

QUOTE OF THE DAY
The pioneer
 If Rahul Gandhi is honest about his corruption charges against Adani, why hasn't he asked the Telangana Congress government to cancel its agreements with the Adani Group? How can the Congress portray Adani as corrupt in Delhi and treat him as trustworthy in Telangana? The Telangana Congress Government accepted a Rs 100 crore donation from the Adani Group for the Telangana Skill University. The donation must be immediately returned

- KT Ramarao, BRS working president

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Tawde seeks apology from Rahul, Kharge; warns of defamation lawsuit

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THUKRA KE
 MERA PYAAR: LOVE LOST IN EXECUTION

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RC 16 begins in Mysore; Ram Charan and Janhvi Kapoor to join

NEXT WEEK

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DON'T MISS...

'HYDRAA will conduct survey'

Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) held a brainstorming session on rejuvenation of urban lakes and fixing boundaries for Full Tank Level (FTL) on Friday. There were no conclusive reports drawn from the meeting but experts such as retired engineers, professors and environmental experts have explained the terms of Shikam land and suggested ground survey for ...

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'TG at forefront in several sectors'

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, who is the in-charge Minister for Nalgonda, asserted that the State is at the forefront in several sectors of the country. He made these comments during the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee meeting held at the Udayaditya Building on the Collectorate premises in Nalgonda on Friday. The meeting was chaired by Nalgonda member of Lok

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All eyes on outcome of UP bypolls today

The counting of votes for the bypolls to nine Assembly segments in Uttar Pradesh, the first major face-off between the ruling BJP and its political rivals since the Lok Sabha polls held earlier in the year, will be taken up at 8 am on Saturday amid tight security arrangements, officials said. While the results of the bypolls will not directly impact the composition of the 403-member state Assembly, the contest is being seen as a prestige ...

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Shares of six Adani firms bounce back

Shares of six Adani group firms bounced back on Friday from the previous day's sharp drubbing, in tandem with a bull rally in the equity market wherein the BSE benchmark Sensex zoomed 1,961 points. The stock of Ambuja Cements jumped 3.50 per cent, ACC climbed 3.17 per cent, the group's flagship firm Adani Enterprises advanced 2.16 per cent, Adani Ports rose 2.05 per cent, Adani Total Gas shot up by 1.18 per cent, and NDTV edged up 0.65 per cent on ...

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CM A Revanth Reddy and IT & Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu with Green Pharma Companies' representatives at the Secretariat on Friday

Six Pharma firms to invest Rs 5,260 cr in Hyd

- Sign MoUs with Government
- Plants to creat 12,490 jobs

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Prominent pharma companies have come forward to make huge investments in Hyderabad. The companies have entered into MoUs with the TG Government to expand operations and also establish pollution-free green pharmaceutical plants.

The representatives of pharma companies held talks with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu at the secretariat on Friday.

The representatives of the MSN Group, Laurus Labs, Gland Pharma, Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Aurobindo Pharma, Hetero Labs, TSIIIC Chairperson Nirmala Jagga Reddy, CM's Special Secretary Ajith Reddy, Industries Department Special Chief Secretary Jayesh Ranjan and

Vishnuvardhan Reddy attended the meeting.

The managements of the pharmaceutical companies signed MoUs to set up plants investing around Rs 5,260 crore creating around 12,490 jobs. The government will allocate land for setting up the new manufacturing units in Pharma City.

As per the MoUs, MSN Laboratory will set up a manufacturing unit along with an R&D centre. Laurus Labs and Aurobindo Pharma will establish formulation units. Gland Pharma is ready to open an R&D centre and a plant for manufacturing injectable drugs and drug substance manufacturing units. Dr Reddy's Labs will establish an injectable and biosimilar unit. Hetero Labs will set up a finished dose and

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BRIBERY CHARGES AGAINST ADANI IN US

Will study and act on it: AP CM

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Friday said the state government is in possession of the "chargesheet reports" filed in the US related to the alleged bribery scam involving the previous YSRCP government and the Adani Group, and "promised" to act on the irregularities.

Business tycoon and Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani has been charged by the US Department of Justice over his role in an alleged years-long scheme to pay USD 250 million bribe to Indian officials in exchange for favourable terms for solar power



contracts, an allegation refuted by the Indian conglomerate.

The previous YSRCP regime is embroiled in the alleged scam with claims that government officials received bribes from the Adani Group.

Addressing the Assembly, the Chief Minister said his government will study those charges and act on them. "I have all the chargesheet reports filed there (US). It is in the public domain. Will study it (the allegations and indictment). Will act on it and inform you," said Naidu.

He noted that over the past five months, the TDP-led government has been discussing the alleged corruption

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Arrest warrants, extradition bid likely

PNS ■ NEW YORK

With the US filing civil and criminal charges against billionaire Gautam Adani and seven others over a multi-million-dollar bribery scheme, a prominent attorney here has said that the case could escalate significantly, potentially leading to arrest warrants and even extradition attempts.

Adani, India's second-richest man, and seven others, including his nephew Sagar Adani, have been

charged by the US Department of Justice with paying bribes to unidentified officials of state governments in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha to buy expensive solar power, potentially earning more than US\$ 2 billion in profit over 20 years.

Adani Group, however, denied the charges saying the allegations by US prosecutors are "baseless" and the conglomerate is "compliant with all laws".

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No time frame for Speaker to decide disqualification petitions: HC

Speaker must consider Anti-Defection Law, Assembly term

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana High Court Chief Justice's Bench dismissed the single Judge's verdict saying that the Telangana Assembly Speaker should finalise a schedule to decide the disqualification petitions filed against the BRS MLAs who had defected.

The Bench suggested that the Speaker should decide on the dis-

qualification petition keeping in mind the Anti-Defection Law and



the five-year term of the Assembly. The CJ's Bench also suggested that the Speaker should take a decision on the disqualification petitions as per the Tenth (X) Schedule.

It may be recalled that a single judge of the High Court had ordered on September 9 that the Assembly Secretary should convey within four weeks a time frame for deciding the

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HC VERDICT GIVES RELIEF

Congress to speed up inductions of BRS MLAs

KOLISHETTY VENKATESHWARLU venkat.k.warlu@gmail.com ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress is jubilant after the High Court verdict on the petition seeking the disqualification of the BRS MLAs who had defected to the Congress. The MLAs who had defected also heaved a sigh of relief. Now the Congress will resume its Operation Akarsh aimed at BRS MLAs.

The High Court dismissed the single bench's direction to the

Assembly Secretary to prepare a schedule to decide on the disqualification petitions and said that the Speaker should take a decision keeping in mind the Anti-Defection Law and the five-year term of the Assembly.

Meanwhile, TPCC President B. Mahesh Kumar Goud reiterated on Friday that there will be more inductions of BRS MLAs. The party will soon give clarity on how many more MLAs will join the Congress. BRS leaders

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BRS plans to approach SC

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Bharat Rastra Samithi will approach the Supreme Court if the Telangana Assembly Speaker fails to take a decision on defections, BRS working president KT Rama Rao said.

Reacting to the High Court verdict on the disqualification petitions on Friday, he recalled that the govern-

ment had argued that the court has no right to direct the Speaker. However, the High Court Chief Justice said that the Speaker should take a decision on the disqualification petitions within a reasonable time.

KTR said the Supreme Court in its verdict on the Manipur case had made it clear that "reasonable time means three months."

Centre must arrest Adani, says TPCC chief Mahesh

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Demanding that the Centre should arrest industrialist Gautham Adani immediately as US officials have 'exposed' Adani's scam, TPCC President B. Mahesh Kumar Goud said the Telangana Congress government would not mind if industrialist Gautham Adani's group operates fairly as the government would accept anyone who does legitimate business.

Mahesh said the Congress government did not allow even a single 'gunta' of land to the Adani Group. Adani gave a donation of Rs 100 crore for the Skill University and not to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy personally. The Congress government will accept even if BRS Working President KT Rama Rao gives a donation of Rs 50 crore.

He said that if Adani is found guilty, the Congress government's contracts with

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TPCC Chief B Mahesh Kumar Goud addressing the media at Gandhi Bhavan on Friday



'Nation first' key to India's progress: Prez Murmu

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Rashtrapati Bhavan as 'Ganatantra Mandap' were notable instances, saying this renaming aligns with the ancient tradition of democracy.

The president, who was addressed a gathering at the inauguration of Lokmanthan-2024, a colloquium of "nationalist thinkers" in Hyderabad, also referred to the installation of the new 'Lady Justice' statue in the Supreme Court of India, terming it

as another commendable step in eradicating colonial mentality. Murmu said colonial rulers not only "exploited India economically" but also sought to "dismantle its social fabric".

"The rulers who disregarded our rich intellectual traditions created a sense of cultural inferiority among citizens. Such practices were imposed,

as another commendable step in eradicating colonial mentality. Murmu said colonial rulers not only "exploited India economically" but also sought to "dismantle its social fabric".

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Phased relocation of villages under Tiger Reserves: Surekha

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The relocation of villages coming under Tiger Reserves will be done in phases along with rehabilitation measures, said Konda Surekha, the Minister for Forests, Environment and Endowments.

Surekha was speaking at a meeting held on Friday with the governing bodies of Amrabad and Kawal Tiger Reserves, chaired by her at the secretariat. The Minister appreciated the Forest Department's attempts to increase the deer population to enhance the availability of food for tigers. Surekha also suggested exploring land and water travel options to the Akkamahadevi caves and including the Saleshwaram fair

in future tourism plans. Forest officials informed her that



four villages in the Amrabad Tiger Reserve would be shifted to Punarao

centres and that the Maisampet and Rampur Nests in the Kawal Tiger Reserve would be evacuated in the first phase. Officials briefed the Minister through PPT on ecotourism developments in Amrabad, including circuits like Mannannur, Maddimadugu, Somasila-Domalapenta and proposed future projects. Compensation ranging from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh was also discussed.

Surekha emphasised the emotional connection of people with these areas and asked officials to ensure smooth rehabilitation. She approved the significance of these reserves and called for continuous efforts to protect them. MLAs and local leaders also attended the meeting.

SPF embarrasses Congress MLA Megha Reddy

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress's Wanaparthi MLA, Megha Reddy, faced embarrassment at the Secretariat on Friday when the Special Protection Force (SPF) asked him to stay aside as Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari is arriving.

The incident happened on the sixth floor of the Secretariat. The SPF police took light of Megha Reddy even though he said that he is an MLA. The irritated MLA argued with the SPF and asked them whether everyone has to keep away when the CS enters the sixth floor of the secretariat.

Ghosh panel seeks more documents on Kaleshwaram barrages

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Commission probing the Kaleshwaram Project sought some more documents about the Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages.

Commission Chairman Justice PC Ghosh informed on Friday that it will conduct its next hearing from Monday onwards and that it will examine the 14 field-level engineers who had worked at

Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages. Later, the Commission will cross-examine IAS officers and retired officials. The Commission would also question contractors and other people who had submitted affidavits.

The Commission concentrated on the system of hiring subcontractors for barrage works and will seek information from field-level engineers. After that, the Commission will

concentrate on financial issues and funds. The Commission will consider the CAG and Vigilance reports and examine officials who handled accounts.

On Friday, the Commission directed the Irrigation Department to submit some more documents about the three barrages. The Commission has already come to an understanding about several issues regarding the three barrages of the Kaleshwaram Project.

Rahul's big blow to Congress over Adani

By now, the media has widely reported that Gautam Adani, the Chairman of the Adani group, has been indicted in a New York court. The indictment alleges that Adani and others conspired to and bribed Indian politicians and officials to sign power purchase agreements (PPAs) for the renewable power produced by one of his companies. On Thursday, Rahul Gandhi addressed the press about Adani's indictment in a US court. He opened with the statement, "It's now pretty clear and established in America that Mr Adani has broken both American law and Indian law." He immediately followed up, saying, "He has been indicted in the United States, and I am wondering why Mr Adani is still running a free man in this country".

Rahul's statements raise many questions that only Adani can answer. Rahul says Adani was indicted. An indictment means prosecutors filed a case against an individual accusing him of crimes. Rahul claims it has already been established that Gautam Adani has broken American and Indian laws. One wonders why Rahul would make two statements, one after the other, that contradict each other. Is it because he does not understand the difference between an indictment and a conviction, wherein the prosecution proves its allegations? It is hard to believe Rahul is ignorant of the difference between indictment and conviction, especially since he faces multiple court cases or indictments himself. For example, Rahul and his mother, Sonia Gandhi, face fraud and land-grabbing allegations

If Adani had indeed paid bribes, as alleged in the indictment, this implies two things: the leaders of Congress and its ally DMK are guilty of demanding and receiving bribes, and their corruption is the reason Indian investors lost more than 2 lakh crore in the stock market on Thursday

in the National Herald case and are out on bail. Multiple cases of criminal defamation are also pending against him. Yet, he is still running a free man in this country. Rahul may not see the double standard in this because he believes the law does not apply to him and his family members as it applies to the rest of Indians. Another explanation could be that Rahul has immense faith in investigative and regulatory agencies and prosecu-

tors and considers they do not need to prove their accusations in a court of law. But, we have seen Rahul rejecting cases filed by agencies like the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) as bogus and politically driven. Rahul and his Congress party often denigrate and cast aspersions on Indian institutions like the Army, Election Commission, Securities and Exchange



KISHORE POREDDY

Board of India (SEBI) and even the Supreme Court and its judges. Yet, it appears Rahul reposes complete faith in foreign ones. Rahul's and Congress leaders' calls to foreign countries to meddle in India's democracy imply this to be the case.

The main accusation in the indictment against Gautam Adani is that he bribed Indian politicians and officials of various Indian states to secure power purchase agreements for the solar energy his company produces. The indictment lists Chattisgarh, which the Congress ruled at the time of the alleged offence, and Tamil Nadu, ruled by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), an alliance partner of the Congress. The list does not mention any state government ruled by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). If Adani had indeed paid bribes as alleged in the indictment, it means that leaders of Congress and its ally DMK were guilty of demanding and receiving those bribes. If the allegations are true, it implies that the greed of the corrupt Congress and its alliance partner, the

DMK, along with the leaders of the YSRCP and BJD parties ruling Andhra Pradesh and Odisha at the time of the alleged offence, are the sole reason for Indian investors losing more than Rs 2 lakh crore in the stock market on Thursday. If anyone, it is Rahul, the de facto owner of the Congress and leader of the INDI Alliance, to which the DMK belongs, who is answerable to the allegations of corruption raised in the indictment filed in the US court. Rahul should come clean on the bribes Congress leaders received in Chattisgarh. He should reveal the quantum of bribes and names of the Congress leaders who received those bribes and immediately expel those leaders from his party. Also, Rahul should demand Stalin, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu,

and the DMK supremo do the same. If the DMK does not oblige, he should immediately expel the party from the INDI alliance. Otherwise, Indians will continue to place little faith in his argument that Adani indulged in corrupt practices and that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is shielding Adani. On the contrary, if Rahul asserts his party in Chattisgarh and his ally, the DMK in Tamil Nadu, did not receive any bribes, it only implies one thing. Rahul, who could not defeat BJP in the last three elections and couldn't win even three-digit seats for his party, bringing his leadership ability into question, is ready to inflict any pain on India and Indians to divert their attention from his failures. (The author is BJP TS spokesperson.)

Rahul must ask govt to cancel deals with Adani: KTR

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Rahul Gandhi must direct the Telangana Congress leadership and the TG Chief Minister to immediately scrap all agreements with the Adani Group, BRS Working President KT Rama Rao (KTR) said.

Addressing a press conference here at the Telangana Bhavan on Friday, KTR highlighted the contradictory stances of Congress leaders regarding the Adani Group. He accused Rahul of hypocrisy for criticising Adani's alleged corruption at the national level while remaining silent about the Telangana Congress government's close links with the group.

He pointed out that the Congress Government of Telangana had entered into business agreements worth Rs



12,400 crore with the Adani Group, including investments in green energy, data centres and cement plants.

"If Rahul is honest about his corruption charges levelled against the Adani group,

why hasn't he asked the Telangana Congress government to cancel these agreements? How can the Congress portray Adani as corrupt in Delhi and treat him as trustworthy in Telangana" KTR said.

He said the Telangana Congress had accepted a donation of Rs 100 crore from the Adani Group for the Telangana Skill University. He demanded that the donation should be immediately returned if the Congress leadership believes in its own rhetoric about Adani's corruption.

"Rahul and Revanth are engaging in opportunism. They must clarify their stance on Adani to the people of Telangana," KTR said. KTR called on Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to explain his meetings and busi-

ness dealings with Adani.

He also asked whether the TG Congress leadership supports the demand for Adani's arrest by the party's national leadership or whether it is complicit in the alleged irregularities. "Revanth must disclose his stand on Adani to the people of Telangana. How can he criticise Adani on the one hand and engage in large-scale business deals with him on the other?" KTR asked.

KTR clarified that the BRS government had rejected all proposals from the Adani Group and has consistently opposed the privatisation of public sector enterprises and resources.

He accused the Congress of 'prioritising' private corporate interests over the welfare of the Telangana people and demanded transparency in all its agreements made with the Adani Group.

Former sarpanch commits suicide in Kondareddypalli

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

The suicide by Kondareddypalli former sarpanch P Sai Reddy on Friday caused a stir in the district. Kondareddypalli happens to be CM Revanth Reddy's native village. In a purported suicide note, Sai Reddy alleged that he took the extreme step was due to 'harassment' by the CM and his brothers. It is alleged that he had been facing severe harassment from the followers of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and his brothers ever since he gave an interview to a Delhi channel. Unable to bear the harassment, Sai Reddy took the extreme step on Friday, his family members said.

Increase quotas for BCs in local bodies: Kavitha

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Jagruthi has announced that it would submit a detailed report to the BC Dedicated Commission established by the TG Government. The report focuses on the caste survey and the need for hiking reservations for Backward Classes (BCs) in local body elections. Telangana Jagruthi President BRS MLC Kavitha and Telangana Jagruthi leaders will soon present the report to the Commission Chairman, Busani Venkateswara Rao.

Before submitting the report, Kavitha convened a meeting with Telangana Jagruthi leaders and key activists at her residence on Friday. Speaking at the meeting MLC Kavitha emphasised that weaker sections, particu-



BRS MLC Kavitha addressing the Telangana Jagruthi meeting on Friday

larly BCs, continue to face inadequate representation in education and employment. She urged governments to bridge these gaps and bring the 'marginalised' to the forefront.

She asserted that political representation for BCs must be strengthened. Kavitha called on the state govt to increase reservations in local bodies for BCs. To prove its sincerity in

addressing the concerns of BCs.

The Telangana Jagruthi had organised round-table meetings in all districts to gather inputs on the caste census and the need to increase reservations for BCs in local bodies. These discussions involved leaders from BC associations, intellectuals, journalists and others who shared their perspectives.

Congress to ...

Continued from page 1

close to BRS Working President KT Rama Rao are in touch with the Congress, he said. Mahesh's statement gives the impression that the Congress may bag 16 more BRS MLAs to ease the Speaker's job on the disqualification petitions as already 10 BRS MLAs have joined the Congress. The Congress would then get a chance to merge the BRS into the CLP without any problem.

Meanwhile, Government Whip Adi Srinivas's statement that only five to six MLAs will remain in the BRS and that KCR will stay in his farmhouse, KTR in the guest house and Harish Rao will be confined to Nursing House indicates that the Congress will bag more BRS MLAs.

One Congress leader said that BRS MLAs, who were interested in joining the Congress and had gone back after the High Court single bench verdict, may join the Congress soon. However, it depends on the Congress high command, he said and added that the High Court verdict will definitely change the political scenario in the state.

8 Bangladeshis on way to Hyd arrested in Tripura

PNS ■ AGARTALA

Eight Bangladesh nationals, who allegedly entered India illegally, were arrested from a railway station in Tripura on their way to Hyderabad, police said. Spotting suspicious movement in front of the ticket counter at the Teliamura railway station in Khowai

district, a joint team of BSF and GRP detained four men and four women for interrogation, they said.

"During questioning, it was found that they were planning to go to Hyderabad in search of livelihood. Since they have illegally entered Indian territory, they were arrested

immediately," said Gautam Debbarma, the officer-in-charge of Teliamura GRP. They were produced before a local court, seeking remand, he said.

Debbarma said those arrested told the police that they crossed the international border at Karbook in Gomati district on Thursday.

Young India Schools in 26 more places

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The TG government which granted in principle sanction for establishing Young India Integrated Residential School Complexes in 28 Assembly constituencies during phase-I of the project, has accorded in principle sanction for establishing similar school complexes in another 26 Assembly constituencies in phase-II.

The 26 school complexes are in Bodhan, Peddapalli, Dornakal, Sathupalli, Wyra, Kodak, Kothagudem, Nakrakal, Nagarajuna Sagar, Tandur, Makthal, Ramagundam, Narayanapet, Jukkai, Choppandani, Kalwakurthy, Nizamabad Rural, Wanaparthy, Chevella, Jagtial, Vikarabad, Gadwal, Dharmapuri, Medak, Medchal and Armoor.

HC verdict on disqualification pleas slap on BRS: Adi

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The High Court verdict on petitions seeking the disqualification of BRS MLAs who had defected to the Congress is a slap on BRS leaders, Government Whip Adi Srinivas said.

He said the HC had commented that the Speaker has all rights to take a decision on

TG Police secures 25- highest convictions against child labour

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Women Safety Wing of Telangana Police, in coordination with the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (ANTU), has secured the highest number of convictions in September 2024, according to the Association for Voluntary Action (AVA) report.

A total of 25 convictions were achieved, a significant increase from the eight recorded in March 2024. All accused were found guilty under the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 (CAL-PRA, 1986), and the Juvenile

Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act, 2015).

The cumulative fines amounted to Rs 1,064,000, with sentences ranging from 5 days to 4 months of simple imprisonment. Shikha Goel, Director General of the Women Safety Wing, emphasised the importance of these achievements, stating:

"This significant increase in convictions reflects our commitment to upholding the law and protecting the rights of children.

Our proactive measures are critical in ensuring a safe and secure environment for the youth of Telangana," she added.

Jagan turning it into 'Adani Pradesh'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) president YS Sharmila on Friday accused her brother and former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy of giving the state as a "blank cheque" to the Adani Group and allegedly turning it into "Adani Pradesh".

Sharmila's comments come in the wake of Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani being charged by the US Department of Justice over his role in a years-long scheme to pay US\$ 250 million bribe to Indian officials in exchange for favourable solar power contracts, an allegation refuted by the Indian conglomerate. The erstwhile YSRCP regime is embroiled in the alleged scam with claims that government officials received bribes worth hundreds of crores of rupees from the Adani Group. "Jagan gave Andhra Pradesh state as a blank cheque to Adani and turned it into Adani Pradesh. He mortgaged the sentiments of Andhra people for a bribe of Rs 1,750 crore," Sharmila alleged, while addressing a press conference.

According to the Congress leader, Jagan's alleged corruption sparked discussions at the global level, bringing "infamy" to the YSR family and an "insult" to the southern state.

Centre must arrest ...

Continued from page 1

Adani will be cancelled in Telangana. Targeting BRS Working President KT Rama Rao, Mahesh said the Adani Group's operations were going on during BRS rule also and that Adani's money went into the pockets of BRS leaders.

He said the Congress government has no objection if anyone does business as per the law and that the Congress is demanding a Joint Parliamentary Committee probe on Adani episode.

PM Modi has to quit if the JPC has to conduct an impartial inquiry into the Adani issue, Mahesh said. "The Telangana Congress Government will proceed as per the report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on agreements made by the Adani Group in Telangana, he said.

Addressing the media at the Gandhi Bhavan on Friday, Mahesh said that nobody responded on the Adani issue even though Rahul Gandhi had raised Adani's corruption several times.

"The Centre 'gave' thousands of crores as loans to Adani. The assets of the Adani and Ambani groups 'increased hundreds of times' after Modi came to power. Modi 'relaxed' rules for Adani and Ambani. Adani 'manipulated' the stock market. Why is the Prime Minister not speaking about Adani? The Prime Minister must resign if Adani is convicted. That is why the PM is not speaking," he said.

Mahesh said that deeds done with political greed are more dangerous than the greed for money. He said the Congress stands for the 'development' of the poor.

'Nation first' ...

Continued from page 1 undermining our unity. Centuries of subjugation left citizens with a mentality of slavery. Instilling the feeling of 'Nation First' is essential to develop India," she said. She stressed the importance of citizens understanding India's cultural and intellectual heritage and contributing to the strengthening of its invaluable traditions.

Efforts to divide Indian society and create artificial differences were aimed at weakening unity. However, she noted that the spirit of Bharatiyata (Indian-ness) kept the flame of national unity alive. Whether we are 'vanasis' (forest dwellers), villagers, or city dwellers, we are all Indians first.

Will study ...

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that took place between 2019 and 2024. The YSRCP had on Thursday dismissed the allegations made against the government headed by it and said there was no direct agreement with the Adani group.

Highlighting that the allegations involving the YSRCP regime and Adani group, have hurt the prestige and brand image of the southern state, Naidu termed it as a "very sad development".

Some members in the House wanted former CM Jagan Mohan Reddy to be held accountable if the charges against him are proven.

Six Pharma firms ...

Continued from page 1

injectable manufacturing plant. The Chief Minister directed officials to allot land to the pharma companies so that they can start construction in the next four months and also provide facilities in Pharma City.

Dr Reddy's Labs Director Satish Reddy, Laurus Labs ED VV Ravikumar, Gland Pharma CEO Srinivas, MS Labs CMD MSN Reddy, Aurobindo Director Madan Mohan Reddy and Hetero Group Managing Director B. Vamsi Krishna attended the meeting.

No time frame ...

Continued from page 1 disqualification pleas pending before the Speaker.

While dealing with the case, the Bench of Chief Justice Alok Aadhe and Justice Srinivas Rao opposed setting any time frame for the Speaker to decide the issue. However, it asked him to decide on the pleas within a reasonable time.

The CJ's Bench said that the Speaker, as chairman of the tribunal constituted under the Tenth (X) schedule of the Constitution, must keep in mind the purpose of this schedule and the Anti-Defection Law.

The Speaker must also keep in mind the tenure of the Assembly and resolve pending disqualification pleas before him within a reasonable time, the bench said while disposing of the three appeals filed by the Assembly Secretary who had

challenged the order of the single judge and its legal validity in view of the powers the Speaker has at the pre-decisional stage.

The Assembly Secretary contended that courts can review the Speaker's decision only after the Speaker takes a decision and not before that. The pending disqualification pleas pertain to the three legislators Kadiam Srihari, Danam Nagender and Tellam Venkat Rao who defected to the Congress from the BRS.

The BRS had filed three pleas seeking the disqualification of all the three MLAs. The BJLP's leader filed another plea seeking the disqualification of Danam Nagender who had contested from the Secunderabad Lok Sabha constituency on a Congress ticket immediately after getting elected as the Khairatabad MLA on a BRS ticket.

Arrest warrants ...

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"US Attorney Breon Peace has the right to get arrest warrants issued against Adani and seven others indicted and serve them on the nations where they reside," Indian-American attorney Ravi Batra told PTI on Thursday.

He further said, "If that nation, as India does, has an extradition treaty then according to the bilateral contract between sovereign nations, the resident nation must turn over

the person extradited by the United States. There is a process that the resident nation must comply with, consistent with its laws."

Batra noted that ultimately, extradition occurs "absent the rarest of circumstances", as in the case of former Chilean president Augusto Pinochet. The United Kingdom did not extradite him solely on humanitarian grounds. "It's hard to see the Pinochet precedent apply to

this case involving Adani and seven others," he said.

The India-US Extradition Treaty was signed in 1997.

Peace, the US Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, has announced a five-count criminal indictment against 62-year-old Adani, his nephew Sagar, an executive director at the conglomerate's renewable energy arm Adani Green Energy Ltd, and its former CEO Vneet S Jaain.

City Pioneer

the pioneer

HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | NOVEMBER 23, 2024

03



The Task Force team inspecting the pharmaceutical industries in IDA Mallapur on Friday

Task Force finds invalid licences in pharma units

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Task Force team of Telangana's Commissioner of Food Safety inspected pharmaceutical industries in IDA Mallapur and found several violations.

The team inspected Vin Biomed Nutraceutical manufacturing units in IDA Mallapur and seized Co-Enzyme Q10 (Nutra) powder (6 kg, Rs. 50,000) and MK Cocoa powder (17 kg, Rs. 6,800) due to invalid FSSAI licences and batch numbers. Expired raw material, including food colour mixtures, essences and CyanoCobalamin (Vitamin B12), were discarded.

Chocolate and vanilla powders lacked manufacturing dates, use-by dates and FSSAI labelling. The premises had no internal testing lab or test reports, stagnant water near the mixing area and loose thermocoll ceilings shedding particles in food preparation areas. Insect-proof screens were missing, cleaning schedules, food recall mechanisms and trained personnel were absent. Packed items like multivitamin tablets lacked consumer care numbers.

The Task Force team also inspected Nuvista Pharmaceuticals and found that the FSSAI licence copy was not displayed. Walls and ceilings had flaking plaster, ventilation and lighting were inadequate. Food handlers lacked medical fitness certificates and some did not wear gloves or headcaps. Internal and external audits were missing, documentation was poorly maintained and the storeroom had damaged walls with water seepage. The premises lacked a consumer complaint redressal mechanism and effective hygiene standards.

The Task Force team stated that a notice will be issued and further action will be taken accordingly.

Hyd sees 14% YoY growth in home sales

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad's residential market witnessed a significant boost in October 2024, with home sales worth Rs 3,617 crore, marking a 14 per cent year-on-year (YoY) growth, according to Knight Frank. The city saw 5,985 residential units registered, a 2 per cent YoY increase. Four districts - Medchal-Malkajgiri, Rangareddy, Sangareddy and Hyderabad - contributed to the sales.

Notably, properties priced above Rs 1 crore saw a 36 per cent YoY increase in registrations. The demand for larger properties (over 2,000 sq ft) also rose, with registrations increasing to 12 per cent. Rangareddy accounted for 43 per cent of property registrations, followed by Medchal-Malkajgiri at 41 per cent. The weighted average price of transacted residential properties witnessed a 7 per cent YoY increase.

HYDRAA to conduct survey to fix FTL boundaries of lakes

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) held a brainstorming session on rejuvenation of urban lakes and fixing boundaries for Full Tank Level (FTL) on Friday.

There were no conclusive reports drawn from the meeting but experts such as retired engineers, professors and environmental experts have explained the terms of Shikam land and suggested ground survey for defining FTL boundaries.

They also said that most of the water bodies are losing their shape because of the improper planned railway track and roads built near the lakes.

"Keeping all aside, the focus should be on protecting the present lakes from encroachments and speed up the rejuvenation process.

Pharmaceutical companies must be notified to dump their waste away from the lakes. Health cards of each lake must be prepared."

A few retired engineers have explained that minor engineers previously were not given an opportunity to learn about the urbanization; so they have made errors. As they are on ground, training them would lead to less number of mistakes.

HYDRAA Commissioner AV Ranganath clarified that the objective of Hydraa is not to demolish all existing structures in the Full Tank Level (FTL) areas but to prevent new constructions in the lakes from this point forward.

"We are considering the water spread area of the lakes, Survey of India maps and village maps.

Instead of relying on individual data, we will form a committee of experts from various departments to

determine the boundaries of the lakes."

We have demolished constructions built by altering survey numbers and ignoring the FTL boundaries. It doesn't matter whether they belong to the rich or the poor, these unauthorised structures must be demolished.

The demolitions by HYDRAA have created awareness among the public about FTL and buffer zones, sparking discussions, he added.

Adding on the technology, he said "We are using advanced technology to regulate illegal constructions. Once the FTL is determined, we will be alerted if any illegal construction takes place in the lakes."

We have discussed how to determine FTL and addressed issues related to lakes and the points will be submitted to the government, he concluded.



22 new central medical stores within a week: HM

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha held a high-level review meeting at the Secretariat to strengthen central medical stores, government hospital pharmacies and food safety measures. The meeting was attended by senior officials, including Health Secretary Christina Z Chongthu and Food Safety Commissioner RV Karnan.

Minister Raja Narasimha said that 22 new central medical stores will be operational within a week, ensuring every district has one. Supply chain management for medicines will be streamlined in three stages, with dedicated personnel overseeing each stage. E-Aushadhi portal workshops will be conducted for pharmacists to ensure effective usage. Medicine stock details must be updated online and display boards should show available

medicines in hospital pharmacies.

Deputy DMHOs will oversee medicine supply management at the district level, with regular stock checks.

Minister Raja Narasimha dismissed claims of Hyderabad ranking last in food safety, calling it misinformation based on outdated 2022 data.

Commissioner RV Karnan clarified that 246 food adulteration cases were registered in 2022, as per the National Crime Records Bureau's December 2023 report.

Steps to strengthen food safety include upgrading the Nacharam Food Safety Lab and establishing new labs in Warangal, Nizamabad and Mahbubnagar. Five mobile food testing labs will be operational within a month. Special cells for food safety complaints are being set up at collectorates.



Hyd's 23-year-old youth dies in accidental gunfire in Atlanta

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A 23-year-old Hyderabad student has died in an accidental gunfire in Atlanta, Georgia on Friday. The family residing in Uppal was devastated with the news.

Aryan Reddy was a second year MS student at Kansas State University, Atlanta. He celebrated his birthday with his friends on November 13. The incident has come to light lately and his parents are seeking help for the return of the body of their son.

Aryan had taken out his newly bought hunting gun

to clean it but it accidentally fired a bullet which pierced his chest, leaving him fatally wounded.

According to Aryan's father, Palvai Sudarshan Reddy, his friends rushed to his son room and found him in a pool of blood. They immediately shifted him to the hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead.

"Our son was full of dreams and this information has shattered us. It is very saddening that a youth full of ambitions is not with us," said the Aryan's father.

Comprehensive Household Survey covers one cr families

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana government's Comprehensive Household Survey has completed covering one crore families in 16 days.

The survey, which began on November 6, has so far covered 90 per cent of the total households in the State. The survey has been completed in seven districts, with Mulugu, Janagama and Nalgonda districts achieving 100 per cent coverage.

The survey, which aims to collect data on the socio-economic status of families in the State, has been conducted by a team of over one lakh enumerators, supervisors and data entry operators.

The State government

has decided to conduct the survey to collect data on the caste-wise population of the State, which will help in implementing welfare schemes for the backward classes.

The Cabinet Subcommittee headed by Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy has finalised the modalities for the survey. The survey is being conducted in two phases, with the first phase covering the rural areas and the second phase covering the urban areas.

The State government has assured that the data collected during the survey will be kept confidential and will not be used for any other purpose except for implementing welfare schemes.

Caste census survey applications found on roads

The caste census survey applications have been found on roads near Tamaka Metro station in the city on Friday. Last week, the caste census survey applications were found scattered on the roadside from Rekula Bavi crossroads to Yellampeta in Medchal. Videos of the applications scattered on the road are going viral on different social media platforms. The users are commenting, "What is the use of filling those booklet forms when they land on the roads. Amidst the Cyber Crime alerts we are doubtful that the crores money spent on this survey will go waste if transparency is not there and individuals' privacy is breached." The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation officials responsible for the survey had no comments on the issue.

Harish Rao faults caste census applications lying on road

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Finding fault with caste census applications lying on the road, former minister and BRS party senior leader T Harish Rao commented that the Praja Palana applications found on road then and now the caste census applications found on the road.

Harish Rao tweeted in this regard on Friday. He said in his tweet, "Applications for Praja

Palana that have come on to the road then .. Today, the caste census family survey documents are on the road again. This is another proof of the sincerity of the government towards the collection of people's details.

Is the aim of your survey to reveal the details of the lives of Telangana people on the roads? It is clear that the security of the data obtained in social, economic, educational, employment, political and caste surveys is not good.

What will happen to people if these details fall into the hands of cyber fraudsters? We strongly condemn the negligent attitude of the government which violates the right to privacy of the people.

We demand the government to respond seriously to this incident and provide security to people's details. @TelanganaCMO".

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ISB meet on last-resort antibiotics

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Max Institute of Healthcare Management (MIHM) at Indian School of Business-ISB and the International Centre for Antimicrobial Resistance Solutions (ICARS) hosted experts on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) on Friday at ISB's Hyderabad campus. The consultation brought together clinicians, microbiologists, pharmacists, hospital administrators

and policymakers to discuss sustainable use of last-resort antibiotics and improve antimicrobial stewardship.

The meeting was part of the TANDEM-ABX project, led by ICARS in India and Kenya, supported by the Novo Nordisk Foundation. Stakeholders discussed how to integrate responsible antibiotic use into policy and hospital practices, focusing on a reserve class of antibiotics with narrow action spectra.

AI-enhanced HR Co-pilot rolled out

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

AI-enhanced HR Co-pilot, Max Sara 2.0 rolled out in the city, for assessing Skills in Healthcare HR Management focusing on 8 modules of Requirements, Such as Recruitment, Workforce Management, Payroll (Compensation), Learning and Performance Management, Talent Management, Insights Management (Data analytics).

This Max Sara 2.0 has been

introduced by Adrenalin eSystems, with the rise of SaaS startups in Hyderabad, Adrenalin eSystems has created its HR tech solutions to meet the needs. This HR Tech solution has already been used by 50 healthcare organisations in the city.

When asked, MD and CEO, Srinivasa Bharathy highlighted that their platform simplifies the HR lifecycle from recruitment to alumni processes, reducing efforts by 60-70%. The system adapts to policies on how a work-

force has to be managed, considering all people as talent. He noted that they help HR identify the talent and skillsets across sectors like IT, BFSI, manufacturing and retail, helping organisations manage talent and skillsets effectively.

Sharing about Max Sara 2.0, Srinivasa said that it allows employees to complete tasks, such as check-ins, via their preferred channels like MS Teams, WhatsApp, or social media platforms. Managers and C-suite execu-

tives benefit from Max Insight, which integrates ERP, CRM and other tools for data-driven decision-making.

Concluding, Srinivasa said that prices of the Max Sara 2.0 and the HR tech starts at Rs 150 per employee per month, varying with module requirements. He also noted that operating through an office in HYTEC City, Adrenalin eSystems continues to connect with IT sectors, ensuring innovative and secure HR solutions for businesses.

SI, constables in ACB net for taking 'bribe'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Three police personnel, a sub-inspector and two constables of Bandlaguda police station here were caught by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) for allegedly taking bribe.

The SI was caught by the ACB when he demanded Rs 30,000 and allegedly accepted bribe amount of Rs 15,000 from the complainant through a constable for showing an official favour for 'closure of case.



CITY EVENTS

Ready to take on a grill feast?

The Chef's table, with Chef Shiv Parvesh

Venue
Permit to Grill, Novotel, Hyderabad
November 23, 7.30 pm.

Women who hack

From raw data to insights: Data engineering essentials; by Neha Sharma, Data Engineer.

Venue
Swecha office, Gachibowli, Hyderabad.
November 23, 9.30 am to 1pm.

Weekend kids cooking camp

Master cooking and baking in 09 fun weekends

Venue
Culinary Guru Institute, Hyderabad.
Till January 11, 2025.

Entrepreneurs Meetup

By We Founders Collab, Hyderabad

Venue
The Headquarters, Space Orbit, Hyderabad
November 23

Dimsum & Bao

Exiting selection of steamed buns

Venue
Sheraton Hyderabad Hotel,
Till November 24th, 3pm to 6.30 pm.

Standup Comedy

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

Venue
Multiple venues, till November 24

DCA raids clinics operated by quacks; seizes drugs

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Drugs Control Administration (DCA) conducted raids on clinics run by quacks and seized illegally stocked drugs at multiple locations at Bijwar village, Utkoor mandal, Narayanpet district; Bodu village, Tekulapally mandal, Bhadradi-Kothagudem district and Bachupally village, Medchal-Malkajgiri district on Friday.

The DCA seized overpriced 'Izol 100 Capsules' (Itraconazole 100 mg) at Kapra, Medchal-Malkajgiri district. The product's MRP was found to be much higher than the ceiling price set by the Central government.

Additionally, the DCA also seized medicines that made misleading claims, violating the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954. These included: Triphala powder (claimed to treat cardiovascular issues and high blood pressure), ED Phenicol (advertised for eye infections), Tulasi leaf churnam (claimed to treat fever), KAPIVA BP Care Juice (claimed to treat blood pressure), and Madhuriktha powder (claimed to treat diabetes).

The DCA officials also uncovered a variety of unlicensed drugs, including antibiotics and steroids, posing significant health risks. The officials stated that further investigations and legal action are pending.



Students from Tribal Model Sports School selected for national-level

PNS ■ KUMRAM BHEEM ASIFABAD

Five students from the Tribal Model Sports School in Asifabad have been selected for national-level competitions, said Sports Officer Bandameenareddy and the Principal of the Sports School. Amulya, Muthubai, Anita, and Maunika have been selected for the SGF U/14 years Handball competition, which will be held from the November 25 to the 29 in Chhattisgarh as part of the 68th SGF U/14 Handball Nationals. Similarly, Nandini will participate in the SGF U/17 Athletics National competition, which will take place in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, from the 25th to the 30th of this month. Handball and Athletics coaches Vidhyasagar and Aravind, along with the athletes selected for the national competitions, were congratulated by TW DD Ramadevi, ACMMO P. Uddhav, GCDO Shakuntala, ATDO Chiranjeevi, coaches Tirumal and HWO Saibaba, and senior athletes from the teaching team.

Telangana at forefront in several sectors: Tummala

Roads and Buildings Minister directed the officials to monitor the schemes and ensure their implementation

PNS ■ NALGONDA

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, who is the in-charge Minister for Nalgonda, asserted that the State is at the forefront in several sectors of the country. He made these comments during the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee meeting held at the Udayaditya Building on the Collectorate premises in Nalgonda on Friday.

The meeting was chaired by Nalgonda member of Lok Sabha Kunduru Raghavveer Reddy, Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, while addressing the gathering, said that the Congress party has ushered in people's government. He emphasised that under the leadership of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, the government was making efforts to fulfil the promises made to the people. He pointed out that due to the defective policies in the past, a total of Rs 50,000 crore remained unpaid to Civil Supplies Corporation. The Congress government has been clearing all arrears now, he said.

Minister Nageswara Rao added that the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee would work to address issues in rural areas, and the government is committed to resolving them.

Ministers for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkata Reddy stated that the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committees have been formed for rural development.



Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao at a review meeting in Nalgonda on Friday

He added that if the officials regularly monitor the Central government schemes, they can secure funds from the centre. He stressed the need to conduct regular meetings of the District Development Coordination Committee to discuss problems and work toward their solutions.

P Kunduru Raghavveer Reddy, while presiding over the meeting, emphasised that the committee would strive to utilise the funds coming from the central government effectively for district development. He also pointed out that despite the Central government providing around 92 welfare schemes, the benefits received by the people of Nalgonda from these schemes have been limited. Through the committee, efforts

would be made to fully utilise these funds for district development, and they will continue to raise issues in Parliament to secure the necessary funding.

District Collector Ilya Tripathi, during the meeting, said that efforts would be made to implement both Central and State government schemes at the grassroots. MLAs from Miryalaguda, Nagarjuna Sagar, Tungathurthi, Nakirekal, and Devarakonda—Battula Lakshmareddy, Kunduru Jauvel Reddy, Mandula Samuel—requested the government to take action to ensure farmers do not face difficulties in selling paddy, to prevent problems caused by millers, and to provide compensation to farmers who suffered losses due to untimely rains.

Tummala, Komatireddy inspect procurement centre

Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy and Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao on Friday instructed the officials at procurement centres to speed up purchase paddy. On Friday, the Ministers conducted a surprise inspection of the Kothapalli paddy procurement centre near Nalgonda. During the inspection, the procurement centre officials interacted directly with the farmers. They also checked the moisture levels of the paddy using a moisture measuring machine. Following this, Minister Nageswara Rao questioned the officials at centre regarding the moisture levels and accuracy of weighing. He emphasised the importance of purchasing paddy with the correct moisture content and quality standards and ensuring that the produce is sent to the mills on the same day. He also urged the officials not to cause any inconvenience to the farmers during the procurement process. The ministers appreciated the Kothapalli paddy procurement centre for its prompt purchasing of paddy and immediate payments to farmers. District Collector Ilya Tripathi, along with other officials and public representatives, accompanied the ministers during the inspection.

Telangana top performer in inland fisheries

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The state of Telangana proudly announced its achievement of winning the National Award for Best Inland Fisheries for the year 2024.

This award was presented in recognition of the innovative initiatives and development-focused outlook of the Fisheries Department in 2024. The award was conferred by the Union Minister for Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, and Dairy Rajiv Ranjan Singh, at a grand event held in Delhi on the occasion of World Fisheries Day. It was received by the Special Chief Secretary of Fisheries Sabyasachi Ghosh and the Director of Fisheries Priyanka Ala. The Award was formally handed over today to the Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy.

Telangana's Fisheries Department has emerged as a leader in the country. The state is home to 5,901 fisheries cooperative societies with a total membership of 4,13,120. Since December 2023, 225 new societies have been established, enrolling 8,069 new members, further strengthening the cooperative network. Under the Group Accidental Insurance Scheme,

a premium of Rs 139.77 lakh was paid to insure the lives of 4.16 lakh fishers, setting a notable example. Additionally, the construction of new fish ponds was sanctioned, covering an area of 195.94 hectares with a project cost of Rs 2145.44 lakh.

To conserve and promote striped murrel fish, a Center of Excellence is being set up at the Yellampalli Reservoir in Mancherial district in collaboration with ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA). Furthermore, an export-oriented state-of-the-art fish market is being developed at Koheda in Ranga Reddy district at a cost of Rs 47.03 crore. As part of the "Indira Mahila Shakti" program, 32 mobile fish retail outlets were distributed to women's self-help groups with a 60% subsidy.

This year, the state achieved fish production of 4.56 lakh tons, generating a revenue of Rs 7,059.04 crore, significantly contributing to the state's economy.

Telangana's Fisheries Department has set new benchmarks in the sector, solidifying its position as a frontrunner in inland fisheries development in the country.

Tension in Shadnagar over desecration of Shivalingam

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Tensions erupted at Janampeta Vivekananda Colony under Shadnagar town in Rangareddy district after allegations surfaced that unidentified individuals destroyed a Shivalingam in the Basavanna Temple. The incident, which has deeply hurt religious sentiments, prompted immediate action from the local police and political leaders.

Shadnagar Town Circle Inspector Vijay Kumar inspected the site following a formal complaint. Preliminary investigations revealed that the destroyed Shivalingam differed from the newly installed one, brought from the Kashi shrine.

Vijay Kumar stated that the investigation has begun to determine if the destruction was intentional or caused under the influence of alcohol. He assured the public that the culprits would be identified soon.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)



Police officer examining the temple where a Shivalingam was allegedly desecrated in Shadnagar on Friday

state executive member Palamuru Vishnuvardhan Reddy condemned the act, terming it a serious affront to Hindu sentiments. He demanded strict legal action against the perpetrators, urging the State government to address similar incidents of idol desecration in Secunderabad, Shamshabad, and Balanagar.

Congress leaders Agganur Basvam and Gangamuni

Sattaiah also visited the temple to assess the situation. Both parties expressed solidarity with the affected community and called for swift resolution of the matter.

Locals expressed their anger over the incident, alleging a deliberate attempt to provoke religious tensions. Many participated in a sit-in protest at the temple site, demanding accountability and punishment for the culprits.

75% of household survey completed in Khammam

PNS ■ KHAMMAM

District Collector Muzammil Khan announced that 75.15 per cent of the Comprehensive Household Survey has been completed in Khammam district as of November 21.

On Friday, the survey enumerators arrived at the Khammam Collector's Camp Office where the District Collector held a review meeting. The Collector appreciated the enumerators for making progress.

During this occasion, the District Collector Muzammil Khan said, "We identified a total of 5,67,338 houses in the district

for the survey. As of November 21, the survey of 4,26,333 houses has been completed in 4,129 enumerator blocks."

The completion rates by Assembly Constituencies are as follows: 54.96% in Khammam, 80.93% in Paleru, 80.66% in Madhira, 88.54% in Vaira, and 88.54% in Sathupalli, with an overall district completion rate of 75.15%, the Collector stated.

The Collector instructed the relevant authorities to complete the pending survey process on time and emphasised that the information collected from the public should be securely stored, ensuring that no data leaks occur.



Khammam District Collector Muzammil Khan holding a review at the Collectoate on Friday.



Uika Ramesh and Uika Arjun

Maoists kill 2 tribals branding them as police informers

PNS ■ MULUGU

Panic erupted in the agency when two tribal men were brutally hacked to death by Maoists at Penugolu Colony under Wajedu mandal, Mulugu district on Thursday night.

One of the victims, Uika Ramesh was the secretary of the Peruru Panchayat. The Maoists attacked Ramesh and his brother Arjun at around 11:30 pm on Thursday. Arjun died on the spot, while Ramesh succumbed to his injuries on the way to hospital. The attack was linked to allegations of the two men acting as informers to the police, a claim repeatedly made by Maoists over the years.

The Maoists left behind a letter undersigned by Venkatapuram Area Secretary Shantha. It claimed that Ramesh and Arjun were killed because they failed to mend their ways despite multiple warnings to stop informing the police about Maoist activities. The letter claimed that the two men had been passing on information about the Maoists' movements, leading to attacks on the group. It further stated that Ramesh had been involved in reporting Maoist activities to the police, which caused several confrontations between the group and law enforcement.

This attack has sparked panic, especially given that the Maoist presence, previously limited to border areas, has now reached the heart of the Wajedu.

'Suspect' identified by fortune-teller attacked

PNS ■ NAGARKURNOOL

Even in the high-tech age, attacks on women are fuelled by superstitions. Reports of women particularly being beaten and in rare cases murdered keep surfacing.

In a rare case in the district 10 days ago, a woman was harassed on suspicion of stealing a gold chain at Pothireddypalle village at the instance of a fortune-teller. The thief took place at E Narasimha's house in Pothireddypalle village. He sought the help of a fortune teller to identify the thief. The fortune teller claimed that the theft was committed by Narasimha's neighbour, Revanthamma.

Narasimham then harassed Revanthamma by forcing her to take an oath on Goddess at a temple that she did not commit the theft.

Maha tiger roaming around Jainoor, Narnoor mandals

PNS ■ KUMRAM BHEEM ASIFABAD

A tiger, named Jhony, from Maharashtra has still been roaming the forests of Jainoor and Narnoor mandals for the fourth consecutive day on Friday. It has triggered panic among local people.

According to Forest Department officials, the male tiger, originally from the Painganga Wildlife Sanctuary in Nanded and Yavatmal districts, moved into the forests of Panapatara village in Jainoor and Thadhathnoor village under Narnoor mandal in search of a mate. The tiger began its journey toward Narnoor's forests on November 18.

To monitor the tiger's movements, officials have set up CCTV



camera traps and deployed five teams of animal trackers. Additionally, awareness campaign is underway with WhatsApp groups created in each mandal to keep villagers informed. Local Forest Staff are also providing guidance to the community through the messaging platform.

Known as "Johnny," the adult tiger initially entered the forests of Utnoor mandal from Pemb mandal in Nirmal district.

It first wandered into Boath mandal, then moved through the forests of Kuntala, Sarangapur, and Mamada mandals as it searched for a female companion. Officials report that the tiger has covered over 350 kilometers in its journey to find a mate.

In other developments, two tigers from the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra have entered the forests of Sirpur (T) mandal in search of mates and territory.

The area is already home to about 10 tigers, including two tigresses. Recently, another male tiger was spotted in the forests of Tiryani mandal.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA REVENUE (LAND ACQUISITION) DEPARTMENT DISTRICT COLLECTOR, JANGAON PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION FORM-VI

(See Sub-rule (1) of rule-19 and Section-11 (1) of the Act-30/2013) No. A-772-2/2023 Date: 20.11.2024
Dist. Coll. File No. 02/1596/2023 Date: 18.11.2024
Gazette No. JNLAI 14/2024 Date: 16.11.2024

Whereas it appears to the District Collector, Jangaon that a total of Ac. 16.19 gbs of land is required to be acquired in the Sagaram Village of Zaffargadh Mandal of Jangaon District for public purpose, namely acquisition of land for the purpose of execution of 1L of 3L of 4L-D of Nashik main Canal from Km. 0.000 to 1.019 of Embankment of Canal under JCR DLP, Phase-II Package-VI.

As per the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act No. 30 of 2013 the District Collector (Appropriate Government) declares that the proposed acquisition is covered under exempted category as defined under 6(2) & 10(4) of the said Act and as such the provisions of Chapter-II and Chapter-III of the Act shall not apply to this case.

Total (VII) families are likely to be displaced due to the land acquisition. The Add. Collector is appointed as Administrator for the purpose of Rehabilitation and Resettlement of the affected families.

Therefore it is notified that for the above said project in Sagaram village of Zaffargadh Mandal of Jangaon District a piece of land measuring, more or less Ac. 16.19 gbs of standard measurement, whose detailed description is as following, is under acquisition.

SCHEDULE 1L of 3L of 4L-D of Nashik main Canal

Village: Sagaram; Mandal: Zaffargadh; District: Jangaon

Sl. No.	Area of land	Class of land	Extent	Name of the Enjoyer	Name of the holder as per Dharani record
1	1.60	Patla Dry	0.27	Konham Sudhakar S/o Komuriah	
2	1.62	Patla Dry	0.035	Beta	
Total				0.305	
3	1.61	Patla Dry	1.01	Uppal Lavmi Bai w/o Rajeshwar Rao	
4	4	Govt Dry	1.255	Bashapeka Yashiah S/o Lachalaiah, Thalkiyala Venkatesiah S/o Jakkiah Thalkiyala, Komuriah S/o Yashiah, Macha Ramu S/o Laminarashah	
5	4	Govt Dry	0.12	Row	
6	4	Govt Dry	0.0025	Thalkiyala Venkatesiah S/o Yashiah	
7	4	Govt Dry	0.13	Thalkiyala Elash S/o Komuriah	
8	4	Govt Dry	0.07	Thalkiyala Ashok S/o Budhah Thalkiyala Babu S/o Budhah	
9	4	Govt Dry	0.11	Thalkiyala Lakshmi W/o Komuriah	
10	4	Govt Dry	0.09	Thalkiyala Yashiah S/o Elash	
11	4	Govt Dry	0.08	Thalkiyala Babu S/o Budhah	
12	4	Govt Dry	0.155	Macha Ravu S/o Somiah Macha Somiah S/o Saidu Macha Yashiah S/o Saidu Macha Prashant S/o Saidu Macha Mahesh S/o Saidu Macha Saidu S/o Maliah Basuiah Ramachandram W/o Elash	
13	4	Govt Dry	0.13	Macha Yashiah S/o Balahiah Macha Chandrasiah Poshiah S/o Balahiah	Macha Yashiah
14	4	Govt Dry	0.095	Macha Narsiah S/o Balahiah	Macha Narsiah S/o Balahiah
15	4	Govt Dry	0.04	Thalkiyala Babu S/o Saidu	
16	4	Govt Dry	0.07	Macha Babu S/o Elash Macha Kumaraswamy S/o Elash Macha Srinivas S/o Elash	Macha Kumaraswamy S/o Elash Macha Srinivas S/o Elash
17	4	Govt Dry	0.33	Thalkiyala Komuriah S/o Kankiah	
18	4	Govt Dry	0.07	Bashapeka Elash S/o Veerash	Bashapeka Elash S/o Veerash
19	4	Govt Dry	0.03	Bashapeka Venkatesiah S/o Veerash	Bashapeka Venkatesiah S/o Veerash
20	4	Govt Dry	0.01	Bashapeka Chandrasiah S/o Veerash	Bashapeka Chandrasiah S/o Veerash
21	4	Govt Dry	0.23	Thalkiyala Swamy S/o Maliah Thalkiyala Yashiah S/o Marash Thalkiyala Babu S/o Maliah Thalkiyala Chandrasiah S/o Saidu Thalkiyala Cheralu S/o Saidu Thalkiyala Somiah S/o Saidu Thalkiyala Chandramogli S/o Jakkiah Thalkiyala Narsiah S/o Jakkiah	
Total				5.3875	
22	31	Patla Dry	0.06	Thalkiyala Venkatesiah S/o Jakkiah	
23	31	Patla Dry	0.1	Thalkiyala Chandramogli S/o Jakkiah	
24	31	Patla Dry	0.23	Yaruvu Rahu S/o Anandha Reddy	
Total				0.39	
25	30	Patla Dry	0.34	Godhey Elizabeth W/o Chevi Reddy	
26	30	Patla Dry	0.0125	Godhey Inna reddy S/o Salman Reddy	
27	30	Patla Dry	0.19	Godhey Raju Reddy S/o Salman Reddy	
28	30	Patla Dry	0.01	Godhey Bal Reddy S/o Salman Reddy	
Total				1.1525	
29	33	Patla Dry	0.145	Godhey Bal Reddy S/o Salman Reddy	
Total				16.19	

Trees / Structures Village: Sagaram; Mandal: Zaffargadh; District: Jangaon

Sl. No.	Extent	Name of the Enjoyer	Trees	Structures		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	0.23	Thalkiyala Swamy S/o Maliah Thalkiyala Yashiah S/o Maliah Thalkiyala Babu S/o Maliah Thalkiyala Chandrasiah S/o Saidu Thalkiyala Cheralu S/o Saidu Thalkiyala Somiah S/o Saidu Thalkiyala Chandramogli S/o Jakkiah Thalkiyala Narsiah S/o Jakkiah	Non-12 trees			
31	0.23	Yaruvu Rahu S/o Anandha Reddy	Ferns-1			
30	0.19	Godhey Raju Reddy S/o Salman Reddy				
30	0.01	Godhey Bal Reddy S/o Salman Reddy				
33	0.145	Godhey Bal Reddy S/o Salman Reddy				

This notification is made under the provisions of section 11(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation & Resettlement Act 2013. No objection to be raised by any person.

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the District Collector & Special Deputy Collector, L.A. R.R. Irrigation Projects, U-4 Jangaon on any working day during the working hours. The Government of Telangana / Collector cum-Appropriate Government is pleased to authorize officer Special Deputy Collector, L.A. R.R. Irrigation Projects, U-4 Jangaon and his staff. Also enjoin upon and survey late take levels of any land dig or bore into the sub-soil & do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in section 12 of the said Act.

Under section 11(4) of the Act no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land to be sold/purchase etc. or create any encumbrance on such land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the Collector.

Objection to the acquisition if any may be filed by the person interested with in 90 (ninty) days from the date of publication of this notification as provided in 15 of the Act before District Collector / Special Deputy Collector, L.A. R.R. Irrigation Projects, U-4 Jangaon.

Sd/- Special Dy. Collector, L.A. R.R. Irrigation Projects, Jangaon

Sd/- Addl. Collector, Jangaon

Sd/- Dist. Collector, Jangaon

DIPR No. 377/LA/PP-Sub/2024-25

KHAMMAM BRANCH 2-2-32&34, PSR ROAD, GANDHI CHOWK KHAMMAM, TELANGANA-507003 Phone: 08742-252905/08742-228347

PUBLIC AUCTION - GOLD ORNAMENTS

The following borrower has taken loan from Indian Bank, Khammam branch by way of pledging the gold ornaments. This is to inform to the borrower and his legal heirs to clear the dues to the bank before 29/11/2024. If failed pledged gold ornaments will be sold on 30/11/2024 at bank premises through Public Auction. Borrower will be held responsible for any loss or encumbrance to the bank. Interested persons can participate in the auction, subject to bank terms and conditions. The Branch Manager has all the rights to accept/reject the bids and postpone the auction. Bank also reserves the right to recover the balance amount after the auction as per legal proceedings if any balance outstanding pending in the said loan. Please contact in the above mentioned address for terms and conditions before participating in the auction.

Sl. No.	Name & Address of the borrower	Loan Account Number	Dt of loan	Loan Amount	Loan Balance Outstanding as on 22/11/2024	Gross Weight
1	Sl/Dara Uppinder Rao S/o Veeravasya Karsaigudem(V), Nakakondapally (N), Khammam Dist, Telangana	6987287157	22/02/2021	60,000	33,985	21.00 gms

Date: 23-11-2024 Place: Khammam Sd/- Branch Manager, Indian Bank

ACROSS THE STATES

FIRST MAJOR BATTLE AFTER LOK SABHA ELECTIONS

All eyes on outcome of UP bypolls today

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The counting of votes for the bypolls to nine Assembly segments in Uttar Pradesh, the first major face-off between the ruling BJP and its political rivals since the Lok Sabha polls held earlier in the year, will be taken up at 8 am on Saturday amid tight security arrangements, officials said.

While the results of the bypolls will not directly impact the composition of the 403-member state Assembly, the contest is being seen as a prestige fight between the BJP and opposition parties.

The nine constituencies -- Meerapur, Kundarki, Sisamau, Katehari, Phulpur, Majhawan, Ghaziabad, Karhal and Khair -- saw intense campaigning by the BJP, Samajwadi Party (SP) and other regional parties. Political tension has been running high in the run-up to the counting, with



"The way our voters, workers, office-bearers and the media have responded to the BJP's election fraud is being appreciated everywhere," the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister said, adding that the BJP's reliance on corruption, propaganda and manipulation is the reason why its support base is shrinking.

both the BJP and the opposition parties accusing each other of election malpractices.

On the eve of the vote counting, SP president Akhilesh Yadav accused the BJP of manipulating the election process and claimed that the tactics of the saffron party are increasingly being exposed.

In a press statement, Yadav asserted that the vigilance of the INDIA opposition bloc sup-

porters has uncovered the "BJP's efforts to manipulate the electoral process, leading to a decline in the party's support base".

"The way our voters, workers, office-bearers and the media have responded to the BJP's election fraud is being appreciated everywhere," the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister said, adding that the BJP's reliance on corruption, propa-

ganda and manipulation is the reason why its support base is shrinking.

Yadav alleged that the BJP lures officials and leaders to indulge in corrupt practices, only to abandon them when things go wrong.

"The BJP is not a party that protects people, it traps them," he claimed, urging SP supporters to remain vigilant during the vote-counting process. "We have won morally."

Maharashtra Assembly election: Counting of votes today

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Counting of votes in the Maharashtra assembly elections will begin at 8 am on Saturday, with all eyes on the outcome of the battle between the ruling BJP-led Mahayuti coalition and the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance, which is seeking to make a comeback.

The final turnout in the polls, held on November 20, was 66.05 per cent, up from 61.1 per cent in 2019, election officials said.

Counting of votes will also be held for the Nanded Lok Sabha bypoll, where 67.81 per cent voting was recorded on November 20.

Kolhapur district led with 76.63 per cent polling, followed by 75.26 per cent in Gadchiroli, which has some Left Wing Extremism affected pockets, while the lowest was in Mumbai island city at 52.07 per cent. Mumbai sub-

urban district recorded 55.95 per cent polling.

A total of 288 counting centres have been set up for the counting of votes on Saturday, including one for the Nanded Lok Sabha bypoll. A total of 288 counting observers will oversee each assembly constituency, with two observers assigned to monitor counting in Nanded Lok Sabha bypoll, an official said.

The high volume of postal ballots has led to the establishment of 1,732 tables for postal ballot counting and 592 tables for Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS) to ensure a smooth counting process across all assembly constituencies, the official said.

In the Mahayuti alliance, the BJP contested 149 assembly seats, Shiv Sena 81 seats, and the Ajit Pawar-led NCP fielded candidates in 59 constituencies.

Pollution: SC questions Delhi govt over allowing trucks

The Supreme Court on Friday questioned the Delhi government over the entry of trucks in the national capital, currently reeling under severe air pollution. "It is very difficult for us to assume that entry of trucks in Delhi has been stopped," observed a bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih. The bench therefore said it proposes to direct the Centre to depute police personnel at all 113 points to check the entry of trucks in Delhi. The counsel appearing for the Delhi government informed the bench there were a total of 113 entry points, including 13 for trucks. The apex court is seized of the matter related to air pollution in the Delhi-National Capital Region and the hearing is currently underway. On November 18, the apex court directed all Delhi-NCR states to immediately set up teams to strictly enforce anti-pollution GRAP 4 restrictions, making it clear that the curbs would continue till further orders.



UP: 25 people booked for attacking civic officials

Police have booked 25 people for allegedly attacking a team of Nagar Panchayat and Municipality officials for removing an encroachment in Uttar Pradesh's Jewar, an officer said on Friday. The incident occurred on November 19 when the Jewar Nagar Panchayat along with civic officials had gone to remove an encroachment in front of a shop at the main intersection, the officer said. They had made an announcement before removing the encroachment. Following this, some shopkeepers along with 15-20 other people misbehaved with the officials and beat them up. They abused the team and used casteist slurs, Inspector of Jewar Police Station Sanjay Kumar Singh said. Based on the complaint of Shiv Kumar Singh, a clerk in Nagar Panchayat, a case has been registered against 25 people. Further investigation is underway, Singh added.



Mother strangles minor son, daughter in Noida

A woman was arrested for killing her six-year-old daughter and four-year-old son, police said on Friday. The incident took place Thursday in Kheda Dharampur village under the Badalpur Police Station jurisdiction, they said. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone II) Shakti Mohan Awasthi said the woman, Sonam, first strangled her daughter and son to death and then tried to kill herself, but her neighbours stopped her and called police. "During interrogation, the woman told police that she had married a man named Sahil in 2017 against the wishes of the family members. She had two children from Sahil, whom she killed," the officer said. In 2021, Sahil was arrested in a murder case and sent to jail, after which she started living with another person, Sonu, in Kheda Dharampur village, with whom she has a son. When Sahil came out of jail three months ago, he started pressuring the woman to live with him. "That is why Sonam strangled both the children to death and wanted to commit suicide," Awasthi said.

Nitish launchers rural road projects worth Rs 8,837.77 cr

PNS ■ PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Friday inaugurated and laid foundation stones of multiple road and bridge projects of the state Rural Works Department (RWD) worth Rs 8,837.77 crore.

The CM asked officials to ensure that priority is also given to the maintenance of rural roads, bridges or causeways in the state.

"With a view to improving rural connectivity, the CM on Friday virtually inaugurated and laid foundation stones of 6,199 projects of the RWD

worth Rs 8,837.77 crore", a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office said.

"All roads and bridges of the RWD, for which foundation stones were laid, the CM directed officials to complete the projects on time and ensure that there should not be any compromise on the quality of works and materials. He also asked officials that all the roads and bridges which were inaugurated on Friday, should be inspected regularly and their continuous maintenance must be given the top priority", said the statement.

Man declared dead wakes up before cremation; 3 doctors suspended

PNS ■ JAIPUR

A man declared dead by doctors woke up just as he was placed on the pyre much to the shock of those around but breathed his last a few hours later, the dramatic life and death story unfolding in Rajasthan's Jhunjhunu area over Thursday and Friday.

Rohitash Kumar, a deaf-mute man who didn't have any family and lived in a shelter home, died on the way from Jhunjhunu's BDK

Hospital to Jaipur, about 180 km away, on Friday, officials said.

Three doctors, including principal medical officer Sandeep Pachar, were suspended by Jhunjhunu District Collector Ramavtar Meena for their alleged medical negligence. A committee has been formed to investigate the matter.

Kumar, 25, had been taken to the emergency ward of the Jhunjhunu facility after he fell unconscious at the shelter

home on Thursday. Kumar was declared dead at 2 pm on Thursday. He was taken to the mortuary and kept there for two hours, officials said.

Police prepared a 'panchnama', a document prepared when a person dies, and transported the body to a crematorium, they added.

However, Kumar suddenly started breathing as he was placed on the pyre, moments before the cremation. An ambulance was called imme-

diately and he was taken back to the BDK Hospital where he was admitted to the intensive care unit.

He was referred to Jaipur's SMS Hospital on Friday and died on the way.

As news spread of Kumar regaining consciousness moments before the cremation, Revenue officer Mahendra Mund, Deputy Director of Social Justice Department Pawan Poonia also reached the BDK Hospital.

TMC to discuss organisational reshuffle, Parl strategy

PNS ■ KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has convened a meeting of the TMC's national executive committee at her residence on Monday, in which organisational changes, strategies for the upcoming winter session of Parliament, and other key issues like the contentious Waqf Amendment Bill are likely to be discussed, party sources said.

TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, party's Leader in Lok Sabha Sudip Bandyopadhyay, Sougata Roy, Kakoli Ghosh Dasitdar, state president Subrata Bakshi, Kolkata Mayor Firhad Hakim and other senior leaders expected to attend the meeting.

The national executive committee, originally a 21-member body, now consists of around 16 members following the

arrest of several senior leaders by central agencies in various cases and the resignation of others citing health concerns.

"In the meeting, our strategy for the winter session and other organisational issues will be discussed," a senior member of the TMC's national executive committee said.

Party insiders believe that long-pending organisational reshuffles will be finalised during this meeting.

Rahul Gandhi is right, Adani must be arrested: Lalu

PNS ■ PATNA

RJD president Lalu Prasad on Friday came out strongly in support of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's demand for "immediate arrest" of leading industrialist Gautam Adani.

The former chief minister of Bihar was responding to queries from journalists here about Rahul Gandhi's statement on the previous day, in the backdrop of charges of bribery and fraud

against the Adani group in the US. "Rahul Gandhi is right. Adani should be arrested," said Prasad, who is an old ally of the Congress and a staunch opponent of the BJP, to which Adani is said to be close.

The RJD president, who incidentally has been convicted in several fodder scam cases and is on bail, was also asked about prospects of the INDIA bloc, of which his party is a part in Jharkhand, where the counting of votes for assembly polls is scheduled on Saturday.

The ailing septuagenarian replied, "I would like to remain focused on my statement that Adani must be arrested. I am not worried much about a new government (in Jharkhand) where we are already in power."

Jharkhand witnessed a straight battle between the INDIA bloc and the BJP-led NDA, which included the JD(U) headed by Nitish Kumar, Prasad's arch-rival and the current Chief Minister of Bihar.

Karnataka bypolls: Outcome crucial for both ruling and oppn camps

PNS ■ BENGALURU

The counting of votes for the high stake bypolls to three Assembly segments in Karnataka, which witnessed a fierce fight between the ruling Congress and a combative BJP-JD(S) alliance, will take place on Saturday.

By-election to Sandur, Shiggaon and Channapattana Assembly segments were held on November 13 and the outcome is crucial for either camps.

A Congress show will be seen as an endorsement of both Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy DK Shivakumar while BJP's good show would mean the silencing of its state president BY Vijayendra's critics within the saffron organisation fold.

For JD(S) leader HD Kumaraswamy, it will be a battle of prestige as his son Nikhil is testing his electoral fortunes from Channapattana after tasting defeats in earlier contests. Kumaraswamy had vacated the seat after being elected to the Lok Sabha in this year's elections.

Tawde seeks apology from Rahul, Kharge; warns of defamation lawsuit

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BJP leader Vinod Tawde has demanded an apology from Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi for making "false and baseless" allegations against him in the cash-for-votes incident in Maharashtra, saying if they don't he would sue them for defamation.

Tawde was accused by Bahujan Vikas Aghadi, a regional party, of distributing Rs 5 crore to woo voters, with its members barging into a hotel room on November 19 in a Mumbai suburb, where the BJP leader was present.

The former Maharashtra minister and BJP national general secretary claimed innocence, saying the alleged



state. The legal notice sent to the three claimed that they were aware that they were pushing a "totally false story fabricated" by them.

"You all have deliberately, mischievously with the sole intention of damaging the reputation of our client intentionally fabricated the story distribution of money. You all have published false, baseless allegations against our client on various media for tarnishing his image in the eyes of right thinking people in the society," the notice read.

The Congress leaders were in a "great hurry" to damage Tawde's reputation, they did not bother to check the fact and or despite knowing the entire fact they made the false, baseless allegations, it said.

amount was not recovered in the probe by the Election Commission and police.

"The Congress only believes in spreading lies, and this incident is a proof of the party's low level politics to dent me and my party's image," Tawde said.

The two Congress leaders and the party spokesperson Supriya Shrinete seized on the row to accuse the BJP of using money power to influence the November 20 assembly polls in



warned people of strict action against anyone creating chaos over the issue, Vishnoi said earlier in the day.

"Clerics have been told to inform everyone that they should offer Namaz in their own mosques," he said, adding that social media was

also being closely monitored. District Magistrate Rajendra Pesia said that prohibitory orders have been imposed in the area preventing the gathering of more than five people.

Jain, who had filed the petition in the court for a survey of the mosque, has claimed that Mughal emperor Babar partly demolished the temple in 1529.

"The Harihar temple in Sambhal, we all know, is a central part of our faith. This is an ASI-protected area. There can be no encroachment of any kind in the ASI-protected area. There are

many signs and symbols there which are of Hindu temple," he had said.

Vishnu Shankar Jain and his father Hari Shankar Jain have represented the Hindu side in many cases related to places of worship, including the Gyanvapi-Kashi Vishwanath dispute.

Gopal Sharma, the local lawyer of the Hindu side, told PTI that in the writ filed in the Civil Judge Senior Division, "we have also mentioned Babar Nama and Ain e Akbari books in which it is confirmed that we have Hari Har Mandir".

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT FORM VI
(See sub rule (1) of rule -19 and Section -11(1) of the Act - 30(2013))

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION
COLLECTOR KAMAREDDY No.G1/5900/2024.Dated: 06.11.2024
RDO KAMAREDDY No.D/295/2022. Dated: 10.2024
Gazette No. 148 Dated: 13.11.2024

Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana / Collector, Kamareddy that a total of Ac. 1.10 Gts of land as specified in the Schedule below situated in the limits of Brahmajeed Village of Tadwal(M) Mandal, Kamareddy District is required for public purpose, namely, **Excavation of Left Main Canal under Kaleshwaram Project** Package No.22.

In exercise of the powers conferred U/s 10-A, the State of Telangana issued G.O.Ms.No. 36 I & CAD (LA/R&I) Dept., dated 30.06.2017 exempting the application of Chapter-II & III of the LARR Act 2013 to the Kaleshwaram Project. Therefore there is no requirement of following the procedure contemplated under Chapter II & III of the LARR Act 2013 to the present Land Acquisition which is meant for as detailed above which is part of Kaleshwaram Project.

SCHEDULE

Sl. No.	S. No.	Type of land	Area under Acquisition (in acri)	Name of the pattaedar (as per Dharani)	Boundaries			
					North	South	East	
1	45/1A, 45/1B, 45/1C, 45/1D	Patta Dry	(0.10) 0.1250 (0.20) Total 1.0250	Chinna golla Malashah S/o Rajalash	44	46	47	50
2	45/1A	Patta Dry	0.0750	Chinna Golla Sayanna W/o Sayanna	44	46	47	50
Total					1.10			

This notification is made under the provisions of Section 11(1) of The Right to Fair- Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 [Act No. 30/2013], to all whom it may concern.

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the District Collector, Kamareddy / Revenue Divisional Officer, Kamareddy on any working day during the working hours. The Government of Telangana / Collector-cum-Appropriate Government is pleased to authorize Officer Revenue Divisional Officer, Kamareddy and his staff to enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land, dig or bore into the sub-soil & do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in Section 12 of the said Act.

Under section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land i.e. sale/purchase, etc. or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the Collector.

Objections to the acquisition, if any, may be filed by the person interested within 60 [sixty days] from the date of publication of this notification as provided under section 15 of the Act before the District Collector.

Sd/- Land Acquisition Divisional Officer Kamareddy
Sd/- Addl. Collector, Kamareddy
Sd/- Dist. Collector, Kamareddy
DIPR No.383/LA/PP/P/2024-25

Friday prayers peaceful amid tight security in Sambhal

PNS ■ SAMBHAL

The Friday prayers were held peacefully as the police stepped up security, imposed prohibitory orders and conducted a flag march at the Jama Masjid here following claims that the Mughal-era mosque was originally the site of an ancient temple significant to the Hindu faith.

Superintendent of Police Krishna Kumar Vishnoi said that Friday prayers were conducted safely in Sambhal's Shahi Jama Masjid with the help of forces from seven police stations and tight security

arrangements around the mosque. The mosque was surveyed on Tuesday on the orders of a local court following a petition that claimed that a Harihar temple originally stood at the site.

The Central government, the Uttar Pradesh government, the Masjid Committee and the district magistrate of Sambhal have been made parties in the petition, said Supreme Court lawyer Vishnu Shankar Jain, who is also the petitioner.

In view of the petition and subsequent survey, the police conducted a flag march in the area and



warned people of strict action against anyone creating chaos over the issue, Vishnoi said earlier in the day.

"Clerics have been told to inform everyone that they should offer Namaz in their own mosques," he said, adding that social media was

also being closely monitored. District Magistrate Rajendra Pesia said that prohibitory orders have been imposed in the area preventing the gathering of more than five people.

Jain, who had filed the petition in the court for a survey of the mosque, has claimed that Mughal emperor Babar partly demolished the temple in 1529.

"The Harihar temple in Sambhal, we all know, is a central part of our faith. This is an ASI-protected area. There can be no encroachment of any kind in the ASI-protected area. There are

many signs and symbols there which are of Hindu temple," he had said.

Vishnu Shankar Jain and his father Hari Shankar Jain have represented the Hindu side in many cases related to places of worship, including the Gyanvapi-Kashi Vishwanath dispute.

Gopal Sharma, the local lawyer of the Hindu side, told PTI that in the writ filed in the Civil Judge Senior Division, "we have also mentioned Babar Nama and Ain e Akbari books in which it is confirmed that we have Hari Har Mandir".



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Cars the main culprit

Delhi's residents continue to bear the brunt of the city's toxic air, which is mostly driven by cars and not stubble burning

Come November and the capital city of Delhi turns into a gas chamber with AQI shooting to severe category. Most often the farmers are blamed for burning stubble and winds taking the fumes to Delhi. But that is not the true picture. Delhi vehicles are the main culprit, as has been indicated by many studies. So nothing is done and till it is swept away by the wind, smog hangs over the city. This year is no different. Delhi's air pollution has escalated to catastrophic levels, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) frequently crossing into hazardous territory hovering in the vicinity of 500. This public health emergency has fueled political blame games between the State and Central Governments, with stubble burning by farmers in neighbouring states often cited as the primary cause. However, research and scientific studies tell a different story: the real culprit behind Delhi's toxic air is not stubble burning but the city's overwhelming vehicular emissions. Vehicular traffic is consistently identified as the leading source of pollution in Delhi. A 2019 study by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water found that vehicles contributed between one-third and two-thirds of Delhi's harmful particulate matter. This alarming contribution is tied to the city's explosive growth in vehicle ownership. Between 1990 and 2018, the number of registered vehicles in the National Capital Region increased fivefold. Delhi alone accounts for over 11.8 million vehicles, 90 per cent of which are cars and two-wheelers. The volume of vehicular traffic has turned the capital into a pollution hotspot, with transport emissions driving air quality deterioration throughout the year.

In contrast, stubble burning, often portrayed as the main villain in Delhi's pollution narrative, plays a far smaller role. A 2017 study revealed that stubble burning contributed less than 3 per cent to Delhi's annual particulate matter. Even during its peak season from mid-October to early November, the share of pollution from crop residue burning is limited to 8 per cent, according to a 2023 report by the Centre for Science and Environment. Most of Delhi's pollution originates locally, with vehicular traffic contributing the largest share. This pattern becomes even more evident when air quality fails to improve after the stubble-burning season ends. Despite these findings, public discourse and policy responses disproportionately focus on stubble burning. This misplaced focus has real consequences. While interventions like subsidies for crop residue management have reduced farm fires, the overall air quality in Delhi remains dire because transport emissions and other local sources remain largely unaddressed. Addressing Delhi's air pollution crisis requires an urgent shift in priorities. Expanding and improving public transportation is crucial to reducing dependence on private vehicles. Cleaner fuels and technologies, such as electric vehicles, must be promoted alongside stringent enforcement of emission standards. Recognising this reality and acting accordingly is imperative. Until then, the capital's air will remain a health hazard.

PICTALK



A monk of Panch Dashnam Avahan Akhara during 'Nagar Pravesh' procession, in Prayagraj

Global concerns over gender bias in politics



ARCHANA DATTA

In the wake of Donald Trump's victory, a survey unveils deep concerns over the future of women's rights, reproductive autonomy and gender equality in the US

In the aftermath of Donald Trump's electoral victory for the second term, a prominent US daily conducted a survey among more than five thousand women voters for their reactions. A majority of them expressed concerns about the erosion of 'rights', and 'their reproductive future', and aired an array of emotions such as 'sadness', 'scarciness', 'disappointment', 'hurtfulness', 'betrayal' and 'heartbreaking'. Comments of some first-time voters also denoted despair, as many of them felt that their voices were 'more silenced than ever' and that they had been 'left empty-handed'. While a 36-year old woman rued that 'it is clear that men wanted to hold onto power... sexism won this election'.

While, another leading US daily attributed Harris's defeat to her greater emphasis on issues like 'abortion rights' and the 'protection of democracy', and for not paying adequate attention to the state of the economy or immigration, which many Americans viewed as the most pressing issues. Harris, on the other hand, in her concession speech urged her supporters to 'remain vigilant' and keep fighting for their values. Nevertheless, many non-profits working for reproductive freedom urged Democrats to 'developing a long-term plan to directly confront the sexism - both within their party and the nation - that hampered, both Harris and Hillary Clinton', the only women to win a major party's presidential nomination. In the US, women occupied 28 per cent of congressional seats in 2023, while Democrats had an edge over the Republicans, with 41 per cent of seats, and Republicans with only 15.4 per cent of members. Women are 32.7 per cent of all state legislators, 48 per cent of Democrats and 20 per cent of Republicans. Democratic women are at or above parity with Democratic men in 26 state legislatures. While Republican women fall short of parity with Republican men in all states, holding one-third or less of Republican seats in 47 state legislatures. Studies commented that prevailing beliefs and attitudes



about gender roles in the parties control political representation, and more traditional perceptions among conservatives persist that 'women's success is at the expense of men' (Centre for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University). However, it is not the USA alone that didn't ever elect a woman in the highest political office, but, several most socially and economically advanced countries like Sweden, despite having a good record of women's representation in most institutions, 47.5 per cent in Parliament and 54.5 per cent in the council of ministers, has never had a woman as a Prime Minister. Countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia have only closed 15 per cent of a hypothetical 100 per cent gender gap in political empowerment (WEF). While India, the largest democracy, has a scant presence of women (13.62 per cent) in the current Lok Sabha.

Last year a law was passed, reserving one-third of seats in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies for women, but, its implementation stands postponed till the process of delimitation of constituencies is over. India did have a woman Prime Minister and two women Presidents. But, deep structural and systemic difficulties (Raje, 2019), created women's poor representation, resulting in 'a democratic deficit' in



LAST YEAR A LAW HAS BEEN PASSED, RESERVING ONE-THIRD OF SEATS IN LOK SABHA AND STATE ASSEMBLIES FOR WOMEN, BUT, ITS IMPLEMENTATION STANDS POSTPONED TILL THE PROCESS OF DELIMITATION OF CONSTITUENCIES IS OVER

governance and decision-making (Rahman and Rao, 2004). India ensured women's participation in the rural-urban local bodies since the early 90s, yet, several surveys found that a majority of women elected representatives reported 'gender-based discrimination', and in many places, their male relatives, especially husbands, played 'proxy' roles. While explaining reasons for this uneven power equation in politics, studies (Fox and Lawless, 2004) explicated that there is a 'gender gap in ambition', as many eligible women with the required professional and economic credentials as political candidates, often feel 'less encouraged to run for executive offices and tend to believe that they are less qualified for such offices than men'. Evidence also suggests that women's political careers are often influenced by 'family and relational considerations', and if they face higher costs for their career achievements, they shy away from pursuing such objectives. At the same time, other researchers pointed out voters' bias and discrimination which matter quantitatively in women's electoral prospects. Even political party leaders, act as gate-keepers, if they are aware of voters' bias against women, and are inclined to promote male candidates, rather than female contenders, as a votes-maximising strategy

(Esteve-Volart and Bagues (2012). Nevertheless, data from the latest wave of the World Value Survey (2017-2020), in Western Europe found that less than 20 per cent of survey respondents express agreement with the statement 'Men make better political leaders than women do'. Now, what is the way out? The introduction of gender quotas in candidate lists in different countries like Sweden (Besley et al., 2017) is more or less effective in empowering women, and improving the 'quality' of the elected politicians, particularly by regulating the composition of candidate lists (Campa and Hauser, 2020). Many also suggested that a combined politico-economic strategy that emphasises women's inclusion in the labour market, and the redistribution of economic roles within couples, could change gender-role attitudes and help women to make entry into positions of political power (Folke and Rickne, 2020 and Campa and Serafinelli, 2019). As the world remains deeply entrenched in patriarchal mindset, sexism and gendered divisions of labour, women's share as chief political executive is still outnumbered by men by more than 9 to 1. (The author is former Director General Doordarshan, All India Radio; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

US COURT INDICTS ADANI

Madam — A US court indicted billionaire Gautam Adani and seven others, including his nephew Sagar and three other executives, on charges of fraud and bribery. The case pertained to a deal between Adani Green Energy and a US seller for 12 gigawatts of solar power to be sold to various states. The charges came on a day when the firm planned a green bond launch in the US. The Adani subsidiary eventually cancelled the sale. The US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has charged Adani, founder and chairman of the Adani Group, with allegedly defrauding American investors and bribing officials. The SEC alleged that the bribery scheme was orchestrated to enable renewable energy companies Adani Green and Azure Power to capitalise on a multi-billion-dollar solar energy project awarded by the Indian government. The complaint charges them with violating the antifraud provisions of the federal securities laws and seeks permanent injunctions, civil penalties, and officer and director bars. But the beneficiaries of these kickbacks were Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha - all non-BJP governments at that time. But the blame goes to the BJP government. Basically, the current Biden government wants Adani to waive off Bangladesh's balance of payment of electricity and power bills.

Dorai Ramani Suresh | Ghaziabad

MONEY DOMINATES ELECTIONS

Madam — The voter turnout in urban areas of Maharashtra shows the desperation of the literate voters over the way the election campaign is carried on. Money playing a dominant role, uncertainty over the elected candidates staying with the same party without falling prey to offers of purse or posts, and the campaign being far from the issues concerning the voters must have discouraged them from taking the pain of standing in line to cast their vote and bearing with the act of getting befooled by the politicians. Even the tall leaders spoke more on hate lines than touching upon the liveli-

Manipur needs solutions



propose to 'Douse the fire' published on November 21. Manipur has been burning since May 2023, murder, abduction, rape and arson, it has seen it all. The strife-torn northeastern state has also witnessed complete apathy of the double engine of central and state government. And

the government's actions have been restricted to empty rhetoric, imposing an internet ban and issuing vague promises of dialogues. The Centre's move to bring warring communities to the negotiating table has not inspired confidence.

What is really baffling is that Prime Minister Modi has not bothered to visit the state. And surprisingly, the BJP has repudiated the trust in Biren Singh, conveniently ignoring his lapses and the growing clamour for his removal. He must be shown the door without any further delay. Confidence-building measures with affected groups should be carried out as ethnic identities have played a great role in the socio-economic life of Manipur.

Bal Govind | Noida

RAFAEL NADAL RETIRES FROM TENNIS

Madam — Rafael Nadal, a self-made glorious jewel of the tennis field, needs no introduction for his glittering career of winning 22 Grand Slams, 2 Olympic Gold medals, ATP Masters, and several French Open championships. He shares the Trinity of Tennis Gems with Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic.

Despite being in his 38th, Nadal always makes sure to be the tennis new learner, full of zeal with utmost calmness and maturity like an experienced player. In the milieu of tennis stars throwing tantrums and breaking racquets, Nadal never ever hurt the sport that pays him. Despite he had paid adieu to this sport, he will always shine in this sport's history for his incredible accolades and invincible spirit for continuing his sport for more than two decades. He is and will always remain a true inspiration for all the budding tennis aficionados across the world.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Manipur in turmoil: Unraveling the roots of violence

The State is caught in the throes of a complex conflict fueled by ethnic tensions, socio-economic disparities and narco-terrorism

Manipur, one of the seven northeastern states of India, holds strategic importance due to its geographical location. It shares borders with Nagaland to the north, Mizoram to the south, Assam to the east, and Myanmar to the west. Often referred to as the gateway to Southeast Asia, this state is home to diverse ethnic communities, including the Meiteis (approximately 53 per cent), Nagas (around 24 per cent) and Kuki-Chin-Zomi tribes (about 16 per cent). However, Manipur has recently experienced its worst violence in over a decade. More than a year of unrest has left over 226 people dead, more than 1,500 injured, and displaced over 60,000 residents. Understanding the root causes of this conflict requires examining several interconnected issues.

(a) Demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) Status

The spark for the current violence was a Manipur High Court directive urging the state government to consider granting the Meitei community Scheduled Tribe (ST) status. This decision was met with strong opposition from



the Kuki community, culminating in protests and clashes. Understanding the ST Status Debate:

Manipur is geographically divided into two main regions: The valley (10 per cent of the total area): Predominantly occupied by the Meitei community, it is more developed and politically influential, with Meiteis holding 40 out of 60 legislative Assembly seats. The hills (90 per cent of the total area): Primarily home to tribal communities, these areas lag behind in education, employment, infrastructure, and representation. While residents from the hills can migrate to the valley for opportunities, valley residents are restricted from purchasing land in the hills due to tribal land ownership laws.

The Meiteis fear that an increasing number of hill residents settling in the valley threatens their identity and culture. ST status for Meiteis would limit land purchases in the valley, potentially safeguarding their heritage. On the other hand, the Kukis argue that Meiteis already dominate key sectors such as governance, education, and the economy. Granting them ST status, they claim, would exacerbate the marginalisation of hill tribes.

(b) Narco-Terrorism Manipur's proximity to the Golden Triangle and Golden Crescent has made it a hotspot for drug trafficking. Illegal poppy cultivation in the region is reportedly controlled by powerful drug lords, whose operations are threatened by government crackdowns. These drug lords, facing intensified enforcement efforts, have allegedly fueled violence by supplying arms and ammunition to militant groups, further destabilising the region. (c) Eviction of Encroachers Approximately 32 per cent of Manipur's forests are classified as protected under the Indian Forest Act and Wildlife

Protection Act. Encroachments by hill tribes and illegal immigrants for farming and settlements have led to significant deforestation. Recent government-led eviction drives have targeted these encroachments, prompting accusations of anti-tribal bias and deepening tensions between the valley and hill communities. Voices from the Hill Tribes Many people from the Kuki-Chin-Zomi communities claim to oppose violence, emphasising their peaceful protests against the High Court's order. They argue that militant groups responsible for the initial clashes do not represent their community.

A Way Forward for Peace over half of the insurgencies in northeastern India are concentrated in Manipur, making its stability crucial. Fostering dialogue among all stakeholders, addressing grievances equitably, and ensuring inclusive development are essential steps toward lasting peace in the region. (The writer is Independent Research Scholar; views are personal)



YOGESH CHAUHAN



FIRST COLUMN

G20: COPING WITH NEW REALITIES

G20 Summit's toned-down declarations on Ukraine, climate finance and West Asia



KUMARDEEP BANARJEE

The recently concluded G20 summit in Brazil, could well serve as an early preview in what could be the realignment of global forces in the next year and beyond with the new incoming President of the USA. First, some major optics moments, such as the family picture for G20 leaders, which didn't have US President (of course some others were missing too). Second, winding down of several commitments from the Delhi declaration to just passing mention regarding the situation in Ukraine and climate finance. Third, the entire G20 summit is being riddled with speculation on whether the multilateral platform would survive a Trump presidency, and if so, with what effectiveness. The view in Washington DC is similar, especially in the government circles. Every government official, some of whom may have served under Trump's first presidency, is well aware of his working ways. The incoming administration has an additional extra non government supervisor, the world's richest person Elon Musk, who has his own unique style of functioning. Many in DC, understand that their managers have one foot out of the door, and things would change, at least for the next four years post the inauguration on January 20. Trump's foreign policy outlook, if the past presidency is any reference, is likely to be transactional. Trump can parallel have public shouting matches and back door negotiations with friends and foes. He has already talked about ensuring long lasting peace in Ukraine, at a time, when under President Biden's patronage, US missiles are landing in Russian territory. Similarly, the proposal to impose higher tariffs on Chinese products, may sound sweet to



many, but knowing the sharp businessman Trump is, he may well cut a sweet deal with President Xi Jinping, which could potentially be of benefit to both nations. On India, Trump has called it out to be the tariff king and likely to make a case for imposing tariffs in reciprocal approach, for sectors where he thinks, US exports are getting impacted. India's chief economic advisor has already sounded out a cautionary note on incoming Trump presidency. He has been quoted as saying that with Trump administration's views on trade and tariffs, plus a slowing global economy, India may have to look beyond exports as the primary drivers of growth. India has taken several steps such as providing incentives for manufacturing in various sectors, but except for mobile phones, the growth has been slow. It would not be hard to assume that the sluggish uptake for India for manufacturing in sectors it has recently provided incentives, may well be on the slow lane for some years. What can however, change the game would be the transactional style Mr Trump has, which is well known not just to senior India ministers and bureaucrats but the PM Modi himself (who is known to share a warm relationship with Trump).

Coming back to G20, while Delhi declarations had significant paragraphs on India promoted "not an era of war for Ukraine, the Rio De Janeiro declaration just mentioned, " Specifically concerning the war in Ukraine, while recalling our discussions in New Delhi, we highlight the human suffering and negative added impacts of the war with regard to global food and energy security, supply chains, macro-financial stability, inflation and growth." Clearly the world leaders didn't want to come out with any peace formulas, in face of President Trump assuming office next year. Similarly, the paragraph on West Asia focused on humanitarian aid, instead of taking either party's side. It read " While expressing our deep concern about the catastrophic humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip and the escalation in Lebanon, we emphasize the urgent need to expand the flow of humanitarian assistance and to reinforce the protection of civilians and demand the lifting of all barriers to the provision of humanitarian assistance at scale."

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

Hope floats for Sri Lanka in Dissanayake



NILANTHA LANGAMUWA

Dissanayake's unprecedented mandate in Sri Lanka's newly elected parliament presents a mix of hope and immense challenges in the quest to rebuild the nation

Anura Kumara Disanayake, Sri Lanka's newly elected President, has emerged victorious in the November 14, 2024 parliamentary elections, securing an unprecedented landslide victory that will undoubtedly reshape the nation's political landscape. Known for his Marxist leanings, Disanayake and his National People's Power (NPP) coalition have shocked the political establishment by gaining significant traction in minority-dominated regions—undermining the caste-driven politics that have long dominated the North, East and Central provinces. This triumph, achieved through a focused, strategic campaign, signals a bold rejection of the entrenched political elites and offers a forceful critique of Sri Lanka's frail democratic institutions. The magnitude of this victory speaks to a populace disillusioned by years of political stagnation and corruption.

After casting his vote, Disanayake attended the 35th-anniversary commemoration of JVP founder Rohana Wijeweera, paying homage to the movement's resilience in the face of relentless oppression. Recounting its history of brutal suppression and bans, Disanayake framed the JVP's struggle as an enduring fight for democracy, justice, and equality, despite decades of violence and persecution. "The history of our movement is one of unyielding resilience," he stated, honouring the sacrifices of fallen comrades. His rhetoric was one of defiance, and he emphasised that the JVP's ability to withstand adversity has kept its ideals intact. Looking to the future, Disanayake invoked the symbolism of "donning new garments," suggesting that the time has come to shed the old and embrace transformative change. The message was clear: Sri Lanka's political and economic systems are overdue for an overhaul, and his leadership intends to deliver just that. This moment represents more than a simple electoral win; it marks the dawn of a new political order, one rooted in the principles of progressive change and democratic service to the people.

The economic crisis that has ravaged the nation since its 2022 bankruptcy and subsequent default on foreign debt, looms large over this electoral victory. While Disanayake's rise reflects a demand for systemic change, it also places him at the epicenter of an economic storm, where recovery will require deep structural reforms. Yet, his victory cannot be divorced from the grim reality: Can a country reeling from financial collapse truly embark on the path to transformative change? The pressure to reform and recover is intense, both from within Sri Lanka and from international actors, and failure to meet these expectations could spell disaster.

Sri Lanka's long and tumultuous democratic journey provides critical context to this election. Since gaining independence in 1948, the country's democracy has been a paradox: simultaneously resilient and fragile, moving between progress and decline. Nationalist policies have repeatedly sidelined minority communities, with discriminatory measures like the Sinhala-Only Act of 1956 deepening ethnic divides. Successive governments,



THIS ELECTION IS NOT JUST A TRIUMPH OF THE NPP; IT IS A BELLWETHER FOR SRI LANKA'S FUTURE. REVEALING WIDESPREAD DISILLUSIONMENT WITH TRADITIONAL POLITICAL PARTIES

often manipulated for political gain, have left a trail of unresolved grievances, and this fractured political landscape has stymied meaningful progress. Despite civil wars, uprisings, and systemic inequality, Sri Lanka's democracy has endured, offering fleeting moments of hope—only to be followed by setbacks and challenges that have hindered its progress. This backdrop of violence and division underscores the difficulty in achieving a truly inclusive democracy.

In this historical context, Sri Lanka managed to hold another parliamentary election, notable not for its violence but for the absence of it.

The Election Commission confirmed that the election was conducted freely and fairly—a rare glimmer of progress in a nation accustomed to electoral turmoil. The results, released on November 15, 2024, were nothing short of historic. Disanayake's NPP secured 159 out of 225 seats, gaining a two-thirds majority, a feat unprecedented under Sri Lanka's proportional representation system. The NPP's 61.56 per cent share of the vote shattered records, surpassing the United People's Freedom Alliance's (UPFA) 2010 high. In a remarkable surge, the NPP secured 152 constituencies and 21

districts—again, setting new benchmarks. With 6.86 million votes, their victory represents a stunning political realignment, shifting from a meager 3 per cent in the previous election to an electoral force capable of rewriting the country's political script. In stark contrast, the main opposition party, the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB), led by Sajith Premadasa, secured just 40 seats, a distant second.

While the SJB's defeat is a blow to the opposition, Premadasa's ability to hold the opposition leadership could provide an awkward but necessary check on the NPP's power, particularly given the inexperience of most of its members. Disanayake's administration, already facing an inexperienced and fragmented legislative body, will have to navigate internal rifts while ensuring political stability. The introduction of anti-defection laws will likely be one of the first challenges on the horizon.

This election is not just a triumph of the NPP; it is a bellwether for Sri Lanka's future, revealing widespread disillusionment with traditional political parties, which are increasingly seen as inept and corrupt.

yet, the mandate for change is not without its contradictions. Voter turnout plummeted to just 68.93

per cent, with over 5 million people abstaining from the vote. This decline in electoral participation is a sobering reminder of the disconnect between the electorate and the political system—a symptom of the deep distrust that persists in Sri Lanka's democratic framework. For the NPP, this poses both an opportunity and a challenge: Can it unite a fractured nation while addressing the systemic inequities that continue to stifle its potential?

Disanayake's sweeping victory provides him with the political leverage to pursue bold reforms, including the drafting of a new constitution, a task made possible by his overwhelming mandate. But his agenda is audacious: economic self-reliance, social equity, and fiscal discipline, all while addressing the deep-seated ethnic divides that have long plagued Sri Lanka. The NPP's ambition is to overhaul the nation's political and economic systems, but entrenched political factions will not surrender their power easily. Disanayake's rise is a rejection of the old order—but whether he can truly dismantle it, or merely become another cog in its machinery, remains to be seen.

(The writer is a journalist and author; Views are personal)

Trump's re-election sparks climate policy shift: US at a crossroads amid global action

As the world shifts toward renewables, the US faces mounting pressure to balance its growth with environmental responsibility

With the re-election of Donald Trump, the United States is poised to enter a critical period of climate policy retrenchment. Trump's policies promise increased fossil fuel production and the reversal of major clean energy investments, threatening global efforts to combat climate change.



SOURYABRATA MOHAPATRA

Trump's proposed energy policies suggest a substantial setback for climate action. His administration aims to roll back the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), which has allocated billions of dollars in tax credits for renewable energy projects and EV incentives, spurring substantial private sector investment. In 2024 alone, global clean energy spending hit \$2 trillion, dou-

bling the amount invested in fossil fuels. Yet, Trump's proposed policies could throttle US participation in this growth, reinforcing dependency on fossil fuels rather than joining the global trend toward clean energy, where renewables now constitute the most economical choice in many regions. The implications of a second US withdrawal from the Paris Agreement—a prospect Trump

has not ruled out—are profound. When Trump first exited the Agreement in 2017, it allowed other nations to delay action under the guise of US non-participation. If Trump follows through again, it could stymie global climate funding negotiations, particularly for developing countries. Although the US has committed to contributing to a \$100 billion global fund for climate adaptation and mitigation, the administration's climate skepticism puts these financial obligations at risk. Without US leadership, experts fear slower progress on international agreements crucial to keeping global warming within the 1.5°C target. Domestically, Trump's policies would deepen the US dependency on fossil fuels. His

administration's strategy emphasises maximising domestic oil and gas production, particularly from reserves Trump calls "liquid gold." However, the fossil fuel industry's employment numbers tell a different story: the US green economy supports over 10 million jobs compared to 300,000 in fossil fuel industries. The economic case for green energy is clear, yet Trump's vision includes reestablishing subsidies for oil, coal, and natural gas, effectively sidelining the renewable sector. In 2023, electric vehicles comprised 18 per cent of global car sales, a significant jump from just 2 per cent five years prior. Yet, Trump has criticised electric vehicles and promised to impose tariffs on imported Chinese EVs, potentially rais-



ing prices and diminishing EV adoption in the US market. These policies might inhibit US competitiveness in EV manufacturing and battery technology, where other nations—especially China—have taken the lead. Another concerning proposal from Trump's allies involves dismantling federal programs that support climate research and environmental regulation. Plans under "Project 2025" advocate for

defunding key agencies like the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and scaling back the Environmental Protection Agency's greenhouse gas monitoring. Without federal support for climate research and mitigation, the US could lose critical insight into atmospheric changes. In a geopolitical context, Trump's re-election could weaken the US influence in global climate governance.

Given the US role in controlling financial institutions that facilitate climate finance, its withdrawal or failure to meet commitments could reduce climate funding, a key agenda item at the COP29 summit in Baku. As the world's largest historical emitter, the US has a responsibility to lead by

example. Yet, with US emissions having only fallen 5 per cent since 1990—compared to the EU's 35 per cent reduction—the country's role as a climate leader is increasingly tenuous under Trump's leadership. Despite federal opposition, analysts believe that state governments, corporations, and financial markets will continue advancing climate action, albeit at a potentially slower pace.

Over the past decade, bipartisan support for renewable energy has increased, driven by job creation and energy independence rather than environmental motives alone. With or without federal backing, the economic engine for clean energy remains robust, with new manufacturing plants and energy storage facilities rapid-

ly coming online, particularly in states that benefit from IRA-funded projects. Given that federal policy directly influences emissions standards, environmental regulations, and international commitments, the pace of progress could indeed slow, with repercussions for both the US economy and global climate goals. If Trump's policies take effect, it is likely that the US will fall even further behind on international climate standards? What risks will US industries face if they resist the global shift to cleaner energy, only to find themselves competing in a marketplace that increasingly penalises high-emission practices?

(The author is a faculty member at NCAER in New Delhi; Views are personal)

IN BRIEF



India's forex reserves plunge \$17.76 bn to USD 657.89 bn

India's forex reserves dropped by USD 17.76 billion to USD 657.89 billion for the week ended November 15, the RBI said on Friday. In the previous reporting week ended November 8, the overall reserves dropped by USD 6.477 billion to USD 675.653 billion. The kitty, which had hit an all-time high of USD 704.885 billion in end-September, has been declining for multiple weeks now, at a time when the rupee has also been under pressure. For the week ended November 15, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased by USD 15.548 billion to USD 569.835 billion, the data released on Friday showed. Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves. Gold reserves decreased by USD 2.068 billion to USD 65.746 billion during the week, the RBI said. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were down by USD 94 million to USD 18.064 billion, the apex bank said.

Six Adani stocks recover; Adani Green, Adani Energy, 2 others still under pressure

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of six Adani group firms bounced back on Friday from the previous day's sharp drubbing, in tandem with a bull rally in the equity market wherein the BSE benchmark Sensex zoomed 1,961 points. The stock of Ambuja Cements jumped 3.50 per cent, ACC climbed 3.17 per cent, the group's flagship firm Adani Enterprises advanced 2.16 per cent, Adani Ports rose 2.05 per cent, Adani Total Gas shot up by 1.18 per cent, and NDTV edged up 0.65 per cent on the BSE.

Gautam Adani was charged by US prosecutors for allegedly being part of a scheme to pay USD 265 million (about Rs 2,200 crore) bribe to Indian officials in exchange for favourable terms for solar power contracts.

In the equity market, the benchmark indices staged a sharp recovery. The BSE benchmark Sensex jumped 1,961.32 points or 2.54 per cent to settle at 79,117.11, and the NSE Nifty surged 557.35 points or 2.39 per cent to 23,907.25.

Shares of Adani group firms fell sharply on Thursday. The stock of Adani Enterprises had plunged 22.61 per cent, Adani Energy Solutions tanked 20 per cent, Adani Green Energy plummeted 18.80 per cent, Adani Ports dived 13.53 per cent, Ambuja Cements cracked 11.98 per cent, and Adani Total Gas tumbled 10.40 per cent on the BSE.



NGT slaps Rs 5 cr fine on Punjab pharma unit for flouting norms

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has imposed an interim fine of Rs 5 crore on a pharmaceutical unit in Punjab for "violation of environmental norms".

While denouncing the conduct of the Punjab State Pollution Control Board (PSPCB) for failing to discharge its statutory functions effectively, the NGT directed the board to initiate criminal proceedings against the bulk drug manufacturing unit, besides determining the final compensation amount.

The green body was hearing a plea on Nector Life Sciences Limited, located at Haibatpur village in Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar district, reportedly discharging highly-polluted chemical effluent in the agricultural fields, causing damage to crops and land.

In an order passed on Thursday, an NGT bench comprising its chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava said,



"Considering the entire record, we are clearly of the view that the industry has failed to comply with the provisions of environmental laws, particularly the Water Act, and has consistently violated its provisions while its zero liquid discharge (ZLD) status has not been achieved till date."

The bench also comprising judicial member Justice Sudhir Agarwal and expert member Afroz Ahmad said the PSPCB "failed to discharge its statutory functions adequately and effectively".

The PSPCB did not take

examine the effluent or waste water generated by an industrial unit to see the whether treated water contains the residue of the above antibiotic medicine or not," the tribunal said.

Regarding environmental compensation, the tribunal said, "Since in the present financial year, the amount of environmental compensation at 0.5 per cent of turnover (Rs 1,698.66 crore) comes to about Rs 8.5 crore, we find it appropriate to impose an interim environmental compensation of Rs 5 crore which shall be paid or deposited by the unit with the PSPCB within two months."

"We also direct the PSPCB to determine the final amount of environmental compensation after collecting information with regard to the turnover from the proponent of the respective year when the violations were found and to impose compensation for such period separately after due opportunity of hearing to the proponent," it added.



Divine Power Energy inks pact to acquire Vimlesh

Divine Power Energy Limited (DPEL) on Friday said it has entered into a share purchase agreement with Vimlesh Industries to acquire a 100 per cent stake in the company for Rs 70 crore. On the objectives behind the move, DPEL said the acquisition will allow the company to expand its presence in the domestic electrical industry. Post-acquisition, Vimlesh Industries will become its wholly-owned subsidiary, it added. DPEL has entered into a share purchase agreement to acquire a 100 per cent stake in Vimlesh Industries for a cash consideration of Rs 70 crore, the company said in a statement. The acquisition shall be completed within 60 days from the date of execution of the shareholders' purchase agreement. Rajesh Giri, MD, DPEL, said, "Vimlesh Industries is a reputed player in the electrical industry, and this acquisition will offer perfect synergies and help expand our footprint in the existing line of business". Divine Power Energy is a leading industrial electrical wires manufacturer in India.



Revised PLI scheme undermines autonomy of banks: AIBOC

Banks' officers union AIBOC on Friday said the recently announced revised Performance Linked Incentives (PLI) for Whole Time Directors and senior executives infringes upon autonomy of boards of public sector banks. Earlier this week, the Department of Financial Services announced a revised PLI scheme for Whole Time Directors. The revised scheme also included officers from Scale IV to Scale VIII of public sector banks. However, the PLI for officers up to Scale VII has already been determined through bilateral agreements between the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) and officers' associations at the industry level. These agreements, based on mandates provided by member banks' boards, also encompass officers in Scale VIII, All India Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC) said in a letter written to the Financial Services Secretary. The Department of Financial Services (DFS) directive undermines this well-established framework, violating the sanctity of collective bargaining and the essence of bilateral settlements.

Marksans gets USFDA nod for generic rhinitis treatment tablets

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Marksans Pharma Ltd on Friday said it has received final approval from the US health regulator for its generic version of Loratadine tablets indicated in the treatment of allergic rhinitis.

The approval by the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) is for the company's abbreviated new drug application (ANDA) for Loratadine tablets of strength 10 mg, Marksans Pharma said in a regulatory filing.

Loratadine tablets are indicated for the treatment of allergic rhinitis caused by pollen and upper respiratory tract allergy for over-the-counter (OTC) use.

This product is a generic version of Claritin tablet in the same strength as Bayer Healthcare, the company added.

Loratadine is an antihistamine that treats symptoms such as itching, runny nose, watery eyes, and sneezing from "hay fever" and other allergies, it added.

Central Bank of India gets RBI nod to enter insurance biz



PNS ■ MUMBAI

Central Bank of India on Friday said it has got approval from the Reserve Bank to enter the insurance business through a joint venture with Generali India Life Insurance Company Ltd (FGIICL) and Future Generali India Life Insurance Company Ltd (FGILICL).

In a filing to stock exchanges, the state-owned bank said the RBI accorded the approval vide a letter dated November 21, 2024.

"...we would like to inform that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) vide its letter dated 21st November 2024 has approved the bank's entry in the insurance business through a joint venture with Generali group under FGIICL and FGILICL, subject to continuous compliance of conditions stipulated by it and approval of IRDAI, the sectoral regulator," the filing said.

Gold surges Rs 1,100 to Rs 80,400 per 10 gm; silver climbs Rs 300

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices surged Rs 1,100 to hit a two-week high of Rs 80,400 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday due to persistent buying by jewellers and retailers during the ongoing wedding season, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

On Thursday, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity finished at Rs 79,300 per 10 grams.

Silver also climbed Rs 300 to Rs 93,300 per kg. It had closed at Rs 93,000 per kg in the previous session.

Price of gold of 99.5 per cent purity soared Rs 1,100, extending the gains for the second consecutive day to Rs 80,000 per 10 grams. The yellow metal had finished at Rs 78,900 per 10 grams on Thursday.

Meanwhile, in futures trade on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold contracts for December delivery climbed Rs 906, or 1.18 per cent, to trade at Rs 77,599 per 10 grams.

"Rising global unease pushed gold higher on Comex, and by Rs 900 on MCX, reaching Rs 77,600. This sharp



recovery highlights gold's resilience and its role in balancing portfolios during uncertain times.

"With gold regaining lost ground, a bullish sentiment remains intact," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst of Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities, said.

Silver contracts for December delivery jumped Rs 996, or 1.11 per cent, to Rs 90,921 per kg. During the day, the metal bounced Rs 1,288, or 1.43 per cent, to Rs 91,213 per kg on the MCX.

Globally, Comex gold futures rose USD 36 per ounce, or 1.33 per cent, to USD 2,735.30 per ounce.

Gold traders ignored US dollar strength amid increas-

ing tensions between Russia and Ukraine that continues to fuel safe haven flows towards bullion, Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

Silver quoted 1.42 per cent higher at USD 31.83 per ounce in the Asian market hours.

"Investors focus now shifts on the upcoming US macro-economic data, such as the preliminary GDP and core Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) due next week, while the recent US jobless claims data and a sharp jump in Bitcoin prices remains a headwind for gold price," Maneesh Sharma, AVP, Commodities & Currencies, Anand Rathi Shares and Stock Brokers, said.

Call for collaborative efforts to combat Antimicrobial Resistance

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Karnataka Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao on Thursday called for greater coordination and collaboration between the government, academia, big pharma, and startups to combat Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).

He stressed that data-driven and technology solutions would strengthen the government's efforts in fighting AMR.

Speaking to startups and researchers at the Bangalore Bioincubation Centre, Rao highlighted new opportunities, encouraging them to think outside the box and "act now," in line with this year's World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week theme, "Educate, Advocate, Act Now." Rao explained that AMR is



only grown in recent years. We are on the brink of a world where even routine infections could become deadly, where simple surgeries carry unpredictable risks, and where diseases we thought were under control—like tuberculosis, pneumonia, and urinary tract infections—are becoming harder to treat," Rao added.

Rao stressed early education on AMR, along with in-depth training for future healthcare professionals, would help drive behavioral changes and improve attitudes towards antimicrobial drug use, thereby supporting efforts to curb AMR.

Citing a report from the UK, he noted, "It is estimated that by 2050, AMR could cause 10 million deaths annually—more than cancer and diabetes combined."

Sony Pictures Networks India bags ACC media

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Sony Pictures Networks India on Friday said it has bagged the exclusive media rights for all Asian Cricket Council tournaments from 2024 to 2031.

This will make the company's cricket calendar even more robust over the next eight years adding to the existing rights for England, Sri Lanka and New Zealand, Sony Pictures Networks India (SPNI) MD & CEO, Gaurav Banerjee told PTI.

In a statement, Asian Cricket Council (ACC) said the deal with SPNI "marks more than a 70 per cent increase from the previous media rights cycle, highlighting the growing global stature and appetite for ACC Asia Cup tournaments".

According to industry estimates, the previous media rights cycle rights for 2016-2024 period was valued at USD 62 million.

Both SPNI and ACC did not disclose the value of the new cycle. ACC said the deal with SPNI encompasses all editions of the men's and women's Asia Cups, men's and women's Under-19 Asia Cups, and the men's and women's emerging teams Asia Cups.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT
Collector/Additional Collector/RDO Suryapet
FORM VII
(SEE -SUB-RULE (1) OF RULE -25 AND SECTION -19 (1) OF THE ACT -30/2013)
DECLARATION
Collector File No. G/263/2024, Date: 14.11.2024
RDO File No. C/1682/2023, Date: 12.11.2024
Gazette No. 31/2024, Date: 14.11.2024
Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/District Collector, Suryapet, that a total of Ac. 3.27 gts land is required in Thungathurthy Village of Thungathurthy Mandal by the Secretary, TGSWREI Society, Hyderabad for construction of TGSWREI Junior College in Thungathurthy village of Thungathurthy Mandal Suryapet District.
Therefore declaration is made that a piece of land measuring, more or less Ac.3.27 Guntas of patta land of standard measurement under acquisition for the above said construction in the Thungathurthy Village of Thungathurthy Mandal Suryapet District whose detailed description is as following
SCHEDULE
Village: Thungathurthy; Mandal: Thungathurthy; Dist: Suryapet

S. No.	Sy. No.	Type of Title	Area under Acquisition in Ac. Gts.	Name of the Pottadar & Enjoyer	Boundaries	Remarks
					North South East West	
1	776	Dry	3.27	Polepalli Sugunamma (W/o Late Soneiah (E) Polepalli Veeriah S/o Gopaliah (F))	780 780 777 780	
Grand Total:					3.27	

This declaration is made after no objections are received from the land owners / interested persons U/s 15 of the Act. No 30/2013. Due to Land Acquisition no one is affected, hence resettlement is not proposed.
Mines of coal, iron - stone, slate or other minerals lying under the said land or any particular portion of the said land, except such parts of the mines and minerals which may be required to be dug or removed or used during the construction phase of the project for the purpose of which the land is being acquired, are not needed.
A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Land Acquisition Officer & Revenue Divisional Officer, Suryapet or at Collectorate Suryapet on any working day.
Sd/- Land Acquisition Officer & Revenue Divisional Officer, Suryapet
Sd/- Addl. Collector, Suryapet
Sd/- Dist. Collector, Suryapet
DIPR No.388/LAPP-Pub/2024-25

TO LEVERAGE EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

Over 83 pc stock brokers plan to boost IT budgets: Survey

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The broking industry is experiencing a shift towards technology, with 83.6 per cent of stock brokers planning to shore-up their IT budgets in 2024-25 to focus on artificial intelligence and algorithmic trading to boost efficiency and customer experience, as per the survey conducted by ANMI among its 900 members. Of these, 42 per cent brokers are looking to increase the



(ANMI) carried out the survey to delve deeper into the role of financial technology in the stock broking sector. The survey found that 34.3 per cent of respondents prioritise AI and machine learning (ML) to drive predictive ana-

lytics and personalised trading strategies, while 32.9 per cent focus on algorithmic trading, emphasising precision and automation and the remaining 7.1 per cent embrace blockchain for secure and transparent operations. "As stockbrokers increasingly prioritise investments in AI, blockchain, and algorithmic trading, Sebi remains committed to fostering an environment of innovation, transparency, and investor protection. By embracing emerging technologies alongside robust risk management frameworks, the industry can achieve sustainable growth while safeguarding the interests of market participants," Sebi Executive Director V Sundaresan said. Over 60 per cent of stock brokers surveyed have digitised more than 50 per cent of their business processes, reflecting a strong push toward operational modernisation.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA ROADS & BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
1) Online tenders are invited under e-procurement platform for 2 Nos FDR works in Khammam District vide Superintending Engineer (R&B) Circle, Khammam NIT No. 07/SEI/R&B/KMM/2024-25 Date: 22.11.2024. 2) The interested bidders can download the tender schedule from e-market place i.e. www.tender.telangana.gov.in. The last date of receipt of tenders is on or before 26.11.2024 up to 3:30 PM. 3) Further details can be seen at e-procurement market place www.tender.telangana.gov.in
Sd/- Superintending Engineer (R&B) Circle: Khammam
R.O. No: 082-PPCL/ADVT/1/2024-25 Date: 22-11-2024

MAKING THE CITY DANCE THROUGH HIS RHYTHMS

AARTI SREENATH
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Subrath Sarkar isn't just another name on a corporate roster, he's a force of passion and rhythm. Hailing from the steel city of Bhilai, Chhattisgarh, he decided to trade the quiet charm of his hometown for the fast-paced life of Hyderabad in 2014. Fast forward nine years and today, he is making his mark as a senior loan document specialist at Wells Fargo. But don't let the spreadsheets fool you—when he's not sorting documents, he's dancing through life, still staying true to his Kathak roots. Who says you can't be a corporate pro and a Kathak Luminary?

His love for Kathak has always been a driving force in his life. In addition to his thriving corporate career, the Kathak Maestro has made a lasting impact in Hyderabad's cultural scene. He founded Tarangini Kathak Kendra over five years ago, a dance school where students not only learn the intricate steps of Kathak but also grow as individuals. His journey in Hyderabad has been a fulfilling one, marked by a seamless transition from student to professional. Having moved to the city with a clear purpose—to study and build a future—he finds himself reflecting on how smoothly the years have unfolded. "It's been great," he says, with a sense of contentment. The early days, balancing academic life with weekend dance classes, were challenging yet rewarding. Fortunately, the city's infrastructure has made his daily routine manageable, with his office timings allowing for less stressful commutes, avoiding the usual rush of the city's traffic.

One of the things he appreciates most about Hyderabad is its climate. Coming from Chhattisgarh, where the weather can

be extreme, Hyderabad's moderate temperatures offer a refreshing change. "It's neither too hot nor too cold," he says, describing the city's year-round pleasantness. This balance of weather, combined with the city's laid-back vibe, has made Hyderabad feel like home. Yet, it's not just the weekdays that Subrath enjoys; he looks forward to the weekends with enthusiasm. Every Friday, he eagerly anticipates the next two days—Saturday and Sunday—when he can dedicate time to his true passion, Kathak. Those days become a personal retreat where he reconnects with his dance and his students, finding joy in both his art and career.

When he first considered moving to Hyderabad, he had his share of concerns, like anyone else venturing into a new city. However, his apprehensions were quickly put to rest once he settled in. "Transport-wise, it's very good," he says, emphasising the city's well-developed infrastructure. The introduction of the metro system, he notes, has made commuting across the city much easier. Additionally, local buses are readily available, making travel convenient for everyone.

For those who are more concerned about safety, especially women, he points out that Hyderabad offers reliable cab services for employees working in multinational companies. The added benefit of home pick-up and drop facilities ensures peace of mind for many.

What stood out to him, though, was the warmth and support of the people. "I have lots of local friends here," he shares, reflecting on the kindness he's received from the city's residents. "They are always there for me and if I'm in any trou-



ble, they would be ready to help me at any time." The sense of community, he says, is one of the city's greatest assets, making his transition into Hyderabad not only smooth but genuinely welcoming.

He describes a stark contrast between his hometown, Bhilai and Hyderabad, especially when it comes to the city's infrastructure. In Bhilai, he notes, the tallest buildings are only three stories high, with much of the city still made up of ground-floor homes. These homes often come with backyards or courtyards, offering ample space for gardens and a more laid-back lifestyle. Hyderabad, on the other hand, is a bustling metropolis with tall buildings and a much faster-paced life.

He also shares a personal anecdote about the differences in daily life, particularly when his mother visits Hyderabad. "She always struggles to find fresh vegetables here," he says. The supply of vegetables in Hyderabad, according to Subrath, is often dependent on imports from far-flung areas or other states, making it more difficult to find the same freshness he would back home in Bhilai. This, for him, is a small yet noticeable difference in the rhythm of life between his two cities.

When asked about what comes to his mind when he thinks of Hyderabad, he mentions the iconic biryani, a dish synonymous with the city. However, he quickly adds, "For your kind information, it's been two years since I have become vegetarian," showing how his perspective on Hyderabad's food scene has shifted.

Yet, his most poignant memory of the city isn't the famous cuisine but the community he's built. He reflects on the time during the pandemic when he was away from Hyderabad for nearly a year and a half, back in his hometown. "I was missing one thing, which is my class," he says with a touch of emotion. For him, his dance

FROM THE STEEL CITY OF BHILAI TO THE BUSTLING METROPOLIS OF HYDERABAD, SUBRATH SARKAR, KATHAK MAESTRO FROM THE CITY, DISCUSSES HIS ALLURE AND TRIUMPHS IN THE 'CITY OF PEARLS'

class is more than just a place to practice; it's a second home where he connects with people, shares laughter and sometimes even tears. "We dance, we cry, everything together, all at one place," he adds, emphasising the deep bonds he has formed there.

His vulnerability comes through as he admits, "I was very much afraid about the communication," since English was the primary medium of instruction at his new college, and he was not yet proficient in Telugu. Despite these initial fears, he acknowledges how his peers helped him navigate this linguistic barrier. "They made me very comfortable with what I knew and what they knew. Through collaboration, we managed to understand each other's feelings," he recalls. He believes that sometimes, small gestures can have a big impact. "Not a lot of help is required; small things can make big changes." For him, it was the little things—patience, understanding and support—that made all the difference in adapting to the city and its culture.

When asked about his favourite places to visit in Hyderabad, he shares how his schedule is quite structured. "Monday to Friday, it's office; Saturday to Sunday, it's class time," he explains. His weekends are particularly special, though, as Sunday evenings are reserved for his devotion to Krishna Consciousness. "I am a devotee of ISKCON," he adds with a sense of calm, noting that no matter what, Sunday evenings are spent at the temple, where he dedicates 3-4 hours to chanting and prayer. This spiritual practice has also led him to make a significant lifestyle change. "After joining ISKCON, I have left eating non-veg," he says, highlighting the profound impact it has had on his life.

Thukra Ke Mera Pyaar: Love lost in execution

TEJAL SINHA
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The latest web series, *Thukra Ke Mera Pyaar*, starring Dhaval Thakur and Sanchita Basu, promises a romantic drama filled with twists and turns. Disney+ Hotstar's *Thukra Ke Mera Pyaar* is an epic saga of unreciprocated love and yearning, mixed with deceit and vengeance. This series is now available on the streaming platform. The series showcases a tangled network of intricate characters and a poignant narrative, where the outcomes of Kuldeep (played by Dhaval Thakur) and Shanvika (played by Sanchita Basu) are ultimately determined by fate. Taking place in Uttar Pradesh, the story depicts two adolescents in a strong romantic relationship as they face obstacles related to caste and class.

ANALYSIS

The storyline, revolving around Avinash and Jiya's complicated relationship, had potential but is marred by poor execution. The plot was as expected as a hyperactive wasp, a common narrative found in the realm of clichés. Maybe they possess a mystical time device that allowed them to travel back in time to alter the clichéd storyline of a wealthy girl falling in love with a poor boy, but the essence of caste and class, which was the main selling point of the series, was completely absent. Dhaval Thakur makes his acting debut in the film *Thukra Ke Mera Pyaar*, directed by Shraddha Pasi Jairath, starring opposite actress Sanchita Basu from Bihar.

HIGHLIGHTS

Thukra Ke Mera Pyaar boasts several highlights that make it an engaging watch. The series has an engaging storyline that explores themes of love, heartbreak and self-discovery. The cast delivers impressive performances, bringing depth and nuance to their respective characters. Furthermore, the characters in the series are well-developed and relatable, making it easy for viewers to invest in their journeys.

The series also features stunning cinematography and a memorable soundtrack, adding to its overall appeal. The show's highlights also include Dhaval Thakur and Sanchita Basu's individual performances, which are noteworthy despite the show's overall shortcomings. Additionally, the show's potential storyline, exploring themes of love, heartbreak, and redemption, is an interesting concept that, unfortunately, falls flat due to poor execution.

DRAWBACKS

One of the major issues is that the plot twists and turns can be predictable, reducing the series' overall impact. Additionally, some episodes may feel slow-paced, which could test viewers' patience and engagement. The series also suffers from limited character development, with some supporting characters feeling one-dimensional or underutilised. The plot twists are predictable, making it difficult to stay invested in the characters' journeys. The show's attempt to explore themes of love, heartbreak, and redemption falls flat due to lackluster writing and execution. Some characters do feel underdeveloped. A few scenes also lack chemistry between leads.

PERFORMANCES

Although the plot may not have been impressive, the actors are the ones who prevent *Thukra Ke Mera Pyaar* from being a complete failure. Sanchita completely loses herself in the game while playing Shanvika. She's thoroughly enjoying being herself and it's a real delight to see someone as carefree as her. Sanchita demonstrates her promise as an actress with this show. If only she had been given some extra screen time at the end, it might have spiced up the plot.

Dhaval Thakur debuts in the series with professionalism. You will not recognise him as the tired, suffering boy. The creators successfully handled Dhaval's character by having him make unexpected decisions and justifying every scene he is in. He fits in seamlessly as a rickshaw puller and his passion as a lover knows no bounds. When he witnesses his family being attacked and his sister being mistreated, his tears will cause your heart to ache. Dhaval still has a lot to achieve in the industry.

Govind Pandey, Aniruddha Dave, Sushil Pandey, and Kapil Kanpuriya also impress us with their acting skills. Sushil deserves 10 extra points for the composure he shows when he finds out his daughter has hanged herself and his house is gone. He consistently keeps it low-key, conveying his emotions just right.

TECHNICAL ASPECTS

Technically, the show is average. The cinematography is passable, but the editing is choppy, and the background score is overly dramatic. The show's production values are lacking, with noticeable flaws in sound design and visual effects. The show's soundtrack is unimpressive, with forgettable songs that fail to leave a lasting impact. The background score is overly dramatic, often feeling like a poor attempt to elevate the show's emotional moments.

VERDICT

Thukra Ke Mera Pyaar is a missed opportunity in romantic drama. With better writing, execution and production values, this could have been a compelling and engaging show. As it stands, it's a skippable show that wastes its potential. Even die-hard fans of the lead actors may find themselves disappointed by the show's overall quality.

Review

Don't let Keratoconus blur your vision

Eye-related diseases are often neglected. Especially when it comes to eye health, compared to other health-related issues, it is often overlooked until it worsens. Timely interventions can prevent most of the eye-related disease from becoming severe. It is equally important to create awareness of the various eye diseases that could affect mankind. Usually, general information one has on eye-related issues is cataract affects the aged, glaucoma affects the middle-aged and Keratoconus, the teens. Technically, Keratoconus is a progressive eye disorder where the cornea, the clear, dome-shaped front surface of the eye, thins out and begins to bulge into a cone-like shape. This abnormal shape prevents light from focusing correctly on the retina, causing blurred vision, and in more advanced cases, severe visual distortion.

Studies say that keratoconus was diagnosed in approximately 2.3% of patients compared to a prevalence rate between 0.05-0.23% as reported in western countries. The rate is much higher in India compared to

other countries, attributable to environmental factors of increased sun exposure and high prevalence of eye rubbing due to allergies.

Keratoconus, unlike other eye disorders, is not intrinsically "dreadful," but its progressive nature can lead to substantial disability if left untreated. Keratoconus treatment is more complicated than using corrective lenses for nearsightedness or having cataract surgery. It frequently necessitates a mix of treatments to be effective, particularly if identified in advanced stages.

Common causes and risk factors of Keratoconus

Keratoconus, a progressive eye condition, is primarily caused by a weakening of the collagen fibers in the cornea. There are several factors that contribute to its development. While the exact causes are not known, the most common factors are chronic eye rubbing, eye irritations and allergies. Other factors that contribute are genetics, hormonal changes, especially during puberty and environmental factors like UV light exposure.

Early diagnosis is the key

Early diagnosis of keratoconus is critical for reducing its course and avoiding serious visual impairment. Specialised diagnostic methods, such as corneal topography, can identify minor changes in the cornea's curvature, allowing for early intervention. If keratoconus is not detected, the problem can proceed to severe stages in which the cornea becomes too thin, resulting in corneal scarring and considerable vision loss with corneal transplant as the last resort to restore vision. Early diagnosis and appropriate treatment is crucial. Delay in treatments will make the recovery process tougher as it would require consistent medical care to man-

age and slow down its progression. If left untreated, advanced cases can result in considerable vision impairment and perhaps total vision loss.

(The author, Dr. Girish Budhrami, is the Chief Medical Officer, at Sankara Eye Hospital, Panvel.)

TREATMENTS FOR KERATOCONUS

Basically non-surgical keratoconus treatments are in the form of glasses and soft-corn lenses which can only mild treat it if found at its early stages. A more aggressive option for advanced cases, however, includes the larger scleral and hybrid contact lenses that vault completely over the cornea. RGP Contact Lenses -Rigid gas permeable (RGP) provide better vision correction by essentially putting a new refracting surface on top of irregular corneas. The only surgical options available are corneal cross-linking (CXL), a minimally invasive procedure that uses ultraviolet light and riboflavin (Vitamin B2) to strengthen collagen fibers in the cornea, slowing or stopping disease progression. Seldom, an implantable ring segments (Intacs), can be placed in cornea to flatten it and reduce irregular astigmatism that results vision enhancement; while simple severe cases might demand for a corneal transplant procedure known as keratoplasty.



DOCTOR'S ADVICE ON PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

Doctors recommend treatments and preventive measures based on the condition of the patient.

Subjective symptoms: Some early signs of keratoconus, notably astigmatism and positional issues in the spectacle correction of myopia or hyperopia may not manifest symptoms but can be

uncovered by an experienced eye care practitioner during a routine examination.

No eye rubbing: Doctors advise not to rub eyes as it is a bad thing related with counter progression of the disease.

UV-protective sunglasses: Wearing UV-blocking sunglasses can decrease the chance of sun-related risks.

Balanced diet: Maintaining a balanced diet and drinking plenty of water can help your cornea stay healthy.

To sum it up, it's important to diagnose keratoconus early and manage it with prompt treatment. Timely treatment is crucial to preserve vision and manage keratoconus effectively.



what's brewing?



Dr. Vijaya Sarada Reddy, the newly crowned Classic Mrs. Asia International 2024, hosted a meet and greet event at Prasad Labs in Banjara Hills to share her journey and achievements with media, supporters and the community



Pedigree Pro HyCan'24, a pet show for dogs, cats and pet lovers, is scheduled to take place on Sunday, 24th, at OM Convention in Narsingi, Hyderabad. Organised by the Hyderabad Canine Club, the event aims to promote animal welfare and responsible pet ownership, bringing together the pet-loving community. This year's show promises to be bigger and better, featuring the Kennel Club of India Championship Dog Show and the Indian Cat Club Cat Show.



S. Kantha Reddy, the head of the Sculpture Department at JNAFU College, is presenting a 2-day drawing exhibition, which will end today. The event will take place at the JNAFU College premises, providing a platform for art enthusiasts and students to appreciate the creative genius of the artist.

The 85th birth anniversary of Mulayam Singh Yadav, the founder of the Samajwadi Party and former chief minister, was celebrated by party leaders and workers, at their party office in Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad. On this occasion, Kalyan Yadav, the Greater Hyderabad Samajwadi Party leader, paid tributes to Mulayam Singh Yadav.

SMALL SCREEN TO SILVER SCREEN

The entertainment world is witnessing a remarkable transition as several popular television stars make their way to the big screen. These actors, known for their impressive performances on TV, are now stepping into the world of cinema, showcasing their versatility and capturing hearts in a new arena. These actors represent a new era where boundaries between television and cinema continue to blur. They've built a loyal fanbase through years of dedication to television and are now exploring the cinematic landscape, taking on diverse roles and challenging themselves creatively.

Here's a closer look at these actors who are either gearing up for their big-screen debuts or have recently made a significant mark in films:

Nimrit Kaur Ahluwalia

From ruling the small screen with her compelling performances in hit TV shows, Nimrit Kaur Ahluwalia is ready to dazzle audiences with her silver-screen debut. Starring opposite singer-actor Guru Randhawa in *Shaunki Sardar*, Nimrit promises to bring her charisma and acting prowess to theatres. Known for her emotional depth and relatable portrayals, Nimrit's fans are eager to see her explore a larger-than-life persona on the big screen. With her debut just around the corner, the anticipation is palpable.



Initially released in theatres and later on OTT platforms, the film showcased Parth's potential as a bankable actor in Bollywood. With his immense popularity from TV and now a foot in the film industry, Parth is poised to secure more significant roles, further solidifying his career in Indian cinema.



Lakshya

If there's one name that has been making waves, it's Lakshya. The young actor recently delivered a breakout performance in the action thriller *Kill*, which gained international acclaim and a strong fan following. Transitioning seamlessly from TV to films, Lakshya's journey is an inspiring tale of perseverance and talent. His nuanced performance in *Kill* has not only impressed fans but also garnered industry-wide recognition, marking him as a force to be reckoned with in Bollywood.



Dheeraj Dhoopar



Having already won hearts with his roles in popular TV dramas and his OTT ventures, Dheeraj Dhoopar is now preparing to take the plunge into cinema. Although the project remains untitled and details are under wraps, the buzz surrounding his debut is immense. Dheeraj's charm, combined with his ability to bring depth to his characters, has cemented his place as one of the most promising stars to watch out for. This move is a significant milestone for his fans, who can't wait to see him light up the big screen.

Pratibha Ranta

In what can only be described as a dream debut, Pratibha Ranta has taken the cinematic world by storm with her performance in *Laapataa Ladies*. Directed by Kiran Rao, the film has garnered widespread acclaim and even an Oscar nomination, putting Pratibha firmly in the spotlight. A discovery from the television industry, Pratibha's journey to the big screen exemplifies hard work and talent. Her role in *Laapataa Ladies* has not only made her a household name but also set her on a path to potentially create history in Indian cinema.



Parth Samthaa

Parth Samthaa's transition to cinema came with his debut film, *Ghudchadi*, where he shared the screen with Khushali Kumar and Bollywood veteran Sanjay Dutt.

FUN

ARCHIE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



GARFIELD



NANCY



GINGER MEGGS



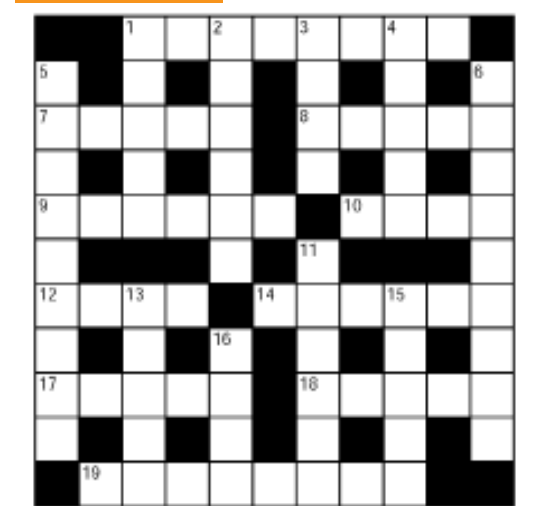
REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



CROSSWORD



SUDOKU

8				17				
	7			8				1
2								5
1	8	3			5			7
5	6		1	4				
	3				7	3		9
6			7				9	
			2	8				3

Yesterday's solution

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

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

ACROSS

- Strong hairs sticking out from a cat's face
- A sour citrus fruit
- Strike with the foot
- A red-breasted bird
- A light metal
- Immediately
- A room on a ship
- Someone who grows crops or raises animals
- A joint between two ropes
- Someone who grows crops or raises animals
- Midday
- Cardboard box
- The brother of your father or mother
- A soldier's bravery award
- Things that belong to someone

DOWN

- Adult females
- Take no notice of



MECHANIC ROCKY RUNS OUT OF FUEL!

SURESH KAVIRAYANI
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Vishwak Sen, the up-and-coming actor, is gradually expanding his reach with each new movie he does. His films *Gaami* and *Gangs of Godavari* came out this year, and his third film *Mechanic Rocky* is being released today. The director of the movie is Ravi Teja Mullapudi, with Meenakshi Chaudhary and Shraddha Srinath starring as the female leads. This is the tale and its progression.

Story:

Rakesh, alias Rocky (played by Vishwak Sen), runs a mechanic garage and driving school that he inherited from his father (played by VK Naresh). In college, Rocky was in love with his classmate Priya (played by Meenakshi Chaudhary), but she hated him due to a misunderstanding. Later, Priya joins Rocky's driving school to learn driving, and Rocky learns that her brother (played by Rachakonda Vishwadev) has passed away. To help her, Rocky starts dating Priya again and falls in love. However, a local don, Ranki Reddy (played by Sunil), wants to seize the garage, as it is a prime property. He gives Rocky an ultimatum to vacate the garage. Meanwhile, Maya (played by Shraddha Srinath), an insurance agent,

joins Rocky's driving school to learn driving. After Rocky's father passes away, he is supposed to pay Rs 50 lakhs to Ranki Reddy within 10 days. At this critical juncture, Maya offers to help Rocky. To uncover the reasons behind Maya's willingness to help Rocky, Priya's death and the mystery surrounding Rocky's father's demise, watch *Mechanic Rocky*.

Analysis:

After exploring fantasy, supernatural and mythological themes, Tollywood is now shifting its focus to cybercrime stories. Director Ravi Teja Mullapudi has also chosen to tackle cyber-crime in his film *Mechanic Rocky*, starring Vishwak Sen. While the concept is intriguing, the director takes a long time to develop his point, resulting in a routine and boring first half, except for a few scattered jokes. The director's intention was to craft a thriller, but the film ultimately falls flat, despite numerous twists and turns in the second half. In fact, the story only begins to unfold in the second half, where the

REVIEW

director has woven in some interesting scenes. However, the climax is a major letdown, ending on a routine and silly note. Furthermore, the film lacks strong emotions, which is another significant drawback.

The director aimed to convey a serious message in the second half, but the first half is marred by silly jokes and unnecessary scenes. Many scenes feel dragged out, with characters forced into the narrative. Upon examining the film as a whole, it's clear that the first and second halves feel disjointed. When the director reveals key points, the audience can anticipate what will happen next. The film's non-linear storytelling, featuring multiple flashbacks, is an unconventional approach. The romance between Vishwak Sen and Meenakshi fail to impress and the songs are a major disappointment. Jakes Bejoy's music falls short of expectations.

Overall, while the director raises a relevant and serious issue, he fails to

execute it effectively.

Performance:

When it comes to performances, Vishwak Sen plays Mechanic Rocky in his usual style, but nothing stands out in this role. His character could have been stronger. Meenakshi Chaudhary, who has appeared in several recent films, delivers a better performance in this one. However, the highlight of the film is undoubtedly Shraddha Srinath, who steals the show with her impressive performance. In fact, she and Vishwak Sen are the saviours of the film.

Naresh plays the role of Rocky's father, which is a routine one for him. In the climax, he goes overboard in a scene with Aadi. Sunil has only three scenes in the film. Harshavardhan, Viva Harsha, Rachakonda Vishwadev and Raghuram all play their parts well. Unfortunately, Aadi's character is under-utilised. The dialogues are just okay and the music is average. On the other hand, the cinematography is good.

VERDICT
Mechanic Rocky fails to live up to its pre-release hype. Although the main plot is revealed only in the second half, it tackles a serious issue. Unfortunately, the director falters, as the first half is a tedious bore. While the twists and turns in the second half offer some interesting moments, the climax ultimately falls short of expectations.

Cast: Vishwak Sen, Meenakshi Chaudhary, Shraddha Srinath, VK Naresh, Sunil, Rachakonda Vishwadev, Harshavardhan, Viva Harsha, Hyper Aadi and others
Director and writer: Ravi Teja Mullapudi
Producers: Rajani Talluri
Music: Jakes Bejoy
Cinematographer: Manojh Reddy Katsani
Rating: 2/5



Zebra: A misstep despite high hopes

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Satya Dev, a talented actor known for his relentless efforts in the film industry, has yet to secure a major box-office success. With *Zebra*, directed by Eashvar Karthic, he pinned all his hopes on delivering a breakthrough. Co-starring Daali Dhananjay and Priya Bhavani Shankar, the film revolves around a banking scam and its far-reaching consequences. Let's dive into the story and see how it unfolds.

Story

Surya (played by Satya Dev) works at the Bank of Trust, while his fiancée, Swathi (played by Priya Bhavani Shankar), is employed at another bank. Swathi commits a major mistake at work and seeks Surya's help to rectify it. Using his deep understanding of banking loopholes, Surya, with the assistance of his friend (played by Satya), successfully covers up Swathi's error. However, this inadvertently draws the attention of Aadi (played by Daali Dhananjay), a notorious don, who loses money because of Surya's actions. Aadi gives Surya an ultimatum: pay him Rs. 5 crores within ten days or face severe consequences. Left with no choice, Surya decides to use his knowl-

Cast: Satya Dev, Daali Dhananjay, Priya Bhavani Shankar, Satya Raj, Satya, Jennifer Piccinato and others
Story and Director: Eashvar Karthic
Producers: Bala Sundaram, SN Reddy, Dinesh Sundaram
Music: Ravi Basrur
Cinematographer: Sathya Ponmar
Rating: 1/5

edge of banking loopholes to gather the money. The story then explores how Surya navigates this challenge. Who is Aadi, and what led him to become a ruthless don? How does Sunil's character fit into the equation? And what role does Satya Raj play in this cybercrime-ridden tale? To uncover these answers, you'll need to watch *Zebra* on the big screen.

Analysis

Director Eashvar Karthic, who previously worked in banking, aimed to expose the sector's vulnerabilities. While the concept of uncovering fraud within the banking system sounds compelling on paper, its execution falls short. The narrative is

bogged down by excessive technical jargon and banking terminology, which alienates the common audience. Terms like ledger, deactivate accounts, activate accounts and credit and debit flows dominate the dialogue, making the plot difficult to follow.

The pacing is uneven, with a fast-paced first half that leaves viewers confused and a second half that drags. Despite a few engaging moments, the film largely fails to hold attention. Furthermore, multiple subplots and excessive cinematic liberties dilute the main story. Comedic elements, especially those involving Satya, often feel forced and fail to land.

The lack of emotional depth and well-written characters is another drawback. Even promising characters like Satya Raj and Sunil are underutilized, contributing little to the overall narrative. Films with similar themes, such as *Lucky Bhaskar* and *Mechanic Rocky*, have succeeded in blending technical details with relatable emotions, but *Zebra* struggles to achieve this balance.

REVIEW

Verdict

Zebra tests the audience's patience with its overly technical approach, lack of emotional connection and poorly executed narrative. While there are a few moments of intrigue, they are too sparse to salvage the film. Satya Dev, still searching for a much-deserved hit, will have to wait a little longer as *Zebra* adds another flop to his filmography.

Performances

Satya Dev, though he suits the role of a bank employee, this film does not showcase his acting prowess as effectively as his earlier works. Daali Dhananjay's character is flat and lacks emotional depth, leaving little room for him to shine. Priya Bhavani Shankar delivers a charming perfor-

mance and stands out in her role. Sunil and Satya Raj. Both characters are poorly written and feel like wasted opportunities.

Cinematography and Music. The visuals are commendable, and Ravi Basrur's background score adds some energy, but the songs are underwhelming.

RC16 shooting in Mysore; Janhvi, Ram Charan to join soon

Buchi Babu Sana's much-awaited sports drama *RC 16*, starring Ram Charan and Janhvi Kapoor, officially began filming in Mysore. The director, known for his blockbuster debut *Uppena*, sought blessings at the Chamundeswari Matha temple before commencing the shoot. Sharing his excitement on social media, Buchi wrote, "It's a BIG DAY... Started with the blessings of Chamundeswari Matha, Mysore. Blessings needed. #RC16," along with a photo of himself holding the script. Adding to the excitement, veteran actor Jagapathi Babu has joined the cast to play a pivotal role. Mythri Movie Makers, the production house, welcomed him, stating, "Team #RC16 welcomes the incredibly talented @lamjagguBhai on board for a commanding character that will impress one and all." This marks Jagapathi's second collaboration with Ram Charan after *Rangashatham*. The lead stars are expected to begin filming key scenes on Monday. Vijay Sethupathi, who previously collaborated with Buchi Babu, has already hailed the project as a "sure shot blockbuster."



Mohan babu's powerful look as Mahadeva Shastri revealed

A legendary actor Mohan Babu celebrates an extraordinary 50-year career in the film industry, the team behind his upcoming project *Kannappa* has unveiled a striking first-look poster of his character, Mahadeva Shastri, marking the milestone of his Golden Jubilee year. In the intense and captivating poster, Mohan Babu stands in a powerful pose, dressed in traditional Brahmin attire, with Rudraksha malas adorning his neck and wrists. Holding a weapon, his solemn gaze reflects a deep sense of strength and reverence. The background features a congregation of devoted Lord Shiva followers, adding a spiritual essence to the visual. The quote "Shaivism - When arrogance intertwines with faith, it births a force like no other: Mahadeva Shastri" offers a glimpse into the character's compelling role in the film. *Kannappa* holds a special place for the Manchu family, as it unites three generations of stars, Mohan Babu, Vishnu Manchu and Avram Manchu. Alongside them, the film also



stars Prabhas, Akshay Kumar, Mohan Lal, Sharath Kumar and Kajal Aggarwal and is set for a pan-India release.

Devaki Nandana Vasudeva: A predictable action-packed ride

Ashok Galla, nephew of Superstar Mahesh Babu and son of businessman-politician Jayadev Galla, returns with his second film, *Devaki Nandana Vasudeva*. Directed by Arjun Jandhyala, the film marks the debut of Miss India Manasa Varanasi as the lead actress and Devadatta Nage, known for his role as Bajrang in *Adipurush*, as the antagonist. With a story penned by Hanuman fame director Prashanth Varma, the film raised some expectations. Let's see how it fares.

Story

Kamsaraju (played by Devadatta Nage) is a ruthless landlord who eliminates anyone who dares oppose him. During a visit to Kashi, a Shiva sage warns him that his death will be caused by his sister's third child. Alarmed, Kamsaraju returns to his village and murders his brother-in-law. His sister (played by Devayani) gives birth to a girl, Satya Bham (played by Manasa Varanasi). Years later, Krishna (played by Ashok Galla), the son of Devaki (played by Jhansi), meets Satya Bham at a wedding and falls in love with her. Meanwhile, after spending 21 years in jail, Kamsaraju seeks vengeance on those who turned against him. Krishna inadvertently becomes close to Kamsaraju after saving him. The film unfolds as the prophecy takes center stage: how Krishna and Satya Bham are linked, and whether the sage's warning proves true, forms the crux of the story.

Cast: Ashok Galla, Manasa Varanasi, Devadatta Nage, Devayani, Jhansi, Sanjay Swaroop, and others
Story: Prashanth Varma
Director: Arjun Jandhyala
Producers: Balakrishna S
Music: Bheems Ceciroleo
Cinematographer: Prasad Murella
Rating: 2/5

Analysis

In recent years, Tollywood has embraced films with mythological and supernatural themes, as seen in hits like *Virupaksha*, *Hanuman*, and *Karthikeya*. Similarly, *Devaki Nandana Vasudeva* blends mythology with commercial elements. Prashanth Varma's influence is evident in the supernatural touches, while Arjun Jandhyala's association with Boyapati Sreenu brings intense action sequences into the mix.

The story incorporates mythological names—Kamsaraju, Devaki, Krishna and Satya Bham—but lacks depth. A slight twist in Satya Bham's character offers some intrigue, but the overall narrative is predictable. The protagonist, Krishna, portrayed by Ashok Galla, lacks the commanding screen presence

required for the action-heavy sequences. His lean physique and lover-boy demeanor make the fight scenes unrealistic. The romantic and comedic segments fail to engage, and the film struggles to maintain momentum until its final moments, which are somewhat gripping.

Performances

Ashok Galla delivers a marginally better performance compared to his debut, but he lacks the intensity needed for an action hero. Manasa Varanasi, in her debut role, offers a decent but unremarkable performance. Devadatta Nage, as the villain, delivers a bland portrayal. The dubbing adds volume to his lines, but his expressions lack conviction. Devayani and Jhansi provide adequate support. Satru performs well in his role. The dialogues are good and the cinematography is good. Music by Bheems music is average.

Verdict

Devaki Nandana Vasudeva is a routine commercial entertainer with mythological undertones. While the story shows

promise, the execution falters due to a predictable narrative and a lackluster protagonist. The film offers little novelty apart from its mythological references, with only the last ten minutes managing to pique interest. A formulaic attempt that fails to leave a lasting impact.



IPL 2025 Schedule: BCCI shares schedule for next three seasons

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Next year's Indian Premier League will be held from March 14 to May 25, the BCCI has told the IPL franchises while also setting aside similar widows for the event's 2026 and 2027 editions in an uncharacteristically elaborate plan. The BCCI has also decided to include injury-prone England pacer Jofra Archer, Indian-born American pacer Saurabh Netravalkar and uncapped Mumbai-wicketkeeper-batter Hardik Tamore in the two-day mega players' auction to be held in Jeddah from Sunday. In its communication to the franchises, the Board has stated that the dates for the next three seasons are being shared at once to "assist the franchises in planning for the players' auction." The 2026 edition of the tournament will start on March 15 and the grand finale



has been scheduled for May 31. The 2027 edition will once again start on March 14 with the final on May 30. All three finals will be held on Sundays. The BCCI had plans to increase the number of

matches in the IPL to ensure that it runs for 10 and half weeks and looking at the windows set aside, it looks imminent that the league's game count will increase. Archer did not feature in the IPL this year and his run in the 2023 edition was cut short by an elbow injury. Netravalkar was one of the breakout stars of the T20 World Cup in the USA earlier this year with impressive performances that were crucial to his side advancing to the Super 8s. The former India Under-19 player, who also turned up for Mumbai in Ranji Trophy, migrated to the USA to pursue computer engineering and is currently employed with Oracle. His omission from the pruned auction list at the expense of another India-turned-US player Unmukt Chand had raised eyebrows as the latter was not a part of the American team in the T20 World Cup.



Jannik Sinner leads Italy back to the Davis Cup semifinals

AP ■ MALAGA

No. 1-ranked Jannik Sinner won matches in singles and doubles to lead defending champion Italy to a 2-1 comeback victory over Argentina, earning a return trip to the Davis Cup semifinals. "I'm here trying to do the best I can in the singles," Sinner said on Thursday. "If they put me on the court in doubles, I'll also try my best." On Saturday, Italy will face Australia in a rematch of last year's final, but this time it will only be for a chance to play for the championship. Australia eliminated the U.S. 2-1 earlier Thursday to reach the final four at the team competition for the third consecutive year. The other semifinal, to be contested Friday, is the Netherlands against Germany. The Dutch got past Rafael Nadal and Spain in the quarterfinals earlier in the week, sending the 22-time Grand Slam champion into retirement. Italy fell behind 1-0 in the quarterfinals when Argentina's Francisco Cerundolo defeated Lorenzo Musetti 6-4, 6-1 on an indoor hard court at the Palacio de Deportes Jose Maria Martina Carpena in southern Spain. But then in stepped Sinner, whose season already includes two Grand Slam trophies — at the Australian Open and U.S. Open — plus the title at the ATP Finals last weekend in Turin, Italy. First he overwhelmed Sebastián Báez 6-2, 6-1. Then Sinner teamed with 2021 Wimbledon runner-up Matteo Berrettini in the deciding doubles match to win 6-4, 7-5 against Andres Molteni and Maximo Gonzalez. "He carried me today," Sinner said about Berrettini. After arriving late to Malaga from Turin, Sinner did not get a

chance to practice on the Davis Cup competition court before taking on Báez and stretching his streak to 22 sets won in a row. "In three minutes, he was perfectly comfortable on court," Italy captain Filippo Volandri said. "He's a special one." Volandri swapped out his original doubles team, Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori, for Sinner and Berrettini, and the change paid dividends. Australia, the Davis Cup runner-up the last two years, advanced when Matt Ebden and Jordan Thompson beat the surprise, last-minute American pairing of Ben Shelton and Tommy Paul 6-4, 6-4 in that quarterfinal's deciding doubles match. The Shelton-Paul substitution for Paris Olympics silver medalists Austin Krajicek and Rajeev Ram was announced about 15 minutes before the doubles match began. Ebden and John Peers beat Krajicek and Ram in the Summer Games final in August. The Australians broke once in each set of the doubles. In the second, they stole one of Shelton's service games on the fourth break opportunity when Ebden's overhead smash made it 5-4. Thompson then served out the victory, closing it with a service winner before chest-bumping Ebden. The 21st-ranked Shelton made his Davis Cup debut earlier Thursday in singles against 77th-ranked Thanasi Kokkinakis, who emerged from a tight-as-can-be tiebreaker by saving four match points and eventually converting his seventh to win 6-1, 4-6, 7-6 (14). No. 4 Taylor Fritz, the U.S. Open runner-up, then pulled the Americans even with a far more straightforward victory over No. 9 Alex de Minaur, 6-3, 6-4.



Cricket Australia to pay tribute to late Phillip Hughes on 10th death anniversary

PTI ■ PERTH

Cricket Australia has planned a series of initiatives to mark the 10th anniversary of the tragic death of Phillip Hughes including a tribute before the start of the second Test between India and Australia at the Adelaide Oval scheduled from December 6-10. CA will also honour the late Australian cricketer during the upcoming three Sheffield Shield games, as players will wear black armbands and flags will fly at half-mast. A promising left-hander who played 26 Tests, Hughes lost his life just days before his 26th birthday in 2014 after being struck by a bouncer during a domestic match. Representing South Australia, Hughes was hit on an unprotected area below his left ear while attempting a hook shot against Sean Abbott at the SCG. Despite wearing a helmet, the impact proved fatal. "We understand this will be a time of reflection for the many people who knew and admired Phillip Hughes," Cricket Australia (CA) CEO Nick Hockley said on Friday. "We wanted to ensure that the Hughes family, particularly,

comfortable with any commemorations and that we celebrate Phillip's life and incredible achievements appropriately," he added. The home association, which has produced a special documentary on him, will broadcast it ahead of the second Test, as part of a two-week commemoration programme. A moment's silence will also be observed before play on day four of all matches. Batting on 63, Hughes collapsed before receiving mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and was subsequently taken to St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, where he underwent surgery and was placed in an induced coma. Hughes, however, could not recover from the blow and died on November 27. The left-hander was viewed as one of the promising Australian cricketers as the team went through a transitional phase. In the Australia-India Adelaide Test that followed his death a decade ago, the southpaw was named as the home team's 13th player with 63 (the score he was batting at in his last match) seconds of applause observed ahead of the game.

Arsenal, Manchester City and Bayern advance to Women's Champions League quarterfinals

AP ■ LONDON

Arsenal, Manchester City and Bayern Munich all advanced to the Women's Champions League quarterfinals with two games to spare. Late substitute Lina Hurtig scored the winner in Arsenal's 1-0 victory over Juventus in London on Thursday. Khadija Shaw scored twice for City in a 2-1 win at Swedish club Hammarby. City stayed perfect in Group D with four victories and reached the last eight for the first time since 2021. Bayern Munich was held 1-1 at Vålerenga in Norway and still earned a quarterfinal berth after Juventus' loss. Arsenal, Bayern and City join Chelsea, Lyon and Real Madrid in the quarterfinals. Two-time defending champion Barcelona routed Austrian champion St. Pölten 4-1. The Catalan club trails City by three points in their group and is in a strong position to advance. Bayern tops Group C with 10 points, Arsenal has nine followed by Juventus (3) and Vålerenga (1). Back to winning Man City responded to its first



loss of the season, 2-0 at Chelsea in the Women's Super League on Saturday. Still without injured star Vivianne Miedema, Shaw took charge, proving her scoring instincts after half an hour. The forward scored from inside the penalty area with a deflected shot that flew over goalkeeper Anna Tamminen to frustrate more than 20,000 noisy fans at the Stockholm arena in the Swedish capital. Ellen Wangerheim equalized soon after the interval from close range to rejuvenate the crowd but Shaw struck again to restore the lead just minutes later. This time, she delivered a powerful right-footed finish from the edge of the area. Bayern and Harder contained Bayern dominated possession but could not translate it into goals until the 75th minute. It had to rely on substitute Jovana Damjanovic, who gave the visitors a late lead after connecting on a pass from Giulia Gwinn. The Norwegians, who have retained their domestic title, equalized in the 88th on Elise Thorsnes' header following a corner. Pernille Harder, who found the back of the net five times for Bayern in the previous three games, could not do it again on Thursday and was substituted. Hurtig's night

Sreejesh-coached Indian colts depart for Oman to defend Junior Asia Cup title

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Fresh from winning the bronze medal in the Sultan of Johor Cup, PR Sreejesh-coached Indian colts on Friday departed for Muscat to defend the Junior Asia Cup title. India, who defeated arch-rivals Pakistan 2-1 to lift the title last year for a record fourth time, will open their campaign against Thailand on November 27 in their Pool A fixture. They will next face Japan on November 28 and Chinese Taipei on November 30.

Their last group stage match is against Korea on December 1. India need a top-two finish to secure a semifinal berth. Malaysia, Bangladesh, Oman, and China constitute Pool B. Confident of a positive start, captain Amir Ali said they have prepared well and are determined to reach the final. "We have been preparing rigorously and are ready to face the challenges ahead," Ali stated in a Hockey India release. "We all understand the



importance of this tournament and the opportunity to showcase our skills on the big stage. Our focus is on giving our best from the very first match and

securing a strong position to make it to the final." Vice-captain Rohit said the whole team is motivated ahead of the campaign. "The energy in the camp is fantastic, and there is a strong sense of unity among the players. Our recent performance at the Sultan of Johor Cup has given us confidence, and we're focused on building on that momentum. "We are determined to work hard, stay disciplined, and perform to our full potential in every match," Rohit said. "We are all feeling very

motivated and eager to start our campaign at the Men's Junior Asia Cup. The energy in the camp is fantastic, and there is a strong sense of unity among the players." India have so far won the title in 2004, 2008 and 2015, making them the most successful side in the tournament. For legendary Indian goalkeeper Sreejesh, this will be his second assignment as the coach. He began his stint with a bronze medal victory at the Sultan of Johor Cup, beating New Zealand 2-2 (3-2) in a thrilling shootout.

I thought it was just a regulation wicket: Starc on KL Rahul dismissal

PTI ■ PERTH

Australia's senior pacer Mitchell Starc on Friday played down the chatter around India batter KL Rahul's contentious caught behind dismissal on the first day of the opening Test here, saying it was a "regulation wicket". Rahul's dismissal kicked up a controversy with former players from both the countries questioning the third umpire's decision to overturn the on-field official's not out call. After on-field umpire Richard Kettleborough ruled in Rahul's favour following Australia's appeal, the home team used DRS to challenge the decision. Third umpire Richard Illingworth, however, overturned the call despite not having the benefit of a split-screen view which would have

given him a clearer picture of whether the Starc delivery actually grazed the bat or the snicko responded to a hit on the pads. "It got overturned obviously, but I thought it was regulation, the sound it made, the timing of it, I thought it was just a regulation wicket," Starc said at a press conference. Starc (2/14), who bagged the opening wicket of the series when he removed Yashasvi Jaiswal, will resume on six not out alongside wicketkeeper Alex Carey, who is unbeaten on 19, on Saturday, with Australia at 67/7 after India made 150 in their first innings. A staggering 17 wickets fell on the opening day, a record on Australian soil, but the leading pacer believed batting is going to get easier in the second innings and they just need to survive the new Kookaburra

ball. "I think there was a fair bit of good bowling today. Obviously there was enough in the wicket and it probably felt like it was a hardball wicket," Starc said. "When the ball started to get a little bit softer towards the back end of that Indian innings, it probably didn't do as much. (There was) still enough there, but it didn't do as much as the brand new hardball. "So I guess that's something for teams to take in the second innings. "If you can get through the testing period, it does get slightly easier. That being said, the outfield is quite slow, so that probably made runs a bit hard to come by. That's probably the slowest outfield we've seen over in the west for a long time."



While Starc gave the first breakthrough, his pace-bowling colleague Josh Hazlewood proved to be more successful on the day, returning with excellent figures of 4/29 in 13 overs before the peerless Jasprit Bumrah (4/17 in 10 overs) yet

again displayed his extraordinary skills. Starc is also not of the view that batting conditions were becoming harder across Australia. "How many ways can you skin a cat? Bowlers are allowed to bowl good balls," he said. "When there's a lot of runs, it's like, 'Oh, the bowlers bowled badly. When there's wickets, the wickets are tough.' (But) you are allowed to bowl good balls and maybe credit should go to both teams and bowlers. "Sure, there's plenty in the wicket when you put it in the right area and it was hard work for batting, but as I said, you're allowed to bowl good balls and there were plenty of those today." At stumps, Australia trailed by 83 runs thanks to the incredible comeback by the

Bumrah-led Indian team, something that seemed improbable after they were all out for an under-par score and weeks after their unprecedented 0-3 drubbing to New Zealand at home. Starc said he was not surprised by India's comeback. "That was a completely different series, different conditions, different teams, so, yeah, that was entertaining to watch, that series. But we know how good a team India are and they have shown that today. "I thought we bowled quite well and perhaps an under par score and they have come out and matched us with the ball, so, no, I wouldn't say I was surprised as we know the skill they have got in that team with bat and ball, and they showed that with the ball today," Starc pointed out.