect from the grassroots, mirroring

the misjudgment that cost Indira Gandhi the 1977 election. This theme resonated again during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, where a journalist's firsthand observations clashed with distant analyses in the newsroom. The violence, stirred by political agendas, was ultimately controllable when authorities chose to act.

The takeaway? For both politicians and journalists, a disconnect from on-theground realities can obscure clear judgment, leaving critical forces unrecognised. Staying rooted is essential to understanding and addressing the true dynamics at play in any situation.

(The wrier is a senior journalist; views expressed are peronal) HYDERABAD | WEDNESDAY | NOVEMBER 13, 2024

IN BRIEF



Gold, silver extend losses amid sluggish demand

old, silver prices continued to extend losses for the second straight day in the national capital on Tuesday owing to a straight day in the national capital on Tuesuay owing to a sluggish demand from jewellers and weak global cues, according to the All India Sarafa Association. The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity plunged Rs 1,750 to Rs 77,800 per 10 grams. It had closed at Rs 79,550 per 10 grams in the previous session. Silver also plummeted Rs 2,700 to Rs 91,300 per kg against the previous close of Rs 94,000 per kg. Price of gold of 99.5 per cent purity declined Rs 1,750 to Rs 77,400 per 10 grams. On Monday, the yellow metal had settled at Rs 79,150 per 10 grams. Meanwhile, in futures trade on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold contracts for December delivery plunged Rs 612, or 0.81 per cent, to trade at Rs 74,739 per 10 grams. "Gold continued to face significant pressure as the strength in the dollar index kept prices under USD 2,600 on COMEX. In MCX, gold fell, slipping below Rs 75,000 for the first





LIC pares 2.02 pc stake in Tata Power for Rs 2,888 cr

ife Insurance Corporation (LIC) on Tuesday said it has sold more than 2.02 per cent stake in Tata Power Company for about Rs 2,888 crore and reduced its holding in the company to 3.88 per cent. In a regulatory filing, LIC said the insurance behemoth has decreased its shareholding in Tata Power Company Ltd from 18,87,06,367 to 12,39,91,097, that is, 5.906 per cent to 3.881 per cent of the paid-up capital of the company. The shares were sold between June 20, 2024, and November 11, 2024, at an average price of Rs 446.402 apiece through an open market sale. At this price, LIC sold over 6.47 crore shares, or a 2.025 per cent stake, for Rs 2.888 crore. Shares of LIC closed at Rs 921.45 apiece, up 0.32 per cent over the previous



Coal imports rise 2.2 pc to 111.2 million tonnes

oal imports rose by 2.2 per cent to 111.20 million tonnes in the April-August period of the current fiscal compared to 108.81 million tonnes in the year-ago period, an official release said on Tuesday. However, the non-regulated sector saw a 10.3 per cent drop during the April-August period as compared to the same period of last year, the coal ministry said in the release. In value terms, the price of overall imported coal during April-August 2024-25 was Rs 120,532.21 crore. Despite a growth of 4.97 per cent in coal-based power generation from April to September 2024 compared to the same period last year imports for blending purposes decreased to 9.79 MT compared to last year which was 10.70 MT indicating a decline of 8.5 per cent during the same period. "This decline underscores India's steadfast commitment to achieving selfsufficiency in coal production and reducing reliance on imports," it said.

Inflation soars to 14-month high of 6.2 %

Breaches RBI's tolerance level

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Retail inflation breached the Reserve Bank's upper tolerance level, soaring to a 14-month high of 6.21 per cent in October mainly on account of

rising food prices.
Inflation based on the consumer price index (CPI) was

5.49 per cent in September and 4.87 per cent in the year-ago month.

Retail inflation trended below the RBI's upper tolerance band of 6 per cent since September last year. It was at 6.83 per cent in August

The RBI, which mainly factors in the CPI while arriving at its bi-monthly monetary policy, has been tasked by the government to ensure retail inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on

According to the data released by the National

Statistics Office (NSO) on Tuesday, inflation in the food basket increased to 10.87 per cent in October, compared to 9.24 per cent in September and 6.61 per cent in October 2023.
"Year-on-year inflation rate

based on All India Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the month of October 2024 is

6.21 per cent. Corresponding inflation rates for rural and urban are 6.68 per cent and 5.62 per cent, respectively," NSŌ said.

The NSO data showed that during

October 2024 significant decline in inflation was observed in the 'pulses and products', eggs, 'sugar and confectionery' and spices sub-

"High food inflation in October 2024 is mainly due to increase in inflation of vegetables, fruits and oils and fats," the NSO said.

Russia keen to strengthen pulses trade ties with India

Russia, which is mulling diversifying to urad and tur production, is keen to strengthen pulses trade cooperation with India, the government said on Tuesday.

A Russian delegation led by Deputy Minister Maxim Titov Deputy Minister Maxim Titov had on Monday met Consumer Affairs Secretary Nidhi Khare, discussing in details the possibility of enhancing the trade coopera-tion in the field of pulses.

The consumer affairs department, in a statement, said Russia has emerged as a major source of India's import of masur (lentils) and yellow peas from the recent past.

Apart from these two pulses, Russia is also contemplating to diversify its pulses production to urad (black matpe) and tur (pigeon pea), it said.

India is dependent on pulses imports to meet the domestic shortages of 3-4 million tonne. On pulses availability in the country, the government said there is a significant ease in supply of key pulses like tur,



The overall availability of pulses has been comfortable with robust inflow of imports of tur, urad, chana and yellow peas, this year," it said.

urad and change since July 2024 due to better kharif

prospect and continuous

The tur crop is reported to be good and early harvest of tur crop in pockets of Karnataka has started. Tur and urad imports for the 2024 calendar year, was at 10 lakh tonne and 6.40 lakh tonne, respectively, by the first week of November, have already exceeded the whole year import figures during last year. The government said the

arrival of chana imports from

Australia in bulk cargoes are

expected from November. The recent diversification of source countries for pulses played an important role in ensuring continuous inflows at

Govt to offload more onions in

it said

increasingly competitive rates,

Apart from these

two pulses,

pulses

production

Russia is also

contemplating

to diversify its

to urad (black

matpe) and tur

(pigeon pea),

it added. Meanwhile, the preliminary reports of rabi sowing for chana, masur, urad, and moong indicates that initial delay in some states due to prolonged rainfall are now recov-

ering the lag in area coverage. "Overall sentiment and sowing intention are reported to be upbeat because of good price realisation," the statement

India imposes anti-dumping duty on chemical imports

PNS NEW DELHI

India has imposed an antidumping duty of up to USD 557 per tonne on a chemical used mainly in the adhesive industry from China, Korea, and Thailand for five years to guard domestic players against cheap imports from these nations. The duty was imposed as the chemical -Epichlorohydrin - was exported to India from these countries at below-normal prices. "The anti-dumping duty imposed under this notification shall be levied for a period of five years (unless revoked, superseded or amended earlier)...," the Department of revenue said in a notification.

The levy is imposed following recommendations for the same by the commerce ministry's investigation arm Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR). Antied by countries to determine whether domestic industries have been hurt because of a surge in cheap imports.

SATCOM LICENCE

Musk's Starlink yet to comply with security norms: Scindia

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Telecom Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Tuesday said Elon Musk-owned Starlink is yet to comply with security norms, and a licence for satellite communications services will be issued only after they meet all the requirements for services in India. The satellite communication services major is in the process of

requirements and will get a licence once they complete the process, the minister added. "We are more than happy to give them (licence) if they (Starlink) comply with all

completing all the

the conditions. You have to look at it from a security perspective, making sure that all security concerns are addressed. When they do that we will be more than happy to give it. Obviously, they Scindia told reporters.

He was replying to a question on the status of the licence for Starlink. At present, the govern-

ment has issued a licence to Bharti Group-backed OneWeb and the Jio-SES joint venture Jio Satellite Communications. The two companies are yet to start their operations as they are waiting for spectrum allocation, for which pricing and rules are According to sources, the

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) is likely to finalise its recommendation on proposed

rules related to spectrum allocation for satellite communications by December 15. The government will

evaluate Trai's recommendations and thereafter decide on allocating spectrum to satellite communication companies, which will pave the way for satellite-based broadband services in the country. When asked about the status of the Rs 24,700 crore bank guarantee waiver sought by dafone Idea the minist said any decision of the government will not be company-specific, albeit it will have an

impact on the entire sector

markets to stabilise retail prices PNS NEW DELHI The government on Tuesday

said it is keeping a close watch on onion prices and has decided to offload more quantities from buffer stock in retail markets to stabilise rates amid temporary supply constraints.

According to government data, the retail price of onion is Rs 67 per kg in the national capital while the all-India average retail price of the

kitchen staple is Rs 58 per kg.
"The government has decided to upscale the onion disposal in order to address temporary constraint in onion supply observed in certain markets in the past 2-3 days owing to festival season and closure of mandis," an official statement said.

Co-operative NAFED has indented two more rakes for Delhi-NCR and one for Guwahati this week. Similarly, dispatch through road transport would also be upscaled to ensure the availability of onions in the market.

The availability of onions would be further accentuated by more supplies from NCCF,



both through rail and road transport," it added.

Moreover, the government has also decided to offload onions kept in cold storage at Sonipat to meet the requirements of Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Himachal, Jammu & Kashmir, Delhi etc.

The government is alive to the market developments and keeping a close watch to take ameliorative action to stabilise the onion prices," the statement said.

The government procured last year. for price stabilisation buffer this year. It started offloading on September 5 through retail sales at Rs 35 per kg and also

through bulk sales in major mandis across the country.

Till date, over 1.50 lakh

tonnes of onion in the buffer has been dispatched from Nashik and other source centres to consuming centres through trucks by road trans-

As per the assessment of the Department of Agriculture, the actual kharif sown area this year was 3.82 lakh hectare which is 34 per cent higher than 2.85 lakh hectare sown

kharif onion is also reported to be normal with coverage of 1.28 lakh hectare till the first week of November.

Factory output turns positive, rises 3.1 pc

PNS NEW DELHI

India's industrial production expanded by 3.1 per cent in September after recording a contraction in the preceding month, as all three major segments -- mining, manufacturing and power generation -- showed improvement.

However, the growth in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) during the month was lower than 6.4 per cent registered in September 2023. The factory output had

turned negative in August at (-) 0.1 per cent, mainly on account of floods affecting mining operations in the different parts of the country. According to the data released by the National Statistics Office (NSO), min-

ing sector output grew by 0.2

per cent, manufacturing pro-

duction by 3.9 per cent and

electricity output by 0.5 per

September 2024.

In August, the mining sector output contracted by 4.3 per cent and power generation by 3.7 per cent. The growth in manufacturing too was muted at 1.1 per cent.

"The IIP growth rate for the month of September 2024 is 3.1 per cent which was (-) 0.1 per cent in the month of August 2024," NSO said in a statement. During April-September 2024-25, the IIP growth was

cent in the year ago.

As per the use-based classification released by the NSO, the capital goods segment growth decelerated to 2.8 per cent in September 2024 from 8.4 per cent in the year-ago month.

Consumer non-durables output grew by 2 per cent against a growth of 2.7 per cent in September 2023.

Consumer durable goods production expanded by 6.5 per cent during the reporting cent in the month of 4 per cent lower than 6.2 per month, up from one per cent

According to the data, infrastructure/construction goods reported a growth of 3.3 per cent in September 2024, down from a 10.1 per cent expansion in the year-ago period.

The data also showed that the output of primary goods rose by 1.8 per cent as against a growth of 8 per cent a year earlier.

The expansion in the intermediate goods segment was 4.2 per cent. Commenting on the data, Aditi Nayar, chief economist, ICRA said that the IIP expanded by 3.1 per cent on a year-on-year basis in September 2024 after declining by 0.1 per cent in August 2024, amid a favourable base.

The uptick was broadbased with all the use-based segments witnessing an improvement in their yearon-year growth in September 2024 vis-à-vis August 2024,

Infra, transport sectors expect growth in earnings, headcount

PNS NEW DELHI

India is likely to see the implementation of one of the largest infrastructure programmes in the 21st century amongst large economies and creating fiscal sources of capital would be key to this initiative, according to a KPMG report.

The report titled 'KPMG 2024 Infrastructure and Transport CEO Outlook' further said a survey of 120 sector leaders from across the world found that CEOs in the infrastructure and transportation sector anticipate business growth over the next three years, in terms of earnings

It revealed that globally 57 per

cent of sector CEOs say stakeholder expectations pertaining to ESG are changing faster than they can adapt their strategy.

More than half of CEOs believe that a global failure on climate-change adaptation will have a real short-to-medium term impact on their growth, it added.

With confidence and trust in governments declining around the world, the report said 62 per cent of respondents believe the public is looking to businesses to fill the void on societal challenges. Seventy-one per cent also state that they are willing to divest a profitable part of the business if it was damaging their organization's reputation, it said.

NEW CLIMATE FINANCE GOAL

G77, China rejects framework for draft text

G77 and China, the largest bloc representing around 130 countries at the UN climate talks, has rejected the framework for a draft negotiating text on a new climate finance goal -- the central issue at this year's climate summit in Baku,

Azerbaijan. The substantive framework for a draft negotiating text, prepared by the co-chairs of the Ad Hoc Work Programme on the New Collective Quantified

Goal (NCQG) and published in October, is the first item for countries to deliberate on.

However, on Tuesday, G77 and China rejected the framework, arguing it does not accurately reflect the suggestions that developing countries have made for the new climate finance goal.

Other groups of developing countries, including the Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDCs), Alliance of Small Island Developing States (AOSIS), Least Developed



Countries (LDCs), and the Independent Alliance of Latin America and the Caribbean



(AILAC), backed G77 and China in this rejection. According to the Loss and

Damage Collaboration, an international coalition of climate researchers and activists, G77 and China have requested that the co-chairs prepare a new draft text before the next negotiating session. G77 and China demanded

that the new climate finance package meet their needs and priorities, with a minimum quantum of USD 1.3 trillion.

The group said that this amount should support mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage initiatives, and

should be exclusively allocated to developing countries. Developing countries also insist that the new climate

finance goal, or NCQG, should prioritize public, grant-based, and concessional finance, as these types of funding are less burdensome for nations already facing financial challenges. Public finance provides a stable support source, while grants and concessional loans (with very low or zero interest) are easier for developing countries to manage

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of works can be obtained from our website www.tgnpdcl.in Operation Circle, Bhupalpally Short Tender Notice No. 08/24-25 to 10/24-25 of SE/Op/ Nizamabad

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Operation Circle, Nirmal. The details of the work can be obtained from our website R.O. No.: 6524-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2024-25, Dt. 12-11-2024

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Wednesday November 13, 2024

When 'choices felt right or wrong' for Patralekhaa

AARTI SREENATH aarti.sreenath9@gmail.com n her decade-long journey, Patralekhaa Paul Rao has evolved from a fresh-faced newcomer to a mature actress, shaped by her choices, challenges and resilience. Reflecting on her career, she admits she never saw herself in any other field, despite her father's hope that she would pursue a career as a chartered accountant.

"I started auditioning for ads and just kept going from there," she recalls. That seemingly small step eventually led to her breakout role in *CityLights*—a film that set her on a trajectory as one of India's most promising talents. "Looking back, I couldn't imagine myself doing anything else."

Known for her distinctive, thoughtful approach to roles, Patralekhaa's process has transformed since her early days. She explains, "There's a stark difference between the 24-year-old girl who started out and the woman I am now." Life has changed her perspective on acting, deepening her connection with the characters she portrays. "Acting is so personal because you pull so much from your own experiences, from the highs and lows of life itself." Her latest role in IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack presented both a creative and personal challenge—one she was thrilled to take on.

Securing this role, however, required patience and determination. When she learned that and determination. When she learned that Anubhav Sinha was working on the script, she immediately reached out. "I pestered him for six months," she says, recalling her persistence. Although Sinha was initially uncertain, she was relentless in her pursuit. "He finally relented and wrote something for me. Working with directors like him or Hansal Mehta is non-negotiable for me-they're masters of their craft."

Her commitment to IC 814 meant embracing the intense atmosphere on set, particularly in the claustrophobic setting of an airplane parked amid the mountainous terrain of Jordan. "It felt overwhelming at times, especially with 100 extras, crew members and cameras everywhere," she explains. The realism of the set amplified her immersion in the role. "Once inside, it felt so claustrophobic. Anyone who's been on a plane knows the space is tight and we had so many people crammed in. It definitely got to me."

Despite the emotional toll, she had little time to unwind. Immediately after wrapping up the shoot, she flew to London for her next project. "I didn't realise how drained I was until I got there," she admits. "It took a while to bounce back, but starting on something new helped me shake off the intensity of the last shoot. Still, it was surreal—imagine coming straight from a plane hijack to boarding anoth-

As for regrets, Patralekhaa is clear she has none. "Every choice felt right or wrong in its moment, but I'm genuinely happy when films I passed on work for the people who made them," she says. And in every role, she finds a piece of herself. "It's a tricky question, but I'd say all my characters are like me in some way. They're not copies, but there's a little of me in all of them and when I finish a project, each character leaves some-

thing behind with me too." This project also reunited her with actor Vijay Varma,

IN AN EXCLUSIVE CONVERSATION WITH THE **PIONEER**, PATRALEKHAA PAUL RAO OPENS **UP ABOUT HER JOURNEY, REFLECTING ON** THE MILESTONES, CHALLENGES AND TRIUMPHS THAT HAVE SHAPED HER INTO THE ARTIST SHE IS TODAY. WITH UNBRIDLED HONESTY AND CHARACTERISTIC CANDOR, **SHE ALSO SHARES INSIGHTS INTO HER CREATIVE PROCESS, HER MOST RECENT ROLE IN IC 814: THE KANDAHAR HIJACK AND THE LESSONS SHE'S LEARNED ALONG THE WAY**

> an old friend and respected peer. "I've known Vijay for a long time. The first time we met was during auditions and I knew even then he was destined for success." Although they don't see each other often, they share a supportive bond. "I cheer for him from afar. Whenever I see a performance of his that moves me, I make it a point to tell him."

Patralekhaa has found unwavering support in her partner, actor Rajkummar Rao. "He's my biggest cheerleader," she asserts. "When the reviews for IC 814 started coming in, he was happier than I was. If I need to practice a scene, he's the one taking my audition." However, they rarely rehearse scenes together, as Patralekhaa believes in spontaneity. "We discuss our scenes but don't rehearse them. For me, preparing too much can make a scene feel rehearsed rather than real. I want the magic to happen on set."

Alongside her career achievements,

As Patralekhaa reflects on her journey, she recognises that each experience, role and relationship has added a new layer to her as an artist. And with this latest project, she's embraced a new level of intensity, one that's bound to make an impact on audiences and deepen her evolving legacy in the industry.

> IT TOOK A WHILE TO BOUNCE BACK, BUT STARTING ON **SOMETHING NEW HELPED ME SHAKE OFF** LAST SHOOT



Uncovering sweet deception of stevia

Stevia-based sweeteners are growing in popularity, especially for those seeking healthier alternatives to sugar. Despite their rise, many misconceptions persist about stevia and its products. Let's debunk five common myths about stevia and set the record straight.

Myth 1: Artificial in nature

Stevia is completely natural, extracted from the leaves of the stevia plant, contrary to the misconception that stevia is an artificial sweetener This makes it different from synthetic sweeteners like aspartame or sucralose. Stevia products, including those from Swee10, provide a plantbased sweetening option for those who prefer natural ingredients in their

Myth 2: Has significant side

Some people still question the safety of stevia, but this myth has been debunked by extensive research. Stevia is a natural sweetener derived from the Stevia rebaudiana plant and has been approved by health authorities such as the FDA, EFSA and WHO. It's been used safely for centuries in several cultures, making it a trusted alternative to sugar for those who want a healthier option without any

Myth 3: Catered only to dia-

While stevia is widely known for its benefits in managing blood sugar many of the issues associated with travels, it's not exclusive with diabetes. Stevia is a great choice for anyone looking to reduce their sugar intake, whether for weight ier lifestyle.

management, overall health, or dietary preferences. It's vegan, ketofriendly, and zero-calorie, which means it can fit into a wide range of dietary plans beyond diabetic man-

Myth 4: Bitter aftertaste

One of the most persistent myths is that stevia leaves a bitter or licoricelike aftertaste. While early versions of stevia sweeteners did have this issue, advancements in processing have significantly improved the taste. Most high-quality stevia products today, like those offered by Swee10, are formulated to deliver a sweetness that closely mimics sugar, without the bitterness. This makes it an enjoyable option for beverages, desserts, and daily cooking.

Myth 5: Can't be incorporated in cooking or baking

Another myth is that stevia can't replace sugar in recipes, especially for baking. However, stevia can be easily incorporated into cooking and baking, offering the same sweetness without the calories. Whether you're whipping up traditional sweets for festivals or everyday desserts, stevia can be used in place of sugar, ensuring your treats are both delicious and healthier.

Stevia-based products are a versatile, safe and natural alternative to sugar, suited for a wide range of dietary needs. From managing blood sugar levels to creating guilt-free desserts, stevia offers a solution to ditional sweeteners. It's time to move past the myths and embrace the benefits that stevia provides for a health-

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT THROUGH FITI

an effort. I would just do some aerobics and strength training, and then directly go run

However, her journey wasn't without its challenges. She faced depression and strug-

Through her journey, Babitha has learned the importance of lifting weights, particu-

larly for women. "Lifting is something that

a woman has to do to keep herself fit, her

bone health, muscle mass, and to keep her

sanity in place." She now focuses on pow-

erlifting and has won gold at the national level in her weight category.

Also the founder of Sweat n Burn, her

story is an exemplification of the power of

understanding one's body and taking control of one's health. "When you understand

your body, when you know what is right, when you do a lot of research, when you read

journals, you not only help yourself, you help your fellow runners, you help the fellow

She recounts her personal story, sharing

her struggles during the early stages of

menopause. "I was going through depression, feeling very low, had no interest in any-

thing and struggled to sleep," she says. But

then something changed. She started running and everything transformed. Running

became her salvation, giving her a sense of achievement and purpose. People began to

notice her and she started to see herself in

a new light. She was no longer just a moth-

er, wife, or daughter; she was an individual

vomen, everyone around you."

and win medals.

Jacqueline Babitha Xavier is a force to be reckoned with. This dynamic fitness enthusiast has been shattering glass ceilings and pushing boundaries with her remarkable journey, inspiring countless individuals to embrace their true potential. In this exclusive interview with *The Pioneer*, she shares her fascinating story, revealing the secrets behind her success and the driving forces that propel her

forward

tejal.sinha30@gmail.com

ith a heart full of passion and a spirit that refuses to be tamed, Jacqueline Babitha Xavier is a shining example of what it means to live life on your own terms. This remarkable woman from Hyderabad has not only conquered the world of running but has also triumphed over depression and self-doubt, emerging stronger and more radiant with each passing day. As a fitness instructor, marathon runner and powerlifter, she embodies strength, grace and determination. In this uplifting interview, she shares her extraordinary journey of self-discovery, growth and transformation, inspiring us all to embrace our true potential and live life to the fullest.

'I come from a corporate background, but I felt like life was fizzling out. I needed to do something beyond what I was doing," says Hyderabad's Marathon woman, recounting her journey. She took a plunge, quit working at 38 and got into fitness. Post which, she did certification in aerobics, Zumba and personal training. It didn't just stop there. She moved on to marathon coaching and injury management.

Jacqueline's running career took off when she won her first podium at a 21-kilometer run. "If I hadn't won that podium, I wouldn't have been a runner. I would have continued being a fitness trainer," she admits. Her aerobic base, built through

years of aerobics train-

ing, helped her tran-

achieving something. sition to running naturally. "I didn't have Through running, she discovered her identity and broke free from the roles that defined her. She started prioritising her own needs and focusing on self-care. Running to put in became her therapy, her sanctuary, and her passion. Jacqueline's advice to those struggling with depression is to find an activity they enjoy. "If you can't run, try lifting. If you can't lift, try something else. Just move your body and you'll see the difference," she

> Today, she is a source of inspiration for many, including her two daughters. "People often mistake us for sisters when we walk together (she chuckles). Fitness has not only

transformed my body but also my mind. I'm no longer depressed, and I feel alive. You don't have to be a runner or a lifter to be fit. Just find what works for you and embrace it." her family has been a significant source gled to understand her body, particularly during perimenopause. "I didn't know what was happening to my body. I had hot flashes, acne and weight gain. But I did a course on understanding menopause, and that's when I realised it was a harmony imbalance." of support for her. "My husband and daughters are all into fitness. We encourage and motivate each other to lead a healthy

In fact, her husband was inspired to start working out after being mistaken for having three daughters. Hahaha! "He started cycling and working out, and now we all do

it together as a family," she shares.

Her daughters are also into fitness, with one pursuing a master's degree in sports science and sports psychology. "We make time for ourselves, no matter how busy we are," Jacqueline emphasises. "We believe that taking care of our physical health is essential for our overall well-being."

Initially, she did face challenges while running alone, particularly safety concerns. "I used to carry a water bottle in one hand and a stone in the other," she recalls. "Now, I carry pepper spray and a small Swiss knife in my waist pouch."

Despite these challenges, Xavier has continued to pursue her passion for fitness. "The only challenge I face now is running alone. But I've learned to overcome it by finding support from my family and friends.

She has also faced incidents of harassment while running alone. "Once, a guy flashed me while I was running on a dirt track," she recounts. "I didn't want my daughter to see it, so I quickly turned around and ran back with her."

However, Jacqueline didn't let this incident deter her from pursuing her passion for fitness. Instead, she found support from her family and the fitness community. Through her experiences, she has

learned the importance of finding support and overcoming fear. She emphasises, "Fitness has given me the confidence to face any challenge that comes my way. We need to



teach men to respect women and treat them as equals. It starts at home, and we need to bring up our sons to be progressive and respectful towards women."

She also highlights the need for women to take control of their own safety and wellbeing. "We need to learn self-defense techniques and be aware of our surroundings," she advises. "We can't rely on others to protect us." That's not all! She challenges societal norms that restrict women's freedom and autonomy. "We need to break free from the shackles of societal expectations and embrace our individuality," she says. "We need to uplift and encourage each other. We need to create a sisterhood of support and solidarity." Through her fitness journey, she has learned to embrace her body and challenge societal beauty stan-dards. "I wear what makes me comfortable and confident," she says. "I don't dress for others; I dress for myself."

For her, fitness is a full package. "You can't just focus on one aspect, like running. You need to incorporate strength training, lifting, and cross-training to repel toxins and build overall fitness."

She further emphasises the importance of varied workouts, including running, strength training and cross-training activities like cycling or swimming. "I like to challenge myself and can't do just one type of workout. I need to mix it up to stay motivat-

ed and avoid plateaus."

In terms of nutrition, Jacqueline stresses the importance of a balanced diet that includes carbohydrates, protein, salads and fiber. "You can't just focus on one food

group," she advises. "You need to have a mix of everything to fuel your

Her approach to fitness and nutrition is holistic and balanced, emphasising the

importance of varied workouts and a balanced diet to achieve overall wellness. "Fitness is a journey, not a destination," she says. "It's about finding what works for you and making it a sustainable part of your lifestyle."

what's brewing?

















Katriya Hotel & Towers brings in traditional cake mixing with a motive to cherish special occasions and festivals with our future generations. A cake mixing ceremony is an expression of joy, love and happiness. To set the cake mixing ceremony off, the staff members and specially invited the guests, along with Master Chef Bakti Arora and Gopi, Executive Chef of the Hotel and Shiva Rama Raju, Managing Director, among the rest.



Trust Limited announced the listing of its equity shares on the National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE). Trading of the company's shares commenced on Tuesday, marking a significant milestone in Master Trust Limited's journey as it continued to expand its market presence and commitment to delivering value for its shareholders and clients.





Former IPS and Jai Bharat Party President V.V. Lakshmi Narayana, inaugurated a satellite digital education studio at Lakdi-Ka-Pul, set up jointly with Meta LearnNInspire Private Limited, powered by iLearningEngines, under the auspices of Grameena Vidya Jyothi Bharat Private Limited. He praised the initiative of using satellite technology to deliver lessons to students in rural and remote areas without the need for internet access.



Dr. Hypno Padma Kamalakar is being entrusted with the responsibilities of the Nava Bharath Lions Club by Lions Club 320A District Governor Dr. D. Koteswara Rao and Dr. G. Mahendra Kumar Reddy.



ARCHIE



Guru Nanak University

and Guru Nanak

Institutions hosted its

national level programme

TedXGNI. This year's

theme was uncovered origins which brought

forth a lot of learning for

the audience. Notable

speakers gave

motivational speeches to

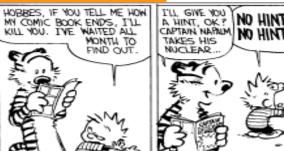
the students to develop in

their future career





CALVIN AND HOBBES







GARFIELD







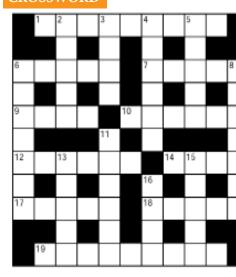


REALITY CHECK





CROSSWORD











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ACROSS

- People who carve statues
- 6 Use your brain
- 7 Straps held by a jockey 9 Not difficult
- 10 Say again
- 12 Put this sachet in a teapot
- 14 This insect flies at night 16 A graceful water bird 17 The number of sides on
- 18 A round thing with spokes

skin

13 Have a quarrel

15 Follows orders



6 Watch plays here

carrying books

8 A soft type of bag for

11 A design pricked into

GINGER MEGGS







DIFFICULTY RATING: ** ** \$\frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2} \fra

The sum of all numbers in

- any row or column must equal 45.
- 5 Lift up
- 3 Find pleasant 4 Changed direction

an octagon

19 Know by sight DOWN

Strips of fried potato

Hyderabad | Wednesday November 13, 2024

Dil Raju to encourage new talent!

the films are reviewed by critics and I wanted them to be part of this script work before it actually

goes into production. It helps to

come out with good content." The producer said that many

release the teaser, first look,

film promotions. "It's often unclear how many films are

trailer, or something for their

coming or going. When these people approach me, I can

kind of money that is being wasted. This is why I founded

DilRaju Dreams—to minimise

such losses and create a platform

with a purpose," he said.

Dil Raju said that they

want to produce four to five films a year

'There are no

under a new banner.

recommendations

here. Everyone

must submit their

work through the

instantly tell why certain films are being made. I'm aware of the

filmmakers approached him to

 $P^{\rm roducer\ Dil\ Raju,\ in\ order\ to}_{\rm encourage\ new\ talents,\ has}$ started a new production banner. He speaks to the media, sharing more details about it.

"I started this new banner to encourage new talent and content," said the producer. He added that he is setting up a new team to look after everything.
"Anyone can approach my team with your content through our team or website. I will listen to the scripts brought by this team once a week," said Dil Raju. The producer said that he is going to launch the website soon. All the stars and directors close to me are coming for the launch of this website," said Dil Raju. On this occasion, the producer

said that two NRI producers are working on two projects collaborating with his new banner. "I want this to be a platform for newcomers to showcase their talent," said Raju. He also said that he is going to involve some of the critics in this



VARUN CAN REMEMBER THIS FILM **FOR 20 YEARS: KARUNA KUMAR** SURESH KAVIRAYANI life is a big story and Nagaraj Manjule is making a web series on him, which is good and can be told in many hours. The only reference is Ratan Khatri **Director** sureshkavirayani@gmail.com

he Varun Tej starrer Matka is all set to hit the screens tomorrow (November 14). Director Karuna Kumar, known for Palasa, is the director of the film. Ahead of the release, he talks about the film and the inspiration behind it.
"My family and I had attended a family marriage, where we casually discussed many things. Later, my father-in-law told us about this game called *Matka*. I do know about the lottery, but was not really aware of Matka," began the director, Karuna Kumar, who back then got very curious director, Karuna Kumar, who back then got very curious about the game. "The discussion prolonged about Vizag and the club culture in older days and how the cabaret dance happened in Vizag at that time. In Vizag, these things happened in One Town, so I got interested in these stories and decided to do some kind of research about the game and also the old culture of Vizag," said Karuna Kumar. That's how he got inspired for the story. He initially wanted to write the story first. "I didn't want to make a film, as I wanted to write a short story with the title Vadiowing Poolu I ater. I thought a short story with the title Vadipoyina Poolu. Later, I thought that this story was good for cinema. So, I have taken the original incidents and then added a complete fictional story to it with my own imagination," said Karuna Kumar.

The director said that there is vast literature in Telugu. After Bengal, he says, it is the Telugu literature, which has a very vast and highest number of stories. He added that people often complain about Telugu cinema compared to Malayalam and Tamil. "There is a misconception that Telugu cinema means a protagonist wears a colourful shirt and dances with means a protagonist wears a colourful shirt and dances with four to five girls. But we have enormous literature in our Telugu and there are thousands of stories to tell. Before in any other language, we are the first ones to come out with a social problem film like *Malapilla* by Gudavalli Ramabrahmam," said Karuna Kumar. The director said that because of not using Telugu literature and stories properly, there is a highest to the Telugu people. "Deligible ports a properly, there is a highest to the Teluguage people." there is a big loss to the Telugu people. "Rajinikanth is a super-star in Tamil and even in Telugu. Same with some other Tamil actors and we also encourage other language films too. But when it comes to Tamil Nadu, our actors' films are not shown on many screens. Chiranjeevi's film is not screened in Tamil Nadu, unlike a Rajinikanth film screened in Telugu," said

the director about Telugu.
Talking about this, *Matka*, he said he made it in his own style. "This is a typical commercial entertainer where I narrated the story of Vasudev or Vasu," said the director. "In reality, if you

Karuna Kumar talks about his upcoming film Matka and how Varun Tej came into this project, the **Telugu culture** and Vizag city

look at many powerful from Visakhapatnam, most of them are outside people. They came to Vizag and then became popular. Likewise in my film, Vasudev came from Burma to Vizag and started his journey here," said Karuna Kumar.

The director said that the present generation may know about this game, but he showed it in the film, which can be understood. "When there was no mobile, they sent the same number to the entire country in one day. That is the interesting point to me and you can watch the film for this," he said. The director said that he didn't show Ratan Khatri's story in it. "His

Talking about Varun Tej as the lead actor, he said he narrated three stories to the Vyra production house. "In those three, they picked this one and it is suited for Varun Tej. That's how the story went to him and we started the film," he said. "Varun gave a fantastic performance and I am confident that he is going to mention

Matka film in the coming 20 years," said about Varun Tej. He added that he is a very downto-earth person and a director's actor. He has taken nearly 3,600 images for reference. "To get the peri-odic look and also the Vizag city in the 50s to 80s, I have taken many images as ref-erences. The look

came from Pakistan and Vasu came from Burma;

this is the only reference I have taken," said Karuna.

director. The director said he made films within the budget. "If you look at my previous films, I made films within the budget and never went overboard after the shooting starts," he said. He added that his next film is supposed to be for Dheeraj Mogilineni! "The story is ready and we also scouted for shooting locations and finalised the lead actor too. But the lead actor is busy with another project and he wants to give a few days to my film, which I didn't like. I wanted to start my next film by January or February," said Karuna

is very important and we erected

sets for it," said the

Kishan Reddy hails Rakesh Varre's power-packed role in Jithender Reddy



rnion Minister G Kishan Reddy watched the film Jithender Reddy at a multiplex in Hyderabad. He commended actor Rakesh Varre, who portrayed the title role, and director Virinchi Varma for creating a meaningful film. "Jithender Reddy and I worked together in the *BJP Yuva Morcha*," Kishan Reddy said, recalling memories with his late friend. "He was an active leader of RSS and ABVP. He organised the meeting of Atal Bihari Vajpayee in Warangal, arranging 50 buses from the Jagtial area to make the event a success."

The Union Minister went on to highlight Jithender Reddy's dedication to helping the poor

and uniting people. "Naxalites killed Jithender Reddy, firing 72 bullets into his body. His efforts showed that violence cannot achieve what peaceful means can," said Reddy. "This movie emphasises that it is a mistake to believe that guns and violence can achieve meaningful goals; it's a mindset that must change."

Praising the film, Kishan Reddy noted, "Rakesh Varre truly embodied the role of Jithender Reddy with remarkable acting. I also appreciate director Virinchi Varma for his excellent work in making this film." Jithender Reddy, based on true events in Jagtial, Telangana, was released on November 8.

Why did Akkineni family choose Annapurna Studios for Chay's wedding?

Akkineni Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita Dhulipala's wedding will take place on December 4 at Annapurna Studios. Initially, the Akkineni family planned a destination wedding, but they ultimately chose their family-owned studio as the venue! Wedding invitations have already been distributed to family and friends, with Nagarjuna and Supriya overseeing all arrangements at Annapurna Studios.

The idea to hold the wedding there came from Nagarjuna, who felt that Annapurna Studios was the ideal setting, especially in this landmark year, celebrating Akkineni Nageswara Rao's 100th birthday. The family believes that holding the wedding at The family believes that holding the wedding at Annapurna Studios, under the blessing of ANR's statue unveiled there last year, adds emotional significance. According to a source, Naga Chaitanya feels beginning his marital journey in this iconic setting, with his grandfather's blessings, is deeply meaningful.

'Amid wedding preparations, Sobhita continues filming'

n the midst of this personal milestone, Sobhita remains committed to her professional endeavours. A source close to the actress reveals, "Sobhita Dhulipala is currently immersed in filming for her next project, gracefully balancing her work with wedding preparations alongside Naga Chaitanya." Despite the excitement surrounding her wedding, her dedication to her work remains unwavering.





Kishan backs up Ashok Galla

A shok Galla is all set to release his second film, *Devaki* Nandana Vasudeva, directed by Arjun Jandhyala, hitting screens on November 22. The film is produced by Somineni Balakrishna. On Tuesday, the makers held a function to release the film's trailer, attended by special guests Rana Daggubati and Sundeep Kishan, who showed their support for Ashok Galla.

An interesting aspect of the film is that Prashanth Varma, the directions of the support of the

tor of *Hanuman*, provided the story. Ashok Galla undergoes a

with his commanding screen presence standing out. Manasa Varanasi stars as the female lead. After watching the trailer, Rana Daggubati praised Prashanth Varma, saying, "He is the master storyteller of the present generation. He is an amazing writer and director and I am happy that he is telling mythology stories to today's generation. I thought this social movie, Devaki Nandana Vasudeva, was also inspired by Krishna and Kamsa." Rana added that he attend-

notable transformation for his role, ed the function to support Ashok He also spoke about the female lead, Manasa, noting, "I am happy to see a Telugu girl as the female lead in our film."

Actor Sundeep Kishan also expressed support for Ashok and wished him success. "I liked director Arjun's first film and I saw the trailer for this one. You can see that everyone worked very hard for this film. I hope it will be a great success for everyone," said Sundeep Kishan. Ashok's father, former MP Jayadev Galla, also attended the event.



Color Photo director Sandeep Raj engaged to actress Chandini Rao

irector Sandeep Raj, known for his National Award-winning film *Color* Photo, announced his engagement to actress Chandini Rao on Monday. The couple, who have been in the spotlight for their relationship, shared their engagement news with fans. "Presenting you my official Ring Master," wrote Sandeep on social media, along with photos of the engagement.

Chandini Rao has appeared in several Telugu films and web series, including *Ranasthali* and Pelli Gola. Rumours of their relationship had circulated after Chandini posted pictures with Sandeep, but the engagement has now confirmed their commitment. The couple plans to announce a wedding date soon. Sandeep is currently directing a new film, Mowgli, featuring Roshan Kanakala, son of popular anchor Suma Kanakala.

NBK109 TO UNLEASH BEAST, HINTS NEW POSTER

od of Masses Nandamuri Balakrishna has been on a blockbuster success streak in recent years with his stunning action entertainers. Now, he has joined hands with blockbuster was provided in the stunning action entertainers. Now, he has joined hands with blockbuster was provided in the stunning action entertainers. Now, he has joined hands with blockbuster was provided in the stunning action entertainers. Now, he has joined hands with blockbuster was provided in the stunning action entertainers. Now, he has joined hands with blockbuster was provided in the stunning action entertainers. Now, he has joined hands with blockbuster was provided in the stunning action entertainers. Now, he has joined hands with blockbuster was provided in the stunning action entertainers. Now, he has joined hands with blockbuster was provided in the stunning action entertainers. Now, he has joined hands with blockbuster was provided in the stunning action entertainers. director Bobby Kolli, who is known for his massy presentation and scintillating action entertainers.

Ever since the announcement of the film, working title NBK109, the movie has been generating huge buzz across different platforms. The anticipation regarding the powerful title glimpse has been sky high among the fans and movie lovers. Already, the two big action glimpses released featuring NBK have gone viral and everyone praised the director for presenting Balakrishna in a never-before-seen stylish and massy avatar. The makers have announced the

many weapons ready for action, hinting at a thick-bearded look. The excitement regarding the title teaser has grown multi-fold with the poster. On the auspicious occasion of Karthika Poornima, the *NBK109* title teaser is set to release on November 15th. *Animal* fame Bobby Deol is playing a prominent role in the film. Suryadevara Naga Vamsi, Sai Soujanya of Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas are producing the film on a massive scale, while Srikara Studios is presenting it. The movie shoot is currently in the last leg and it is set to release for Sankranti 2025 worldwide.



3rd T201: India eye batting revival against SA at Centurion

ndian batting line-up needs to get its mojo back against a resurgent South Africa to regain the lost ground on rather unfamiliar SuperSport Park conditions when the two teams clash the third T20I here Wednesday.

Since 2009, India have played only one T20I at this venue, which they lost by six wickets in 2018 and have only one survivor from that squad in this side --Hardik Pandya.

Along with that unfamiliarity factor, India will also grapple with the ordinary form of their batters, particularly when the pitch here is touted to be similar to the one at Gqeberha - quick

and bouncy.
In the second T20I, India batters struggled against South African pacers upfront, getting restricted to 124 for six, and Centurion has similar characteristics.

The problem starts from the top more precisely with Abhishek Sharma, whose extended lean run with the bat has now snowballed

desperate need of a good outing here before the management of juggling thinks combination.

Even now, they can think of giving the job of partnering Sanju Samson at the top to Tilak Varma and bring in Ramandeep Singh in the middle to add more muscle to the unit.

However, the senior batters like skipper Suryakumar Yadav, Pandya and Rinku Singh too cannot absolve themselves of the blame entirely for India's struggles.

Both Suryakumar and Rinku have shown only fleeting images of their prowess here while Pandya made 39 in the second match but he consumed 45 balls

In fact, the power-hitter took 28 balls to find his first boundary and, again, could not find the ropes between balls 39 and 45. So, these three batters will have to chip in more to support in the inform Samson or to carry India to a strong total even when the Kerala man has a vapid day.



Similarly, pacers Arshdeep Singh and Avesh Khan had two contrasting games. Arshdeep returned with figures of 1 for 25 at Durban, but in the second

at Durban, but in the second game he had stats of 1 for 41.

The left-arm pacer's third and fourth overs which went for 28 runs – including four fours in an over against Tristan Stubbs – made a deep impact on the low-scoring match. scoring match.

scoring match.
So, they will be eager to change the script here, unless the management looks at other options such as Yash Dayal or Vysakh Vijaykumar. However, the efforts of Varun

Chakravarthy, who bagged a maiden fifer in the previous match, and Ravi Bishnoi over the last two matches have been outstanding and the spinners will be leaking for an experient the be looking for an encore in the third match to hand back the advantage to India.

The expected bounce and pace on the pitch here will be an encouraging factor as well for the Indian duo.

From a batting perspective, South Africa too face a similar issue as

Markram, David Miller and Heinrich Klaasen are yet to fire in this series.

They required runs from less-pedigreed batters Tristan Stubbs and Gerald Coetzee to get over the line in the second contest, and the Proteas will certainly cherish a heftier contribution from their veterans, especially against Indian spinners.

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

South Africa: Aiden Markram (c), Ottneil Baartman, Gerald Coetzee, Donovan Ferreira, Reeza Hendricks, Marco Jansen. Heinrich Klaasen, Patrick Kruger. Keshav Maharaj, David Miller, Mihlali Mpongwana, Nqaba Peter, Ryan Rickelton. Andile Simelane. Lutho Sipamla,

Perth pitch to have really good pace and bounce: Curator cautions India

PTI ■ PERTH

India will be accorded a tough welcome to Australia as the Optus Stadium pitch for the opening Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy has been prepared to offer "good bounce and pace" true to the tradition of the fiery tracks in

India will enter the Perth Test, beginning from November 22, without playing any practice match as the visitors had cancelled an intra-squad side game that was scheduled to be played behind closed doors from November 15 to

Now, India will focus on centre-wicket training at the nearby WACA stadium, where Australia will also

up for really good pace, really good bounce and really good carry," Western Australia Cricket head curator Isaac McDonald told 'ESPNcricinfo'. McDonald is

trying to prepare a pitch that has similar traits of the one



In that match, Pakistan were bundled out for 89 in the second innings as the Aussies nearby WACA stadium, where Australia will also polish their skills.

"This is Australia, this is Perth... I'm setting ourselves up for really good page really." celebrated a massive 360-run Overall, the three Aussie pacers - Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc
– grabbed 12 of the 20

Pakistan wickets. More recently, Pakistan pacers Shaheen Shah Afridi, Naseem Shah and Haris Rauf

that he readied for the first Test against Pakistan in Up, bowling the hosts out for December last year. tore through Australian line-up, bowling the hosts out for 140 in the third ODI here.

McDonald said he is looking to leave some grass on the pitch to make it a bit spicier. "It's (10 mm) a good starting point. Ten millimetres was pretty comfortable with the conditions that we had (last year) and that held the conditions together nicely for the first few days. Live grass on the pitch is speed.
"Both bowling units (Australia and Pakistan) were

pretty rapid last year and hoping for much the same this year (for India match)," he added.

Australian opener McSweeney braces for 'unique' Bumrah challenge

Australia opener Nathan McSweeney, who is set to debut against India in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, said he has been preparing for the "unique" challenge of facing star pacer Jasprit Bumrah.

McSweeney was drafted into the Australia squad after a of impressive performances in the Sheffield Shield tournament and in the Shield tournament and in the recent 'A' series against India. The 25-year-old South Australian will partner Usman Khawaja at the top in the series opener in Perth and during the upcoming five-Test series five-Test series.

"There's probably not (much I can do to replicate how Bumrah bowls). Obviously, he's got a unique action. He's one of the best bowlers in the world."So, it's going to be hard to mimic that. I'm just looking forward to all of that and I can't wait," McSweeney

McSweeney, who captained



the Australia A side in the 2-0 series win against India A, said he has been watching the bowling clips of Indian quicks including Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj to be mentally ready for the task. "I'll definitely dive a lot deeper into it when I get to Perth. I've looked at a few clips of what they're bowling

attack stacks up like. I'm just trying to visualise how I'm going to go about it. Facing a new bowler can be a slight challenge to just pick up their action," he said.

"I've got a whole week before I head off to Perth, so, I can get mentally ready and I guess it starts now in preparation to hopefully start

really well," he added. However, a quiet confidence runs through the young batter ahead of the important

"In the last month or so I really feel like I'm batting the best I ever have. I think I'm the best I've ever been prepared to take this opportunity, so hopefully I can do that.

"No doubt there's plenty of learning and experiences that I haven't experienced yet and I haven't experienced yet and I'm looking forward to learning all about the challengies of Test cricket and challenging my game against the very best," he said. McSweeney will step into the shoes of David Warner, who retired from international cricket after the home Test series against Pakistan in January this year, and the Adelaide man realises the enormity of the job.
The right-hander has a plan

"Being an opening batter, it's making sure I'm leaving the ball well and making the bowlers are bowling to me. Then being ready and positive to score when they miss is as simple as I want to make it.

"If I'm reacting well and doing those things well, hopefully, it equates to me spending time in the middle and chipping away at the scoreboard," he said.

Blind T20 WC: Indian team eyes clearance from MHA, MEA; Sports Ministry clears travel to Pakistan

 $T^{\text{he Sports Ministry has given NOC,}}_{\text{with no cost to the government, to a}}_{17\text{-member Indian cricket team to}}$ travel to Pakistan to participate in the T20 World Cup for the Blind, and the side now awaits clearance from Home and External Affairs ministries.

The fourth edition of the Blind World Cup, in which India are the reigning champions, is scheduled to be played at Lahore and Multan from November 22 to December 3.

Upon receiving the clearance from the ministries concerned, the squad is scheduled to travel to Pakistan via the Wagah Border on November 21. The development came in the backdrop

of the Board of Control for Cricket in

India (BCCI) informing its Pakistan

counterpart that the Men in Blue will not travel to the neighbouring nation for next year's Champions Trophy. The BCCI sent a mail to the International Cricket Council to that



effect, leaving the future of the marquee event in limbo.

Meanwhile, Shailender Yadav, General Secretary of the Cricket Association for Blind in India (CABI) said the 17member Indian squad for the T20 WC was picked after 26 players underwent a 12-day selection trials in Gurugram.

Gurugram. The players now await an NOC from the Ministry of External Affairs and remain hopeful for a positive response," said Yadav.

Apart from India and Pakistan, the T20 World Cup features teams from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, South Africa, Nepal and Sri Lanka. India won "The team has been training in the three previous events, defeating Pakistan twice and Bangladesh once. Tournament as scheduled: PBCC

The Pakistan Blind Cricket Council (PBCC) said the tournament will go ahead on schedule irrespective of

India's participation.
"Pakistan will be hosting the event on schedule and it makes no difference whether the Indian team comes or not," PBCC chairman Syed Sultan Shah said.

Shah said arrangements for hosting the World Cup had been completed by the PBCC.

"All the other teams in the event have also sent confirmation that they have no issues playing in Pakistan," he said. Indian team for T20 Blind WC: Ajay Kumar Reddy, Debaraj Behera, Nareshbhai Tumda, Nilesh Yadav, Sanjay Kumar Shah, Praveen Kumar Sharma, Venkateswara Rao, Pankaj Bhue, Lokesha, Rambir Singh, Irfan Diwan, Durga Rao Tompaki, Sunil Ramesh, Sukhram Majhi, Ravi Amiti, Dineshbhai Rathva, Dhingar Gopu.

Mohammad Nabi to retire from ODIs after 2025 Champions Trophy

PTI ■ SHARJAH

Pakistan.

Afghanistan all-rounder Mohammad Nabi has announced that he will retire One-Day Internationals after next year's Champions Trophy in

After Afghanistan's 2-1 series win over Bangladesh here on Monday, the 39-year-old said he had been pondering about quitting the format since last year's ODI World

"In my mind, from the last World Cup, I was retired. But then, we qualified for the Champions Trophy, and I felt if I could play that, it would be great," he told the official broadcaster after being adjudged the Player-of-the-Series



Nabi has featured in 167 ODIs since 2009, scoring 3,600 runs in 147 innings at an average of 27.48 and a strike rate of 86.99, including two centuries and 17 fifties, with a top score of 136.

wicket hauls and a fifer (5/17). Afghanistan qualified for the Champions Trophy, thanks to their sixth-place finish during last year's

World Cup. It would With the ball in hand, he has bagged 172 wickets in 161 innings at an average of 32.47 and an economy of held in Pakistan in February 4.27, including four four- next year.

Players believing in our style of play is the key, says Manolo Márquez

PTI HYDERABAD

▼ndian football team head coach Manolo Márquez on Tuesday said it is critical for his players to follow a synchronised approach while representing the country, in order to start getting results in the international arena.

The Indian senior men's national team began its training camp ahead of the friendly match against Malaysia on November 18 in Hyderabad.

With the Indian Super League going into a break with the start of the November FIFA international window, the Blue Tigers checked into the city on Monday and will have a total of six days of training sessions

before the match. "We were supposed to play two games last month but due to external reasons, Lebanon couldn't come. For people, more games is better. But it's difficult to train the day before and after the match. We need to train tactically



as well. "I feel it's necessary to prepare for not just the game against Malaysia but the official matches which will come in March," Márquez said.

Márquez had a rough start to his coaching stint with the national team as India were held 0-0 by Mauritius in September and beaten 0-3 by Syria in the Intercontinental Cup, also in Hyderabad.

His boys put up an improved showing, especially in the second half, against Vietnam in a 1-1 draw last month in Nam Đ?nh. The Spaniard has continued the trend of calling up new players in each FIFA window so far. This time, Hmingthanmawia Ralte, Vibin Mohanan, Irfan Yadwad and Thoiba Singh Moirangthem earned their first national team call-ups. The latter was a lastminute arrival after Anirudh Thapa suffered an injury during

the match between Mohun

Bagan Super Giant and Odisha

FC on Sunday. Since taking charge in July, Márquez's priority has been to utilise the friendly matches and training sessions to find the best group of players for the 2027 AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers, scheduled to start in March 2025. "It's true that we want to check some new players. But obviously it's impossible to change the whole group and call 40 players in March. It's true that we are finding the group. It means that we have maybe 14, 15, 16 players who will be there, but we don't know exactly. And there are a lot of players who can get there," the

coach said. "Obviously, it's still four months, and the situation can change with a lot of things unfortunately with injuries and the players' domestic form. But, I repeat again, as a coach you need to find the group which can play the style that we want.

"I am fully focussed on the Malaysia match at the moment.

In a way, it's a dangerous game because the players are in the middle of the fight for the ISL and this is just one friendly game in November, and the next camp will be in four months. "But I am very confident in this group and I feel we will have a good performance next Monday," said Márquez. Still awaiting his first win with India, Márquez remains patient. For now, the key is to find the groove with the right bunch and get results where they matter the most.

"Obviously everyone wants to win every game. But the feeling we got after the draw with Vietnam was completely different from what we got after drawing with Mauritius or losing to Syria. "In some moments, we played superb. The one key thing is that the players have to believe in our style of play. I want to win every game and even every training session. The Malaysia game is the last friendly window before the official games.