www.dailypioneer.com

Published From: HYDERABAD DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL RAIPUR CHANDIGARH BHUBANESWAR RANCHI DEHRADUN VIJAYAWADA



THE WORLD WITH **BRUISED PASSPORTS!**



Even Varun Tej couldn't save



the pioneer The age to contest for MP and MLA should reduce to 21 from 25. This would encourage greater youth participation in politics. Empowering the youth could bring fresh perspectives and energy into governance, making politics more accessible to aspiring young leaders. If IAS and IPS can enter service at 21 and if people are eligible to vote at 18, then politics also should be open to youngsters.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

- Revanth Reddys, CM, Telangana

Life science projects invested Rs 36,000 cr

Highlighting that the government welcomed almost 140 life science projects in 10-and-a-half months, which made cumulative investments of Rs 36,000 crore and committed 51,000 direct jobs along with 1,50,000 indirect jobs, IT Minister D Sridhar Babu shared the life sciences sector's achievements from December 2023 - November 2024 at a press conference at HICC Novotel on Thursday. Addressing the media, Sridhar Babu said that the Telangana government .

SBI staff stop digital arrest

Staff at the State Bank of India's Clock Tower Branch in Mahabubnagar on Thursday thwarted a cyber fraud attempt, saving a customer from a potential financial loss. M Anitha, a senior associate at the branch, played a key role in preventing the fraud. At around 11 am, a customer visited the branch and requested a real time gross settlement (RTGS) transfer of Rs 4.20 lakh. However, Anitha noticed that the ...

Exports up 17.25% in Oct, highest in 2 yrs

India's merchandise exports in October rose by an impressive 17.25 per cent, highest in over two years, to \$39.2 billion, while the trade deficit widened to \$27.14 billion. According to the government data released on Thursday, imports increased by 3.9 per cent to \$66.34 billion in October compared to \$63.86 billion in the year-ago period. The trade deficit (gap between imports and exports) narrowed as compared to \$30.42.

India thrash Thailand in women's hockey

Young striker Deepika slammed five goals as defending champions India thrashed minnows Thailand 13-0 to virtually assure a semifinal berth at the women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament here on Thursday. It was a completely one-sided match as the Indians found the net at will, with Thailand failing to take a single shot at the opposition goal. Deepika (3rd, 19th, 43rd 45th, 45th minutes) found the net five times, while Preeti Dubey (9th, 40th), Lalremsiami ...

Congress will force Centre for caste count in natl census: CM

'Caste survey a mega health check up for society'



Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy greeting children at a public meeting held on the occasion of Children's Day celebrations at LB Stadium in Hyderabad on Thursday

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Thursday said Congress would force the Centre to include caste count in the national census next year to pave the way for providing 'political, education and employment reservations" by breaching the 50 per cent cap on quotas.

Speaking at the Children's Day celebrations organised here, he said the state government's ongoing caste survey should be made successful to realise its objectives, including increasing reservations and allocation of resources pro-

portionate to population. Some are spreading false information that the government benefits would be stopped if the details are furnished as part of the survey but the exercise would only increase the benefits to

Describing the caste survey as a "mega health check up for the society", he said the government intends to provide welfare schemes to all after collecting relevant details from the peo-

Highlighting the gov-ernment's initiatives in education sector, Reddy asserted that those who supply inferior quality items to government residential schools would be sent to jail.

He said the government has increased the allocation of funds for providing food and other basic needs to the students of the residential schools. The Telangana government's "historic" comprehensive socio-economic, employment, political and caste survey, an election promise of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, got underway on

Congress, BRS in war of words over attack on officials

PNS HYDERABAD

The ruling Congress and opposition BRS in Telangana were on Thursday engaged in was proven in the a war of words over attack on the officials. the recent attack on officials in Vikarabad during a public hear-

BRS working president K T Rama Rao alleged that the police department is working like a private army of the Chief Minister to hide his failure in maintaining law and order in his own assembly constituency of Kodangal. The CM proposed

much against the attack on district wishes of the farmers, authorities wishes of the local recent public hearing people there for the on land acquisition, benefit of the pharma revealed that the incicompany and his sonbound to protest," he told PTI videos.

Meanwhile, state Congress president B

COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY

'30 % complete'

said action should be taken against anyone, including Rama Rao, if their involvement

"If KTR's involvement is there (in Vikarabad ing for land acquisi- incident)...if it gets proved in the investigation, then I feel the government should go ahead with the action.... if anyone is guilty, then he should be punished," Goud

The state police on Wednesday alleged that former BRS MLA Patnam Narender Reddy, arrested in "a pharma village connection with the much against the Vikarabad during a dent was planned in-law and people are under the directions of the party's working president K T Rama

Rao, and others.



'Cong govt taking over lands for real estate business

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Declaring that the Congress government is seizing lands to do real estate business, the BJP's Malkajgiri MP, Eatala Rajender, said that farmers who gave up their lands for the GMR Airport are now leading horrible lives working as toilet cleaners and daily wage labourers.

Speaking to the media on Thursday, Eatala said that some brokers and middlemen are threatening Kodangal farmers who have assigned

'The government tried to take over forcibly the lands of farmers who have title deeds. The government is trying to take over lands costing Rs 40 lakh an acre for Rs 10 lakh per care. However, the farmers staged a dharna and made it clear that they will not leave their villages come what may,"

Eatala said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy arrogantly sent the Collector for the public hearing but the people protested.

The Collector himself said that nobody had attacked him, but still the government sent 1,500 policemen to four villages and arrested people.

Delay in Guv's nod for probe doesn't mean BJP & BRS are one

Kishan asks TG govt to probe 'corruption' in Amrut Scheme

PNS HYDERABAD

The delay in the Governor deciding on the request by the TG government to probe BRS Working President KT Rama Rao doesn't mean that the BJP and the BRS are one, Telangana BJP President G. Kishan Reddy said.

He said the TG government should come forward to probe the corruption that took place in the Amrut

Speaking to the media on Thursday in New Delhi, Kishan said the



Governor cannot take a decision without consulting legal experts and that the Governor will decide after legal experts give their opinion.

Kishan said that some people are spreading the lie that the BJP and the decision by the Governor regarding granting permission to the state government to probe KTR.

It is the BJP which has demanded an inquiry into the Kaleshwaram scam and Revanth Reddy has never demanded that, he said. The BRS and the Congress are playing politics to protect their selfish interests ignoring the development of the state, he said

Transport Minister Ponnam reviewing the survey at the Roshan Bagh Colony Apartments in Hyderabad on Thursday PNS HYDERABAD

The comprehensive household survey is 30 per cent complete, said Minister Ponnam Prabhakar after reviewing the survey with GHMC Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi.

Telangana's comprehensive house-to-house family survey has become a 'model' for the nation, said Ponnam, the Minister for Transport and BC Welfare and in-

charge of Hyderabad.

Ponnam reviewed the survey at the Roshan Bagh Colony Apartments and Nazar Mithali Nagar in NBT Nagar in Banjara Hills on Thursday along with GHMC Mayor Vijayalakshmi, Additional Commissioner Sneha Sabarish and Hyderabad Collector Anudeep Durishetty.

Continued on Page 2

Patnam disowns 'confessional statement'

NAVEENA GHANATE

naveena.ghanate@gmail.com

HYDERABAD

The former Kodangal BRS MLA, Patnam Narendra Reddy, the No: 1 accused in the Lagacherla case, has strongly refuted the allegations

He said that his arrest and the charges filed against him were politically motivated and marred by procedural improprieties.

Patnam wrote to the Magistrate that the police did not ask him anything. The confession report is false. The police wrote their own script just to drag KTR into the case. He said that only after his Advocate received a copy of the remand report did he know about the lies written by the police in the remand report.

In a statement submitted to the Judicial Magistrate of Kodangal, Vikarabad, Patnam gave a detailed account of his detention, challenging the narrative presented by the police and claiming that he was targeted due to his political affili-

"I heard from my wife on



Thursday that the police had created a fake story of some confessional statement allegedly given by me, saying that my alleged involve-ment in the above case was as per the directions of my party leader KTR and others. I deny the above allegation as false and concocted and made up by the police. I have not given any confession to the police at any point of time and I have not said anything as alleged in the police's remand report. I deny the allegations levelled by the police in their remand report in toto, as it was made at the behest of our political adversaries.

CM REVIEWS 'PRAJA PALANA VIJAYOTSAVAM'

Now in his new role in Trump 2.0, Miller is expected to

policies, including limits on H-1B visas. He argues that

continue his advocacy for restrictive immigration

the H-1B program can lead to American worker

displacement and wage suppression

Indira Mahila Shakti Bhavans across TG

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy conducted a review meeting with officials to finalise plans for the 'Praja upcoming Palana Vijayotsavam,' a celebration marking the government's achievements over the past year. Officials outlined the events scheduled until December 9, aiming to spread awareness of the government's welfare and development initiatives widely among the

As part of the Vijayotsavam, the

Chief Minister advised that welfare and empowerment initiatives, particularly those focused on women, farmers and youth, that should be highlighted through various programmes. He emphasised the importance of public engagement in reflecting on the government's progress, with open gatherings planned in Warangal, Karimnagar and erstwhile Mahabubnagar districts.

On November 19, the Chief Minister is set to inaugurate Indira Mahila Shakti Bhavans across 22 districts from Warangal, reinforcing the

government's commitment to women's empowerment. The main Vijayotsavam events are scheduled for December 7, 8 and 9 at Hyderabad's Tank Bund, Secretariat and Necklace Road, featuring cultural activities organised by constituencies across Telangana.

A major highlight of the Vijayotsavam will be the unveiling of the Telangana Talli statue in the Secretariat complex on December 9, with women from across the State invited to attend.

Continued on Page 2

Trump selects Miller; tough time for H-1B visa seekers

PNS WASHINGTON DC

US President-elect Donald Trump has appointed as White House Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy immigration hardliner and close aide, Stephen Miller, who believes "America is for Americans and Americans only" and who promised to "restore America to the true Americans".

Confirming Miller's appointment, Vice President-elect JD Vance on Monday, congratulated the incoming Deputy Chief of Staff for policy on X, calling him "another fantastic pick by the President.'



adviser and director of speechwriting at the White House. He Miller was part of the was also a central figure behind President-elect's first administra- several of Trump's policies on tion and served as his senior immigration, including the oric, Miller was a frequent pres- America to the true Americans".

Muslim travel ban and the 2018 family separation policy. Miller's stance on H-1B visas

Known for his extremist rhet- only" and promised to "restore sion.

ence during the President-elect's

Last year, during an interview 2024 campaign, often seen speak- with the New York Times, Miller ing at Trump's rallies. Addressing asserted that if Trump was re-Trump's infamous Madison elected, his administration would Square Garden rally in New bring policies to restrict legal and York, which saw an attendance of illegal immigration. He also nearly 19,500 Americans, Miller talked about plans to detain told the crowd that "America is undocumented immigrants in for Americans and Americans camps while they await expul-Continued on Page 2

DEROGATORY POSTS

War of words between BRS & Cong replete with 'raa'

venkat.k.warlu@gmail.com HYDERABAD

The word 'Raa' came between the Internet posts of the BRS and the Congress on Thursday, that is, on Children's Day (November

14). BRS Working President KT Rama Rao launched this 'Raa' Telugu word war by asking 'Evanidhiraa Kutra? Endi Aa Kutra?'(Whose conspiracy it is? What is the conspiracy?) while posting regarding this on his X

Responding to KTR's 'Raa' word war, Bhongir Congress MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy re-posted saying, 'Needhi Raa Kutra...Nee

Kutra...Tharatharalaku Saripoye Bhumini Oka Dashabdhamlone Dochina needhi Raa Kutra... Nee Kutumbanidhi Raa Kutra' (Yours is a conspiracy... Your father's conspiracy to rob land enough for generations within a decade... Yours is a conspiracy... Your family is a

conspiracy).

KTR replied saying, "Who is the conspirator? What is the conspiracy? Isn't it a conspiracy to want to give away their lands for the sin of voting for you? For your son-in-law or for your brother-in-law...isn't it a conspiracy to kick mud into the farmer's mouth? Is it not a

Cong govt taking..

The government stopped Internet

services in that area and are harass-

ing the people who voted them to

block local BJP MP DK Aruna from

visiting the victims, and added

that the same government allowed

the CM's brother and his 50-car

convoy and 300 others who threat-

ened the people. He said that government officials are behaving as if they are the slaves of the CM.

Delay in Guv's nod...

"The Congress government is

diverting public attention. The state

government should probe the cor-

ruption in the Amrut Scheme. It is

the BJP which approached the

court regarding the phone tapping

case. Telangana will suffer injustice

due to the policies of the Congress

and the BRS. The CM is trying to

escape the consequences of his failures. The BJP doesn't need the

certificates of KCR and KTR or

Indira Mahila Shakti...

The CM encouraged officials to effective-

ly communicate the government's achieve-

ments by organising events and presen-

tations, both departmentally and across

various sectors, showcasing progress in the

Nov 15 06:19 AM

Nov 16 02:58 AM

Nov 15 12:33 AM

to Nov 15 09:55 PM Nov 15 09:55 PM

to Nov 16 07:28 PM

10:36 AM to 12:00 PM

2:48 PM to 4:12 PM

7:48 AM to 9:12 AM

08:41 AM to 10:07 AM

05:38 PM to 07:04 PM

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:38 AM to 12:23 PM

Updated: November 14, 2024 5:00 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Partly Cloudy

to Nov 16 02:58 AM

to Nov 16 11:50 PM

their advice," Kishan said.

Continued from page 1

1st year of the administration.

TODAY

ALMANAC Month & Paksham

Tithi: Purnima:

Krishna Paksha

Nakshatram:

Krithika:

Rahukalam

Varjyam:

Gulika:

Yamagandam

Amritakalam:

Temp: 31°°

Humidity: 67%

Sunrise: 6:21 AM

Sunset: 5:40 PM

Continued from page 1

He said the government tried to

Continued from page 1

lives to the road for the last nine months? Whose conspiracy is it to separate the father from the son, the child from the mother and the wife from the husband with your private army? Whose conspiracy threatened the poor Lambada farmers and abused them? Conspiracy for whom? Whose conspiracy tortured Whose conspiracy tortured farmers, who hit back? How does the farmer's plight look like a conspiracy to thieves found with Rs 50 lakh bags? I knew that you would arrest me in some cases! I will be proud if I am arrested for the sake of farmers! There is no one who is afraid of your schemes. Arrest me...Revanth Reddy!"

Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy replied saying, "It's your conspiracy... It's your father's conspiracy. Lands enough for generations was robbed within a decade... Yours is a conspiracy... Your family is a conspiracy. Come not for farmhouses...resorts... It is your conspiracy that is hindering our attempts to create employment ...you made Telangana debt-ridden in 10 years... It is your conspiracy to deprive children of employment. Yours is a conspiracy to turn Mallanna Sagar into Tears Sagar. It was your conspiracy that turned Ranga Nayaka Sagar into a

Arrest...arrest...arrest... . That is your real fear!"

Congress, BRS..

Continued from page 1

Narender Reddy, charged

with conspiracy and abet-

ment, has been named

the prime accused in the

case. BRS on Thursday

quoted Narender Reddy

as having said in an affi-

davit that the "confession

report" submitted by

police in his name was

wrong.

going to regain power for another 15 years.

KTR also voiced his support for election reforms to limit Chief Ministers and Prime Ministers to two terms.

PNS HYDERABAD

Expressing confidence in BRS's

future KTR said, "I want this

government to complete its full

term," and added that the

longer Revanth Reddy's poli-

cies inconvenience the public,

the more likely the BRS is

Throughout his press conference, KTR emphasised that he would continue to stand up for Telangana's interests, regardless of the attempts to sideline him.

"They can file cases against me if they want, but I won't back down. We will take this to every commission possible from SC/ST to the Human Rights panel," he declared, reaffirming his commitment to fighting for Telangana's farmers and the state's future.

During the candid interaction with the media at the Telangana Bhavan, KTR expressed his frustration over

'They can file cases against me if they want, but I won't back down. We will take this to every commission possible – from SC/ST to the Human Rights panel," he declared

the Telangana government's approach towards land acquisition in Lagcharla and accused Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of misleading the public about "Our MLA Sabitha Indra

The longer Revanth stays,

the better BRS's future: KTR

Addressing a range of issues from Pharma City to alleged mistreatment of farmers, KTR condemned what he described as the "oppressive and reckless" actions of the administration.

the BRS's stance.

KTR began by highlighting the Laxcharla land acquisition dispute, which he claimed the government had failed to handle sensitively, resorting instead to an "inhumane crackdown' on farmers.

He said that local authorities, including the SP, attacked nearly 50 farmers, and accused the

administration of selectively targeting BRS workers while sparing members of other par-

Reddy met the farmers who had shared their despair over these oppressive actions," he Turning to the Pharma City

Project, KTR said that the initiative was planned meticulously to bring economic growth and employment opportunities to Telangana, following a model observed during his visit to China.

He criticised the Congress Government's decision to rebrand the project as "Pharma Village," calling it a deliberate move to undermine KCR's

legacy.
"We spent eight years planning and securing 14,000 acres for Pharma City with the Centre's approval. Revanth's attempts to scrap it will harm the state economy's future," KTR argued.

He didn't hold back on his criticism of Revanth Reddy's political moves, alleging that the CM was using land in Kodangal for real estate profiteering under the guise of "Pharma Village."

"The people who once created fears about pollution due to Pharma City are now trying to paint it as a noble endeavour," KTR remarked, questioning the sincerity of the new government's intentions.

He also lambasted the recent handling of the Musi Project, claiming the current administration was "all talk and no action," with grand promises of investments but no substantial groundwork.

"They are claiming that the Musi Project will cost around Rs 1,50,000 crore, but planned it for just a fraction of that," he

Lagacharla farmers assured of support

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Bharath Rashtra Samithi leader KT Rama Rao has accused the Revanth Reddy Government of exploiting the grievances of Lagcharla farmers as a pretext to seize lands from the poor, calling it a politically motivated conspir-

Following a recent incident where the police allegedly used third-degree methods on protesting farmers, KTR met with tribal women from the affected families at the Telangana Bhavan.

The women recounted their ordeal, describing how their family members, particularly men, were subjected to inhumane treatment despite having no involvement in the protests.

One of the women, Jyoti, who is pregnant, shared her distress with KTR, narrating how her husband was brutally beaten and taken away despite his lack of involvement in the incident.

"Since the last 10 months, we are being hounded by

threats to seize our lands which are our only source of livelihood," Jyoti tearfully said. She emphasised that they have been left in despair and asked how they can survive without their land.

KTR expressed outrage at the allegations made by Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka and Congress leaders, who accused the BRS of orchestrating the violence.

"Do these tribal women appear as if they would assault others as per someone's command?" he asked, emphasising that the government has failed to explain how the so-called "Pharma Village" would ben-

efit these farmers. Condemning police actions, KTR demanded that both the national and state Human Rights Commissions must take immediate notice and launch an investigation into the police brutality. He assured the tribal families that the BRS would provide full legal support to release those wrongfully detained and pledged medical assistance for Jyoti.

BRS decries Revanth's silence on Vikarabad attack

PNS HYDERABAD

BRS leader Manne Krishank levelled serious allegations against Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, questioning his silence on the Lagacharla incident and the alleged involvement of his relatives in pharmaceutical ventures like Maxbien Pharma.

Krishank said that KTR, unlike Revanth, has consistently presented evidence on contentious matters, including the Swacch Bio and Shodha contracts connected to the Amrut Scam and the Megha-Raghav contracts in Kodangal.

He emphasised that KTR Maxbien Pharma through the owns 20,33,333 shares in SVS

CM's son-in-law, Goluguri Satyanarayana Reddy.

In response, Medicover, reportedly under pressure from the Chief Minister's Office, issued a statement distancing itself from Maxbien Pharma and Dr Annam Sharath. However, Krishank present-

ed shareholding documents showing that Goluguri Satyanarayana Reddy and Dr Annam Sharath hold substantial stakes in Maxbien Pharma, SVS Fertility Management and Sahrudaya Healthcare.

'Maxbien Pharma's shareholder list reveals that Goluguri Satyanarayana Reddy holds 16,92,000 shares, while Dr Annam Sharath has exposed the CM's links to 1,00,800 shares. Dr Sharath

Fertility Management and 5,08,888 shares in Sahrudaya Healthcare," Krishank said.

He pointed to HDFC Bank statements showing transactions between Maxbien Pharma, Dr Annam Sharath and Goluguri Satyanarayana Reddy along with a registered email address linked to Medicover, contradicting Medicover's denial of any links. "Revanth calls this a conspiracy, but the signatures, shareholding records and bank transactions tell a different story. Unlike Revanth, who lies openly, KTR always provides proof," Krishank said and challenged Revanth to continue denying these connections when there is mounting evidence proving them.

> CHILDREN'S **MOCK ASSEMBLY**

> > **CM** advocates

iowering age for MLA

MP elections to 21

Chief Minister A Revanth

Reddy, speaking at the

Children's Mock Assembly,

advocated for lowering the

minimum age requirement

for contesting legislative elec-

tions from 25 to 21, empha-

sising that this change would

encourage greater youth par-

ticipation in politics.

Addressing young students, he

highlighted that empowering

the youth could bring fresh

perspectives and energy into

governance, making politics

more accessible to aspiring young leaders. He said if IAS

and IPS can enter service at 21

and if people are eligible to vote at 18, then politics also

the importance of such initia-

tives in educating students

about parliamentary respon-

sibilities, including the role of

questioning and accountabil-

ity held by opposition members. "Both the Leader of the

House and the Leader of the

Opposition should have equal

opportunities to speak," he

said, underlining the

Speaker's responsibility in

maintaining a balanced and

Reflecting on the contribu-

tions of former leaders,

Revanth Reddy credited

Jawaharlal Nehru for

advancements in education

and agriculture, Sonia

Gandhi and Manmohan

Singh for implementing com-

pulsory education and Rajiv

Gandhi for granting the right

to vote at eighteen.

effective session.

PNS HYDERABAD

villagers oppose land acquisition **Deny attacking Collector**

Lagacharla

PNS HYDERABAD

Families from Lagacharla village voiced their opposition to the Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation's (TGIIC) planned land acquisition for a proposed pharma village. Gathering at the Somajiguda Press Club on Thursday, the villagers disputed claims of violence and shared their concerns over the alleged land-grabbing for the pharma village project.

Vakri Bhai, a resident, said, "We were peacefully protesting and had no intent to harm the Collector. I own three acres and I don't want to give it up whatever the compensation offered by the govern-

A pregnant woman and a widow expressed her fears, stating, "My family has 15 acres in my husband and brother-in-law's names. If anything happens to me in these protests, I'll hold the Telangana did not know the Collector was visiting. We did not assault

anyone or plan any attack." Another villager, Sakiya, recounted her experience, "My husband and I were working on the day of the alleged attack. Later that night, people entered our home, and I was beaten. The police arrested my husband and even detained a

The women emphasised that their land is invaluable to them and questioned the need for the pharma village, pointing out its limited benefit to daily wage farm labourers. "How is this project helpful to us? The government must discuss matters with the villagers first," they said.

'Hunger of KCR, KTR for royal pleasures still unsatisfied'



PNS HYDERABAD

Senior Congress leader T. Minister Chandrasekhar Rao and former Minister KT Rama Rao's hunger for royal comforts have not been satisfied even though they enjoyed them for

He said that BRS leaders hatched conspiracies when they were in power and even after losing power. "The Congress government has no intention to take over the lands of farmers forcibly. However, KTR has been conspiring to blame the Congress Government," he said.

Addressing the media at the Gandhi Bhavan on Thursday, Jagga asked BRS leaders to reveal whether they had conducted public hearings

before taking over lands for pharma companies during their rule. He said that BRS farmers. The same BRS leaders are making farmers attack

officials, Jagga said. He recalled that the BRS government had taken over lands and had assaulted protesting farmers for the Mallanna Sagar project. He said that BRS leaders are unable to digest the development projects executed by the Congress Government and that the admin is fulfilling assurances given to the people.

He said the Congress will hit back if anyone conspires against Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. "We will plan counter strategies against the moves of BRS leaders. We will launch counterattacks if BRS attacks us," Jagga added.

Trump selects Miller; tough time for H-1B... my. As President, Trump did ward, Trump has also

Continued from page 1

During Trump's first admin istration, Miller helped in drafting the Cruz-Sessions bill that prohibited international students with a master's or bachelor's degree from working in H-1B status in the US for at least 10 years.

Now in his new role in Trump 2.0, Miller is expected to continue his advocacy for restrictive immigration policies, including limits on H-1B visas. He argues that the H-1B program can lead to American worker displacement and wage suppression. Trump Administration

and immigration rump administration's stance on immigration has often been at odds with economic consensus, which shows that skilled immigrants and international stu-dents benefit the US econo-

not enact any measures to appointed former acting increase access to H-1B visas, Immigration and Customs and his second term will likely be similar. Policies introduced during his presidency also saw a rise in visa denial rates and a narrowing of the definition of "specialty occupation," reducing the positions eligible for H-1B workers.

In 2020, before Trump left office, his administration published a restrictive H-1B rule, which was blocked by a court for violating the Administrative Procedure Act. As per a report by Forbes, the rule included numerous provisions to prevent companies from employing foreign-born scientists and engineers, such as changing who and what positions could qualify for an H-1B specialty occupation.

Taking his previous

Tom Homan as his administration's "Border Czar." In a post on his Truth Social platform, the President-elect said that Homan would oversee the border security of the US along with maritime and aviation security. He also stated that Homan would oversee

Together, Miller and Homan are anticipated to work closely in implementing the Trump administration's restrictive immigration mea-

before he leaves the Oval Office, a new Trump administration its priorities rather than those

deportation policies.

administration's agenda for-

The Forbes report said that

if President Joe Biden's administration does not finalize the H-1B "modernizing" rule could issue the H-1B rule with of the Biden team.

Patnam disowns statement...

Continued from page 1

30 % complete...

He said that the survey aims to understand the living conditions of Telangana people and bring about a positive change through government plans. He emphasised that this survey will serve as a guide for the

The family survey, which started on November 6 with house identification and was expanded on November 9 as a comprehensive family survey, is 30 per cent complete across Telangana, with over 4,44,000 households surveyed with-

Around 87,000 enumerators are conducting the survey across the state, and public response has been

The Minister clarified that there are no reasons for the public to worry. Tthe information collected will remain confidential, and no government schemes will be cut off

Continued from page 1 said the police did not

Therefore, I request the honourable court to kindly consider the facts stated by me and take it on record and pass appellate orders," Patnam said.

In his statement, Patnam said that his ordeal began early in the morning while he was on his routine walk at the KBR Park in Hyderabad.

He said that at around 7 am, some police officials in civilian clothes approached him and without any explanation took him into custody.

He described the

incident as sudden,

forcible detention and

disclose any reason for his arrest at the time and took him in their vehicle to an undisclosed location. Patnam said that he

was then taken to the Detention and Transfer Centre (DTC), where he remained under cus-However, he said that

throughout the time he spent at the DTC, from approximately 9:30 am to 10 am, he was neither informed of the charges against him nor given an opportunity to provide a statement. The police did not

communicate with me at all, nor did they offer any reason for my detention," he stated.

Harish criticises Cong govt should be open to youngsters. Reddy praised the Children's Mock Assembly over paddy procurement delay for passing progressive bills and engaging with legislative processes. He emphasised PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Former minister and MLA Harish Rao expressed strong criticism against the Congress government during his visit to a paddy procurement centrr in Siddannapet village, Nangunur mandal, Siddipet constituency. Rao accused the government of deceiving farmers, highlighting delays in the opening of procurement centres and payments, which he said have led many farmers to sell their produce to middlemen at a loss.

Rao pointed out that while the minimum support price (MSP) for paddy is Rs 2,300, farmers have been forced to sell at Rs 1,900 due to the government's inefficiency. He also criticised the Congress's failure to deliver on its promise of a Rs 500 bonus, which he labeled as 'bogus.' Since Congress took office, he

not been implemented and farmers are yet to receive promised support.

Referring to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's priorities, Rao condemned the administration for focusing on liquor sales rather than agricultural issues. He accused the CM of transferring officials for failing to meet liquor sales targets, yet taking no action when paddy procure-ment stalled. "Revanth Reddy seems more interested in creating a Telangana of drinkers, rather than addressing farmers' needs," Rao alleged, criticising the government's indifference to

the plight of farmers. Rao demanded immediate relief for farmers, calling on the Congress government to fulfill its election promises, including the provision of Rythu Bandhu

claimed, the Rythu Bandhu scheme for the Kharif season has before the Rabi season and a complete waiver of loans withcomplete waiver of loans without any conditions. "Farmers are struggling, taking loans and mortgaging their assets to repay banks, yet 11 months have passed without loan waivers," he

> Highlighting the progress under the previous BRS government, Rao noted that before the formation of Telangana, Siddipet produced only 50,000 metric tonnes of paddy, whereas in the past decade, with the support of Kaleshwaram water, 24-hour power supply, and new market facilities, farmers have increased production to 5 lakh metric tonnes. He argued that under KCR's leadership, land value in Siddipet has soared from Rs 5 lakh per acre to Rs 50 lakh per acre, attributing this to the investments and development initiated by BRS.

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisem of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

Printed and published by B Krishna Prasad for and on behalf of CMYK Printech Ltd., Phone: 040-23322341, Hyderabad Office: F-502, Diamond Block, Lumbini Rockdale, Somajiguda, Hyderabad - 500 082. Telangana. Printed at Sree Seshasai Enterprises, Plot No.19, IDA Balanagar, Hyderbad-500037, Medchal -Malkajgiri District, Telangana. Editor-in-Chief: Shobori Ganguli. Resident Editor: B Krishna Prasad, AIR SURCHARGE of Rs 2.00.

CITY EVENTS

Kalakuteer Society Of Performing & Fine

Venue

Ravindra Bharathi, Near State Assembly, Lakdikapul Road, Saifabad November 15, 6 pm to 10 pm

Live Performance By Apricus (Band)

36 Downtown Brew Pub (Vapour) (9 km) 753, Rd Number 36, CBI Colony, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad

Dil-Luminati Tour 2024 | Diljit Dosanjh

For the first time global music icon Diljit Dosanjh brings his blockbuster Dil-Luminati Tour to Hyderabad

GMR Arena hyderabad, 6FV3+MH7, Airport Approach Road, beside Novotel Hyderabad November 15, 7 pm to 10 pm

Sutraa exhibition

Sutraa Exhibition brings you an exclusive showcase of bridal wear, trendy fashion, lifestyle products, and more

Hotel Taj Krishna, Hyderabad November 15, 16 and 17

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

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

City Pioneer



WORLD DIABETES DAY

Drive to provide

glucometers free of

cost to Type 1 patients

to make glucometers freely

available to Type 1 diabetes

patients State-wide, ensuring

they can regularly monitor

their glucose levels. "With the support of the NHM, we will

soon begin providing glu-cometers throughout

Furthermore, new non-

communicable disease (NCD)

clinics are to be established in

district hospitals, allowing for local diabetes management

without the need for travel to

Hyderabad. Each district will

have dedicated diabetes man-

agement services with trained

specialists, ensuring easy

access to insulin and necessary

Additionally, Telangana's Health and Family Welfare

department is coordinating

with the school education sec-

tor to combat stigma and pro-

mote awareness about Type 1

diabetes, including insulin

use, in a safe, supportive envi-

In a progressive move, the

Telangana government has

also approved free insulin

pumps for eligible Type 1 dia-

betes patients and now it is

available under the Arogyasri

scheme. These pumps costing

nearly Rs two lakh are provid-

ed free of cost to necessary patients and help manage glu-cose levels more effectively.

ating RS Online Service

Centre for over a decade, led

the racket using his staff and

various tools, such as

'Desktop Application Magically or Universal ID

and Printing Tool,' to gener-

ate fake IDs, including voter

ID, Aadhaar and PAN cards,

using pre-printed birth cer-

certificates for changes in

Aadhaar details. He acquired

unauthorised gazetted officer

stamps to falsely validate

documents for address and

identity changes. This facili-

tated fake document-based

approvals for caste certificates

and passport renewals, which

were submitted at various

offices, including MRO

Marredpally.
Md. Mahboob, a contract

worker with Sarva Siksha Abhiyaan, exceeded his

authorised duties by working

with RS Online Services to

make unauthorised Aadhaar

He also created false birth

tificate forms.

Six arrested in fake

certificate racket

ronment for children.

Telangana," Karnan added.

cometers

medications.

DEEPIKA PASHAM

HYDERABAD

deepikapasham2015@gmail.com

The Telangana government's

Health department, in collab-

oration with the National

Health Mission (NHM), is set

to provide free glucometers to

Type 1 diabetes patients across

the State. This initiative was discussed by RV Karnan,

Commissioner of Health and

Family Welfare, at a programme marking World Diabetes Day held by the

Department of Endocrinology at Nizam's Institute of Medical

Sciences (NIMS) on Thursday.

is progressive in addressing

and supporting Type 1 dia-

betes management in chil-

"The endocrinology departments at Gandhi, Osmania and NIMS are actively moni-

toring these patients, with

organisations like Sweet Souls

NĞO playing a crucial role in

raising awareness among par-

He emphasised that manag-

ing Type 1 diabetes is challeng-

ing, as it often results from

genetic factors, unlike Type 2

diabetes, which can be man-

aged or reversed through

lifestyle changes.
The Commissioner

explained that the State plans

PNS HYDERABAD

The Commissioner's Task

Force, North Zone Team,

Hyderabad city, in collabora-

tion with Mahankali Police,

apprehended six individuals

involved in producing fake

certificates, including voter IDs, Aadhaar cards, birth

certificates and other docu-

The accused are Yelgam

Raj Kumar (42) owner of RS

Online Service Center,

Kalasiguda, Secunderabad;

Md. Mahboob (25) private

employee, NTR Nagar, LB

Rachamalla Vijayalaxmi

(39) computer operator at RS

Online Service Centre;

Kurapati Pallavi, (32) com-

puter operator at RS Online Service Centre; Bandi

Shankar (48), passport agent

Giriraj Anil Kumar (27),

computer operator (contract)

at GHMC Secunderabad,

Malkajigiri. Raj Kumar, oper- corrections for profit.

Nagar, Hyderabad;

ents, schools and colleges."

dren," said Karnan.

"The Telangana government

HYDERABAD FRIDAY | NOVEMBER 15, 2024

Central Minister visits IITH

Minister of State for Education and Development of the Northeastern Region, Govt. of India, Dr Sukanta Majumdar, visit-ed IIT Hyderabad (IITH) for a review meet-

ing on Thursday.

During his visit, Dr Majumdar engaged in discussions about IITH's advancements, new inaugurations and ongoing educational initiatives. He toured the department blocks, interacted with faculty and students and visited the Knowledge Resource Centre (Library), the Sophisticated Analytical and Technical Help Institute and the Centre for In-Situ and Correlative Microscopy.

51,000 DIRECT JOBS PROVIDED IN 10-AND-A-HALF MONTHS

140 life science projects invested Rs 36,000 cr, says IT Minister

PNS HYDERABAD

Highlighting that the government welcomed almost 140 life science projects in 10-and-ahalf months, which made cumulative investments of Rs 36,000 crore and committed 51,000 direct jobs along with 1,50,000 indirect jobs, IT Minister D Sridhar Babu shared the life sciences sector's achievements from December 2023 - November 2024 at a press conference at HICC Novotel on Thursday.

Addressing the media, Sridhar Babu said that the Telangana government takes prominence in only two things which are, welfare and development. He mentioned that Telangana has become a focal point for global investments in life sciences.

Sridhar Babu stated that since the Congress administra-tion took office, there has been a surge in investments from international and domestic companies, choosing Telangana as their gateway to India's growing life sciences ecosystem. He emphasised that investments in pharmaceutical manufacturing, R&D centres

elebration of Telan Governme 2023 - N IT Minister D Sridhar Babu shares the Life Sciences sector's achievements from December 2023 - November 2024 at HICC Novotel on Thursday

Sridhar Babu stated that since the Congress administration took office, there has been a surge in investments from international and domestic companies, choosing Telangana as their gateway to India's growing life sciences ecosystem. He emphasised that investments in pharmaceutical manufacturing, R&D centres and innovation hubs have made Telangana a global leader in the life sciences sector

and innovation hubs have made Telangana a global leader in the life sciences sec-

He further noted that the momentum includes both new investments and expansions by established companies, demonstrating their trust in Telangana's business-friendly environment. The Minister pointed to Genome Valley,

India's first and largest organised R&D cluster, as central to the strategy, attracting major industry players and research

organisations. He also noted that big industry leaders have come forward for planning of Genome Valley's third phase. Sridhar Babu also mentioned significant investments in Genome Valley, including Rs

2,000 crore from KrKA and Laurus Labs for pharmaceutical manufacturing and Rs 250 crore from Laurus for an R&D centre, both creating thousands of jobs.

Other investments include Takeda's partnership with Biological E for dengue vaccine production and the establishment of a bio-manufacturing facility by Thermo Fisher. Additionally, global companies like Amgen, Zoetis and Olympus are setting up major facilities in Hyderabad.

The Minister concluded by announcing a dedicated life sciences policy to streamline processes, attract investments and drive sustainable growth in sector, solidifying Telangana's position in the global life sciences value chain.

Two cops caught in ACB bribery trap

PNS HYDERABAD

In a significant crackdown by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), a Sub-Inspector (SI) and a Police Constable from Lingampet police station, Kamareddy district, were caught red-handed accepting a bribe on November 14. The incident involved SI Pabba Arun (accused officer 1) and police constable Thota Rama Swamy (station writer, accused who allegedly demanded a bribe of Rs 10,000 to issue a notice in a pending criminal

The ACB officials revealed that the bribe amount was accepted by Thota Rama Swamy at around 1:40 pm on behalf of Pabba Arun. The amount was recovered from Swamy's possession, and a chemical test confirmed traces of the bribe on his right hand, further establishing his involvement. The ACB reported that both officers acted



improperly and dishonestly, using their positions to gain undue advantage.

Following the sting operacers under arrest and produced them before the II Additional Special Judge for SPE & ACB cases in Hyderabad's Nampally court. Due to security concerns, the identity of the complainant is being kept confidential, and the case remains under inves-

The ACB has urged the public to report any instances of bribery through their tollfree helpline, 1064, to help curb corruption within government departments.

IT Minister attends 'IndiaJoy' digital fest

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Highlighting Telangana's commitment to integrating cut-ting-edge technology like AI into various sectors, including governance and education to improve service delivery and boost innovation in the State, IT Minister D Sridhar Babu attended the IndiaJov event, a prominent annual digital entertainment festival held at HICC Novotel on Thursday

This event brings together professionals from the gaming, animation and digital media sectors. During his visit, the Minister also highlighted his focus on ethical AI use, cybersecurity and building a techdriven, inclusive growth environment across Telangana. IndiaJoy, supported by the Telangana government, serves as a platform for tech enthusiasts and industry leaders, showcasing the State's increasing efforts to become a hub for digital media and technology.

WhatsApp scam leads to Rs 1.18 lakh fraud; Full amount recovered Flipkart. After filing an

PNS HYDERABAD

In a recent incident highlighting the dangers of WhatsApp scams, a Hyderabad resident lost Rs 1,18,196 after falling victim to a fraudulent call offering to increase their credit card limit. The victim received the call from the number asked for sensitive credit card details and sent an APK file via WhatsApp, instruct-

ing the victim to install it. Upon following these instructions, the victim's Axis credit card was debited for a large amount without authorisation. The victim promptly sought help from the Cyber Crime Unit in Hyderabad. The NCRP team took swift action, removing malware from the victim's device and tracking the transaction to purchases on

online complaint on November 13, notices were immediately issued to block the fraudulent funds, resulting in the full refund of the amount to the victim's credit card without the need for court intervention.

The Cyber Crime Unit has issued an advisory urging citizens to avoid insta files received through WhatsApp, as they may contain malware. People are advised to disregard messages or calls requesting KYC verification or card information, as banks and financial institutions never request such sensitive details. Immediate reporting of any cyber fraud can significantly increase the likelihood of recovering funds. Victims can report fraud by calling 1930 or visiting http://cybercrime.gov.in.

Hyd to celebrate Audit Week with cultural events

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) of India, one of the country's oldest institutions tracing its origins back to 1858, is set to celebrate Audit Week in Hyderabad from November 18 to November 22 at the AG Offices complex, Saifabad. This annual event is organised to mark 'Audit Diwas,' which is observed on November 16 to honour the establishment of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) and its significant role in public

accountability and governance. Audit Diwas 2024 marks the fourth celebration of this event since its inception. The tradition of Audit Diwas traces back to November 16, 1860, when



This annual event is organised to mark 'Audit Diwas,' which is observed on November 16 to honour the establishment of the **Comptroller and Auditor** General of India (CAG) and its significant role in public accountability and governance

assumed office following the merger of accounting departments from Bengal, Madras and Bombay Presidencies, as per the Government of India Act, 1858. This year's celebration aims to raise awareness about CAG's contributions to promoting good governance and transparency.

In Hyderabad, the weeklong celebration will feature a range of activities, including panel discussions, workshops, display stalls and cultural events such as quiz competitions and food courts. The initiative seeks to engage stakeholders and the general public, showcasing CAG's role in enhancing government accountability and efficiency



the 555th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak, the first Sikh guru and founder of Sikhism, will be observed on a grand scale at the Nampally Exhibition Grounds on Friday.

To mark this important occasion, the Prabhandak Committees of Gurudwara Saheb, Secunderabad and Gurudwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Ashok Bazar, Afzalgunj, will organise a 'Vishaal Deewan' (mass congregation) at the Exhibition Grounds on Friday from 11 am to 4 pm. Sikh devotees and people from other communities will gather for the event.

The event will feature Gurbani Keertans (holy hymns) performed by reputed Ragi Jathas (religious preachers) invited from across İndia. Bhai Lakhwinder Singh (Darbar Sahib, Golden Temple Amritsar), Bhai Amarjeet Singh of Patiala, and other prominent Ragi Jathas will recite Shabad Keertans and Kathas, highlighting the teachings of Guru Nanak, who stood for peace, equality and humanity



CM Revanth Reddy unveils poster for FIFA friendly match

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy unveiled the official poster for the upcoming FIFA-friendly football match between India and Malaysia, scheduled to take place on the 18th of this month at Gachibowli Stadium, under the aegis of the Sports Authority of Telangana.

The poster unveiling event was

attended by Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, Ministers Sridhar Babu and Ponnam Prabhakar, government advisors K Keshava Rao, Vem Narender Reddy, Srinivas Raju, Chairman of the Sports Authority of Telangana, Sivasena Reddy, TPCC president and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud, Madhu Yaskhi Goud, and other senior officials

Transgender community to be involved in traffic control

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has directed officials to engage members of the transgender community in managing traffic issues and conducting drunk-driving checks in the city.

This initiative aims to bring a unique approach to traffic regulation and to address the challenges in high-density areas.

As per the Chief Minister's instructions, the first phase will focus on deploying transgender individuals in traffic-heavy zones to support the enforcement of road rules.

In a move inspired by the role of home guards, transgender persons will be utilised to curb incidents of signal jumping and traffic violations. Additionally, their involvement in drunk-driving checks is expected to reduce the number of intoxicated drivers on the roads.

The Chief Minister emphasised the need to establish a structured compensation model similar to that of home guards, including salaries and benefits, for transgender participants. He also instructed officials to develop a distinct dress code for them to facilitate easy identifica-

The Chief Minister has urged for the quick implementation of this pilot project, aiming for an effective and timely solution to traffic and drunk-driving concerns in the city.

the pioneer

HYDERABAD | FRIDAY | NOVEMBER 15, 2024

Staff at the State Bank of India's Clock Tower Branch in Mahabubnagar on Thursday thwarted a cyber fraud attempt, saving a customer from a

SBI staff rescues customer

from digital arrest

Govt determined to bring reforms

potential financial loss. M Anitha, a senior associate at the branch, played a key role in preventing the

PNS MAHABUBNAGAR

At around 11 am, a customer visited the branch and requested a real time

Rs 4.20 lakh. However, Anitha noticed that the customer seemed unusually distressed and struggled to explain the purpose of the transaction.

Sensing that something was amiss, she immediately took the customer to the Branch Chief Manager Shushma Indla, who calmly asked the customer to relax and explain the situation. The customer was unable to speak clearly but pointed to his mobile phone in his shirt pocket.

Upon further questioning, it became clear that the customer was the victim of a "digital arrest" scam,

where fraudsters had coerced him into attempting the transfer through a WhatsApp video call. The Chief Manager quickly asked the customer to provide KYC documents and put a hold on his account to prevent the

transaction. Recognising the seriousness of the situation, the Branch Manager promptly alerted local police authorities. Within 10 minutes, offi-

cers from One Town Police

Station arrived at the branch gross settlement (RTGS) transfer of and conducted a preliminary investigation. The customer was then escorted to the Cyber Cell Office, where police spoke to the fraudster over the phone and filed a complaint. The customer finally understood that he had been targeted in a cyber scam and thanked the bank staff for their swift intervention.

The bank advises individuals to immediately report suspicious transactions by calling 1930 or by lodging complaints on the official government portal at www.cybercrime.gov.in. SBI AGM G Ramakrishna issued the statement

Centre urged to establish National **Turmeric Board in Nizamabad** Bhadradri Kothagudem to support farmers with technical

PNS HYDERABAD

Minister AgricultureTummala Nageshwar Rao officially requested the Central government to establish the National Turmeric Board in Nizamabad. In his letter on November 13, Rao emphasised that the establishment of the board in Nizamabad would fulfil a long-standing aspiration of turmeric farmers in the State, noting the government's ongoing efforts to advocate for the welfare of these farmers by actively pursuing discussions with relevant central departments.

The Minister highlighted Nizamabad as the principal turmeric-producing district in Telangana, where farmers have, for over a decade, persistently



The Minister emphasised that such a board would greatly benefit farmers by promoting turmeric cultivation, increasing export opportunities, and supporting the production of value-added

appealed to the Central Government for a minimum support price and the creation of a National Turmeric Board. He emphasised that such a board

increasing export opportunities, and supporting the production of value-added turmeric products. In addition to turmeric, Rao shed light on the significant

Kothagudem and Khammam districts, which account for 75 per cent of the state's coconut cultivation over 3,300 acres. He expressed the need for a dedicat-Regional Coconut Development Board in

seedlings.

plans to expand by 40,000 hectares each year. Rao stated that Telangana aims to lead the nation in palm oil production. He advocated for the establishment of a regional oil palm research centre in the state to provide scientific guidance to farmers, noting that the Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research currently offers support across the country, but a dedicated centre in Telangana would great-

ly benefit local farmers.

advice, pest management, and production of quality coconut

He also highlighted

Telangana's progress in palm oil cultivation, with 91,200 hectares

currently under cultivation and

in education sector: MLA PNS RANGAREDDY Shadnagar MLA and Chairman of State

Public Sector Undertakings Veerlapalli Shankar emphasised the importance of nurturing today's children as they are the future of the nation and citizens of tomorrow. This sentiment was expressed during the Children's Day celebrations at the MLA camp office in Shadnagar. The event was held in honour of India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, who had a deep affection for children.

Simultaneously, Jawaharlal Nehru birth anniversary was celebrated at Lakshmi Narasimha Colony, led by local leader Injamuri Gopal. The event witnessed the participation of local MLA Shankar as the chief guest, alongside several prominent local leaders. The programme began with paying tributes to Nehru by offering floral tributes at the statue. Shankar presented rose flowers to the children and distributed books, pens, and sweets as a gesture of good-

In his address, Shankar highlighted Nehru's significant contributions as a freedom fighter and the first Prime Minister of India, noting that his ded-



Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar organising Children's Day celebrations in Shadnagar on Thursday

ication to the nation remained unforgettable. He conveyed his best wishes to children across the state on the occasion of National Children's Day. Shankar underscored the commitment of the state government to education reforms, aimed at shaping a bright future for the youth. He mentioned initiatives like the formation of an education commission, as well as teacher transfers, promotions, and new appointments as part of efforts

would greatly benefit farmers by promoting turmeric cultivation, particularly in Bhadradri Woman and son murdered

in Sangareddy dist PNS PATANCHERU

In a horrific incident, a woman and her son were brutally murdered at Bonthapally village under Gummadidala mandal in Patancheru con-

stituency on Thursday.
The deceased were identified as Saroja (50) and Anil

According to the Jinnaram Circle Inspector Sudheer

was a result of a long-standing feud between the two families. The suspect, who was identified as Nagaraju, had been holding a grudge against the mother and son, whom he blamed for the death of his

On Thursday morning, Nagaraju attacked the mother and son with a knife when they Kumar, Sub- Inspector were leaving their house. The

two-year-old son two years

Maheswar Reddy, the murder incident occurred in full public view and both victims died

turmeric products

Locals immediately responded and caught hold of Nagaraju, handing him over to the police. The police have registered a case and are investigating the matter.

The incident has sent shockwaves in the region, with many expressing concern over the growing incidents of violence and revenge killings.

Man kills wife, ends life

PNS RAJANNA SIRCILLA

In a shocking incident, a farmer committed suicide after allegedly killing his wife here on Thursday.

According to police, the 40-year-old Mudam Venkatesham, took his 35-year-old wife Vasantha

to his paddy fields and brutally killed her and then committed suicide.

The local people reported the incident to people. It was first suspected that the couple could have committed suicide. But it was later realised that the man killed his wife and then committed suicide, the local people said.

soon met oben med the order owner the major in the partie organ, and major me major of the partie organ, and major me major of the partie of the last facilities and major of the organization of the last facilities and the parties of the last facilities of the last facilities of the parties of the last facilities of the last faci

igger with lighterpole and deploying treeign to the first state that Colorings on Spring region, left sign detailed to Deputh street dates show the coloring treet grows

power of the autopolic took assert that to be applied to the applied to the autopolic angular transformation and applied to the autopolic angular transformation and applied to the applie

med 1 felt terperit regulately window styletes, minusing the cold felt terper the land, letty 1988 how tend sequence, but size legger would stylete

Minister exhorts student to excel in studies, sports

PNS ANDOLE

At the Gurukul School and Girls Junior College in Andole, the 10th zonal-level games ution function was held. Minister for Health Damodar Raja Narsimha took part in the celebrations.

The Minister presented awards to students who excelled in the sports event. Speaking on the occasion,

the Minister said, "Children and students are the future architects of our nation. Wish everyone a happy Children's Day. Girls are no less than a boys. Girls should not be subjected to insecurity. They should move forward confidently in all fields. Freedom is our birthright. Everyone should live freely and independently.

"My congratulations to all the students who participated in the games and sports. Best wishes to students who won in the sports. Wins and losses are natural in sports as well as in They develop competitiveness, the ability to withstand



Minister for Health Damodar Raja Naraimsha congratulating a student who excelled in zonal-level sports meet in Medak district

life. Take them supportively and move forward. You must gather strength to play again and focus on practice," he told the students.

Both education and culture, along with sports, are equally important. Every student should play the games they like. Students who participate in sports become strong physically and mentally.

pressure, and leadership qualities. These are essential in today's lifestyle and would help a lot in achieving success in life.

Girls should not only excel in studies and sports but also have awareness about social, cultural, political, economic, and contemporary issues. He assured the students that a library would be established in the school to enable them to read books they liked.

Maoists describe Cong govt as 'bulldozer raj'

PNS WARANGAL

outlawed Communist Party of India-Maoists on Thursday described ment in State as a 'bulldozer raj.'

In a statement on the occasion of the Congress completing one year of governance, the Maoist party spokesperson, Jagan, said that the government trampled upon the rights of the people. The government led by A Revanth Reddy, it said, has been working for the benefit of

the corporate. He further accused the government of handing over the State to corporates by implementing business-friendly policies under the guise of development. It was inviting investments from corporate companies. Special departments were being created and given sweeping powers, he added.

The Maoists also criticized the government's plans to develop the Musi River as a tourist hub, stating that it involved inviting domestic and international corporate investment worth

Bankers told to achieve annual credit targets

PNS KUMRAM BHEEM

District Collector Venkatesh Dhotre said that bankers the annual targets for the financial year 2024-25.

On Thursday, he chaired a review meeting with bank officials at the Integrated District Collectorate Building here. The meeting was attended by State Bank of India Regional Coordinator Karthikeyan, SLBC convenor Srihari and other officials.

During the meeting, the Collector urged the bankers to work in coordination with the officials to achieve the assigned loan targets for this financial year. He also directed bankers and SERP (Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty) officials to ensure that 100 per centof Self-Help Group (SHG) bank linkages are completed.

The Collector called for proactive measures to ensure that eligible beneficiaries are provided employment through



District Collector Venkatesh Dhotre addressing the bankers' meeting in Asifabad on Thursday

loan disbursements under government schemes such as PM Swanidhi, PM Employment Generation, MUDRA, and Startup India. He also stressed the need to expedite the release of subsidy funds for loans granted through the Scheduled Caste Welfare Corporation and Tribal Welfare Welfare and Corporations. Additionally, he urged authorities to encourage and support workers in the unorganised sectors to gain

employment and improve their

financial conditions.

India, Telangana Grameena Bank, Lead District Manager Rajeshwar Joshi, District Rural Development Dattaram, Additional Rural Development Ramakrishna, District Tribal Development Officer Ramadevi, Scheduled Caste Development Sajeewan, bank managers, SERP and MEPMA officials, and District Development Managers.

he meeting was attended by

officials from State Bank of

FOOD POISONING INCIDENT

Axe falls on Ashram School headmaster

PNS KUMRAM BHEEM ASI-

The headmaster of at Ashram school in Wankidi, Srinivas, was placed under suspension following the hospitalisation of 64 students due to food poisoning symptoms after eating dinner. The suspension order was issued on Thursday by Khushboo Gupta, the Integrated Tribal Development Officer (ITDA) for the Utnoor project area.

The suspension followed an investigation into the incident, where a committee found that poor food safety practices contributed to the students' illnesses. On October 30, approximately 50 students took ill after eating dinner at the school's hostel, suffering from vomiting and diarrhoea.

Another 15 students were hospitalised the following day. While 63 of the affected stu-

dents had been discharged after treatment, a Class 9 student, Shailaja, remains in critical condition and is being treated at NIMS in Hyderabad. In addition to the suspen-

sion, action was taken against several other staff members. On Tuesday, Srinivas was transferred to a school in Kaghaznagar. An ANM Sevantha, cook Harikishan, and workers Kamala and Pentaiah were also reassigned to different schools in the dis-

The suspension and transfers come after a probe into the food handling and hygiene standards at the school, which led to the students' mass ill-

NTPC Raising Day celebrations begin in Ramagundam

PNS PEDDAPALLI

The NTPC Ramagundam Celebrates 47th Raising Day and Marks Milestones of Excellence in Energy, Sustainability, and Community

În Ramagundam On thursday celebrated its 47th Raising Day in grand fashion, marking a significant year in the station's illustrious history.

The 40 years of Unit-1 operational excellence and NTPC's 50 years of pioneering leadership in the Indian power sector was highlighted.

This will be three days celebrations from November 14 to 16 which will include laser show, drone show and grand cultural events.

The Raising Day celebrations started with morning walk from PTS NTPC in the leadership of Kedar Ranjan Pandu, RED (South) and ED



Regional Executive Dirctor (South) cutting a case on the occasion of Raising Day celebration in Ramagundaam on Thursday

(R&T) followed by Flag Babar Salim Pasha, Central Hoisting, and cake cutting ceremony at Ramagundam.

NBC Members, senior mem-The event saw senior leadunions & all employees. ers, including all GMs, HOHR,

bers of DMS, representatives of World Quality Pledge was also observed virtually in the leadership of KS Sundaram, Director (Projects) by all the

Recent addition of Telangana Plant (2x800 MW), dedicated by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in March 2024. Further expansion is already in progress, with Phase 2 (3x800 MW) set to begin shortly.

With a growing footprint in renewable energy, NTPC Ramagundam now boasts India's largest 100 MW Floating Solar Project.

NTPC Ramagundam, part of NTPC Ltd., is a key power generation facility located in Telangana, India. With over four decades of operational excellence, it is one of the largest and most efficient power plants in the country, contributing significantly to the energy needs of Southern

SP inspects paddy procurement centres in Nalgonda dist

PNS NALGONDA

District Superintendent of Police Sharath Chandra Pawar has embarked on the task of inspecting paddy procurement centres in the distict. On Wednesday, he visited the Arjal Bavi paddy procurement Centre (IKP Centre) to evaluate the procurement process and ensure that farmers face no issues during the sale of their

During the visit, the SP personally examined the moisture content in the paddy and dis-

cussed the procurement process with the centre's staff. He instructed them to maintain high standards of quality during the procurement procedure and to resolve any issues quickly. He also emphasised that in case of any problems or discrepancies at the procurement centres, the local police authorities should be informed immediately to take swift action. Addressing the media, Sharath Chandra advised farmers not to fall prey to middlemen who often cheat them with false promises.

KHAMMAM BRANCH, 2-2-32&34, PSR ROAD GANDHI CHOWK KHAMMAM

To the legal heirs and others interested in the Estate of the borrower Sri. Dara Upender Ro o'o Veeraswamy Lately residing at Kannaigudem(V), Nelakondapally (M), Khammam Dis Telangana. Please take notice that The Jewel Loan 6987287157 dated 22/02/2021 avails of by the above borrower since deceased is still outstanding with a balance of Rs.83,690 (Rupees Eighty Three Thousand Six Hundred and Ninety only) due as on date.

If the outstanding balance is not repaid with in 7 days and the jewels redeemed after proving the claims to the satisfaction of the Bank the lewels will be sold in public auction without an further notice and the proceeds utilized towards adjustment of the loan amount with intere

Sdi-Branch Hanager, Indian Bank Date: 12/11/2024

HYDERABAD | FRIDAY | NOVEMBER 15, 2024

ACROSS THE STATES



Tribal conclave 'Samvaad' to kick off in Jamshedpur

total of 2,500 delegates representing 168 tribes from across the country will gather here on Friday for the five-day tribal conclave, Samvaad 2024.The annual event, organised by the Tata Steel Foundation (TSF), will kick off with a tribute to the legendary tribal icon, Dharti Aaba Birsa Munda, on the occasion of his birth anniversary. The opening ceremony will feature a symbolic tribute, marked by the beats of 351 nagadas (drums), representing 32 tribal groups.TSF CEO Sourav Roy shared the details of the upcoming event during a press conference, emphasising its importance in fostering understanding and appreciation of tribal culture. "Samvaad serves as a platform for tribal communities to come together, share their traditions, and connect with people from across the country," Roy said. "This year, we've introduced several exciting features, including performances by first-time participants," Roy said. In the evening sessions, tribes such as the Neigi, Hajong, Kokani, and Paraja will showcase their cultural performances for the first time.



Cong candidate promises LPG cylinders even to infiltrators

ICC general secretary and Jharkhand in-charge Ghulam Ahmad Mir on Thursday courted controversy after he Asaid at a poll rally that if the party is voted to power, gas cylinders will be given at Rs 450 to all citizens of the state, whether they are infiltrators or not. In response, the BJP claimed that such a remark is "anti-national" and reflects the Congress' appeasement and polarisation politics. "We have promised that we will provide gas cylinders at Rs 450 from December 1 if our government is formed. This will be for the common masses... whether they are Hindus, Muslims, infiltrators – it will be given to all Jharkhand citizens no other factor will be considered," Mir said addressing a poll rally at Chandrapura in Bermo assembly constituency.



International Airport here for pilgrims traveling to the in a 5,000-square-foot area near the police aid post on the Law Minister P Rajeeve on Thursday. The minister stated that "For many years, a significant number of Sabarimala pilgrims a terminal for Sabarimala pilgrims at the airport. Around 6,000 devotees used the terminal facility during the last pilgrimage is being launched with even better facilities.

Cong gave 'Garibi hatao' slogan but looted poor: PM

PNS MUMBAI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said Congress gave the 'Garibi Hatao' slogan, but looted the poor, adding that the party's mentality was to ensure that the poor did not progress.

"If the poor are benefiting, you feel happy, but the Congress doesn't feel happy over this," Modi said, addressing a rally at Parelling ing a rally at Panvel in Maharashtra for the November 20 state assembly elections.

"The Congress is far ahead when it comes to vote bank politics, but is the enemy of the poor," Modi said. The poor have a big responsibility to stop the Congress, he added.

The Congress has always worked with the agenda of keeping the poor in poverty,

"Generation after generation these people kept giving the false slogan of eradicating



poverty. In the name of eradicating poverty, the Congress looted the poor," he said.

Even after 70 years of Independence, most of the people in the country were struggling to get food, clothing and shelter, Modi said. This situation has changed for the first time in the last 10 years, he added. Modi said his govern-

ment has brought 25 crore people out of poverty.

Modi also spoke of his love for Maharashtra, the land of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

"When the BJP chose me as the PM candidate in 2013, I went to Raigad fort and sought the blessings of Shivaji Maharaj to work for the country," he

"Chhatrapati Maharaj gave us the oath of swaraj (self-rule). We have to carry forward the resolution of suraj (good governance) along with swaraj to build a devel-oped India," he said.

Modi said a Congress leader has promised to provide sub-sidised cooking gas cylinder even to infiltrators if the INDIA bloc comes to power in Jharkhand. "Today, a Congress leader has said in Jharkhand that we will give cheap gas cylinders to Hindus and Muslims as well as infiltrators." Muslims as well as infiltrators. Should such people who praise the infiltrators get any opportunity anywhere?" he said.

"This is an example of the game they are playing with the country and with the bright future of your children to get

Modi asked the crowd at the rally to say 'Ek hai toh safe hai' so that those seeking to divide society lose their sleep.

'Modi would have embraced different policies had he read the Constitution'

PNS NANDED

Nanded (Maha), Nov 14 (PTI) Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi would have pursued different policies if he had read the

Constitution of India.

Speaking at a rally here ahead of the November 20 Maharashtra assembly elections as well as the Nanded Lok Sabha byelection, Gandhi said the Constitution does not teach us to discriminate between the rich and the poor.

"Modi has waived loans of Rs 16 lakh crore of 25 rich people, but not the loans of the poor and farmers," he claimed, adding that this is not what the Constitution teaches you.

Gandhi also touched upon the ongoing strife in Manipur,

and said never in the country's history we have seen a situation where "a state has been burning for more than one year but the prime minister has not visited it." Displaying a red-cover Constitution, he said, "Modi ji says this book is blank. Is it blank? He has not understood the Constitution of India. It is the voice of the country and contains the history and soul of India. You (Modi) have not read it in your life. Otherwise you would not

The BJP was working "discreetly" to finish off the Constitution but it would not say so openly because then the entire country would be up in arms against it, Gandhi said.

have done what you do."

The Constitution protects the rights of the poor people and the Congress is fighting to protect it, he said.

Congress to PM: Why Mumbai made to lose big-ticket projects to Gujarat?

PNS NEW DELHI

The Congress attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday by posing questions to him on Mumbai, asking why is the metropolis "made to lose" big-ticket projects to Gujarat and why is the BJP "sponsoring Adani's Dharavi land grab".

Ahead of Modi's poll engage-ment in Mumbai, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh posed five questions which he said the people are asking the PM. He asked whether the BJP is scared of losing the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) polls.

'The Mahayuti government's repeated delays in holding the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation elections is a blatant attack on democracy and the rights of Mumbai's citizens. The government claims that the delays are Ahead of Modi's poll engagement in Mumbai, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh posed five questions which he said the people are asking the PM.

due to issues like OBC reservations and ward delimitation but the reality is that the BJP was afraid of facing the electorate, fearing a loss that would undermine its image before the elections," Ramesh alleged in his post on X.

With the BMC under an un-elected administrator, the ruling coalition has been using the civic body's funds and resources to benefit its own MLAs and supporters," he alleged. Without elected repre-

sentatives, Mumbai's citizens have also struggled to get their voices heard and grievances addressed by the BMC, Ramesh said.

This is a clear attempt to consolidate power, and a blatant subversion of democratic principles. Why has the BJP betrayed the people of Mumbai? How much longer do the people have to wait to have their voices heard?" he said.

Ramesh further asked why is the BJP "sponsoring Adani's

Dharavi "The Dharavi Redevelopment Project has turned into a BJP-sponsored land grab for the non-biological PM's best friend, the Adani Group. The latest tender, floated by the Mahayuti government in Sentember 2022 was ment in September 2022, was allegedly geared specifically towards the Adani Group, the eventual winner," he alleged.

The structure of the Adaniled Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) established through this tender served to completely alienate Dharavi's seven lakh residents, he said.

The share of the Slum Rehabilitation Authority was reduced to 20 per cent, the ability of residents to negotiate at the planning level was removed and the process of public debate and participation that had emerged from the start of the process was scrapped in its entirety, Ramesh said.

SC stavs HC order for CBI enquiry into alleged irregularities in appointments in Jharkhand Assembly

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday stayed the Jharkhand High Court verdict which directed the CBI to enquire into the alleged irregularities in appointments and promotions made in the state legislative

A bench of Justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan agreed to hear the plea filed by the Jharkhand Vidhan Sabha and others challenging the September 23, 2024 judgement of the high court. The plea, filed through advocate Tulika Mukherjee, said the high court had erred in directing the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to enquire into the issue in the absence of any criminality or cognisable offence, that too in a civil matter which involves complicated and pure questions of law and facts with respect to service jurisprudence and others.

"The high court erred in directing the CBI to investigate as the first investigating agency in absence of any cogent and convincing reason that the state-investigating agency is not fit to investigate into the alleged irregularity or illegality," it

The plea said in the present case, there is no FIR and no cognisable offence which can be made out.

'Edathavalam' at airport to help Sabarimala devotees

n 'edathavalam' (halting point) has been established at the Asabarimala Lord Ayyappa temple by air. The facility, located domestic arrivals side, was inaugurated by State Industries and the government has ensured all necessary facilities to provide a smooth and convenient pilgrimage experience for the devotees. have travelled by air. It was only last year that we first arranged season," Rajeeve said. "This time, the halting point at the airport

BJP's Arjun Singh claims conspiracy to kill him, TMC calls him 'mentally bankrupt'

PNS KOLKATA

Senior BJP leader Arjun Singh on Thursday claimed that conspiracies were being hatched to eliminate him and alleged that these efforts were politically motivated due to his opposition alignment. "I am being maligned, and

there are plans to eliminate me," Singh told reporters after appearing before the CID in connection with alleged irregularities in the awarding of a tender during his tenure as chairman of Bhatpara Municipality in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district in 2020.

The Trinamool Congress dismissed the allegations as baseless with party leaders claiming that Singh had

become "mentally bankrupt."
Singh, who had switched from the BJP to the Trinamool Congress (TMC) after the 2021 assembly elections, only to return to the saffron party



ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, denied any wrongdoing during his time as chairman of Bhatpara municipality.

"I was the first civic body chairman in the state to introduce e-tendering in Bhatpara. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee knows very well there were no illegalities in my tenure," Singh said soon after coming out from the CID headquarters at Bhabani Bhavan. The BJP leader further claimed that there were plots being hatched by the administration

to harm him and Suvendu Adhikari, the Leader of the Opposition. "We are under the protection of central security forces, so they cannot harm us physically in public. However, I have reliable information that I might be slowly poisoned during interrogation," Singh alleged. "I don't know for sure, but I have been warned by some trusted sources," the former MP claimed. He warned that if he died from multi-organ failure in the next six months, the state government would be held responsible. "I will hold the state government accountable if anything happens to me," he said. Singh also said he was fully prepared to cooperate with the CID and would not be intimidated.

"I have nothing to hide. I will face their questioning whenever they summon me. Today, they asked irrelevant questions for over three hours, but I remained calm and gave the same answers," he said

Cong-BJP spar over K'taka CM's charge on 'horse trading' bid "You have your own govern-

PNS BENGALURU

The Congress and the BJP on Thursday sparred over Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's statement that the saffron party offered Rs 50 crore each to 50 MLAs of the ruling party to topple his government.

At an event in Mysuru, Siddaramaiah reiterated the claim that "none of the Congress MLAs had accepted the offer". He also accused the BJP of filing false cases against him in a bid to "remove him and overthrow his govern-ment". The BJP went ballistic against Siddaramaiah calling it a 'baseless allegation'. Karnataka BJP President B Y

Vijayendra challenged Siddaramaiah to disclose the source of his allegation.

He alleged that the CM had lost faith in his party MLAs and hence was leveling false allegations. If the Chief Minister fails



to prove that Rs 50 crore each was offered to 50 Congress MLAs, people will not take him seriously anymore, Vijayendra said. Siddaramaiah declined to comment on Vijayendra's statement. "I will not comment on him. Why do you ask me about the person who came (into politics) just recently?" asked Siddaramaiah. Vijayendra alleged that Siddaramaiah was behaving in a manner that undermined

the dignity of the responsible

Administrative Service offi-

cials. The tension that started

outside the polling booth snow-

balling into outright violence

through the night and into

Work across government

offices in the state was hit in the

morning with officials of the RAS

Association and allied services

going on a pen-down strike

Thursday.

position he was holding.

ment and your own investigating agencies. Hence, it is your moral responsibility to reveal to the people, the source of the Rs 50 crore bribe charge. Otherwise, your statement will be nothing more than a childish political statement," he said. The Chief Minister's allegation was an "insult" to the democratic system as it depicts the MLAs as commodities for sale, he alleged. Vijayendra further accused Siddaramaiah of weaving a lie" to keep the MLAs in check and "cover up the corruption cases" surrounding him. Noting that the allegation made by the Chief Minister needs to be investigated, he said the Enforcement Directorate should urgently take it up on its own and immediately conduct a probe.

Former Ministers V Sunil Kumar and CT Ravi flayed the CM of making a "baseless allegation".

Farmers' group donates Rs 5 lakh for Palestinian people

PNS NEW DELHI

The Kirti Kisan Union, a farmers' organisation, Thursday donated Rs 5 lakh for the people of Palestine through its mission here as a humanitarian aid and expressing solidarity with the people there facing difficult times due to the

ongoing conflict.

A delegation of the union met Palestine ambassador to India Abed Elrazeg Abu Jazer at the Palestinian embassy here and donated the money, a release from the organisation said. The union has raised its voice in favour of a permanent truce in West Asia and also demanded that the United Nations find a sustainable

solution to the Palestine issue. The Kirti Kisan Union delegation included President



Nirbhai Singh Dhudike, General Secretary Rajinder Singh Deep Singh Wala, Press Secretary Raminder Singh Patiala, Vice President Jatinder Singh Chhina and Treasurer Jaswinder Singh Jhabelwali.

Addressing a press conference later, they alleged that the most "terrible genocide" in the history of human civilisation was being carried out by Israel under the "incitement" of major powers like the US in which thousands of people have lost their lives so far.
"We condemned what it

described as the ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people by Israel," the union's president said and labelled it a "dark chapter in the history of human civilisation".

SLAPPING OF SDM Vehicles torched as MLA candidate arrested

PNS ■ TONK (RAJASTHAN)

Independent MLA candidate Naresh Meena was arrested on Thursday following high drama and escalating violence in which a mob assaulted a PTI reporter and video cameraperson and burnt their camera.

The attack, a day after the Congress rebel contesting as an Independent in the bypolls slapped SDM Malpura Amit Chaudhary outside a polling booth in front of hundreds of people, came while the PTI crew was covering a protest fol-

lowing the arrest.
PTI reporter Ajeet Shekhawat and cameraperson Dharmendra Kumar were badly injured and rushed to hospital. In a selfie video sent to the PTI head office in Delhi, Shekhawat can be seen bleed-

ing from under his left eye. He said his colleague Dharmendra suffered a gash on the head and his arm may be broken.

The two came under attack when they were about to interview Agriculture Minister Kirodi Lal Meena, who had gone to the trouble spot to assess the situation in Tonk district's Samravta village, about

shells to disperse the agitated

Police administration, which included senior officers in full riot gear, were deployed in full strength and held a flag march. Tonk Superintendent of Police Vikas Sangwan gave the final direction to the "It could be anyone... the government is strict with those police team to enter the village and take Meena in its who commit crime. We are getcustody. Police fired teargas

Jaipur. The violence has been going on since Wednesday evening when police tried to stop Naresh Meena's supporters from sitting on dharna. The slap, videos of which were circulated widely on social

100 km from the state capital

media platforms, set in motion differing protests from both his supporters and Rajasthan

mob after Meena's arrest. and soon action will be taken against those who are guilty," Some also pelted stones at the police but no injuries were said Minister of State for Home reported. Alleged supporters of Meena blocked the Jawahar Singh Bedham. roads, which were removed.

According to Inspector General of Police (Ajmer) Om Prakash, four cases, including for disrupting public work and damaging pubting the entire incident investigated and asked for a report lic property, were registered against Meena. demanding that Meena be arrested. They said they would continue till a meeting with Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma.

Ranged against them were Meena's alleged supporters. About 60 two-wheelers and 18 four-wheelers, including police vehicles, were torched in the violence that erupted outside the polling booth in Samravta village in the Deoli-Uniara assembly constituency when police tried to prevent the dharna.

About 60 people were arrested in the early hours of Thursday following the violence that also saw crowds pelting stones at police personnel. As the morning progressed, tension spiralled. "I will not surrender," a defiant Meena told jostling camera crews in Samravta after he was taken into custody.

www.dailypioneer.com

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

-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Bulldozer justice quashed

The SC strikes down 'bulldozer justice,' mandating strict accountability for officials involved in illegal demolitions

he Supreme Court of India has delivered a landmark judgement against the practice of "bulldozer justice," emphasising that officials who engage in illegal demolitions will now be held personally liable to restore properties and pay damages. The judgement is a response to the growing concern over arbitrary demolitions used as punitive measures, often targeting properties associated with individuals accused of crimes. The judgement introduces strict procedural requirements and enforces personal accountability for officials. This liability includes covering the cost of restoring the demolished properties and compensating affected parties. This measure is designed to deter officials from disregarding due process and underscores the responsibility that comes with exercising state power. The Supreme Court has established mandatory procedural guidelines to prevent arbitrary demolitions— A 15-day prior show-cause notice is



required, along with a personal hearing; a detailed final order justifying why demolition is the only viable action must be provided and a 15-day grace period post-final order allows the affected party to seek legal recourse or vacate the premises.

The Supreme Court has mandated real-time updates on a digital portal for all demolition notices and orders to prevent arbitrary actions and foster transparency. Additionally, the entire demolition process must be videographed, with a list of officials involved to ensure accountability and adherence to procedure. Officials violating these directives risk contempt proceedings and prosecution,

underscoring the Court's commitment to upholding the rule of law. The judgement holds far-reaching implications for governance, rule of law and individual rights in India. By restricting demolitions carried out as a form of punishment, the Supreme Court reinforces the fundamental legal principle that the executive cannot act as judge and enforcer. The decision underscores the judiciary's role in protecting individuals' rights against arbitrary state action, affirming that everyone is entitled to due process before facing punitive measures. The decision is laudable because it is tough on arbitrary demolitions, which often infringe on the right to shelter, impacting families and communities and safeguards citizens' fundamental rights, emphasising that actions targeting individuals suspected of crimes must follow legal due process. The judgement must come as a relief to many families who dread the demolition as one of them might have been on the wrong side of the law. However, the judgement falls short of putting onus on the political masters of the bureaucrats on whose behest such actions are often taken. Nevertheless, it would rein in the erring officers who go out of way to please their political masters. It is a bold move that could reshape administrative conduct.



India's cricket boycott is a safety issue, not politics.



As the deadliest year in Pakistan's recent history unfolds, calls for separating sports from safety concerns overlook the urgent realities facing the nation

lobal Terrorism Index 2024 reports that Pakistan had the highest recorded terror attacks of any country in the world. 490 attacks were formally recorded with spiralling instances in the fourth successive year of increased deaths and terror incidents. The US Department of State currently maps the situation at "level 3" i.e., warning its citizens to "Reconsider Travel". Similarly, British authorities "advises against all travels to parts of Pakistan" and note bluntly, "No travel can be guaranteed safe". There are two dedicated Pakistani

Army Divisions deployed to secure Chinese personnel and assets of the various Chinese-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) imperatives in Pakistan, yet the same gets targeted with seeming impunity and deadly onsequences. Even royals from various Arab sheikdoms who used to descend into the Pakistani hinterland for the annual Houbara hunting season have desisted from the same, given the acute security concerns prevailing. Whereas India has rightfully slammed Pakistan for being the world's terrorism factory" for its nefarious record in fanning religious extremism and armed insurgency on Indian soil, since independence. Stating that there is a grave secu-

rity concern in Pakistan is not a political statement but a statement of fact. The fact that it was featured prominently in the Grey List of the global anti-terror watchdog agency, Financial Action Task Force (FATF) till very recently, is also a fact. Amidst this undeniable security landscape in Pakistan, Pakistani authorities pooh-pooh concerns of the Indian Cricket Board, i.e., BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India), to avoid sending the Indian Cricket Team to play in Pakistan owing to security concerns, is not political one-upmanship but the expected concern of the Indian side. any board towards the safety and welfare of its team. That several India-facing terror groups are thriving on Pakistani soil is a very old story that needs no reiteration, and that itself makes the threat to the Indian team especially severe. The official breakdown and



While it is certainly true that sporting ties between the two restive nations were always given to political 'point-scoring' and even positive leverage in the form of cricket diplomacy' (to thaw bilateral freeze) this time the security situation in Pakistan has deteriorated to such levels, that to suggest that it is the usual 'point-scoring' diplomacy is to live under a rock. The reality of the situation is even beyond the intellectual debate of allowing or disallowing sports between two 'enemy' countries. Sometime back, India did choose to conflate sports with other bilateral engagements owing to Pakistan's established role in sponsoring terrorism in India, but even if one were to delink the two, the security situation in Pakistan itself warrants a cautionary note from

versa), either.

Understandably the Pakistanis are miffed and embarrassed about what they perceive as a deliberate Indian affront, but deep down they know better given that 2024 has emerged as the deadliest year ever, from the perspective of terrorism in



PAKISTAN IS IN THE MIDST OF AN UNDENIABLE AND COMPLEX **SECURITY** CRISIS AND WILL ONLY BE ABLE TO RESUME EVENTS WITH INDIAN PARTICIPATION, ONCE THE GROUND **SECURITY**

SITUATION

CHANGES

Pakistan. However, coming from its imagined nemesis i.e., India, it is a bitter pill to swallow openly. Given that Pakistan's Interior Minister, Mohsin Naqvi, also double-hats as the Chairman of the Pakistani Cricket Board (PCB) the Pakistani reaction to

BCCI concern assumes a political reaction. He has cavalierly downplayed the 'Hybrid Option' (wherein India plays its matches in a neutral venue, while others can play in Pakistan) by countering, "one of the options the government is mul-ling is that of asking the PCB to ensure Pakistan don't participate in the Champions Trophy, as a political face-saving comeback. He also fumed that the PCB ought not to be expected to "carry on with their good gestures" of playing in India, as Pakistanis did ear-lier. This wounded statement misses the point of contrasting the security situation existing in India, vis-à-vis Pakistan,

The Pakistani Government and will only be able to resume may be tempted to 'retaliate' optically and go as far as ask-tion, once the ground securing its team to desist from playing against India in any of the ICC or Asian Cricket Council tournaments, to negate the perceived sleight. Currently, of a perennial 'enemy' in India leads to an instinctive ostrich-

like head in the soil, and denials by Pakistan. Situational irony is magnified by the chairing of the global body of cricketing governance i.e., the ICC, by the son of India's Home Minister (equivalent of Interior Minister in Pakistan),

Pakistani social media is agog with memes of Kathik-calling-Karthik allusions and its questionable neutrality in handling the current situation. Fair as that concern might be from a Pakistani perspective in nor-mal times, it still does not take away from the genuineness of security concerns in Pakistan. For Pakistan to give examples of the security cover afforded to India's Foreign Minister on a recent visit to Pakistan as an example of its preparedness to host matches with tens of thousands of spectators and other accompanying circumstances, is contrived and grossly stretched logic. Pakistan is in the midst of an undeniable and complex security crisis events with Indian participaty situation changes. For now it is clearly beyond political one-upmanship.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of the heavily invested narrative Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry; the views expressed are personal)

Pathway to a knowledgerich, future-ready nation



By promoting multilingualism, skill development and character-building, NEP 2020 aims to empower students to tackle both national and global challenges

n July 29, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 completed four years, a transformative framework that has reshaped the country's educational landscape by connecting contemporary needs with its traditional roots. NEP 2020 stands as the first education policy since independence that genuinely aligns with Bharat's ancient traditions, advocating for accessible, quality education with an emphasis on relevance and inclusivity.

The policy introduces a host of progressive features, such as flexible study options, multiple entry and exit points, the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC), credit transfer mechanisms, and a focus on online courses, aiming to create a seamless, adaptable educational journey for learners across the nation.

A defining aspect of NEP 2020 is its commitment to the five foundational pillars of Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability Accountability.

NEP 2020 brings traditional values, arts, languages and culture into the mainstream curriculum, underscoring Bharat's ambition to reclaim its heritage as a knowledge One of the most notable additions is the incorporation

superpower. of the Indian Knowledge System (IKS), promoting the revival and research of traditional subjects such as Vedic mathematics, Ayurveda, environmental studies, linguistics, Yoga and other indigenous disciplines. This shift helps bridge the gap left by prior policies, which often neglected or excluded these areas under the influence of Western paradigms. The NEP also recommends a three-language formula, promoting multilingualism by including

at least two Indian languages

in school curricula. While this

policy is intended to support

Îndia's linguistic diversity, it tackle both national and glob-

faced resistance in some non- al challenges. Hindi-speaking states, where Despite allegations of "saffroconcerns about linguistic hegemony and regional language preservation surfaced. The central government may need to address these concerns carefully, especially given education's status on the Concurrent List, to ensure a balanced approach that major thrust of NEP 2020 is respects regional identities while achieving national integration. The policy's emphasis on Sanskrit, often regarded as a foundational element of Bharat's cultural heritage, is a major milestone. With Sanskrit included as an optional language under the three-language formula, both school and higher education institutions are encouraged to integrate it into their curricula. NEP serves as a turning point in Bharat's educational history, aiming to foster character development and national pride alongside academic excellence. NEP 2020 emphasises two overarching themes: nurturing Indian values and fostering characterbuilding among students. This holistic approach is intended to develop responsible, ethical citizens ready to

nisation," proponents argue that the NEP aims to realign the educational system with what benefits the nation and its people. Science and history, though based on facts, are often viewed through the lenses of time and place. A skill development, with the objective of enhancing employability by integrating vocational training and practical learning into the curriculum. The inclusion of courses on data structures, programming, machine learning and artificial intelligence is intended to prepare students for a tech-driven future. NEP 2020 also encourages societal engagement through initiatives like internships and community visits, fostering creativity and real-world problem-solving skills. Institutions like NIT Uttarakhand have already embraced the NEP's multidisciplinary model, focusing on research and innovation to build a skilled and socially conscious workforce.

(The author is the BJP Councilor, New Delhi; views are personal)

CLIMATE CRISIS IGNORED

Madam — The editorial, 'Deliver tangible results' (November 13), should sensitise all the concerned. The COP29 is seen more as a ritual congregation than as producing anything tangible in the interest of humanity. The present economic order, marked by rabid chasing of capital for instant profits with its predatory character, knows no sentiments. As capital has gained such power over the policies of a government or even changed the government itself to make its course further smooth. In this background, Trump regaining his political power grossly reduces the scope for any further positive developments in this affair. He is for outright support for faster exploitation for mines and oil wealth to enrich the rich at the cost of the very sur-

vival of the living beings. The latest manifestations of climate change are serious signals to attend to the damages inflicted on the environment but have yet to be taken seriously by any country. COP 29 that meets periodically, discusses the issue, receives consents and commitments for its resolutions from members but utterly fails to put in practice to bring about any tangible improvements in the status. The Indian government is not different. The amendments brought in by the Forest Act last year will see more damage to forests and more men and material loss. Attaching more importance to money has its toll on living beings, which, under the present economic order, is very difficult to infuse a

humane face to it. A G Rajmohan | Anantpur

VISTARA MERGED WITH AIR INDIA

Madam — The Indian full-service airline called Vistara Airlines has finally reached its merger completion stage with Air India. With this, it is now only the Tata Group-owned Air India in the country to manage the full-service flight facility in India. The ten-year-old Vistara, which is a joint venture between Indian and Singaporean companies, has finally flown **PROMISES AND POLITICS** its last flight from Delhi to Singapore with the code name UK. The premium Club

Inflation rates surge

he inflation rate based on the consumer price index increased to 6.21 per cent in October, up from 5.49 per cent in September, according to the data released by

Vistara have already been shifted to the Maharaja Club of Air India.

Although this whole merger and amalgamation process of Vistara is quite heartening, as Vistara is renowned for its quality service, while Air India grapples with some service issues. Although Air India is in its process of transitioning, any comment with respect to its services quality and experience post merger with Vistara would be too early. Tata's are the trusted group of India, and let's not forget that their airline's contribution holds a long history. They have been in national service in India since 1932, with the visionary mentality of JRD Tata. The expansion of Air India with the merger of Vistara will surely improve the aviation operations of Air India and also help the Air India group to focus more on customer-centric service with a memorable

quality experience in every flight Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

Madam — The political scenario is getting hotter as the stakes are very high in the Implementation. The increase was driven by the prices of food products, particularly the vegetables, especially tomatoes, onions and potatoes

(TOP), rising above 42 per cent. The food inflation rose sharply to 10.87 per cent in October from 9.2 per cent in the preceding month. There is a greater need for the government to implement additional supply-side measures to stabilise food prices. A weakening of the rupee to an all-time low (November 13, rupees 83.40 against one dollar) against the dollar has also raised the specter of India's oil import bill climbing, which could stoke inflation if retail fuel prices go up. Since this is man-made inflation, the government, which has virtually failed to check inflation, needs to make all-out efforts to check it to give a sigh of relief to the

S K Khosla | Chandigarh

Vistara tickets and pre-booking orders of Maharashtra state elections. Honours are even and fighting for supremacy is gearing up in a fancy mood. Allegations and counter-allegations are mounting up and a war of words is now in a now-or never situation. Freebies funds find routes in a big way, finding routes from the household

items and electronic items. As the manifestos are out, the realities come to light in the electioneering. In the public view, election manifestos are issued solely to sway voters, who know they will hear about these promises again only when the next election comes. People will have to simply wait and watch as mute spectators. If parties truly believe in the validity of their manifestos, they should allow voters to judge these promises on their own merts, rather than muddying the waters with divisive or defamatory statements. The real lie lies in cheating voters. Lies lay low in a political flow of fight between EVMs and

C K Subramaniam | Mumbai

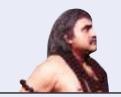
Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

FIRST COLUMN

www.dailypioneer.com

UNVEILING THE SHAKTIS

Shakti forms are central to authentic spiritual practice. Nature's energies are accessible but require dedication



ASHWINI GURUJI

The creation is governed by certain Shaktis. As you progress in your sadhana, you can experience their forms. Every day, each one of the 365 days, is governed (sanchalit) by a specific shakti. That is why the importance of *niyam* and daily practice is insisted upon in yoga. If one misses the sadhana for even a single day, the shakti of that day is left behind and the sadhana of an entire year goes to waste because in Brahmand, if a single thing goes missing then its effect is felt on everything - our body, the earth, as well as other planets and stars.

Every Shakti has a day, but one need not perform rituals to access them. In yoga and tantra, there is no ritual, just the sadhana of Shakti. It is important to understand the shakti of each day and the Swaroop of that shakti. There is a name for every form of Shakti, but at the present moment, we will only be discussing their forms. The names are taken only after generating the capacity in the body, through specific sadhanas. At a basic level, when you do dhyan with your guru, you can see certain forms in him/her, like the sun or even the moon. Ever wondered where these forms come from and what they represent? There are many sadhaks who have reported seeing the form of the sun in dhyan. What is so special about the Sun? If you look at the Sun at the time of Sunrise and Sunset, keeping the awareness of Manipoorak and chanting the mantra 'Ram', you will find a certain glow starts coming into the body and just within a month you will start looking very different (A word of caution here, for any yogic practice it is important to have a Guru who guides you as per your capacity). Just like the sun, the moon too is an extremely interesting energy. The moon merely reflects the light of the Sun, but with that



light, it can attract the tides as well as the earth's surface on a full moon night. Have you ever thought about it- what is so special about the moon? Not just that, on a full moon night, animals become violent, the mentally unstable start behaving funnily and accidents and fights are on the rise. Right now I am only discussing the basic aspects, to give you a hint that there is something different about these forms. What that is, is a subject of experience and you will get that experience with the correct practice of Sanatan Kriya.

The speciality of the Moon is that it looks calm and peaceful but it is more volatile than even the Sun. When you look at the moon under the guidance of a Guru, you will be able to see all the mantras in its form because you cannot see the sun, which channelises that Shakti. There are certain shaktis which you cannot see and so there are certain other shaktis through which you can see and feel their effect, it becomes an experience for you. And till you have that experience, yoga is a waste for you, nothing can happen and nothing is possible.

Experience is the basis of yoga. All the things that we see in the sky and on the earth, there are so many flowers of so many different kinds and colours, if you simply look at them without blinking your eyes under Guru Sanidhya, all the defects and imbalances in the body disappear. But there is a small problem... niyam. There should be no break in the practice, and the break will come if you do not have the capacity for that Shakti or if you don't have a Guru. Nature, everything that we see around us, has all the swaroops of shaktis hidden in it and all these shaktis are very easily accessible. If one makes him/herself stir on these shaktis and accesses them properly, then they start following that person. The nine days leading to Diwali are especially powerful because of the congregation of specific shaktis during these days. Our ancestors prescribed observing the vrat of brahmacharya during these days to make the body strong enough to accept these Shaktis.

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

AI revolutionises the beauty and wellness industry



DINESH SOOD

As global demand for unique beauty solutions surges, the sector's embrace of AI reflects a profound shift towards customisation, efficiency and consumer satisfaction



nnovative products and services utilising new technologies are beginning to disrupt the beauty and wellness sector. As a result, traditional skills need to be strengthened and combined with modern technological skills such as artificial intelligence (AI), app development, augmented reality for try-on services, data analytics and enhanced customer engagement strategies. AI has made significant advancements in the beauty and wellness sector, particularly as the demand for customisation and personalisation has increased.

This trend reflects diverse customer preferences, lifestyles, body types and genetic factors. Recent news about Maybelline's AI-powered "makeup" filters for Microsoft teams has reignited discussions on AI's role in the beauty sector. It is crucial to explore how AI is transforming the industry and to stay updated on the latest developments. The global beauty industry market utilising AI was valued at \$216.12 million in 2020 and is projected to reach \$1.26 billion by 2027. An industry report indicates that the annual growth rate (CAGR) of AI in the beauty sector from 2021 to 2027 is expected to be 33.2 per cent. Several laboratories have developed AI-driven skin consultation tools that integrate augmented reality and artificial intelligence to

analyse skin ageing. These tools can identify signs of ageing and assess skin strength, providing tailored skincare recommendations to prevent further deterioration. Their algorithms are based on 10,000 images and 15 years of dermatological expertise. Users can take a selfie and provide their age and skin type to receive an estimate of their skin condition along with a personalised analysis. They will then receive customised skincare prescriptions.

AI assists in analysing skin conditions, recommending personalised skincare and wellness routines and even predicting trends, ultimately enhancing product development and customer satisfaction. Acne is a common concern worldwide, affecting 80 per cent of teenagers and 40

per cent of adults. With AI, a database of 6,000 images representing various ethnic skin types

enables accurate analysis and personalised routine recommendations for those suffering from acne. This groundbreaking AI technology draws from a library of 10,000 authentic images evaluated by real dermatologists, achieving an accuracy rate of nearly 97 per cent across eight clinical parameters and a wide

clinical parameters and a wide array of skin types.

In the ever-evolving beauty and wellness industry, where innovation fosters confidence and self-expression, AI has become a powerful ally in creating more effective and personalised product formulations than ever before. By leveraging its diverse applications and capabilities, AI is driving a revolution that is changing ving a revolution that is changing how beauty and wellness products are developed, personalised, and marketed.

IN THE EVER-

BEAUTY AND

WELLNESS

SELF-

EXPRESSION, AI

HAS BECOME A

POWERFUL ALLY

MORE EFFECTIVE

PERSONALISED

FORMULATIONS

PRODUCT

THAN EVER

BEFORE

IN CREATING

EVOLVING

From trend spotting to precise WHERE reshaping the beauty industry in wellbeing in the future. have led to increased spending on exciting and groundbreaking Importantly, your data remains beauty and wellness products INNOVATION ways. Integrating AI into the formulation process can also ensure product effectiveness. AI algorithms can simulate how CONFIDENCE AND ingredients are absorbed and metabolised by the skin, identifying potential unwanted interactions or side effects.

This approach minimises the risks associated with bringing new products to market and ensures consumers achieve optimal results without compromising their wellbeing. Traditionally, skincare products have been developed with a one-size-fits-all approach, often failing to meet individual consumers' unique needs. AI changes this methodology by analysing various data points, including skin type, age, environmental factors and personal preferences.

By using AI-powered tools, brands can create customised skincare products tailored to each customer's specific requirements. For instance, AI algorithms can assess a user's skin condition through photographs and questionnaires, recommending or formulating products with particular concentrations of active ingredients that address individual skin concerns. Additionally, AI can analyse molecular structures to predict how new compounds will interact with human skin, significantly reducing the time and cost of tra-ditional trial-and-error meth-

The AI system recommends suitable ingredients, products and skincare routines tailored to each individual's needs. It can also suggest branded products that address specific conditions in the beauty and wellness industry, aiming to connect deeply with each customer's preferences. As technology continues to evolve, it promises solutions that will private; it is not stored and only you can view the results unless you choose to share your information with others. A personalised experience is crucial for success in the beauty and wellness industry. AI technology plays a significant role in identifying each customer's unique preferences and addressing their individual needs.

As technology advances, beauty companies are expected to introduce innovative services that enhance customer interaction and contribute to the global growth of the beauty market. Online services are evolving rapidly alongside these technological advancements. The importance of websites, engaging social media platforms and online marketplaces is increasing. The share of online revenue in the beauty and personal care sector, which was approximately 4.6 per cent in 2017, is projected to rise to 18.2 per cent by 2025. The

future of the beauty and wellness industry will depend on an omnichannel experience that seamlessly integrates online and offline interactions, utilising a range of digital tools to enhance the consumer experience.

Virtual try-ons and consultations have become standard in beauty retail; however, replicating the human connection remains a challenge. Online influencers and "show me how" content are gaining popularity as consumers learn to master services that they previously sought from profession-

Additionally, live streaming on platforms like Facebook Live and Instagram significantly engages younger consumers. In India, the beauty and wellness industry is growing rapidly, expanding twice as fast as that of the United States and Europe. Greater con-

and services. Per capita spending on beauty and personal care products rose from Rs 450 per annum in 2017 to Rs 684 in 2022, with a further increase projected to Rs 772 by 2025. Today's consumers demand unique experiences, making traditional approaches less effective. There is a growing preference for convenience and on-demand services, which have become essential in the fast-paced lives of working professionals. As a result, there is an increasing need for transferable skills within the workforce in the beauty and wellness sector, as customer service expertise becomes more in demand.:

(The writer is co-founder and MD of Orane International, a training partner of the National Skill Development Corporation and a network Member of India International Skills Centres, an initiative of GoI; the views expressed are personal)

Cybersecurity: Safeguarding a digital future amid rising cyber threats

India must act swiftly to secure its digital future in an era where technological prowess is now essential for national security

oday, cyber-attacks impact every aspect of L life, from government agencies and corporations to individuals' personal data and privacy. While the reach of cybercrime is vast, the underlying complexity remains poorly understood by many, with significant security consequences for nations that fail to address these threats adequately. Cyber-attacks threaten national security and underscore the vulnerabilities associated with our increasing dependence on digital infrastructure. Although the internet has revolutionised the world by providing incredible convenience, connection and



VINAY PATHAK

infrastructure. As cybersecurity becomes the essential defense for peace, prosperity, and privacy in the digital age, recent incidents such as the breach of 7.9 million customer records at India's stockbroking firm Angel demonstrate the necessity of strengthening digital protections. While the internet facilcomfort, these benefits come itates ease of access, it also

concerted efforts. The recent cyber-attack on Iran marks a chilling advance in digital warfare, illustrating that no nation is immune to the risks of a hyperconnected world. As countries, corporations, and citizens expand their online presence, the scope for potentially devastating cyber-attacks rises dramatically.

This incident serves as a reminder of the need for nations to address cyberspace's complex, escalating risks. India, for example, is undergoing a digital revolution with over 936 million internet users as of December 2023. These "Digital Nagriks" fuel a dynamic digital economy, supporting critical secwith the challenge of safe-guarding critical data and ities that call for immediate, cation, finance and agricultors such as healthcare, edu-

ture. However, the rapid pace of digital adoption has outpaced India's cybersecurity measures, creating opportunities for cybercriminals to exploit these gaps. According to the 2024 Cisco

Cybersecurity Readiness Index, only 4 per cent of Indian companies are fully prepared to counter cyber threats, exposing significant vulnerabilities within the nation's digital framework. These threats arise not only from criminal organisations but also from state-sponsored entities targeting India's economic and strategic assets. Moreover, emerging technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) enable more sophisticated cyber-attacks, including deepfake technology and disinformation cam-



paigns, adding complex layers to cyber defenses. In today's world, technological prowess in fields such as AI and cybersecurity equates to national security, rivaling traditional military strength. However, India faces several challenges in coordinating an effective cyber defense. While initiatives like Cyber Surakshit Bharat have shown

early progress, a comprehen-

sive national cybersecurity

strategy is still missing, which limits effective threat recent step forward has been the Prime Minister's Office's appointment of a cybersecugaps remain in the infrastructure needed to support comprehensive defence. Cyberspace's borderless nature complicates defence efforts, as attacks can target both military and civilian assets globally, bypassing traditional political and geographic constraints.

India has implemented several initiatives to tackle cyber threats. For instance, the Cyber Fraud Mitigation Centre (CFMC) at the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre in New Delhi unites

major players—including

banks, telecom providers and law enforcement agencies—to response and assessment. A combat online financial crimes. This initiative, exemplifying "Cooperative Federalism," enables swift rity oversight official, but responses to fraud. The government has also introduced the Samanvaya Platform, a centralised repository of cybercrime data to foster interagency cooperation. Despite these initiatives, further action is required to establish a comprehensive cybersecurity framework. Without unified regulatory standards, gaps remain in protecting the public and private sectors, especially for small businesses that may lack the resources for robust cybersecurity protocols. This vulnerability could undermine both national

en India's defences, with additional measures such as the Information Education and Awareness Project (ISEA) helping to create a culture of security consciousness among citizens. The 2023 Digital Personal Data Protection Act reinforces this commitment by aligning with global data security standards to improve transparency and accountability among companies.

security and public trust in

India's digital infrastructure.

Programs like Cyber

Surakshit Bharat, the National

Cybersecurity Coordination

Centre (NCCC), and CERT-

In have all aimed to strength-

(The writer is an assistant professor, Indian Institute of Information Technology, Sonepat; views are personal)

HYDERABAD | FRIDAY | NOVEMBER 15, 2024

IN BRIEF



CCPA orders probe into deficiencies in Ola Electric

onsumer rights regulator CCPA has ordered a detailed probe into complaints related to alleged "deficiencies" in services and electric two-wheelers manufactured by Ola Electric. The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) headed by Nidhi Khare has directed the Director General (Investigation), who is also head of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), to investigate this matter. The order to this effect was issued on November 6 and the BIS DG has been asked to submit the investigation report within 15 days. "The company has responded to the notice. The CCPA has now asked the DG (Investigation) to investigate the matter in detail and submit the report within 15 days," a senior consumer affairs ministry official said. The move comes after the CCPA initiated action after it received 10,000-odd complaints on the National Consumer Helpline (NCH). The regulator had issued a notice to Ola Electric on October 7 citing alleged violations of consumer rights, misleading advertisements and unfair trade practices.



SPIC reports July-Sept profit before tax at Rs 48.39 cr

outhern Petrochemcial Industries Corporation Ltd (SPIC) has reported a profit before tax of Rs 48.39 Crore during the July-September 2024 quarter, the company said on Thursday. The company had reported a profit before tax of Rs 71.35 crore in the corresponding quarter of last financial year. For the year ending March 31, 2024 the profit before tax stood at Rs 142.99 crore. Commenting on the financial performance, SPIC Chairman Ashwin Muthiah said, "SPIC's financial performance this quarter underscores steady growth, with an increase in quarterly turnover. Despite a challenging economic landscape, SPIC has sustained operational strength, and we remain committed to delivering long-term value through our focus on operational efficiency and Research and Development driven agri-solutions." The total income during the quarter under review was at Rs 761.22 crore, as against Rs 747.50 crore registered in the year ago period. The total income for the year ending March 31, 2024 was at Rs 1,962.16 crore



AIBOC presses for 5-day work week, protective steps

Il India Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC) on Thursday demanded a long pending implementation of a 5-day work week for bank employees among others. Besides, the bank officers union pressed for recruitment at public sector banks to address staff shortage. The acute shortage of clerical and subordinate staff compels officers to undertake tasks outside their primary duties, AIBOC said in a statement Recently, it said, bank employees have been subjected to violent attacks, often instigated by politically connected individuals, both within branches and in public spaces. AIBOC in a letter written to the Department of Financial Services said the current environment of physical risk, coercion and internal toxicity has become a serious deterrent. "We look forward to your prompt attention to this matter and an affirmative response that reassures our officers of the Ministry's commitment to their safety and well-being," it said.

Exports up 17.25% in Oct, highest in 2 years; trade deficit widens

India's merchandise exports in October rose by an impressive 17.25 per cent, highest in over two years, to \$39.2 billion, while the trade deficit widened to \$27.14 billion.

According to the government data released on Thursday, imports increased by 3.9 per cent to \$66.34 billion in October compared to \$63.86 billion in the year-ago period.

The trade deficit (gap between imports and exports) narrowed as compared to \$30.42 billion recorded in October last year. However, it has widened from \$20.78 billion recorded in September this year.

India's merchandise exports had marginally risen by 0.5 per cent to \$34.58 billion in

During April-October this fiscal, exports increased by 3.18 per cent to \$252.28 billion, and imports by 5.77 per cent to \$416.93 billion.

Commenting on the data, Commerce Secretary Sunil

Barthwal said, "This has been an extremely good month for exports...If we continue in this manner, we will cross \$800 billion of exports (goods and services together) this (fiscal) year."

He said that the government's strategy to focus on six sectors -- engineering, electronics, pharma, chemicals, plastics and agriculture -- as well as 20 countries is yielding positive result.

These 20 countries account for 60 per cent of the total global imports and these six segments have a share of 67 per cent in global imports.

The commerce ministry has undertaken deeper economic integration in these nations through market access initiatives, promotion of brand India, addressing non-tariff barriers and conducting trade promotion events.

Barthwal also said that they are holding a series of meetings with Indian missions abroad to promote shipments.

'We are formulating strategies to promote exports in these focus countries and I am

extremely good month for exports...If we continue in this manner, we will cross \$800 billion of exports (goods and services together) this (fiscal) year

Commenting on the

Secretary Sunil Barthwal said, "This

data, Commerce

has been an

sure that the strategy will help us in showing excellent result by end of this year," he added.

Healthy christmas demands could be one of the reasons for exports to register double digit growth in October.

Meetings were already held with key European nations. A similar exercise is planned for America and Asia-Pacific nations, Africa and middle east countries.

Crude oil imports in October rose to \$18.2 billion from \$16.1 billion in the same month last year.

Gold slide continues; tanks Rs 700 to Rs 77,050 per 10 gms

PNS NEW DELHI

Gold prices saw vet another steep fall on Thursday, with the precious metal declining Rs 700 to Rs 77,050 per 10 grams in the national capital amid subdued demand trend in the global markets, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity closed at Rs 77,750 per 10 grams in the previous session, a day after falling marginally by Rs 50 on Wednesday.

Wednesday.
Silver also plummeted Rs 2,310 to Rs 90,190 per kg against the previous close of Rs 92,500 per kg.

Extending the losses for the fourth straight session, the price of gold of 99.5 per cent purity fell Rs 700 to Rs 76,650 per 10 grams. It had ended at Rs 77,350 per 10 grams on Wednesday.

In futures trade on the MCX, gold contracts for December delivery plunged Rs 804 or 1.08 per cent to trade at Rs 73,678 per 10 grams. During the day, the precious metal

cent to Rs 73,300 per 10 grams.

"Gold's weakness persisted with price falling near Rs 73,500 in MCX as the dollar climbed. The US CPI data, which came in higher at 2.6 per cent compared to the expected 2.4 per cent, fuelled the dollar's strength.

"While the Fed has been continuing with rate cuts as inflation approached its 2 per cent target, the CPI data raised concerns that further cuts may be paused," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities,

This development added pressure on gold prices, which reacted negatively to the stronger dollar and the potential shift in Fed policy, Trivedi added. Silver contracts for December delivery plummeted Rs 2,067, or 2.32 per cent, to Rs

87,130 per kg. Globally, Comex gold futures fell USD 29.10 per ounce, or 1.13 per cent, to hit a twomonth low of USD 2,557.40 per

SECI issues showcause notices to RPower, its arm over fake bank guarantees

PNS NEW DELHI

Renewable energy agency SECI has sent a showcause notice to Reliance Power, asking why a criminal action should not be taken against the company and its arm for sub-

mitting fake bank guarantees. Last week, Solar Energy Corporation of India barred Reliance Power and its arm Reliance NU BESS from participating in its tenders for submission of fake documents in its bids.

Meanwhile, in a filing to exchanges, Reliance Power said that it has been "a victim of fraud, forgery and cheating conspiracy"

"A criminal complaint in this regard has already been lodged with Economic Offence Wing of Delhi Police against the third party on October 16, 2024, basis on which First Information tered on November 11, 2024. The matter is under investigation and due process of law will follow," Reliance Power

In a notice dated November 13, SECI said on account of submission of fake endorsement of a foreign Bank Guarantee (BG) as part of its bid submission, it was discovered that the said BG submitted by Reliance NU BESS Ltd. (known as Maharashtra Energy Generation Ltd. at the time of bid submission), was also fake.

The repeated submission of a fake Bank Guarantee (BG) along with its counterfeit endorsement has been deemed a deliberate act by the Bidder, intended to vitiate the tendering process and to secure the project capacity through fraudulent means," SECI said in the notice.

"SECI has issued showcause notices to the entities, namely Reliance Power Ltd. and Reliance NU BESS Ltd, seeking explanation as to why ould not initiate crim inal proceedings against them, in view of the fraudulent and forged actions," the notice

Kerala CM assures safety of investments in coop sector

PNS KOCHI

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan assured on Thursday that no one would lose their investment in the state's cooperative sector, emphasising that the sector is robust, with investments amounting to Rs 2 lakh crore.

"Only Kerala's cooperative sector could make such a claim in the country," he said while delivering the inaugural address at Cooperative Week celebrations

He assured that no investor would lose even a single paisa that they have deposited in the cooperative sector, as no such incident has occurred so far.

Referring to the recent allegations of corruption in the cooperative sector, Vijayan said that any irregularities would be thoroughly tation that we do not deserve has been created by a few individuals and certain institutions," he added.

'NCRTC exploring ways to integrate Al for efficiency, sustainability, security'

PNS NEW DELHI

The NCRTC is exploring opportunities to integrate AI into its systems to enhance efficiency, sustainability and security, Managing Director Shalabh Goel has said.

Goel said in a written interview that digitalisation and technological advancements were key focus areas for the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC), enhancing both project execution and passenger facilitation.

The urban transporter has implemented European Train Control System (ETCS) Level 2 over the LTE backbone for the first time in the world, which includes automatic train protection and automatic train supervision sub-systems. Platform screen doors are also integrated with the ETCS signalling system for enhanced passenger safety, he said.

"Since inception, the NCRTC1 to deliver a truly commutercentric project. We are actively exploring opportunities to integrate AI into our systems



to enhance efficiency, sustainability and security," Goel said.

"Our goal is to utilise AI to improve asset management, streamline scheduling, reduce operational costs, and strengthen safety protocols, ultimately driving long-term value and performance across our operations," he further

According to Goel, the 42kilometre stretch from Sahibabad to Meerut South of the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS), covering nine stations, is already open for public use. Construction of the remaining portion of the cor-

ridor is on track to meet the 2025 deadline for full opera-

Civil construction for key stations in the Delhi section such as Sarai Kale Khan and New Ashok Nagar is nearing completion. Viaduct construction in the Uttar Pradesh section is nearing completion. Tunnel construction at all three underground stations in Meerut is complete, with final finishing work underway, he said. Goel further said the operational section from Sahibabad to Meerut South had seen a steady increase in

daily commuters.

Autodesk partners with IIT Bombay to drive skills for 'Design and Make' units

PNS NEW DELHI

Autodesk and the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay) have signed a pact to foster skills development among the nextgeneration of engineers, designers, and innovators, in a bid to prepare them for 'design and make' industries.

The collaboration will combine Autodesk's industry expertise with IIT Bombay's leadership in education, research, and innovation, a release said adding the goal is to train and provide skills to top talent, support India's growth, and shape the country's technical and scientific landscape.

The Design and Make industries - encompassing architecture, engineering and construction, design and man-



ufacturing, and media and entertainment - employ nearly 300 million globally and will represent an estimated USD 30 trillion in value globally by

2027, according to the release.
The MoU between
Autodesk and IIT Bombay was signed by Steve Blum,

Executive Vice President and

Autodesk and Professor Ravindra Gudi, Dean of Alumni and Corporate Relations at IIT Bombay.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Autodesk President and CEO, Andrew Anagnost, during his visit to India, and IIT Bombay Director Professor Shireesh Chief Operating Officer at Kedare, along with other exec-

As the industry strives for continuous innovation and sustainable outcomes, partnerships with academia play a significant role in creating opportunities for collaboration and helping the industry to embrace digital transformation, Blum said.

Shireesh Kedare, Director of IIT Bombay said: "This collaboration will bridge academic learning with cutting-edge industry technology, foster innovation, and position our graduates as vital contributors to India's progress in science, technology, and sustainable industry practices".

Over five million students in over 14,000 secondary and post-secondary schools across India use Autodesk's software, learning how to train for indemand skills, it added.

'Lubrizol MoU with Polyhose to make TN strong in medi tech'

PNS CHENNAI

Global leader in specialty chemicals, Lubrizol Corporation, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with diversified industrial conglomerate Polyhose India Pvt Ltd to establish a medical manufac-

The partnership aims to make the state a powerhouse in medical technology, according to the government.

Under the agreement, highquality medical tubes will be produced at a facility near Chennai. These products will be used in critical applications such as neuro-vascular and cardiovascular treatments, including intravenous catheters, hemodialysis tubes, post.

central venous catheters, and brain stimulation, said Minister for Industries, TRB

Top officials from Lubrizol and Polyhose met with the Minister and senior government representatives at the Secretariat to exchange documents during the signing cer-

in the signing of an MoU between Lubrizol and

OPEPRATION, SURYAPET

BAILING OUT LOSS-MAKING UNIT

SC asks Assam Tea Corp to give list of its properties

PNS NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the chairman of Assam Tea Corporation Limited to submit the details of movable and immovable properties owned by it after the state government said it does not have capacity to pump-in more funds into the loss making corporation,

which runs 14 tea gardens. A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih noted the submission of Assam Chief Secretary Ravi Kota that the state has tried its best to bail out the cash strapped Assam Tea Corporation Limited (ATCL) but has not been able to bring it out from the situation. Kota, who appeared virtu-

ally before the court, submitted that the state cabinet has discussed the situation of ATCL and decided it will not be prudent to pump-in more funds into the loss making



enterprise. The bench observed if the state government is not willing to put in more money into

the corporation, then it will direct the selling of its 14 tea gardens to pay the dues of its employees, including the provident funds. The top court was hearing

a contempt petition for nonpayment of dues to the workmen working in these tea estates of the ATCL, a stateowned enterprise. The contempt petition has been filed in the 2006 petition filed by the International Union of Food and Agriculture Workers for payment of dues and pensionary benefits.

During the hearing, the bench at the outset asked the

ATCL how it was going to pay the dues as it was not disputing the liability to pay the workers.

Senior advocate Nalin Kohli, appearing for the ATCL and the Assam government, told the bench that the corporation is having shortage of funds and it can pay the present salaries or the past one but it cannot be treated as a precedent and cannot be directed to pay the arrears time and again.

turing facility in Tamil Nadu. emony "Happy to have participated

Polyhose for a crucial partnership in the MedTech sector. Such partnerships are key in our journey to make Tamil Nadu a MedTech manufacturing powerhouse, leveraging our strengths in electronics, engineering and healthcare, Rajaa said in a social media

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LIMITED Tender Notice No.P-02/24-25 of DE/OP/SURYAPET Tenders are invited from eligible vendors for various electrical

works in Suryapet Operation Division. Details are available at www.tgsouthernpower.com, Ph.No. 7816060688, Last Date: 23.11.2024. Sd/- DIVISIONAL ENGINEER

🗃 GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION 🚳

EE - Div. 15, Sec-bad Zone, GHMC tMTNo: 37/EE/01v-15/SBZ/GHMC/2024-25, dt: 14.11.2024 fame of the work: GHMC-SBZ-Maintenance of (5)nos, of mobile bus tollets in Secunderab zone, GHMC. - (Rs. 46.20 lakhs), within 90 days, Last Date & Time of Bid: 25.11.2024 at 02.30 PM Sri S. Sreenivas, Executive Engineer, Division-15, Circle-15 Musheersbad, Sec'bad Zone, GHMC Cell: 9704455422. Address of the Concerned: Executive Engineer, Div-15, SBZ, GHMC Abids Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, Further details can rw.tendectelangana.gov.in

R.O.No: 6815-PP/CL/ADVT/12034-25, Dt. 14-11-2024



Follow us on

@TheDailyPioneer

facebook.com/ dailypioneer

Friday November 15, 2024

From the sun-kissed beaches of French Polynesia to the snowcapped peaks of Antarctica, Savi Munjal and Vidit Taneja have been on a journey of a lifetime. In an exclusive chat, they share their most unforgettable experiences and what's next for the power

ARCUND THE WORLD WITH

AARTI SREENATH aarti.sreenath9@gmail.com

couple behind

'Bruised Passports'

a world where wanderlust is a way of life, one couple stands out from the rest: Savi Munjal and Vidit Taneja, the trailblazing duo behind Bruised Passports, whose collective passport pages boast an impressive tally of over 100 countries visited. With 1.2 over 100 countries visited. With 1.2 million Instagram followers, these travel aficionados redefine wanderlust with every photograph and every captivating post. From National Geographic to BBC, their story has transcended borders, inspiring millions to view travel as a profound, nature-revering and slightly eccentric adventure.

As they share the highlights of their latest escapades in French Polynesia. plus a few unforgettable memories, they invite us all to step into their journey—and maybe even start planning our next. We caught up with them fresh from their latest escapades to dive into their world of scenic beaches, hidden islands, and... cheese & onion chocolate? Here's what they had to say!

In the heart of Polynesia, Savi and Vid found paradise on earth. "We've been smitten," they admit. From the moment they touched down, every detail enchanted them: white-sand beaches, the vibrant hues of coralfilled waters and people who are as warm as the island sunshine. But it was the locals' reverence for nature that left the most lasting impression. "Their relationship with nature isn't just respectful; it's deeply spiritual. You don't just see this connection—you feel it."

If you're picturing French Polynesia as a

backdrop for some truly Instagram-worthy looks, you're right. Their travel wardrobe mirrored the Polynesian aesthetic with a sarong that catches the breeze, flower crowns fit for royalty and long, flowing dresses that add a playful punch of colour to any sandy shore. "For us, dressing up is part of the travel experience," they explain. "Fashion lets me engage with the vibe of each destination and Polynesia was all about natural, flowy beauty."

In Polynesia, where every island feels like a chapter from a dreamy novel, the pair still managed to find a hidden gem—an island so unique it almost felt otherworldly. Taha'a, they confess, was a delightful discovery. "It's like stepping into another realm where time slows down and all you breathe is vanilla," they recall. "We'd never even heard of it before, but we left with the feeling that we'd found an island

as magical as it gets." Of course, being seasoned travellers, Savi and Vid have their fair share of contrasting travel tales. When they talk about their favourite places back home, Ladakh always gets a special mention. "Even after visiting over a hundred countries, Ladakh's landscapes are extraordinary," they added. The barren beauty, the isolated monasteries, the peace that settles over you—it's some-

thing they haven't quite experienced anywhere else.
Their journey through Polynesia was enhanced by the right hotel choices—something they believe can make or break a trip. "In a beach destination, nothing beats a room with an ocean view," they insist. "Our hotel in Polynesia didn't just have incredible views; it added an extra layer to our experience. A little planning goes a long way in making a holiday unforgettable."

When they need a break from all the planning, though, Savi and Vid have a tried-and-true sanctuary: Bali. They've spent almost 20 months there over the years, making it an easy escape for recharging their batteries. "It's a dream destination for digital nomads," they say. With everything from yoga studios to waterfalls and organic cafes, Bali offers a perfect balance of calm and adventure, letting them enjoy the slower rhythms of life whenever they need to reset. However, not all of their travel stories are as relaxing.

One chilling memory involves being stranded in a Croatian forest, thanks to a malfunctioning GPS. "It was pitch dark and we were completely lost. At the time, we were terrified!" they recall.

A continent that holds an almost mythical status in their memory is Antarctica. "They say you should save Antarctica for last, because nothing will ever measure up afterward," they say, describing the icy beauty of the place. "Seeing penguin colonies, hiking glaciers and floating past icebergs felt like we were on another planet," It was an experience they'd dreamed of and it didn't disappoint—though both admit they may be ruined for snowy landscapes anywhere else!

Of course, travel is also an experience that brings out the nostalgia for simpler times. One of their most cherished travel memories involves squeezing into a Maruti 800 and heading for hill stations like Shimla with their families. "It's such a core part of the childhood travel experience in India. It taught us early on that the journey itself is the most memorable part sometimes?

With South America firmly on their travel radar. Savi and Vid are eager to explore Brazil and Colombia, two places they've been longing to capture for their social media audience. "We think our followers would love it," they say. As they share their stories and dreams with a loyal community, it's clear that for this couple, travel is as much about the people who join them on their virtual journey as it is about the destinations

Their soundtracks are carefully curated, too. Savi and Vid love discovering local music wherever they go, but if they need a go-to playlist, you'll hear old-school jazz and Frank Sinatra wafting through their speakers. But travel brings laughs, too—especially with cultural misunderstandings. One of the funniest happened in Australia, where they mis-interpreted the phrase, "How are you going?" as an inquiry into their mode of transportation. "We actually answered by saying we'd be taking a cab!" they remember. It was a moment that reminded them why travel is truly the greatest education.

When it comes to mementos, they skip the usual fridge magnets and instead collect quirky snacks from around the world. "We've brought home everything from electric-blue Takis to wasabi KitKats and cheese-flavoured chocolates. It's a fun way to relive our trips after we're back," they share.

If you're looking for their top travel hack, Savi has one that every overpacker needs to hear. "Pack lighter than you think you need to! Once you lay everything out, take out about a third of it. You'll be surprised at how much you can do without." As seasoned travellers who know the importance of making space for new experiences (and maybe a few extra snacks), Savi and Vid have learned that the lightest bags hold the best memories.

As they prepare for the next chapter in their journey, they remind us that travel isn't about ticking places off a list, it's about discovering just how much magic the world holds and maybe even sharing a little of it with others.

Promising show with room for growth

TEJAL SINHA tejal.sinha30@gmail.com

he wait is over! The realm of love, unexpected twists and complex feelings makes its way back with the thrilling second season of *Half Love Half Arranged* on Amazon MX Player! The popular rom-com series from Dice Media has just released its trailer, offering fans a sneak peek into Riya's heartfelt adventure as she seeks love amidst family pressures and revelations.

In this season, Half Love Half Arranged reintroduces the cherished dynamics between Riya (played by Maanvi Gagroo) and Jogi (played by Karan Wahi), while adding a fresh element with Ved (played by Rithvikk Dhanjani), who enters the cast in a significant role. Set in the context of contemporary love, the series centers on Riya as she reaches a pivotal moment, deciding between her dreams and a future filled with obstacles. Filled with touching scenes and comedic turns, Season 2 guarantees a deeper exploration of Riya's journey to self-discovery and the fragile equilibrium between her happiness and family customs.

The series explores themes of love, relationships, family and identity, all set against the backdrop of modern-day India. The tone is light-hearted and humorous, with a touch of wit and sarcasm. The show balances comedy and drama beautifully, making it an engaging watch. The season being divided into six episodes, each episode's title, including Kya Karein Kya Na Karein, Chup Chup Ke, Dard-e-Disco, Bhaagam Bhag, Tere Mere Pyaar Ke Charche and Kuch Khaas Hai, aptly hints on what the episode is going to be about. And so do the particular episodes too. This season buckles up to being more heart-pumping drama, sultry romance and life-altering choices. The climax is surely worth the watch.

Though the plot is pretty much relatable to current-day love and relationships, some scenes do feel predictable, of course with a few surprises along the way. The show's focus on romantic love feels overwhelming at times, with other aspects of the characters' lives taking a backseat. The show could have benefited from a more nuanced portrayal of the challenges and complexities of arranged mar-riages. In a few scenes, some viewers may feel bored. **PERFORMANCES**

Maanvi Gagroo shines as Riya Tanwar yet again, bringing a nuanced and relatable performance to the role. She perfectly captures Riya's vulnerability, wit and charm, making her a lovable and rootable protagonist. Karan Wahi has a natural charm and likability that makes his character hard to resist, and his chemistry with Maanvi Gagroo is undeniable. The lasting relationship between Maanvi Gagroo and Karan Wahi is making a comeback in the latest season and Rithvikk Dhanjani also holds an





important role. Rithvikk being Rithvikk adds his own humour, fun and let's not forget, he and his skills make you feel pretty much relatable to his character. The supporting cast gives you the perfect vibes of your regular Indian family and the chaos.

TECHNICAL ASPECT

The editing is crisp and well-paced, with a good balance of fast-paced and slow-burning scenes. The transitions between scenes are smooth and the show's timeline is easy to follow. Music by Vishal Patil, Advait Sawant and Karthik Rao is another plus point this season. But again, there are a few places where the cinematography doesn't reach the mark.

Half Love Half Arranged Season 2 is a resplendent and captivating romantic comedy series that masterfully navigates the intricate complexities of love, relationships, and family in modern-day India. With phenomenal performances from Maanvi Gagroo and Karan Wahi, who bring a mesmerising blend of wit, charm and vulnerability to their characters, the show is an absolute triumph and a must-watch for fans of the genre.

DIRECTOR: Simarpreet Singh

WRITER: Parikshit Joshi PRODUCER: Aditi Shrivastava

CAST: Karan Wahi, Maanvi Gagroo, Rithvikk Dhanjani, Supriya Shukla, Āmit Singh Thakur, Aradhana Tripathi and Grusha Kapoor, among the rest

MUSIC: Karthik Rao

Navigating complex world of Huntington's disease

untington's disease is a progressive hereditary disease that is caused by the mutation of faulty gene cells. It leads to the decay of nerve cells present in the brain, affecting a person's ability to think, move and memorise. There are two forms of Huntington's disease: adult onset, in which the symptoms usually begin after the age of 30, and early onset, which is a rare condition known as juvenile Huntington's disease, affecting children and teenagers. When it develops at an early stage, the symptoms are different and have a faster progression than the ones that begin later in life. According to the Huntington Disease Society of India, the disease is prevalent but rare, and approximately 7 in 1 lakh people have it.

The most common cause of this condition is the presence of a faultygene, passed on from one parent who has the same condition. Individuals with a family history of this condition are at higher risk of being diagnosed with it. It causes a wide range of physical, behavioural and cognitive symptoms and varies from person to person, which worsens over time if not treated.

These include:

Physical symptoms:

- Facing difficulty while eating, speaking or
- swallowing
 Uncontrolled movement and lack of coordination
- Loss of consciousness or seizures Chorea, involuntary movements casing spams,
- ierks or twitches in the body Loss in weight and weakening of a person's

immune system

- **Behavioural symptoms** Obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) that
- leads to repetitive behaviours affecting every-
- Inability to sleep or insomnia
- Stubbornness
- Irritability and mood swings due to the inability to perform daily tasks
- Delusional disorders, which involves false beliefs that are not based on reality

Cognitive symptoms

- Inability to memorise things
- Hallucinations
- Lack of focus while performing activities
- Trouble in learning new things
 Often causes dementia if it worsens

With no cure yet, Huntington's disease cannot be completely treated, but there are a few options available to help manage its symptoms and provide a bet-

ter quality of life. It has a multifaceted approach, from medications and therapy sessions to lifestyle modification. Medications like antidepressants are usually prescribed to help manage the anxiety and depression that can be caused by the inability to do basic tasks. Therapies like speech therapy to help with communication and cognitive behavioural therapy to help manage cognitive symptoms like improving concentration. Apart from this, a healthy lifestyle and an increase in the intake of nutritious food and diet to strengthen the immune system can significantly help. Including exercise, yoga, and other

physical activities in daily life can help manage the symptoms. It is important to be aware of the symptoms of this condition and seek medical help in case it can't be managed. Treatment, which is tailored to the specific condition, ensures effective care and improvement in the quality of life.

(Dr. Apurva Sharma, is a Consultant in neurology, at Manipal Hospital.)



















Dr.Nandita



In celebration of World Diabetes Day, Continental Hospitals successfully hosted a diabetic awareness session, bringing together leading experts in diabetes care and launching India's first-ever diabetic support channel on WhatsApp. The session focused on empowering individuals with the knowledge and tools they need to take control of their health and manage diabetes effectively. Dr Guru N. Reddy, a renowned gastroenterologist, founder and chairman of Continental Hospitals, highlighted the growing diabetes epidemic.

what's brewing?



The Brahmakumaris Shanti Sarovar, under patronage of Raunaq Yar Khan, 9th Nizam of the Asaf Jahi Dynasty, organised a transformative event titled "An Evening on Stress Detox." This special gathering featured motivational leader Asha Didi Head of Brahmakumaris and focused on understanding and managing stress, while uncovering internal solutions for emotional wellbeina



GHMC Mayor Gadwal Vijayalaxmi, along with Chairman of Manikonda Municipality Kasturi Narender and other dignitaries, marked their presence at the inauguration ceremony of PraAn Eye Care at Alkapur Township.



Bangarutalli Foundation initiated by Building Blocks Group (BBG) showcased its commitment to social responsibility and education at an inspiring event held at Novotel HICC in Hyderabad. The gathering spotlighted the dedication of educating and empowering young girls across India. Key speaker at the event, Neeraja delivered a powerful address on the importance of supporting girls' education, highlighting how it influences not just the girl's future but also uplifts her family and community.

abCoffe, grab-and-go specialty coffee chain is excited to announce its expansion into Hyderabad. Known for its exquisite graband-go concept and seamless app-driven coffee experience, it is ready to bring India's best grown coffee and beverages at honest prices to the city.





Uber unveiled a suite of new features aimed at enhancing the daily experiences of its drivers in India, focusing on safety, fairness, and ease of use. The new features and app improvements have been introduced to improve the every day experience of drivers in a way

that makes driving with the platform rewarding and fulfilling



Vaishnaoi Group announced the launch of Vaishnaoi Southwoods in Mamidipally, Shamshabad. Under the visionary leadership of founder Yelishala Ravi Prasad, the group continues to create remarkable projects that blend spacious living, innovation and luxury.



Resonance - Hyderabad Centre hosted its grand annual college festival, ResoFEST 2024, today at the Gachibowli Stadium. The event was inaugurated by chief guest Jayesh Ranjan, Special Chief Secretary, I&C, IT, E&C, Government of Telangana, marking the largest junior college festival in the twin cities. Distinguished personalities, including Srikanth Bolla, Founder of Bollant Industries; Bhaskar Rao, Founder of KIMS Hospitals; and Prof. B.S. Murthy, Director of IIT Hyderabad, addressed and inspired the gathering. Over 5,000 students from Resonance campuses across Hyderabad joined the event

ARCHIE









CALVIN AND HOBBES







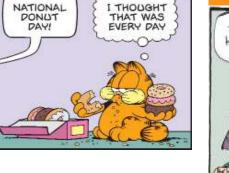


GARFIELD







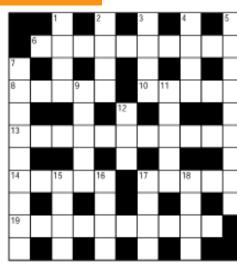


REALITY CHECK

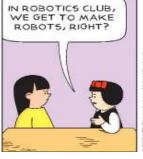




CROSSWORD



NANCY









SUDOKU

7						4		
5				8	7	6		
		6	9		7			1
	5				1		6	
		2		3		5		
	8		2				3	
8			235		4	9		
		9	5	7				2
		3						6

DIFFICULTY RATING: ** ** () 5() 5()

		Yesterday's solution											
_		7	9	1	4	2	6	8	3	5			
		8	2	4	5	3	7	9	6	1			
		3	5	6	9	1	8	4	2	7			
_		5	7	8	3	4	9	2	1	6			
		1	6	2	8	7	5	3	4	9			
_		9	4	3	1	6	2	5	7	8			
		6	8	7	2	9	3	1	5	4			
		4	3	5	7	8	1	6	9	2			
-		2	1	9	6	5	4	7	8	3			
	Rules												
•					w ai eac				can 1 to	9)			

The sum of all numbers in

any row or column must equal 45.

A round handle

ACROSS

8 Arm joint

14 From Ireland

17 These birds honk

6 Words that ask you

politely to come

10 The head of a city council

13 Very tall city buildings

19 A person who has seen

give evidence in court

- 2 The scene from a window
- 3 Do damage to
- 4 Very small 5 Took clothes off

something happen and can

Sweated

15 A thought

17 Firearms

west

9 A desert green place 11 This fruit has pips

16 This grows on heads

18 The direction opposite

12 Rub with a towel

GINGER MEGGS







Hyderabad | Friday November 15, 2024

Even Varun Tej couldn't save *Matka*!

arun Tej, a member of the Mega family, has been searching for a breakout hit in recent years. Though he attempted different genres in his previous films, success has eluded him. Now, he has ventured into a period drama with *Matka*, directed by Karuna Kumar of *Palasa* fame. Varun Tej extensively promoted the film across Andhra Pradesh, pinning his hopes on its success. Meenakshi Chaudhary stars as the female lead, with Nora Fatehi in a significant role. Produced by Vijender Reddy and Rajani Talluri, did *Matka* finally deliver the success Tej has been seeking? Let's find out.

The plot follows Vasu (played by Varun Tej), who arrives in Visakhapatnam from Burma with his mother. Following a confrontation with a local, Vasu lands in jail, where he develops a fearless demeanor under the influence of the jailer (played by Ravi Shankar). After his release, he tried to secure work in Poorna Market. In an incident, he saves Reddy (played by Ajay Ghosh) from the goons of local don KB (played by John Vijay), which leads to a friendship with Nani Babu (played by Kishore), a local politician.

(played by Kishore), a local politician. With Nani Babu's support, Vasu ventures into business, opening garment shops and other enterprises.

During this time, he meets Sujatha (played by Meenakshi Chaudhary), a woman from an underprivileged background, and they fall in love and marry. A trip to Mumbai introduces Vasu to a group gambling with small warry. A trip to Mumbai introduces Vasu to a group gambling with small sums, sparking his interest in starting a matka game in Hyderabad. The popularity of the game soon spirals out of control, affecting the Indian economy, prompting the Prime Minister to initiate an inquiry. Sujatha urges Vasu to abandon the game as it leads many to ruin, yet the investigaleads many to ruin, yet the investiga-tion intensifies. Rival groups begin targeting Vasu, and his journey through these challenges forms the crux of the story.



Cast: Varun Tej, Meenakshi Chaudhary, Nora Fatehi, Naveen Chandra, Ajay Ghosh, Satyam Rajesh, Kishore, John Vijay, Ravi Shankar and others

<mark>/riter, direct</mark>or: Karuna Kumar er: Vijender Reddy Teegala,

Music: GV Prakash Kumar <mark>matographer:</mark> A Kishor Kumar

Analysis:

Director Karuna Kumar drew inspiration from the real-life Matka King Ratan Khatri. However, while he spoke extensively about the game pre-release,

it is scarcely explored on screen, limited to roughly 15 minutes. The narrative begins with Vasu's arrival in Visakhapatnam and his rise to local prominence, which is initially intrigu-ing but quickly loses momentum as the pacing slows.

Though Vasu ventures into multiple businesses, it's only when he stumbles upon gambling that he sees a lucrative opportunity. However, the director fails to delve into the nuances of the matka game, a missed opportunity to explore its mechanics and impact. A notable absence of storytelling depth in this regard detracts from the film, as the director handles the subject matter in a formulaic and predictable way.

The film's strongest aspect is its production value, effectively capturing the period backdrop. Certain loca-

tions, such as Visakhapatnam's Poorna Market, offer a nostalgic touch that local audiences may appreciate. However, the climax is weak and the storyline becomes predictable, devolving into a standard revenge drama between Vasu and his adversaries. A highlight in the second half is an interaction between Varun Tej and Nora Fatehi, but otherwise, the narrative lacks engaging elements. The songs detract from the film's flow, and GV Prakash Kumar's background score is underwhelming, though the

cinematography is commendable.
While films like KGF and Pushpa showcased protagonists with darker shades in compelling ways, Matka fails to replicate this success. Despite Varun Tej's honest portrayal, the story's lackluster execution hinders the film. The slow-paced narrative offers little excitement beyond a couple of notable

Performance:

Varun Tej brings sincerity and depth to Vasu, especially in portraying the character's aged version. However, even his dedicated performance cannot compensate for the film's weak story-

Meenakshi Chaudhary delivers an adequate performance, while Nora Fatehi impresses with her negative role! Supporting actors like Ajay Ghosh, Kishore, John Vijay, Satyam Rajesh and Salloni perform adequately but aren't given substantial material to shine.

The dialogues are ordinary, and the music, as noted, detracts from the overall impact.

Verdict:

Ultimately, Karuna Kumar's Matka is a formulaic film with an uninspired story and conventional narration. Apart from Varun Tej's performance, Matka has little to offer.

While the title suggests a focus on 'matka', it's limited to brief moments, leaving the audience wanting more substance on the subject.

What went wrong with Kanguva?

SURESH KAVIRAYANI sureshkavirayani@gmail.com

ne of the much awaited films, Kanguva starring Suriya in dual roles was released on Thursday. The film which took years to complete, is finally released. Siva, who made films with Tamil superstar Ajith, is the director of this film. This is also one of the high budget films in the latest times, with the inclusion of graphics because of its periodic story. Previously, Suriya's *Jai Bhim* which was released directly on OTT in 2021, has now high hopes on this one. The movie was also released in a 3D format. Disha Patani plays the female lead. Did this film live up to the expectations and give a hit to Suriya? Let's see the film's story and how it goes...

Story: Francis (played by Suriya) is a bounty hunter and helping the police to nab the people whoever they wanted. He works with his friend (played works with his friend (played by Yogi Babu) and his rival is his ex-girlfriend Angelina (played by Disha Patani). One day Francis meets a boy and he finds that there is some connection between him and the boy. Whenever the boy sees into his eyes, Francis feels some kind of bond and then the story takes us centuries back. Kanguva (played by Suriya) or Kanga, who is the leader of a tribal sect and he does anything to save his people. On the other side a Romanian leader is trying to occupy the tribal lands, with the help of other tribal sects. Udhiran (played by Bobby Deol) is leader of one tribal sect and he wants to help the Romanian. How Kanguva

defends his land from the enemies and what is the connection between Kanguva and a boy? Also what is the connection

between Kanguva and Francis and the boy? You have to see the film for all the answers.

Analysis:

big hype and expectations. Before the release, the makers had praised the film pretty much. The promotional videos also look interesting, so one expects something from this one. The story starts with the present day and the director starts with Suriya and Yogi Babu's combination scenes in a more comic way. The director feels those scenes are tests the patience of the are many characters appear-

Cast: Suriya, Disha Patani, Bobby Deol, Yogi Babu, KS Ravi Kumar, BS Avinash, Redin Kingsley and others irector: Siva

r: KE Gnanavel Raja, V Vamsi Krishna Reddy, Pramod

lusic: Devi Sri Prasad pher: Vetri Palanisamy Iriters: Siva, Adhinarayana

Rating: 2/5 audience.

Madan Karky

visuals are fantastic, but the narration is pathetic. The director simply took the Rajamouli's Magadheera story idea of the reincarna-tion and used it in the Kanguva story. In Magadheera, the connection is between a boy and girl where they were lovers in and Suriya's their earlier birth and rebirth again and found their love. The same story has been shown in a different way in by the director and in this film he has taken a warrior and a kid in the past, they

Then he goes to the past back to centuries old and the

rebirth again in the modern era as Francis and a boy. There is no interesting story till it comes to an end. The visuals are good, but the director couldn't use them for a proper story. The film is loud and every character is shouting with a big voice as the Telugu version dubbing is not up to the mark. The big minus is Devi Sri Prasad's music and the background score. In some parts of the film he literally copied the popular Kantara music humorous, but actually it and put it in this film. There

ing on the screen and one can't be sure what they are and whom they are fight-

The 3D version of the film is completely bad and not up to the mark. I watched the film in 3D and I found it very difficult to see it as the miniature kind of visuals. After the first half completed, I watched the second half of the film in 2D which looked good. I don't know why the makers wanted to release it in 3D, which is completely a bad thought. The movie completely falls short of expectations and except the visuals, the film offers nothing.

Performance:

When it comes to the performance, Suriya is good in the warrior and period look. After watching him on the big screen, one can see that his efforts are sincere! Disha Patani is there for glamour and nothing more Yogi Babu and Redin Kinglesy characters are irritating.

There are many other characters, most of them are in Tribals and some of them are Russians. The music is not up to the mark, but the cinematography is

Verdict:

Finally, Kanguva is a complete dud and falls short of expectations. Director Siva is not showing anything new, as it simply sees as if he has remade the Magadheera film, in his own style. Despite Suriya's efforts, you can skip this film, especially the 3D ver-

SDT'S 10 GLORIOUS **Sobhita Dhulipala** YEARS IN TF

ega Supreme Hero Sai is an energetic phenomenon. The enterniner made his smasl ing entry into the Telugu film industry on November 14, 2014, with Pilla Nuvvu Leni *Ieevitham*. The crazy and beautiful love entertainer became a massive success. The actor made a powerful debut and continued his rise with a string of successful films. mega nephew quickly won over mega fans

First impressions are often the best, and this with his energy in his first movie. Over his 10-year film career, he has experienced both highs and lows. However, the major setback came when he became the victim of an accident, which took a toll on him. But, he made a remarkable recovery and returned to the sets in no time. The actor delivered his career-best blockbuster last year with Virupaksha and shared screen space with his inspiration and the current Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalvan in Bro. His massive comeback impressed everyone. Now, after a long gap, he is gearing up to create a sensation with SDT18. His new looks and makeover have raised expectations for the film. Along with enter-taining his audience,

he continues to show-

case his good heart and

social responsibility. Recently, he responded

to miscreant comments

about children and

relief efforts in the

Telugu states. With everything going per-fectly for Sai Dharam

tinue his Supreme

reign.

Tej, he is all set to con-

donated a significant amount for the flood



has chosen her wedding trousseau on her own!

Sobhita Dhulipala is gearing up for one of the most special days of her life—her wedding with the Telugu star Naga Chaitanya. Sobhita, known for her chic choices in fashion and style is planning to give a personal touch to her wedding by getting it all done by herself and not taking help of a stylist, which is very common with Bollywood celebs. Also, its an attempt to keep everything closer to Telugu culture. According to a source, she is planning to choose her wedding outfit without a stylist,

"Sobhita Dhulipala has chosen her wedding trousseau on her own without a stylist's help ," shared the source. "She has been shopping with her mother at old local shops in Andhra Pradesh and a few regions of Telangana and Tamil Nadu which are popular for authentic and traditional fabrics for sarees from the land. She believes in giving a personal touch to the big day and so she has been discussing her outfits with the designers just as she wants them to be," source concluded.

Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita Dhulipala got engaged in a traditional ceremony a few months ago. Chay and Sobhita are set to tie the knot soon in the presence of their family and friends. The actress has been giving sneak peeks at several traditional pre-wedding functions that were held at her house on her social media account. The simple and stunning

traditional silk saree Sobhita donned for the wedding ritual was gifted to her by her mother-in law Lakshmi Daggubati (Naga Chaitanya's

Nithiin's Robinhood teaser hints actor's much-deserved break

Nithiin, who was once a much-celebrated star in the Telugu cinema, had the biggest turn offs in his life with back-to-back flops, affecting his career in a

However, now the actor has teamed up with his favourite director, Venky Kudumula, for an actioncomedy titled Robinhood. Produced by Mythri Movie Makers, the film has been in the making for the last two years. On Thursday, the makers released the first-look teaser of the film, which has been creating quite a good buzz. From story, to comedy, looks and actions, the teaser hits the right chord. The teaser hints at the actor in the character of Robinhood, who cheats the rich. Venky Kudumula has surely raised the expectations. Sreeleela also makes her comeback after a hiatus. She surely enraptures hearts. The film also stars Rajendra Prasad and Mime Gopi.





Aditi Shankar is an 'Allari Pilla' in *Bhairavam*

ellamkonda Sai Sreenivas's upcoming film Bhairavam, is a neo-bnoir action thriller. Not long ago, Nara Rohit and Manchu Manoj's characters were introduced.

Now, on Thursday, the makers introduced the character of Aditi Shankar. Her character, Vennela is described as 'Allari Pilla'. "She will capture your hearts like never before," wrote the makers. The poster shows the actress as a milk vendor. Aditi was previously seen in Viruman and Maaveran in Tamil.

India thrash Thailand 13-0 in women's ACT hockey

PTI ■ RAJGIR (BIHAR)

oung striker Deepika Y slammed five goals as defending champions India thrashed minnows Thailand 13-0 to virtually assure a semifinal berth at women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament here on Thursday.

It was a completely one-sided match as the Indians found the net at will, with Thailand failing to take a single shot at the opposition

goal. Deepika (3rd, 19th, 43rd 45th, 45th minutes) found the net five times, while Preeti Dubey (9th, 40th), Lalremsiami (12, 56th) and Manisha Chauhan (55th, 58th) scored a brace each.

Beauty Dung Dung (30th) and Navneet Kaur (53rd) were the other goal getters for India who registered match.
their third consecutive win It took India just three in the round-robin league

out a close 3-2 win over South Korea. The Indians will next play Olympic silver medallists

China on Saturday.
India are now in the second spot in the standings with nine points, the same as China who, however, are on the top on the basis of a better goal difference. China have a goal difference of + 21 as against +18 of India. The top four teams out of six at the end of roundrobin league stage will qualify for the semifinals.

It was complete domination from India from start to finish as they continuously toyed with the Thai defence, which looked clueless against the home team's relentless attacks.

The Indians also improved on the penalty corner front, converting five out of 12 PCs they secured in the

minutes to take the lead through a fine field goal by stage. through a fine field goal by India had earlier defeated Malaysia 4-0 before eking through a fine field goal by Deepika. She beautifully controlled a defence spitting



pass from Neha and to find the back of the net Minutes later, Manisha inside the circle but she positioned herself perfectly Chauhan got a free shot couldn't connect the ball

properly.
In the ninth minute, Preeti doubled India's lead, tapping in Sangita Kumari's pass from close range.
Three minutes

Lalremsiami scored from a rebound after skipper Salima Tete's initial try was saved by Thai goalkeeper Siraya Yimkrajang.
India continued to mount

raids and secured their first penalty corner in the 17th minute but the Thai custodian made a triple

In the 19th minute, Deepika scored her second goal of the day, again with a fine shot from the top of the circle.

The Indians then wasted three penalty corners before scoring from the next set piece just at the stroke of half-time through Beauty, who found the net from a goal-mouth melee as the hosts went into the breather with a comfortable 5-0 lead. An unmarked Preeti beat the onrushing Thai goalie neatly and found the net in

second goal of the match. Minutes later, Deepika converted a penalty corner with a flick to the top right corner of Thai goal.

Within a span of two minutes, Deepika scored two more goals -- one from field play and the next from penalty corner -- to hand India a comprehensive 9-0 lead at the end of the third

quarter. After resumption, Navneet scored with a reverse hit after receiving a pass from Sushila Delvi.

Five minutes from the final hooter, Manisha converted India's 10th penalty corner Lalremsiami before deflected in Udita's slap shot from another set piece in the next minute.

Manisha registered her name again in the scoresheet two minutes from full time from field play. In other matches of the day, Malaysia beat Korea 2-1 while China continued their unbeaten run by defeating Japan by the same margin.

Surya gave me chance to bat at No. three after I asked, had to repay faith: Tilak Varma

PTI ■ CENTURION

 T^{ilak} Varma did not want to become a source of chagrin for his skipper Survakumar Yadav after requesting him for the number three slot in the batting order in the third T20I against South Africa. And he didn't.

Varma had batted at number four in Durban and Gqueberha, scoring 33 and Surya, who himself batted at number three, after giving it a thought,

obliged his young teammate.
"In Gqeberha, he (Tilak) came to my room and said, 'Give me the opportunity to bat at No. 3. Let me express myself," said Surya.
Now it was for Varma to make the most

of the opportunity and responded with

a match-wining century.

After reaching his 51-ball-century, second fifty coming in just 19 balls, Varma pointed towards the dug-out and blew a flying kiss to acknowledge

his captain. "It was for 'SKY', our skipper because he gave me a chance to bat at number three," Varma told reporters after India's 11-run win on Wednesday night.

"I love batting at number three, but in last two matches, I played at number four. Last night he came to my room



and said that 'You will bat No. 3' and he said it's a good opportunity. Go and express yourself.

"I told him, 'You have given me an opportunity, I will show you on the ground," said the second youngest Indian centurion in T20 Internationals. His innings of 107 off 56 balls had seven sixes apart from eight fours including a straight and a flicked six off opposition's fastest bowler and his former Mumbai Indians teammate Gerald Coetzee.

youngster Abhishek Sharma, who scored a half-century after a string of failures.

'The team backed us even when we flopped. They told us to play the brand of cricket Indian team is known for and the skipper and the management (interim head coach VVS Laxman) said, "Bindaas khelna Agar wicket gire tab bhi (Play freely even if you lose a wicket).

The stylish Hyderabadi batter spoke Varma added 107 runs with another about missing out on international

tours of Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka due to finger injury but said he always knew that he would score when his time

"During the last IPL game, I had a finger dislocation and was ruled out for two months. Then during nets post recovery, I sustained another fracture. So I missed two back-to-back series --Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka.

"I was feeling bad that I missed out on two series and good opportunities. But I had to remain patient, focus on the process and keep working hard. I knew my time would come and when right time comes, I will score runs."

The team management chose to persist with Varma when the chips were down and the youngster is reaping rewards for that.

"I was waiting for this opportunity and unfortunately in the last match it didn't happen but captain and management also supported a lot, and the results I also supported a lot, and the results 1 am getting now is because of their complete backing."
He is a handy off-spinner and feels that he has worked hard on his bowling as

he wants to be seen as an all-rounder. The ball is really coming out well and I have worked hard on my bowling. I want to contribute as an all-rounder.

Mendis and Fernando tons earn Sri Lanka comfortable win over New Zealand in first ODI

AP ■ DAMBULLA (SRI LANKA)

Kusal Mendis and Avishka Fernando smashed centuries against a new-look New Zealand as Sri Lanka cruised to a 45-run win under the DLS method in a rain-hit first ODI.

143 off 128 balls and Fernando made 100 off 115 in Sri Lanka's imposing total of 324-5 in 49.2 overs before rain came and reduced New Zealand's target to 221 off 27 overs.

Young and Tim Will Young and Tim Robinson, one of the three New Zealand debutants, combined in an 88-run opening stand but Sri Lanka derailed the Black Caps' chase through its spinners and restricted the reply to a total of 175-9.

bowlers Maheesh Slow Theekshana (2-32), captain Charith Asalanka (2-15), and Jeffrey Vandersay (1-40), in place of injured Wanindu Hasaranga, all left their mark before left-arm fast bowler Dilshan Madushanka grabbed 3-39 to give Sri Lanka a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. Earlier, Mendis and Fernando combined in a 206-run second-wicket stand after debutant Nathan Smith took a well judged running catch at third man to dismiss Pathum at mid-on. Nissanka (12) in Jacob Duffy's second over after Asalanka won the toss and elected to

Duffy could not hold onto a

sharp low return catch from Mendis when the batter was on 11 in the only chance the pair gave before raising Sri Lanka's highest second-wicket stand in a one-day international against New Zealand. The double-century stand bettered the previous Sri Lanka record of 170 between Sanath Jayasuriya and Hashan Tillakaratne during the 2003

World Cup. Both batters were solid against pace and spin as New Zealand's slow bowlers couldn't extract much turn from the wicket. Mitchell Santner returned 0-53 in his 10 overs while Ish Sodhi (1-62) and Michael Bracewell (1-73) were also expensive as both batters swept the

spinners with ease. Mendis raised his fourth ODI hundred in the 37th over off 102 balls and Fernando struck his first ODI century after three years in the next over. Fernando, who hit nine fours and two sixes, got dismissed soon after completing his fourth ODI hundred when he couldn't get enough elevation against Sodhi and was caught

Mendis, who Bracewell for two sixes and a boundary in his last over, tried to accelerate further in the death overs but sliced a regulation catch to extra cover in Duffy's return spell. Mendis struck 17 fours and two sixes in a dominant display of strokeplay after struggling in the drawn T20 series against the Black Caps last week at the same venue.

New Zealand's top-order slipped against the spinners despite Young (48) and Robinson (35) combining in a decent start of 88 off 80 balls. The visitors lost five wickets for 22 runs — going from 88-0 to 110-5 — after Maheesh Theekshana removed both openers in one over. Theekshana had Robinson

stumped by Mendis at the second attempt and then went through the defenses of Young with a straight delivery. Asalanka picked up two wickets in successive overs with Theekshana grabbing a stunning catch at short mid-wicket to dismiss Mark Chapman as Sri Lanka deflated Black Caps' runchase.

Pallekele will host the remaining two matches of the series on Sunday and

McSweeney doesn't need to copy Warner, he has his own game: Khawaja

PTI ■ PERTH

Veteran Australian opener Usman Khawaja backed his new opening partner Nathan McSweeney, urging him to play his own game against India in Perth rather than trying to ape David Warner, who was a "special player" in his own right.

Approaching his 38th birthday, Khawaja, a veteran of 73 Tests with nearly five and half thousand runs and 15 tons, also believed that needing to score runs at a needing to score runs at a quick clip is nothing but an urban myth, and advised McSweeney to just "repeat the process" which has worked for him till date.

"I don't know where this myth started that you needed someone to score really fast. As an opener you're trying to score runs and you've got five Khawaja



days to do it. We didn't have one Test match go for five days, last year. Opening is as much about scoring runs and just being able to absorb that time," Khawaja was quoted as saying by news.Com.Au.

everyone is as gifted as his former opening partner, who could switch gears at ease in the traditional format.

"Davey (Warner) was special. He could score runs while saying by news.Com.Au. absorbing.

Talking about Warner, He could sometimes score

said that not 100 of 100 balls but he didn't

platform for guys later to come in and score runs. Those two are both very important things," Khawaja Khawaja is confident that

do it every time. Sometimes it took him 170, 180 balls to

get that 100.
"He was consistent, he was

out there, he was setting a

besides scoring runs at a fair clip, McSweeney also has the ability to bat time. "I think Nathan does that really well. He can score

runs, but he can also bat They're time. important facets to have in Test cricket if you want to set games up." Khawaja warned McSweeney

that there were "no guarantees in cricket" but said that the 25-year-old batter didn't "have to do anything different" in the

"You just try to repeat the process. The only thing that really changes is that you have a few more people watching. Not many people watch Shield cricket."

Test arena.

Khawaja seems confident that McSweeney can handle the demands of an extremely high-skilled format like Tests. "You always go through ups and downs in cricket, but when you look at Nathan, you look at his demeanour,

you look at the way he plays, vou feel that over a longer period of time that, yes, this guy will be able to handle the scrutiny of Test cricket and the pressure of Test cricket." "Even though there are no guarantees, I'm sure the selectors have made a calculated decision with him," Khawaj concluded.

Focus on Rinku's form and batting position as India aim series win The Indian captain, who enjoys a staggering victory percentage of 81.25, having of clarity. attacking and playing second fiddle. **PTI** ■ JOHANNESBURG Most of Rinku's better efforts come up trumps in 13 out of the 16 matches, would like to In the current series, Rinku have come when he has batted at number five but in a line-up came in at number six in two where Sanju Samson is do one better compared to the games and number seven in

Rinku Singh's batting slot and circumspect approach must be a cause of concern for the India team going into the deciding fourth T20I against South Africa as the side aims for another bilateral series

victory here Friday. Centuries by Sanju Samson and Tilak Varma on either side of an inept batting performance has kept India's nose ahead in the series and team would want a more collective batting effort to

clinch it 3-1. The Wanderers 'Bull Ring' has always been a happy hunting ground for India, where they won the 2007 T20 World Cup final against Pakistan.

Even during the previous T20I series a year back, skipper Suryakumar Yadav's last international hundred till date came at this very stadium and that too in a winning cause.

last series in the Rainbow Nation which had ended in a 1-1 draw with one game being washed out.

Curious case of Rinku Singh Rinku, one of the finest exponents of T20 cricket has suddenly gone off the boil in the past few months, reasons of which aren't exactly clear and it wouldn't be lost on the skipper and interim head

coach VVS Laxman. On the face of it, it seems that his batting position and use as a floater at number six and seven isn't helping the Aligarh

man's cause.
The next T20 World Cup in India is still some distance away in 2026 and Surya, as a

another and has managed just 28 runs.

The scores 11, 9 and 8 shouldn't be taken in isolation looking at where he is coming in to bat but when the number of balls (34) he has taken to the score runs is taken into consideration, it becomes worrisome.

Even during the last IPL Rinku got to play a total of 113 balls in 15 games for KKR: roughly 7.5 deliveries per game. Being seen strictly as a specialist "finisher" Rinku, on an average, would get to face 10 balls in an innings. The strategy would have been devised to help the India team but of late it has eroded some skipper, has enough time to dissect and put things back on seems to be caught between



where Sanju Samson is settling as an opener and Tilak Varma has staked claim as a No. 3, it might be difficult for Rinku to be promoted ahead of Hardik Pandya. It is an issue that team think-tank would do better to solve at

earliest. Team Combination

India have used 12 out of their 15 players in the first three games and it would be interesting to see if one among the two uncapped pacers Yash Dayal or Vysakh Vijaykumar gets a debut cap in case the pitch warrants an extra specialist speedster. For Samson, he would like to forget that he is turning into Marco Jansen's 'bunny' after back-to-back failures.

be a bad option for skipper Surya to check on Ramandeep Singh's steady medium pace as he can be an asset with multiple skills, including ability to field at all positions save keeping.

Squads: Squaus: 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. Maharaj, David Mihlali Mpongwana, Nqaba Peter, Ryan Rickelton. Andile Simelane. Lutho Sipamla, In the final game, it wouldn't Tristan Stubbs.