

This is no less than what happened in Manipur. The national media should also show the lawlessness in Telangana. Rahul is talking about protecting the Constitution. But first stop your Chief Minister's lawlessness. Rahul is surprising. There is another man in him. He says one thing, but does another thing. The country is watching what is being done

- KT Rama Rao, BRS working president

PM Modi interacts with US Prez Biden



STRESSFUL INTEREST RATES MAY IMPACT GROWTH ASPIRATIONS: FM



Manasa Varanasi expands horizons in Tamil CINEMA



DON'T MISS...

AIIMS docs save youth's life

A team of experts of AIIMS Bhubaneswar successfully saved the life of a 24-year-old man after his heart had stopped beating for nearly 90 minutes using a special resuscitation procedure — eCPR, marking a milestone in Odisha's medical history, doctors said on Monday. This life-saving intervention, known as Extracorporeal Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (eCPR) procedure, helped revive ...

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Building blocking public road razed

Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) has demolished an illegal building constructed blocking the public road in Ameenpur Municipality. In a release, the Ameenpur Municipality and HYDRAA officials have stated that a swift action was taken on Monday by demolishing a building constructed on a public road in Vandanapuri Colony. A complaint by the Jana ...

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Inter-State drug syndicate busted

In a major breakthrough, the Suryapet District Police have successfully busted two large-scale marijuana trafficking operations, leading to the arrest of seven suspects and the seizure of ganja worth over 28 lakh rupees. The authorities also seized expensive cars and mobile phones used in the smuggling operations. On Sunday, officers from Suryapet 2nd Town Police Station conducted a vehicle check near Rajeev Park. Two suspicious cars were stopped. The drivers ...

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Unemployment rate dips to 6.4 pc

The unemployment rate for people aged 15 years and above in urban areas dipped to 6.4 per cent in the July-September quarter, according to the National Sample Survey Survey (NSSO). Joblessness, or unemployment rate, is defined as the percentage of unemployed people in the labour force. The unemployment rate in the September quarter of FY24 was 6.6 per cent. The unemployment rate for people aged 15 years and above in the previous April-June quarter of FY25 was ...

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CM promises 4% quota for Muslims, seeks win for MVA



Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy addressing the Maharashtra Assembly elections campaign

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Pointing out that Telangana is already providing four per cent reservation for Muslims, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said that a decision will be taken on providing a four per cent quota for Muslims in Maharashtra if Maha Vikas Aghadi comes to power.

He said that they had initially provided five per cent reservations for Muslims. However, providing a five per cent quota led to breaching of the 50 per cent limit for quotas set by the Supreme Court, Revanth said.

Addressing the media at Pune during the Assembly election campaign in Maharashtra on Monday, Revanth said that reservations will be provided legally for Muslims. He said that it is the Congress's responsibility to ensure jus-

stice for the poor and the matter will be discussed after the formation of the Maha Aghadi Vikas government in Maharashtra.

He said that in Telangana during a recruitment drive for 11,000 teachers, 720 Muslims were hired as per the quota for them.

At a recent election rally in Maharashtra, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that a group of Muslim scholars had met Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and demanded 10 per cent reservation for the community and that Congress had agreed to the demand. He said that if reservations are given to Muslims, the reservations for SCs, STs, and OBCs will have to be cut.

"Rahul Baba, not only you, but even if four generations of your family try, you cannot cut the quota for SCs, STs, and

OBCs and give it to Muslims," Amit Shah said. Revanth Reddy's statement is creating ripples in Maharashtra Assembly elections in the context of Amit Shah's statement.

Govt allots Rs 4,962.47 crore for Warangal projects

The TG government has taken some key decisions regarding the development of Hanmakonda, Warangal and Kazipet on the first anniversary of 'People's Rule.'

The Congress Government has allotted Rs 4,962.47 crore for the development of Warangal. The funds were sanctioned for works undertaken in the city by various departments as per the orders of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.

The Chief Minister will lay foundation stones for the works and inaugurate projects on Tuesday during his Warangal tour.

The administration has issued orders permitting some projects. Funds have been allotted for the following projects. **Continued on Page 2**

'Lagacharla atrocities as serious as Manipur killings'

Drunk cops misbehaved with Lagacharla girls: KTR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The police came drunk and misbehaved with the girls of Lagacharla village, BRS Working President KT Rama Rao said.

He said the villagers had asked who gave the police the right to assault women and added that the Lagacharla villagers want action against the police who beat up farmers and misbehaved with women.

Addressing the media at the Constitutional Club in New Delhi on Monday along with Lagacharla victims, KTR said that Lagacharla villagers are saying that they are ready to die, but will not give up their lands. They also described in detail how the TG Chief Minister's brother is threatening them.

KTR asked whether Rahul is blind to the Revanth government's atrocities against the tribals of Telangana. Revanth is illegally grabbing the lands of tribal farmers, he said.

"The violence in Manipur, the death of small children in a UP hospital and the suffering of the Dharavi residents of Mumbai are being shown by the media. We are asking Rahul Gandhi who talks about Manipur why are you silent about the atrocities against the tribals of Telangana? Rahul said that he would come even **Continued on Page 2**



Bharatha Rashtra Samithi working president KT Rama Rao addressing the media at the Constitutional Club in Delhi on Monday

No need to destabilise TG govt, says KTR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is the only person in the state who can provide the packages required by Delhi, and that is why we think he will be the Chief Minister of TG for years, BRS Working President KT Rama Rao said.

Addressing the media at New Delhi's Constitutional Club on Monday, KTR said that the BRS does not need to destabilise the Revanth government. **Continued on Page 2**



State Civil Supplies Principal Secretary and Commissioner DS Chauhan addressing the media on Monday

Paddy worth Rs 3,045.76 cr procured, Rs 9.21 cr paid as bonus

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Civil Supplies Principal Secretary and Commissioner DS Chauhan said that 'revolutionary' reforms have been introduced by the TG government in paddy procurement.

He emphasised that these reforms are aimed at helping farmers and were launched after detailed studies by a ministerial sub-committee as per Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's orders.

Addressing a press conference at the Civil Supplies Office in Erramanzil Colony on Monday, Chauhan, along with Civil Supplies Director Prasad, said that 13.13 lakh tons of paddy have been procured state-wide at a cost of Rs 3,045.76 crore. Of this, Rs 1,560.70 crore have been paid to farmers, he said.

He said that due to the bumper harvest, 8,066 procurement centres were opened across the state. Of the procured paddy, 10.11 lakh tons is

the coarse variety and 3.02 lakh tons is the fine variety. An amount of Rs 9.21 crore was disbursed as a bonus for the latter, he said.

The government plans to disburse 90% of the bonus for fine varieties by November 23, Chauhan added. Any delays so far were due to technical reasons, but procurement and payments will now accelerate, he said.

He said that PDS rice stockpiling would be completed by year-end, and guidelines for distributing fine rice through ration shops would be implemented from January, benefiting 2.81 crore people across the state.

Chauhan clarified that reforms were introduced to address procurement inefficiencies and to prevent misuse, which had earlier caused losses to the government. The flaws in the old policy led to a burden of Rs 58,623 crore on the corporation between 2014 and 2023, he said. **Continued on Page 2**

Will make KCR's Samagra Kutumba Survey public, says Ponguleti



Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy addressing the media at the Secretariat on Monday along with Cantonment MLA Sri Ganesh

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Asking the BRS government why it did make its 'Samagra Kutumba Survey' report public, Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy

said the Congress government will certainly make KCR's 'Samagra Kutumba Survey' report public.

Addressing the media at the Secretariat on Monday, Ponguleti said that the opposition is unnes-

sarily criticising the caste census going on in the state. He said the Congress government is correcting the mistakes of the BRS admin and asked BRS leaders to function like a good opposition.

He said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy launched the caste census with foresight and that the survey is going on in the state like an X-Ray. He said the caste census is being done scientifically and that the survey report will be made public after the completion of the process. He said that he is not aware why the Karnataka Government did not make its caste census report public.

Ponguleti said the Congress Government will not do anything vengefully. He said that action would be taken against members of the BRS government as per law and that he doesn't know why BRS Working President KT Rama Rao went to New Delhi.

Election campaign ends in Maha; voting tomorrow

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The election campaign for the Maharashtra assembly polls ended on Monday, with the ruling BJP-led Mahayuti alliance vying to retain power and the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) combine hoping for a strong comeback.

Polling will be held in all the 288 assembly seats on November 20 and votes will be counted on November 23.

The election campaign saw prominent leaders like Narendra Modi, Amit Shah, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, and many Union ministers crisscrossing the state to garner votes for their candidates.

The Mahayuti, comprising the BJP, Shiv Sena led by Chief Minister **Continued on Page 2**

'Ready to scrap Musi Project if KCR says there is no need for it'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress government will scrap the Musi River Rejuvenation Project if former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao says that there is no need for that, Roads and Buildings (R&B) Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said.

"No one dared to put this question to KCR. But I am asking KCR, who is too intellectual and has read 80,000

books, to reveal whether the Musi Project is needed or not. I will convince Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to stop this project if KCR says there is no need for the Musi Project," Venkat said.

Criticising BRS Working President KT Rama Rao for going to New Delhi for Lagacharla victims, he said that KTR made the police beat up farmers regarding the Pharma City issue when he was in power. Now the same KTR made his men attack **Continued on Page 2**



R&B Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy addressing the media at the Secretariat on Monday

Court rejects ex-digital media head Dileep's remand

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The remand of former Telangana Digital Media director Konatham Dileep of the BRS party has been rejected by the VII Addl Chief Judicial Magistrate, Nampally on Monday.

He was arrested by the Hyderabad Cyber Crime for his alleged posts against the Revanth Reddy's government.

He was arrested by Hyderabad Cyber Crime under Sections 67 IT ACT and U/Sec 67 IT ACT and U/Sec 353(1)(b), 353(2), 352, 336(4), 351(4), 196, 61(2)(a), 111(3) BNS.

Lalitha Reddy of BRS Legal Team confirmed to The Pioneer that there were earlier three orders by Telangana High Court and



Konatham Dileep

Konatham Dileep was attending the investigation as usual. However, the arrest was not part of the investigation. So, the magistrate rejected his remand plea.

India top sender of students to US, China no. 2

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

More than 3.3 lakh Indians are studying in the US, making India the "top sender" of international students to America for the first time in 15 years, as it overtook China for the academic year 2023-24.

According to the Open Doors Report 2024 released on Monday, the number of Indian students studying in the US in the academic year 2023-24 is at an "all-time high" at 3,31,602, a rise of 23 per cent from 2022-23 when the number stood at 2,68,923.

The year before in 2022-23, the leading source country for international students in the US was China followed by India.

"India is now the leading country of origin for international students in the United States, accounting for 29 per cent of the total international student population," according to



a note shared by the US Embassy on the latest annual report.

According to official data associated with the latest report, the top five source countries for international students in the US for 2023-24 are -- India, China (2,77,398), South Korea (43,149), Canada (28,998) and

Taiwan (23,157).

"India is the top sender of international students (for the first time since 2008/2009) with over 3,31,602 students studying in the United States. The number of Indian students is at an all-time high," the US Embassy's note read. Normally, the

"India is now the leading country of origin for international students in the United States, accounting for 29 per cent of the total international student population," according to a note shared by the US Embassy on the latest annual report

academic year in the US begins in September and runs through May. In 2023-24, the US welcomed an all-time high of 1.12 million (1,126,690) international students. These students hail from more than 210 countries and places of origin, the note added.

US envoy Eric Garcetti, in an exclusive interview to PTI on the sidelines of an event at the American Center here spoke of the education cooperation between the two countries.

"We are friends, we have aligned hearts, we look at the world similarly, and now this is reflected in education. And, Indians are the number

one source of international students to United States universities... We have seen an increase of 50 per cent just in the last two years," he added.

This year's report also shows a 300 per cent increase in American students choosing India as a study-abroad destination. The number of Americans studying in India rose from 300 to 1,300 in 2022-2023.

India also "remained the largest sender" of international graduate (masters and PhD level) students in the US for the second year. The number of Indian graduate students increased by 19 per cent to reach 1,96,567, according to the report.



# Kishan lashes out at Revanth's promise for Muslim quota in Maha

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress's promise to give reservations to Muslims is a blatant betrayal of Babasaheb Ambedkar's vision and the principles enshrined in our Constitution, Telangana BJP President G. Kishan Reddy said and added that it was appeasement politics at its worst.

He countered Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's statement in Pune during the Maharashtra Assembly election campaign in which the CM said, "After forming the government (in Maharashtra) we will discuss it (Muslim reservations). Muslims have been given four per cent reservations in Telangana. We gave a five per cent quota but since that led to the breach of the 50% limit, the Supreme Court ordered to decrease that. In Telangana,



Telangana BJP president G. Kishan Reddy addressing the party's workshop on Congress government's one year rule failures

we recruited 11,000 teachers and 720 Muslims were hired as per the quota for them. Those who are poor and those who are in need, it is the Congress's responsibility to do justice to them."

Responding to this Kishan posted on X, "This is appeasement politics at its worst. The Congress's promise to give reservations to Muslims is a blatant betrayal of Babasaheb

Ambedkar's vision and the principles enshrined in our Constitution. The move not only fans communal division but also puts in danger the reservations for SCs, STs and OBCs. The BJP will never let this happen. We are committed to safeguarding Babasaheb's Constitution. The people of Maharashtra must beware of regressive religion-based reservation."

## KCR & Revanth buried ethical values: Kishan

The BRS and the Congress have watered down politics in the state, Telangana BJP President G. Kishan Reddy said.

He said the Congress government is like the BRS government. The people are facing the same corruption in

the state, he said and added that KCR and Revanth have given up 'ethical values' in politics. Both are trying to destroy the state totally, he said. Revanth had set up a task force to borrow money while KCR took loans amounting to Rs 7 lakh crore,

Kishan said. Criticising the 'Gulam to Gujarat' comments against him, Kishan said that he is a gulam of the nation, the BJP, Sardar Vallabhai Patel and other national heroes. He said that he is not a Gulam of the fake Gandhi family.

## Harichandana appointed RRR Project Director

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The state government appointed IAS officer Dasari Harichandana as the Regional Ring Road (RRR) Project Director on Monday.

Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy announced the appointment during a press conference held at the secretariat.

It may be recalled that the state government gave permission to invite tenders for the appointment of a consultant for the RRR's southern segment. The selected company will make technical and financial recommendations and also prepare a DPR.

It may be recalled that the government had divided the RRR project into north and south segments. The north part got the NH tag from the Centre while the state government is doing an exercise regarding the south alignment.

# Global South hit by food, fuel, fertiliser crisis due to conflicts

PNS ■ RIO DE JANEIRO

Rio de Janeiro, Nov 18 (PTI) The countries of the Global South are most adversely impacted by the food, fuel and fertiliser crisis caused by global conflicts and G20 must give primacy to their concerns and priorities, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday.

In an address on the first day of the G20 summit, Modi complimented the Brazilian presidency of the grouping for taking forward the "people-centric decisions" taken at the

## PM Modi at G20 Summit



## PM Modi interacts with Biden

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday briefly interacted with US President Joe Biden on the sidelines of the G20 summit in their first exchanges following the American presidential election.



It is not immediately known what transpired between Modi and Biden.

"With @POTUS Joe Biden at the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro. Always a delight to meet him," Modi posted on X with a photo of the interaction.

In the photo, Modi and Biden were seen holding each other's hands and engaged in a discussion.

There is no clarity yet on a bilateral meeting between Modi and Biden on the margins of the G20 summit in this Brazilian city.

bloc's summit in New Delhi last year.

The Indian G20 presidency's call for "One Earth, One Family, One Future" continued to resonate at the Rio conversations, he said.

US President Joe Biden, Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping, French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer are among the leaders attending the two-day summit at Rio de Janeiro's Modern Art Museum.

"I would like to say that countries of the Global South are most adversely impacted by the food, fuel and fertiliser crisis caused by global conflicts," he said.

## Why do you need Guv's nod to arrest KTR: Arvind

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The BJP's Nizamabad MP, Dharmapuri Arvind, asked Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to reveal what is the need for the Governor's permission to arrest BRS Working President KT Rama Rao when the government has all the evidence.

Speaking to the media on Monday, Arvind said that the CM is engaging in diversion politics and adopting delaying tactics. The CM, who has

been saying that the BJP and the BRS are one, is shielding KTR, Arvind said.

Demanding the state government to infuse confidence in Musi victims, Arvind asked the government to launch the Musi Rejuvenation Project in the Old City first.

He asked whether the Congress Government's bulldozers have the guts to enter the Old City and added that the CM has been conspiring to destroy the real estate industry in the state.

## AIIMS docs save youth's life after his heart stopped for 90 minutes

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A team of experts of AIIMS Bhubaneswar successfully saved the life of a 24-year-old man after his heart had stopped beating for nearly 90 minutes using a special resuscitation procedure — eCPR, marking a milestone in Odisha's medical history, doctors said on Monday.

This life-saving intervention, known as Extracorporeal Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (eCPR) procedure, helped revive the young man even after his heart had stopped beating for nearly 1.5 hours, Dr. Ashutosh Biswas of

AIIMS Bhubaneswar told reporters.

The patient, in critical condition with heart failure, was referred to AIIMS Bhubaneswar on October 1. Shortly after his arrival, he suffered a cardiac arrest. Despite 40 minutes of conventional CPR, there was no cardiac activity. The team faced a critical decision — whether to declare him dead or attempt a cutting-edge procedure. Biswas said the medical team decided to proceed with eCPR.

Led by Dr. Srikant Behera, Intensivist and Adult ECMO specialist, the team initiated Extracorporeal Membrane

Oxygenation (ECMO), following which the patient's heart began to beat again after around 80 minutes, though with an irregular rhythm.

"Over the next 30 hours, the heart function improved significantly, and the patient was successfully weaned off ECMO after 96 hours," Dr. Biswas said.

The patient's mother expressed profound gratitude, saying, "I cannot thank AIIMS Bhubaneswar enough for giving my son a second chance at life. Their skill, compassion, and determination have worked a miracle for our family."

## Robbery gang arrested; stolen property recovered

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Sanathnagar Police arrested a robbery gang involved in a late-night heist near Sanathnagar railway station. Abhishek Kumar, a private employee, reported the crime, pushing police to register a case and begin investigation. Within 48 hours, the Police apprehended three suspects: Thakur Surender Singh, Biradar Santosh and Shaik Hujair Baba,

recovering stolen cash, mobile phones and other items.

According to the Police, the incident occurred on the night of November 15-16. The complainant, who had travelled to Hyderabad, boarded an auto-rickshaw with three other men. They stopped in a dark area, threatened him with a knife, and stole cash, his mobile phone and transferred money from his phone account.

## Parents protest as school denies permission to kids in deeksha

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The parents and relatives of the children who were reportedly denied entry into their school St Peters in Nacharam held protests on Monday.

The school authorities and parents had a verbal argument as the parents compared the rules of neighbouring schools

where children are allowed in the Ayyappa deeksha dress and had no restrictions. In viral videos, the parents are seen questioning the school authorities and teachers yelling that student hours cannot be disturbed with the protests. Nacharam Police has denied filing any legal case on the school and has counselled both the parties.

## Do not relax anti-pollution GRAP-4 curbs without court's nod: SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday questioned the Delhi government over delay in implementation of stricter anti-pollution measures under GRAP-4, and said it will not allow scaling down of the preventive measures without its prior permission.

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih pointed out that there was a delay in implementation of preventive measures under stage 4 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) even after the Air Quality Index (AQI) touched alarming levels in the national capital.

At the outset, the counsel for the Delhi government informed the bench that stage 4 of GRAP has been implemented from Monday and heavy vehicles have been banned from entering the national capital.

## 'Ready to scrap ...

Continued from page 1

the Collector in the name of farmers, he said and asked whether the Kaleshwaram Project could have been completed if the Congress had attacked the BRS government.

Reacting to a question, Venkat said KTR can be arrested only as per law. The law will take its own course. Already the police are doing their job, he said.

Addressing the media at the secretariat on Monday, Venkat said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will lay the foundation stone for development projects costing Rs 4,000 crore in Warangal on Tuesday.

Although the Warangal Airport issue has been in the news since 1999, the dream is becoming a reality only now, he said. The government will complete work within a year and ensure that flights land in Warangal.

"We are going to make arrangements to operate flights from Warangal to Tirupati, Bengaluru, Mumbai and New Delhi within one and a half years. We would also build the Bhadradi Kothagudem and Ramagundam greenfield airports. The Congress government will construct three more airports in the state," he said.

## Paddy worth ...

Continued from page 1

Thanks to the new government's measures, Rs 11,608.40 crore have been recovered within a year reducing the burden to Rs 47,014.68 crore.

Chauhan dismissed concerns regarding bank guarantees, stating that they would be returned once CMR rice reaches the government, with no possibility of linking them to other issues.

Mandatory no-due certificates were introduced to curb fraud under lease agreements. Allocations would not be made to irregular millers. Instead, priority would be given to capable and well-

behaved entities, he said.

He revealed that 362 millers were found guilty of irregularities. For compliant millers, a 10% bank guarantee would suffice. However, for those who committed irregularities but had settled dues and paid penalties, the guarantee was set at 20%. Millers who failed to clear dues or penalties would need a 25% bank guarantee, Chauhan said.

Special officials have been appointed to oversee procurement, and field committees are ensuring that there is no mixing of coarse and fine varieties of paddy. Regular inspections at procurement centres have also been mandated.

## Govt allots ...

Continued from page 1

Warangal Underground Drainage: Rs 4,170 crore, Mamunur Airport Land Acquisition: Rs 205 crore, Kakatiya Mega Textile Park Rs 160.92 crore, Roads, schools and other facilities in Textile Park: Rs 33.60 crore, 863 Indiramma houses for farmers who have given land for the textile park: Rs 43.15 crore, Kaloji Kalakshetra Rs 85 crore, Widening of road from Parakala to Erragattu Gutta: Rs 65 crore, construction of Naem Nagar Bridge: Rs 8.3 crore, Warangal Municipal Corporation Building Rs 32.50 crore, Inner Ring Road: Rs 80 crore, Polytechnic College New Building at Bhadrakali Temple: Rs 28 crore, Roads under Greater Warangal Municipality: Rs 49.50 lakh, Warangal Urdu Bhavan, and Shaadi Khana: Rs 1.50 crore.

## No need to ...

Continued from page 1

He said that if Revanth continues as the Chief Minister of Telangana, the BRS will be in power for the next 15 years.

Earlier in the day, the Lagacharla victims met the National Human Rights Commission, SC/ST Commission and the Women's Commission to register their grievances under BRS leadership. They detailed the midnight police raids, arrests and harassment and pleaded for justice.

The victims shared their harrowing experiences with one elderly farmer saying, "For nine months, we have been protesting peacefully. Instead of hearing us, they send the police to hound us. They arrested our men, assaulted our women, and forced us to leave our lands. How can we survive without our land?" they said.

Expressing solidarity with the Lagacharla victims BRS MLC Satyawati Rathod said, "The Congress government has crossed all limits of tyranny. The Chief Minister's brother is threatening farmers with death if they refuse to surrender their lands. Women and children are not spared from this brutality."

She emphasised that the BRS will provide unwavering support to Lagacharla victims. "We will not rest until justice is delivered to them. The entire nation must know about the atrocities in Telangana under Congress rule," she declared.

## 'Lagacharla atrocities ...

Continued from page 1

if children called him, but why is he not listening to the cries of tribal women? The victims say that if you are busy they will come and meet you wherever you are. Give them time. Why is Rahul not talking about police brutality against tribal women, atrocities against farmers and land grabbing? Why are Rahul and Modi not responding to police brutality against TG's tribals," KTR said.

He said that in Telangana there is as much anarchy against tribals as in Manipur. "Lawlessness is rampant in Telangana, which made a lot of progress during KCR's 10-year rule. Still not a single case has been filed against the attacks committed by the Chief Minister's brother after threatening farmers. Revanth's brother is not even a ward member.

But the Collector welcomes him. The police are acting as Revanth Reddy's private army," he said.

KTR said the Congress introduced the Land Acquisition Act so that no injustice should be done to farmers who give land. But the value of tribal lands in Telangana is Rs 60 lakh an acre and not Rs 8 lakh.

"This is no less than what happened in Manipur. The national media should also show the anarchy in Telangana and the atrocities there. Rahul is not talking about protecting the Constitution. Stop your Chief Minister's lawlessness. Rahul Gandhi is surprising. There is another man in him. He says one thing but does another thing. Rahul says many things. But the whole country is watching what is being done," KTR said.

"There is a state called Telangana in this country. Has the Prime Minister forgotten to respond to the events here? Why is there no response yet? Does that mean that the farmers in Lagacharla should die," KTR said.

"Rahul Gandhi speaks a lot about Adani. But why he is not talking about Adani in Telangana," he wondered.

"Rahul is responding on the Manipur issue. But Rahul does not see the victims of Lagacharla. Prime Minister Modi, Rahul Gandhi and Kharge must also respond on this issue. The BJP and the Congress should talk about this issue in Parliament. We will certainly raise this issue in the Rajya Sabha. Rahul gives big promises and slogans and claims that he will change the lives of the poor," KTR said.

## Israeli strike in Beirut kills Hezbollah spokesman, strike in Gaza kills 30

PNS ■ BEIRUT

A rare Israeli strike in central Beirut killed the Hezbollah militant group's chief spokesman on Sunday while an Israeli strike in northern Gaza's Beit Lahya killed at least 30 people, a hospital director there told AP.

Mohammed Afif al-Naboulsi was killed in a strike on the Arab socialist Baath party's office in Beirut, Hezbollah confirmed in a statement. Afif had been especially visible after an all-out war erupted between Israel and Hezbollah in September.

It was the latest targeted killing of senior Hezbollah officials. On Sunday night, another strike in central Beirut hit a computer shop, killing two people and wounding 22, Lebanon's Health Ministry said. There was no immediate

comment from Israel's military for either strike.

The strikes happened as Lebanese officials considered a US-led ceasefire proposal. "This confirms the crimes of the Israeli enemy, and that it wants to negotiate under fire and is expanding and targeting safe and safer areas," said a Lebanese member of parliament, Faisal Al Sayegh.

Israel also bombed several buildings in Beirut's southern suburbs, where Hezbollah has long been headquartered, after warning people to evacuate.

There was no Israeli evacuation warning before the strike near a busy intersection that killed Afif. Four people were killed and 14 wounded including two children, the Health Ministry said.

"I was asleep and awoke from the sound of the strike, and people screaming, and

cars and gunfire," said witness Suheil Halabi.

After the second strike in central Beirut, firefighters struggled to control the blaze in the busy residential neighbourhood of Mar Elias. Bystanders said they heard a second explosion and a car nearby appeared to be hit.

Hezbollah began firing rockets, missiles and drones into Israel the day after Hamas' October 7, 2023, attack ignited the war in Gaza. Israel launched retaliatory airstrikes in Lebanon and the conflict steadily escalated.

Israeli forces invaded Lebanon on October 1. On Sunday, Israel's military said mobile artillery batteries had crossed into Lebanon and began attacking Hezbollah targets, the first time artillery was launched within Lebanese territory.

## Election ...

Continued from page 1

Ek Nath Shinde, and the Nationalist Congress Party led by Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, is banking on its popular schemes like Mahi Ladki Bahin for women helping it retain power.

The BJP's use of slogans like "Batenge toh katenge" and "Ek hai toh safe hai" prompted the opposition parties to accuse the Mahayuti of polarising voters along religious lines.

The Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), comprising the Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar), slammed Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's use of "Batenge toh katenge" and PM Modi's "Ek hai toh safe hai" slogans. Not all the BJP allies supported these slogans. Ajit Pawar, distanced himself from them.





**Digital-first life sciences unit 'Indegene' launches new centre**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Digital-first life sciences commercialisation company 'Indegene' has launched a new centre in Hyderabad to enhance its global delivery operations and meet growing business demands.

With increasing pressures on the pharma industry to innovate and adapt, this new centre aims to support companies in accelerating their transformation. Indegene's mission is to make healthcare organisations future-ready by blending deep medical expertise with tailored technology. As India is becoming a key hub for global pharma due to its skilled talent pool in medicine and technology, pharma companies are looking for partners with specialised domain expertise and life sciences-oriented technology for scalable, tech-driven solutions.

Meanwhile, Chairman and CEO of Indegene, Manish Gupta said, "Our strong track record in helping global pharma reimagine commercialisation and integrate innovative GenAI capabilities is further enhanced by this new centre."

**CITY EVENTS**

**Hyderabad Art Expo**

Food, rides, fashion and music

**Venue**

NCC Nagarjuna Residency, Diamond Hills, Lumbini Avenue, Gachibowli, Hyderabad. November 19, 3:00 pm

**National Silk Expo**

Exhibition-cum-sale

**Venue**

Heart Cup Coffee, Kondapur. November 19, From 8:00 pm

**Entrepreneurs Meetup**

By We Founders Collab, Hyderabad

**Venue**

The Headquarters, Space Orbit, Hyderabad November 23

**Dimsum & Bao**

Exiting selection of steamed buns

**Venue**

Sheraton Hyderabad Hotel, Till November 24th. 3pm to 6:30 pm.

**Standup Comedy**

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

**Venue**

Multiple venues. till November 24

**Manam**

Theatre Festival, Workshop on acting by Nimmi Ralph and Vinay Kuma of Adishakti.

**Venue**

CF4G+ HVX Hyderabad Till November 21, 6pm to 9 pm



Media Professionals from Guyana are seen with Dr Shashank Goel, IAS, DG of the Institute & Spl GS to Telangana. Dr. Madhavi, Course Director & Mr. Roshan Singh, OSD, MEA in picture

**Training programme for media professionals from Guyana**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Dr MCR HRD Institute, Government of Telangana, launched a two-week Media Management Training Programme for journalists and media professionals from Guyana, sponsored by the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme under the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. The Director General of the Institute and Special Chief Secretary to the Government of Telangana, Dr Shashank Goel emphasised the vital role of journalism in democratic societies. He highlighted the evolving media landscape in Guyana and the need for media professionals to acquire relevant skills.

Dr Goel noted that while traditional media like newspapers, radio and TV were influential in public communication, new media platforms like social media have transformed journalism with unprecedented speed and global reach.



**HYDRAA razes building blocking public road**

**DEEPIKA PASHAM**  
deepikapasham2015@gmail.com ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) has demolished an illegal building constructed blocking the public road in Ameenpur Municipality.

In a release, the Ameenpur Municipality and HYDRAA officials have stated that a swift action was taken on Monday by demolishing a building constructed on a public road in Vandana Colony.

A complaint by the Jana Chaitanya Residents Welfare Association led to Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) officials inspecting the layout and identifying the encroachment. The structure being built on a 230-square-

yard plot was brought down to ensure compliance with regulations. HMDA officials also reiterated their warning against encroachments on public roads, parks, government lands, drainage systems and lakes, emphasising that unauthorised constructions will face strict action.

**Plans to develop 10 lakes in first phase**

Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) Commissioner AV Ranganath, along with Anand Malligavada visited Bhaksikunta and Regulakunta lakes in Chandanagar of Hyderabad on Monday.

Anand Malligavada, who is known as 'Lake Man of India' has developed sewage treatment for these two lakes in Hyderabad. Ranganath explained about development

of lakes, sewage management and water quality. The Commissioner addressed locals' complaints near these lakes about land privatisation and directed protection of 5,000 square yards and announced plans to develop 10 lakes in the first phase and safeguard public spaces. The Commissioner reviewed the diversion of sewage water to the lakes.

**ROAD TO BIOASIA 2025**

**TG AI Advisory Council set up for a strong policy framework: IT Minister**

**SAMUEL JOSHUA**  
samueljoshua@mjc@gmail.com ■ HYDERABAD

Drawing attention to developing AI in the State, our administration has established the "Telangana Artificial Intelligence (AI) Advisory Council" and is studying best practices in AI policies for a strong policy framework, IT Minister D Sridhar Babu said during the opening plenary at the AI in Healthcare Summit: Road to BioAsia 2025 at The Westin Hyderabad Mindspace on Monday.

Addressing the summit, Sridhar Babu highlighted Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's emphasis on AI's transformative potential for industries, the environment and society. He stressed the importance of continuous growth by people, societies and organisations to harness new energy and ideas in AI and machine learning.

Sridhar Babu noted that while attracting Silicon Valley companies is valuable, the main



IT Minister D Sridhar Babu unveiling the poster of Growth and Evolution of GCC's in India at the AI in Healthcare Summit on Monday

**The Minister stressed that while big data creates convergence, small data can maximise efficiency, offering personalised healthcare solutions and added that focused policy support in Hyderabad, combined with technology, will create market-relevant healthcare solutions, making it a hub for AI, biotech and data science companies**

focus is on providing advanced technology to local entrepreneurs, creating job growth across various sectors, not just high-tech. He emphasised Hyderabad's global impact as a leader in life sciences and vaccines and highlighted that combining education and innova-

tion can drive economic growth and productivity. The Minister also said that education and innovation can broadly impact the economy, especially in areas of comparative advantage, driving economic growth and productivity. He highlighted the theme,

**OPEN HOUSE INTERACTIVE MEETING**

**Call to raise GST threshold limit from Rs 20 lakh to Rs 40 lakh**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The GST & Customs Committee of the Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI) organised an interactive meeting at its headquarters with senior GST officials.

FTCCI president Suresh Kumar Singhal urged the Telangana government to raise the GST threshold limit from Rs 20 lakh to Rs 40 lakh, matching other states.

During discussions, officials addressed concerns on topics like Reverse Charge Mechanism, reminders for filing returns, refund delays and detention of transport

vehicles. The event was appreciated as a historic opportunity for dialogue and feedback between industry members and top GST officials. Meanwhile, Mahidhar, Amarnath, and other IT Corridor Hostels Association office-bearers honoured Sandeep Prakash, Principal Chief Commissioner of CGST & Customs, Hyderabad Zone; thanking him for addressing industry grievances. They appreciated his support in advancing industry concerns, especially for the exemption on accommodation services, allowing up to Rs 20,000 per month per person for those staying in PG accommodations and private hostels.

**HYDRAA joins hands with PCB to combat lake pollution**



PCB Member Secretary G Ravi and HYDRAA Commissioner AV Ranganath at a meeting in Hyderabad on Monday

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

In a significant step towards protecting the city's lakes from pollution Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) has partnered with the Pollution Control Board (PCB). The initiative aims to not only preserve the lakes but also transform them into eco-friendly water bodies in line with the government's environmental goals said officials.

On Monday, a meeting was held with PCB Member Secretary G Ravi and HYDRAA Commissioner AV Ranganath, along with officials from both the organisations.

Commissioner Ranganath highlighted HYDRAA's objectives of safeguarding lakes, protecting government lands from encroachments and ensuring the integrity of stormwater channels and public utility spaces. Member Secretary Ravi elaborated on PCB's operational focus.

The two officials discussed strategies to prevent industrial waste and pollutants from entering lakes and stormwater drains.

Both the organisations agreed to deploy teams for strict surveillance to prevent industrial waste dumping. Additionally, plans were made to install monitoring systems that can trace chemicals to their source companies.

**New Curator of Nehru Zoo Park takes charge**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

J Vasantha, IFS, previously DFO of Jayashankar-Bhupalapally, Telangana, assumed charge as the Curator of Nehru Zoological Park, on Monday, succeeding Dr Sunil S Hiremath.

The Deputy Curator, Deputy Director (Veterinary), Assistant Curators and other zoo officials warmly welcomed her and briefed her on zoo operations.

During her first visit, Vasantha toured the zoo and appreciated the cleanliness and hygiene maintained in the animal enclosures. She urged all staff members to continue their dedicated efforts in the conservation and breeding of wild animals. Nehru Zoological Park, being the first ISO-certified zoo in India, remains committed to maintaining its high ranking nationally and globally.

Dr Sunil S Hiremath has now taken charge as Director of Zoo Parks, Telangana, with his office at Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad.

**INVESTS MONEY IN ONLINE BETTING**

**Man dupes 200 people through OLX fraud**

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Panjagutta Police apprehended an inter-State OLX fraudster on Monday. Two mobile phones and three SIM cards were seized from the accused who is identified as Marisarla Balaji Naidu (35), a resident of Bhavani Nagar, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.

Naidu confessed to defrauding approximately 200 individuals on the OLX platform, cheating them out of Rs 50 to 60 lakh. Balaji Naidu targeted sellers on OLX, agreeing to purchase their pre-owned mobile phones without negotiation. He then reposted the same phones at a lower price, using



the original photos to attract buyers. Naidu posed as a mediator, claiming to be the brother of both the buyer and seller, instructing them not to discuss transaction details. Payments were made via UPI or QR codes provided by Naidu. Once the money was transferred, he blocked both parties.

The fraudster used 23 SIM cards and multiple mobile numbers to avoid detection. Since 2018, Naidu has duped individuals in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. A total of 138 complaints have been registered against him on the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP), along-side 19 FIRs filed in various police stations across Hyderabad, Cyberabad, Rachakonda, Vijayawada and Tirupati.

The accused funneled the stolen money into online betting platforms such as Dafabet, SARA, Rummy Time and Rummy Circle, losing most of it. He had previously been arrested for similar offences by police in Bengaluru, Vijayawada and Tirupati.

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA REVENUE DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR HYDERABAD DISTRICT FORM VII (See Sub-rule (1) of rule-25 and Section-19 (1) of the Act-30/2013) DECLARATION**

Gazette Hyd. - HAML No.23 No. C6/48/2024-LHS (51-75) Dated: 16-11-2024  
Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/Collector, Hyderabad District that a total of 2469.58 Sq.Yards of land is required in Shar-E-Hyderabad Village, Bahadurpura Mandal, Hyderabad District namely affected under Metro Rail Phase-III, MGBS to Chandrayanagutta in Corridor-VI, stretch from Darush shifa.

Therefore, Declaration is made that a piece of land measuring, more or less 2469.58 Sq.Yards under acquisition for the above said project in the Shar-E-Hyderabad Village, Bahadurpura Mandal, Hyderabad District whose detailed description is as following:

Sl. No.	Skel No.	Premises No	Type of Title	Type of Land	Name & Address of person interested	Area under acquisition in Sq.Yards	Boundaries				Trees	Structures		
							North	South	East	West				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1	51	22-3-643	Owner	Patna	Princess Eain College & School	90.37	Road	22-3-643	owners land	Ro ad	-	-	-	G -
2	52	22-3-643	Owner	Patna	Princess Eain College & School Hydr Khan	689.45	22-3-638/1/9	22-1-638/1/9	owners land	Ro ad	-	-	-	G -
3	53	22-1-638/1/9	Owner	Patna	1.Mir Basith Ali 2.Abeda Praveen 3.Boutoli Fatima	17.19	22-3-643	Lane	22-1-638/1/9	Ro ad	-	-	-	G+2 -
4	54	22-1-638/1/9	Owner	Patna	Mir Alitaf Ali Abedi	52.36	22-3-643	Ashoor Khana	Neighbours Property	22-1-638/1/9	Ro ad	-	-	G+2 -
5	55	22-1-638/1/9	Owner	Patna	Md. Yakob (Hayath Manzil)	124.89	22-3-643	Ashoor Khana	Neighbours Property	Ro ad	-	-	-	G+2 -
6	56	22-3-634	Owner	Patna	1. Mohd. Haggauddin 2. Syed Ali Moosavi 3. Kuloom Fatima	144.44	22-1-637	22-3-634/1 to 5	22-3-634	Ro ad	-	-	-	G+G -
7	57	22-3-638/1/2	Owner	Patna	1. Syed Ali Moosavi 2. Muharjahan-Inticium	65.45	22-1-637	22-3-634/1 to 5	Neighbours Property	Ashoor Khana	Ro ad	-	-	G+1 -
8	58	22-3-634/1 to 5	Owner	Patna	1. Hassan Jawed Ali 2. MD. Shaikrel 3. Hassan Nahadi 4. Akhteri begum 5. Syed mustafa ala 6. Akehteri begum 7. Syed Samuluddin 8. Syed Moham-mud Hussain 9. Mujahid Hussain 10. Mir Vizarath Ali Khan 11. Syed Abdul Khader Hussaini 12. Mohammed Ibrahim Khaleel Faroouqi 13. Kashan Tarannum	225.2	22-3-626/A	Neighbours Property	Road	Ro ad	-	-	-	C+ G+3
9	59	22-3-626/A	Owner	Patna	Hassan Jawad Ali	71.33	22-3-626/A/6	Neighbours Property	Road	Ro ad	-	-	-	G+1
10	60	22-3-626/A/6	Owner	Patna	Gunde John Sudhakar	128.36	22-3-626/A/1 to 5	Neighbours Property	Road	Ro ad	-	-	-	G+1
11	61	22-3-626/A/5	Owner	Patna	1. Suhail Asrar Ahmed Sio Naazer Alimudin	146.48	22-3-638/A/6	A/P Traders	Neighbours Property	Ro ad	-	-	-	G+1
12	62	22-3-626/A/3	Owner	Patna	1. Shareefuddin 2. Misbahuddin Faruqi, 3. Fazil 4. Mohd. Zubair Hussain 5. Shaaber Ahmed 6. Ayesha Fatima 7. Abeda Begum 8. Noorain Begum 9. Mir Iqbal Ali 9. Shaheen Sultana W/o Gulam Sultan Ahmed	205.25	KGN Milk House	Lane	Neighbours Property	Ro ad	-	-	-	G+3
13	63	22-3-540/3/1	Owner	Patna	1. Mid Hussain 2. Nasir	18.52	22-3-540/4	22-3-540	Neighbours Property	Ro ad	-	-	-	Tin Sheet, Open place
14	64	22-3-540	Owner	Patna	1. Nawab Fakanul Mulik 2. Ibrahim	55.35	22-3-540/3/1	Neighbours Property	22-3-540/3/1	Ro ad	-	-	-	Open 4G
15	65	22-3-540/3/1	Owner	Patna	Kishtamma	67.64	22-3-540/3/1	Lane	22-3-540/3	Ro ad	-	-	-	Open Ground
16	66	22-3-539	Owner	Patna	Sogulla Ravinder S/o Sogulla Shivara	42.25	22-3-540	Lane	Neighbours Property	22-3-540/4	Ro ad	-	-	G
17	67	22-3-494	Owner	Patna	M. Gyaneshwar	47.88	22-3-494/1	Lane	22-3-494/1	Ro ad	-	-	-	G+2
18	68	22-3-494/1	Owner	Patna	Shannu Bai	17.76	22-3-494/1	Neighbours Property	22-3-494	Ro ad	-	-	-	G
19	69	22-3-494/1	Owner	Patna	1.Sajid (Azmath Medical Hall) 2. Shaizoor	60.86	22-3-494	H.S Chicken center	22-3-494/1	Ro ad	-	-	-	G
20	70	22-3-494/A	Owner	Patna	Avula Indravathi W/o Late Avula Moghalalaiah	36.74	22-3-494/A	H.S Chicken center	Neighbours Property	Ro ad	-	-	-	G
21	71	22-3-495/2	Owner	Patna	Shaizoor	40.68	Azmath Medical Hall	A.M Trader	Neighbours Property	Ro ad	-	-	-	G
22	72	22-3-495/3	Owner	Patna	1. Yadigir M 2. Shannu Bai	42.03	H.S. Chicken Center	Citizen Trader	22-3-495/1	Ro ad	-	-	-	G
23	73	22-3-495/1	Owner	Patna	Avula Indravathi W/o Late Avula Moghalalaiah	11.92	22-3-495/3	22-3-494/6	Neighbours Property	22-3-495/3	Ro ad	-	-	G
24	74	22-3-495/4	Owner	Patna	Shannu Bai	37.18	22-3-495/3	Chilla	22-3-494/6	Ro ad	-	-	-	G
25	75	22-3-494/6	Owner	Patna	Shannu Bai	20.00	22-3-495/1	Chilla	Neighbours Property	22-3-495/4	Ro ad	-	-	G
<b>Total</b>						<b>2469.58</b>								

This Declaration is made after hearing of objections of persons interested and due enquiry as provided USec. 15 of the Act No-30/2013. The number of families likely to be resettled due to land acquisition is being enquired shortly.  
Mines of coal, iron-stone, slate or other mineral lying under the said land or any particular portion of the said land, except such parts of the mines and minerals which may be required to be dug or removed or used during the construction phase of the project for the purpose of which the land is being acquired, are not needed.  
A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the District Collector, Hyderabad District and Special Deputy Collector (Land Acquisition), Hyderabad Airport Metro Rail, Rasoolpura, Begumpet, Hyderabad on any working day.  
Place: Hyderabad, Date: 16-11-2024. Sd/- Addl. Collector, Hyderabad District. Sd/- Collector, Hyderabad District. Sd/- Spl. Dy. Collector (LA), HAML, Hyderabad. DIPR No. 368/LA/PP-Advt/Agency/2024-25







ACROSS THE STATES

# Manipur protesters defy curfew, lock govt offices

PNS ■ IMPHAL

Defying curfew orders, a group of people led by members of COCOMI on Monday locked the front doors of several government offices in Imphal West district to protest the recent killing of three women and three children in Jiribam, officials said.



The Imphal Valley region that comprises five districts including Imphal West.

The Manipur government on Monday also extended the

suspension of internet services by two more days till Wednesday in seven districts of the northeastern state.

Raising slogans demanding justice for the victims and their families killed by suspected tribal militants in Jiribam district, the protesters stormed into the office complex of the Chief Electoral Officer at Lamphelpat and locked its main entrance door with chains and locks, officials said.

The main office doors of the Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development (IBSD) at Takyel, and the Directorate of Economics and Statistics located a few hundred metres from the CEO's office were also locked by the protesters.

Meanwhile, the indefinite sit-in staged by COCOMI at Khwairamband market in

Imphal demanding a military crackdown against "Kuki Zo Hmar" militants in the state entered its third day.

## Centre to send 50 more CAPF companies

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has decided to send an additional 50 CAPF companies comprising more than 5,000 personnel to Manipur in view of the "challenging" security and law and order situation in the northeastern state, official sources said on Monday.

This comes after the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) rushed 20 additional CAPF companies, 15 from the CRPF and five from the BSF, to the state following an order issued on November 12 after violence broke out in Jiribam district and spread to other places.



## 'Will improve online public grievance redressal system'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Monday said that the Centre's online public grievance redressal system will be further modernised using next-generation technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Addressing a National Workshop on Effective Redressal of Public Grievances through a virtual platform, Singh highlighted that the average time for grievance resolution has dropped from 30 days to just 13 days and it "will soon be reduced further".

The Minister of State for Personnel underscored this achievement as a testament to the government's commitment to responsive and citizen-centric governance under leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Singh said the Centralized

Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS), launched in 2007, has undergone ten-step reforms that have revolutionised grievance management.

These advancements have resulted in over 1,16,000 grievances being registered in October 2024 alone, with pending grievances reduced to 53,897 in central secretariat, said a statement issued by the Personnel Ministry.

For 28 consecutive months, central secretariats have resolved over one lakh grievances each month, the minister said, adding that such bench marks underscore the effectiveness of the system.

Singh also announced the introduction of next-generation technology powered by Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) to further modernise the grievance redressal system.



## 'Pather Panchali's actress Uma Dasgupta dies at 84

Uma Dasgupta, who immortalised the role of 'Durga' in Satyajit Ray's iconic film 'Pather Panchali' died at a private hospital here on Monday, family sources said. The 84-year-old actor, who had been suffering from cancer for a long time, is survived by her daughter, they said. Having been cast in the role of Durga in Pather Panchali, adapted from the eponymous novel of writer Bibhutibhusan Bandyopadhyay, at the age of 14, Dasgupta won the hearts of audiences worldwide for the portrayal of the character immortalising certain scenes like drenched in rains and picking up mangoes at an orchard after a nor'wester with her little brother Apu. Dasgupta was noticed by Ray during her stage performance as a child artist in a school function and the director got in touch with her school and family. Despite the worldwide acclaim and applause for her role in 'Pather Panchali', she retreated into her private space and was never seen in any other film later on.

## Shah reviews security situation for second day

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday reviewed the prevailing security situation and deployment of troops in Manipur for the second consecutive day and directed top officials to focus on restoring peace and order there as early as possible, sources said.

The Union Home Ministry is also rushing in about 5,000 paramilitary troops to Manipur to assist the state government in handling the current "volatile" situation in the Northeastern state.

The home minister reviewed the security situation of Manipur with top officials of the central and state governments, the sources said.

## Goal is to capture power, says actor Vijay

PNS ■ CEHNNAI

Actor-politician Vijay led Tamizhaga Vetri Kazhagam on Monday said its goal is to capture power and form a government and ruled out alliance with the main opposition party AIADMK.

Citing a news report in a Tamil daily which claimed a tie-up between the TVK and AIADMK, the party said it was 'out-and-out false and had no basis or proof', party general secretary, N Anand, said in a statement.

The goal of the party is to win majority with the people's great support and form a government that delivers good governance, he added.

Tamil Nadu Assembly election, as per the schedule, is likely during April-May 2026. Since Vijay spared AIADMK in his party confer-



ence on October 27 and targeted the ruling parties, the DMK and the BJP, in the state and centre respectively, speculation arose on the possibility of an alliance between the TVK and the AIADMK. The party had already said that its ideology is based on secular, social justice principles

## AFTER JHANSI NICU TRAGEDY Fire safety crackdown on Lucknow hospitals

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Notices have been issued to 80 hospitals found lacking in fire safety measures as authorities in Lucknow intensified inspections in the wake of the tragedy at a state-run hospital in Jhansi.

Chief Fire Officer (CFO), Lucknow, Mangesh Kumar, said they have identified 906 hospitals and buildings in Lucknow for fire safety inspections.

"Of these, 80 hospitals were found non-compliant with fire safety norms and have been served notices. We have also written to the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) to ensure these hospitals meet the required standards," he said.

## 'India vital partner of UK' Asserts British Indo-Pacific minister

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The UK is committed to foster deeper cooperation with India as it is a "vital" partner and one of the fastest growing economies in the world, British Minister for Indo-Pacific Catherine West said on Monday as she embarked on a two-day visit to the country.

West will continue to unlock the full potential of the UK-India partnership and drive forward greater growth for both countries building upon the ambitions set out by Foreign Secretary David Lammy during his visit to New Delhi in July, a British government readout said.

She will also reiterate that the UK remains committed to negotiating a mutually beneficial free trade agreement and bilateral investment treaty, it



added. "I am delighted to be visiting India for the first time as Minister for the Indo-Pacific," West said.

"As one of the fastest growing economies in the world, India is a vital partner," she said.

Minister West's visit will include a meeting at the Ministry of External Affairs

where she will reinforce the UK's commitment to a stronger partnership and the importance of the enduring links between people of the two nations, the readout noted.

The two sides are expected to review the overall situation in the Indo-Pacific and explore ways to bolster cooperation in the region during West's visit to India.

During an education roundtable at the British Council, the Minister will learn more about the unique "living bridge" between the UK and India, representing the 1.7 million people in the UK with Indian heritage and connecting our two countries, it said.

The British minister is also scheduled to visit the Jama Masjid where she will learn about its history and architecture, it said.

## Arunachal has immense potential in pisciculture: Guv

Arunachal Pradesh Governor Lt Gen (retd) K T Parraik on Monday said the northeastern state has immense potential in pisciculture, and urged youths to take up fish farming for sustainable development. Parraik, during a visit to a fish farm at Mechukha in Shi-Yomi district, interacted with farmers and officials, and released fingerlings in water, a Raj Bhavan release said. "Arunachal Pradesh, blessed with pristine environment, perennial water sources and fresh-flowing water bodies, has immense potential in pisciculture. With technical and financial support, the sector can be a popular avenue for entrepreneurship and self-employment," he said. The governor also asked officials to reach out to the agrarian community, asserting that farmers and youths of the state have the potential to 'revolutionise' the farming sector, but require proper motivation and guidance.



## Toddler starts e-rickshaw, dies after crashing into wall

A two-year-old boy died after he accidentally started an e-rickshaw and it rammed into a wall, police said on Monday. The incident occurred on Sunday evening when Yash Pandey was playing outside his house in Mukundpur village, they said. According to the family, an e-rickshaw parked nearby had keys left in the ignition. While playing, Yash accidentally started the vehicle, which sped out of control and crashed into a wall of the neighbour's house. The child suffered severe injuries in the collision and was rushed to the Maniar Primary Health Centre, where doctors declared him dead on arrival, police said. "We have not received any formal complaint regarding the incident," Station House Officer Ratnesh Dubey said.

## If Modi, Shah, Ambani are 'ek', then they are 'safe'

Rahul mocks BJP's slogan

PNS ■ RANCHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday mocked BJP's slogan 'ek rahenge toh safe rahenge' (if we remain united, we will be safe) by saying that it translated into unity between Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and billionaires like Ambani.

The Congress leader also attacked Modi for not visiting Manipur which has been "burning" for the last one-and-a-half years, and alleged that Shah was not taking interest in containing violence in the northeastern state as "vested interests" were at play.

"I will explain the real meaning of BJP's slogan - 'ek hai to safe hai'. It is if Modi, Shah and



Ambani are 'ek' (united), then they are 'safe'," Gandhi alleged at a press conference in Ranchi.

He alleged that prime assets of the country, including airports, ports and natural resources, were being handed over to billionaires like Adani

and Ambani without following transparent tender processes.

Gandhi asserted that caste census was a must for the country and it will provide wealth distribution data, helping the Congress to take accurate decisions.

## Over 77 lakh digital life certificates generated by pensioners: Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

More than 77 lakh Digital Life Certificates (DLCs) have been generated by Central and state government pensioners during an ongoing special campaign, the Union government announced on Monday.

As many as 1,575 camps have been held as of November 17 as part of the 'DLC Campaign 3.0' being held across 800 cities and towns nationwide from November 1 to 30.

"The campaign has successfully generated over 77 lakh digital life certificates by the end of the second week of the launch of the campaign, out of which 1,77,153 pensioners above 90 years and 17,212 pensioners in the 80-90 years age group have submitted their DLCs from the comfort of their homes, offices, or branches," the Ministry of Personnel,



Public Grievances and Pensions said in a statement.

This momentum highlights the commitment of the pensioners, banking institutions and government agencies towards a digitally empowered India, it added. There has been significant anticipation among all the stakeholders, particularly among the sick and elderly pensioners, at all the campaign locations, it said.

All key stakeholders, including pension disbursing banks, the Department of Pensions

and Pensioners Welfare (DoPPW), the Controller General of Defence Accounts, the Ministry of Railways, the Department of Telecom, the Department of Posts, UIDAI, and Pensioners Welfare Associations, are working together to realise the vision of digital empowerment for the pensioners, the statement said.

Central and state government pensioners can use "Jeevan Pramaan", a biometric-enabled digital service, to have their DLCs issued.

## Day after quitting AAP, Kailash Gahlot joins BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Delhi minister Kailash Gahlot joined the BJP on Monday, a day after resigning from the AAP, and accused his former party of constantly picking fights with the Centre and compromising the values which drew people to its fold.

He joined the BJP at its headquarters in the presence of Union ministers Manohar Lal Khattar and Harsh Malhotra, Delhi unit president Virendra Sachdeva, party vice president Baijyanti Jay Panda and national media head Anil Baluni among others.

Addressing the media after joining the party, Gahlot said efforts are being made to build



a false narrative that his decision to quit the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) was the result of ED and CBI pressure.

The fact is that the AAP compromised its values, he said, claiming that he has never acted under anyone's pressure.

He said maintaining good relations with the Centre is essential for Delhi's develop-

ment, as he accused the AAP government of constantly being in a fight with the central government led by the BJP.

Be it chief minister or ministers, they were picking fights with the Centre over smallest of issues all the time, he alleged, claiming that he maintained good relations with the central government, including the LG.

## 'Climate change responsible for one-fifth of dengue cases'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Climate change could be responsible for nearly one-fifth of the current dengue cases in the global population, with the potential to increase instances of the disease by an additional 40-60 per cent by 2050, according to a new study.

These findings, from researchers at Stanford and Harvard Universities, provide the most definitive evidence to date that climate change is a major factor driving the global surge in mosquito-borne diseases.

The study was presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

"We looked at data on dengue incidence and climate variation across 21 countries in Asia and the Americas and

found that there is a clear and direct relationship between rising temperatures and rising infections," said senior author Erin Mordecai, an infectious disease ecologist at Stanford University.



"Our findings indicate that historical climate change has already increased dengue incidence by 18 per cent in the study region, and projections

suggest a potential increase of 40 per cent to 60 per cent by mid-century, depending on the climate scenario, with some areas seeing increases of up to 200 per cent," the authors wrote.

According to the World



Health Organisation, the increasingly warm and humid conditions driven by climate change are facilitating the spread of dengue, with new



breaks reported in previously unaffected regions, including parts of Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean.

Countries in the Americas have recorded nearly 12 million cases of dengue in 2023, compared to 4.6 million in 2022, and locally acquired infections have been reported in California and Florida, the researchers noted.

The Asian countries studied included Vietnam and

Cambodia, among others. "It's evidence that climate change has already become a significant threat to human health, and for dengue in particular, our data suggests the impact could get much worse," Mordecai said.

The researchers also found that dengue-endemic areas now entering the 20-29°C "sweet spot for virus transmission"—such as parts of Peru, Mexico, Bolivia, and Brazil—could face the biggest future risks, with infections rising by 150-200 per cent over the next few decades.

However, areas already at the high end of the temperature range, like southern Vietnam, are likely to experience minimal additional climate impacts and may even see a slight decrease in cases, the authors added.





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PAPER WITH PASSION

## G20: Delhi to Rio

It is yet another crucial opportunity for world leaders to bridge divides and collaborate on creating a better future

Prime Minister is in Rio de Janeiro to attend the G20 Summit, which is one of the biggest platforms for the world leaders to make collective decisions for the betterment of the world and address the issues confronting the humanity. The 19th G20 Summit brings together world leaders to address some of the most pressing global challenges. Hosted by Brazil, this year's Summit builds on India's successful presidency, which left a lasting impact by inducting the African Union as a permanent member and fostering consensus on divisive issues such as the Ukraine conflict. The summit will feature prominent leaders, including Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping. In Brazil, Modi attends the summit as a member of the G20 Troika, alongside Brazil and South Africa, reflecting India's continued influence in shaping global discourse. The summit's agenda is wide-ranging, reflecting the multifaceted challenges the world faces today. Economic recovery remains a critical priority as nations grapple with the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and global geopolitical tensions. Issues such as inflation, debt crises and financing for sustainable development are likely to dominate discussions. Simultaneously, climate action will take centre stage, with a focus on enhancing climate financing, accelerating the transition to renewable energy, and achieving the commitments of the Paris Agreement. The geopolitical landscape, particularly the ongoing Ukraine conflict is another focal point. While the issue remains divisive, leaders will seek to find common ground on mitigating its impacts on global food and energy security. The summit is also likely to explore the role of technology in bridging development gaps, emphasising responsible use of artificial intelligence and fostering digital cooperation. For India, the summit is an opportunity to reinforce its leadership on the global stage. As part of the G20 Troika, Modi brings India's vision of "One Earth, One Family, One Future" to the table, advocating for greater inclusivity and collaboration. His interactions with leaders such as Joe Biden and Xi Jinping on sidelines are expected to address key issues like trade, defence partnerships and technology sharing, furthering India's bilateral and multilateral engagements. India's presidency last year emphasised the importance of representing the Global South, a theme that Brazil is expected to continue. This focus on equitable development resonates with nations across Africa, Asia and Latin America, underscoring the need for a more balanced global governance system. For India and Prime Minister Modi, it is a moment to showcase the nation's growing influence and commitment to global solutions, setting the tone for the future of multilateral cooperation. This is one of the big opportunity to bring about meaningful change, hope it is not wasted.



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### PICTALK



Riders take part in the MRF MOGRIP Supercross Championship 2024, in Bengaluru

PTI

## Turning missteps and misjudgments into growth

Our capacity for introspection determines the kind of individuals we become. Our personal blunders and societal faux pas can shape us

I believe that we are a sum total of experiences. While most are pleasant, a few leave us red-faced at the very best. It is for us to make the choice to introspect and evolve into a better person. My wife and I gingerly stepped out of the confines of our home after the restrictions imposed during the difficult COVID times had been relatively relaxed. We thought we had crossed the hurdle. Our optimism was misplaced. We observed many vigilantes hanging out on their balconies to catch the hapless walkers at any time of the day or night and call the PCR. The police would necessarily have to come since a complaint had been raised and then go back, irritated at the complainant. We were still terrified enough to wear a mask. However, a few had to be nudged. My wife would good-naturedly point at her mask as a request to those not wearing one. We encountered a young lady walking with no mask, not even one dangling around her ears. The sensibilities of my wife aroused, she stopped the lady and requested her to comply with the regulations.



My wife was rudely brushed aside. The lady stopped us during the next round, to let us know that she was a doctor who spent long hours in the hospital with a mask on, and her lungs needed fresh air, uninterrupted by a mask. Unaware of a different set of rules for medical professionals, I inquired from a few doctor friends. They were unequivocal in their judgement, the lady in question is an idiot. We have all been guilty of an occasional faux pas at some time or the other. I attended a literature festival at a university, a few days before the lockdown, to speak about my book. I made a point that communication amongst people should never stop, even if it means communicating on social media, be it Facebook, Instagram or Tinder. The audience erupted in loud laughter and I preened with pride at my oratory skills. My jubilation was short-lived. I found out over the net during the train back that Tinder was a dating platform. I may choose to call this a blunder, but the simple fact is that it was stupid of me to speak of something about which I did not know. This foot-in-the-mouth syndrome is nothing new, particularly amongst a certain section of society, who are supposed to be beacons of the good and should be upholding values. A minister in one of the states defended the decision of a medical college to ask the female candidates to declare their virginity in the admission form because, "Virgin, as per the dictionary, means an unmarried and pure girl. So, all these words are not objectionable." A senior leader observed that electricity must be provided in all villages so that people spend more time watching television than procreating. Another leader mentioned that crimes against women are happening in urban India and not in the villages since we are losing our culture in the cities. The anecdotes narrated above may appear disjointed at a cursory glance. The common thread I detect is the misplaced value system of authority: 'My word is supreme.' Nothing gives one the right to dispense half-baked wisdom, not follow the rules, or make discriminatory statements. Our experiences should evolve us. Brazilian educator and philosopher, Paulo Freire, has said aptly, "No one is born fully-formed: it is through self-experience in the world that we become what we are." (The author is an electrical engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative writing; views are personal)



SANJAY CHANDRA

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# New tentacles of international terrorism



SUDHIR HINDWAN

Proactive leadership is crucial for implementing strategic plans, while swift judicial reforms are needed to handle terrorism cases more effectively

The recent wave of terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, following the formation of a new state government, has reignited concerns over transnational terrorism. These incidents, marked by escalating violence in vulnerable areas, highlight a disturbing evolution in militant strategies. This resurgence is rooted in multiple factors, each revealing the complexities of the situation. Firstly, the attacks aim to signal that despite the abrogation of Article 370 and the central government's efforts to stabilise the region, Jammu and Kashmir remain unstable. Secondly, Jammu's expansive forested terrains have become a haven for militants, offering natural cover for guerrilla warfare and hindering security forces. Thirdly, the improved law and order in Kashmir has shifted insurgent focus to Jammu, where vulnerabilities are being exploited. Fourthly, while terrorist activities were temporarily subdued, the resurgence of militancy underscores the persistence of deep-rooted threats. Lastly, despite the successful Assembly elections and the formation of Omar Abdullah's government, the region continues to grapple with relentless attacks. The situation in Jammu and Kashmir resonates with broader developments in the West Asia. Recent events, such as the targeting of an Israeli ship by Iran-backed Houthi groups in the Red Sea and subsequent retaliatory strikes by Israel, the UK and the US on Houthi positions in Yemen, have heightened regional tensions. The involvement of Hamas and Hezbollah in supporting the Houthis underscores a dangerous convergence of terrorist alliances. The killing of prominent figures like IRGC General Sayyed Razi Mousavi and Hamas Deputy Leader Saleh-al-Arouri has added to the volatility, while Houthi leader Abdul-Malik al-Houthi's aggressive strategies have intensified attacks. Adding to these concerns are the January 3, 2024, twin blasts in Karman, southern Iran, which left over 85 dead and hundreds injured. This violence has spread



to Lebanon and Syria, where terror networks have previously used locations like Sana, Yemen, as bases for planting explosives in international airports. These incidents reveal two critical trends: the increasing potential for transnational terrorism and the extension of terror operations into global trade routes and economies. Modern terrorist networks demonstrate an unsettling capacity for precision in choosing targets and timings. The persistence of global terrorism is not new. Tragic events, from the Oklahoma City bombing that claimed over 200 lives to the Tokyo subway gas attack, which killed 12 and hospitalised thousands, reveal its devastating history. Other instances, such as the long-running insurgency of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in Sri Lanka, have inflicted severe casualties and losses. Nations worldwide-be it Russia, Spain, the UK, Italy, Israel, or China-face the unrelenting specter of terrorist violence. Social inequities, global economic disparities and historical grievances contribute to the conditions that foster extremism. The post-Cold War global order, shaped by power dynamics of major nations, has exacerbated these tensions. For instance, the power network established by the US and its allies in West Asia has sparked resistance in



THE PERSISTENCE OF GLOBAL TERRORISM IS NOT NEW. TRAGIC EVENTS, FROM THE OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING THAT CLAIMED OVER 200 LIVES TO THE TOKYO SUBWAY GAS ATTACK, WHICH KILLED 12 AND HOSPITALISED THOUSANDS, REVEAL ITS DEVASTATING HISTORY

many regions, deepening conflicts and animosities. In an interconnected world, socio-economic conditions in one region influence those in another, creating a fertile ground for transnational grievances. The rapid dissemination of advanced weaponry and transportation networks has further facilitated the expansion of terrorist activities. Suicide squads and other modern militant tactics have left security apparatuses reeling. It is imperative to reject narratives that romanticise terrorists as freedom fighters and foster cooperation between local communities and law enforcement to dismantle these networks. A diversified approach, integrating technical expertise and on-the-ground insights, is essential. Specialised training programmes for security personnel to anticipate and respond to emerging threats are crucial. Countering terrorism requires a multifaceted approach, beginning with detailed analysis of major incidents to formulate actionable strategies. Advanced communication networks must be established to intercept terrorist communications effectively, while enhanced intelligence gathering, supported by strengthened local sources, is essential for generating actionable insights. Investment in cutting-edge technology for maintaining secrecy and secu-

ity, along with training specialists in counter-terrorism tactics, is vital to address evolving threats. Dedicated think tanks should be created to develop innovative solutions, and comprehensive training programs for police, intelligence, and military personnel must be prioritised. Proactive leadership among security officials is crucial for implementing strategic plans, while swift judicial reforms are needed to handle terrorism cases more effectively.

These measures must be accompanied by the political will to enforce them effectively. Public awareness and grassroots support play pivotal roles in countering terrorism. Localised insights should inform security measures to ensure they are contextually appropriate and effective. Ultimately, combating terrorism requires a coordinated global effort. Nations must share intelligence, align strategies, and foster international cooperation to address this pervasive menace. Time is of the essence, as modern terrorists continuously adapt their tactics. Without addressing the underlying socio-political and economic factors that nurture terrorism, efforts will only provide superficial relief.

(Author, a Bharat Gaurav Award recipient, is a professor, HOD, and expert on strategic affairs; views are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### CLOUDS OF WAR

Madam — Apropos of the article 'US-Iran tensions: War clouds over West Asia' (November 16), the analysis of the geopolitics, particularly in the West Asian context, shows warmongering in West Asia in a long-distant future. Beyond doubt, US-Iran tensions are extremely deep-rooted, and no solutions are visible in the near future. The advent of Donald Trump in his second tenure may be seen as intolerant of any terrorism-oriented politics of West Asian countries where Iran, Pakistan, Iraq, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, etc., with hundreds of militia, deep state forces, and terrorist organisations, who have no obligations of following or adhering to any international, UNO, or multilateral treaties, conventions, agreements, norms and regulations. Bangladesh is the new entrant of the explosive block.

Such organisations have tacit financial, army and logistic support from these nations while their regular armies execute and control their plans, attacks, hijacks and other disruptive, destabilising and assassination activities. The USA is not solely to blame for West Asian problems and war-ridden Islamic governments rattling guns and bombs as their mainstream administration and geopolitical politics. Obviously, all these countries are devastated and ruined by the compelling influx of illegal immigration from these countries in all European countries, the US, and also India. While Hamas carried out the most sinister attacks on Israel on Oct 7, 2023, the self-annihilation of Hamas and its supportive Hezbollah was on the cards. But the truth is that such organisations supported by their sponsoring governments will never be extinct. These are the façades of the regular armies. It may be seen in European countries that unrest over illegal immigrants is growing. US-Iran enmity is only one of the factors. The world is smarting under the threats of terrorism

## Chaos in Imphal



Manipur's Imphal Valley relapsed into chaos after unconfirmed reports that the bodies of all six persons, believed to be women and children missing since November 11, had been recovered from a river along the State's boundary with Assam. As protesters took to the streets, setting vehicles ablaze and attacking the residences of several MLAs in the State capital, Imphal, the

government suspended Internet and mobile data services in seven affected districts of the valley, which is dominated by the non-tribal Meiteis and the surrounding hills, where the tribal Kuki-Zos are in a majority. A curfew was clamped in the three valley districts of Imphal East, Imphal West and Bishnupur. Among the houses of the MLAs targeted was that of Rajkumar Imo Singh, the son-in-law of Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh, whose personal residence on the outskirts of Imphal was also reportedly attacked by a mob on Saturday night. Large groups of people went about asking MLAs to quit if the government was unable to ensure peace and punish killers of women and children.

Dorai Ramani Suresh | Ghaziabad

and fighting against it tooth and nail. Vinod Johri | Delhi

### BLAME GAME

Madam — Farmers' issues continue to haunt the Government and the fallout from the UPA government's time continues. Blame games are played just to find an escape route for decades. Instead of punishing farmers, the government should find ways of empowering them so that they can explore alternative ways of destroying stubble. High pollution levels affect the locals. Stubble burning is environmentally hazardous, and it should be prevented. The Supreme Court seems to think that if stubble-burning is halted, the air quality in Delhi would improve dramatically. It has asked the neighbouring states to take appropriate action to prevent it. True, there are safer ways of disposing of stubble, but they are costly. The farmers do not have the financial capacity to pluck out the stubble and bury it in the fields where it will become part of the soil. Yet, the sad fact is that the poor

farmers of Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and Rajasthan are blamed for the poor air quality in Delhi. C K Subramaniam | Chennai

### SANJU'S CENTURY STREAK

Madam — Sanju Samson has etched his name in the record books by becoming the first player to score three T20I centuries in a calendar year. This remarkable achievement cements his status as one of the most explosive batters in the shortest format of the game. Samson's stellar run began with his maiden T20I hundred against Bangladesh in Hyderabad on October 12. He reached the century mark in just 40 balls, the second-fastest hundred by an Indian in T20I cricket. His innings was a masterclass in power-hitting, as he smashed 111 off 47 balls, including 11 boundaries and 8 sixes, dismantling the Bangladeshi bowlers.

Jayanthy S Manaiam | Mumbai

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## FIRST COLUMN SEPHORA KIDS SYNDROME

By promoting safe practices, the parents and society can ensure that this trend benefits rather than exploits



SHAINY SHARMA

The beauty industry is continuously evolving, with brands adapting to trends, demographics and consumer behaviour. A notable trend is the rising interest in skincare and beauty among younger audiences, including children and pre-teens, popularly referred to as 'Sephora Kids'.

The idea of 'Sephora Kids' is tied to the increasing exposure of children to social media, beauty tutorials and influencers. Platforms like TikTok and YouTube have normalised beauty routines for younger audiences, making skincare and makeup accessible and aspirational.

Parents too play a role in this trend, with some encouraging early skincare habits to prevent future issues like acne. Additionally, brands targeting this demographic such as Bubble and Florence by Mills, offer gentle, age-appropriate skincare, further validating the interest of young consumers.

Marketing campaigns often focus on inclusivity, fun packaging and social media visibility to attract children and pre-teens. For instance, kid influencers and beauty creators promote skincare routines and products, dri-



ving trends among their peers while brands like Bubble and BTWN emphasise safe, dermatologist-approved products for younger skin. Moreover, platforms like TikTok and Instagram amplify the trend by showcasing beauty routines and promoting luxury brands.

This has contributed to an increase in spending among tweens and teens on beauty products, with estimates showing annual expenditures ranging from \$119 to \$140 per child for skincare and makeup.

Not only this, but many parents also express concerns about the safety of children using advanced skincare products with potent ingredients like retinol and acids, which may not be suitable for young skin.

Dermatologists report an increase in skin issues, such as irritations and allergic reactions, linked to these products. Parents too worry about the psychological impact, such as the pressure to conform to unrealistic beauty standards and premature exposure to consumer culture.

They note that participating in beauty routines can boost their children's confidence and serve as a creative outlet. However, the same comes with the risk of adopting harmful skincare habits, overspending and feeling pressured by societal beauty ideals? The rise of Sephora Kids raises ethical questions about how much influence the beauty industry should exert over children.

On one hand, critics argue that marketing beauty products to young audiences exploits their impressionability and perpetuates consumerism while on the other hand, advocates believe that when managed responsibly, it can foster creativity and self-care. Brands and regulators must emphasise transparency, safety and age-appropriate messaging.

Parents, too at times must guide their children in understanding the importance of moderation and self-acceptance. There is no denying that the concept of 'Sephora Kids' symbolises a cultural and generational shift in the beauty industry. While it opens doors to creativity and self-expression for younger audiences, it also demands careful navigation of ethical and developmental implications.

By promoting safe practices and fostering positive self-images, the beauty industry, parents and society can ensure that this trend benefits rather than exploits young consumers.

*(The write is an educator; views expressed are personal)*

# Redesigning education for real-world skills



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

By integrating practical lessons on earning, saving and managing money, education can better prepare students for real-world challenges



It is a truism to state that the world is becoming an increasingly complex proposition to deal with and the methods of coping with it need to be structured and understood. This alone will avoid increasing grief and bewilderment on the way matters are working in the world one is surrounded by.

An illustration from the area of finance may illustrate the situation. It is an obvious matter to point out that everyone needs finance to survive and finance has to be obtained if not earned from somewhere. This business of understanding finance or earning requires the ability to understand what finance is and how it can be earned.

Finance comes in many shapes and colours. A common factor in all finance is that it is putting a monetary value to one's effort and it is compensation for what one does to keep a system going. Finance sets the equation between effort and its compensation and finance in turn becomes a tool for both purchasing and obtaining the needs of life beyond purchase.

To do so, one needs to understand currency, its equivalence and how currency is measured in effort. It is one of the enigmas of our prevailing school and college system that these matters are rarely explained through a curriculum or, for that matter, in a formal situation.

Much is learned about finance through observation and the domestic environment in which one has grown, that is converted into transactions in operational life and early enough in one's life one learns that one needs to have capabilities to earn money and therefore deal with finance. Each system has its methods of equivalence between efforts and compensation and the forces that determine it are very often referred to as market forces.

This by itself is an art that life teaches



FINANCE COMES IN MANY SHAPES AND COLOURS. A COMMON FACTOR IN ALL FINANCE IS THAT IT IS PUTTING A MONETARY VALUE TO ONE'S EFFORT AND IT IS COMPENSATION FOR WHAT ONE DOES TO KEEP A SYSTEM GOING

sometimes simply and frequently through trial and error. Thus, it is that finance is not only tricky, but it leads to comprehend and yet it remains one of the cornerstones of anyone's life. Taking the conversation further, it needs to be realised that finance has some basic constituents like earning, saving, investing, converting into tangible assets and more.

Each area has over time become a specialised field of learning and indeed happiness or otherwise of one's existence. There are forces in finance in the higher classes of the school where certain basic concepts are explained and certain essential foundational ideas on finance are shared.

What is needed is giving it a practical orientation and teaching people through fieldwork, the value of finance and its central role in human life. Most classrooms have not graduated to that stage of thinking, or in that way of thinking which means very simply that most people pass through the completion of their schooling without getting the correlation between the essentials of finance and the foundation of living.

A situation becomes more complex when one graduate from the college or university level and then unless one is doing a specific course in finance, one may never learn anything beyond what one has learned in school about finance.

This is a loss because, as enumerated above, what is taught in school about finance does not go very far in the practice of finance. What everyone needs to know is the correlation between one's

worth in handling skills and information and how this is compensated in financial terms by the environment.

This by itself is a tricky proposition and, as suggested earlier, needs fieldwork. Then there are final areas of finance that cannot be learned unless exposed to the practical world and that is not a matter that can be brought into the classroom. Also, in a normal education system, there are again gaps where this learning goes by default and people are left to pay for themselves through trial and error.

This causes not only immense problems but complications of one variety or another. One can be shortchanged or one may not know that services cannot, in many cases, be provided without some type of compensation and that compensation very often has to be in terms of money. It will be a worthwhile approach to explain to people the relationship between money, finance and effort.

Such a perspective will help make the curriculum of not only the schools but also the colleges worthwhile and more practical in one's own life. As matters stand, if one specialises in physics, chemistry, history, psychology, geography, or whatever else, one hardly realises that beyond the so-called specialisation, there is a general education one needs.

This general education can be in behaviour concerning others, management of self, understanding income, understanding expenditure, understanding savings, and so on. Putting it simply, there is a need

to also focus on the range of learning before one crosses into adulthood and becomes a financially viable entity. As indicated earlier, much of this is happening through trial and error, embracing a method; that works in certain cases but not in others. There is a clear need to reduce the treasury for adjustment to actual life through formal inputs before one graduates into adulthood and is thrown into the open sea - as it were to take care of oneself.

The time has come to establish a philosophy of education, self-formation, and teaching that can stand on its feet and be related to the requirements of life.

The time is right for some fundamental thinking on such matters, and the sooner it's done, the better. Similarly, similar reflections are needed in making him a person through his childhood, teenage, and other phases of his life about the nature and content of what is technology.

This is so because technology touches every aspect of our lives, from not just the glasses that one may have to wear to correct one's sight but to everything else that has become such an essential part of one's livelihood and existence. Including and understanding the basic nature of technology in the curriculum of schools and colleges also needs attention. However, that may be a subject matter that needs to be treated separately and independently.

*(The writer is a well-known management consultant of international repute. The views expressed are personal.)*

# Cloud seeding, urbanisation, global warming: Where is the world headed?

Amid the climate challenges plaguing urban life, innovative approaches like cloud seeding offer promising solutions for a better future

The impact of global warming and pollution is transforming urban life, turning once vibrant towns into places that are becoming less and less livable.

Across the globe, urban landscapes, particularly in India, are evolving into concrete jungles, where the struggle for survival frequently resembles an arduous challenge. Once viewed as a shining example of culture and a centre for economic pursuits, Delhi and Mumbai now display AQI scores that seem almost staggering.

Heavy with contaminants, the noxious air has transformed into an environmental concern, leaving inhabitants struggling to breathe



RACHNA LAKHPATRI

while suffering from respiratory conditions. Have these cities become uninhabitable? In Delhi, pollution levels frequently fall into the "severe" category, with AQI readings often exceeding 400.

The outcomes are dire: children attending school only part-time; elderly individuals confined indoors; and hospitals inundated with

cases of asthma, bronchitis and various other respiratory ailments. In Mumbai, the oppressive humidity intensifies the situation, transforming the already polluted air into a dangerous mix for its 20-million-strong populace. Economic growth challenges the conventional use of various facilities and personal vehicles: although development fosters prosperity, it comes with significant expenses. Alongside factories and vehicles, construction sites contribute to the GDP; however, they also transform cities into perilous environments.

The alarming rise in disease cases compels us to confront a difficult reality: does the cost of progress come at the expense of the health and

wellbeing of the populace? Now, comes cloud seeding, a game changer in this catastrophic scenario. The practice of introducing particles like silver iodide or salt into the atmosphere to encourage rainfall can be celebrated for its potential to cleanse the air and replenish water resources through cloud seeding.

Thus, it could indeed be the virtue that aids in easing the challenges faced by cities: pollution and water scarcity. Countries such as China and the United Arab Emirates have been exploring this technology, while India has intermittently implemented it during severe droughts. Nonetheless, its use as a means to reduce pollution



remains largely uncharted. Is cloud seeding the answer to the escalating air quality crisis in India?

Some argue that cloud seeding is not an extraordinary solution. It comes with a hefty price tag, and the long-term effects on the environ-

ment remain uncertain. What truly matters is that addressing pollution at its source—minimising industrial emissions, promoting sustainable urban growth, and shifting to clean energy—continues to be the primary goal. As cities like

Delhi struggle and suffocate under the weight of toxic air, these short-term measures, like cloud seeding, may provide a fleeting but vital relief. The entire conversation regarding urban development requires a complete transformation.

Advancement must not jeopardise the wellbeing of the local population. It is essential for those in positions of authority to champion sustainable practices and enforce rigorous pollution controls to achieve a harmonious relationship between advancement and environmental stewardship. The stakes have never been higher.

The choice before us is stark: continue on a path that suffocates our cities or embrace

innovation and sustainability to breathe life back into urban spaces. The future of millions depends on the decisions we make today.

**Conclusion:** The intersection of urbanisation, global warming, and pollution demands urgent action. Short-term fixes like cloud seeding can offer relief, but true progress requires systemic change—curbing emissions, adopting clean energy, and prioritising sustainable urban growth. The future of our cities and the well-being of millions depend on decisive, forward-thinking measures taken today.

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



IN BRIEF



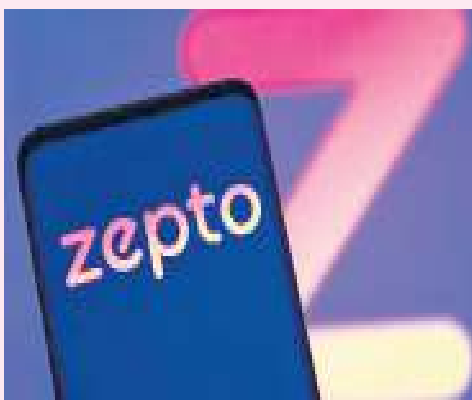
**Arisinfra Solutions gets Sebi's go to raise Rs 600-cr**

Arisinfra Solutions Ltd has received Sebi's go ahead to raise Rs 600 crore through an initial public offering (IPO), an update with the markets regulator showed on Monday. The proposed IPO is entirely a fresh issue of equity shares and with no offer-for-sale (OFS) component, according to the draft red herring prospectus. The company, which filed preliminary IPO papers with Sebi in August, obtained its observation on November 13, the update showed. In Sebi's parlance, obtaining observations means it go ahead to float the public issue. As per the draft papers, the Mumbai-based company plans to utilise proceeds of the issue for funding the working-capital requirements of the company, investment in subsidiary, Buildmex-Infra, repayment of loan and for general corporate purposes.



**NTPC pays Rs 2,424 cr as dividend to shareholders**

State-owned NTPC on Monday said it has paid Rs 2,424 crore as an interim dividend to its shareholders. The company paid its first interim dividend of Rs 2,424 crore for the financial year 2024-25 on November 18, representing 25 per cent of the company's paid-up equity share capital, NTPC said in a statement. NTPC CMD Gurdeep Singh, along with the Board of Directors of the company, presented the 'payment advice of Rs 1,238.84 crore, representing the government's share to the Minister of Power Manohar Lal, Power Secretary Pankaj Agarwal', it added. On October 24, the Board of Directors of NTPC approved the first interim dividend of Rs 2.50 on the face value of shares of Rs 10 each for the financial year 2024-25. This marks the 32nd consecutive year that NTPC has distributed dividends to its shareholders. In a separate statement, NTPC said it is setting up a plant at Simhadri in Andhra Pradesh to produce green hydrogen from seawater.



**Zepto expands cafe service to major cities**

Quick commerce platform Zepto on Monday announced the rollout of its cafe service in major cities and said it targets a revenue run-rate of Rs 1,000 crore by 2026. It will serve through over 120 Cafes at stores across Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, and soon in Hyderabad, Chennai, and Pune, a company statement said. "We have cracked 10-minute delivery with high-quality food preparation processes, which is why we are seeing strong customer love. Over the past year, our team has meticulously researched and sourced state-of-the-art equipment for our cafes, including coffee machines that employ handcrafted brewing techniques," Zepto CEO Aadit Palicha said. Serving the concept of a quick meal for today's fast-paced urban lifestyle, the online cafe features a diverse menu with over 148 items, including freshly brewed chai, coffee, all-day breakfast, pastries, and savoury snacks, promising a 10-minute delivery service, it added. Zepto Cafe was launched in April 2022 as a division of Zepto, which itself was founded in July 2021 by Aadit Palicha and Kaivalya Vohra. "The response has been phenomenal, with Zepto Cafe now achieving an (estimated) Annual Run Rate (ARR) GMV of Rs 160 crore with just 15 per cent of our expanding dark store network with proven unit economics. "As we expand into new cities and launch 100-plus new cafes every month, we are on track to achieve an ARR of Rs 1,000 crore by the next fiscal year," Palicha said.

**Stressful interest rates may impact growth aspirations: FM**

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said people are finding current interest rates "very stressful" and urged banks to make them affordable. Speaking at an event organised by SBI, the finance minister said that at present, India requires industry to ramp up and invest in new facilities, and added that lowering lending rates can help achieve the "Viksit Bharat" aspiration.

"What is important is when you look at India's growth requirements, and you can have so many different voices coming out and saying the cost of borrowing is really very stressful, and a time when we want industries to ramp up and move (to) building capacities, bank interest rates will have to be far more affordable," Sitharaman said. Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal last week urged the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to cut interest rates to boost economic growth. He also suggested looking through food prices while deciding on monetary policy. It can be noted that most of the commercial banks are tied directly or indirectly to the RBI's calls on interest

Stresses that the banks need to make loans affordable



"What is important is when you look at India's growth requirements, and you can have so many different voices coming out and saying the cost of borrowing is really very stressful, and a time when we want industries to ramp up and move (to) building capacities, bank interest rates will have to be far more affordable," Sitharaman said.

rates, with the majority of loans using the repo rate as an external benchmark to which loan prices are pegged. The consumer price inflation overshoot the RBI's comfort level of 6 per cent, with the 6.2 per cent reading for October dashed hopes of a rate cut soon. Sitharaman said a set of three or four perishable commodities is driving the headline inflation, currently, and the rest of it, the core items, are at manageable levels of three or four per cent. The finance minister also made it clear that she does not want to get into the debate of whether food prices should be

considered while constructing the inflation indices or to take calls on rates by the RBI's monetary policy committee. Inflation is a complex issue which affects the common man, she said, adding that the government has been working on the supply side measures, including edible oils and pulses. However, she was quick to add that India "cyclically" suffers from supply issues and the government efforts are mainly focused on improving the storage facilities to lessen the volatilities. Meanwhile, amid widespread concerns about a slowdown in growth, Sitharaman

assured that the government is fully aware of the domestic and global challenges and added that there is no need to have 'undue concerns'. She said that a slew of high-frequency indicators are pointing to strong activity on the ground. Acknowledging that there are voices wondering if the government's fiscal consolidation is hurting economic activity, the finance minister denied any such thing, saying that growth is a priority for the government. She also pitched for a rating upgrade, saying it is time for independent rating agencies to take a call on it.

**GST Council may decide on insurance levy on Dec 21<sup>st</sup>**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The GST Council will meet on December 21 in Jaisalmer, in which the much-awaited decision on exemption or lower GST rate on health and life insurance is likely to be taken.

The council, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising her state counterparts, may also take up some rate rationalisation exercise and reduce tax rates on a host of common man items from 12 per cent to 5 per cent slab as per the recommendations of a panel of state ministers. "The 55th meeting of the GST Council will be held on 21 December 2024 at Jaisalmer, Rajasthan," the GST Council said in a post on X.

The council, in its previous meeting on September 9, had tasked the GoM to finalise the report on GST levy on insurance by October-end.

Following that, the group of



ministers (GoM) on health and life insurance GST last month met and broadly agreed on exempting insurance premiums paid for term life insurance policies, and senior citizens' health insurance from GST.

Also, GST on premiums paid by individuals, other than senior citizens, for health insurance with coverage of up to Rs 5 lakh is proposed to be exempted. However, 18 per cent GST will continue on premiums paid for policies with health insurance cover of over Rs 5 lakh.

**Premji Invest, SBI Mutual Fund sell 6.6 pc stake in MedPlus Health**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Premji Invest and SBI Mutual Fund on Monday divested 6.6 per cent stake in MedPlus Health Services for Rs 552 crore through open market transactions. MedPlus Health Services is a retail pharmacy and diagnostics chain in India. Billionaire Azim Premji's PE firm Premji Invest, through its arm PI Opportunities Fund - I, sold 68.93 lakh shares or 5.77 per cent stake in MedPlus Health Services and exited the firm, according to the block deal data on the National Stock Exchange (NSE). Additionally, SBI Mutual Fund offloaded 10 lakh shares, representing a 0.84 per cent stake in the company.



The shares were sold at an average price of Rs 700 apiece, taking the transaction value to Rs 552.55 crore. After the stake sale, SBI Mutual Fund's holding in the pharmacy chain has come down to 4.04 per cent from 4.88 per cent. Meanwhile, Morgan Stanley India Singapore, Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund (MF), Invesco MF and Kotak

Mahindra MF acquired shares of MedPlus Health at the same price. Shares of MedPlus Health Services rose 2.10 per cent to close at Rs 719.05 apiece on the NSE. In August, private equity (PE) major Warburg Pincus exited MedPlus Health Services by selling its entire 11.35 per cent stake in the pharmacy chain for Rs 836 crore.

**ICRA cuts PV factory dispatch outlook down to 0-2 pc**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Rating agency ICRA on Monday revised downwards the outlook for passenger vehicle factory dispatches to show-rooms in the current fiscal on account of high inventory levels. Despite good retail sales, a year-on-year growth of 6 per cent in April-October FY2025 partially on account of an early festive season, the high inventory levels for the industry curtailed wholesale volume growth, as per a report on the domestic automotive industry by the domestic ratings agency. "ICRA has thus revised the outlook for the wholesale volume growth for the industry in FY2025 downwards to 0-2 per cent," it added.

**IT Ministry finalising voluntary code of conduct, ethics for AI cos**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

IT Ministry is crafting a voluntary code of conduct and ethics for work around Artificial Intelligence (AI), and talks are on with companies and stakeholders for the same, according to a source. The code would take into account aspects like how to look at data, the nuances of data being used, and labelling among other aspects. The source said that the work on voluntary code of conduct and ethics for AI firms is currently on. Amid an AI gold rush of sorts among companies, nations across the globe are stressing the importance of responsible



practices related to Artificial Intelligence. Last week, UNESCO in collaboration with the IT Ministry held a stakeholder

consultation on safety and ethics in Artificial Intelligence, as India aims to craft a policy that envisions 'AI for All'. This initiative came at a crucial moment as India embarked on its ambitious 'IndiaAI Mission' backed by over Rs 10,000 crore in funding. Central to the mission is the safe and trusted AI pillar, which underscores the commitment to ensuring safety, accountability, and ethical practices in AI development and deployment. By promoting indigenous frameworks, robust governance tools, and self-assessment guidelines, the IndiaAI Mission aims to empower innovators and democratise AI benefits across sectors.

**SBI raises Rs 10,000 cr through infra bond issuance**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Country's largest lender State Bank of India on Monday said it has raised Rs 10,000 crore through its seventh infrastructure bond issuance. SBI raised Rs 10,000 crore on Monday at a coupon rate of 7.23 per cent through its sev-

enth infrastructure bond issuance, the lender said in a statement. The issue attracted overwhelming response from investors with bids in excess of Rs 11,500 crore and was oversubscribed in excess of 2 times against the base issue size of Rs 5,000 crore, it said.

**'AI-Vistara merger pivotal moment for Indian aviation'**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Singapore Airlines CEO Goh Choon Phong on Monday said the airline group will support the ongoing transformation of the enlarged Air India Group by offering "our stewardship and expertise where possible" as he emphasised that Air India-Vistara merger marks a pivotal moment for Indian aviation.



Airlines celebrated the merger. Tata Sons Chairman Natarajan Chandrasekaran, Goh Choon Phong, as well as senior management and employees from Tata, Singapore Airlines, Air India, and Vistara were present, according to a joint release by Singapore Airlines and Tata Sons. "This merger marks a pivotal moment for Indian aviation. Working with our valued, long-standing partner Tata Sons, the SIA Group will support the ongoing transformation of the enlarged Air India Group, offering our stewardship and expertise where possible.

**Unemployment rate dips to 6.4 pc : Survey**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The unemployment rate for people aged 15 years and above in urban areas dipped to 6.4 per cent in the July-September quarter, according to the National Sample Survey Survey (NSSO). Joblessness, or unemployment rate, is defined as the percentage of unemployed people in the labour force. The unemployment rate in the September quarter of FY24

was 6.6 per cent. The unemployment rate for people aged 15 years and above in the previous April-June quarter of FY25 was 6.6 per cent in urban areas, the 24th Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) showed. The unemployment rate among females (aged 15 years and above) in urban areas declined to 8.4 per cent in July-September 2024 from 8.6 per cent in the same quarter a year

ago. The rate was 9 per cent in April-June, 2024. Among males, the unemployment rate in urban areas declined to 5.7 per cent in July-September 2024 from 6 per cent in the same quarter a year ago. The rate was 5.8 per cent in April-June 2024. Labour force participation rate in Current Weekly Status (CWS) in urban areas for people aged 15 years and above increased to 50.4 per cent in July-

September from 49.3 per cent in the same quarter a year ago. The rate was 50.1 per cent in the April-June 2024. Labour force refers to the part of the population, which supplies or offers to supply labour for pursuing economic activities for the production of goods and services and, therefore, includes both employed and unemployed persons. The NSSO had launched PLFS in April 2017.

**HYDERABAD METRO RAIL LTD**  
(Metro Rail Bhavan, Rasoolpura, Hyderabad)  
GIT No: 03/HMRL/Engg/EE-VI/2024-25 Dt: 18.11.2024  
E-procurement Short Tender Notice  
Name of the work: Enclosing the space between Bhadrath Nagar Flyover & Metro Viaduct with Chain Link fencing on service road side and sheet piling on Flyover side at Eragadda. Value of work: Rs 40.50 lakh. End Date: 27.11.2024 at 03.00 PM. For further details visit web site e-Procurement @ https://tender.telangana.gov.in or contact EE-VI, HMRL, Phone no: 040-23388588. Sd/- Executive Engineer-VI (JC) Hyderabad Metro Rail Ltd  
R.O. No. : 963-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA**  
REVENUE DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR, HYDERABAD DISTRICT  
FORM-VII  
DECLARATION  
(See Sub-rule (1) of rule-25 and Section-19 (1) of the Act-30/2013)  
Gazette Hyderabad, H.A.M.L. No.28 Dated: 16-11-2024  
No. CS/67/2024-RHS(26 to 50) Dated: 16-11-2024  
Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/Collector, Hyderabad District that a total of 121.99 Sq.Yards of land is required in Sher-Hyderabad Village Bahadurpura Mandal, Hyderabad District namely alloted under Metro Rail Phase-I, MGRS to Chandrayyanga in Condon-VI, stretch from Darshak ends. Therefore, Declaration is made that a piece of land measuring, more or less 121.99 Sq.Yards under acquisition for the above said project in the Sher-Hyderabad Village, Bahadurpura Mandal, Hyderabad District whose detailed description is as following:

Sr. No.	Sl. No.	Area (Sq. Yds)	Owner	Category	Remarks	Boundaries	Area (Sq. Yds)	Remarks
1	25	22-3/417	Pa. Mohd. Ghousa Purna (Khadir Khan)	Pa. Mohd. Ghousa Purna (Khadir Khan)	32.82	22-3/417	32.82	Pa. Mohd. Ghousa Purna (Khadir Khan)
2	27	22-3/438	Pa. Mustafa Khan	Pa. Mustafa Khan	31.09	22-3/438	31.09	Pa. Mustafa Khan
3	28	22-3/439	Pa. Saifuddin Begum	Pa. Saifuddin Begum	100.00	22-3/439	100.00	Pa. Saifuddin Begum
4	29	22-3/438	Pa. Saifuddin Begum	Pa. Saifuddin Begum	97.04	22-3/438	97.04	Pa. Saifuddin Begum
5	30	22-3/438	Pa. Saifuddin Begum	Pa. Saifuddin Begum	89.17	22-3/438	89.17	Pa. Saifuddin Begum
6	31	22-3/434	Pa. Saifuddin Begum	Pa. Saifuddin Begum	9.52	22-3/434	9.52	Pa. Saifuddin Begum
7	32	22-3/473	Pa. Saifuddin Begum	Pa. Saifuddin Begum	28.89	22-3/473	28.89	Pa. Saifuddin Begum
8	33	22-3/472	Pa. Saifuddin Begum	Pa. Saifuddin Begum	26.47	22-3/472	26.47	Pa. Saifuddin Begum
9	34	22-3/472	Pa. Saifuddin Begum	Pa. Saifuddin Begum	75.73	22-3/472	75.73	Pa. Saifuddin Begum
10	35	22-3/488	Pa. Saifuddin Begum	Pa. Saifuddin Begum	45.68	22-3/488	45.68	Pa. Saifuddin Begum
11	36	22-3/488	Pa. Saifuddin Begum	Pa. Saifuddin Begum	95.99	22-3/488	95.99	Pa. Saifuddin Begum
12	37	22-3/488	Pa. Saifuddin Begum	Pa. Saifuddin Begum	82.87	22-3/488	82.87	Pa. Saifuddin Begum
13	38	22-3/487	Pa. Saifuddin Begum	Pa. Saifuddin Begum	77.98	22-3/487	77.98	Pa. Saifuddin Begum
14	39	22-3/487	Pa. Saifuddin Begum	Pa. Saifuddin Begum	36.89	22-3/487	36.89	Pa. Saifuddin Begum
16	41	22-3/499	Pa. Saifuddin Begum	Pa. Saifuddin Begum	77.0	22-3/499	77.0	Pa. Saifuddin Begum
17	42	22-3/502	Pa. Saifuddin Begum	Pa. Saifuddin Begum	20.27	22-3/502	20.27	Pa. Saifuddin Begum
18	43	22-3/503	Pa. Saifuddin Begum	Pa. Saifuddin Begum	18.71	22-3/503	18.71	Pa. Saifuddin Begum
19	45	22-3/503A	Pa. Saifuddin Begum	Pa. Saifuddin Begum	53.04	22-3/503A	53.04	Pa. Saifuddin Begum
20	46	22-3/501	Pa. Saifuddin Begum	Pa. Saifuddin Begum	26.97	22-3/501	26.97	Pa. Saifuddin Begum
21	47	22-3/501	Pa. Saifuddin Begum	Pa. Saifuddin Begum	101.45	22-3/501	101.45	Pa. Saifuddin Begum
22	48	22-3/503	Pa. Saifuddin Begum	Pa. Saifuddin Begum	10.90	22-3/503	10.90	Pa. Saifuddin Begum
23	49	22-3/503A	Pa. Saifuddin Begum	Pa. Saifuddin Begum	19.38	22-3/503A	19.38	Pa. Saifuddin Begum

Total: 121.99 Sq.Yards

This Declaration is made after hearing of interested persons (if any) and due enquiry as provided under Section 19 of the Act No-30/2013. The number of families likely to be affected due to land acquisition is being ensured shortly.

Mines of coal, iron-ore, state or other mineral (and under the said land or any particular portion of the said land, except such parts of the mines and minerals which may be required to be dug or removed or used during the construction phase of the project for the purpose of which the land is being acquired, are not required.

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the District Collector, Hyderabad District and Special Deputy Collector (Land Acquisition), Hyderabad Airport Metro Rail, Hyderabad.

Sd/-  
Date: 16-11-2024 Sp. D. Collector (LA), Add. Collector, Collector, Hyderabad Hyderabad District Hyderabad District  
DIPR No.No.371/LA/PP-Advt/Agency/2024-25



# Hyderabad

## SREERAMA CHANDRA, PLAYBACK SINGER, ACTOR & HOST

As a renowned singer and influencer, I've had the privilege of inspiring many young people with my music. When I think about what defines a positive male role model, I believe it's about embodying qualities like being responsible, ambitious and successful in achieving goals. These traits transcend gender. For me, a role model is someone who brings positivity, makes things happen and doesn't give up. They're always there for their loved ones, take care of their family and possess a pure soul. That's the kind of role model I aspire to be. I believe everyone deserves equal chances to thrive, regardless of their background or generation. I've been fortunate to have opportunities in life and I want others to have the same. Personally, I haven't had mentors besides my parents. They've been my guiding light and I've relied on my gut feeling to navigate the tough world of the music industry. Regarding traditional masculine norms, I think it's essential to recognise that men can be vulnerable and cry. It's a personal choice and I believe in being strong when needed but also embracing my tender side. To prioritise self-care, mental health and emotional well-being, I've found solace in meditation, retreats like Inner Engineering by Sadhguru, working out and spending quality time with loved ones. These activities help me balance out the stress and pressure of my career. Ultimately, being a positive force for change requires embracing our true selves, vulnerabilities and all, and striving to make a positive impact on those around us.



## INSPIRING STORIES OF POSITIVE ROLE MALE MODELS!

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&  
TEJAL SINHA  
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International Men's Day serves as a powerful reminder that men's contributions, achievements and struggles matter. This day shines a light on the importance of promoting positive male role models, challenging gender norms and fostering a more inclusive understanding of masculinity. In honour of this special day, *The Pioneer* presents exclusive conversations with a group of inspiring men, who embody the values of empathy, kindness and responsibility. These role models, from diverse backgrounds and walks of life, share their insights on what it means to be a positive force for change, challenging traditional notions of masculinity and paving the way for a brighter future for all.

## ZABI KHAN, ANIMAL RIGHTS ACTIVIST AND PADMA SHRI NOMINEE

Growing up, I refused to stay silent in the face of mistreatment or abuse, even if it meant standing alone. Many people, including my relatives, friends and even school administrators, would say, "You're too sensitive." But I see sensitivity and compassion as a strength. Weak people try to convince you otherwise because they can't face their own lack of empathy. As a boy, you're taught to suppress your feelings, "be strong," and avoid anything deemed "feminine." Crying is seen as weakness and expressing care or sensitivity is often mocked. I've redefined masculinity for myself. To me, being a man means embracing your emotions, practicing kindness and understanding coexistence. True strength isn't about dominance; it's about control—choosing not to harm when you have the power to do so. Whether it's physical or emotional harm, strength lies in restraint.



## SUBRAT SARKAR, DIRECTOR OF TARANGINI KATHAK KENDRA

When I think of role models, I don't look at muscular figures or Bollywood actors; they're not part of my world. Instead, I look up to someone like Mahesh Khale from Maharashtra, one of the greatest classical singers. For me, he epitomises dedication and excellence in my field. I believe the most essential quality for someone to embody the title of a positive male role model is the ability to pursue their career with unwavering determination—as if it's their last opportunity in life. Coming from the Kathak field, I've had countless male students who are eager yet hesitant due to societal pressures. I've been in their shoes. For the last 20 years, I've faced immense criticism—not just from society but from my own family. My brothers, sisters and others doubted my decision to pursue classical dance. But now, they're proud of me and even praise me for my achievements. So, my advice to anyone pursuing classical dance—or any art—is simple: Don't let society or family hold you back. Their opinions will change once you prove yourself. The societal stereotypes I've faced as a male Kathak dancer have been massive—far too many to describe. Masculinity through art is about authenticity and dedication. To better support male artists in classical dance forms like Kathak, society and the art community need to let them do what they love. Kathak requires both physical and emotional discipline, and balancing them is essential. Classical dance incorporates both masculine and feminine energies—what we call *Lasya* and *Tandava*. One of the biggest misconceptions I've encountered is the idea that Kathak is a woman's art form. Ancient gurus and rishis—most of whom were men—pioneered classical dance. Even Lord Shiva, the epitome of divine masculinity, performs *Lasya* and *Tandava*. Kathak is about balance—embracing both feminine grace and masculine vigour. When the moment calls for it, I channel Shiva; when needed, I become Parvati. Mastering this balance is what makes a true artist.

From childhood, we've been conditioned to view boys' and girls' roles through a narrow lens. Even toys reinforce this. Girls are now encouraged to play with a variety of toys, but boys are still stuck with stereotypical action figures, superheroes and trucks. Why don't we see boy dolls cooking or caring for animals? Why is a boy cleaning a house such a taboo? This conditioning limits emotional growth in boys, teaching them that sensitivity is a flaw. Studies have shown that 87% of men feel insecure about expressing emotions because they fear being seen as weak. Breaking these stereotypes starts early—at home, in schools and in how we talk to children. For me, a positive male role model is someone who is kind, empathetic, compassionate and self-aware. It's someone who believes in equality—not just for genders but for all forms of life. Fragile male egos often hide behind toxic masculinity, but true masculinity is about confidence, humility, and balance. To the next generation of men, my message is this: Believe in yourself and stand up for what you feel is right. Use your strength to uplift others, help causes that resonate with you, and make the world a better place. For me, that means caring for animals, advocating for sustainability and helping young people find their voice in social causes.



## DAMODAR NAYAK, KARATE EXPERT, HEAD OF JAPAN KARATE ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

To be a positive male role model, I realise it's about embodying a unique blend of qualities that inspire and empower others. My personal experience that I've had has made me who I am today. These qualities include respect for all, empathy, kindness, responsibility, confidence, self-awareness and a growth mindset. I strive to lead by example, demonstrating integrity, respect and compassion in my personal and professional life.

Emotional intelligence is about recognising, understanding and managing my emotions, while empathy allows me to understand and share the feelings of others. Accountability means taking responsibility for my actions and their impact on others and respect involves valuing diversity, inclusivity and individuality. Self-awareness helps me recognise my strengths, weaknesses and areas for growth, with a hunger to learn more.

To the next generation of men, I want to convey that being a positive force for change requires embracing vulnerability, empathy and kindness. I believe traditional masculine expectations can be limiting and harmful. By prioritising self-awareness, emotional intelligence and compassion, you can become a powerful force for good in the world. My mantra is: Respect all, fear none; be kind to all creatures and be thankful to God always. I prioritise physical health through regular exercise and healthy eating habits, avoiding alcohol, and staying positive. I set realistic expectations, learn to say "no" to maintain a healthy work-life balance and stay positive, following and respecting my culture and traditions and doing something for society—even a small step counts.



## ADVOCATE RAMESH MUDHIRAJ, TELANGANA

For me, being a positive male role model is about understanding and fulfilling the needs of my family, respecting my life partner's wishes and decisions and supporting her goals. It's also about maintaining a balance between family life and work life. I believe that stability with your life partner is crucial. Beyond family, I think being a positive male role model means recognising that there's no difference between men and women. When faced with problems, I don't believe in being scared or intimidated. Instead, I try to identify the issue and think of solutions. To the next generation of men, I want to convey that we should value respect for women and family and seize opportunities without getting comfortable. We should strive to be better versions of ourselves and remain competitors to our own selves.

Personally, my experience as a lawyer shaped my understanding of positive masculinity. I went beyond my comfort zone and memorised the entire Indian Constitution and IPC sections. I also spread legal literacy among people, creating a positive impact on society, especially for distressed women and men falsely accused. I believe decision-making plays a vital role in tackling problems or taking a step back. Having a positive mindset is essential for strong decision-making. Regarding traditional masculine expectations,



## HIGH COURT

I think men should prioritise self-care, mental health and emotional well-being. In Indian tradition, the husband or elder son is often the head of the family and their emotional well-being affects the entire family. I believe expressing emotions is essential and men shouldn't suppress their feelings. We're human beings, not robots and we can laugh, cry and respond to emotions. However, as men, we should also be strong and face our emotions to resolve them. Ultimately, being a positive male role model is about embracing vulnerability, respecting others and striving for personal growth.



## MOHAMMAD ALI BAIG, PADMA SHRI RECIPIENT AND FILMMAKER

As I reflect on what defines a positive male role model, I think of my father, a creative genius who was ahead of his time. He embodied two qualities that I strive to emulate: the blend of art and commerce and balancing professional and family life. My father's ability to create critically acclaimed and commercially successful plays taught me the importance of finding that balance. He also showed me that being a legendary figure doesn't mean compromising on family time. He made time for birthdays, household staff and quality time with loved ones. For me, a positive male role model is someone who prioritises integrity, value systems, and human relationships without agendas. In today's world, it's easy to get bogged down in the rat race and forget these essential aspects. To the next generation of men, I want to convey that integrity and value systems are crucial in any field. Don't compromise on work ethics or personal ethics for success. Human relationships should be genuine, not just networking opportunities. Personally, I've learned that shedding bitterness is key to positivity. My mother taught me how to maintain dignity and live a dignified life, regardless of circumstances. She instilled in me the importance of respecting femininity, which enhances masculinity. I believe true masculinity comes from respecting women and recognising that our existence begins in a mother's womb. We should shed societal expectations that men must be strong and unemotional. Women are often stronger and more emotional, and men should learn from that. To prioritise self-care, mental health and emotional well-being, I think men should recognise that societal norms shouldn't define their vulnerability. We don't have to suppress emotions to be strong. Instead, we should focus on being strong in our own circumstances, without comparing ourselves to others.

## ENTREPRENEURIAL EXCELLENCE IN WELLNESS

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This National Entrepreneurs' Day, we spotlight the innovators reshaping the wellness and healthcare industries, showcasing how passion meets purpose in this transformative sector. With insights from two trailblazing entrepreneurs, Dr. Preeti Seth of Pachouli Aesthetic and Wellness Clinic and Jitin Bhasin of SaveIN, we explore their philosophies and the challenges of navigating the delicate balance between commerce and genuine care. For Dr. Preeti Seth, wellness is about fostering harmony between mind, body and spirit. "True wellness transcends temporary fixes; it's about sustainable, holistic health," she shares. They focus on aligning aesthetics with wellness, ensuring that health remains a way of life rather than a marketed product. The challenge lies in balancing commercialisation with authenticity. By designing

In a world where health and happiness are increasingly intertwined, two entrepreneurs are making a lasting impact. Entrepreneurs share their inspiring stories of perseverance, innovation and dedication to holistic well-being.

solutions rooted in Ayurveda and modern sciences, her programs not only enhance appearances but also address deeper health imbalances. Meanwhile, Jitin Bhasin of SaveIN echoes this sentiment, emphasising the growing demand for preventative and elective healthcare services in India. "Customer education and transparency in service delivery are pivotal," he says. His platform connects patients with healthcare providers, offering innovative financing options like no-cost EMIs to make private healthcare

more accessible. By reducing financial barriers, it enables Indians to prioritise their well-being without compromise. Both entrepreneurs recognise the evolving dimensions of wellness, which now encompass mental, emotional and spiritual health. Dr. Seth has introduced corporate wellness programs and home-based wellness services to address these aspects. These initiatives not only improve physical health but also tackle productivity issues and mental stress, offering personalised care that fits seamlessly into modern lifestyles. Jitin Bhasin, meanwhile, is preparing to launch mental health and counseling services. "Mental well-being is a growing concern," he says. In an industry driven by ever-changing trends, both entrepreneurs stay grounded by aligning innovations with core philosophies. The high cost of wellness services often limits their reach. However, these entrepreneurs have reimagined financial models to ensure inclusivity. Dr. Seth emphasises value

over affordability, offering transformative programs that guests consider essential investments. Through personalised care and home services, she has expanded access to her holistic solutions. Meanwhile Jitin explains, "Our no-cost EMI payment plans remove the burden of high upfront costs." This approach democratises healthcare, encouraging broader adoption of new-age treatments while maintaining financial sustainability for providers. Both leaders are determined to challenge unrealistic health ideals. Dr. Seth promotes wellness as a continuous journey, addressing societal pressures with personalised strategies that blend technology and tradition. Her programs celebrate diversity, offering tailored solutions for different demographics, including geriatrics and the third gender. Jitin observes a growing awareness among Indians about balanced health outcomes. "The digital generation is more informed, but also conscious of the risks of extreme pursuits," he notes.





# what's brewing?



HILife Exhibition is all set to mesmerise Hyderabad with its fashion special exhibition, which is set to be held from November 22 to 24 at HICC-Novotel in HITEC City, Hyderabad.

Nazya Khan

Pavani

Bramarambika

Vaanya

Aparna Reddy

Kusum

Aashi

Sony

PARTY  
Photos by- SV Chary



PAUL, the iconic French culinary with over 135 years of heritage, opened its first outlet in Hyderabad at RMZ, Nexity.



Aniq Unisex Beauty Salon & Tattoos announced the opening of its 61st branch, located in the heart of Madhapur in Hyderabad. The new Aniq branch provides a comprehensive range of premium salon services designed to suit every individual's needs.



Apollo Radiology International (ARI) announced its acquisition of the radiology reporting wing of InHealth Group. The event marked the presence of Steven Scott, chief financial officer, InHealth, along with Dr Sreenivasa Raju Kalidindi, Group CEO and Medical Director, Apollo Radiology International.



MLA Marri Rajashekar Reddy, along with Vishwa Charan and Gundu Dinesh, inaugurated the new Nexus club gym by Cult fit, near RTO at Chaitanyapuri Colony in Tirumalghiri, Secunderabad



The 3rd edition of the Hyderabad Valves, established in 2019 with the mission to advance non-surgical methods of valve replacement concluded at The Park Hyatt, Hyderabad. This event was dedicated to the memory of Prof. Alain Cribrier, a pioneer who performed the worlds first transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) in 2002



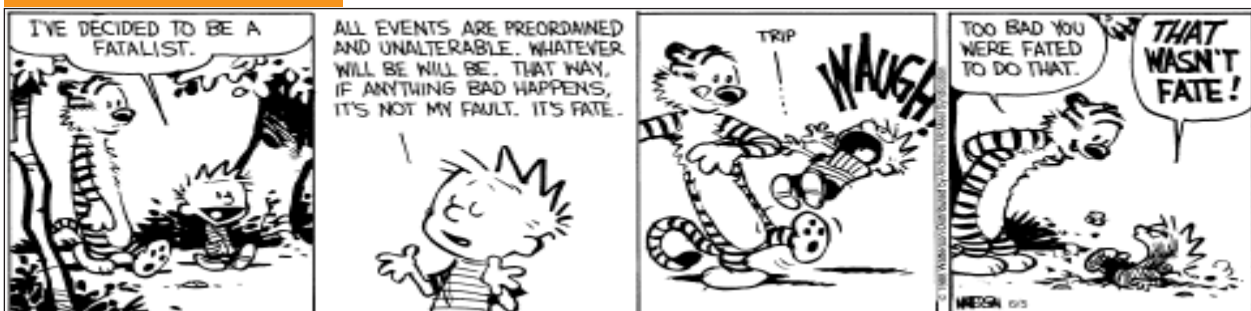
Nexus Select Malls announced the adoption of two lakes Gurunath Cheruvu Lake and Khaidama Lake as part of its 'Lakes of Happiness' initiative, reinforcing their commitment to environmental sustainability. Jayen Naik, COO, Nexus Malls, along with Nilesh Singh, Senior VP, ESG Nexus Malls, Anand Malligavard, founder of Malligavard foundation and Arkekapudi Gandhi, MLA Serilingampally and PAC Chairman Telangana attended the Bhoomi Pooja, which was held in Hyderabad.

## FUN

### ARCHIE



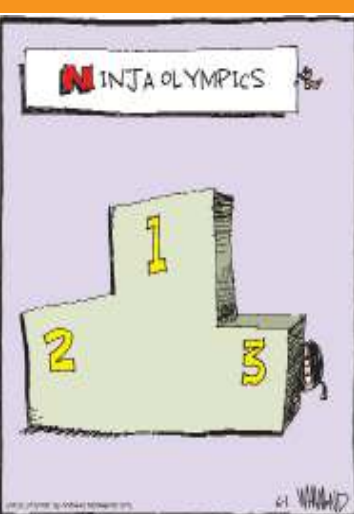
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### GARFIELD



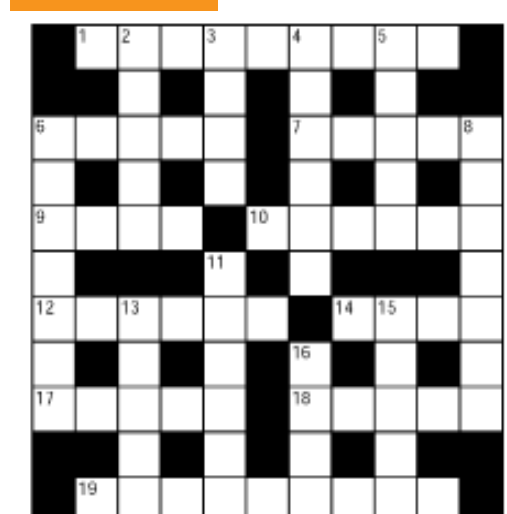
### REALITY CHECK



### SPEED BUMP



### CROSSWORD



### NANCY



### SUDOKU

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

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

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

Rules

- Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9) exactly once.
- The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

**ACROSS**

- Don't jump out of a flying aeroplane without this
- A compass direction
- Time of darkness
- Decays
- A large seal-like animal with whiskers and long tusks
- Sampled by mouth
- Where Peruvians live
- Places where people live
- Parts of a sentence
- Vegetable growers
- A large striped wild cat
- Make longer by pulling
- Paper hankies
- Unkindly made fun of a person to annoy them
- Where Samoans live
- Mistake
- A brother or sister born on the same day as you

**DOWN**

- Grown-up
- A throbbing pain
- A building for an aeroplane

**SOLUTION**

P	I	D	O	I	S			
N	A	I	S	V	I	T		
C	N	S	E	R				
O	B	T	A	I	N	S		
R	A	S						
R	E	S	T	R	I	N	G	
E	P	S	A	T	E			
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S	L	I	P	E	R	I		





# MANASA VARANASI EXPANDS HORIZONS IN TAMIL CINEMA

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**M**iss India 2021, Manasa Varanasi, is making her debut as a lead actress in the film *Devaki Nandana Vasudeva* alongside Ashok Galla. She reveals that acting was not her first choice after winning the Miss India crown.

"I was born in Hyderabad and moved to Malaysia for my schooling until 10th grade because of my father's work. After returning to Hyderabad, I completed my engineering and later worked in a corporate company," Manasa shares.

Her life took a dramatic turn after winning the Miss India pageant. "In two years, my life changed completely," she says. Reflecting on her post-Miss India phase, she adds, "I had many questions—should I continue with my corporate job, or should I pursue something new? Cinema has always been a passion and I decided to take steps toward learning this new world."

Her manager, Pushpa, connected her to the producer of *Devaki Nandana Vasudeva*, followed by the lead actor Ashok Galla and his family. "I'm grateful to be a part of this film. It's a commercial divine thriller and I play Satyabhama, a character who hails from Vizianagaram, where most of the film was shot. She's mysterious, courageous, and stands strong in any situation," she explains.

Many Miss India winners have turned to Bollywood after their titles, but Manasa's focus was initially on the Miss World competition. "After winning Miss India, my priority was preparing for Miss World and I had a hectic schedule. As part of Miss World, I worked on child safety and women's development with the Telangana government," she shares.

She also spoke about the differences between the beauty pageant world and the film industry.

**Miss India 2021 Manasa Varanasi, is all set to make her acting debut with *Devaki Nandana Vasudeva*. In this interview, she opens up about her initial career choices, preparation for Miss World, her transition into films and her future plans.**



try. "There's a grace in walking at Miss India, but acting in front of the camera requires a different body language and style. I had many offers post-crowning, but I was in two minds about entering the film industry. It was only after Miss World that I decided to take acting seriously."

Manasa's journey into films began with workshops, including a 10-day crash course at the Adishakti Theatre in Pondicherry. "It boosted my confidence and taught me a lot," she says.

Despite the glamour of her fame, Manasa remains grounded. "The moment Miss India happened, my family and I had to adjust. Our lives are no longer private, and I've learned to manage that balance," she reflects.

Looking ahead, Manasa is committed to continuing her film career. "I've already signed another film, opposite Santosh Sobhan and the shooting is underway," she reveals. She describes her experience with *Devaki Nandana Vasudeva* as a "roller coaster" filled with highs and lows, adding, "It's been a huge learning experience for me."

Manasa also shared the challenges she faces as an actress: "Body language is different in front of the camera and I had to learn to be uninhibited. Another challenge is getting into a role quickly and leaving it behind once the shoot is over. But I enjoy these creative challenges," she says.

She also reflected on the time constraints in the film industry compared to theatre. "In theatre, we had months to prepare, but in films, we often get only one or two days before the shoot," she says.

As a Telugu girl, Manasa feels grateful and determined to make her mark. "Cinema is an art form, a level playing field where caste, creed, or gender don't matter," she adds. Manasa is keen on expanding her career into different languages and genres. "I am learning Tamil and I'd love to do a Tamil film. My interests lie in romantic comedies and mystery thrillers, but I'm open to exploring exciting opportunities," she concludes.



## Eashvar Karthic uncovers bank scams with *Zebra*

**D**irector Eashvar Karthic is set to release his upcoming film *Zebra*, which explores the concept of black and white, leading to the choice of the title. Satya Dev and Daali Dhanunjay play the lead roles in the film. Eashvar explains that bank scams don't come out into the open as easily as other scams, primarily due to the potential harm to a bank's reputation. When asked about his previous film, *Lucky Baskhar*, which also depicted the banking and stock market system, he said, "That was a family drama and a period film and at that time, the system was mostly on ledger books. But my current story is contemporary, mostly computerized. It's much harder to commit a crime now, with CCTV cameras and increased monitoring."

Eashvar, an engineering graduate who began his career at Infosys, worked in several corporate companies before transitioning into the film industry. "My last job was in a bank and I know how the banking system works. There was a scam that happened when I worked there and I've put all my experiences and the characters I encountered into this film," he shared.

With numerous web series and English films focusing on banking, finance, and white-collar crimes, Eashvar's film stands out. "The story begins from the perspective of a common man. If you deposit just 500 rupees in a bank, you'll wonder how safe it really is. My story deals with banking, money laundering, and gangsters and after watching the film, audiences will be curious to learn that such crimes exist," he explained.

The film features a star-studded cast, including Satyaraj, Priya Bhavani Shankar, Daali Dhanunjay, Satya Raj and Sunil. "I cast actors who suit the roles and also serve the marketability of the film. To expand its reach into other languages, we roped in actors from Tamil as well," said the director.

Ravi Basrur, known for his work in *KGF*, is the music director for *Zebra*. "It's a musical crime story and there are seven songs in the film. Music and background score are crucial to the story and Ravi has done a fantastic job with both," said Eashvar.



## NAYANTHARA'S RAKKAYIE TEASER UNLEASHES ACTION-PACKED FURY

**C**elebrating Lady Superstar Nayanthara's birthday in style, MovieVerse Studios and Drumsticks Productions released the gripping title teaser for their upcoming period-action drama, *Rakkayie*. The teaser, launched digitally, offers a tantalising preview of Nayanthara's electrifying new avatar in a high-octane role, marking a major milestone for both production houses. Helmed by debutant director Senthil Nallasamy, *Rakkayie* promises to reimagine the period-action genre, blending heart-pounding drama with adrenaline-fueled sequences. The teaser has already taken the internet by storm, leaving fans eager for more. The film boasts a stellar crew, with music by acclaimed composer Govind Vasantha, cinematography by Gautham Rajendran and razor-sharp editing by Praveen Antony. As filming gears up to begin, fans can look forward to more updates on the cast and production details in the coming weeks. With its powerful narrative and Nayanthara leading the charge, *Rakkayie* is shaping up to be a landmark film in Tamil cinema.

## Karanam Gari Veedhi promises heartfelt entertainment

**R**enowned music director R.P. Patnaik released the highly anticipated first-look poster of the upcoming film *Karanam Gari Veedhi*, a love and family entertainer set against the picturesque backdrop of a village. Directed by Hemanth and Prasanth, the movie promises to offer a perfect blend of heartfelt family emotions, humour and relatable storytelling. The film stars Kittu Thatikonda, Kashmira, Rohit, Vaishali, Suneel Ravinuthala and Sri Gopichand Konda in key roles. Produced by Adavi Ashok under the South Blockbuster Creations banner, *Karanam Gari Veedhi* is gearing up for a grand theatrical release soon, bringing fresh talent to the forefront of Tollywood.

At the poster launch event, R.P. Patnaik expressed his excitement about unveiling the film's first look, calling the poster and title design "fresh" and "promising." He shared his belief in the importance of new talent in the industry, offering aspiring filmmakers advice to understand and passionately pursue their craft. Directors Hemanth and Prasanth shared insights into the film's story. Hemanth described



"picturesque village setting" and the meaningful content crafted by the talented directors. Hero Kittu Thatikonda, excited about his role as an auto driver, praised the movie for its beautiful narrative and Vaishali's standout performance as the second heroine. Hero Rohit expressed happiness about portraying the struggles of a middle-class family in such an entertaining manner, while heroine Vaishali thanked the team for the opportunity to play the lead role. Actor Sri Gopichand Konda added that the film feels like a story from everyone's real life, with its relatable middle-class village backdrop.

The technical team behind *Karanam Gari Veedhi* includes editing by Raviteja G., cinematography by Vinod Shiningam and music by Sukumar Pammil. The posters and title design were crafted by Moonlight Designers, with B. Veerababu serving as the PRO.

With a stellar cast and crew, *Karanam Gari Veedhi* is shaping up to be a complete love story filled with family emotions, set against the backdrop of rural India. The movie promises to strike a chord with audiences, offering both entertainment and heartwarming moments that will make it a must-watch upon its release.

## Inside Sobhita Dhulipala's wedding trousseau!

**S**obhita Dhulipala is leaving no stone unturned as she prepares for her wedding to Telugu star Naga Chaitanya. Known for her understated charm and cultural pride, Sobhita is curating a wedding trousseau that beautifully reflects her heritage and individuality—a refreshing shift from the stylist-driven celebrity weddings we often see.

Insiders reveal that the actress has handpicked a stunning Kanjivaram silk saree intricately woven with real gold zari, a choice she made during a shopping trip with her mother. Adding to the charm, she's also commissioned a traditional white khadi saree from the master weavers of Ponduru, Andhra Pradesh. In keeping with custom, she's even ensuring a coordinated outfit for Chaitanya, embracing the spirit of togetherness. "Every detail has Sobhita's personal

touch," shares a source close to her. "It's all deeply sentimental and rooted in tradition."

This hands-on approach to her wedding reflects Sobhita's deep connection to her Telugu roots. Her engagement ceremony offered a glimpse into this ethos, where she stunned in traditional attire, accentuated with an orange gajra—a picture of elegance that sparked widespread admiration.

The wedding promises to be an intimate, culturally rich celebration, with close family and friends in attendance. From her wardrobe to the rituals, every element emphasizes Sobhita's grounded yet sophisticated style, blending love and tradition in a way that only she can. Fans eagerly await the first look at what's bound to be a wedding steeped in grace and heritage.





# 'Hungry' Virat's record in Australia will give him confidence: Gavaskar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Virat Kohli will be "very, very hungry" for runs following his lean patch against New Zealand, according to former Indian captain Sunil Gavaskar, who feels the veteran batter's strong track record Down Under will boost his confidence heading into the upcoming Test series against Australia.

Kohli has faced a challenging patch in all formats over the past few months. In his last 60 Test innings, he has managed just two centuries and 11 half-centuries.

This year, he has averaged only 22.72 across six Tests, and in the three games against New Zealand, he could manage only 93 runs.

"Because he hasn't scored runs against New Zealand, he'll be very, very hungry," Gavaskar told Star Sports.

"Even in that Adelaide Test, where India was bowled out for 36 in the second innings, Kohli scored 70-plus runs in the first innings before being run out," he added.

Despite these recent struggles, Kohli has an outstanding record in Australia. The right-hander, who has been part of four tours Down Under, averages a stellar 54.08.



Gavaskar believes these stats will provide a significant confidence boost as Kohli prepares for the upcoming five-match series,

starting with the first Test in Perth on Friday.

"He has consistently performed in Adelaide, a ground he knows well.

Before Adelaide, it's Perth, where Kohli played one of his finest Test centuries in the 2018-19 series — a terrific hundred.

"Having performed on these grounds, he'll feel an extra bit of confidence. Of course, you need a bit of luck at the start, but if he gets off to a good beginning, he will score big runs," Gavaskar added.

As the series approaches, all eyes will be on Kohli, who will look to bounce back with his trademark resilience and continue his fine record in Australia.

Kohli knows what's coming: Manjrekar.

Former India cricketer Sanjay Manjrekar also weighed in on how Australia might target Kohli.

"I think Virat knows exactly what's coming," Manjrekar said.

"They'll start with a line outside the off stump to assess his mindset. These days, he often leaves balls outside off and looks to drive anything pitched up. Australia may try to cramp him for room and attack his body, especially since he likes to get forward. New Zealand used this tactic effectively."

Manjrekar continued, "If he's focused on balls outside off stump, bowlers like Josh Hazlewood could target the middle-stump line, much like Vernon Philander used to do. Australia will experiment with different strategies, and Virat Kohli is well aware of that."



## Sri Lanka beats New Zealand in 2nd ODI to win another home series

AP ■ PALLEKELE (SRI LANKA)

Kusal Mendis hit a patient 74 not out as Sri Lanka beat New Zealand by three wickets under the DLS method with six balls remaining in the rain-hit second ODI.

Sri Lanka took an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series with the final game also at Pallekele on Tuesday. Sri Lanka won the first one-day international by 45 runs — also by DLS — after rain disrupted that game at Dambulla.

It was Sri Lanka's fifth ODI series win at home in 2024 after it had beaten Zimbabwe, Afghanistan, India and West Indies. Sri Lanka couldn't qualify for next year's Champions Trophy after finishing ninth at last year's 50-over World Cup in India, but has since then lost just one ODI series in Bangladesh while winning five at home.

"It is really tough for batters to score runs here," Sri Lanka captain Charith Asalanka said. "This is just another series. As a team, we are moving towards a big goal and we have to achieve that, this is a process."

Mendis followed his career-best 143 in the series opener with a determined 102-ball knock as Sri Lanka reached 210-7 in 46 overs.

The match was cut to 47 overs-a-side after two rain interruptions when New Zealand batted and was bowled out for 209 in 45.1 overs. Sri Lanka was set a target of 210.

Off-spinner Michael Bracewell's first four-wicket ODI haul (4-36) gave New Zealand a sniff when Sri Lanka slipped to 163-7 before Maheesh Theekshana (27 not out) shared a match-winning

47-run stand with Mendis and carried the team home. Earlier, Sri Lanka grassed a few hard chances but Avishka Fernando took three spectacular catches after Asalanka won the toss and elected to field.

Mark Chapman ended his struggling batting form with 76 off 81 balls, but his dismissal in the 37th over would see New Zealand lose its last six wickets for 36 runs. Mitchell Hay made a well composed 49 off 62 balls and shared a 75-run stand with Chapman. Hay was the last man to be dismissed.

New Zealand struggled against a four-pronged spin attack with Theekshana (3-31) and Jeffrey Vandersay (3-46) sharing six wickets. Left-arm spinner Dunith Wellalage, the only change Sri Lanka made from the team which won the first game, and Asalanka took one wicket each.

Bracewell mopped up the top order but Mendis stood firm as he completed his half century off 84 balls with four boundaries. He added 39 runs with Janith Liyanage and another 31 with Wellalage, who struck three successive boundaries in his 18-run knock against Nathan Smith before holing out at mid-on to give Bracewell his fourth wicket.

But Theekshana showed some aggression against pace, slicing fast bowler Jacob Duffy for the only six in the Sri Lanka chase and also struck two boundaries.

"It is always a challenge when you are defending a low score," New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner said. "Kusal played the situation very well ... that partnership (between Kusal and Theekshana) at the end took it away, but we also left a few runs out there."



## India name 20-member team for men's Junior Asia Cup

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Defender Amir Ali will lead a 20-member Indian squad in the men's Junior Asia Cup hockey tournament starting in Muscat from November 26. India have won this tournament for a record four times, including 2004, 2008, 2015 and 2023. They beat nemesis Pakistan 2-1 in the final last year to lift the title. This year, the event will have 10 teams from the continent divided into two pools with India, Chinese Taipei, Japan, Korea and Thailand clubbed in pool A. Bangladesh, Malaysia, China, Oman and Pakistan are in Pool B.

The tournament is also a qualifying event for next year's FIH Junior World Cup and India have automatically qualified for it by virtue of being hosts.

However under the guidance of coach PR Sreejesh, the team will be looking to build on its recent success at the Sultan of Johor Cup.

Rohit will serve as Amir Ali's deputy.

"The Sultan of Johor Cup was a first-time experience for

many of the players, yet they showed great spirit in doing well and I am quite pleased with how they performed," Sreejesh said in a media release.

The team will be taking confidence from that performance and will be working towards a successful outing in the Junior Asia Cup.

"The players have been putting in a lot of hard work at the ongoing national camp in SAI, Bengaluru and we have made certain changes to our game to be more effective in defence and efficient in converting goals," he added.

Squad: Goalkeepers: Princedeep Singh, Bikramjit Singh. Defenders: Amir Ali (C), Taleem Priyobarta, Shardanand Tiwari, Yogembar Rawat, Anmol Ekka, Rohit(VC). Midfielders: Ankit Pal, Manmeet Singh, Rosan Kujur, Mukesh Toppo, Thokchom Kingson Singh. Forwards: Gurjot Singh, Sourabh Anand Kushwaha, Dilraj Singh, Arshdeep Singh and Arajiet Singh Hundal. Iternate Players: Sukhvinder and Chandan Yadav.

## Vaughan shocked by India's call to skip warm-up matches ahead of Australia series

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Baffled by India's decision to head into the high-profile Border-Gavaskar Trophy against Australia without a proper warm-up game, former England captain Michael Vaughan has raised concerns about how the tourists would get into a "competitive mindset" without match practice.

India decided against playing a match against an Australian domestic side in the run up to the five-match Test series, starting in Perth from November 22, marking a departure from their approach on the previous two tours of Australia.

"I can't get my head around a team like India only wanting to play an intra-squad game leading into a series against Australia in their own backyard," Vaughan told 'Fox Cricket'.

"I just can't see how you get yourself in that competitive mindset of consequence by playing an intra-squad game. Time will tell."

But India have also called off their scheduled three-day intra-squad match with their 'A' team. They have instead opted to focus on centre-wicket training at the WACA in Perth. The Indian think tank believed that the bounce of the WACA centre strip closely mirrors that of



the Perth Stadium pitch. As a result, they felt it would be beneficial for all top-order batters to spend more time in the middle.

"I'm surprised that this Indian side didn't want at least one game of cricket, and the WACA's the perfect venue because it's a similar pitch to Optus (Stadium), so you get used to the bounce," Vaughan said.

Australia had also skipped warm-up matches before last year's Test tours of India and England, citing issues with scheduling and a lack of trust in local curators as contributing factors.

"These players have a different kind of

mindset to what we had, whereas we probably needed more games," Vaughan continued.

"They're playing 12 months of the year and get straight into it, but it'll be intriguing to see how both sets of players settle on that first day when they're playing the longer form."

"The modern player maybe believes that they don't need (tour matches). They think they get enough cricket throughout the year and they can react and just adapt. I just like to see teams win and stick a marker down," he added.

## IOA gets involved as India host first Kho Kho World Cup from January 13-19

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on Monday confirmed its partnership with the Kho Kho Federation of India as the country gets to ready to host the first-ever Kho Kho World Cup, to be held here from January 13 to 19.

The IOA has pledged its "unwavering support" for the event to be organised at the IGI Stadium.

In a statement to KKFI chief Sudhanshu Mittal, IOA president PT Usha expressed the association's strong commitment to elevating indigenous sports like Kho Kho.

Usha said, "We recognise the

significance of this event in celebrating our cultural heritage and promoting traditional sports, and we look forward to collaborating with Kho Kho Federation of India to ensure the success of the tournament.

"Together, we aim to make this event memorable and impactful, encouraging the spirit of sportsmanship among participants and fostering a deeper appreciation for Kho Kho worldwide."

Mittal said the partnership between IOA and KKFI will be a "game-changer" for Kho Kho.

"The support of the IOA, led by President PT Usha, is a game-changer for Kho Kho. This



collaboration is pivotal in putting Kho Kho on the global map, and we're thrilled to be hosting the first-ever Kho Kho World Cup, a truly historic event for the sport," Mittal said.

The World Cup will feature both men's and women's teams, with 25 countries from six continents set to compete.

Teams from Asia, including hosts India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, will face off alongside competitors from Africa, Europe, North America, South America, and Oceania.

Nations like Ghana, Kenya, England, Germany, Brazil and Australia will be among the participants.

## Ashwin, an incredibly smart bowler, has taught me a lot: Nathan Lyon

PTI ■ PERTH

Veteran Australian spinner Nathan Lyon believes that rival players often serve as the "best coaches", acknowledging that his Indian counterpart Ravichandran Ashwin has "taught" him a great deal through their faceoffs since 2011-12.

Having made their Test debuts in the same year, Lyon and Ashwin will face each other for the eighth time in the longest format during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy five-Test series beginning in Perth on November 22.

"Ash (Ashwin) is an incredible bowler. I've gone head-to-head with him for basically my whole career, so I've learned a lot from Ash," Lyon told Fox Cricket.

"He's an incredibly smart bowler, and he's able to learn and adapt very quickly, and I think the best bowlers in the world are able to do that. He used his skills to benefit himself and his team. "So, you've got to give credit

where credit's due, he was the best bowler (in 2020/21), as he usually is. So, hats off to Ash." It will be Ashwin's fifth Test tour of Australia, where he has claimed 39 wickets in 10 Tests at an average of 42.15.

Lyon further admitted to having studied Ashwin's bowling closely, especially before Australia toured India in the last few years.

"He's taught me a lot," Lyon said. "I'm a big believer in the players that you play against are your best coaches that you eventually come across."

"I've watched a lot of his footage heading over to India, the way he goes about it here in Australia, see if I can pick up anything.

"The way I look at cricket is that I've never met anyone who has conquered the game, never played against or with anyone who's conquered the game.

"There's so much to learn in this great game, and there's so much for me to learn from Ash. He's a world-class bowler. He's taken



over 500 Test match wickets, and he should be extremely proud of that."

Ashwin (21.76) outshines Lyon (30.81) in terms of having the best Test bowling average in Asia.



However, the Australian has better bowling figures outside Asia -- Lyon: 30.09, Ashwin: 33.14.

Asked if they could face again post this tour, Lyon reckoned,

"Spin bowling is a craft that the older you get, the better you get with age.

"There's definitely no limit for me, and I don't think there should be a limit for us as well.

He's absolutely world-class, and there's a series in a couple of years' time. So, who knows?"

Asked the secret of his success on non-spinning tracks, Lyon quipped: "I know Jadeja reads all of this stuff, so I can't really share all my secrets."

"My big thing is spinning up the back of the ball and getting bounce, but it's a hard craft to be able to do that in Australia. Your size for error is extremely small," he said. They may not have won a Test series against India in nearly a decade, but Lyon feels their World Test Championship final triumph last year would give them the edge.

"India's got the wood over us in the past few series, but if you're looking at the World Test Championship (final) in England, we were able to beat them there, and I know that should give us a bit of confidence heading into (this summer)," Lyon said.

"We understand that we're

coming up against a world-class side, but we can take a lot of confidence out of where we are at as an Australian cricket team.

"I feel like we're on the journey to becoming a great team. We're not there yet. There's a bit of work to do, but we have the opportunity to do something pretty special this summer."

India are reeling from an unprecedented 0-3 home defeat against New Zealand, a result Lyon believes will make the second-ranked team even more determined.

"I think they're extremely dangerous. They're a class outfit, and they know their best preparation and how to come out here and perform. It's going to be a cracking Test series."

"It's been a long ten years since Australia's held the trophy. There's only a few of us that would probably be in the squad that's actually held the trophy, so it's time to bring it home," he concluded.