

MISS... DON' I

Hyd a global hub for innovation

Highlighting that Hyderabad continues to strengthen its position as a global hub for innovation and excellence, IT Minister D. Sridhar Babu inaugurated Evernorth Health Services India's first Global Capability Center (GCC) in Sattva Knowledge Park, HYTEC City on Tuesday. Addressing the gathering, Sridhar Babu also highlighted Evernorth's commitment to transforming healthcare and its valuable addition to Hyderabad's Global -PAGE: 3

Gold worth Rs 10 cr stolen from bank

In a major bank heist, thieves made off with gold jewellery worth Rs10 crore from the State Bank of India (SBI) Rayaparthy mandal branch around midnight on Monday. According to reports, the thieves gained access to the bank by cutting through a window with a gas cutter. They then broke open the lockers and took away the gold jewellery. The crime came to light the following morning ...

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'Haryana too has a right over Chandigarh'

Haryana also has a right over Chandigarh, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said on Tuesday, justifying the state's move to have an additional Vidhan Sabha building in the Union Territory, much to Puniah's chaorin Sai said the construction of the Haryana Vidhan Sabha complex in Chandigarh is a serious issue and all political parties in the state should rise above politics and present their views unanimously. On Tuesday, during the ...



HC quashes GO No: 16 regularising contract staff

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana High Court struck down the BRS Government's GO No: 16 which allowed the regularising of contract employees. The High Court quashed GO No:

16 issued by the BRS government as per Section 10 (A). The High Court struck down GO No: 16 declaring that Section 10 (A) is against the Constitution.

However, the court said the government cannot fire already regularized employees. The court said that governments should not regularise contract employees from now onwards. The court said that governments should fill vacancies as per

the law from now onwards. The BRS Government regularised contract lecturers working in Degree, Junior colleges and Polytechnics. However, some unem- 230 assistant training officers.

ployed youth approached the High Court challenging the BRS Government's decision. The petitioners said in their petitions that the government regularised the contract employees against the rules. The petitioners' lawyers informed the High Court that GO No: 16 is against SC verdicts.

It may be recalled that the BRS Government regularised around 5,000 contract lecturers through GO No: 16. The BRS Government regularised 5,544 contract employees working in 40 government departments.

The BRS Government regularised 2,909 junior lecturers, 184 junior lecturers (vocational), 390 polytechnic teachers, 270 degree lecturers, 131 attenders in technical education centres, 837 medical assistants in the health department, 179 lab technicians, 158 pharmacists and



CM Revanth Reddy is addressing the Praja Palana-Praja Vijayotsavam public meeting at Warangal City on Tuesday

PNS HYDERABAD

The Congress will not let the plant called KCR sprout again, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said. "Write it down. Let's see what KCR does. KCR is sleeping in his farmhouse and I know everything that is happening inside the farmhouse. I am saying again that KCR should come out from his farmhouse," the CM said.

Addressing the 'Praja Palana-Praja Vijayotsavam' held in Warangal city on Tuesday, Revanth said, "KCR said paddy cultivation is nothing but hanging oneself. Our farmers cultivated paddy on 66 lakh acres and raised a bumper crop of 1 crore 53 lakh tonnes. No state in the country has ever produced so much rice." "What is your (KCR) sorrow and what is your (KCR)

Russian Prez

Putin may visit

India next year

PNS NEW DELHI

A festival of paddy in TG

- Farmers raised a bumper crop
- Cong will not let the KCR plant sprout again
- We fulfilled all that was promised
- CM Revanth at Warangal public meeting

pain? Come to the Assembly. Let us have a debate. Come to the people and speak. The government is ready to correct all valid issues raised by KCR. KCR won't come out but sent two cheap fellows. KCR is not coming but two 'petty guys' are making trouble," the CM said.

Appealing to KCR to stay in his farmhouse, the CM said, "I will send what KCR needs there. KCR promoted Telangana as a 'drunkard 'state. Only four people have lost their jobs in the last 10 months. Nothing else happened." The CM said that one leader commented

that Telangana has realised what they lost in the last 10 months. However, women attained freedom during the last 10 months in

Telangana. Today, women have reached the stage of establishing solar power plants which is being set up by the Adani and Ambani groups, the CM said.

The CM said that women have been given free bus travel facility in TGSRTC buses. Women are getting cooking gas cylinders for only Rs 500. We are supplying free power up to 200 units to poor like **Continued on Page 2**



We must bust conspiracies and jail plotters: Revanth

Alleging that the opposition is con-spiring against the TG Government, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said the Congress Government will detect plots and jail the plotters.

The Chief Minister said the government has decided to develop Warangal like Hyderabad and has initiated steps for that.

"That is why the government allocated nearly Rs 6,000 crore



CM Revanth Reddy with Ministers, MLAs, MPs and others at Kaloji Kalakshethram with KUDA Master Plan-2041



PNS HYDERABAD

BRS MLA Harish Rao strongly claim to have stepped over everyone criticised Chief Minister Revanth to get here, trampling your Congress

Highlighting Revanth's rise to power, Harish said, "You proudly

Russian President Vladimir

Managing power supply is Govt's job, says KTR Blasts govt move to ask apartment complexes to instal transformers



EV industry seeks **GST** cuts on batteries

GST on batteries and charging services needs to be cut to keep electric vehicles competitive and boost customer adoption, FICCI Electric Vehicle Committee Chair Sulajja Firodia Motwani said on Tuesday. Speaking at the sidelines of FICCI National Conference on EVs here, she also stressed enhancing PM E-Drive corpus to support enhanced sales of EVs. "We would be making a recommendation to the GST Council to rationalise the GST taxation on EV-related ...

-PAGE: 8

"Congress Vijaya so-called Utsavalu" in Warangal. He called out the Chief Minister's lack of achievements and accused him of duping the public with empty rhetoric and neglecting the real issues

facing Telangana. Revanth's behaviour reflects the adage, 'A weak man boasts, and an incapable man abuses.' In the 11 months of governance, he has delivered noth-

ing but insults, with no meaningful contributions to show," Harish said. Mocking the Congress's so-called "vijaya utsavalu," Harish said, "What is there to celebrate? From Ashok Nagar to Lagacharla, from farmers to Lambada, your failures have left a trail of injustice. No diversionary tactic can erase the damage you have caused or the memories of Telangana's people.'

He criticised the Chief Minister for frequently using the name of K. Chandrasekhar Rao. "Merely chanting KCR's name will not hide your failures or earn you the stature of a visionary leader. KCR garu's accomplishments are far beyond your understanding," he said.

Now, you are trampling the hopes of Telangana's people with shortcuts and oppressive policies. Harish dismissed Revanth's reckless rhetoric, stating, "Your offensive language and empty talk bring no benefit to the state. The people of Telangana are watching, and it is they who will

decide your fate."

as part of a laid down structure between the two countries for reciprocal annual visits by their leaders, diplomatic sources said on Tuesday. The two sides are looking at the possibility of the visit but nothing has been finalised yet, they said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi invited the Russian President to visit India when the two leaders held summit talks in Moscow in July.

Continued on Page 2

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BRS Working President KT Rama Rao (KTR) has strongly criticised the government's decision to ask apartment residents to bear the cost of installing transformers to manage the increasing power load in Hyderabad.

Addressing this issue in a statement, KTR lambasted the government for issuing notices through the TSSPD-CL asking apartment complexes with power consumption above 20 KW to

install their own transformers. KTR described this as yet another 'Tuglaq move' by the government stating that such actions stem from its inability to manage power supply efficiently. Despite the public outcry against the decision, the government remains indifferent.

KTR emphasized that the responsibility of installing new transformers and upgrading the power supply system lies entirely with the government and not with the public. He said that installing a trans-

former for an apartment complex costs approximately Rs 3 lakh. This translates to an additional burden of Rs 30,000 to Rs 50,000 per house-Continued on Page 2 hold.

Eatala complains to NHRC on Lagacharla incident

PNS HYDERABAD

The BJP's Malkajgiri MP, Eatala Rajender, filed a complaint on Tuesday with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) regarding the Lagacharla incident. He posted on X regarding this and said, "Kodangal Constituency, Lagacharla incident has been brought to the attention of the NHRC (National Human Rights



Malkaigiri MP Eatala Rajender addressing the media at State BJP office on Tuesday

Commission)." "I have brought to the attention of the NHRC that farmers have been subjected to torture in police custody. The police and Congress leaders are still terrorising them, and the people in the Chief

A key accused in the attack on district authorities during a public Minister's constituency are left unprotected. NHRC teams should be sent immediately to Tuesday, police said. Lagacharla **Continued on Page 2**

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hearing on land acquisition in before a local court in Kodangal Telangana's Vikarabad district town, Vikarabad. Suresh had been surrendered before a court on on the run after the incident.

Key accused in Vikarabad attack surrenders

B Suresh, a leader of the BRS youth wing, who allegedly "pre-planned" and instigated the attack on November 11, surrendered

Continued on Page 2

RECORDING ATTENDANCE Govt plans to use 'Facial Recognition Technology'

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana Government has decided to introduce 'Facial Recognition Attendance' system to improve accuracy, efficiency and security in the attendance system.

The system uses advanced technology to verify individual identities through facial features, eliminating the need for manual signing and will enable seamless atten-dance marking.

Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari issued orders regarding this on Tuesday. As per the order, the employee upon arrival will stand in front of the device at the marked place looking directly at the camera for a few seconds his/her face will be recognised and attendance marked. The recording allowances, and remuneration are mence on 22/11/2024. A message



of attendance will be at the time of in and out.

The attendance of all regular secretariat employees, including all Circulating Officers, and outsourced staff, whose pay and

The system uses advanced technology to verify individual identities through facial features, eliminating the need for manual signing and will enable seamless attendance marking

being drawn by regular secretariat departments from the Secretariat Heads of Account, will be recorded. The registration of employees

and outsourcing staff will com-

will be sent to mobile numbers, provided by the respective Departments, allotting slots, dates and times for registration. All regular staff must carry their ID cards and the last month's pay slip for registration purposes. Outsourcing employees and outsourced staff.

staff should carry their ID cards and a copy of the same attested by the respective DDO.

Face recognising devices will be installed in adequate numbers at all entry and exit points of the building apart from on each floor, near the lifts and at the respective departments. A copy of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) provid-ed by the ITE & C department is enclosed for reference.

All other provisions regarding attendance contained in Chapter XX of the Secretariat Office Manual shall remain unaltered.

All Departments in the Secretariat are requested to communicate the same to all officers and staff for information and to ensure the registration of all secretariat

Govt hounding me with false cases: Dileep

PNS HYDERABAD

Konatham Dileep, a former Telangana Digital Media Director of the BRS writes about the ordeal of his illegal detention. He said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's Government is engaged in organised crime.

Posting a message on X, Konatham Dileep said, "While I was visiting the Cyber Crime Police Station with my legal team to sub-mit an interim order issued by the High Court regarding a case filed against me, I was forcibly taken to the South Zone Task Force office in the Old City."

"They staged a drama, saying that they needed to speak to me and then secretly moved me to another location," he stated. "After hours of interrogation in the name of investigation, they arrested me in a fabricated case," he said.

Dileep denied the charges levelled against him, calling them baseless



and politically motivated. He asserted that the government is targeting him for exposing its failures on social media. "This is nothing but an act of revenge for my criticism of their inefficiency," he said.

Aftre his arrest, Dileep was taken to the Osmania General Hospital for a medical check-up and then pre-sented before the Nampally Magistrate. During the proceedings, he refused to sign any documents prepared by the authorities, alleging that they were fabricated narratives aimed at implicating him.

hyderabad 02



Time to nip in bud politically disturbing trends in social media

Social media is raising its ugly head by spoiling values in public service, which are crucial for all political organisations. The social media wings of political parties, POINT which engage activists,

seem to have adopted the way of attributing wrong motives to their political opponents with the sole purpose of drawing political mileage for the organisations they repre-sent. Their incendiary com-ments lead to wordy wars between political parties. Often highly objectionable words are being used by social media wings of political organisations against their opponents with a view to defame them and for character assassination of their targets. It leads to disgusting feelings among the persons who are at the receiving end.

The social media wings of the platform too provides them

political outfits operate at the behest of the brass of the orga-6 nization concerned. Those who criticise the PIN leadership of party may become easy targets for them for using unprint-

able words under the impression that such 'reaction' might be a fitting reply to the latter. This is an unhealthy trend for those in public life as every leader has to prove himself by only by service.

Certain recent developments in the political arenas of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh states suggest how political activities are being taken up in the name of reaching out to people at the grassroots level. No doubt social media is now a platform for people in all walks of life. Sharing our views with people at large is just a click away and

Even family members of targeted political leaders are not spared by the social media wings of political parties. For instance, former chief minister YS Jaganmohan **Reddy's mother YS Vijayalakshmi and sister** YS Sharmila have been targeted by the social media wing of YSRCP. No one will believe that such tirades against family members would have been initiated without the knowledge of Jaganmohan Reddy

an opportunity to exchange their promises. For instance, their views with people across Nara Chandrababu Naidu, during his first stint (2014-19) in the globe. So, it is natural for social media wings of political the residual state of Andhra parties to propagate their ide-Pradesh, did not fulfil his poll ologies through this medium promise of waiving loans taken with very little expenses. by farmers all over the state. However, social media is being Former chief minister YS used to target political oppo-Jaganmohan Reddy also had nents on a daily basis. backtracked on his assurances As things stand today, there concerning total prohibition is no purity in politics with and the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) for employees of many leaders going back on



the state government. Both leaders were targeted by the social media wings of their opponent political parties for their failure to implement poll promises made in the presence of the electorate. Instead of constructive criticism over non-fulfillment of promises, social

media posts are full of wordy duels between political rivals. Even family members of targeted political leaders are not spared by the social media wings of political parties. For instance, former chief minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy's mother YS Vijayalakshmi and sister YS Sharmila have been targeted by the social media wing of YSRCP. No one will believe that such tirades against family members would have been initiated without the knowledge of Jaganmohan Reddy. In a way, combined AP's former CM and Congress leader Dr. YS Rajasekhara

Reddy's legacy and reputa-tion have been tarnished by the feud among siblings. It can be said that social media activity has taken away the decency and values left in politics. Some people argue that using social media is nothing but a vehicle that enables free-

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Criticising TPCC President B.

Mahesh Kumar Goud's state-

ment that the BRS will not

exist by the time of the next

elections, former BRS MLA

Gongidi Sunitha said that

dom of expression bestowed by the basic statute of the country to its citizens. The use of social media can be described as right only if it is accompanied by the use of decent language. It may be recalled that two young women were arrested under the provisions of the IT Act for expressing their views on the tense situation that prevailed after Shiv Sena patriarch Bal Thackeray passed away. There was widespread condemnation across the nation over this incident that focused on the right of freedom of expression. Social media activists of

YSRCP highlighted the alleged

strain in the relations between

AP CM Chandrababu Naidu

and his brother, former legis-

lator Ramamurthy Naidu, who

died recently following pro-

longed illness. They alleged

that Chandrababu had delib-

erately opposed his brother

Revanth & Mahesh enough

to sink Congress: BRS

seeking ticket from the Chandragiri constituency of Chittoor district during the 1994 elections but then TDP president NT Ramarao gave him the ticket. Nara Rohit, film star and son of Ramamurthy Naidu, had to intervene in the matter and condemn criticism made by political opponents.

Due to distortions and excesses in social media posts, leaders of certain political parties are of the considered opinion that there should be a piece of legislation to curb the indecent usage of social media platform by political rivals. The AP Assembly may take a step fur-ther in this regard as the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is firm on the issue. For, damaging the reputation of any person is just a click away. This dangerous trend has to be curbed with stringent laws and nipped in the bud.

Kishan is now Modi's slave: CM

Says he has no right to stay in TG for even a minute

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a traitor as far as Telangana is concerned as he had 'ridiculed' Telangana. The Telangana BJP President, G. Kishan Reddy, has become a slave of Modi and has no right to stay in Telangana for even a minute.

Provide special

barracks, home

food to Patnam: HC

The High Court ordered the

TG Government to provide

special barracks to former

BRS MLA Patnam Narender

Reddy instead of keeping

him in with other prisoners.

Dealing with a petition filed by Patnam Narender

Reddy, the HC issued orders

to the Charlapally Jail Superintendent regarding

this. The HC also directed the

Cherlapally Jail authorities to

allow home-prepared food for Patnam Narender Reddy.

It may be recalled that the

police arrested Patnam

Narender Reddy alleging that

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The people of Secunderabad elected Kishan as their MP. Be grateful to those people and not to Modi," the CM told Union Minister Kishan.

PNS HYDERABAD

Lagacharla village.

President. However, the

President's office sought infor-

mation about the police action

against Scheduled Tribes in

submitted information about

the attack on the collector,

police action against villagers

including atrocities on tribal

women. The tribal women

made it clear that they will stay

in New Delhi till they get a

chance to meet President

In response, BRS leaders

"Kaloji Narayana Rao would have chased away KCR and Kishan Reddy if he had been alive," the CM said.

Addressing the Praja Palana Praja Vijayotsavam held at She is the mother of four crore

"Kishan should go to Gujarat. Warangal City on Tuesday, the Telangana people. We are ready CM said that Kishan is speaking the next day after KTR makes his comments. "Kishan said I (Revanth

Reddy) am Sonia Gandhi's 'gulam'. Sonia is called the 'Mother of Telangana' for fulfilling the 60-year-old dream of the TG people," the CM said.

BRS seeks appointment with Prez

on Lagacharla incident

to wash the feet of our mother and sprinkle it on our heads. This is not an insult to us. It is selfrespect. Telangana would not have come into existence if Sonia Gandhi was not there. If Kishan Reddy washes Sonia Gandhi's feet and sprinkles the water on his head, his sin of being a slave of Modi will get mitigated to some extent," the CM said.

Blocking factfinding committees is admission of guilt: KTR

PNS HYDERABAD

BRS Working President KTR asked Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to restore democracy in Lagacharla through a post on his X account on Tuesday. Blocking fact-finding committees is an admission of guilt by the Congress admin, he said

"In Lagacharla, it is not only violence against tribal girls in the middle of the night. Why is the Congress blocking those who went to find out the truth? Why is this government trying to suppress facts? What is the restriction in CM's own constituency? Is Kodangal on the Pakistan border? Or is Lagacharla a disturbed area on the border with China? Internet services were stopped in areas near

Lagacharla like never before in the last 10 years. Police patrols have been deployed on all the roads to Kodangal. No matter how much you try, the truth cannot be hidden. Discussions are going on in New Delhi about the

ter for the PCC president to protect his party before speaking about the BRS, she warned. Prashanth Reddy said that TPCC President B. Mahesh TG Congress Government. Kumar Goud is speaking arro-

Indira Peace Prize for Barenboim and Awwad

gantly against the BRS. He said Srinivas Reddy, D. Sridhar the Congress government's image has been destroyed by the statements of Mahesh as he doesn't know what is happen-

Babu, Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and others are in the race for the Chief Minister's post. Prashanth asked whether Revanth Reddy will stay in the

ing in the Congress. Congress in future. Congress He said that Ministers are quarrelling with each other for leaders are saying that Revanth helicopters and are busy sendwill change party if he is removed from the Chief ing bags of money to New Delhi. Ministers Ponguleti Minister's post.

BRS complains to ED about CM's son-in-law Goluguri Sathyanarayana

Kiran slams BRS for filing plaint

against CM's son-in-law

BRS leader Manne Krishank filed a complaint with the Delhi Enforcement Directorate (ED) against Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's son-in-law Goluguri Sathyanarayana on Tuesday.

In his complaint, Krishank said that when land acquisition was undertaken for the pharma company in Kodangal by the Revanth government, local farmers did not give land to the Chief Minister's son-in-law's company due to a dispute. He said that Revanth's son-in-law has 16 lakh shares in Maxbien Former Minister Vemula Pharma Company and is a director. Another person Annam Sarath, who was also a



BRS leader Manne Krishank lodges a complaint with the ED against CM Revanth Reddy's son-in-law Goluguri Sathvanaravana on Tuesdav

The BRS sought an appointment with President Draupadi Murmu to take the Lagacharla victims' suffering to the

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Stating that a team of Left parties would visit Lagacharla village on Thursday (Nov. 21), CPM State Secretary Tammineni Veerabhadram warned the Congress Government that they will raise the issue state-wide if the government does not allow them to visit Lagacharla.

Veerabhadram said they ill meet the farmer

PNS HYDERABAD

Southern

The

Commission, Women's National Human Rights Commission and the Commission.

Left team to visit Lagacharla tomorrow

SPDCL clarifies on DTRs

the CM to do justice to farmers.

He said the CPM is condemning the attack on the Collector and other officials.

"The government should have convened an all-party meeting considering the incident's seriousness. However, the Congress government is using force and has cut Internet services in villages near

agacharla How

Revanth Reddy and Mahesh Kumar Goud are enough to sink the Congress ship. It is certain that the Congress will sink in the Musi River, he said. Addressing the media on Tuesday at the Telangana Bhavan, Sunitha said people are expressing their anger

against the Congress Government. She said the Congress government is functioning without any coordination between Ministers. She said that Congress rule is not People's Rule but corrupt rule. Congress activists attacked women in Lagacharla at midnight in the name of the police. Congress activists beat up Lambada women and youth, she said and added that the Congress is digging its own grave. It is bet-

in t on the Collector in the Lagacharla village of Vikarabad district.

Already, the Lagacharla examine the facts in correct on the part of the tribals have filed complaints Lagacharla and appeal to government," he asked. with the SC, ST

Managing power ...

Continued from page 1

Hyderabad residents will have to pay Rs 300 crore if this policy is implemented. KTR pointed out the irony of the Congress government, which came to power promising free electricity up to 200 units, now attempting to empty the pockets of citizens with a Rs 300 crore expense. "People are already paying electricity bills based on usage. The govern-ment must improve infrastruc-

IODAY **ALMANAC** Krishna Paksha Month & Paksham Tithi: Panchami: Nov 19 05:28 PM to Nov 20 04:49 PM Shashthi Nov 20 04:49 PM to Nov 21 05:03 PM Nakshatram Punarvasu: Nov 19 02:56 PM to Nov 20 02:50 PM Pushya: Nov 20 02:50 PM to Nov 21 03:35 PM Rahukalam 12:01 PM to 1:25 PM 7:51 AM to 9:14 AM Yamagandam: Varjyam 11:05 PM to 12:44 AM 10:38 AM to 12:01 PM Gulika: 12:27 PM to 02:02 PM Amritakalam: NII Abhiiit Muhurtham: **HYDERABAD WEATHER** Forecast: Sunny **Temp:** 29°

Humidity: 47% Sunrise: 6:27 AM Sunset: 5:35 PM

Updated: November 19, 2024 5:00 PM

instead of transferring the bur-den on to the public," he said.

He questioned the logic behind this new policy and asked why such a rule is being introduced now. "If increased electricity usage is a reason to impose such a burden on citizens, will the government tomorrow ask people to install their own pipelines and build roads if usage increases?" he

quipped. This policy, he stated, reflects the government's inefture to meet growing demand ficiency and lack of planning.

We must bust ...

Continued from page 1

for the development of Warangal. Half of the Telangana would be considered developed if Warangal grows up. I will not sleep till Warangal is developed," he said.

Addressing the Praja Palana-Praja Vijayotsavam meeting held in Warangal city on Tuesday, the CM paid glorious tributes to 'Iron Lady' Indira Gandhi on her 105th birth anniversary on Tuesday. The government is committed to making women 'crorepatis' under 'Indiramma' rule. This programme is dedicated to women, he said.

"I became the Chief Minister only because of women's support. Women leaders from Warangal have been given prominent posts in the cabinet. Our woman leader defeated a 'demon' and hoisted the Congress flag in Palakurthi. A woman officer has been appointed as the Chief Secretary of the government. You allowed us to proudly say that this government is a women's government. Women's groups are being promoted as entrepreneurs like the Tata and Birla groups of companies," the CM said. He said, "Some leaders said that we inaugurated a building built by previous rulers. The last government was exposed for not completing the Kaloji Kalakshetram during its 10-year rule. The BRS admin did not complete the work. The Congress government accomplished it."

He said the Congress's image has changed with the announcement of the Farmer's Declaration in Warangal.

required to get separate dedicated transformers as per Power clause 8.3 of Regulation No: 4 Distribution Company of of 2013 and clause 12.3.3 of the Telangana Limited (SPDCL) General terms and Conditions clarified on DTR in response to of Supply (GTCS). It is an BRS Working President KT ongoing exercise and is in practise for over 11 years to Rama Rao's criticism that public DTRs are intended to extend prevent power overloads and ensure reliability. During the power supply to individual poor last 10 years, 35,790 private consumers having lesser loads and is not suitable for bulk con-DTRs were installed by apartsumers and concentrated loads. ments and multi-storied build-Apartments, malls, shoping consumers which is at the ping complexes and connecrate of 3,579 DTRS per year in tions with higher loads are TGSPDCL.

A festival of ...

Continued from page 1 nowhere else in the country, he said.

Revanth said that he had filled 50,000 vacancies in government service in the last 10 months. "Our government has the credit of waiving loans amounting to Rs 18,000 crore benefiting 22 lakh farmer families. We pledged to waive farm loans in the presence of Bhadrakali and Sammakka Sarakka deities and did it by August 15. We promised and we delivered it," the CM said.

He said that he is giving his word on this platform that it is his responsibility to waive the loans of everyone else. The Congress never backtracked and is committed to what it promises even if our heads are chopped off, he said.

"The opposition is cursing us. It does not have the heart to congratulate us," he said.

PNS NEW DELHI

The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2023 was on Tuesday conferred on Daniel Barenboim and Ali Abu Awwad, who have dedicated their lives to promoting amity among Israeli and Palestinian people through non-violent tools of music, dialogue and peoples' participation. The awardees were selected

by a distinguished jury headed by former Chief Justice of

Key accused in ...

Continued from page 1

A senior police official confirmed that Suresh's passport had been seized, and a Look Out Circular (LOC) had been issued against him. "Once he is remanded in

Lagacharla village, Dudyala mandal, Vikarabad, on judicial custody by the court, a petition will be filed seeking his police custody," the official November 11. Villagers were protesting the acquisition of

Eatala complains to ...

to ensure justice for farmers. The Commission also responded positively," Eatala said in his post.

In another post, Eatala said, "In my 25 years of politics, I have seen many Chief Ministers, but I have never seen one as evil as Revanth Reddy."

Later, addressing the media, Eatala said that people are not sleeping properly after Revanth came to power. He said that Revanth Reddy does not have the stature to criticise Modi.

India T S Thakur. The award was presented

Barenboim, and others.

Narender Reddy is among the

26 people arrested so far in

connection with the incident.

and more arrests are expected,

The attack occurred in

the official added.

virtually on Indira Gandhi's PNS HYDERABAD birth anniversary on Tuesday The ceremony, conducted Criticising BRS leaders for virtually, was attended by Chairperson of Indira Gandhi filing a complaint with the Memorial Trust Sonia Gandhi, Enforcement Directorate in former Vice President of India New Delhi against Chief M Hamid Ansari, current Minister Revanth Reddy's sonhead of the jury and former in-law NSA Shivshankar Menon,

Goluguri Sathyanarayana on Tuesday, Bhongir MP Chamala Kiran Justice T S Thakur, Mariam C. Said, who accepted the award Kumar Reddy said it is the on behalf of Daniel height of meanness in levelling charges.

planned by the Telangana

Industrial Infrastructure

Corporation (TGIIC) on the

outskirts of the village, Suresh

had requested the district

Collector, Prateek Jain, to visit

the village so farmers could

request and visited the village

with other officials. However,

they were confronted by a

the name of Fourth City.

Attempts are being made to

grab farmers' lands for the real

estate business. In Kodangal,

farmers are saying that they

will not give up their lands.

The Collector himself said

that I was not attacked, he said.

not only for villages near

Eatala said the problem is

The Collector accepted the

express their views.

Kiran posted on X regarding this saying, "This is the height of meanness. Kodangal Pharma SEZ or Industrial Hub, whatever the name, land acquisition is not over. Permission for setting up an SEZ has not been given. The land has not been acquired. Permission has not been given. The CM's sonin-law's company has not been given land. What does it

Russian Prez ...

mean?'

Continued from page 1

He also visited Kazan in Russia last month to attend the BRICS summit.

Earlier Tuesday, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov in a video interaction with senior Indian Editors in Delhi referred to the strong bilateral relationship between India and Russia, and added Putin's visit is on the cards. He did not give any specific timeline or make a definitive announcement of the visit.

"We are looking forward to the visit. The dates will be mutually worked out soon,' Peskov said. The media interaction was organised by the Russian state-owned Sputnik news agency.

Asked to comment on US President Joe Biden's decision to let Ukraine strike targets inside Russia with USsupplied longer-range mis-siles, Peskov said Russia's military capabilities are incomparable to those of Ukraine and it's unlikely that any missile will help Ukraine

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their land for proposed phar-maceutical companies. While Former BRS MLA Patnam a public hearing had been mob, police said. He said that people are to seize another 16,000 acres in

Continued from page 1

laughing at the celebrations being held marking one year of Congress rule. Most people criticised the Congress government saying that it has failed in

all fields, he said. Eatala said that the BRS Government acquired 14,000 acres of land in Mucherla and farmers who lost their lands have now become labourers.

Lagacharla. Every farmer is He said that in the Congress afraid that he will have a probmanifesto, they said that they lem tomorrow. The police used would scrap Pharma City and third degree against farmers. return the land to farmers. In Farmers are not Naxalites. addition to the 14,000 acres, They are not asking for other the government is now trying people's lands.

told PTI



City Pioneer

EVERNORTH'S GCC INAUGURATED

Hyd a global hub for innovation and

excellence, says IT Minister

HYDERABAD WEDNESDAY | NOVEMBER 20, 2024

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

Entrepreneurs Meetup

By We Founders Collab, Hyderabad

PNS HYDERABAD

the city.

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

Zakir khan live

Stand up comedy show Venue

Shilpakala Vedika November 27

Sweccha-Nela Nela Naatakam

Exhibition-cum-sale Venue

Ravindra bharathi

Highlighting that Hyderabad continues to strengthen its position as a global hub for innovation and excellence, IT Minister D. Sridhar Babu inaugurated Evernorth Health Services India's first Global Capability Center (GCC) in Sattva Knowledge Park, HYTEC City on Tuesday. Addressing the gathering, Sridhar Babu also highlighted Evernorth's commitment to transforming healthcare and its valuable addition to Hyderabad's Global Capability Centre (GCC) ecosystem. He expressed excitement about supporting Evernorth as they create impact-ful healthcare solutions from Evernorth Health Services India, a part of The Cigna Group,

IT Minister D Sridhar Babu inaugurating the Evernorth Health Services India's first GCC in Sattva Knowledge Park, HYTEC City on Tuesday.

with its new Hyderabad centre, is expanding global operations. and wellness spaces, creating a community feel. The centre The facility is designed as a "site of the future," featuring inclusive, occupies four leased floors, each roughly 100,000 square feet, with innovative designs that promote two floors already operational. well-being. Amenities include fitness centres, dining options This modern facility aims to

the pioneer

support Evernorth's mission of developing transformative healthcare solutions, leveraging Hyderabad's GCC ecosystem and talent pool. In its initial phase, Evernorth will hire approximate-

fastest-growing city, because of its ly 1,000 employees, creating col-

laboration and innovation. talent pool and dynamic business M Noelle Eder, the Cigna ecosystem fuelling Group's Chief Information entrepreneurship explained the Officer, and other dignitaries report. participated in the inauguration.

FTL OF PEDDA CHERUVU EXPANDS TO 465 ACRES HYDRAA to focus on residents complaints by forming a panel

PNS HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) focused on Pedda Cheruvu lakes in Ameenpur Municipality on Tuesday. HYDRAA officials, along with Municipality, Revenue and Irrigation officers conducted field-level examination as many residents complained about the full tank level (FTL) increase of Pedda Cheruvu of Ameenpur Municipality. Along with it, they visited Kotha Cheruvu and Shambhukunta in the municipality. The locals have explained to Commissioner Ranganath that due to closure of the way to let the water out, the Pedda Cheruvu lake has spread its full tank level (FTL) from 93.15 acres now has expanded to 465 acres. The residents of Venkataramana Colony, Padmavathi Colony and HMT Colony have also explained that the parks have been encroached. Commissioner Ranganath has advised to form an expert committee and conduct a full survey on these complaints. "Along with the survey, we will also form a committee of experts from all departments and



L&T Metro Rail Hyderabad (L&TMRHL) representatives receiving the IGBC Green Existing MRTS Platinum Certification on Tuesday

Metro Rail receives IGBC Green MRTS Platinum Certification PNS HYDERABAD

L&T Metro Rail Hyderabad (L&TMRHL) has received the IGBC Green Existing MRTS Platinum Certification for all 57 metro stations across its Red, Blue and Green Lines. This major accomplishment highlights L&TMRHL's dedication to eco-friendly urban transport and green building excellence.

The certification was presented at the Green Building Congress 2024 in Bengaluru, hosted by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC). KVB Reddy, MD & CEO, and Sudhir Chiplunkar, COO, L&TMRHL, received the award from a distinguished panel including B Thiagarajan, Chairman, ÎGBC, Christopher de la Cruz, CEO, Philippine Green Building Council and C Shekhar Reddy, CII-IGBC Vice-Chairman.

Meanwhile, KVB Reddy expressed pride in receiving the award, emphasising it as a testament to L&TMRHL's commitment to sustainable public transportation. Sudhir Chiplunkar added that the certification reflects their dedication to energy efficiency, eco-friendly designs and resource conservation.

This prestigious certification, the highest in green construction and operations, recognises L&TMRHL's work in energy optimi-sation, environmentally-friendly designs and resource conservation.



Employees steal valuables worth Rs 10 L from workplace PNS HYDERABAD

Jubilee Hills Police apprehended four individ-Among the accused are three employees of Varamaha Lakshmi Silks - Revu Suresh (30), Aviti Palla Rao (52), and Touti Subba Rao (38) - all residents of Andhra Pradesh, and Yogesh Shanthilal Jain (37), who allegedly received the stolen items. The employees with financial needs and house renovation expences, stole gold, silver and diamond valuables worth Rs10 lakh from their workplace. Police recovered several stolen items, including: silver: 1 plate, 1 bowl and 1 spoon; gold: 1 chain (2 grams), 1 ring (12 grams) and 3 Venkateshwara lockets; platinum diamond ring: 1 and Rs 5,97,000 in Employees steal Rs 10lakh worth of valuables from workplace.



applications at Prajavani on Tuesday

8,486 as of November 1, 2024.

Radha said she went to the

office, met with the Assistant

Engineer (AE), and asked

PNS HYDERABAD Most of the complaints made by a reputed social worker about high electricity bills were neglected by the electricity department, according to

his latest grievance at the Prajavani. Á total of 614 grievance applications were submitted at the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Praja Bhavan on Tuesday.

When asked, Radha Prashanth, a TV artist and a President's Awardee from many attempts to address the lower bills. When she resist-Hills Film Nagar Jubilee



State Planning Board Vice-chairman Dr G Chinna Reddy receiving the

November 27

Arijit Singh Live in concert

HSBC presale is live for now. General sale on October 23, 1 pm. Get tickets only on insider in and paytm.

Venue

Concert in Hyderabad on December 7.

Road No. 9, spoke out about issues with her electricity connection. She claimed her connection was changed from domestic to commercial due to alleged issues with her inverter battery, which supposedly led to high electricity bills.

why her bills were so high. Radha clarified that her The AE claimed that the inverter and battery were apartment staff paid him extra money to lower their bills and installed on October 3, 2022, demanded money from her for his team of 6-7 members. yet the electricity department continued to issue high bills. Radha noted that despite He then offered to send her

ed the AE to the CMD office in July had been receiving multiple 2024, she said her bills threats and having her data remained unusually high, with breached. her latest bill amounting to Rs

She also said that despite calls made by the State Planning Commission Vicechairman, Dr G Chinna Reddy, the electricity department has been unresponsive. As a 50-year-old with BP and Diabetes, Radha cried out for her well-being and frustration with the ongoing situation, feeling neglected by authorisubmit their report to the government and take action.

Hyd, fastest growing

city with robust infra

yderabad is the fastest growing

City followed by Bengaluru and

Mumbai. The city has witnessed

the highest growth rate of 10 per

over the past decade, said the

report by Knight Frank.

cent (CAGR) in residential launches

In its latest India Prime City Index

report, Knight Frank India analyses

infrastructure development, surging

population of UHNWIs and HNWIs. . Hyderabad witnessed a 11 per cent

the performance of Hyderabad,

which stands out as the fastest-

growing city, driven by robust

real estate demand, a rising

increment in residential prices

indicating desirability for both

Bengaluru follows as the second

investors and end users

'There are complaints against former MLA Katasani Ramabhupal Reddy. We have examined the layouts. If parks and roads are encroached upon, we will take legal action," he added. The residents also raised complaints that some buildings have come up in the FTL area of Shambhukunta and cases have been filed with the National Green Tribunal. They requested HYDRAA for further investigation on the complaints.

Texture art workshop

This workshop is suitable for artists of all levels, from beginners looking to explore new artistic horizons to seasoned artists seeking to enhance their skills and repertoire.

Venue

Multiple venues in Hyderabad till December 8

Drone ban enforced in Cyberabad ahead of Prez visit

PNS HYDERABAD

In the light of potential security threats, the Cyberabad Police Commissionerate has imposed strict restrictions on the use of drones, para-gliders and other remote-controlled aerial devices in Madhapur police station limits during the visit of President of India Draupadi Murmu on November 22.

This precautionary measure follows a directive from the Ministry of Home Affairs which highlights the increasing misuse of aerial platforms by terrorist and anti-social elements



to orchestrate attacks.

The Ministry has directed State and Union Territory police to prohibit aerial activities within a 5-kilometer radius of State Secretariat complexes and a 2-kilometer radius of strategic installations.

Accordingly, Cyberabad Police Commissioner Avinash Mohanty, has invoked Section 163 of the BNSS Act to enforce this restriction. In his official order, Commissioner Mohanty stated that any violations would result in legal action under relevant sections of the

TSCS chief meets CM to discuss Thalassemia



TSCS president Chandrakant Agarwal greeting Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Tuesday

PNS HYDERABAD

The president and members of the Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell Society (TSCS), a registered non-profit organisation, met Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Tuesday to discuss Thalassemia in Telangana and the need for a government order (GO) to prevent it. MLA Makkan Singh Raj Thakur from Ramagundam and Tej Narayan, owner of Mahalaxmi

Jewellers were also present in

the meeting. During the meeting, TSCS highlighted the progress of their Thalassemia Prevention Chandrakant Project, currently covering three districts. They reminded the Chief Minister of his recent visit to their society, which he fondly recalled. Revanth Reddy listened carefully to the need for expanded Thalassemia prevention and pledged his full sup-port. The CM instructed Dr S

Sangeeta Satyanarayana - Joint Secretary to the Chief Minister, to offer the best support possible. Meanwhile, TSCS president Agarwal expressed his gratitude, stating, meeting the Chief Minister and explaining Telangana's Thalassemia situation was an honour. "His support is crucial. Thalassemia is preventable, and we are dedicated to easing the suffering of affected children, he added.

Commissioner conducts surprise visit to OGH



PNS HYDERABAD

RV Karnan, Commissioner of Health and Family Welfare, conducted a surprise inspection of Osmania General Hospital on

Tuesday. This visit was prompted by a viral video allegedly showing rodents scurrying around the hospital premises, which had been shared with the Commissioner. Acting swiftly, Karnan arrived at the hospital, where doctors explained that the video was outdated and presented evidence to support their claim.

During the inspection, the Commissioner personal-

ly verified the situation by visiting the Outpatient Block, interacting with patients and checking the pharmacy unit to ensure that prescribed medicines were being distributed with-

Speaking to The Pioneer, sources from Osmania General Hospital stated, Commissioner Karnan received a rodent video, but it turned out to be misinformation. He conducted a thorough inspection and found no such issues on the premises. He also interacted with the staff and performed routine checks to ensure the hospital's proper functioning

out any issues.

lelangana HYDERABAD | WEDNESDAY | NOVEMBER 20, 2024

Cultural programmes to be held to mark victory celebrations

PNS KUMRAM BHEEM ASIFABAD

District Collector Venkatesh Dhotre has urged officials to ensure the success of the people's victory celebrations to be held from from November 19 to December 7. On Tuesday, he launched the cultural programme vehicle from the Integrated District Collectorate Building Complex. Asifabad Revenue Mandal Officer Lokeshwar Rao was also present on the occasion.

During this event, the District Collector emphasised the need to raise awareness among the people about the government's welfare and developmental schemes through effective campaigns in villages, mandals, and municipalities. He men-tioned that the government is implementing several wel-fare programmes such as free bus services for women, farmer loan waivers, Mahalakshmi scheme, Gruhajyothi, cooking gas subsidy, job recruitments, women empowerment initiatives, and other development programs. These schemes would be highlighted through cultural programmes conducted by Telangana Cultural Saradhi artists across the district.

From November 19 to December 7, cultural events will be held in 15 mandal centers, 57 villages, and 2 municipalities across the district.

PNS PATANCHERU

Hyderabad Disaster Relief and

Asset Protection Agency

(HYDRAA) Commissioner

Ranganath has said that the

organisation's top priority is

the removal of encroachments

on tanks and their restoration.

On Tuesday, Ranganath

Demand for drug-free campus grows louder

PNS WARANGAL

There are allegations that the university, which is supposed to impart education and knowledge, has become a hub for anti-social activities. Recently, the discovery of cannabis on the university campus has strengthened these reports. This incident is causing great concern to parents who dream of a bright future for their children.

The SR Engineering College, located in Ananthsagar under Hasanparti mandal in Hanmakonda district, was upgraded to a university some time ago. However, it appears that the management has failed to ensure that the anti-social activities are curbed. Reports have surfaced that some students have become addicted to cannabis. The recent raid by the personnel of the Telangana Anti-Narcotics Bureau (TGNAB), Warangal unit, led to the arrest of five students on the charge of smoking marijuana.

The local police have now turned their attention to tracking down the peddlers who supplied the cannabis to students in the college. There have also been allegations that the ragging is rampant in the college.

On January 12, a student named Deepti committed suicide in her hostel room. Despite these ongoing issues, the management of SR University has yet to take sufficient action to improve the situation.

The management of SR University, for example, seems to be shirking its responsibility, concentrating merely on academic instruction and avoiding the heavier duties related to shaping students' character and behaviour. What's more concerning is that they are often successfully covering up their shortcomings, preventing society from being aware of these issues.

A few months ago, there was a serious altercation between seniors and juniors at the col-

HYDRAA Commissioner warns

against encroachment on govt land



lege, which escalated into physical violence at Hassan Pati Mandal, near Bawupet Cross Road. Despite Professor Syed Mushtaq Ahmad's efforts to intervene, the situation remained unresolved. This violent incident, which caused a traffic jam on the main Karimnagar-Warangal highway for nearly half an hour, highlights the failure of the college management to address and prevent such conflicts among students.

Recently, the university has transformed into a centre for higher education, with students enrolling in colleges for advanced studies. However, there are concerns about increasing addiction issues and the rise of gang-related violence, with students engaging in attacks on one another. Criticism has been raised about the lack of supervision by the management and faculty, which is believed to be leading students into a downward spiral.

At SR University, there are allegations that students are being subjected to mental harassment and bullying under the guise of ragging, with no action taken to address the issue. Multiple incidents of ragging and stu-dent fights have occurred in the college, yet the management has reportedly covered up these events to avoid public scrutiny, according to students.

The TGNAB officers seized marijuana packed in sachets and hidden by students in university hostel rooms last Thursday. It was reported that engineering students from the university were consuming cannabis. Upon receiving this information on Thursday, a team of TGNAB police rushed to the university and carried out raids, detaining several students.

The incident, in which students were openly caught using ganja on campus, has sparked a serious debate.

BC Commission receives 79 representations at public hearing

PNS KHAMMAM/BHADRADRI KOTHAGUDEM

As part of the second phase, Telangana Backward Classes (BC) Commission's Public Hearing on the living conditions of Backward Classes was held on Tuesday in the conference hall of the Integrated District Offices Complex in Khammam from 10 am to 6 pm. Earlier, the Chairman G Niranjan ers were welcomed with

Purnakumbham on their visit to Sri Laxmi

About six to eight hundred people par-

ticipated in it. General public, various caste

associations and political leaders submitted

their representations. Former MLC Balasani

Laxminarayana participated in the public

The Commission received a total of 79

representations and suggestions in the form

of an affidavit. Several representations were

hearing and gave his suggestions.

Narasimha Swamy temple

received requesting reservations to Backward Classes in proportion to their population. Representatives of various caste communities brought their problems and backwardness to the notice of the Commission.

In particular, change of groups of castes in BC list and social boycott of BC castes from villages were brought to the attention of the co nission Com G Niranjan, members Rapolu Jayaprakash, Thirumalagiri Surender, Balalakshmi Rangu, Special Officer G Satish Kumar were present. Khammam District Collector Muzammil Khan, Bhadradri Kothagudem Collector Jitesh V Patil and officials were present. Khammam District Collector and District BC Welfare Officer and staff were specially congratulated for successfully conducting the programme.



Gold jewels worth Rs 10 cr stolen from bank lockers

PNS WARANGAL

In a major bank heist, thieves made off with gold jewellery worth Rs10 crore from the State Bank of India

(SBI) Rayaparthy mandal branch around midnight on Monday. According to reports, the thieves gained access to the bank by cutting through a window with a gas cutter. They then broke open the lockers and took away the gold jewellery. The crime came to light the following morning when bank employees discovered the broken lockers and an open door. The bank manager promptly reported the matter to the police

Authorities are now examining the CCTV footage from nearby areas to identify the culprits. Additionally,

fingerprint experts have been brought in to assist in the investigation. The massive robbery sent shockwaves across the district.

The bank officials confirmed that burglars stole gold worth approxi-mately Rs. 10 crores. It is reported that the thieves took away gold deposited in the bank lockers. The police deployed a sniffer dog and a forensic team to expedite the inquiry. This was not the first time the bank

had been targeted. The robbers had made an unsuccessful attempt to loot the branch last year. Police registered a case and are examining CCTV footage from nearby areas to track the culprits.

In the wake of the robbery, several account holders gathered at the bank.

MLA urges Tummala to waive tax arrears on poultry farms

PNS RANGAREDDY

Shadnagar MLA and Chairman of the State Government Sector Enterprises Veerlapalli Shankar said that the oath-taking ceremony for the newly appointed man-agement committee of the Shadnagar Agricultural Market Committee in Rangareddy District would take place soon. To discuss the arrangements and extend an invitation, MLA Veerlapalli Shankar, along with local poultry industry farmers Makineni Venkata Narayana, Kapa Rama Rao, M Anand Rao, and Arjun

Reddy, met State Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara farms.

Rao in Hyderabad on Tuesday. During the meeting, MLA Veerlapalli Shankar requested the Minister to attend the oath-taking ceremony, proposed to be held on the November 28 or 29 of this month. Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao confirmed his participation, assuring his presence

at the ceremony. The meeting also addressed a pressing issue concerning the poultry industry in Shadnagar. Local poultry farmers, including Makineni Venkata Narayana, Kapa Rama Rao, M Anand Rao, and Arjun Reddy, raised concerns about property tax arrears imposed specifically on poultry



Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar meeting Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao in Hyderabad on Tuesday

units within Shadnagar municipal-ity. They highlighted that, unlike other municipalities in Telangana, Shadnagar is the only municipality levying such taxes on poultry

The farmers explained that there were no historical records justifying the tax and urged for the cancellation of the arrears. They reminded the Minister that MLA Veerlapalli Shankar had previously appealed to the government on their behalf, requesting a resolution. The farmers emphasized that, under the new municipal law, poultry units should only

be charged Rs 100 as a maintenance fee. Responding to their concerns, Minister Tummala Nageswara

Rao assured the delegation that he would raise the issue with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and work toward resolving the matter.

ured Sambhunikunta, Ameenpur Pedda Tank, Venkata Ramana Colony, HMT Swarnapuri Colony, and Padmarao Nagar boundary, accompanied by officials. During the visit, local residents raised concerns about encroachments on layouts, ponds, and illegal construction activities.

At a media interaction later, Ranganath acknowledged the numerous complaints from residents, community organisations, and welfare associations about encroachments in the Ameenpur municipal area. He specifically addressed the issue of Pedda Cheruvu (Pedda Tank) in Ameenpur, where sluices have been closed, leading to a rising Full Tank Level (FTL). This increase in water levels has submerged more than 5,000



Hyderabad Disaster Relief and Asset Protection Agency Commissioner Ranganath inspecting tanks in Patancheru area on Tuesday

affected residents. The sluices of Pedda Cheruvu have been closed, leading to an increase in the Full Tank Level, which has submerged over 5,000 housing plots, according to complaints received from the victims.

A full-level survey will be conducted with the help of experts. Based on the survey results, the matter will be taken up with the government to seek justice for the victims within three months.

There are several governhousing plots, according to the ment lands in Ameenpur

municipality, which have been

encroached upon by land sharks. A report would be submitted to the government government approval.

encroachers, strict disciplinary action would be taken against them, he warned. Stern action will also be taken against officials who are colluding with the encroachers,

he stated unequivocally.

based on the complaints received, and illegal structures will be demolished with Regardless of the influential positions occupied by the



Telangana Backward Classes Commission holding public hearing in Khammam on Tuesday

The leaders received calls

seeking their help. But they

were not allowed to enter the

village. They even requested

the police to accompany them

to ensure they did not instigate

people The police, however,

Need to bring in law to prevent attacks on BCs stressed

PNS NALGONDA

Backward Classes Youth Welfare Association (BCYA) State general secretary Kattikole Deepender on Tuesday submitted a petition to Backward Classes Commission Chairman G Niranjan, saying that there has been rise in attack on people belonging to the BC community. He appealed to the Backward Classes Commission Chairam to ensure that law is brought in to prevent attack on the BC community. He mentioned that there were reports of boycott of people belonging to

the BC community in villages.

The people belonging to the cer-

tain castes, such rajakas, were

denied basic rights in some



BCYA general secretary Kattikole Deepender giving petition to BC Commission Chairman G Niranajan in Nalgonda on Tuesday

villages recently. In view of the attacks on the BC community, there was a need to bring in law to protect the underprivileged people, he said.

Tahsildar in ACB trap in **Peddapalli district**

PNS PEDDAPALLI

Anthargam mandal Tahsildar in Peddapalli district, Uyyala Ramesh, was caught in an anti-corruption bureau (ACB) trap for allegedly demanding a bribe in exchange for releasing a tractor that had been seized for transporting sand. The Revenue Inspector (RI) of Anthargam, Sridhar, absconded during the operation.

According to details given by ACB Deputy Superintendent of Police Ramana Murthy, Alakunta Mahesh from Ramagundam was transporting sand using his tractor when it was seized by the police three days ago due to lack of proper documentation. The tractor was brought to the Tahsildar's office for imposing fine on the tractor owner.

Tractor owners Mahesh, went to the Tahsildar's office side and fled the scene.

to pay the fine and request the release of his tractor. Tahsildar

Ramesh reportedly demanded Rs 50,000 for the release of the vehicle. Since Mahesh could not afford pay such a huge amount, Ramesh reduced the demand to Rs 25,000, after which Mahesh felt frustrated and approached the ACB for help. The ACB officials gave

for Rs 12,000, which was all recorded on the hidden camera. Mahesh then took Rs 12.000 and met the Tahsildar. At this point, the money was handed over to RI Sridhar, as

directed by the Tahsildar. At the same time, ACB officials entered the office, and upon noticing the authorities, RI Sridhar immediately threw the money out-

Tension erupted when the police blocked the entry of women activists to Lagacherla village which witnessed largescale arrests following an alleged attack on the District Collector Prateek Jain on November 11.

A group of women under the banner of the Joint Action Committee (JAC) assembled on the outskirts of the Lagacherla village. The police immediately swung into action and told them curtly that they could not enter the village. Leaders of various women's organisations comprised Sandhya, Padmaja Shah, Jhansi, Anasuya, Sajya, Sister Lissy and Geetha.

The women activists claimed that they had spoken to MLC Prof Kodandaram before embarking on the mission to talk to the victims of Lagacherla village. They also



Cops preventing women activists from meeting the people in Lagacherla village on Tuesday

said that they had spoken to hurdles. the District Superintendent of police. from people in Lagacherla

The women's organisations under the banner of the JAC were trying to visit Laggacherla to speak to the victims. It was purely a fact-finding exercise, they said. However, they faced

refused to help them. The women activists expressed their anger, stating that they were not being allowed to go and see the victims. The police also refused to allow media coverage of their visit.

In the melee, the clothes of women were torn, it is alleged. The women strongly condemned the police for committing excesses. They questioned the need to stop them from visiting the victims, especially when they were going to carry out a fact-finding mission. T

The leaders also raised serious concerns about police misconduct and alleged sexual harassment of women, stating that the police had abused them and insulted them. Women in Lagacherla have been calling them in distress, asking for support.

"The way the government and police are acting raises suspicions," the women activists said

GOVERNMI 0% THE PRINCIPAL GOVER TENDER NOTICE Government Medical College, Karimnagar HFMS has been inviting tenders as show

https://tender.telangana.gov/in.Those interested may send in applications. Bid document download date: From 27-11-2024 to 19-12-2024. Bid receipt platform: https://tender. elangana.gov.in, Any questions can be directed to gmc.karimnagan@gmail.com Finder Schedule: 3.1. Schedule of Dates for Tender Events: 10 bit Notification; 25-11-2024 2) Downloading of Bid document 27-11-2024, 3) Pre-Bid meeting: 30-11-2024, 4) Last Date Time for seeking distributions: 30-11-2024 till 5:00 PM, 5) Bid Submission Closing Date Time: 19-12-2024 till 3:00 PM, 6) Technical Bid Opening Date/Time: 19-12-2024 till 3:30 PM, 7) Price bid opening date/ time: 20-12-2024 @ 3:00 PM, 8) EMD: Rs.90,000/-only, 9)Any attested documents shall reach O/o TIA on or before Dt: 19.12.2024 @ 4:00 pm. Sd/- Principa Govt. Medical College, Karimnagar Die R.O.No: 6841-PPICL/ADVT/12024-25, Date: 16-11-2034

KODAD BRANCH Storiter 🦓 Indian Bank 3-1381, SAI TEJA TOWERS, BESIDE S.V. Jr. COLLEGE, NAYA NAGAR, KODAD, CHI 9948214 PUBLIC AUCTION - GOLD ORNAMENTS g borrower has taken loan from Indian Bank, Kodad Branch by way of pledging f old omaments. This is to inform to the borrower to clear the dues to the bank before 27/11/2024 iled pledged gold omements will be sold on 26/11/2024 at bank premises through Public auction wer will be held responsible for any loss or expenditure to the Bank. Interested persons ca articipate in the auction, subject to banks terms and conditions. The Branch Manager has all the

SI No	Name & Address of the borrower	Loan Account Number	Dt of Ioan	Loon Amount	Loan Balance Outstanding as on 1911/2024	Gross Weig
1	Nohammad Safiya Begum Address : H. No. 5- 120/B, IPC church oppoiste, Neneducharia, Ramapuram, suryapet- 508218	6985198417	17/02/2021	Rs.420000	Rs.4,23531/-	161.7 grm:

Women's organisations are up in arms against the government

Police stop fact-finding team from entering Lagacherla

PNS VIKARABAD

Mahesh a hidden camera and instructed him to record the conversation. During this meeting, Tahsildar Ramesh agreed to release the tractor



Nation 05

ACROSS THE STATES



Four killed as truck hits auto-rickshaw in MP

our persons, including a four-month-old girl, were killed after a truck hit an auto-rickshaw in Sidhi district of Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday afternoon, police said. Four others were injured in the incident that occurred at Baniyadol village under Churhat police station limits around 1 pm, an official said. "A speeding truck hit an auto-rickshaw, in which three persons died on the spot while a four-month-old girl died in a hospital," Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Neelesh Sharma said. The deceased were identified as Premwati Tiwari (55), her daughter Sita Mishra (32), her nephew Bhole Tiwari (22) and infant Mandvi Singh, the police said. Of the four injured persons, one was seriously wounded and was referred to a medical college-cum-hospital in Rewa. Three others are undergoing treatment in the district hospital in Sidhi, he said



Thousands click selfies outside public toilets

housands of people clicked selfies with their mobile phones outside public toilets in Indore, the cleanest city in the country, as part of a unique campaign launched on World Toilet Day on Tuesday. Named "toilet super spots", the campaign was launched by the Indore Municipal Corporation to encourage cleanliness and maintenance in over 700 public toilets and urinals in the city, officials said. "Indore is the only city in the country guaranteeing cleanliness in public toilets, appealing to people to use them and clicking selfies outside if they are satisfied with the facilities," Mayor Pushyamitra Bhargava said at the event organised under the campaign. Around 78,000 people had clicked selfies outside public toilets by 5 pm under the "Toilet Super Spots" campaign that began at 7 am on Tuesday, officials said.

HYDERABAD | WEDNESDAY | NOVEMBER 20, 2024

India, China to focus on stabilising relations

PNS NEW DELH /RIO DE JANEIRO

India and China decided to soon convene a meeting of their Special Representatives their Special Representatives on the boundary question after a gap of nearly five years and inched closer to the resumption of direct flights as well as Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage, weeks after pulling back their troops from two back their troops from two face-off points in eastern Ladakh.

The next steps in India-China ties with a broader objective to stabilise the relationship figured prominently in talks between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi that took place on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro late Monday. The two ministers felt that

it was imperative that the focus should be on stabilising ties, managing differences and taking the next steps, accord-ing to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

It was the first high-level engagement between the two sides after the completion of the disengagement process in Depsang and Demchok along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

PNS CHENNAI

Hindi

tranquility. "The discussions focused on the next steps in India-

Wang Yi that took place on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro late Monday The MEA said the two min-China relations. It was agreed that a meeting of the Special Representatives and of the isters recognised that the disengagement in the border

The next steps in India-China ties with a broader

objective to stabilise the relationship figured

prominently in talks between External Affairs

Foreign Secretary-Vice areas had contributed to the maintenance of peace and Minister mechanism will take place soon," it said. "Among the steps discussed were the resumption of the

China and media exchanges," the MEA said. Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart The 22nd round of Special Representatives (SR) talks were held in New Delhi on December 21, 2019. India's SR

Kailash Mansarovar Yatra pil-

grimage, data sharing on

trans-border rivers, direct

flights between India and

for the dialogue is NSA Ajit Doval while the Chinese side is headed by Foreign Minister

Wang. The direct flights between India and China and the Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage were suspended in view of the Covid-19 pandemic.



'Haryana too has a right over Chandigarh'

PNS CHANDIGARH

Haryana also has a right over Chandigarh, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said on Tuesday, justifying the state's move to have an additional Vidhan Sabha building in the Union Territory, much to Punjab's chagrin.

Saini said the construction of the Haryana Vidhan Sabha complex in Chandigarh is a serious issue and all political parties in the state should rise above politics and present their views unanimously.

On Tuesday, during the Haryana Assembly session, the opposition extended its support to the government over the issue, saying Saini should con-vene an all-party meeting to pre-sent a united front. "We also have a right over Chandigarh," Saini later told reporters here when asked to comment on Punjab's ruling Aam Aadmi Party and other political outfits protesting

over the Centre's reported move to clear the allotment of 10 acres of land in Chandigarh to Haryana for the construction of its additional Assembly building. Saini said Punjab can also extend its Vidhan Sabha building if needed.

Reacting to Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda's remark that Haryana should not give its land in exchange to Chandigarh and instead extend the existing Vidhan Sabha building, Saini said the area where the present structure lies, enjoys a heritage status' because of which we cannot extend the present building".

When the matter pertaining to the objection being raised by Punjab came up in the state Assembly on Tuesday, Saini pointed out that the Harvana Vidhan Sabha will need more space to accommodate an increase in the number of sitting legislators after the next delimitation exercise.

"LIC grew with the patronage of all Indians. How dare it

It's technical problem, says LIC as TN accuses it of thrusting Hindi

and the website is available in The Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India blamed the "tech-EnglishHindi language. Inconvenience caused is deeply nical problem for not shuffling regretted. - Team LIC," the LIC the language page" on its web-India Forever said on its social site after the corporation was media platform X. strongly criticised on Tuesday

Earlier in the day, the insurby Tamil Nadu Chief Minister ance major came under fire for M K Stalin and other leaders for rolling out its home page only its alleged attempt to impose in Hindi, making it difficult for customers to navigate through The national insurer informed that its "corporate the pages on account of not knowing that language.

website was not shuffling the Chief Minister M K Stalin took strong exception to the use of Hindi language on the weblanguage page due to some technical problem."



site of LIC of India, and said that the website has been reduced to a propaganda tool for imposing

> ing Hindi, the chief minister said in a post on social media platform 'X': "The LIC website has been reduced to a propaganda tool for Hindi imposition. Even the option to select English is displayed in Hindi!"

This, he claimed, was nothas it was trying to "push" a lan-guage among the non-Hindi speaking people.

Not afraid of anything, I fight my own battles' PNS NEW DELHI

Two days after he quit the AAP

Kailash Gahlot after joining BJP मारताय क्रम्मता पाट

ularly given his influence among the rural Jat community. Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar welcomed him into the party, calling him a "gamechanger' Gahlot pledged to work for strengthening the BJP's prospects in Delhi in the assembly polls, expressing confidence it will form the next government. "I will give my best here as I have always done in the He also spoke about issues confronting the national capital, calling for a bipartisan approach to tackling pollution.'



betray the majority of its contributors? We demand an immediate rollback of this lin-Posting a screenshot of the LIC of India webpage contain-

guistic tyranny. #StopHindiImposition," the CM said in the post. Terming the move as a "blatant imposition" of Hindi on other language-speaking people, BJP's ally and PMK founder Dr S Ramadoss, said this attempt by LIC is "highly condemnable"

ing but cultural and language imposition by force, trampling on India's diversity



Fire at vehicle showroom in K'taka; employee killed

20-year-old woman was killed in a fire that broke out at an electric vehicle showroom in Rajajinagar on Tuesday, Apolice said. The incident occurred at around 5.30 pm at My EV Store an electric bike showroom near Navrang Junction. Four fire tenders were dispatched to the scene, and the fire has since been fully extinguished. According to police, five to six people were inside the showroom when the fire broke out. All of them managed to escape, except for Priya, the cashier, who became trapped. The woman died of asphyxiation and severe burn injuries, a fire official said. Over 45 electric scooters were destroyed in the fire. "The charred body of the woman has been recovered. After the post-mortem, the body will be handed over to her family." a senior police official said. Preliminary investigations suggest that a short-circuit may have caused the fire, and further inquiries are ongoing.

cases, 48 pc are crorepatis PNS LUCKNOW

UP bypolls: Over 30 pc

candidates have criminal

Over 30 per cent of the candidates contesting the bypolls in Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday have criminal cases against them while 48 per cent are crorepati, according to a report.

The bypolls will be held at

dates in the fray.

Katehari (Ambedkar Nagar), out of 90 candidates analyzed, Karhal (Mainpuri), Meerapur 29 (32 per cent) have declared in Muzaffarnagar, Ghaziabad, "criminal cases" while 24 (27 Majhawan in Mirzapur, per cent) have declared "seri-Sisamau in Kanpur city, Khair ous criminal cases" against in Aligarh, Phulpur in themselves. The report Prayagraj, and Kundarki in Moradabad on November 20. includes the 25 Independent candidates as well as those The findings have been backed by regional and nationshared in a report by NGOs al parties.

UP Election Watch and Association for Democratic In terms of financial background, out of the 90 candidates, 43 (48 per cent) are crorepatis and the average of Reforms (ADR) after analysis of criminal background, financial, education, gender and other details of all 90 candiassets per candidate contesting in the UP Assembly bye elections is Rs 3.76 crore, the According to the report, report showed.

BJP, former Delhi minister Kailash Gahlot on Tuesday said leaving Delhi's ruling party was a very difficult decision for him but it had become a neces-

Ín an interview on Tuesday, Gahlot, who has represented the Jat-dominated Najafgarh constituency since 2015, described his move to leave the AAP as "deeply emotional".

"I gave 10 years to the AAP. This decision (to quit) was not easy for me. It was deeply emotional. It was one of the most difficult decisions I have made, but I believe it was for the best," he said. Gahlot also rejected AAP

leaders' allegations that he switched sides under pressure from central agencies.

"People don't think before speaking. At least they should check which IT orders are pending against me and what was found during the search at my home: nothing. I believe in



fighting my own battles. It the LG had proposed my name angers me when issues are cre-(to unfurl the Tricolour on ated out of nothing," he said. Independence Day as then chief "I gave 10 years to AAP, and minister Kejriwal was in jail), I this decision was very emotionconveyed this to the party. It was al one for me, and whatever only with the CM's approval happened, happened for the that I participated in the August best, and now I will work to 15 programme. So I have no strengthen the BJP," he added. grievances. This was not a factor in my resignation," he said. Gahlot also dismissed speculation of a fallout with AAP Gahlot joined the saffron party on Monday, a day after National Convenor Arvind

Kejriwal over Independence resigning from the AAP. Day flag hoisting duties. The BIP has described Gahlot's switch as a "turning "I had absolutely no resentment. When I got to know that point" in Delhi politics, partic-

"Even as a minister, I always said pollution is an issue where there should be no politics. These are matters where we must rise above politics, involve everyone, and work together to resolve them."

On the portfolios he held in the AAP government, including Transport and Women and Child Development, Gahlot highlighted the need for urgent action regarding bus marshals in Delhi.

PNS NEW DELHI

Stakes could not be higher for a number of regional heavyweights in Maharashtra as the state goes to the polls on Wednesday in what promises to be a make-or-break election for satraps like Sharad Pawar, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, his predecessor Uddhav Thackeray and deputy CM Ajit Pawar.

The two Pawars, Shinde and Thackeray are engaged in an intense and riveting battle to seek popular legitimacy for their parties, and which way end of the road for two of them when the results of the election the 288-member Maharashtra Assembly are declared on November 23.

The senior Pawar, who will turn 84 next month, delivered a debilitation blow to his nephew, whose breakaway faction was recognised as the real Nationalist Congress Party by the Election Commission, in the Lok Sabha elections and is looking to strike a knockout

Fate of key satraps hangs in balance

punch in the assembly polls, while Ajit Pawar is hoping to bounce back.

The Lok Sabha results, however, gave both Thackeray, who heads Shiv Sena (UBT) after the Shind-led group was recognised as the real Shiv Sena, and the chief minister something to the voters turn could spell the cheer about, rendering the assembly election the air of a final match that could deliver

> While the Sharad Pawarled NCP (SP) and Thackeray's party are part of the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi, which has the Congress as its third important player, the NCP and Shiv Sena are allied with the BJP-led ruling Mahayuti.

How the four regional satraps perform is bound to

MAHARASHTRA ELECTIONS TODAY

only one winner.

dictate the politics of the two

national parties.

The BJP is contesting 149 seats,

Shiv Sena 81 seats, and the Ajit Pawar-led

NCP has fielded candidates in 59

onstituencies. In the opposition alliance, the

Congress has fielded 101 candidates, Shiv

Sena (UBT) 95, and the NCP (SP) 86.

seats, Shiv Sena 81 seats, and the Ajit Pawar-led NCP has fielded candidates in 59 constituencies. In the opposition alliance, the Congress has fielded 101 candidates, Shiv Sena (UBT) 95, and the NCP (SP)

the fact that the two claimants of Shiv Sena's popular legacy have squared off against each other in over 50 seats, while the nominees of the two Pawars are up against each other in nearly 37 constituencies.

At the centre of poll sweepstakes involving the two Sena is the question mark over "Mumbai ka king kaun", as many of their workers said in

a reference to the sway the undivided Shiv Sena had over the country's financial capital and which is now being contested by the two parties.

The uncle-nephew battle is the sharpest in western Maharashtra, a prosperous region where the Pawar clan is rooted.

Sharad Pawar, a four-term former chief minister of the state whose wily moves have shaped the state's politics for decades, has called for the defeat of betrayers, a reference to Ajit Pawar and his nominees.

The nephew in turn has refrained from using sharp words against him, wary of stirring popular sympathy for the ageing leader who had handed him a big defeat in the Lok Sabha polls

'The Sabarmati Report' declared tax-free in Chhattisgarh too

PNS RAIPUR

Just released Hindi film "The Sabarmati Report", based on the 2002 Godhra train burning incident in Gujarat, was on Tuesday declared tax-free in Chhattisgarh by the state's BJP government.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai announced that "The Sabarmati Report", in which actor Vikrant Massey has played the role of a journalist, will be tax-free in the state, meaning the Bollywood film has been given exemption from entertainment levy.

Chhattisgarh has become the second BJP-ruled state, after Madhya Pradesh, to give tax-free status to the film, helmed by Dheeraj Sarna, which hit theatres on November 15.

On February 27, 2002, 59 people, mostly karsevaks, were tives, he noted.

Sabarmati Express was set afire near Godhra station, triggering widespread riots in Gujarat. "In this film, an attempt has been made to show the truth of the story of the train incident that happened in Godhra,

Gujarat 22 years ago," a statement issued by the state's public relations department said.

killed when the S-6 coach of

The film should also be watched because the study of the past can give us better guidance about the present and the future, Sai said in the statement.

The Hindi movie is a highly commendable and effective effort to expose the horrific truth of history which vested interests tried to hide. It exposes the truth of the then existing system, which made a reprehensible attempt to suppress the truth by spreading false narra-

The BJP is contesting 149

What has added a sharp edge to the factional fights is

HYDERABAD | WEDNESDAY | NOVEMBER 20, 2024

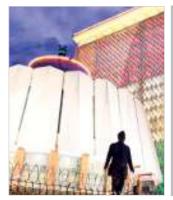
he pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/ -PAPER WITH PASSION-

Time for reckoning

Today Maharashtra will vote to decide its future leadership and political trajectory

aharashtra, one of India's most politically significant states, votes for all 288 Assembly seats today. This election comes at a time of heightened political fragmentation and social unrest, making its outcome crucial for both state and national politics. A key issue in this election is the split within the Shiv Sena, a party long associated with Maharashtra's regional pride. The party is now divided into two factions: one led by Uddhav Thackeray, aligned with the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and Congress, and the other by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, supported by the BJP. This division has significantly eroded the party's traditional voter base, creating uncertainty about its performance in this election. Adding to the complexity is the Maratha reservation demand. The Maratha community, constituting about 30 per cent of the state's population, is pushing for inclusion in the Other Backward



Classes (OBC) category to access job and educational quotas. Protests, led by figures like Manoj Jarange Patil, have brought this issue to the forefront, with the ruling BJP-Shiv Sena alliance attempting to address it through policy measures. However, the unresolved tensions could influence voter sentiment, especially in rural areas.

The BJP-led alliance faces further challenges from agrarian distress in regions like Vidarbha and Marathwada. Falling crop prices for key produce such as cotton and onions have caused financial strain on farmers, traditionally a significant voting bloc. The MVA has capitalised on this dissatisfac-

tion, highlighting the BJP's failure to protect Maharashtra's economic interests, including the recent relocation of major industrial projects to Gujarat. This election also reflects national-level dynamics. The results will test the BJP's ability to maintain its dominance amid growing opposition unity and could signal the strength of the Congress and its allies. A victory for the MVA might energise the national opposition, while a BJP win could consolidate its position. With a fragmented political landscape, Maharashtra's election promises to be closely contested. Its outcome will likely shape not only the state's future but also set the tone for national politics in the coming years. The political landscape of the state stands at a crossroads today. With a deeply fragmented Shiv Sena, intense debates over Maratha reservations, and agrarian distress weighing on rural voters, this election carries stakes far beyond the state's borders. The outcome would indeed be a pointer to the prowess of the BJP at the national level and the resilience of the INDI alliance. Besides the state is an economic powerhouse and whosoever rules the state also enjoys the support of corporate world to keep its momentum going.



West Bengal's lost opportunity



pinion 06

ANIRBAN GANGULY

Tata Nano factory's relocation from West Bengal to Gujarat is a poignant reminder of how political myopia derailed a golden opportunity for Bengal's industrial revival

n a moving tribute to late Ratan Tata, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke of the many dimensions of the industrial icon's personality that endeared him to the people. Pursuit of excellence and empathy were among the most dominant traits in late Ratan Tata leading him to pilot the Tata conglomerate towards greater heights of success and expansion. Under his two decades of stewardship, the Tata group witnessed a phenomenal spread of its global footprints and established itself as a vibrant brand.

Perhaps like many others from West Bengal, Ratan Tata's passing brought to my mind the Singur - Tata Nano factory episode. Those dark days of lost opportunities, signified a major recul, for the hope of an industrial regeneration in the state. A party and government which had, for over three decades patronised, militant trade unionism had suddenly decided to reverse that trend. It was ironic to see it clamber for investment in a feverish pitch after having presided over the de-industrialisation of the state.

The destruction of Bengal's once formidable industrial might is a map of the CPI(M) rise in the state. Howrah, once famed as the 'Sheffield of the east', turned into West Bengal's principal industrial graveyard under the communists. As early as the 1920s Dr Ambedkar had seen through and realised the oftenduplicitous approach of the communist-led trade-unionism. In the pages of his Bahishkrut Bharat he wrote how communists were 'trying to capture the labour movement in the country and that 'the main aim behind the strike' was 'not to improve the economic conditions of workers but to train them for revolution.' He could foresee the cancer that was trying to claw into India's industrial entrails.

et us recall how

Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu

had sanctioned protests against

the Metro Rail project. The

communist-driven frensied

trade-unionism destroyed sever-

al iconic public undertakings

such as the Haringhata Milk

ER BOD Dairy, set up by Dr BC Roy had created a milk supply chain across the state while generating thousands of jobs. Much like Mamata Banerjee who has refused to enlist West Bengal in the Centre's flagship 'Aspirational District Project' and remains lukewarm to the 'Ekalavya Vidyalaya' scheme, Basu in 1986, had forbade the setting up of Navodaya Schools in the state. In 1974, three years before he came to power as Chief Minister, Basu had organised a relay protest in front of the Hongkong Bank regional office in Kolkata to stall the installation of computers. Yet ironically the same Jyoti Basu in 1994, commissioned Arthur Anderson, a multinational business consultant, to carry out a study of the chances of West Bengal's industrial revival based on foreign investment. But progress was halting, it lacked a roadmap.

Thus, when Ratan Tata decided to invest in the state it was a whiff of more than fresh air, it was a long-needed gush of

wind for breathing fresh life

into a dying industrial ethos.

A hopeful Tata had then said



MUCH LIKE MAMATA BANERJEE WHO HAS REFUSED TO ENLIST WEST BENGAL IN THE CENTRE'S FLAGSHIP 'ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICT PROJECT' AND REMAINS LUKEWARM

TO THE 'EKALAVYA VIDYALAYA'

ary project which will give India's truly people's car here in Bengal. It announced a new chapter, a historic opportunity for Bengal's industrial rejuvenation. But that did not happen. Political selfishness, and one-upmanship between the ruling CPI(M) and the opposition Trinamool Congress, leading a blind political opposition to the proposal led to its grounding. In trying to bolster her flagging political prospects, Mamata Banerjee, desperately and deliberately jettisoned the project. Her political arrogance and self-centeredness led to its sinking. In her last fifteen years at the helm, the state has failed to recover from that mindless assault and pushback. An epic opportunity was lost, with a beleaguered Tata announcing his exit from the state due to political reasons. The people of West Bengal lost out.

Their hopes of a possibilitiesfilled future receded in a mist of uncertainty. Both the ruling dispensation then and then will West Bengal's industhe opposition were respon-sible for pushing the state into a dark alley. The alley remains dark even to this day. Ratan Tata announced that he was shifting the car plant to Gujarat's Sanand. It was a plant that would eventually

grow into a mega 1100-acre unit. Narendra Modi was then Chief Minister of Gujarat. As Tata was announcing his exit from West Bengal, Modi texted him 'Welcome', leading to the proposed Nano factory shifting to Gujarat. Modi told Tata that the project was not only his, but ours.

Later he had observed, in a lighter vein, that his onerupee SMS had brought about a major boost to Gujarat's industrial prospects. Ratan Tata later said that he would forever remain grateful to Modi for placing faith in him and inviting him to Gujarat during those difficult days. The saga of the Singur-Tata Nano factory's shift to Gujarat is a saga of petty political squabbles, acute selfishness, arrogance and lack of true commitment to West Bengal's future and progress. That mindset and outlook among the ruling dispensation in the state still dominate. It has to be thrown overboard. Only trial rejuvenation an

Folk dancers perform during the celebration of the 297th foundation day of 'Pink City', Jaipur

Buddhas in the boardroom: How meditation can counter burnout



ISHAN SHIVANAND

Meditation, once reserved for monks, is emerging as a transformative practice for professionals, helping them fight burnout

more open to collaboration

time, back-to-back meetings and the constant scramble of the hustle culture, we need to consider – whether are we running the show, or just running. Workplace burnout is the price often paid for juggling high expectations, tight deadlines and the need to be available for work all the time - while disregarding personal health and wellbeing.

Understanding workplace burnout: Burnout is beyond the feeling of tiredness at the end of a busy day. It's a state of chronic physical and emotional exhaustion, coupled with detachment, cynicism and reduced performance. The WHO officially recognised burnout as an 'occupational phenomenon,' signifying its critical impact on modern work-life. It affects mental clarity and emotional resilience and can even have physiological repercussions on heart health and sleep patterns.

Why meditation: Amid the workday, meditation offers an oasis - a moment to pause, reflect, and realign. The prac-



monks and mountain retreats, is now being rediscovered in the boardroom. The reason is simple: meditation fosters the ability to be present, ground-ed and conscious of one's

thoughts and actions. Research has shown that regular meditation can alter brain activity, shifting it from the limbic system (responsible for our fight-or-flight responses) to the prefrontal cortex (the centre for rational thinking and calmness). This neurological shift trans-

as deep breathing, guided lates to a greater sense of conprotocols and visualisation trol over stress, enabling clearhelp individuals develop a er decision-making and enhancing focus. Yoga heightened state of nonjudgemental awareness, balemphasises how yogic, breathing and meditation ance emotions, and build a strong mental framework to techniques can lead to transmanage stress effectively. One formative wellbeing. Studies standout programme is YOI, which has garnered attention on Yoga have reported a posfor its multifaceted approach itive impact on holistic wellreflect, and realign. The prac- being, with participants to wellbeing. Imagine being tice, often associated with reporting reductions in anx- able to handle feedback with-

out feeling criticised or meet-ing a deadline without feeling panic - meditation offers a gateway to equanimity. As game-changers in the corporate world, meditative prac-Transforming work culture tices build the mental stamina to bounce back from setbacks, maintain composure itation go beyond stress relief. under pressure, and approach In practice, this means a situations with a growth

more focused team, resilient mindset. in the face of challenges, and Meditation at work

Meditation in the workplace Some organisations are doesn't require a meditation already creating environmat or a designated room; it just requires an integration of ments where wellness isn't a perk but a pillar of their intention, emotion and work culture. We need awareness. Here are some Buddhas in the boardroom. strategies to help you get How meditation rewrites started: A few minutes of your life script: Meditation is breathing or focusing on your more than sitting in silence; senses can help reset your it's about training the mind to mental state. Begin your be resilient. Techniques such meetings with a minute of silence or guided breathing. It helps everyone clear their minds and be more present. As the world continues to spin, meditation serves as a reminder – that the power to pause and find a balance lies within.

> (The writer is, mental health researcher and the founder of Yoga of *Immortals; views are* personal)

locations before deciding to locate this rather revolution-LETT

SCHEME, BASU IN 1986, HAD FORBADE THE SETTING UP OF that he had 'scanned the country and looked at various NAVODAYA SCHOOLS IN THE STATE

pear to be a possibility.

(The writer is chairman Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee *Research Foundation and* member National Executive *Committee*, *BJP*; *views are personal)*

UKRAINE TO USE LONG-RANGE MISSILES

ly, US President Joe Biden has given the green signal to Ukraine to use long-range American missiles against Russia, then it is very good news for Ukraine. Because for the last one and a half years, Ukrainian President Zelensky was asking for permission to use these long-range weapons. Otherwise, this weapon will remain just a showpiece and one day Russia will capture it and then it will start using it to capture some third country.

This decision is also necessary because the Biden administration is now a guest for only two months. The president who will come after him, Trump, has already announced that he will stop giving any kind of help to Ukraine. The second big reason for Biden's change of heart seems to be that with the support of Russia, about 10 thousand combat soldiers of North Korea have taken up the front against Ukraine. In such a situation, Ukraine should have gotten this permission at all costs. The news of Biden's decision came after meetings with the leaders of South Korea, Japan and China in the last two days. The inclusion of North Korean troops was the main topic of the talks, which took place during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Peru. Europe was already ready to give permission. But America was not ready. It is said that American missiles will be able to hit up to 300 kilometers inside Russia at three times the speed of sound, which even Russia's anti-missile equipment will not be able to intercept.

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

VIOLENCE ESCALATES IN MANIPUR

Madam—Apropos of the headlines on Manipur violence (November 18), the state and the assembly may be suspendresurgence of violence in Manipur goes unabated. The violence and sabotage look beyond control. The MLAs and ministers of different political parties are being attacked and their houses are ransacked. The democratic fabric in Manipur has tion parties. The India-Myanmar border

RS TO Ξ HE EDITO

Madam —If this news is true that final-



ndia's hypersonic missile technology has received a shot in the arm after a long-range hypersonic missile was tested by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). With a range exceeding 1500 km, the missile is intended to carry wide-ranging payloads for all three services of the Indian armed forces. These indigenously developed missiles are special because they travel with a speed five

mobs. Education, health, development and civic administration are in peril. The **Vinod Johri** | *Delhi* elected government has turned dysfunctional and there are threats and possibilities of destabilising the state government. It is quite apparent that the efforts of peace in the first phase of violence have failed despite the newly elected state government post-violence.

Earlier, there were reports of missionaries inciting violence in the state. The Manipur violence has affected neighbouring states of Assam, Tripura and Nagaland. In fact, the Manipur violence has a secessionist motive and the disruptive and separatist forces behind the Manipur violence are based across the borders. It is, therefore, imperative that President Rule may be imposed in the ed till normalcy returns and the political atmosphere is congenial for restoration of the assembly and the government. The Manipur mayhem should not be taken as political mileage by the opposibeen destroyed by the extremists and irate should be sealed with immediate effect,

India tests hypersonic missile

times that of sound at sea level, at approximate ly 6200 km per hour, and at a mile per second. Hypersonic missiles are extremely difficult to detect, making enemy radars nigh impossible to spot them before they are too close for com-

Their maneuverability and ability to fly at lower altitudes separate them from the ballistic missiles that follow a set path. Hypersonic missiles can also be partially projected into orbit via a glide vehicle through the fractional orbital bombardment system (FOBS) unlike the ballistic missiles, though the latter can travel faster. Till now. Russia, China and the United States possess fullfledged hypersonic capabilities, while Germany, France, Japan, Australia, Iran and Israel are on course to follow suit. India has, thus, joined the elite "hypersonic group." Kudos to ISRO for another feather in the cap

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

KAILASH GAHLOT QUITS AAP

Madam — Gahlot resigned from AAP, citing the party's shift from focusing on public welfare to prioritising political ambitions. In his resignation letter to AAP National Convener Arvind Kejriwal, Gahlot stated that instead of fighting for people's rights, the party had increasingbeen focused on its own agenda.

He also expressed dissatisfaction with controversies like the 'Sheeshmahal' row, questioning whether AAP still upheld its core identity as the party of the common man. AAP responded by alleging that Gahlot's resignation was influenced by pressure from central agencies investigating him, a claim Gahlot dismissed. The BJP believes that Gahlot's entry strengthens its position as it prepares to challenge AAP in the upcoming elections.

Åkhilesh Krishnan | Vashi

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



HYDERABAD | WEDNESDAY | NOVEMBER 20, 2024

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FIRSTCOLUMN A DIET FOR PEACE: KINDNESS OVER CRUELTY

The food we consume shapes not just our physical health but also our thoughts, actions and the world



RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR NIKUNJ JI

t has been rightly said that we are what we eat because the kind of food that we eat has a direct impact on how we think and therefore it's crucial to what we become finally. Recent studies made by modern medical science have suggested that the human body is not naturally designed to digest and assimilate non-vegetarian food. That is why today most medical practitioners recommend a healthy vegetarian diet to their patients who are suffering from lifestyle disorders. Along with scientific studies, individual researchers made all over the world have also clearly pointed out that when an animal is killed for meat, it experiences fear, anxiety and pain. Its hormonal secretions are then passed on to its consumers.

Such a diet is therefore unhealthy both for the body and the mind. In many religions, a non-vegetarian diet is strictly forbidden not just because it causes pain and suffering to other living creatures but also because it is the source of vicious thoughts and attitudes to its consumers. In other words, non-vegetarian food is a gateway to a non-vegetarian lifestyle, a way of living where vices dwell comfortably. One must understand that human cruelty towards animals is nothing but a way of inviting cruelty onto the self. Also, the current trend of mass consumption of flesh by human beings highlights the way we look at other living beings and our desire to subjugate them.



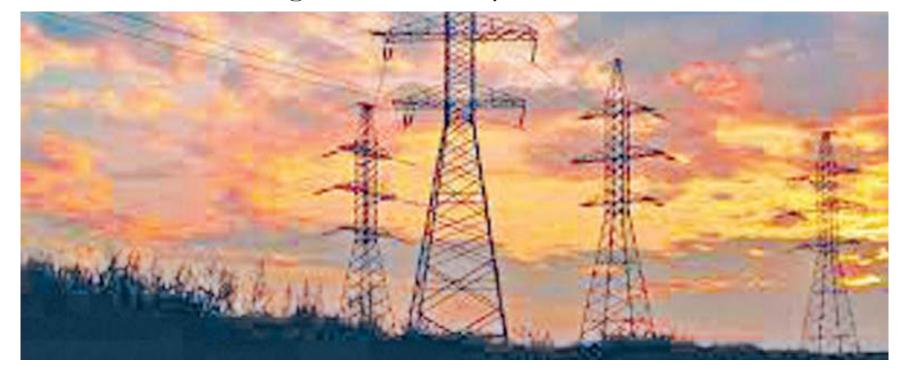
From a broader perspective, the mass consumption of non-vegetarian food is a way of heaping sin upon the human community. No peace marches, diplomatic dialogues and conferences can bring peace to the planet when we are burdening it with the desperate cries of hapless creatures. For what we sow, so shall we reap. It is so ironic that the largely meat-eating developed countries of the world have stringent laws when it comes to treating a pet and it is ensured that if the pet is hurt, the owner can even be imprisoned. However, in these very countries, millions of animals are killed every day for food and yet no one goes to jail. Isn't it surprising that so many animal lovers continue to be nonvegetarians because they are unable to connect with the cruelty that goes behind, in the making of such food? Even more surprising was a weird recommendation to find humane methods of animal slaughter made by some so-called animal sympathisers. But the contention here is what can be more inhuman than nourishing an animal to kill it one day. It is a breach of morality by all standards. What is more cruel than subjecting generations of animals to a life of stifling captivity that only leads them to a merciless end? And what is more cruel than killing animals in front of each other? While one is bleeding to death, the other watches in horror and waits for its turn. It is a great pity that even sympathetic humans are left with such little kindness that all they can think of is designing a better way to kill. It's high time that all of us should ask ourselves a question: why does our conscience need a rational argument, sanctioned by a research institute in the West, to realise that killing other living creatures is a form of cruelty? Why do we need facts and figures to understand that cruelty can never be a bringer of any form of health - be it mind, body or the environment & bring peace and harmony to the world? Can't we realise that a heart that heaves no sigh at the sight of violence cannot be a source of compassion for other fellow men? So how do we expect people who do not nurture the feeling of kindness for other living beings to nurture feelings of brotherhood and forgiveness for their community? Aren't we just walking on one path while seeking another's destination? Just give it a thought and then decide whether to Kill or Heal. Learn to live above self when life is precious to all. Let there be the right to live for all & not just Human Rights, then only world peace will descend.

Delhi discoms in crisis: Debt and regulatory gaps



analysis 07

A convoluted tariff regime, under-recoveries, power theft, and unpaid subsidies are threatening the sustainability of the Delhi discoms



elhi Government is looking at various options to address twin problems facing its three power distribution companies (discoms) namely BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL), discom for South & West Delhi; BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL) - discom for Central & East Delhi; and Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited or TPDDL - discom for North Delhi. These are (i) "Regulatory Assets" or RAs of Rs 27,200 crore lying in the books of these discoms; (ii) an equally staggering amount of Rs 26,500 crore they owe to power generation and transmission companies viz. Indraprastha Power Generation Co. Ltd (IPGCL), Pragati Power Corporation Limited (PPCL) and Delhi Transco Limited or DTL at the end of September 2024. The discoms are expected to sell electricity to the consumers at tariffs –duly approved by the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) – that are set in a manner such that the revenue generated from sale at these tariffs fully cover the power purchase cost plus the cost of wheeling and distribution. The requirement is mandatory under the Electricity Act, of 2003. But, this is rarely complied with. Under a highly convoluted regime, the tariff charged from households (HHs) consuming up to 200 units a month is Rs 3 per unit which is just about half of the average cost leading to an under-recovery of Rs 3 per unit. Including levies adding to 44.6 per cent, the shortfall comes to Rs 4.3 per unit (3x1.446). For HHs consuming between 201 and 400 units, the tariff is Rs 4.5 per unit implying an under-recovery of Rs 1.5 per unit. Including the levies, this comes to Rs 2.2 per unit. These under-recoveries are cross-subsidised by charging more from industries and businesses for which the tariff can go up to a high of Rs 16 per unit.

3 per unit (courtesy, of Kejriwal's freebies). Thus, discoms are told not to raise any bill on HHs consuming up to 200 units even as HHs consuming up to 400 units get a flat deduction of Rs 800 per month from the bill amount. Though the government promises to reimburse them for these sub-sidies from the state budget, this promise is held more in breach. This increases discoms' losses which are compounded by large-scale power theft. Where do RAs fit in? RAs are cre-

ated when state electricity regula-THE IRONY IS tory commissions (in this case, THAT DESPITE DERC) accept that the tariffs don't cover discounts' purchase costs but don't raise rates. The gap between CHARGING the cost and revenue generated **EXORBITANT** from sales at tariffs (albeit unrevised) for supplied power, is booked by discom as receivable and classified as RA. This is con-RATES FROM INDUSTRIES trary to the Electricity Act (2003) and the National Power Tariff

AND BUSINESSES, A Policy (NPTP) which says that wrongs: (iv) inefficiencies get full "tariffs must reflect costs and reg-GOOD SLICE OF ulatory assets should not be created". In December 2022, the **UNDER-**Ministry of Power (MoP) even warned against creating a pile of RECOVERIES But, all these RAs. FROM HHS regulations/warnings have fallen on deaf ears. CONSUMING All losses incurred by discoms in Delhi during the last 11 years or LESS THAN 400 so have been shown in their books UNITS A MONTH as RAs. Regrettably, the RAs persist despite subsisting mechanisms REMAINS to enable discoms to offset cost escalation by suitable increases in UNCOVERED tariff. As per the order issued by MoP on November 9, 2021, discoms are allowed to impose a surcharge known as PPAC (Power Purchase Agreement Cost). Levied as a percentage of the 'total energy cost and fixed charge compo-nent' of the electricity bill, the surcharge is meant to compensate them for variations in the fuel and power procurement cost. Effective from July 2023, the DERC had last increased PPAC vide its order

dated June 22, 2023, by 9.42 per cent for BYPL, 6.39 per cent for BRPL and 2 per cent for TPDDL. The current PPACs for these discoms are 31.6 per cent, 27.08 per cent and 33 per cent respectively. Moreover, DERC has allowed discoms to levy a surcharge of eight per cent.

This is intended to plug any shortfall in revenue vis-à-vis the cost still left unplugged after collection of PPAC. Despite these two impositions, the discoms continue to report a substantial shortfall in their revenue from the sale of electricity which is manifest in cumulative monumental RAs of Rs 27,200 crore. It is a manifestation of several glaring pitfalls: (i) the Delhi government isn't reimbursing discoms for the subsidies they give to target consumers on its behalf; (ii) large-scale power theft continues unabated; (iii) discoms have been submitting inflated bills/claims and other financial

(SC) which in an order given in early 2023 had directed the DERC to let discoms recover their RAs. This could lead to a 100 per cent hike in tariff.

So, the regulator decided to contest that order. Second, until such time the requisite tariff hike is actually sanctioned by the DERC, the RAs can't be treated as an asset. Hence, there remains every possibility of the loans taken from banks and financial institutions (FIs) for funding them becoming non-performing assets (NPAs). Moreover, the banks/FIs may not give more to discoms and their suppliers namely IPGCL/PPCL/DTL more loans. Third, the discoms can leverage the ambiguous classification (neither outright rejection of a claim for tariff hike nor approval) to present claims to the DERC which the latter may not be willing to accept.

This leads to substantial claims getting bogged down in legal disputes at the appeal level or in higher

(Writer is a spiritual educator&popular columnist; views are personal)

The irony is that despite charging exorbitant rates from industries and businesses, a good slice of under-recoveries from HHs consuming less than 400 units a month remains uncovered. Additionally, the Delhi government doesn't want the latter to even pay the small tariff of Rs

protection. Hesitant to sanction tariff hikes against these extra/unjustified costs, DERC chooses the easy option of putting all these under RAs.

The idea of creating RAs is flawed. When, a discom petitions DERC to allow any cost increase in tariff, the latter can either reject or accept. In case of acceptance, it should take the process to its logical conclusion by sanctioning the requisite tariff hike and notifying it. It can't leave things hanging in the air by accepting but not 'approving' and 'notifying' the tar-iff hike. Unfortunately, this is what the DERC has been doing for over a decade. This has dangerous consequences. First, once recorded in their books

as RAs, discoms will leave no stone unturned in recovering the money say by getting sanction of a steep hike in tariff to make up for the entire cumulative deficit in revenue. Indeed, the matter had gone right up to the Supreme Court

courts. To conclude, providing for RAs in the books of discoms is a bad practice. Apart from discoms, it also puts the power generators and transmission companies at serious risk. It can impair the balance sheet of banks and FIs who have given loans to them.

It could mean a steep hike in tariffs on supplies to industries/businesses besides HHs consuming more than 400 units a month. To cap it all, it provides a 'cover up' for financial irregularities and corruption. The practice must be shunned. As for the RAs already piled up, a thorough enquiry should be ordered to look into irregularities followed by recovery of money from those found guilty. The discoms should be 'unshackled' from the controls of the State government. If the latter wants to subsidize or provide free power to certain consumers, the money should be given to them directly. (The writer is a policy analyst;

views are personal)

Delhi's air quality crisis: Action taken for now, but long-term solutions are crucial

The city faces an urgent need for sustainable, long-term strategies to tackle pollution at its root

the air quality in Delhi has recently deteriorated to dangerously high levels. To address this issue swiftly and effectively, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has implemented Stage 4 of the Graded Response Action Plan

(GRAP). This stage involves measures such as restricting bus services, pausing construction work and mining activities, and transitioning primary school classes to online learning. Although these steps are crucial in addressing the current pollution issue promptly, they alone cannot effectively address the underlying factors contributing to air pollution in the long term. It is crucial to



practices

able development.

EILIA JAFAR

overlook the factors that contribute to pollution in the long term as well. One significant factor is the dust produced during construction activities.

While the temporary suspension of construction operations following GRAP guidelines is a move in the right direction, it also underscores the urgency prioritise short-term soluions of implementing more envifor relief; however, we must not ronmentally friendly building in Delhi, there are still areas

with connectivity that need methods. Germany and Sweden serve as examples of attention. nations that have successfully

Expanding the metro network implemented construction and integrating buses can lead to a decrease in private car For instance, Germany prioriusage. Moreover, promoting tises the use of low-carbon the adoption of electric vehiconcrete, whereas Sweden cles (EVs) could play a role in reducing emissions. Providing focuses on promoting energyefficient structures with benefits such as tax incentives, improved insulation and solar toll discounts, and even offering parking for EVs could potentially increase their innovations. India has the opportunity to implement attractiveness to commuters. strategies to minimise dust and emissions from construction Biking is becoming more popactivities and promote sustainular as an eco-friendly option in Delhi; however, the city's

infrastructure doesn't fully The need for transformation in transportation is crucial to support it yet. address the issue of pollution

Although smart bikes are in Delhi caused by road dust being introduced in some and vehicle emissions. areas, which is a move forward, the absence of marked biking Although the metro system lanes and safety precautions deters many people from bikhas advanced to some extent



ing. Cities such as Copenhagen and Amsterdam serve as models for incorporating biking into urban environments. Delhi could take inspiration from its approach by investing in infrastructure for cyclists, such as bike lanes and bikesharing services, to enhance the safety and convenience of cycling for its residents. Encouraging the use of sus-tainable building methods is

crucial too!

Providing incentives for individuals who build energy-efficient houses or utilise ecofriendly materials could greatly support sustainability efforts in communities worldwide. Numerous nations offer tax advantages or financial aid to developers who embrace green building strategies. India could introduce perks like discounts

on energy-saving devices, offers on solar panel setups, or financial assistance for homeowners undertaking eco-conscious improvements. These initiatives would not only lessen the burden on energy reserves but also encourage environmentally responsible

construction practices. Another helpful way to decrease the number of cars on the road is through carpooling initiatives, such as carpool

lanes and discounts for vehicles with passengers, which have proven effective in countries around the world. Introducing strategies in Delhi, such as designated carpool lanes or toll reductions for cars carrying two or more passengers, could play a role in alleviating traffic congestion and decreasing harmful emissions levels.

By implementing these measures, not only would pollution be reduced, but it would also enhance the daily commute experience for numerous residents in the area. The call for action is critical now.

The air pollution crisis in NCR intensified on November 17, 2024, as Delhi's average Air Quality Index (AQI) climbed to a hazardous 441 by 4 PM, classified as 'severe,' up from

419 the previous day. The harmful pollutants are linked to health concerns, such as respiratory illnesses and cardiovascular diseases.

The Stage 4 actions outlined in the GRAP are crucial for providing relief; however, it is evident that a comprehensive long-term plan is essential to enhance the air quality in Delhi. By emphasising the enhancement of public transportation services, implementing infrastructure for cyclists, advocating for eco-friendly construction methods and encouraging carpooling, Delhi can strive to diminish pollution levels and establish a healthier and more sustainable environment for all residents. (The writer is humanitarian and development profession*al; views are personal)*



Money 08

IN BRIEF



Gold jumps Rs 600 to Rs 78,050 per 10 gm

old prices jumped Rs 600 to Rs 78,050 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday amid a strong global trend in the Goverseas market, according to the All India Sarafa Association. On Monday, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity closed at Rs 77,450 per 10 grams. Gold prices also rose due to increased buying by local jewellers and retailers for the wedding festivities, traders said. Silver bounced Rs 1,500 to Rs 93,500 per kg against the previous close of Rs 92,000 per kg on Monday. Gold price of 99.5 per cent purity rose Rs 600 to Rs 77,650 per 10 grams. It had ended at Rs 77,050 per 10 grams in the previous session. Meanwhile, in futures trade on the MCX, gold contracts for December delivery jumped Rs 615 or 0.82 per cent to trade at Rs 75,662 per 10 grams.



Emerging India Focus Funds settles case with Sebi

oreign portfolio investor Emerging India Focus Funds has settled a case pertaining to the alleged violations of FPI rules with capital markets watchdog Sebi after paying Rs 64.35 lakh as settlement charges. In a corrigendum to its settlement order, Sebi on Tuesday said that the case concerns to non-compliance with the 'fit and proper' criteria for the period from October 13, 2022, to April 11, 2023. The latest order came after the applicant filed an application with Sebi proposing to settle the proceedings initiated against it, "without admitting or denying the findings of facts and conclusions of law" through a settlement order. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) initiated adjudication proceedings against the applicant and issued a show cause notice in February for the alleged violations of FPI Regulations and Intermediaries Regulations. Pending adjudication proceedings, Emerging India Focus Funds filed an application with Sebi and paid Rs 64.35 lakh on November 13 to settle the alleged violations

RBI should cut rates for pushing growth: Goyal

HYDERABAD | WEDNESDAY | NOVEMBER 20, 2024

PNS MUMBAI

Union Commerce Minister Pivush Goval on Thursday said the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) should cut interest rates and give an impetus to growth. Using food inflation, which

restricted the RBI from any rate action for two years in the rate setting is a "flawed theo-ry", the Chartered Accountant-turned-politician said at an event hosted by CNBC TV18.

"I certainly believe they should cut interest rates, growth needs a further impetus. We are the fastest growing economy in the world, we can do even better," Goyal said.

Speaking at the same event later, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das declined to comment on the senior minister's suggestion, saying that the six-member rate setting panel will take the appropriate call at its next meeting scheduled in December first week. Goyal's demands found a resonance in finance industry veteran Deepak Parekh,



who advocated that the RBI cut both its repo rate and con-sider the cash reserve ratio (CRR).

Chief Economic Advisor G Anantha Nageswaran had made the suggestion of excluding food inflation in the headline inflation computation.

Goyal said he has been a proponent of the exclusion of food inflation in rates for the last 20 years, even when he was in the Opposition. "I've been consistently say-

ing it's a flawed theory that food inflation should be considered while deciding on the



interest rate structure. Food inflation has nothing whatsoever to do with managing inflation. That's a demandsupply situation," he said.

Goyal, who has also handled the consumer affairs portfolio in the past, said food stocks are not hoarded or stocked in large proportions. "It is time that the policy-

makers and regulators seriously sat down, discussed with all stakeholders, economists beyond their own and come to a considered view of food inflation should be a part of the decision making for inflation or interest rates," he said.

'India looks for fair trade in FTA talks'

PNS NEW DELHI

India looks for equity, balance and fair trade while negotiating a free trade agreement (FTA), Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Tuesday. He asserted that India has entered into FTAs with countries which are transparent, open and where governments' economic systems align with India. Speaking at a programme in Mumbai, he said: "India looks for equity, balance and fair trade when negotiating a FTA". The country has implemented these agreements with countries, including Australia, and UAE, and is negotiating such pacts with nations such as the UK and European Union

Trump presidency may be a positive for India: CEA

Says energy prices can remain affordable

PNS MUMBAI

October.

Chief Economic Advisor G Anantha Nageswaran on Tuesday said Donald Trump's Presidency may be a "positive" for India as it will contain the energy prices, a crucial component for the GDP growth. Nageswaran seemed to reit-

Baku, the senior economic policy maker from India hit out at the developed world for burying the concept of differentiated responsibilities agreed at Paris and added that Trump's win in the US election may be of help for India.

amid the COP29 happening in

"The fact that we have someerate his concerns on food one who is not religiously com-

mitted to net zero

will actually offer higher degrees of

freedom to coun-

tries like India to

pursue its own net

zero goals keeping

in mind its own

growth aspirations,"

he said.

which India - running a surplus

on goods and services exports

to the US - faces under the

Trump administration,

Nageswaran said, adding that

any tinkering with tariffs may

actually end up aiding India as

it will reduce duties to become

up being better than the nega-

"Positives may actually end

more competitive.

There are some headwinds

inflation and pointed out that tomatoes, onions and potatoes, along with gold and sil-CII ver, were the source of a third of the overall 6.2 per cent print for

Speaking at SBI's annual banking and economic conclave here, Nageswaran said that if India were to grow at a higher pace in the next 25-odd years, energy prices would have to be affordable to fuel the economy. He also made it clear that while net zero goals are important, it is essential to generate economic growth and called it a "prerequisite for achieving net zero transition".

tives" under the new Trump In the remarks that come administration, he said.

Fifth shipment of 720-tonnes of onion to reach Delhi tomorrow NCR.

PNS NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday said the fifth bulk shipment of 720 tonnes of buffer onion will reach the national capital on November 21 as part of its market intervention to control

prices. This marks the continuation of the government's initiative, started last month, to transport buffer onion from Maharashtra to Delhi via railways

for the first time. So far, 4,010 tonnes have been dispatched for retail sale at Rs 35 per kg. "Another shipment of 720 tonnes, fifth in the series, has left Nashik yesterday and likely to reach Delhi by 21st of November," according to an official statement.

From the fourth bulk shipment of 840 tonnes that arrived on November 17, the government has allocated 500 tonnes to Mother Dairy, 190 tonnes to onnes to Nate

The government noted that bulk shipments have signifi-cantly impacted onion prices in Delhi, both at wholesale and retail levels.

Besides Delhi, similar initiatives are underway in other cities. The govern-

planned this week, while Lucknow will receive a similar quantity in 2-3 days. The Centre has decided to increase onion disposal following supply constraints in certain markets during the festival season and mandi closures.

Cooperative Nafed has requested two additional rakes for Delhi-NCR and one for Guwahati this week. Cooperative NCCF plans to deploy another rake in the week while road trans

Irani calls for enhanced data on women in gems, jewellery sector

PNS NEW DELHI

Former Union Minister Smriti Zubin Irani on Tuesday expressed concerns over the lack of comprehensive data on women in the gems and jewellery sector and suggested the industry to

look into the issue. She also said there is a need to provide sufficient information about different opportunities available in the sector for women.

"The question that I was most perturbed by is that when you talk about women in the business of gems and jewellery and try to research the very concept data and studies are few and far between," she said.

She was speaking at a pro-gramme of gems and jewellery exporters on empowering women entrepreneurs in the business of jewellery

Majority of corporates want realtime reporting for audit: Deloitte PNS NEW DELHI 67 per cent last year highlighting the growing recognition of Deloitte India said on Tuesday the need for a robust, technolthat about 74 percent of high-

from income tax portals.

Opening up of API by the

administration would help tax-

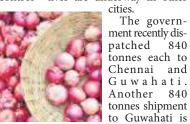
payers have seamless connec-

tivity with I-T portals to enable

ogy-driven tax ecosystem. 'Organisations are embracing advanced technologies, such as Robotic Process Automation, Blockchain, GenAI, machine learning, data integration and analytics to that taxpayers expect issuance accelerate the digital transof automated programming formation of their tax funcinterface (API) to fetch data tions," Sidhwa said.

The use of third-party tax software and cloud-based solutions has increased significantly with 69 per cent of respondents, up from 57 per cent in 2023, confirming their

efficient compliance. About 57 per cent of the adoption of these tools. respondents expect the admin-However, organisations still istration to use new-age tech-nologies such as blockchain and AI. face challenges in their journey towards tax digitalisation, the survey said, adding that key Deloitte India Partner obstacles include a shortage of skilled tax technology profes-Rohinton Sidhwa said Deloitte's survey reveals that 77 sionals, resistance to adopting new technologies and difficulper cent of companies have increased their budgets for ties integrating existing systax transformati exter l solut tems wi the survey respondents said automation in FY24, up from government portals.





Sebi resolves over 6,000 complaints through SCORES

apital markets regulator Sebi has disposed of 6,327 complaints against companies and market intermediaries Uthrough its grievance redressal platform SCORES in October. As many as 15 complaints were pending for more than three months on SCORES as of October-end, involving entities such as Angel One, Groww Invest Tech, Jainam Broking, Computer Age Management Services Ltd, CAMS Investor Services and Lml Ltd, according to Sebi data. The number of pending complaints slipped to 6,490 as of October 31 from 6,685 as of September 30, as 6,132 fresh complaints were received on the platform last month. SCORES is a grievance redressal system launched in June 2011. It is designed to help investors lodge their complaints online with Sebi, pertaining to the securities market, against companies, intermediaries and market infrastructure institutions. Sebi, in April this year, launched a new version of SCORES with additional features.

for retail sale across Delhi- port is being scaled up.

Addition

end corporate taxpayers want

the income tax department to

enable near real-time report-

ing and compliance monitor-

ing. Deloitte India's Income Tax

Digitalisation in India survey,

which took views of about 250

highest corporate taxpayers,

also found that 67 per cent of

businesses seek tax e-wallets to

promptly credit refunds on

passing orders, enabling

adjustment against outstand-

ing demands or future tax lia-

dents requested to adopt Standard Audit File for Tax

(SAF-T), which would enable near real-time reporting and compliance monitoring. This

signalled their intention to

make the tax function tech-

The survey said the respon-

bilities.

enabled.

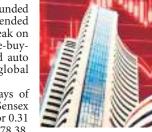
Sensex rebounds 239 pts, Nifty ends 7-day decline

PNS MUMBAI

Benchmark Sensex rebounded 239 points while Nifty ended its seven-day losing streak on Tuesday following value-buy-ing in banking, IT and auto shares amid mixed global trends.

Snapping its four days of decline, the 30-share Sensex climbed 239.37 points or 0.31 per cent to settle at 77,578.38. The index opened with gains and spurted further 1,112.64 points or 1.43 per cent to hit the day's high of 78,451.65. However, fag-end decline in Reliance Industries restricted the market rally

The NSE Nifty also bounced back after seven straight sessions of losses. The broader 50issue barometer gained 64.70 points or 0.28 per cent to set-tle at 23,518.50. The index jumped over 300 points to hit 23,780 level in the day.



Stock markets were on a decline in the past seven sessions with Nifty tanking 1,030 points or over 4.3 per cent due to FII selling, weaker-thanexpected quarterly results and strengthening US bond yields. Sensex plunged more than 3,000 points to 77,300 levels during the period.

"A strong bounce back due to bottom fishing was shortlived as caution prevails in the market. Investors tend to use every opportunity to book

profit amidst consistent FII selling and weak Q2 earnings. Profit-booking was also seen ahead of the upcoming Maharashtra state election," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said. The recent correction in

valuation suggests a potential pause in further price erosion. However, the recovery will depend on an uptick in earnings which is likely to rebound due to the likely spurt in central and state expenditure in H2, Nair added From the 30-share Sensex pack, Mahindra & Mahindra,

Tech Mahindra, HDFC Bank, Titan, Tata Motors, UltraTech Cement, Power Grid and Infosys were the biggest gainers.

In contrast, Reliance Industries, State Bank of India, Bajaj Finserv, Maruti, Tata Steel and Bharti Airtel were among the laggards.

ESIC new member addition rises to 20.58 lakh PNS NEW DELHI

Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) logged over nine per cent on-year rise in new workers enrolment at 20.58 lakh under its ESI Scheme in September, 2024, according to payroll data. Number of new employees registered during the month of September 2023 stood at 18.88 lakh, stated a labour ministry statement. According to the statement, the provisional payroll data of ESIC revealed that 20.58 lakh new employees have been added in September, 2024, registering a 9 per cent rise in net registrations compared to September, 2023. As many 23,043 new establishments have been brought under the social security ambit of the ESI Scheme during September this year, ensuring social security to more workers, it stated.

EV industry seeks GST cuts on batteries, charging services

PNS NEW DELHI

said on Tuesday.

EVs here, she also stressed

EVs nere, sile also success enhancing PM E-Drive corpus to support enhanced sales of EVs. "We would be making a rec-

ommendation to the GST

Council to rationalise the GST

taxation on EV-related areas,"

Motwani said. Elaborating on the

demands, she noted, "Currently

the GST on charging services is

still 18 per cent which we would

request to bring down to 5 per

cent so that charging becomes

more affordable to the con-

sumers." Secondly, the GST on

batteries should also come down

to 5 per cent, Motwani, who is

https://www.tender.eprocurement.gov.in

R.O.No: 6783-PP/CLIADVT/1/2824-25, Dt. 19-11-2024

Kinetic Green Energy & Power GST on batteries and charging Solutions, added. "While EVs attract a GST of 5 services needs to be cut to keep

also the founder and CEO of

electric vehicles competitive and per cent, GST on batteries is 18 boost customer adoption, FICCI per cent. The request is to reduce Electric Vehicle Committee it to 5 per cent so that when con-Chair Sulajja Firodia Motwani sumers buy replacement batteries, it is more affordable," Speaking at the sidelines of Motwani said. FICCI National Conference on

Meeting that these two reforms on GST will help a lot in making EVs more competitive for the consumers, she stated. While welcoming the PM E-Drive scheme, Motwani said that with rising demand there is a need to review the incentive amounts. "We believe that because the demand is growing, perhaps the incentive amounts have to be reviewed so that the budget under the PM E-Drive scheme overall is enhanced to ensure that the total number of vehicles sold in the next two years are eligible for the incentive," she stated

Dated: 19-11-2024

Sd/- Executive Engineer Div-29, Sec'bad, GHMC

GenX, millennials more open to adopting agentic AI: Report

PNS NEW DELHI

A report has said Generation X and millennials are more receptive to adopting agentic artificial intelligence (AI). Agentic AI refers to

autonomous agents that can independently make decisions and perform tasks, adapting and learning from their experiences without direct human oversight.

It can be deployed in retail and e-commerce for personalised recommendations and inventory management, and in logistics for supply chain management. Agentic AI

also has several use cases in healthcare, finance, telecom, IT, customer service, among

others. Salesforce's State of the AI Connected Customer research said millennials and Gen Xers in India are more willing than Gen Z and Baby Boomers to work with agents

for faster, more proactive service. "The research shows Gen X (58 per cent) and millennials (57 per cent) are more willing than Gen Z (51 per cent) and Baby Boomers (42

per cent) to use AI agents to

improve their customer

experience by creating more personalised, or useful content," it said.

born between 1946 and 1964. Generation X from 1965 to 1980, Millennials from 1981 Baby Boomers are people to 1996, and Generation Z

from 1997 to 2012.

The report further said consumer trust has reached its lowest level in eight years, making it more essential than ever to build that trust, especially with the advancements in AI.

More than half of the respondents surveyed trust companies less than they did a year ago, and feel companies are reckless with customer data.

"As we enter a new era of intelligent customer engagement, brands that prioritize trust in their AI strategies will be best positioned to

deliver impactful, lasting connections," Arun Parameswaran, SVP & Managing Director, Sales and Distribution, Salesforce India, said.

Transparency is key to building consumer confi-dence in the AI agent era, the report said.

The research is based on a survey of 15,015 consumers across India, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Netherlands, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, the UK, and the US.



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Wednesday November 20, 2024

"Explaining such a deeply spiritual concept to Béla and watching him inter-

As Indian classical music evolves in

an era of technology and global collabo-

rations, he remains a staunch advocate of preserving its purity. "Traditional music must always be performed in its traditional form," he asserts. While he

embraces fusion as a creative outlet, he

ensures that it remains distinct from his

deserve respect and understanding," he

To him, the key to success lies in mas-

tery. "Focus on your craft, not on success. If you excel at what you do, success

will follow naturally," he advises aspiring

For him, the flute is far more than an

instrument; it is his spiritual lifeline.

"I'm alive because of the flute. It gives

me peace before I share that peace with

the world," he says. Every note he plays carries a sense of divine purpose.

"When I strike the perfect pitch, I feel the presence of the Almighty," he shares

Even after nearly five decades in

classical performances. "Both genres

emphasises.

musicians.

with reverence.

pret it through his instrument was an

incredible experience," he recalls.

Master flutist redefining Indian classical music

AARTI SREENATH aarti.sreenath9@gmail.com

andit Ronu Majumdar, often celebrated as the "Flute Wizard" or the "Flute King," has cemented his place as a legend in the world of music, enchanting audiences across continents with the soulful magic of his bansuri. From performing at prestigious global venues to setting remarkable world records, his journey is a symphony of passion, humility and an unwavering spiritual connection to his art. In a candid conversation with The Pioneer, the maestro shared the milestones of his life—his early influences, collaborations with music legends and the profound philosophy that has shaped his career. His tryst with music began at the

children are merely discovering the world around them. "Music was always my passion," he reminisces with a smile. "At first, I never thought I'd pursue it full-time. My first inspiration was my father, followed by my guru, Pandit Ravi Shankar."

It was under the guidance of these towering figures that his love for the *bansuri* blossomed. By the 1970s, music had become the axis around which his world revolved, eclipsing all other pur-suits. "I never imagined doing anything else. Music became my entire world," he reflects.

Throughout his illustrious career, he has shared the stage with some of the greatest names in music, spanning Indian classical, Bollywood and even global icons. Among his most cherished collaborations are those with Pandit Ravi Shankar, Asha Bhosle, RD Burman and George Harrison of the Beatles!

One of his fondest memories

involves working with George Harrison during the recording of *Chants of India*. "I was in his house in Britain, expecting someone as famous as George Harrison to exude grandeur," he shares. Instead, what he encountered was humility and warmth. Harrison's simplicity left an indelible mark on Majumdar. "He was a man who balanced his fame with an extraordinary sense of humanity. His acts of kindness, like donating to the underprivileged, taught me lessons that extended far beyond music," he recalls. His achievements are as

vast as his repertoire. A Grammy nomination for his album Tabula Rasa, the prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi Award and a Guinness World Record for conducting 5,378 flutists stand as shining milestones in his career. "These accolades gave me confidence and reminded me of the responsibility I carry as an artist," he shares.

Among these, the Guinness record holds a special place in his heart. Organised under the guidance of Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, the event brought together flutists from around the globe. "We initially did-n't think we'd cross 5,000 participants. But on the day of the concert, more and more musicians joined until we hit 5,378. It was a surreal moment, a true celebration of the flute," he says with pride. His work in Bollywood has also

PEOPLE OFTEN TELL ME THAT I'M THE ONLY FLUTE PLAYER WHO HAS SEAMLESSLY TRAVERSED BOLLYWOOD, HOLLYWOOD AND INDIAN CLASSICAL MUSIC. MANY TELL ME THEY FEEL A SPIRITUAL CONNECTION DURING MY DURING MY PERFORMANCES. I'M ALIVE BECAUSE OF

THE FLUTE.

With the gentle touch of his fingers on the bansuri, Pandit Ronu Majumdar weaves a sonic tapestry that transcends borders and generations. Celebrated as the 'Flute Wizard' or 'Flute King,' this master flutist has redefined Indian classical music, enchanting audiences worldwide with his soul-stirring renditions. From prestigious global stages to record-breaking feats, Majumdar's five-decade journey is a testament to passion, humility and an unwavering spiritual connection to his craft

been legendary, particularly his collaborations with RD Burman. "People often tell me that I'm the only flute player who has seamlessly traversed Bollywood, Hollywood and Indian classical music," he says. From creating iconic film melodies to crafting spiritual symphonies, his versatility is unmatched.

Yet, for him, Indian classical music is more than a profession—it's a spiritual journey. "Our music doesn't start with high-energy beats like rock; it begins softly, allowing the soul to resonate with the notes," he explains. His con-certs are an invitation to introspection, particularly during the *aalap* segment, where the absence of percussion creates a meditative atmosphere. "I often encourage audiences to close their eyes and let the music take them on a journey within. Many tell me they feel a spiritual connection during my performances," he reveals.

He has also been a pioneer in fusion music, blending Hindustani classical with Western styles. Tabula Rasa, recorded in a church in Santa Barbara. is a shining example of this endeav-our. Collaborating with banjo maestro Béla Fleck, he created

Radha Krishna Bela, a piece inspired by the divine love story of Radha and Krishna.

music, for him, shows no signs of slowing down. His upcoming album with Grammy-winner Ricky Kej promises to be another milestone in his career! "We've worked on two singles before, but this time, we're creating a full album with seven to eight tracks," he reveals. Their previous collaboration, a reimagining of the classic *Babul Mora*, beautifully blended tradition with modernity. Pandit Ronu Majumdar's story res-

onates like the notes of a *raga*, unfold-ing with grace and depth. His flute is not just an instrument but a sacred bridge-connecting the earthly to the divine, the artist's soul to the hearts of his audience.

'Situationship is surefire way to end badly,' fill in first-time writer Harshita Gupta



SHIKHA DUGGAL shikhaduggalwork@gmail.com

th every stroke of her pen, Harshita poured out the shards of her shattered heart, transforming the agony of lost love into a cathartic rpiece! The pa became a canvas of emotions, a vibrant tapestry woven from threads of sorrow and acceptance. As words flowed onto paper, the weight of heartbreak slowly lifted, replaced by a sense of purpose and healing. And when the final sentence was penned, she smiled, knowing that her heart, though broken, had found a way to heal-and perhaps, in the process, help his heal too as she prepared to tie the knot with someone else. While travelling, Harshita Gupta, the digital sensation who has gained popularity for her relatable storytelling and sense of humour, was with us for an exclusive interview, but there's a special purpose for it! Well, Harshita, who was recently listed among Forbes India's Top 10 Digital Stars of 2024, has made her literary debut with the release of Unloved: The Art of Moving On. Yes, we definitely recall seeing a book with an amazing cover in Hyderabad as well! "I experienced two distinct cultural nuances while writing this book: I discussed therapy because it is still taboo in India. I have purposefully included a page devoted to therapist therapy after each chapter. I want to use my mental health issues to educate people about the differences between anxiety and panic attacks. Second, this book will help you end relationships without having to tell your parents or cope with social taboos," Harshita sees a uniquely Indian perspective on grief and recovery. Through a distinctively Indian vision that strikes a deep chord with her audience, *Unloved* takes readers on a journey of loss, healing and selfdiscovery. Anyone negotiating the intricacies of relationships should read Harshita's book since her voice offers new insights on personal development! "I was writing something really different from my typical Instagram posts. Do I only have a sense of humour on social media? I am well-known for my chatty chatter! However, I wanted to show the world that I am more than just a comedian with this book. As I was writing this book, I realised how vulnerable we all are. Three years ago, the Penguin editor who was following me was surprised to learn that she knew the real Harshita after reading what I had written! She was shocked by what she saw, particularly when I pleaded with a man to stay in my life. My reality is not social media.' More details about her new book are revealed by the versatile artiste: "The best character development occurs during heartbreaks, when we cease giving way to our feelings. We make an effort to avoid those due to the lack of acceptability. I have therefore made an effort to educate the public on how to deal with heartbreak. Let's talk about loving oneself!

Heartbreak is followed by infidelity. Since I've experienced all of this, I could also write about confidence. I had days when I was unable to take rejection. I simply don't care about people anymore; I don't dislike them and I don't wish my ex any good or bad things because I don't want to give him any. I don't really think about him. Indifference, not hatred, is the antithesis of love!"

to one of the stories she told us

HIDDEN CULPRITS: Everyday habits that lead to kidney and bladder stones

➤ idney and bladder stones are crystalline deposits that form in the urinary tract, causing significant discomfort and health complications. These stones often result from a combination of genetic predisposition, dietary factors, and lifestyle habits.

PHYSIOLOGY OF STONE FORMATION

Kidney and bladder stones develop then urine becomes supersaturated wi

4. LOW CALCIUM DIETS

Paradoxically, avoiding calcium to prevent stones can increase risk. Dietary calcium deficiency leads to greater oxalate absorption, contributing to stone formation. The key is consuming calcium in moderation from dairy or fortified foods.

5. SEDENTARY LIFESTYLE

Physical inactivity contributes to calci-

Forbes India's Top 10 internet star and well-known sensation Harshita Gupta has turned her tragedy into a moving story of self-discovery and healing. She takes readers on a very intimate journey of love, grief and resiliency in her debut book, Unloved: The Art of Moving On. The book, which was written during her own life-changing time, presents a distinctively Indian viewpoint on grief and healing!

"Because of the circumstances that are being created, people in my generation are giving up on love. Can you top the time I gave up on love? It's the most depressing thing to witness. Love is, as we say, the most exquisite emotion in the world. Rekindling love despite a broken heart is a sign of strength rather than weakness. I want people to love who they are. After a breakup, self-esteem is crucial! I dislike it when people look to their partners for approval

We hear from the other end, which leads to some deeper discussions: "It became the national bestseller, which is a big professional success for me. Who could have imagined this? Particularly when it wasn't even available for purchase. I wanted individuals to know that they are no longer alone during this heartbreak journey by writing this book. I was getting thank-you emails in the Instagram generation. Now beat that. Haha, the Unloved is loved." All about empowerment and self-love, the former radio jockey continues, "I recall writing a chapter titled 'Modern Dating,' which discussed how millennials, particularly those living in large cities, have no other option but to give in to the modern dating scene. A situationship is a surefire way to end badly! What the hell are you doing by voluntarily accepting uncertainty? Are we not talking about red and green flags a lot these days? Unloving is what we aren't being taught! My book serves as a plan for leaving your failing romantic relationship with dignity, respect and grace. Writing about heartbreak may be extremely difficult and intimate. Did she find any particular chapters especially difficult to write? The comedy content creator shares her insights on navigating the same. "While writing the book, I was getting ready for my wedding. In the morning, I had to decide what I would wear to my wedding and by nightfall, I was back to finishing this book. I found this to be difficult! As I continued to write, I had to go over a lot of memories again, which was really hard for me (she pauses and continues the interview). Naturally, my wedding is meant to be a really joyous occasion, but I had to balance conflicting expectations. I found the book's first three chapters to be the most challenging!" Finally, we listen to her say, "I am a pretty strong individual who doesn't constantly cry about my circumstances. I always look for the good! Although it was the worst decision I made in 2009, moving to Bombay taught me self-satisfaction and value for money. During those days, I reached my lowest point as a professional! I've cited myself as referring to the "other woman" quite openly in the book. To

come out of this, I required a lot of therapy.

minerals like calcium, oxalate, or uric acid. This creates an environment where crystals can precipitate and grow. Protective factors, such as citrate, which inhibit crystal aggregation, may be deficient in individuals.

EVERYDAY HABITS THAT CON-TRIBUTE TO STONE FORMATION

1. INSUFFICIENT HYDRATION

Dehydration is one of the most significant risk factors for stone formation. Inadequate water intake concentrates urine, increasing the likelihood of mineral crystallization. A habit of drinking less than the recommended 2-3 liters of water daily can lead to this condition. Tea, coffee, and sugarv sodas, often consumed in place of water. exacerbate the issue due to their diuretic and oxalate-rich properties.

2. EXCESSIVE SALT INTAKE

High dietary sodium levels promote calcium excretion into the urine, a primary component of calcium-based stones. Common culprits include processed foods, salty snacks, and canned goods. A diet persistently high in sodium overwhelms the kidney's ability to reabsorb calcium, leaving it to combine with oxalate or phosphate to form stones.

3. HIGH OXALATE FOODS

Spinach, nuts, and chocolate are rich in oxalates, compounds that bind with calcium to form stones. While these foods are nutritious, excessive consumption, especially without adequate calcium intake, raises stone risk. Calcium binds with oxalate in the gut to reduce absorption, underscoring the importance of a balanced diet.

um loss from bones, increasing urinary calcium levels. Prolonged immobility or a desk-bound lifestyle creates an ideal environment for stone formation

6. EXCESSIVE ANIMAL PROTEIN

Diets high in animal protein, such as red meat, eggs, and fish, can acidify urine, reducing citrate levels. Citrate binds with calcium, preventing stone formation. High protein intake also increases uric acid excretion, a common component of stones.

7. IRREGULAR URINATION

Holding urine for extended periods can concentrate minerals in the bladder, facilitating stone formation. Regular urination flushes out potential stone-forming substances, reducing risk.

Preventive measures

Prevention is better than cure. Drinking adequate water, maintaining a balanced diet with moderate calcium and low sodium, and adopting an active lifestyle can significantly reduce stone risk. Regular health check-ups and dietary adjustments tailored to individual metabolic profiles are essential for those with a history of stones.

Kidney and bladder stones are often preventable. Identifying and modifying hidden habits, such as dehydration, high sodium intake, or a sedentary lifestyle, can go a long way in promoting urinary health. By making small but significant changes to daily routines, individuals can reduce the risk of this painful and recurrent condition.

(The author Dr. Kinjal Banerjee, is a Consultant - Renal Transplant, Urology, Sarvodaya Hospital.)





what's brewing?





Hamstech College welcomed its freshers with a spectacular Indo-Western themed party, blending glamour, entertainment and fun. The event featured dazzling performances, delicious food, helping newcomers feel at home while celebrating community spirit.











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hosted its Kids Health Carnival on Tuesday, in Hyderabad. The event was organised to promote preventive healthcare, the event featured free pediatric, dental and ophthalmic check-ups, highlighting the importance of early detection of illnesses





Renowned entrepreneur, socialite and founder of the Sailaja Aryan Foundation, Sailaja Reddy, in collaboration with Rotary Club Cantonment Secunderabad, celebrated her birthday with the students of the Laxmi Nagar Government High School. On this occasion, she also announced scholarships for the top performers of the Grade

10 board exams to help them pursue their future studies and also distributed school kits and

notebooks to 9th and 10th-grade students.



The Red Bull Basement India Finals captivated a full house at the Innovation Championship on Tuesday, where young minds presented groundbreaking ideas to panel of judges.



Cinematica Expo 2024, held at Novotel, HICC, Hyderabad, celebrated the convergence of cinema, innovation and digital creativity. The event marked the presence of Krishnan, Secretary of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India and Jayesh Ranjan, IAS, Principal Secretary, ITE&C and Industries & Commerce, Government of Telangana. The inauguration ceremony featured industry icons Ram Gopal Varma, Sandeep Reddy Vanga and K K Senthil Kumar.

ARCHIE

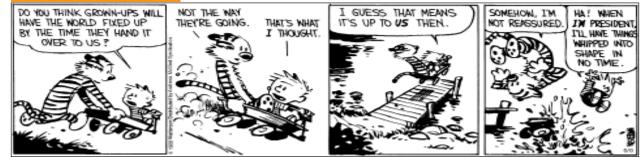
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CALVIN AND HOBBES

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GARFIELD







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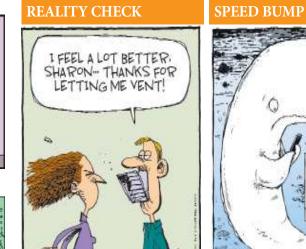


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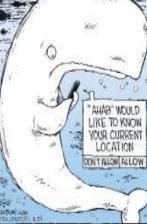
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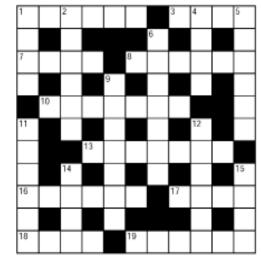
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tollywood

Vishwak Sen sets record straight on Mechanic Rocky and Gangs of Godavari!

SURESH KAVIRAYANI sureshkavirayani@gmail.com

oung actor Vishwak Sen is coming up with another film, Mechanic *Rocky* and this is his third film this year. Earlier his films Gangs of Godavari and Gaami were released. The film is releasing on November 22. "The story is based on some real incidents and we have taken a burning point that we are discussing from the last four to five years," said Vishwak Sen about the film.

The actor said he was a bit scared when he did this film. "As I said, it's a topical point and if anyone gets the same thought and makes a film on the same subject, that's why I'm scared. But luckily no one got the idea," he said. He added that he did this film simultaneously along with Gangs of Godavari.

"I had to grow a moustache for Gangs of Godavari, then I had to get rid of it for Mechanic Rocky. I must therefore wait a while for the first movie when I work on this one," said Vishwak Sen about doing it simultaneously. "The accent is also completely different for these two films. For this one it is the Telangana accent; for *Gangs of Godavari* it was the Godavari accent, so I had to adjust," he added.

The actor said that it is not a big thing. "The first two hours may be difficult; after that, I get into the character and can adjust," said Vishwak Sen.

Vishwak Sen earlier turned down the director

for a few other films! In response to the question, Mechanic Rocky, did he dawdle here and there? 'No, I didn't and moreover, director Ravi Teja didn't give me a chance as he completely took over the project," said Vishwak. The earlier film Gangs of Godavari didn't do well because it is reported that Vishwak Sen was involved in the direction for it. "It is not true; I didn't do anything in that direction. There are many bigwigs in that project, like China Babu (producer), Vamsi Anna (Suryadevara Naga Vamsi) and Chaitanya (director). So when these people are around, I can't be involved in the direction department," said Vishwak Sen.

The actor said that they all met and decided with a majority. "We are a group of five or six people that include the director, me, the producer, editor and the cinematographer discuss and share our ideas and then go with the majority," said Vishwak Sen. Asked about the actor sometimes talking like a warning at the public meet-ing of his films, he said 'no.' "Generally I speak loudly, because when I am on stage, I can't hear my voice," he said.

A few days back, at the pre-release function of Mechanic Rocky, Vishwak Sen said, 'Veepulu Paguluthayi' (if anyone writes personal.) "It's not a vulgar word; those are common words used in most of the houses," said the actor. He also pointed out a person at the same function. "No, I didn't point out the regular and established organisations or people. I pointed out a few people who don't want to show their face but write something wrong," clarified the actor.

anything that he wanted to be in the news. 'Now, the media has become huge and whatever I talk about goes viral. But I never wanted to be in the controversy and I know that controversies never help my film business. I was completely silent about Gaami and it collected nearly Rs 10 crores," he said. He added that everyone has frustration, happiness and other emotions in them. "Sometimes the emotions come out," he said. He added that he doesn't know how to talk diplomatically. "I don't know diplomacy and from the beginning I talk about whatever comes to

For another question, he said he didn't say

my mind," he said. The actor said this film is going to have premiere shows in main cities. "I just watched the film and wanted to screen the premiere on November 21," he said. In his upcoming projects, he said there are four films hitting the screens next year. *Laila* completed 60 percent and a film with Anudeep will start soon and also another film with Sudhakar.

VISHWAK SEN. THE **TALENTED ACTOR BEHIND** *GANGS OF* **GODAVARI** AND **GAAMI, IS BACK WITH MECHANIC ROCKY AND** THIS TIME, HE'S **SPEAKING HIS MIND. IN** A CANDID INTERVIEW. **HE DISCUSSES MECHANIC ROCKY. DISPELS RUMOURS AND SHARES HIS VISION FOR HIS UPCOMING PROJECTS!**

Pushpa 2 makers' overly confident?

the sequel to the film featuring Allu Arjun and director Sukumar, Pushpa 2, is scheduled to release on December 5. The makers recently organised a successful promotional event in Patna, leading them to become overly confident about the success of the film, according to the source. Currently in the industry, there are rumours that the film producers have already prepared promotional materials for the first and second day earnings before the film's release. The producers have already prepared promotional boards worth Rs 300 crore to be distributed on the

movie's premiere day.

The film has not been released yet, but the producers are already predicting the first day, second day and weekday's earnings, displaying their excessive confidence, according to a producer, on the condition of anonymity.

"If the film has good content, it automatically collects money; there is hype for this film; promote it carefully and you have to wait till the release of the film," said the producer.

According to a source, the creators invested a significant amount of funds in Pushpa 2 since the production schedule lasts for an extended period and involves hundreds of working days. "For a big star like Allu Arjun, the shooting expenses for

a day are going to be Rs 1 crore and you can imagine how many days they worked for this film," said a source. To earn profits for the producers, the film must amass over Rs 500 crore in revenue. The OTT rights were already sold for almost Rs 250 crore; however, the movie needs to make significant earnings from theatrical releases.

The makers also unveiled the trailer; however, it received mixed feedback as it failed to attract the Telugu viewers much.

"It seems they focused more on the Hindi audience and according to that, they made the trailer," added the source.

Ram Charan's gesture of loyalty; visits Kadapa Dargah 🔍 amid Ayyappa Swamy Deeksha

s a mark of his deep respect and commitment, global superstar Ram Charan attended the 80th at the event as a testament to his principles and humility, transcending religious bound National Mushaira Ghazal event at Kadapa Ameen Peer Dargah as the chief guest, fulfilling a personal request from music maestro A R Rahman. Despite being in Ayyappa Swamy Deeksha, Ram Charan offered prayers, a 'chadar', and flowers at the historic Dargah, spreading a message of unity and harmony. Last year, A R Rahman invited the Game Changer

star to attend the annual Mushaira Ghazal event at Kadapa Dargah and Ram Charan kept his promise.

Ram Charan's admirers are lauding his presence

adds to the excitement surrounding his upcoming film *Game Changer*, which marks his first collaboration with A.R. Rahman. Meanwhile, *Game Changer*, produced by Dil Raju and Sirish under Sri Venkateswara

Creations, promises a cinematic spectacle, with Thaman's riveting music and S S sThirunavukkarasu's stunning visuals. The movie is set for a grand worldwide release on January 10, 2025, in Telugu, Tamil and Hindi.

and humility, transcending religious bound-

aries and showcasing harmony. The visit also

Allu Aravind banking on Sai Pallavi!

N ot long ago, an event was organised by producer Allu Aravind to reveal the release date of his upcoming movie Thandel, which is set to hit the theatres on February 7, 2025. Chandoo Mondeti is the director of this film



starring Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi as the lead pair. The movie is being made under Allu Aravind's Geetha Arts banner with Bunny Vasu, who is associated with the banner, serving as the producer for the film. During the event, Bunny Vas confidently declared that this film is aiming to reach Rs 100 crore for Naga Chaitanya and they are working towards that goal. According to a report, the success of this film is heavily reliant on Sai Pallavi rather than Naga Chaitanya, as per Allu Aravind's strategy. That's the reason they declared

that this movie has surely joined the Rs 100 crore club. Sai Pallavi's latest film Amaran once again solidified her status as a major superstar in the southern film industry. The movie is produced in Tamil but it is also simultaneously released in Telugu. The collections of the

Telugu dubbed version outperformed those of a usual Telugu movie and was a massive success in the Telugu industry. The film continues to perform well at the box office, with trade analysts attributing its success solely to Sai Pallavi

After witnessing the success of the Amaran collections on its launch day, Allu Aravind and Bunny Vas have faith that the film *Thandel* will also achieve strong box office numbers due to Sai Pallavi. The movie was initially set to be released in December and then during Sankranthi, but it is now scheduled to be released alone on February 7. "They are banking on Sai Pallavi for this film and that's why they announced it will give the first Rs 100 crore film for Naga Chaitanya," said a source.

CARDS! KEERTHY CARDS! KEERTHY SURESH SET TO WED SURESH SET TO WED HER LONGTINE BEAU eerthy Suresh, the actress who is preparing to enter

Bollywood with Varun Dhawan's Baby John, will the the knot with her partner Antony Thattil in the second week of December. Reports indicate that Antony, a businessman

WEDDING ON

securiu week ur becember. Reports indicate that Antony, a pusinessi who resides in Dubai, has been in a committed relationship with the with resides in public, has been in a commuted relationship with the individual for 15 years. Reports have mentioned that Keerthy and Antony are pleasing to be a destinction workding in Cos port ment Individual for 15 years, reports have menuoned that reeling and are planning to have a destination wedding in Goa next month. are planning to have a destination wedding in Goa next month. The wedding will take place with the approval of their own families. The levish wedding is est to accur in Coa on December 11 and 19 The weating will take place with the approval of their own lamiles. The lavish wedding is set to occur in Goa on December 11 and 12. A formal declaration of their partnership is expected to be announced in the upcoming days. Rumours suggest Antony Thattil and Keerthy Suresh attended school together and were high school suretheaster Advisor NUMUUIS SUGUESE AMUUIY MALLI and Neeruny Suresh allended school together and were high school sweethearts. Additional Sciloui logeller and were nigh sciloui sweemearts. Additional information regarding Antony, his occupation and his connection with Keerby is anticipated. The Gee wordding will have family information regarding Antony, his occupation and his connectivity with Keerthy is anticipated. The Goa wedding will have family will recently to annicipated. The QUA wedding will have faint members and close friends present. The guest list has not

URE I I REPARENT YEL. In 2023, Keerthy criticised a magazine for referring to her friend as her boyfriend. Her words were, "Hahaha!! I been released yet. dializes the identity of the matched this time! I will disclose the identity of the mysterious man whenever Note: It power and it correct way approved in the meantime! 'Making KCR was life-changing movement for me Note: It never got it correct even once (sic).

him in ensuring that this film would

ocking Rakesh is famous for

hosting the clever comedy

show Jabardasth. The for-

mer actor has transitioned to

becoming a producer and is devel-

oping a movie called KCR: Keshava

Chandra Ramavath. The actor

intentionally used the abbreviation

KCR for the title, which stands for

the ex-Chief Minister of Telangana

and a key figure in the Telangana

movement leader, but to make this film I faced a big movement in my

'Though I put the title with a

Movement.

"I don't know much about films, but I heard that Rakesh came from a village to this stage and he got his own name. He made this film with the inspiration of KCR garu and I am happy for it. KCR is not just a name, it is history and ten years he took the Telangana state into development," said Harish Rao. Several industry professionals and politicians, such as Chadalavada Srinivasa Rao, Siva Balaji, N Shankar, Jaani Master, MLA Desapathi and Rasamayi Balakishan, showed up to congratulate Rakesh and wish him success.

be released on November 22. Anji

to show their support to Rakesh for his hard work. Roja, who transi-



sports 12



Australia have to leave Kohli alone, hope he doesn't bring the intensity: Shane Watson

PTI PERTH

ormer all-rounder Shane Watson has advised the Australian team to avoid getting into confrontations with Virat Kohli in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy as he feels the intensity the celebrated Indian batter derives from provocations brings the best out of him.

Going through a lean run of form, Kohli has enjoyed great success in Australia in the past and will look to regain his touch in the five-match

regain his touch in the five-match Test series, which gets underway on Friday at the Optus Stadium here. Provoking the Indian batting mainstay has often proved to be counterproductive for the Australians, and Watson has Watson has experienced it himself.

"The one thing that I know of Virat is... Because the fire burns so brightly and deep inside him, the intensity he brings to every ball that he is engaged in a game has been superhuman," Watson was quoted as saying on the Willow Talk podcast. "But, there have been in recent times where moments in this career that fire has started to go out because it is just so hard to maintain that intensity in every moment he is involved in a game.

"And, that is where Australia have to leave him alone and hope he doesn't bring the intensity -- nine out of 10 intensity -- to every ball."

Kohli has played 13 Tests in



Australia since 2011, amassing 1,352 runs at an average of 54.08, including six centuries and four fifties, with a top score of 169. While this would be his fifth tour

Down Under in the longest format, Kohli's best outing came during the

2014-15 series when he aggregated 692 runs in four Tests at an average of 86.50, including four hundreds and a half-century. These remarkable numbers are not lost on Watson. "We have seen that when he

middle. Every ball he is up for every single moment.

he brings, and if he gets that, then it shuts everything else out. That is has had success in Australia, he is up when he is at his absolute best.

and above for everything in the

"You can see the fierce intensity that

"If there is stuff happening around and that intensity is not there, that is when you will see the not-so-best version of Virat. So from an Australian perspective, let's hope we get to see that version of him," Watson said.

Kohli's performance in the red-ball format this year has been below par, managing just 250 runs in six Tests at an average of 22.72.

'Smith wasn't actually batting at his best as an opener'

When the discussion turned to Australian batting, Watson backed Steve Smith to bring the very best of him against the formidable Indian bowling attack.

Smith will be back at his usual number four slot after struggling as opener following the retirement of David Warner.

"Steve wanted to open. He was super keen to take up a new challenge. But, one thing with that opportunity he had was he wasn't actually batting at his best at that time," Watson noted. his best at that time, Watson noted. "So, he got an opportunity to open, and Steve Smith at his very best would have made the most out of it because he just loves scoring runs, whether it is opening or at No. 4. You could see it a few times he got out when he was opening – his game out when he was opening – his game and his technique was a little bit off." For the marquee series against fierce rivals India, the Australian selectors have picked 25-year-old uncapped

Nathan McSweeney to open the innings alongside Usman Khawaja.



I've got nothing but respect for Virat, he's a champion: Lyon

PTI 📕 PERTH

Virat Kohli has been struggling for form of late but veteran Australia spinner has nothing but respect for the Indian super star, who he says is a champion you can not write off.

Kohli has been enduring a lean patch 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. But Lyon remains wary of what

Kohli could do in the five-match Test series beginning here on Friday. "Overall, look at his record. You

don't write off champions. I've got nothing but respect for Virat," Lyon was quoted as saying by cricket.Com.Au. "I want to get him out, there's

no point in hiding behind that, but it's challenging. It's been pretty amazing competing against him for so many times. "Him and Smithy (Steve Smith) are probably the best two batters in our last era of this last decade," said the 36-year-old off-spinner with 530 wickets from 129 Tests.

Lyon is one of the four members of the current squad who were part of Australia's last successful Test series against India in 2014-15.

India have won the last two series in Australia but they have come here after a shock 0-3 loss at home against New Zealand. Lyon doesn't believe that India are vulnerable this time around. "They're dangerous all the time. They're a side full of superstars. They've got so much experience, but talented youth as well and you can never write off that," said Lyon, who took 22 wickets when Australia toured India in 2023.



Kane believes 2026 World Cup won't be his England swansong



PTI NEW DELHI

Rishabh Pant on Tuesday rejected the Gavaskar's assessment that the India wicketkeeper-batter left Delhi Capitals due to disagreement over his retention fee ahead of the mega auction of the Indian

Premier League. Pant, who captained Delhi Capitals last year after making a comeback from a horrific car accident, is among the marquee players who were not retained but the fourth international states of the sta by their franchises.

He is expected to be one of the most sought-after players when the auction takes place in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on November 24 and 25.

"My retention wasn't about the money for sure that I can say," Pant wrote on X. responding to a broadcaster video Savaskar talking about the showing (



Capitals to rope in Pant once again, he also wondered if there was a disagreement over the fee between the franchise and the player. The auction dynamics



would certainly want Rishabh Pant back in the squad," Gavaskar told Star Sports. "Sometimes, when a player is to be retained, there is talk between the franchise and the player and franchise

have been retained by the franchise, they've gone for more than say, what the No 1 retention fee deduction would be. Clearly I think, maybe there was some disagreement over there," he said. Gavaskar said Delhi Capitals will have

to look for a new captain as well if Pant is not there in the roster.

"My feeling is that Delhi would definitely want Pant back because they need a captain as well. If Rishabh Pant is not in their squad then they have to look for a new captain. My feeling is (that) Delhi would definitely go for Rishabh Pant," he said.

Pant, along with other former captains Shreyas Iyer (Kolkata Knight Riders) and KL Rahul (Lucknow Super Giants), is listed at a base price of Rs 2 crore each

among marquee Indian players. Pant has always been a part of the Delhi franchise since his IPL debut in 2016, auction dynamics. accord will go. But what I feel is that Delhi "As you can see, some of the players who century and 18 fifties in 111 matches. scoring 3,284 runs at 35.31 with one

AP LONDON

Captain Harry Kane believes the 2026 World Kane Cup will not be his last appearance for England.

There is increasing scrutiny about the 31-year-old Kane's future, even though he extended his all-time England scoring record to 69 goals in 103 appearances as Ireland was beaten 5-0 on Sunday at Wembley Stadium.

The Bayern Munich striker was surprisingly omitted from the 3-0 win against Greece last Thursday.

A statue and mural of Kane were unveiled on Monday at the east London home of his former youth team Ridgeway Rovers. The British Press Association asked him if the 2026 World Cup is his last "It's pretty special to be identity on the way we play shot at glory for England. "I honest, these are things I tactically.

don't think so," he said. "I think there's a perception when you get to your 30s that you're coming to an end, but for me I'm performing at the highest level I've ever performed and feel as good as I've ever felt, so it's about taking in the moment.

"I don't like to look too far ahead, and in my career I never have.

"The World Cup (in the U.S., Mexico and Canada) is going to be exciting. In America it will be an incredible occasion

and ultimately it's about trying to win that, looking at where you are, where to improve and it will be no different in a couple of years." Kane started playing at Ridgeway Rovers at age five, and liked his statue.

didn't think of when I was young. It all began here and it was the building blocks of my career. This is a great inspiration for the boys and girls who play." Asked what it will take for him to have a statue outside Wembley, alongside Bobby Moore, England's 1966 World

Cup-winning captain, Kane said, "I think we need to win a

major tournament. "We've come close on a couple of occasions and the next step is for me and the other boys to win.

We have a new coach coming in March (Thomas Tuchel). He'll be great for us, he has vast experience in the big competitions, he'll bring a great energy to the team and he'll put his own stamp and

India's confidence 'damaged' but Australia won't underestimate visitors: Labuschagne

PTI 📕 PERTH

 $A^{\rm shattering \ defeat \ to \ New}_{\rm Zealand \ on \ home \ soil}$ would have caused a "little bit of damage" to India's confidence but Australia will not make the mistake of underestimating the visitors, said charismatic batter Marnus Labuschagne here on Tuesday. The world No. 2 India are heading into the five-Test Border-Gavaskar series. starting here on Friday, following their whitewash at home, which ended their 12year unbeaten run in their own backvard.

Australia's middle-order Labuschagne mainstay believes the loss to the Kiwis would have dented India's confidence.

"It's really hard to judge. They

played in completely different conditions — spinning conditions — but having India conditions come here off the back of a loss at home is something that's never happened before (in my career)," Labuschagne told the media.

"I think that is a good thing in terms of... They are probably a little bit lower on confidence, not coming off a Test victory, losing to New Zealand 3-0. I think that's going to do a little bit of damage to their

confidence." Labuschagne However, insisted that Australia, who have lost each of their last four series to India both home and away, will have to guard against complacency. "They're a quality line-up and they're one of the best teams in the world. So you can never

Australia tour in 2020-21 to win 2-1, despite the absence of regular skipper Virat Kohli and injuries to several other

frontline players along the way.



underestimate a team like that," he said.

"That's what happened in 2021 — the likes of (T) India staged an incredible comeback on their last Natarajan played, Natarajan piayeu, (Mohammad) Siraj got his first crack in Australia, Washington Sundar played," Labuschagne recalled. "They had all these guys that

those couple of games (in the 2020-21 series) - so there were new faces around," he added.

With India set to take the field without regular captain Rohit Sharma and No. 3 batter Gill in the first Test at the Optus Stadium here, Labuschagne said India have enough talent in their ranks to meet all challenges.

"They're a quality line-up and they've showed that over a period of time. You can't ever underestimate the depth of

Indian cricket," he said. "Anyone that's gets the opportunity to play for India have had to do a lot of hard work and find their way into that side... To actually play for a team like that, you have to be were probably a little bit new a very good player," — Shubman (Gill) played Labuschagne added.

Shastri confident 'world class' Jaiswal will return from Australia as a better batter

PTI PERTH

Former India head coach Ravi Shastri is confident that the "already world class" Yashasvi Jaiswal will return from the Australian tour a significantly improved batter, no matter the challenges he

encounters along the way. Shastri said if Jaiswal can adapt to the challenging Perth pitch, known for its lively bounce, the young opener will play with freedom later on in the series. "I think he'll be a better player when he leaves Australian shores. Already he's world class," Shastri said at a Fox Cricket event.

'You saw what he did against England (and) just the freedom with which he plays. "I think once he adapts to these

conditions – it's not going to be easy to adjust in Perth with

talented you are. You have got to be prepared to do the hard

yards. "But if he can see that phase through, I think he'll entertain. He will love these pitches. He's someone who score pretty freely as well."

Hailed as one of Indian cricket's brightest young talents, the 21-year-old made a dazzling start to his Test career. He cemented his spot in the team with a stunning series performance against England earlier this year.

"He's come up the hard way, so you can see that hunger and passion, not just in his eyes, but when he's out there in the middle, fielding in the slips. He wants to be involved in the

game." Having led India to two series victories in Australia, Shastri knows firsthand that defeating that bounce, no matter how the Aussies on their home turf



is no easy feat. "It's going to be tough," Shastri

said. "As I found out on my three has to come to the park very early if you want to catch

Australia on the wrong foot. "You don't want to give an inch. I think that is the only way. There is no other way you you're not going to get an inch. "You have got to understand very early what to expect from the media as well, because they'll be behind the Australian team. "You mellow with age, don't you? But I think at the start of the Test series, you might just see (Kohli) firing again.He needs to be, I'd like to see him (Here that) again," Shastri was

get out there and play as hard as it gets be ready for some tough cricket and perform, the media will respect you." 'You will see Kohli firing in the start of the series'

Virat Kohli has been enduring

a lean patch across all formats in recent months, with just two centuries and 11 half-centuries

in his last 60 Test innings. tours here as a coach, you have However, despite these to be at your best. Your A game struggles, Kohli boasts a remarkable record in Australia.

Having toured Down Under four times, the right-hander averages an impressive 54.0, and Shastri has once again can play. You've got to, or backed the veteran batter to you're not going to get an inch. excel in the upcoming series. excel in the upcoming series.

(like that) again," Shastri was quoted as saying by saying news.Com.Au.

"In the face, that's Kohli. Come Australia, he'll get his juices going. It's (about) how he starts off, and for Australia, it's with Steve Smith."