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GOES GLOBAL! JOINS DRAKE & MORE

Devi Sri Prasad expresses discontent with *Pushpa 2* **MAKERS** QUOTE OF THE DAY the pioneer I read that those who went to jail will become CM. But KTR's sister Kavitha went to jail first. He doesn't have a chance there. In KCR's family, that chance has gone to his sister who went to jail. He is unable to handle the competition in the family. He should stop such cheap thoughts. He worked as a minister for 10 years, went to the US. He should have some wisdom and use it

- Revanth Reddy, Chief Minister

Police fail to crack Warangal thefts

A surge in thefts across the Warangal Police Commissionerate has left the authorities scrambling for answers. Police suspect that organised inter-state criminal gangs from Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan are behind many of these heists, which are primarily targeting locked houses, apartments, and commercial establishments. One of the most alarming incidents was the theft ...

FIR against SP MP Barq, SP MLA's son

Police have lodged seven FIRs in connection with the violence over a court-ordered survey of a Mughal-era mosque here, naming Samajwadi Party MP Zia-ur-Rehman Barq and local SP MLA Iqbal Mehmood's son Sohail Iqbal as accused, officials said on Monday. The district administration has already imposed prohibitory orders and barred the entry of outsiders into Sambhal till November 30. Internet services are ...

Gold tumbles Rs 1K to Rs 79,400 per garm

Gold prices tumbled Rs 1,000 to slip below the Rs 80,000 level in the national capital on Monday amid weak global trends. according to local marketmen. The precious metal of 99.9 per cent nurity tanked Rs 1 000 to R 79,400 per 10 grams against the previous close of Rs 80,400 on Friday. Silver declined Rs 1.600 to Rs 91,700 per kg. The metal finished at Rs 93,300 per kg on Friday. The price of gold with 99.5 per cent purity plunged .

team India needs him

In a reverential tone, India skipper Jasprit Bumrah on Monday paid a massive compliment to Virat Kohli, saying the team needs his support more than the batting mainstay needs theirs. Kohli's 30th Test century, an unbeaten 100, played a big part in India's epochal 295-run win over Australia at Perth after getting rolled over for a paltry 150 in the first innings. "Obviously, I have already said that Virat Kohli does not need us, We need him. He is an



Ruckus over Adani issue

Oppn tries to corner govt, seeks JPC probe

Both Houses adjourned within minutes

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The winter session of Parliament got off to a rocky start on Monday with both houses being adjourned within minutes of the commencement of proceedings as the opposition tried to corner the government on the issue of corruption allegations against the Adani Group and demanded a JPC probe.

Addressing media before the two Houses met, Prime Minister Narendra Modi attacked the opposition on the issue of disruptions, saying those rejected by people "80-90 times" were trying to control Parliament by resorting to hooliganism for their political gains.

Several opposition MPs had given adjournment notices in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha seeking suspension of the day's listed business to discuss the issue of the indictment of Adani group head



Gautam Adani and others in a US

court on charges Continued on Page 2



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday slammed the opposition, saying those rejected by people 80-90 times were trying to control Parliament by resorting to hooliganism for their own political gains.

Addressing reporters ahead of the start of Continued on Page 2

TG rejects Adani's Rs100 cr donation for Skills University

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said on Monday that his government had declined Rs 100 crore offered by the Adani Foundation towards the 'Young India Skills University' being established in Hyderabad.

The decision comes in the wake of sensational bribery and fraud charges against Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani and his associates by US prosecutors, in connec- corrupt, an offender.'

tion with a mega solar power purchase agreement between Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) and various states, including neighbouring Andhra Pradesh.

On Thursday, when the US court indictment came to light, opposition Bharat Rashtra Samithi's working president KT Rama Rao alleged a nexus between Revanth and Adani, "even as the Congress high command and leader Rahul Gandhi accused the tycoon of being utterly

Adani Group here to stay

NAVEENA GHANATE naveena.ghanate@gmail.com

HYDERABAD

Although the Telangana government has declined the Rs. 100 crore donation offered by the Adani Group towards the Young India Skills University (YISU), Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has clarified that the group remains involved in the state's

skilling and industrial projects. Asked by The Pioneer if Adani Logistics would continue with

skilling at YISU, the Chief Minister emphasized that Adani's role in YISU's logistics skilling segment would continue as planned. This decision to decline pertained only to the Rs 100 crore offered as donation.

At YISU, each corporate entity focuses on skilling youth in specific sectors, and Adani is handling the logistics domain. This was explicitly mentioned by Minister Sridhar Babu when the Bill was introduced in the Assembly.

Continued on Page 2



court has charged Adani and seven others, including his nephew Sagar, of promising Rs 2,029 crore in bribes to Indian government officials to obtain contracts.

Revanth said, "Rahul Gandhi has clearly said that the state government or central government must call for process in a democratic way, the ten-

The Chief Minister said that many companies had given funds towards establishing the Young India Skills University. In the same way, the Adani Group also offered us Rs 100 crore. I would like to reiterate the decision by the state government that it will not accept the Rs 100 tenders. With a proper systematic crore from the Adani Group," he Continued on Page 2

KALESHWARAM PROJECT

Probe panel seizes records

The Justice PC Ghose Commission has deepened its inquiry into the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation records related to works at various including barrages, Medigadda, have been seized.

resumed its investigation into the project, questioned engineers, including Assistant Executive Engineers (AEE) and Divisional Engineers (DE), on es provided by the engineers and placement records were updated

The Commission, which

construction details and work exe-

cution. Justice PC Ghose expressed answers to the questions posed. his dissatisfaction with the respons-



instructed them to limit their daily or

Registers documenting work done on the field level were seized,

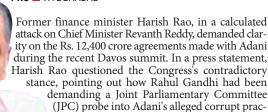
and signatures from engineers were taken to verify their authenticity.

discrepancies, including missing quality control registers, particularly related to sagging pillars at Medigadda and other barrages. Justice Ghose is under-

stood to have specifically inquired whether work Adani deals made in Dayos?

HARISH TO REVANTH

What about Rs 12 400-cr



(JPC) probe into Adani's alleged corrupt practices while Revanth Reddy was forging deals with the same tycoon. "Revanth Reḋdy, who recently announced

the decision to return Rs. 100 crore donated by Adani to Young India Skill Continued on Page 2 University, must

Vande Bharat Express gets delayed by 11 hours

High drama was witnessed at Rani Kamalapati railway station in Bhopal after the Vande Bharat Express for Hazrat Nizamuddin in Delhi was delayed on Monday by nearly 11 hours due to a technical snag, officials and eyewitnesses said.

Before the premium train, which otherwise departs from Rani Kamalapati station at 5.40 am, left for its destination in the evening, angry passengers staged a protest on

Kohli proves why

experienced player. This is .



Director Ram Gopal Varma ready to appear 'digitally' for probe

SC cancels land allotment to housing societies in GHMC limits

MPs, MLAs, civil servants, judges, defence personnel, journalists etc impacted

PNS HYDERABAD

The Supreme Court of India has cancelled certain land allotments made to housing societies within the limits of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC). The verdict was delivered by a bench led by Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna on Monday.

The ruling impacts various allotments of government land to public representatives, government offi-

cials, and journalists, among others, in GHMC limits. Furthermore, the Supreme Court ordered that the amounts paid by the societies, including interest, should be refunded.

The CJI Justice Sanjiv Khanna bench gave directions concluding the case. He delivered the Court decision on Appeals and Writ Petitions saying that the Court dismissed the appeals filed by the State of Telangana and the Cooperative Societies and their officers, judges, Continued on Page 2

members. The Court allowed the appeal by Prof Keshav Rao Jadhav challenging the High Court of Andhra Pradesh judgment (dated 05.01.2010). The Court approved the Writ Petitions (Nos. 7956, 7997, and 23862 of 2008).

As a result, the following Government Orders (G.O.Ms.) are quashed: G.O.Ms. Nos. 243 and 244 (dated 28.02.2005), which classified MPs, MLAs, AIS/State Government

Routinely ordering CBI probe demoralises state police: SC

Maharashtra: Suspense over 'Kaun Banega CM' continues

PNS MUMBAI

Suspense over who will be Maĥarashtra's next chief minister continued on Monday, two days after the ruling BJP-led Mahayuti won a landslide victory in the assembly elections, shattering the Congress-led Maha Vikas Aghadi's dream to wrest power.

The formation of a new government in Maharashtra, which appeared likely immediately after the BJP-led coalition's thumping victory, has been delayed due to Shiv Sena's insistence that Eknath Shinde

continue as the chief minister, sources said.

After the November 20 election results were out on Saturday, there was talk that Devendra Fadnavis, instrumental in getting his party the highest-ever seats in the assembly. would be sworn in, as early as Monday, but that has not happened, due to the Mahayuti leaders not reaching a consensus on who

will be the next CM, the sources said. There was speculation that Fadnavis, Shinde, and Ajit Pawar, who reached Delhi Monday to Continued on Page 2



Artisan workers submitted a memorandum to the Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Monday

Bandi wants state govt to make artisan jobs permanent

PNS HYDERABAD

Finding fault with the state government for "using artisan workers like slaves", Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar has demanded the State government to immediately make artisan jobs

permanent. Otherwise, the Bharatiya Janata Party would wage a movement along with artisan communities.

Bandi Sanjay Kumar asked the state government to convert the engagement of artisan workers in Continued on Page 2 Routinely ordering the CBI to take over probes not only

leads to an "unimaginable burden" on the premier investigative agency, but also has a very serious and far-reaching demoralising impact" on the officers of the state police, the Supreme Court on Monday highlighted. A bench of Justices Surya

Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan made the remark while ordering an SIT investigation into the alleged torture of a woman in police custody following her arrest during the protests against the rape and murder of a doctor at R G Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

The bench, which modified the November 6 Calcutta

the single judge order directing a CBI probe, said, "It is not necessary for us to comment on those reasons except to say that entrustment of the investigation of matters to the CBI not only leads to an unimaginable burden on the premier investigative agency of the country, but also has a very serious and far-reaching demoralising impact on the officers of the state

it prudent to proceed on the premise that senior IPS officers allocated to the West Bengal cadre were incompetent or inefficient to hold a fair and independent investigation and unearth the truth.

The bench did not find

police.'

The bench did not find it prudent to proceed on the premise that senior IPS officers allocated to the West Bengal cadre were incompetent or inefficient to hold a fair and independent investigation and unearth the

truth

batch IPS Akash Magharia (DIG Presidency range), IPS Swati Bhangalia (SP Howrah (rural)) and IPS Sujata Kumari Veenapani (DSP (traffic) of Howrah) The SIT shall take over the

investigation...forthwith, all the records of the investigation shall be entrusted to SIT today during the course of the day and the SIT will start investigation without any delay. The SIT shall

be at liberty to associate some other police officers, if so required," the bench ordered. The top court urged the

Calcutta High Court chief justice to constitute a special bench before which the SIT would submit its weekly reports and seek further

his clients and submitted the state had invoked provisions under the stringent POCSO Act against a young girl. The bench further directed the victims to approach the SIT to ensure no harm was caused to their lives and liberties, and the probe team was asked to take necessary steps without any delay.

investigation.

Senior advocate Narender Hooda, representing the petitioners, sought protection for

'Expedite priority irrigation projects'

Irrigation Minister Uttam directs officials conference with senior offi-

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Reddy has directed officials to expedite the completion of

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt N Uttam Kumar priority irrigation projects across Telangana. He emphasised the need to avoid delays and ensure the timely execution of these critical projects. The Minister conducted a review meeting via video

cials overseeing various irrigation projects. During the meeting, he instructed the officials to accelerate the tendering process and execution of works for the Sitarama Project.

Stressing the importance of adhering to schedules, he said bureaucratic or administrative delays must be eliminated, especially for priority projects. Uttam Kumar Reddy sought updates on the cost estimates for the Modikunta Vagu Project and the status of land acquisition for the Chinna Kaleshwaram Project. He instructed officials to work closely with Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner Vinay Krishna Reddy to resolve all land acquisition issues. He further directed them to provide the Commissioner with detailed proposals for upcoming land acquisitions tied to various pro-

To address sedimentation issues, Uttam Kumar Reddy urged the officials to float tenders for the desiltation of dams and reservoirs. Highlighting the importance of this process, he said desilting was essential to restore storage capacity and maintain water quality. A decision was taken to hold

a review meeting on the Singur Project on November 27, which will also be attended by Health Damodar Rajanarasimha. During the video conference, the Minister also sought details about the recruitment of laskars and the role of outsourcing agencies involved in the process.

Uttam Kumar Reddy informed the officials that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy was scheduled to visit Nalgonda in the first week of December. He directed them to prepare a comprehensive report on the status of all irrigation projects in the

'VH did not get union minister and CM post as he took up BC slogan'

PNS HYDERABAD

Backward Classes (BC) Welfare Association national president R Krishnaiah alleged that Congress senior leader V Hanumantha Rao did not get the union minister position and chief minister post because VH took up BC slogan.

While participating in the BC Samara Bheri meeting held at Ravindra Bharathi on Monday, Krishnaiah said that the BC movement reached its

final stage.
"We fought for the sake of education, employment and power share all these days. Now we are waging a fight for State power. There is a need to change the path of the movement and we are discussing with the intellectuals day and night for the same,"

Is Harish enjoying defeat of Cong or victory of BJP in Maha?: Ponnam

Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar questioned former Minister T Harish Rao to tell whether the latter is enjoying the defeat of the Congress or the victory of the BJP in Maharashtra?

While addressing the Kamalapur Agriculture Market Committee's new executive committee oath-taking ceremony meeting on Monday, Ponnam commented that they changed the name of TRS to BRS and they went in hundreds of cars to Maharashtra but they failed to contest in a single constituency there.

"We are telling from the begin-ning that the BRS and the BJP are friends in Delhi and fight in gullies. It is proved once again and hence the BRS party did not win a single seat in Lok Sabha elections. Danger to democracy's existence if it thinks everything on political lines," he said.

75 YEARS OF CONSTITUTION

Prez to address joint

sitting of both Houses



Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar addressing the Kamalapur Agriculture Market Committee oath taking ceremony on Monday

The Transport Minister pointed out that the BRS party claimed all these days that the record level paddy crop is because of the Kaleshwaram Project. However, Telangana achieved record level paddy even this time without the Kaleshwaram Project. He said that the government used the Yellampally Project water prop-

erly.
The Minister said that the rice millers should pay Rs 20,000 crore pending amount

to the government. The opposition leaders spoke as they wished while coming to the farmers' paddy piles for delaying paddy procurment.

We are giving a bonus Rs 500 to fine variety paddy. The farmers have to tell if they don't get a bonus. We will waive the loans of the farmers certainly. We are implementing every assurance one after the other while following financial discipline," he said.

October, 2024. During the

BJP: Did CM accept Adani aid without Rahul's knowledge?

PNS HYDERABAD

Observing that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy had been behaving in a manner unbecoming of his position, the Telangana unit of the Bharativa Janata Party on Monday sought to know from the CM fearing whom he had declined the Rs 100 crore offered by Adani towards the upcoming Young India Skill University in Hyderabad. It asked the CM to clarify whether he had previously accepted the offer without the knowledge of All India Congress Committee leader Rahul Gandhi

Speaking to the media at the State BJP office, Telangana BJP general secretary Kasam Venkateshwarlu reminded the Congress party about what happened in the Sahara case during UPA regime and asked whether anyone stopped punishing its chairman Subrata Roy. He asked whether Satyam Ramalingaraju of Satyam Computer did not go to jail during the YS Rajashekar Reddys regime. "Does CM Revanth Reddy know the law or not?" he questioned,

RAGHUANDAN RAO SLAMS CONGRESS AND BRS

One is in power, another in oppn, but their attitude is the same

PNS HYDERABAD

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP from Medak Raghunandan Rao alleged that one (Congress) is in power and another (BRS) is in the opposition but their attitude is the same in regard to land acquisition. Raghunandan Rao alleged that the policy of both parties (Congress and BRS) is the same in land acquisition in Lagacharla and Mallanna Sagar and towards Dalits and tribal

Speaking to the media on Delhi,

Raghunandan Rao alleged that both the parties are enacting dramas with the same attitude. He said that the BJP will extend legal help to the Lagacharla victims and strive to make the government extend compensation as per the Land Acquisition Act-

He demanded Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, who did 48-hours dharna demanding compensation to Malla Sagar land oustees as per Land Acquisition Act-2013, tell why the same Revanth Reddy is not implementing the

Land Acquisition Act-2013 in

The Medak MP alleged that the BRS leaders, when they were in power, vacated the Mallanna Sagar farmers at midnight stating that Land Acquisition Act-2013 was not useful, and CM Revanth Reddy too is behaving in the same manner towards Lagacharla farmers. He demanded the Congress, which claims that it brought Land Acquisition Act-2013, to tell how far the attacks were justified on Lagacharla

Frequent Delhi visits not linked to politics: CM

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said on Monday that his visits to Delhi are not linked to politics. Dismissing the Opposition criticism of his frequent visits to the national capital, he said he would visit Delhi any number of times to get to the State what is due from the Centre.

Addressing a press conference, he slammed Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president



KT Rama Rao for finding fault with his visits to Delhi. Some people are criticising me for visiting Delhi 28 times. I will visit as many time as required," he said.

will address a joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament in the historic Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan on Tuesday, kickstarting year-long celebrations to mark 75 years of the adoption India's

President Droupadi Murmu

Constitution. The government on Monday announced that a new website -- https://constitu-tion75.com -- has been cre-ated to enable citizens to engage with the legacy of the Constitution through interactive activities and resources. Mass readings of its Preamble will take place in schools, cities and villages around the country, it also

The Constituent Assembly met for the first time in New Delhi on December 9, 1946 in the Central Hall of the old Parliament House building. Decorated ele-

gantly for the occasion, the chamber wore a new look on that day with "a con-stellation of bright lamps hanging from the high ceilings'

and also from the brackets on its walls, according to the Lok Sabha

"Overwhelmed and jubilant as they were, the hon'ble members sat in semi-circular rows facing the Presidential dais. The desks which could be warmed electrically were placed on sloping greencarpeted terraces.

REVANTH'S SWIPE AT KTR

If going to jail can make one CM, Kavitha already went: CM

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has observed that if serving jail term is a criterion to become Chief Minister, in Bharat Rashtra Samithi, MLC Kavitha already went to jail (and came out on bail).

During the press meet on Monday, while listing out all the projects given to Adani Group of companies during the Bharat Rashtra Samithi regime, CM Revanth Reddy observed: "Is he (KTR) ready for probe? When we start probe, he will start fake cries that they want to jail me. He only says send me to jail. He is waiting to go to jail and be there. He is thinking -- I saw in the papers -- that those who went to jail will become CM. But his sister went to jail first. He doesn't have a chance there. In KCR's family, that chance has gone to his sister who went to jail. He is unable to handle the competition in the family. He should stop such cheap thoughts. He worked as a Minister for 10 years, went to the US. He should have some wisdom and use it".

The CM listed the names of the Adani projects which were there even during the Bharat Rashtra Samith regime. Incidentally, this was published in The Pioneer on 23

Continued from page 1

explain the agreements signed

with Adani in Davos. While

Rahul Gandhi is fighting

against Adani's corruption,

what justification does

Revanth have for these deals?"

the Congress government was

conspiring to privatize the

state's power sector by hand-

ing over Discoms to Adani.

What is the rationale behind

privatizing Discoms and

betraying the people of Telangana? When Adani pro-

posed a 20,000 MW thermal

plant project, the Telangana

government, under (former

minister

Harish further alleged that

(sic) Harish Rao asked.

What about

BRS regime, operational initiatives include the Adani Elbit Systems Defence Unit at Mamidipally and the first phase of Microsoft's Data Centre at Ellikatta, with the second phase's land acquisition completed and construction set to begin. Ongoing projects include a missile shell manufacturing unit at Mamidipally, expected to be operational by January 2025, and the Khammam-Kodada National Highway, which is 85% complete. Proposals have been submitted for a counterdrone manufacturing unit, a 9 million MT cement plant in Kodangal, and a data centre complex at Mucherla. Adani has acquired 375 acres at Ramannapeta for a logistics park and dry port, while a 6 million MT cement grinding unit is awaiting environmental clearance. Notable accomplishments include the completion of a 750 kV transmis-

sion line connecting Telangana with Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh and two national highways. With MoUs signed during WEF Davos 2024, including for a 5,000 MW pumped storage project, the Adani Group and Microsoft's ventures underscore their long-term commitment to Telangana's economic and technol

carpet for him," Harish Rao

Taking a swipe at Revanth

Reddy's alleged duplicity,

Harish Rao pointed out that

while Rahul Gandhi had been

branding Adani as corrupt;

Revanth Reddy had built a

rapport with him, signing

deals that now warranted

scrutiny. "It's ironic that

Congress leaders are making

a U-turn on Adani as soon as

his corruption comes to light,"

Harish Rao called for the

immediate cancellation of all

agreements made by the Telangana Congress govern-

ment with Adani. "We demand that the Telangana

he added.

Modi slams ...

Continued from page 1

the Winter Session of Parliament, Modi said such handful of people but people of the country observed their actions and punished them at an appropriate time.

Modi's remarks came days after the BJP-led coalition won the Maharashtra Assembly elections by a landslide, bagging 235 seats and relegating the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi to a distant 49 seats in the 288-member

Earlier, the BJP registered a surprise third consecutive victory in the Haryana polls, trouncing the Congress, which was billed as a

pre-poll favourite. There should be a healthy debate in the Parliament but, unfortunately, certain individuals are trying to control Parliament for their own political gains, resorting to disruptions and chaos," Modi

Nov 26 01:02 AM to Nov 27 03:47 AM

to Nov 28 06:24 AM

Nov 27 03:47 AM

Nov 26 01:24 AM

Nov 27 04:34 AM

to Nov 27 04:34 AM

to Nov 28 07:36 AM

2:49 PM to 4:12 PM

9:17 AM to 10:40 AM

01:35 PM to 03:23 PM

12:03 PM to 1:26 PM

09:47 PM to 11:35 PM

Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:41 AM to 12:25 PM

Updated: November 25, 2024 5:00 PM

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Partly Cloudy

ALMANAC

Ekadashi

Dwadash

Chitra:

Rahukalam:

Amritakalam:

Temp: 29°

Humidity: 49% Sunrise: 6:27 AM

Sunset: 5:40 PM

Varjyam:

Nakshatram:

TG rejects Adani's ...

Continued from page 1

Jayesh Ranjan, Special Chief Secretary, Government Commissioner for Industrial Гelangana, wrote to Adani Foundation chairperson Dr Priti Adani in

'We are thankful to you for committing arising controversies," (sic) it stated. Rs 100 crore to Young India Skills University on behalf of your foundation in your letter Parliament began but was adjourned for the dated October 18, 2024. We have so far not asked any of the donors for a physical transfer of funds since the university had not

received the IT exemption under section 80G," the letter read.

"Though this exemption order has now Chief Minister not to seek a transfer of funds in view of the present circumstances and

On Monday, the winter session of day after the Opposition created chaos in the House and demanded a discussion into the bribery allegations against the Adani Group.

Bandi wants state...

Continued from page 1

companies into regular posts. orders to merge them with the Around 20 thousand artisan electricity company. rocc Telangana had been living on bare minimum

wages for 18 years, he added. Leaders of Telangana Vidyut Artisan Conversion JAC met the Union Minister Bandi Sanjay and submitted a petition at the MP's office in Karimnagar on Monday. They recalled that the previous government had promised to regularize the engagement of said.

artisan workers and had given

in the hope of (our jobs) becoming permanent one day. We are working overtime with insufficient salary experiencing job insecurity or emotional distress. We appealed to the Union Minister to think with a humanitarian approach and take the issue to the notice of the CM and do justice", they

Probe panel ...

Continued from page 1

retrospectively. Engineers admitted that they had flagged damages as early as 2020 through letters to higher authorities and construction firms, but corrective measures appeared to have been delayed. As part of its ongoing probe, the Commission aims to interrogate other engineers and IAS officers involved in design changes and construction decisions for the project.

The Commission emphasized accountability, stating that all relevant documentation must be provided without omissions. Justice Ghose underscored that only clear and factual answers would be accepted, signaling impatience with vague or eva-

Continued from page 1

of paying bribes to secure solar power supply contracts. But the notices were disallowed by the Chair, drawing protests from the opposition benches.

alleged that the government was "scared" of a discussion on the issue and sought a Joint Parliamentary

the day without transacting any business, after which meet again on Wednesday (November 27).

speak, the government said.

Chandrasekhar Rao's) KCR's government revoke every deal leadership respectfully declined and sent him off. But it has signed with Adani to protect the interests of the Congress rolled out the red state," he concluded.

Adani Group ... Continued from page 1

The Chief Minister reiterated that no decision had been made to cancel Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) signed with Adani. "We cannot unilaterally cancel agreements of investments as there will be legal hurdles. A level playing field should be provided," the Chief Minister added. He said that the Bharat Rashtra Samithi wanted investments but again asked to cancel agreements.

Revanth Reddy dismissed the possibility of blanket blacklisting of Adani from future projects in the state. 'Blacklisting can only be con-

sidered after a review of participation in tenders and evaluation of past history," he remarked.

The Chief Minister also unveiled a list of Adani's proin Telangana. Interestingly among the list is a 9-million metric ton cement plant. An Expression of Interest for the project has already been submitted, with Kodangal identified as the potential location.

The developments highlight the balancing act the Telangana government faces amid national debates on Adani's involvement in public and private ventures.

Maharashtra: Suspense ...

Continued from page 1

marriage reception of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla's daughter, may meet BJP leaders in the national capital, to resolve the impasse on the CM's post.

Shiv Sena spokesperson Naresh Mhaske cited the "Bihar model" to assert that Shinde should continue as the chief minister. However, BJP MLC Pravin Darekar said Fadnavis is the most capable candidate to lead the state. The Mahayuti coalition, comprising the Shiv Sena, BJP and Ajit Pawar-led NCP, retained power by winning 230 of the 288 assembly seats in the just-concluded state polls, leaving the Aghadi with just 46 seats.

SC cancels

Continued from page 1

and journalists as a special category for land allotment at basic rates; G.O.Ms. Nos. 419, 420, 422 to 425 (dated 25.03.2008) and G.O.Ms. No. 551 (dated 27.03.2008), which were found to violate Article 14 of the Indian Constitution (equality before law).

The bench also gave directions on prior interim directions saying 'Interim directions issued by the Court earlier will now be merged with this final judgment. All parties must follow this final

The CJI bench also ordered that the Cooperative Societies and their members are entitled to a refund of all amounts deposited by them, including stamp duty and registration fees. They will also receive interest on these amounts, as decided by the State of Telangana. The interest rate will not exceed the Reserve Bank of India's applicable rates. The lease deeds executed by the State of Telangana in favor of these societies/members will be canceled. Development charges/expenses paid by these societies/members, as reflected in their account books (certified by income tax returns), will also be refunded with interest.

The Supreme Court also stated that the State of Telangana is free to handle the land in any way had not been intimated about

Vande Bharat ...

Continued from page 1 railway tracks alleging they the delay. As a result of the delay, the Vande Bharat Express (20172) from Hazrat Nizamuddin to Rani Kamalapati station was cancelled on Monday evening. Similarly, the Vande Bharat Express (20171) from Kamalapati to Nizamuddin stands cancelled on Tuesday,

it considers appropriate and lawful, as long as it respects the observations and findings of this

judgment. The Supreme Court commented that the appeals and contempt petitions are formally disposed of. All pending applications related to these ases are also closed.

Incidentally, the Congress government in Telangana had allotted residential plots to members of the Jawaharlal Nehru Journalist Housing Society. On September 8 this year, Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy ceremoniously handed over the documents to beneficiaries at an event held at Ravindra Bharathi, Hyderabad.

However, the Supreme Court's decision has cast uncertainty over the ownership and legal status of the lands allocated to these societies. This development raises broader questions about the land distribution process by state governments and the legality of such allocations. Allottees of these plots, including journalists

and officials, face an uncertain future regarding their claims. The judgment highlighted potential legal flaws in state government land allocation practices, emphasizing the need for transparency and compliance with laws. The ruling may be a reference for challenging similar allocations elsewhere in India

Ruckus over ...

Outside Parliament, the opposition INDIA bloc

Committee investigation into the "scam" They questioned why Parliament was adjourned for

Lok Sabha officials said it was a convention to adjourn the proceedings of the House for a short duration immediately after making an obituary reference to a sitting member. Congress leader Vasant Chavan from Nanded in Maharashtra and Trinamool Congress leader S K Nurul Islam from Basirhat in West Bengal --- both members of the current Lok Sabha -- died between two sessions of Parliament. There will be no sittings of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on Tuesday to mark the 75th anniversary of India's Constitution. Both houses will

President Droupadi Murmu will lead the celebrations at the Central Hall of the old Parliament complex on November 26 to mark the occasion. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar and Speaker Om Birla will also

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Unplugged Tuesdays

Nupur and Josh

Venue

Hard Rock Café, Knowledge City, C Block, Salarpuria and Sattva Group, Plot No 2, Phase 1, Survey No. 83/1, Raidurga village, Hyderabad November 26. 9 pm.

Realty Expo Hyderabad

Venue

Taj Krishna, Road No. 1, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad November 26.

Weekend kids cooking camp

Master cooking and baking in 09 fun weekends

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

Zakir khan live

Stand up comedy show

Venue Shilpakala Vedika November 27

Sweccha- Nela Nela Naatakam

Exhibition-cum-sale

Ravindra bharathi November 27

Arijit Singh Live in concert

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

Concert in Hyderabad on December 7.

Texture art workshop

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

> Venue Multiple venues in Hyderabad till December 8

repertoire.

NYU CARNIVAL

With singer KARTHIK

Venue Boulder Hills, Hyderabad December 31

PNS HYDERABAD

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner K Ilambarithi has directed officials to promptly address the grievances under the Praja Vani programme.

The Commissioner participated in the programme held at GHMC's office on Monday, where citizens presented their issues, filling out applications and seeking solutions.

Commissioner instructed the authorities to review the complaints as soon as they are received and resolve them swiftly. He



urged officials to take proactive measures to solve the problems faced by citizens.

The Praja Vani phone-in programme also received three requests, which were forwarded to the relevant

departments for resolution. A total of 46 requests were filed and among them the

Town Planning department received 21, the Health and Finance departments received five each, the Finance Electrical department received four and the Sports, CE Maintenance, Estates, LWS and Housing departments each received two. The Vigilance department received one complaint.

Across the six zones of the GHMC, a total of 80 applications were received. Kukatpally zone had 33 complaints, Serilingampally zone had 9, LB Nagar zone had 14, Secunderabad zone had 21, Charminar zone had 3 and there were no complaints from Khairatabad zone.

City Pioneer

he pioneer

Stress on water

conservation

Water, like gold and crude oil,

has become a scarce commodity. If a third world war

comes, it will be fought only

for water. Water, which is a free natural resource, is now packaged and sold. Rs 82,600

crore worth of bottled water is sold each year, growing at a rate of 14.03 per cent between 2022 and 2030.

India consumes about five liters of bottled water per per-

son per year. Approximately

9,200 crore liters of water are

Around 150 registered brands are being bottled in over 6000 locations across

Water is essential for living.

Precisely for this reason,

the Indian Plumbing

Association has set up an

educational wall at the just

concluded Indian Public

Conference to sensitise visi-

tors to the exhibition area on

how much water is used in

making their favourite prod-

uct and how they can contribute to conserving water.

Water is slowly but steadily

sold each year.

being monetised.

PNS HYDERABAD

HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | NOVEMBER 26, 2024

SOUMYA HONOURED WITH FABA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Vaccines for TB in approval stage: WHO ex-chief scientist

DEEPIKA PASHAM deepikapasham2015@gmail.com ■ HYDERABAD

Twelve vaccines including from India are at a promising stage to get approvals for Tuberculosis (TB) said Dr Soumya Swaminathan, former Chief Scientist of World Health Organisation (WHO) on Monday.

Dr Soumya Swaminathan was honoured with the FABA Lifetime Achievement Award for contribution to global health at the University of Hyderabad (UoH).

Prof BJ Rao, Vice Chancellor, UoH, said that this accolade recognises her outstanding contribution to medical research and public health, particularly in the fields of tuberculosis (TB) and HIV/AIDS.

Dr Swaminathan explaining on the tackling of Covid-19 pandemic, said that everybody, policy makers, researchers and admin-



Dr Soumya Swaminathan being honoured with the FABA Lifetime Achievement Award for contribution to global health at the University of Hyderabad

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The comprehensive socio-economic,

educational, employment, political

and caste census across Telangana has

reached an advanced stage, with surveys completed in 1,08,89,758 of the

identified 1,17,58,491 residences,

achieving a remarkable 92.6% comple-

tion rate. Thirteen districts have

already completed 100% of their sur-

veys, while Sangareddy stands at 88.1%

and Medchal-Malkajgiri at 82.3%. In

17 other districts, over 90% of the sur-

In the Greater Hyderabad Municipal

vey work has been completed.

istration were working in parallel in identifying the sensitivity of Covid-19 which has helped address the situation in India.

She is currently serving as the Principal Adviser for the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme at India's Ministry of

Health and Family Welfare. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Swaminathan said that though names cannot be taken, there are nearly 12 vaccines which have completed trials and are in the stage of approval, including a few from India.

92% of caste survey completed

The award ceremony featured a series of speeches from distinguished guests, including Prof BJ Rao, Vice-Chancellor UoH and Prof Pallu Reddanna, Executive President of FABA.

Earlier, Dr Swaminathan delivered a Golden Jubilee Distinguished Lecture on Journey of TB and COVID: Lessons for Future Challenges.

In her lecture, Dr Swaminathan explored the intersecting trajectories of tuberculosis (TB) and Covid-19, two infectious diseases that have posed significant global health challenges. By drawing on her extensive experience in medical research and public health policy, Dr Swaminathan highighted the lessons learned from the global responses to these pandemics. Dr Swaminathan's ongoing work continues to influence global health policies and prac-

Corporation (GHMC) area, the survey

is also progressing rapidly. Of the

25,05,517 identified residences,

19,04,977 have been surveyed, mark-

For districts where the survey is

complete, the process of data entry is

underway. So far, computerised data entry has been finalised for 12,85,871

residences. District in-charge officers

have issued instructions to ensure

meticulous data entry by enumerators

and data entry operators to avoid

errors. Officials have also been direct-

ed to securely store survey docu-

ments for future reference.

ing 76% completion.

16-year-old girl dies of food poisoning at tribal hostel

EvolSkills and

Denaurlen launched

to skill students

The 3T Programme aimed at skilling 10,000 minds was launched by D Sridhar Babu, IT

Minister of Telangana and Burra Venkatesham, Principal Secretary of

It was initiated by EvolSkills, an InnoEduHRTech company, in partnership with Denaurlen, an IT-product based company based at T-Hub.

This programme is designed for an electric partnership.

This programme is designed for graduates and undergraduates, blending hands-on learning, live projects and gamified education to build domain-specific skills and foster innovation. Participants also benefit from career guidance and opportunities after com-

career guidance and opportunities after com-

pleting the programme.

"We are grateful to receive the support of

the IT Minister and IAS officer and the inno-

vation ecosystem CEOs as we continue to make a mark," said spokesperson and CEO

of EvolSkills Sowmya Ravula.

PNS HYDERABAD

Education at the T Hub.

PNS HYDERABAD

A 16-year-old girl, admitted to Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) on November 5 due to suspected food poisoning from a tribal hostel in Komaram Bheem Asifabad, passed away on

Monday. She had been treated for dehydration, kidney issues and lung infection, requiring ventilator support and dialysis.

Despite initial recovery, she suffered a respiratory arrest

early on November 11 and was reintubated but could not be saved.

NIMS has not released an official statement, but her body was handed over to her family. Health Minister

Damodar Narasimha instructed for an official report, though it remains pending.

Opposition leaders, including MLA T Harish Rao and MLC Kavitha have condemned the death, holding the government responsible for

IIT-H, Nikon India open first Nikon Centre of Excellence

PNS HYDERABAD

IIT Hyderabad and Nikon India, a 100 per cent subsidiary of Nikon Corporation, inaugurated its first Centre of Excellence (CoE) at the Institute Technology (IIT), Hyderabad. This is to offer advanced imaging technologies to trainees, visiting scholars and collaborators across the country, fostering impactful col-laborations between IIT Hyderabad researchers and Nikon teams.

The Centre of Excellence offers an Confocal Microscope System AX R with NSPARC and TIRF. It also houses a Nikon Inverted

Microscope System ECLIPSE Ti2-E for fluorescence imaging, a Nikon ECLIPSE Ts2-FL Inverted Routine Microscope, and a Nikon SMZ800N with a fluorescence attachment for macro-imaging.

Sajjan Kumar, Managing Director of Nikon India, said,

"This Centre of Excellence equipped with our most upto-date imaging technologies, will not only drive scientific research but also empower researchers and students with the means to push the boundaries across various scientific disciplines.'

OU VC orders security to close main gates at 9 pm



PNS HYDERABAD

Vice-Chancellor of Osmania University, Prof Kumar Molugaram, has directed the security staff to keep the main gates of the university open until 9 pm, as per the request of the faculty, staff

and students. The Vice-Chancellor's office announced this decision in a statement. Currently, the main gates of the university are closed at 8 pm, but with this new decision, an additional hour will be pro-

GHMC Commissioner orders swift

resolution of Praja Vani applications

vided for the movement of vehicles, said OU in a state-

Also, some flexibility in the morning and evening for pedestrian movement has been provided through the Ravindra Nagar pedestrian gate, located towards the Ramanthapur side. This decision has been made considering the construction activities taking place in the campus and to ensure that children of workers residing on campus can go to school during school hours.

20 top-performing start-ups to participate in **Arena Challenge**

PNS HYDERABAD

The Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI) will present the Start-up Challenge Arena 2024, a pitching business idea competition that bridges innovation with industry collaboration and investment prospects.

Scheduled to take place at FTCCI, Red Hills, Hyderabad on November 27, this high-energy event promises to redefine how start-ups connect with industry leaders and scale their visions.

With the support of prominent ecosystem partners T-Hub, We-Hub and ICRISAT, the event will bring together 20 top-performing start-ups to compete through four intense rounds of realworld challenges and strategic pitches.

sanctity of caste survey Questioning the legal sancti-

ty of the caste survey, Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha took a jibe at the Congress and the BJP over their failure to address the demands of the Backward Classes (BC) community through a caste cen-

She accused both national parties of betraying the BC community and demanded that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi explain why the Congress, despite ruling the country for over 55 years, failed to conduct a caste census. She also questioned why



Kavitha questions legal

the caste census conducted in Karnataka under Congress rule was not made public. Kavitha lambasted the BJP, stating that the party's policies have historically been anti-BC, SC and ST, alleging that this bias is deeply embedded in its ideology. She recalled the BIP-led Central

Supreme Court, where it categorically stated it would not conduct a caste census, further showcasing its lack of commitment to BC welfare.

Speaking to the media after submitting a detailed 35-page report to the BC Dedicated Commission Chairman B Venkateshwara Rao, Kavitha emphasised the need for the commission to function independently. She highlighted the lapses in providing the necessary resources, men and material to the commission and criticised the procedural gaps in the ongoing door-to-door

Woman held for harassing minor

PNS HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Cyber Crime from Hyderabad in connection with a POCSO case. The accused created a fake Instagram account to post edited photos of a victim girl with vulgar text and abusive symbols, impersonating the victim and communicating with others under her identity.

The case came to light following a complaint from the victim, who reported the impersonation and abusive content posted on fake Instagram profiles. The Cyber Crime Police registered a case under Cr.No.2785/2024, invoking Sections 66C, 66D, 67 of the IT Act, Sections 78 and 79 of the BNS Act, and Sections 11 and 12 of the POCSO Act, 2012.

Rs 48 cr scam; 2 arrested for cheating 200 individuals

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The EOW Police of Cyberabad arrested two persons for cheating 200 individuals with real estate returns and collected Rs 48 crore. They have collected the money in the name of prelaunch offers of flats.

They are identified as Chakka Bhaskar, Chairman and his wife Sudharani, MD of R Homes

Infra Developers at Kukatpally. Both the accused hatched a plan to collect the money from the customers in the guise of prelaunch offers.

As per their plan they did not obtain the required permission from the competent authorities. Despite not having any permissions they gave wide publicity and advertised their projects using media and social media

ments and attractive promotional schemes stating that they are providing the flats at a cheaper rate compared to mar-

They promised that they will hand over the project within a period of three years. Otherwise, they will give rent of Rs 6,000 for 2 BHK flat and Rs 8,000 for 3 BHK flat, said B

channels, celebrity endorse- Somnarayan Singh, ACP Economic Offences Wing PS.

Likewise, the accused collect ed Rs 48 crore from around 200 victims. Even after the comple tion of a three-year period they did not fulfill their promise and extended the project for different reasons. When the buyers insisted on the progress of work, they were absconding, added the ACP.

SCR had undertaken a similar

initiative in the year 2021,

wherein three trees at Railway

Coaching Depot in Kacheguda

were successfully translocated

60-year-old Peepal tree successfully translocated

PNS HYDERABAD

The South Central Railway has always been at the forefront in undertaking environmentalfriendly initiatives and promoting green and clean environment. Reflecting this commitment, SCR recently translocated a Peepal tree (Ficus Religiosa) aged more than 60 years (around 40 feet in height and spread 3½ meters circumference) on the premises Rail Nilayam, Secunderabad.

In the essential circumstances to take up a construction activity, the Peepal tree was identified for translocation. A meticulous plan was prepared to ensure the safe translocation of the tree without causing much disturbance to its roots.

A Chandramouli, a nature lover and expert in the field belonging to Kurnool was called to execute the translocation process. Specialists with modern equipment and conservation techniques have been adopted to safeguard the root system carefully. The tree's growth in its new environment has been planned with the help of expert advice. The process in translocation of the tree at Rail Nilayam included cut-

ting down of steams, provid-



ing pre and post treatment with the 50 kgs Neemcake shoot will start growing in the next 3 to 6 months as per the mixed with oil content, 180 kgs expert. Earlier Chandramouli has successfulof natural manure was spread across in the relocation area ly treated the famous along with sprinkling of 2 Pillamarri, the historic banyan liters humic acid diluted in 200 located in Mahbubnagar, as litres of water. The new tree part of his rejuvenation plans.

with the help of tree-plantation experts. Arun KumarJain, General Manager, appreciated the engi-

neering team of SCR for undertaking this noble cause to preserve the environment even amidst construction works. He stated that this initiative aligns with SCR's broader efforts to integrate sustainable practices into its operations, balancing infrastructure development with ecological preservation.





HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | NOVEMBER 26, 2024

PNS HYDERABAD

expressed willingness to appear "digitally" before the Andhra Police in con-

posts against Chief Minister N

A case was booked against the direc-

also come. So, (physical) presence is not required. Give us virtual mode

(opportunity), we will cooperate virtually with the investigation," the

lawyer told reporters outside Varma's Jubilee Hills residence in Hyderabad.

Varma will cooperate with the investigation via "digital mode" as "digital policing is prevalent all over India

The lawyer claimed that the new

Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita

(BNSS) law has such provisions. It

allows probes in hybrid mode for

"small cases" such as the one in which

".RGV (Ram Gopal Varma) made

the director has been booked.

lawyer said here on Monday.

manner on social media.

now," he said.

MAJOR HEISTS IN WARANGAL TRI-CITY

Police make little headway amid rising thefts

A surge in thefts across the Warangal Police Commissionerate has left the authorities scrambling for answers. Police suspect that organised inter-state criminal gangs from Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan are behind many of these heists, which are primarily targeting locked houses, apartments, and commercial establish-

One of the most alarming incidents was the theft of Rs 10 crore worth of gold from the SBI branch in Rayaparti, which occurred without leaving any trace of evidence. This brazen crime has sent shockwaves through local law enforcement, leaving investigators without leads on the

The police force, despite its efforts, has been struggling to solve a growing number of cases, which has begun to cast doubt on their ability to effectively combat the rising crime wave. Reports indicate that the people are increasingly questioning whether the police are failing to keep up with the

PNS KHAMMAM

needs of the people.

Agriculture Minister Tummala

Nageswara Rao stressed that

developmental works should

be taken up based on the

The Minister, along with

Additional Collector P Srinivas

Reddy and people's represen-

tatives, laid the foundation

stone for the construction of

the Urban Primary Health

Center G+1 building in the 4th

Division of Khanapuram

Haveli. The work is being

undertaken with an estimated cost of Rs 1.43 crore, funded by

the 15th Finance Commission.

Minister Nageswaara Rao said

that funds are allocated to

carry out works for the bene-

fit of people without any polit-

ical bias. He further explained

plete all the developmental

works in Khammam city on

the same day. The develop-

mental projects would be com-

pleted one after the other, util-

ising the development funds

Speaking on the occasion,



Police Commissionerate

and Hanamkonda, has made it an attractive target for these inter-state gangs. These criminals operate with increasing sophistication, carrying out their crimes in a professional manner and slipping away unnoticed, leaving few, if any, clues behind. Warangal's strategic location, with its connected Tri-City of Warangal, Kazipet, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka may also be

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao laying the foundation stone for the construction of the G+1 building for the Urban Primary Health Centre at the 4th Division in Khammam on Monday.

accordingly. He assured the people that he would bring see excellent development in

'Tailor developmental works

to meet needs of people'

funds from the Chief Minister

to resolve the problems of

mentioned that setting up an

Urban Primary Health Center

Mayor Punukollu Neeraja

She pointed out that many

people working in granite fac-

tories stay in the division. She

expressed confidence that

under the Minister's leader-

Khammam city.

benefit people.

involved in the recent spate of thefts.

Despite having a well-staffed police force, which includes the Commissioner of Police, three Deputy Commissioners of Police, additional DCPs, Assistant Commissioners of Police, and more than 3,000 personnel, the police have faced difficulties in solving many of the cases.

The detection and recovery rates have remained disappointingly low. In 2022, there were 756 reported thefts, but only 416 cases were solved. The total value of the stolen property amounted to Rs 6.19 crore, with only Rs 3.01 crore recovered. In 2023, the number of thefts climbed to 911, but only 486 cases were detected, with stolen goods worth Rs 10.86 crore, of which just Rs 4 crore was recovered. This year, the thefts under the Commissionerate have already surpassed 900, but the detection and recovery rates remain below 50%.

The robbery at the SBI Rayaparti branch, which resulted in the loss of Rs 10 crore worth of gold ornaments, has created a major stir in Telangana.

In response, the police have formed four special teams to track down the perpetra-

Meetings with local bank officials have been held to discuss improving security measures, including the installation of CCTV cameras, alarm systems, and the employment of proper security personnel. Additionally, police have urged residents in affected colonies to install CCTV cameras to enhance surveillance and deter criminal

Collector assures farmers of all help

PNS KHAMMAM

District Collector Muzammil Khan, after inspecting the ongoing paddy harvest, sat with farmers in the field to inquire about crop yield and problems being faced by them.

On Monday, the District Collector visited the Tallada village and exam-

ined the ongoing paddy harvest in the fields. He spoke with the farmers to gather information and operated paddy harvesting machine to directly observe the process.

The Collector inquired about District Collector Muzammil Khan interacting with farmers at Tallada village in Khammam district on various aspects, including the extent of the paddy crop, cur-

rent yields, the procurement process, whether payments for paddy are being made on time, and whether any issues were occurring with rice mills. He also inquired about the response of officials. He learned that the paddy

harvesting machinery had been brought from Tamil Nadu and asked about the area covered by the harvest and the amount of money involved.

He inquired about issues such as irrigation facilities, electricity problems, and whether drinking water supply in the villages was adequate. He also asked whether there were any

issues related to Dharani (the land records portal) and encouraged farmers to cooperate in submitting applications through the Dharani Help Centre estab-lished at the Collectorate.

The Collector assured the farmers that the government would provide necessary facilities for students attending

He urged the farmers to trust the gov-

ernment systems and send their children to government schools.

The Collector was accompanied by Tallada Mandal Agricultural Officer



no mistake. This is neither sedition nor international mafia. We will follow the rule of law," he said, adding that Varma's response was sent to police through Whatsapp and speed post, which were not yet responded to by the police".

High drama unfolded at Varma's residence today, after he failed to appear before Andhra Pradesh police. As per local news channels, a state police team was seen waiting at the director's house.

According to police sources, Varma was given permission till November 24 after he appealed for more time due to prior cinema shooting engagements. He was summoned for inves-

AP Police intensify search for film director

Director Ram Gopal

Varma ready to appear 'digitally' for probe

PNS RANGAREDDY

Andhra Pradesh Police on Monday launched search operation in Shadnagar and Shamshabad to track down filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma. The operation followed allegations against the director for controversial social media posts targeting Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, his son N Lokesh, and Lokesh's wife.

Believing Ram Gopal Varma might be hiding in a farmhouse located in Shadnagar or a similar spot in Shamshabad, police teams have intensified their search operations in these areas.

Previously, the Ongole police served notices at RGV's Hyderabad residence, demanding his presence for questioning. However, the filmmaker sought time through his lawyer, citing prior commitments. Despite his attempts to secure relief from the Andhra Pradesh court, his plea for a stay on arrest was reportedly denied.

The ongoing search operation has drawn comparisons to a dramatic screenplay as police have split into teams to investigate various leads. While some officers are stationed at RGV's residence, others are scouring some places in Shadnagar and Shamshabad. Despite claims from locals that RGV is not at home, authorities continue the search operations.

Irrigation Department AE in ACB trap

PNS PEDDAPALLI

An Assistant Engineer (AE) in the Irrigation Department was caught by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) while allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs. 20,000. According to the ACB officials, the AE, identified as Narsing Rao, had demanded the bribe from a contractor in relation to Further details are awaited. a bill. Left with no choice, the contractor sought the help of ACB offi-

Following ACB's guidance, the contractor handed over the Rs.

20,000 to the AE on the road in Peddapalli town. At that moment, ACB officials, led by Deputy Superintendent of Police Ramana Murthy, conducted a raid and apprehended the AE.

Additionally, the ACB team is currently inspecting the records at

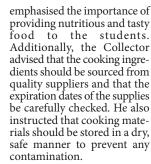
Contractor Srinivas Yadav, unwilling to give a bribe, approached the Anti-Corruption Bureau, who devised a plan to trap the AE, the ACB officials said.

Collector inspects mid-day meals centre

PNS MEDCHAL

On Monday, Medchal Malkajgiri District Collector Gautam Potrru inspected a midday Meals preparation centre at Uppal here. The centre, run by Manna Trust at Uppal, prepares meals daily for 80,000 students. The Collector inspected various sections in the facility, including the cooking area, storage room, and the warehouse.

The Collector inquired about the number of students being served daily and the time when cooking begins. He



The Collector was accompanied by Uppal Tahsildar Vani, District Education Officer Vijay Kumari and other officials concerned.



Medchal Malkajgiri Collector Gowtham Potru inspecting midday meal preparation centre at Uppal on Monday

Collector asks teachers to provide quality education to children

cials, and others

see excellent development in

The event was attended by

4th Division Corporator

Danda Jyothi Reddy alias

Ayyappa Reddy, Corporator

Kamarthapu Murali, public representatives. District

Medical and Health Officer Dr

B Kalavathi Bai, Municipal

Engineers Krishna Lal, Ranjith,

Akub Vali, other relevant offi-

Dharmani Kumar, AE

the next four years.

District Collector Ila Tripathi, along with local MLA Vemula Veeresham, inaugurated additional classrooms at the Zilla Parishad High School in Nakrekal mandal on Monday. The event also included the distribution of shoes to students.

Speaking at the event, the District Collector highlighted the importance of education, urging students to excel in their studies and bring recognition to their district and state. One appropriate the MLA's efforts in ensuring that volunteer teachers and additional staff were appointed for the benefit of the students.

Nalgonda Collector IIa Tripathi speaking at a meeting in Nakrekal on Monday ies and bring recognition to their district and state. She appre-



The Collector further stated that the State government prioritises education by initiatives such as increasing midday meal charges. She urged teachers to focus on providing quality education and nutritious meals to students. Special emphasis was placed on ensuring effective teaching in English medium classes. The Collector advised students to stay away from bad habits and concentrate on their studies. MLA Vemula Veeresham appreciated the academic achievements of the Nakrekal Zilla Parishad High School, which ranked second in the district. He urged the District Collector to adopt the school and pledged his support for its further development.

Man jumps into lake with child having tumour

PNS NIZAMABAD

In heart-rending incident, a man, upon discovering that his one-anda-half-year-old daughter was diagnosed with a brain tumor, took both their lives by jumping into a lake on the outskirts of Nizamabad town. The deceased have been identified as Raghupathi and his daughter Neha, residents of the Indrapur area. Reports indicate that Raghupathi had been in a state of deep depression since learning about his daughter's condition. On that fateful morning, he took Neha to Nyalk Masani lake, located in the suburbs of Nizamabad, and leaped into the water. Bystanders, who witnessed the incident promptly, alerted the authorities. The police arrived at the scene with divers, who subsequently recovered the bodies. The bodies were shifted to the government hospital for post-mortem. An investigation has been initiated, and a case has been registered.

SC/ST Commission interacts with Lagacharla detainees in jail the incident occurred more

PNS SANGAREDDY

Chairman of the State Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission Bakki Venkataiah, along with a team, visited the district jail here and met 24 detainees arrested in connection with the alleged attack on the district Collector Lagharcharla.

During the meeting, Commission Chairman Bakki Venkataiah said, "We will provide a ground-level report to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy regarding the Lagharcharla incident. We will request the Chief Minister into issue.

The SC/ST Commission team Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes visited Lagharcharla and Chairman Bakki Venkataiah speaking to the Rotibanda villages. Even though media in Sangareddy on Monday



are still living in fear.

The attack on the Collector was unfortunate, but innocent people have been imprisoned. The police behaved harshly during the Lagharcharla incident. He said the Commission would also bring the issue to the attention of the Central government.

than 10 days ago, the villagers

Collector directs officials to pay attention to students' well-being

PNS KUMRAM BHEEM **ASIFABAD**

District Collector Venkatesh Dhotre has emphasised the need to pay special attention to the health of students in government schools and welfare hostels. On Monday, he made an unannounced visit to the Tribal Welfare Ashram School at Rompalli, the Ashram School in Gundala, the Health Centre, and the Mangi Ashram School.

The Collector inspected the school premises, kitchen, classrooms, and registers. During his visit, the Collector stressed the importance of ensuring that students receive nutritious food on time as per the menu. He also instructed that the water tanks in schools should be cleaned regularly and that the water tank to fill with water being supplied by the

Mission Bhagiratha Mission

should be installed and made



Collector Venkatesh Dhotre interacting with members of women's self-help groups at Gundala in Kumaram Bheem Asifabad distrct

operational immediately. The Collector directed the

officials to take steps to establish necessary facilities such as kitchens and restrooms in the schools. He said that efforts would be made to provide essential infrastructure like benches, chairs, and other facilities in classrooms, and that neces-

sary measures would be taken to ensure a uninterrupted electricity supply in schools.

The Collector held a review with the women's selfhelp groups in the respective villages. He urged them to take full advantage of the opportunities provided under the Indira Mahila Shakti the groups to make use of the scheme's provisions, such as canteens, dairies, poultry farms, backyard poultry farming, and Mee-Seva services, to improve their liveli-Later, the villagers brought various issues in their villages

empowerment. He advised

to the Collector's attention, and he assured them that immediate steps would be taken to resolve the problems.

The Collector informed that Rs 4 crore had been sanctioned for the construction of internal roads in remote villages and that work would begin soon with approval from the Forest Department. He also reviewed the road from Mangi to Manikya Pur and discussed its condition.

The meeting was attended by Tahsildar Suryaprakash, and others.



ACROSS THE STATES



71 tigers died due to unnatural causes

eventy-one tigers died due to unnatural causes, including poaching and seizures, since 2021, the Environment Ministry said on Monday. Responding to a query in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Kirti Vardhan Singh, said Madhya Pradesh reported the highest number of deaths at 20, followed by Maharashtra (15) and Karnataka (4) since 2021. Twenty tiger deaths were reported in 2021, while 25 big cats died in 2022. In 2023, 25 tigers were reported dead while one casualty due to unnatural causes has been confirmed so far this year, according to the data shared by the minister in his reply. Tiger population is increasing at a rate of 6 per cent per annum in the country when consistently sampled areas are compared, Singh said. The tiger population has increased as per the All India Tiger Estimation done in 2022, with an estimated number of 3,682 (range 3,167-3,925) as compared to the 2018 estimation of 2,967 (range 2,603-3,346) and the 2014 estimation of 2,226 (range 1,945-2,491), Singh said in his written response.



Mobile internet suspension extended in Manipur

he Manipur government extended suspension of mobile internet services for two days in nine districts till November 27, according to an order issued by the Home Department. After violence escalated in the northeastern state on November 16, the administration suspended the services for two days to prevent anti-social elements from spreading content that might create law and order problems It has been extended several times since then. "The state government after reviewing the prevailing law and order situation has decided to continue suspension of mobile internet services in Imphal West, Imphal East, Kakching, Bishnupur, Thoubal, Churachandpur, Kangpokpi, Pherzawl and Jiribam for another two days in public interests," the order said. Internet services on both mobile phones and broadband were suspended on November 16 after violence broke out in the state following the recovery of bodies of three women and three children.



BJP questions Delhi government's edu policies

he BJP on Monday questioned the Delhi government's education policies, claiming "high failure rates" among the students in classes nine and eleven. BJP MLA Vijender Gupta accused the government of using the concept of an "education revolution" as a cover for corruption, alleging that funds were misused in the construction of schools and abandoned projects. Gupta alleged the closure of 29 Bal Pratibha Vikas Schools, terming it a political conspiracy. He claimed this decision, which phased out classes 6 to 10 and plans to end grades 11 and 12 by 2025, has harmed the future of thousands of talented students. There was no immediate reaction from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on these allegations. The BJP leader claimed that nearly three lakh students in classes nine and eleven failed between 2022-24 and were subsequently expelled. Many of these students were pushed towards correspondence programmes instead of regular schooling, he said at a press

India supports immediate ceasefire in West Asia

India supports an immediate ceasefire in West Asia and favours a two-state solution in the long-term, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said Monday as he condemned terrorism, hostage-taking and civilian casualties in military oper-

Speaking at the 10th edition of the MED Mediterranean Dialogue in Rome, Jaishankar said that India regards largescale civilian casualties in military operations to be unacceptable and added that international humanitarian law cannot be disregarded.

"In immediate terms, we should all support the ceasefire... In the longer term, it

is imperative that the future of the Palestinian people be addressed. India favours a twostate solution," he said.

Voicing concerns over the widening of the conflict in West Asia, Jaishankar said that India has been in regular touch with both Israel and Iran at the highest levels to advocate restraint and enhance communication.

He said an Indian contingent like Italy is in Lebanon as part of UNIFIL. Indian naval ships have been deployed in the Gulf of Aden and the northern Arabian Sea since last year to protect commercial shipping.

United Nations Interim Force in South Lebanon (UNIFIL) has around 10,500 peacekeepers

Favours two-state solution: Jaishankar



drawn from 50 troop-contributing countries. India has more than 900 people as part of UNIFIL in Lebanon.

"Given our capacity to engage various parties, we are always willing to contribute meaningfully to any international diplomatic endeavours," he said.

On the Ukraine-Russia war, he said the continuation of this conflict has serious, destabilising consequences, including for the Mediterranean.

"What is clear is that no solution is going to emerge from the battlefield. India has consistently held the view that disputes in this era cannot be

settled by war. There must be a return to dialogue and diplomacy. The sooner, the better. This is a widespread sentiment in the world today, especially in the Global South," he said.

Since June, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has personally engaged leaders of both Russia and Ukraine to this end, this has included his visiting Moscow and Kyiv, and senior officials remain in continuous touch.

"We firmly believe that those who have the ability to explore finding common ground must step up to that responsibility," he

He said that due to these two conflicts supply chains are insecure, and connectivity, especially maritime, stands disrupted. Talking about opportunities,

he said a closer and stronger relationship between India and the Mediterranean will serve both of us well.

"Our annual trade with the Mediterranean nations is about USD 80 billion. We have a diaspora of 460,000, and about 40% of that is in Italy. Our key interests are in fertilisers, energy, water, technology, diamonds, defence and cyber," he said.



Future-ready teachers key to shaping young minds: Pradhan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India is poised to be a key growth engine in the world economy, and mapping and supporting evolution of futureready educators would be critical in shaping young minds in a tech-driven society, Union Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan said on

Monday. Pradhan said `future-mapping' is the biggest challenge, and emphasised the need to focus on updating the skills of both teachers and students.

Teachers should foster curiosity, innovative mindset and critical thinking among students through scientific-learning outcomes, not rote learning, he said adding teachers in India have the talent, all they need is a vision

and an opportunity. "Almost 25 per cent of the global jobs which existed in 2015 are no longer there. By 2028, nature of almost 40 per cent of existing jobs will change. Society will go into skilling, upskilling and reskilling, and as India has the youngest population, teachers will hold the key, the pass-word...," Pradhan said while unveiling `TheTeacherApp' developed by Bharti Airtel Foundation.

The minister noted that India, the fifth-largest economy in the world, is poised to become the third-largest in a few years.

"Given the growth rate of our economy, in two decades, we may surpass and lead the global economy. India will become the growth engine for the world. How will it happen...It will happen from clarity of thought of our young minds, which in turn will be catalysed by teachers who will make it possible,"

Pradhan said. The minister said that debate, at times, is around rewriting of history (curriculum), but added that he does not see that as a big

According to him, the biggest challenge of NEP implementation is about future-mapping, in a way that readies students to partake not only in the new economic order but to contribute as innovators in the global

Need to link co-op movement with circular economy: PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday emphasised the need to link cooperative movement to circular economy and promote international collaboration in the sector.

Addressing the ICA Global Cooperative Conference 2024 at the Bharat Mandapam here, Modi said that for India, cooperatives are the basis of culture and a way of life.

He further said India sees a huge role for cooperatives in its future growth and in the last 10 years the country has worked to transform the entire ecosystem related to cooperatives.

"Our effort is to make cooperative societies multipurpose," he said, adding that with the objective in mind, the government of India created a separate cooperative ministry. Modi said cooperatives are also

playing a key role in the housing sector as well as in the banking segment. There are about 2 lakh housing cooperative societies in the country.

He said the government has strengthened the cooperative banking sector and reformed it.

"India is among the fastest growing economies in the world. Our aim is to



achieve high GDP growth and take the benefits to the poor. It is necessary for the world to see growth from a human-centric angle," he said. Stressing that there is a big oppor-

tunity for cooperatives in the world, Modi said there is a need to make cooperatives as flag bearers for integrity and mutual respect in the world.

For this, we need to innovate our policies and strategize. To make cooperative climate resilient, we need to link it to the circular economy. We need to discuss ways to encourage startups in the cooperative sector," he

Presently, about Rs 12 lakh crore are deposited in cooperative banks.

The Prime Minister also informed

the gathering that his government is committed to further strengthening the cooperative movement, and about 2 lakh additional multi-purpose cooperative societies are being set up in vil-

He also lauded the role being played by women in furthering the cooperative movement, saying about 60 per cent of the members are women.

Modi said India believes that cooperativeness can provide new energy to global cooperation and can help countries, particularly in the Global South, achieve the kind of growth they

SAMBHAL VIOLENCE

FIR against SP MP Barq, SP MLA's son; 25 arrested

PNS ■ SAMBHAL (UP)

Police have lodged seven FIRs in connection with the violence over a court-ordered survey of a Mughal-era mosque here, naming Samajwadi Party MP Zia-ur-Rehman Barq and local SP MLA Iqbal Mehmood's son Sohail Iqbal as accused, officials said on Monday. The district administration

has already imposed prohibitory orders and barred the entry of outsiders into Sambhal till November 30. Internet services are suspended in Sambhal tehsil and Monday was declared a holiday for all schools. A magisterial probe has also been ordered into the violence.

Three people were killed and scores of others, including security personnel and administration officials, injured on Sunday as protesters opposing the survey of the Shahi Jama Masjid clashed with police. A fourth injured person died on Monday. Asked about their autopsy

Commissioner Aunjaneya Kumar Singh said that prima facie, it appears that gunshots from countrymade weapons

were the cause of death. However, he did not go into further details. Addressing a press conference

on Monday, Superintendent of Police Krishan Kumar said seven FIRs have been lodged in connection with the violence. Six people, including Barq and Iqbal, were named and 2,750 others have been mentioned as uniden-

tified, he said.

"Due to Barg's statement earlier, the situation worsened. He was given a notice earlier for this," he added. The official said that Barq's "Jama Masjid ki hifazat" (protection of Jama Masjid) remark mobilised the

When asked about the MP being in Bengaluru and not Sambhal on Sunday, Kumar said Barq's name was included in the FIR based on his previous state-

'socialist", "secular" and

"integrity" to the Preamble had

undergone judicial reviews and

it cannot be said whatever

Parliament did during the

emergency period was all nul-

Priest's charred body found at **Gorakhpur temple**

PNS ■ GORAKHPUR (UP)

The charred body of an elderly priest was found on Monday morning here at the Bamant Mata Temple. It is suspected to be an accident, police said.

The deceased was identified as Ganga Das, 95, who had been sleeping in the temple's veranda at the time of the incident in the Gulriha area of Gorakhpur district, they said.

According to police, by the morning, his body was reduced to ashes, with only part of the head remaining intact.

A police official said Ganga Das, who was hearing and speech impaired, was unable to call for help, which is why the incident went unnoticed dur-

ing the night.
City Superintendent of Police (SP) Abhinav Tyagi and a police team visited the scene and sent the body for postmortem. "The exact cause of death is yet to be determined, but preliminary investigations suggest it may have been accidental. It is suspected that the priest lit a fire to stay warm in the cold night, which tragically led to the incident," the police



Mahayuti halts **'Constitution** change' narrative

Wins lion's share of SC-ST seats

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Mahavuti won 21 of 29 Scheduled Caste-reserved and 21 of 24 Scheduled Tribereserved seats in the Maharashtra assembly polls, results of which were announced on November 23.

The ruling alliance's sweep of these seats comes just months after the Lok Sabha polls during which the Maha Vikas Aghadi led a campaign that the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance was aiming to win over 400 seats in order to change the Constitution and end reservations for SCs and STs.

Of the 21 ST-reserved seats the Mahayuti won, 10 went into the kitty of the BJP, six to the Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena and five to Ajit Pawar-led

For the MVA, the Congress managed to win two of ST-

reserved seats while one went to the Communist Party of India (Marxist). In 2019, the BJP-led NDA

won 12 of these 24 seats, while nine went to the then United Progressive Alliance, which had the Congress and undivided NCP as its main constituents. The remaining three were bagged by CPM,

Prahar Janshakti Party and an independent candidate. In 2019, the BJP and undi-

vided Shiv Sena were the main constituents of the NDA in the state. The two parties broke their alliance some months later after the assembly polls. Of the 21 SC-reserved seats won by the Mahayuti in 2024,

nine went to the BJP, five to the Shiv Sena and six to the NCP. One seat was won by Jan Surajya Party. The MVA, which comprises the Congress, Shiv Sena

(UBT) and Sharad Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party (SP) managed to emerge victorious on eight SC-reserved seats in the November 20 assembly polls. Of these, the Congress

bagged four, while the NCP (SP) and Uddhav Thackerayled Shiv Sena (UBT) got two

In the 2019 assembly polls, the NDA and UPA had emerged victorious on 13 SCreserved seats each, while three were won by smaller parties and independents.
For the NDA, the BJP was

victorious on eight seats while its ally Shiv Sena bagged five. That year the NCP won seven seats and Congress six as part of the UPA.

PREAMBLE TO CONSTITUTION

SC junks pleas challenging words 'socialist', 'secular'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a significant verdict, the Supreme Court on Monday dismissed pleas challenging the 1976 amendment to the Constitution adding terms "socialist", "secular" and "integrity" to the Preamble.

The words "socialist", "secular" and "integrity" were inserted into the Preamble to the Constitution under the 42nd constitutional amendment moved by the Indira Gandhi

government in 1976. A bench of Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice

November 22 reserved its verdict on the pleas filed by former Rajya Sabha MP Subramanian Swamy and advocate Ashwini Updhayay challenging the inclusion of the words "socialist" and "secular" in the Preamble to the Constitution.

One of the first petitions was filed by one Balram Singh through advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain in 2020.

"The writ petitions do not need further deliberation and adjudication. The amending power of Parliament over the and more-Constitution extends to over this is

Sanjay Kumar had on Preamble," the CJI said while not under challenge, the bench pronouncing the verdict.

The CJI said the verdict explained that after so many years the process cannot be so nulli-

adoption of the Constitution would not curtail the government's under Article 368

The date of the said the 1976 amendment to

the Constitution adding terms noted. The amending power of Parliament extends to

Preamble as well, it added. The top court asked further, "It has almost been so many years, why rake up the issue

> detailed iudgement While reserving the judge-

The amendment changed the description of India in the Preamble from a "sovereign, democratic republic" to a "sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic".

Emergency in India was declared by the late PM Indira Gandhi from June 25, 1975 to March 21, 1977

bench as sought by petitioners and said "being socialist" in the Indian sense was understood to be a "welfare state". Advocate Ashwini Upadhyay, who too filed a petition, said he was not against the concepts of

"socialism" and "secularism"

The bench previously refused

to refer the matter to a larger

but opposed its insertion into the Preamble. Swamy, who filed a separate plea, pointed out even the subsequently elected union government led by Janata Party supported the inclusion of these

words in the Preamble

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Celebrating Constitution Day

The Indian Constitution is not just a legal document; it is the soul of the nation, guiding India through its complexities

very year, on November 26, India celebrates Constitution Day, also known as 'Samvidhan Divas'. This day commemorates the adoption of the Indian Constitution •in 1949, a landmark event that laid the foundation for India's democratic ethos. As we reflect on this momentous occasion, it is imperative to understand the making, functioning and future challenges of this legal document that has been the guiding force for the world's largest democracy, India. The drafting of the Indian Constitution was an extraordinary achievement, considering the diversity and complexities of India. Following independence in 1947, the Constituent Assembly, comprising 299 members, undertook the monumental task of framing a constitution for a newly liberated yet diverse nation. Dr BR Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution, chaired the drafting committee, ensuring that the document reflected justice, equality, liberty, and fraternity. The Assembly took 2 years, 11 months and 18 days to complete



the drafting process, during which it conducted exhaustive debates and deliberations. Drawing inspiration from the constitutions of various nations, such as the United States, Ireland and Canada, the Indian Constitution incorporated the best practices while tailoring them to Indian realities.

On January 26, 1950, the Constitution came into effect, marking the birth of the Republic of India. The Indian Constitution, with its 448 articles, 12 schedules and numerous amendments, is one of the most detailed constitutions in the world. Its core strength lies in its 'flexibility' and 'adaptability.' While being rigid in its foundational principles, it allows amend-

ments to address evolving socio-political challenges. Since its adoption, the Constitution has guided the nation through numerous challenges, including partition, economic crises, and social upheavals, ensuring continuity and stability. Despite its success, the Indian Constitution faces several challenges. India faces growing tensions between the Centre and states over resource allocation, legislative powers and administrative autonomy, while concerns about judicial activism and transparency persist despite the judiciary's role as a constitutional custodian. Issues such as money power, criminalisation of politics and declining voter turnout demand urgent reforms. At the same time, caste-based discrimination, gender inequality and regional disparities continue to undermine the nation's progress, despite constitutional safeguards. Balancing individual freedoms with national security has become increasingly challenging in the digital age. As India approaches its centenary as a Republic, there is a pressing need to reaffirm commitment to the Constitution's ideals by strengthening institutions for accountability and transparency, fostering participatory democracy, upholding the secular and pluralistic ethos and ensuring that constitutional amendments preserve its core prin-



Lessons from childhood,

family and experiences

Visitors at a stall at the International Trade Fair at Pragati Maidan, in New Delhi

Samvidhan Divas: A tribute to India's democratic vision



Rooted in the Gandhian principles the Indian Constitution continues to guide the world's largest democracy in fostering a harmonious and equitable society

onstitution Day, known as 'Samvidhan Divas' in Hindi, is celebrated annually on November 26 in India. This day commemorates the adoption of the Indian Constitution, which was formally approved by the Constituent Assembly on November 26, 1949. It later came into effect on January 26, 1950, marking the birth of India as a sovereign democratic republic.

In 2015, the Government of India officially recognised November 26 as Constitution Day through a gazette notification issued on November 19. This followed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement during the foundation-laying ceremony of the 'B R Ambedkar Statue of Equality' memorial in Mumbai on October 11, 2015.

As India marks the 75th anniversary of the Constitution in 2024, it is a moment to reflect on this transformative document, which serves as the bedrock of the nation's democracy and inclusiv-

The Vision Behind the Indian Constitution

The Indian Constitution is more than a legal charter; it is a visionary framework that upholds the values of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity. It reflects the collective aspirations of a diverse population, drawing inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of truth, non-violence, and grassroots empowerment. Gandhi's ideals of swaraj (selfrule) emphasised moral values, social equity and the welfare of all, which deeply influenced the Constitution's framers.

Although Gandhi and Dr BR Ambedkar had differences on certain issues, they shared a commitment to social justice and local self-governance. This shared vision is evident in foundational aspects of the Constitution, such as the Preamble, Directive Principles of State Policy and Fundamental Duties

The Preamble: Soul of the Constitution

The Preamble encapsulates the essence of the Constitution, emphasising ideals like justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. These values resonate with Gandhi's

lifelong struggle against colonial oppression and social inequality. Historian Judith Brown aptly stated, "Gandhi's struggle was not just for legal justice but for ethical and humanistic justice that transcends caste, creed and gender." The Preamble remains a guiding light for India's pursuit of a just and inclusive society. **Directive Principles: A Vision** for Social Equity

Part IV of the Constitution, the Directive Principles of State Policy, articulates a vision of economic equity, social justice, and upliftment of marginalised communities. Gandhi's influence is evident in provisions like Article 40, which advocates for the Panchayati Raj system, and Article 43, promoting cottage industries. Historian Anthony Parel observed that these principles are "the most visible articulation of Gandhi's socio-economic vision aimed at eradicating poverty and ensuring dignity.

Fundamental Duties: Rights

and Responsibilities Mahatma Gandhi emphasised WHICH SERVES the interconnectedness of rights and duties, asserting that rights derive their meaning from duties well-performed. Reflecting this philosophy, the 42nd Amendment introduced Fundamental Duties in 1976. These duties, such as fostering harmony, protecting the environment, and upholding the dignity of women, align closely with Gandhian principles of non-

violence, ecological stewardship, and gender equality. Gandhi's timeless reminder, "The Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not every man's greed," underlines the importance of responsible citizenship.

Gandhian Values in a **Modern Context**

As India navigates contempo-

rary challenges, the values rooted in Gandhian philosophy remain profoundly relevant. Nobel laureate Amartya Sen, in 'The Idea of Justice', highlights that justice involves removing barriers that prevent marginalised communities from realizing their potential. Gandhi's vision of Sarvodaya (welfare of all) aligns with this principle, urging inclusive growth and equitable resource distribution.

AS INDIA

MARKS THE 75TH

ANNIVERSARY OF

REFLECT ON THIS

TRANSFORMATIVE

IN 2024, IT IS A

MOMENT TO

DOCUMENT,

DEMOCRACY

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AS THE

THE CONSTITUTION

In geopolitics, Gandhi's commitment to peace and 'Ahimsa' (non-violence) resonates globally. His campaigns, from the Salt March to the Quit India Movement, demonstrated how unity and empowerment can coexist in a diverse society. Historian Ramachandra Guha remarked, "Gandhi's idea of fraternity, rooted in empathy and non-violence, offers a moral compass for OF THE modern democracy."

Decentralized Govern A cornerstone of Gandhi's political thought was decentralised governance. He believed true democracy could only be achieved by empowering local communities. The Panchayati Raj sys-

tem, enshrined in the Constitution, embodies this vision. Similarly, Prime Minister Modi's initiatives, such as 'Vocal for Local 'and 'Viksit Bharat 2047', echo Gandhi's principle of 'Gram Swaraj'. These programmes aim to promote local entrepreneurship, sustainable development, and self-reliance, elevating India's global stature while

empowering its citizens. The Role of Citizens and Media

Democracy thrives on active citizen participation. Voting, engaging in public discourse, and addressing civic issues are essential for robust democratic institutions. Equally crucial is the media's role as the fourth estate, providing checks and balances while safeguarding the freedom of speech guaranteed by Constitution. Exercising this freedom responsibly ensures accountability and transparen-

cy in governance. A Living Document for a **Dynamic Nation**

The Indian Constitution, inspired by Gandhian principles, remains a living document that harmonizes individual aspirations with collective well-being. Its relevance extends beyond legal frameworks, addressing issues such as social justice, environmental conservation, and global

(The writer is Programme Executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Smriti; views are personal)

The past shapes our present. The present is past the next moment, to make way for the future. We are left with memories which also teach us invaluable lessons

was also a mischievous child like any other young boy my age. I was assured of a haven, hiding behind my grandmother, whenever my parents were inclined to scold me. She would then counsel my parents to be more indulgent, simultaneously telling us to be particular about our behaviour.

I recall another memory from childhood. Our return home from school coincided with my mother's siesta. We would tiptoe into the house, careful not to disturb her. One afternoon I was excited enough to wake her to tell her about my outstanding results in the examinations. Still groggy, she hugged and blessed me, before continuing with her sleep. I still cannot forget her spontaneous reaction, even though I had interrupted her much needed rest.

My father was short-tempered in his younger days. He usually rested and slept on Sunday afternoons. We tried to be as quiet as children could be. One day, we might have been noisier than usual, and ended up soundly thrashed by him. Later in the evening, I witnessed a different facet of my father's personality. He gruffly apologized for having hurt me. I learnt an important lesson. There is no shame in accept-

ing your mistake. I remember the day I met the young girl who became my wife and life partner in the next few months. I also remember I had eyes only for her during the wedding reception. Those were the heady days before we buckled up to the serious business of making a life together. We have been married for 40 years. These have not been easy decades, faced with the harsh realities of life. We never give up, whatever the setbacks. We work towards the common goal of leading a happy and contented life together. There is respect, for space for each to evolve as an individual.

Another nostalgic memory is from a long-ago holiday to Puri. Our guest house was a couple of hundred meters from the seashore. Our daughters were much younger. I was, and continue to be, a protective father, worrying about their safety. That one day, I sat on the veranda, fondly looking at the two children playing on the beach. I was proud of their happiness as they shrieked with joy creating something with sand.

My mother kept a copy of Ramcharitmanas in her prayer corner. I read somewhere that you could find a solution to any problem from the epic. All you had to do and a recognition of the need was open any page, and the

top line would help you find ways to tackle your most pressing issue. I also tried it sometimes. I learnt that I could not always tackle situations through conventional thinking while navigating the complex labyrinths of life. Fair play, guiding the team members, impartiality, giving undivided time to team members however busy you might be, empathy, working for the team, pride in the performance of the team members, and out-of-box thinking, were only a few of the invaluable lessons that my experiences taught me. They have stood me in good stead through the rough and tumble of life. The words of psychiatrist, Abraham Twerski would res-

with 'Ruminating about the past will get you nowhere. So go ahead and learn from the past whatever you can, and then put it behind you. Remember, there is nothing you can do to change it, but you can use its lessons to improve your

(The author is an electrical engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative writing; views are personal)

BJP'S STRONG COMEBACK

Madam —In just five months, the momentum in Indian politics has shifted dramatically. Following the BJP's underwhelming performance in the last Parliament elections, questions were raised about its durability and PM Modi's pan-national acceptability. Now, it's the opposition INDIA block that is looking fragile. The reason for the shift is a series of unexpected electoral reverses suffered by the INDIA bloc. The most significant of these setbacks occurred in Maharashtra, the second most consequential state in the Indian union. By handing the NDA a mammoth victory, Maharashtra voters have given the alliance a pretext to dismiss the Lok Sabha election jolt as an aberration.

A reversal triggered more by a "fake narrative" spun by a desperate Opposition than any discernible anti-incumbency. In Maharashtra, the BJP with allies not only smashed a five-decade-old electoral record, but it has also come astonishingly close to winning the election on its own steam. The party has been able to reunite its coalition of disparate castes. Add to this, the BJP has been better able to present itself as the emissary of "political nationalism and economic welfarism." Meanwhile, this victory is a stepping stone to the validation it needs to push ahead with its governance agenda. N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

GENDER BIAS IN THE US POLITICS

Madam — The United States is not ready for a woman president, as was evident in the just-concluded elections. There is little doubt that American voters have gendered biases that factored into their votes, both in the 2016 and 2024 elections. Both Hillary Clinton and Kamala Harris faced off against Trump under different circumstances and with different strategies. But the result was the same for both candidates. Another way of looking at the impact of gender is to compare how Harris did among women voters in comparison with Hillary Clinton, whose lead over Trump among women voters was 13 points in 2016. Eight years later now, Kamala Harris' ing to the tune of more than 50 per cent to the GDP of the nation at the time the

Kohli breaks Tendulkar's record

EDITO

eam India's superstar King Kohli back in form after he reached his 30th century at the Opus Stadium, Perth. The Border-Gavaskar Trophy seems to be the redemption of pride for India after the worst loss in the home series. The year 2024 in Virat Kohli's career has been low while Kohli scored only one fifty in his 13 innings so far. By reaching this milestone of his 30th ton in

his seventh in Australia, breaking the record of six hundreds by the legendary Sachin Tendulkar in the format of this game. By this century, Kohli has equalled his record with Wally Hammond for the most test hundreds in Australia by a visiting batter, and Jack Hobbs holds the highest record of nine test centuries down under which one can be sure is in the mind of Virat to cross the figure during this series. While India is in the driver's seat in the first test and assured of a win at the

his 203rd innings across 119 tests, it was

moment for the fans' delight, one hopes that Kohli may come out with many more flying kisses at different venues to cheer Anushka and his fans with his inimitable style of batting prowess.

A P Thiruvadi | Chennai

lead over Trump was only eight points. In other words, Harris lost support among women voters who had previously voted for a woman candidate. Neither Hillary Clinton nor Harris succeeded in winning a majority of American men. In fact, out of the nine nuclear powers in the world, only Britain, Israel, India and Pakistan have elected women to the top job. Indira Gandhi and Benazir Bhutto were daughters of powerful political fathers in dynastic democracies. Sexism and racism, inextricably woven into the culture of American politics, played a central role in 2016 and 2024 against women candidates getting elected as presidents. Under the Trump regime 2.0, this scenario could also reflect in the next election in the US.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Urapakkam

ADDRESS FARMERS' DISTRESS

Madam —It is indeed a matter of concern that the distress of the farmers is not attended to with the amount of seriousness it requires. The agri sector that was contributto the GDP of the nation at the time the

nation attained independence is now reduced to a deplorable level of contribution, hardly 14 per cent.

The Green Revolution has helped in increasing the yield but the other aspects of the farmers, like input cost, subsidies and MSP, in spite of being vital, are not considered favourably but changes are made hostile to the farmers' needs and benefits. The policies of the successive governments are focusing on the industrial sector. A lot of incentives, like concessions, exemptions, and extending huge loans to write off or waive off, and PLI are extended to the industrial sector, though the desired results, like a substantial increase in employment and exports, are not forthcoming. Such apathy in the approach of the government towards agriculture has resulted in millions of farmers resorting to suicide, getting plunged in unbearable debt and small farmers deserting their fields and seeking livelihood in cities

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

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FIRST COLUMN CORPORATE CAREWASHING

Many organisations falsely present themselves as socially responsible



owadays we often see that companies are engaged towards launching mental health awareness campaigns while maintaining toxic work environments or failing to provide meaningful employee support; at times companies celebrate diversity during cultural moments without addressing systemic inequities, such as unequal pay or a lack of diverse leadership. But the question arises are the employees getting benefitted or are still victims?

In an age where ethical responsibility and social consciousness are increasingly demanded of corporations, governments and individuals, a troubling phenomenon termed carewashing has emerged. The term refers to the practice of falsely presenting an organisation, business or individual as socially or ethically responsible, particularly in areas of caregiving or support, to improve their reputation or deflect criticism. Much like its environmental counterpart greenwashing, carewashing also exploits emotional appeals to mask the absence of genuine commitment to caregiving causes.

Several factors such as modern consumers increasingly seeking brands that align with their values, create pressure for organisations to appear socially conscious or social platforms that provide both positive as well as failures, thereby encouraging companies to capitalise on social causes for visibility and if that not enough then such organisations outshine its competitors by attracting customers and talent with minimal invest-



ment in genuine reform contribute to the rising of carewashing. While these pressures reflect positive shifts in societal values, they also incentivise performative actions over authentic efforts. It is believed that when carewashing is exposed, it damages trust between organisations and their stakeholders as it is often when the dissonance between claims and actions becomes apparent. Employees who witness discrepancies between an organisation's statements and its actions often feel disillu-

This alienation leads to reduced morale, engagement and retention, especially among those drawn to the organisation by its purported values. Quiet often we hear once the trust is lost, rebuilding it is a slow and costly process. Exposure to carewashing through whistleblowers, investigative journalism, or public criticism can lead to significant reputational harm. By co-opting social causes for profit, carewashing trivializes important issues, potentially reducing the urgency of addressing them authentically. To counteract carewashing, organisations must prioritise authenticity and accountability. This involves providing measurable, verifiable data on social and environmental efforts rather than vague claims; including employees in shaping policies and initiatives to ensure alignment with internal realities; conducting regular audits and feedback loops that will help organisations stay true to their commitments and correct shortcomings and public statements should be backed by tangible actions, such as policy changes or resource allocation.

There is no denying that carewashing is a symptom of the growing demand for ethical behaviour in business and society, but it represents a shortcut that sacrifices trust and authenticity for superficial gains. While it may offer short-term visibility, its long-term consequences are overwhelmingly negative, eroding credibility and alienating stakeholders. Organisations must recognise that true social responsibility requires meaningful actions, transparency and a commitment to sustained progress. Only by moving beyond carwashing can businesses and institutions genuinely contribute to a better world while earning the loyalty and respect of their

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

Food subsidy: Go for direct transfer to curb leakages



Despite extensive measures implemented by the government, including digitisation, pilferage persists, revealing systemic flaws in how food subsidies are administered

ccording to a Study titled 'Rationalising Public Distribution System in India' done by the Indian Council For Research On International Economic Relations (ICRIER), there was grain leakage under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) of 20 million tons (17 million ton of rice and 3 million ton of wheat) which is 28 per cent of the 71 million ton of grain off-take by states (that included 52 million ton of rice and 19 million ton wheat) during August 2022 - July 2023. The Study estimates the annual fiscal cost of this leakage to be around Rs 70,000 crore. Under the PMGKAY, the Union Government asks the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and other state agencies to procure food from the farmers at MSP (minimum support price) and organise its distribution to around 820 million people for free.
The entire cost i.e. MSP paid to farmers plus handling and distribution cost (HDC) is reimbursed to the

FCI/other state agencies as a subsidy. The money comes from the Union Budget's allocation for 'food subsidy'. While, the PMGKAY has been in force since January 1, 2023, before that, the Centre was giving food to 820 million persons (7 kg of cereals per person per month to 120 million poorest of the poor persons covered under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana or AAY families and five kilograms of cereals per person per month to the remaining 700 million) at a heavily subsidised price of Rs 2/3/1 per kg for wheat/rice/coarse cereals under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). In addition, since April 2020, it has given 5 kg of food per person per month for "free" to all 820 million beneficiaries under PMGKAY to mitigate the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

From January 1, 2023, it merged the free part of PMGKAY with the regular food security schemes under NFSA. Now, food is available to all 820 million beneficiaries for free under the new incarnation of NFSA, the PMGKAY. As Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced in November 2023 this arrangement will continue for five years until the end of CY 2028. During the financial year (FY) 2022-23, the Centre's expenditure on food subsidy was Rs 272,000 crore. Apart from expenses under PMGKAY for the whole of that FY, this amount also included the subsidy on food grain given under NFSA at the subsidised price of Rs 2/3/1 per kg for wheat/rice/coarse cereals from April to December 2022. Within this total expenditure, how much money was lost due to pilferage? How does the Study reach Rs 70,000 crore? The authors look at the 'economic cost' (EC) of rice and wheat. This is the MSP paid to farmers plus HDC.

During 2022-23, this was Rs 36.7 per kg or Rs 36,700 per ton for rice and Rs 25.9 per kg or Rs 25,900 per ton for wheat. Multiply the pilfered quantity of rice 17 million tons by its EC, we get the cost of its pilferage Rs 62,390 crore. Likewise, multiply 3 million tons of pilfered wheat by its EC, and the cost comes to Rs 7770 crore. Thus, the total cost was around Rs 70,000 crore. This



'BUFFER STOCK' REFERS TO A STRATEGIC STOCK FOR **SMOOTHENING OUT PRICE** FLUCTUATIONS— **BUYING A** COMMODITY WHEN THE PRICE

IS LOW AND RELEASING IT IN THE MARKET WHEN THE PRICE IS HIGH

is around 26 per cent of the food subsidy expenditure of Rs 272,000 crore for 2022-23.

Taken as a percentage of the subsidy given under PMGKAY alone (the budget doesn't provide this figure; a back-of-the-envelope calculation using annual off-take of 55 million tons, EC for rice and wheat given above and their use in 75:25 ratio, yields Rs 187,000 crore), this is much higher at 37 per cent.

How has the Study arrived at the quantum of leakage?

The Study picked up monthly offtake (albeit "reported") data from the FCI from August 2022 to July 2023 and saw this in juxtaposition with "actual household consumption levels" taken from the Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2022-23. While the former was taken as an approximation for the quantity of food grain sent for distribution amongst the PMGKAY beneficiaries, the latter was taken as a proxy of the quantity received.

Based on the above comparison, it was concluded that as against 52.4 million tons of rice that were sent, 35.7 million tons were received suggesting a shortfall of 16.7 million tons. Likewise, against 19 million tons of wheat that was sent, 16 million tons were received pointing toward a shortfall of 3 million tons. Thus, a total of 19.7 million tons or close to 20 million tons was pilfered from the public distribution system (PDS). But, there is a flaw in such a comparison.

At the Off-take level, it can't be surmised that the quantities that from multiple sources, such as

left the FCI warehouses and were picked up by states were 'entirely' meant for PDS stocks to be used for distribution (actual consumption) by the PMGKAY ben-

Off-take figures also include food stocks in transit, buffer stock, operational reserves and cereals set aside for social welfare schemes and commercial sales by the government. Each of these serves a specific purpose. For instance, 'buffer stock' refers to a strategic stock for smoothening out price fluctuations —buying a commodity when the price is low and releasing it in the market when the price is high Likewise, 'operational reserves' are kept as a backstop which can be used quickly in the case of an unplanned event/emergency. Similarly, stock in transit can't be considered as part of food grain meant for PDS consumption

within a given time frame. The quantities meant for all such purposes need to be excluded from the grains that left FCI warehouses and only the net figure available for PDS consumption should be compared with actual household consumption levels as read from the Consumption surveys. It seems, the Study hasn't done it.

This is also corroborated by the fact that the annual distribution of free food for PMGKAY beneficiaries is normally 55 million tons; against this, the Study uses 71 million tons.

At the beneficiary's end also, the actual household consumption level includes cereal consumed

private purchases or state-specific schemes and not just the quantities available under PMGKAY etc. Therefore, it won't be on all fours to directly correlate with PDS off-take.

To conclude, there are leakages from the PDS though not on a scale indicated by the Study. Its root cause has to do with how food subsidy is administered. Under the extant system, the subsidy is built into the price which under this Scheme is Zero. Herein lies the rub.

The availability of a mammoth of around 55 million tons (the quantity distributed under the MGKÁY) in the supply chain with zero price tag is an open invitation to dubious operators to siphon off and sell in the open market raking in a moolah. Howsoever, foolproof one may make the system (Modi – government has done an exemplary job getting PoS (point of sale machines) installed at 530,000 fair price shops across the country; digitisation of supply chain from procurement to distribution; authentication of beneficiaries with their Aadhaar numbers and so on), as long as subsidy is routed through the State agencies, unscrupulous characters will always find ways to circumvent even the best of technology interventions aimed at curbing pilferage. Pilferage can be eliminated only when the government gives subsidies directly to the beneficiaries and allows the food markets to function competitively and efficiently.

(The writer is a policy analyst;

Addressing rural housing challenges in India: A case study of PMAY-G

PMAY-G has transformed rural housing in India, delivering not just shelter but also dignity and opportunity to millions

ousing is a fundamental challenge for rural India, where a significant portion of households live in kutcha structures made of non-durable materials such as mud and bamboo. These homes are highly vulnerable to harsh weather conditions, exposing residents to risks and uncertainties. Recognising this, the Indian government launched the 'Pradhan Mantri Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G)' as part of its commitment to achieving 'Housing for All.'

This ambitious welfare program aims to provide financial and construction assistance to build durable 'pucca' houses equipped with essential amenities. The scheme targets both houseless households and those residing in 'kutcha' Quality and Oversight



JEEVANT RAMPAL

or dilapidated structures. As of October 2024, PMAY-G has facilitated the construction of 2.67 crore houses, marking a significant milestone in its progress. However, this raises critical questions: Will this initiative truly ensure housing for all? How effectively does it address rural India's housing challenges?

Leveraging Technology for

A cornerstone of PMAY-G's success lies in its use of technology to enhance construction quality and ensure transparency in disbursal. One notable component is the Rural Mason Training (RMT) Program, developed in collaboration with the National Skill Development Corporation. The programme has trained 2.81 lakh masons, equipping them with the skills to deliver high-quality construction while fostering local expertise. This initiative not only improves housing quality but also accelerates construction. For instance, over 40 lakh houses were built in 2021-22, with the number surpassing 50 lakh in 2022-23, breaking all previous records. Further, the program prioritises disaster-resilient designs, supported

by tools like the 'Pahal Compendium. This resource offers diverse, region-specific house designs incorporating disaster-resilient features. Complementing the compendium is an app that provides 3D visualisations of recommended house designs, ensuring practicality and accessibility.

Transformative Impact on

Beneficiaries PMAY-G's impact extends beyond physical housing. Recent research highlights its role in improving living conditions, access to infrastructure, and overall wellbeing. Beneficiaries have reported enhanced social status, selfesteem, and a sense of belonging—factors that potentially reduce distress migration. A



is its focus on marginalised groups, promoting transparency and ensuring female coownership, thereby empowering women.

The initiative has also significantly contributed to rural employment. Each house constructed under PMAY-G generates approximately 314 person-days of work, distributed among skilled (81 days), semi-skilled (71 days), and unskilled key feature of the programme (164 days) labour. This

amplified by integration with the 'Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGN-REGS). The quality of training under the RMT programme is evident, with certified masons even securing overseas employment opportunities. Such achievements underscore PMAY-G's dual focus on immediate housing needs and long-term skill development. **Comprehensive Programme**

Integration One of PMAY-G's standout features is its integration with other government schemes to improve beneficiaries' overall quality of life. This includes: Toilets through 'Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)'

LPG connections via 'Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala success, PMAŶ-G faces sever-

Ensuring Transparency and Fairness

Transparency in beneficiary selection is another critical strength of PMAY-G. Beneficiaries are identified using the 'Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011' and 'Awaas+ 2018' lists, verified through Gram Sabhas and an appellate process. The program also uses the Awaas+2024 Mobile App', which enables households to self-survey and update their housing status. Recently, facial recognition systems were introduced to further improve oversight, ensuring fairness and reducing fraudulent

Global Scale and Ambitions: PMAY-G Despite its notable

al challenges that need attention. A significant issue is the lack of awareness among many eligible beneficiaries, particularly in remote areas, about the programme's eligibility criteria, highlighting the need for better information dissemination. Additionally, the program would benefit from stronger feedback mechanisms to address potential blind spots and improve implementation efficiency. Another concern is the uneven progress across states, with some exceeding their targets while others fall behind. Achieving balanced implementation will require greater political consensus and more equitable resource allo-

> (The writer is faculty, IIM Ahmedabad; views are

HYDERABAD | TUESDAY | NOVEMBER 26, 2024

IN BRIEF



KEC Intl bags orders worth Rs 1,114 cr

EC International on Monday said it has secured new orders worth Rs 1,114 crore across its various businesses. These businesses include Transmission & Distribution (T&D) under which the company has secured orders for T&D projects in the Middle East and the Americas, according to a statement. The company has bagged a 400 kV Transmission line in Oman and an order for supply of towers, hardware and poles in the Americas. Its civil business secured orders in the industrial segment in India and an order for Metro Overhead Electrification (OHE) works in the technologically enabled segment in the country. The company's cable business has bagged orders for supply of various types of cables in India and overseas. "With these new orders, our YTD (year-to-date) order intake stands at Rs 14,600 crore, reflecting a healthy growth of 50 per cent compared to last year," Vimal Kejriwal, MD & CEO of KEC International, said in the statement.



Maruti looks to diversify export markets

aruti Suzuki India on Monday said it is looking to diversify export markets as it aims to clock 7.5 lakh units to overseas locations by 2030-31. The auto major has already exported 30 lakh units to various markets across the globe. The 3 millionth vehicle export was part of a shipment of 1,053 units that sailed from Gujarat's Pipavav port comprising models like Celerio, Fronx, Jimny, Baleno, Ciaz, Dzire, and S-Presso. "Aligned with the Government of India's flagship 'Make in India' initiative, Maruti Suzuki is committed to deep localisation and multiplying exports," Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) MD & CEO Hisashi Takeuchi said in a statement. Today, 40 per cent of passenger vehicles exported from India are from the auto major, he added. "Our exports from India have grown by three times from four years ago. Inspired by this global demand, the company is determined to diversify and rampup vehicle exports to 7.5 lakh units by 2030-31," Takeuchi



Rupee rises 10 paise to close at 84.31 against US dollar

he rupee appreciated 10 paise to close at 84.31 (provisional) against US dollar on Monday, supported by a firm trend in domestic equities amid improved investor risk appetite. Forex traders said investor sentiment got a boost after the Israeli ambassador to Washington said the Hezbollah ceasefire deal could come "within days". At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 84.38 and touched an intra-day high of 84.25 against the greenback. The unit ended the session at 84.31 (provisional) against the dollar, registering a rise of 10 paise over its previous close. On Friday, the rupee recovered from its all-time low level and appreciated 9 paise to close at 84.41 against the US dollar. "The US bonds are rallying on Trump appointing Scott Bessent as his Treasury Secretary. It is to be known that Bessent is a deficit hawk, so the possibility of a reduction in borrowing is weighing on the yields, in turn supporting the INR. "In addition, geopolitical concerns are somewhat contained as Israel may reach a ceasefire deal with Hezbollah and there has not been any concerning developments in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war either.'

After multiple RBI strictures, MFIs tighten norms

After repeated strictures from the Reserve Bank on the induspractices, Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN) on Monday announced a slew of changes to make lending to the bottom of the pyramid more "respon-

From January 1, the self-regulatory organisation's members will ensure that a single MFI client's borrowings are limited to three MFIs as against four at present and the total indebtedness of a borrower including MFI and unsecured retail loans is capped at Rs 2 lakh, a statement said.

The body's chief executive and director Alok Misra hoped that the sector will become "more resilient" with the new measures.

Over the last few months, the RBI has gone public with its concerns on a slew of practices adopted by the MFIs, including usurious high interest rates, multiple lendings to single borrowers and even practices like not crediting loan repayments to the rightful accounts despite being paid by borrowers.

On October 21, the RBI also asked four entities including Navi Finserv, DMI Finance, Arohan Financial Services and Asirvad Micro Finance to cease and desist from sanctioning and disbursing new loans because of unfair practices.

At the same time, many lenders are showing a rise in their NPAs in the MFI seg-Microlenders have also

tightened the norms on lend-

ing to a client who has slipped into the non-performing asset category, as per the MFIN No lending will be made to a delinquent client who has not

repaid an outstanding of over Rs 3,000 for over 60 days as against 90 days at present, the guidelines for MFIN members

India's economic outlook 'cautiously optimistic': Report

India's economic outlook for the coming months is 'cautiously optimistic', with agriculture likely to benefit from favourable monsoon conditions, increased minimum support prices and adequate supply of inputs, the finance ministry said in a report.

"Bright agricultural production prospects make the infla-tion outlook benign, despite existing price pressures in select food items," the October edition of Monthly Economic Review released by the Department of Economic Affairs on Monday said.

Early November trends signalled moderation in key food prices, though geopolitical factors may continue to impact domestic inflation and supply chains, it said.

A bumper kharif harvest is expected to lower food inflation in the coming months, it said, adding that a favourable monsoon, adequate reservoir levels and higher minimum support prices are likely to boost rabi sowing and produc-



Amidst a clouded global background, and after a brief period of softening momentum over the monsoon months, the report said, many high-frequency indicators of economic activity in India have shown a rebound in October.

These include indicators of rural and urban demand and supply side variables like Purchasing Managers' Index and E-way bill generation, it

On the employment front, it said, the formal workforce is expanding, with notable increases in manufacturing jobs and a strong inflow of

youth into organised sectors.
With regard to the external front, it said, India's export recovery may encounter challenges due to softening demand in developed mar-

However, it said, trade in the services sector is sustaining

Net foreign direct investment inflows registered remarkable growth in the first five months of FY25, it said.

Supported by stable capital inflows, India's forex reserves increased by USD 64.8 billion amongst major forex reserveholding countries, it said. Apart from the emerging indications of domestic growth

largest increase after China

and stability, the dynamics of global interest rates, earning growth and valuation, geopolitical developments and poli-cy decisions of the next administration in the United States will determine the course of trade and capital flows, the report said.

Recent developments in the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine have caused some concern in financial markets with safe-haven assets such as US Treasuries and gold finding a bid, it said, adding, that geopolitical conditions remain fragile.

The report said the global economy reveals a mixed outlook as 2024 draws to a close.

Structural weaknesses in parts of Europe and China's slowdown continued to weigh on growth. In contrast, the US economy has surpassed earlier expectations, maintaining steady expansion

HDFC Life Insurance faces data breach, assessing potential impact

PNS NEW DELHI

HDFC Life Insurance on Monday said there have been some instances of data leaks and assessing potential impact of this breach 'We have received commu-

nication from an unknown source, who has shared certain data fields of our customers with

us, with mala fide intent," HDFC Life said in a regulatory filing. The company has initiated an information secu-

rity assessment

and data log analysis, it said. A detailed investigation is underway in consultation with information security experts to assess the root cause and take remedial action, as necessary, it said. The company contin-ues to investigate this further

it said, adding, "We will take utmost care to handle concerns of our customers and take actions to safeguard their interest." Last month, insurance regulator Irdai directed two insurers to carry out audits of their IT systems following concerns over the

> data leaks. Without naming the insurers, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) had said it takes data breaches very

recent instances

of policyholders'

seriously and asserted that it will continue to engage with the companies to ensure that the policyholders' interests are fully protected.

Star Health Insurance had recently admitted data breach. Tata AÍG is another insurance company which faced a data to assess the potential impact,

Over 25 pc subscribers report decline in pesky calls

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Around 27 per cent mobile subscribers have experienced reduction in pesky calls after telecom regulator Trai's stringent action against unregistered telemarketers, according to a survey by online platform LocalCircles.

However, a majority of subscribers said there is no relief yet from pesky callers, instead there has been an increase in robo calls, the survey, which was released on Monday, said.

According to the survey report, only 9 per cent mobile subscribers surveyed confirmed net reduction in pesky calls post Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) blacklisting of spammers.

Gold tumbles Rs 1,000 to Rs 79,400 per 10 gms

PNS NEW DELHI

Gold prices tumbled Rs 1,000 to slip below the Rs 80,000 level in the national capital on Monday amid weak global trends, according to local markets are

The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity tanked Rs 1,000 to Rs 79,400 per 10 grams against the previous close of Rs 80,400 on Friday.

Silver declined Rs 1,600 to Rs 91,700 per kg. The metal finished at Rs 93,300 per kg on

The price of gold with 99.5 per cent purity plunged Rs 1,000 to Rs 79,000 per 10 grams. The yellow metal had settled at Rs 80,000 per 10 grams in the previous session on Friday.

"Gold witnessed a sharp decline of more than Rs 1.000 below Rs 76,500, as the war premium faded, with no fresh



the weekend to sustain the rally," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst of Commodity and Currency at LKP Securities, said.

Last week's strong surge in MCX and Comex prices prompted profit booking, lead-ing to the unwinding of long positions. This week, traders will await weekly jobless claims and the Fed's Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting minutes, which will

more direction for the yellow metal, Trivedi added. Meanwhile, in futures trade

on the MCX, gold contracts for December delivery plunged Rs 1,071 or 1.38 per cent to trade at Rs 76,545 per 10 grams. It closed at Rs 77,616 per 10 grams in the previous trading session. Silver contracts for December delivery declined Rs 1,468 or 1.62 per cent to Rs 89,300 per kg against the previous close of Rs 90,768 per kg on Friday.

Sensex reclaims 80k mark; Nifty surges over 1%

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty surged more than 1 per cent on Monday, helped by a rally in blue-chip stocks and the BJP pulling off a stunning performance in Maharashtra, winning a record number of seats to propel the party-led ruling Maĥayuti alliance to a landslide victory.

Extending its previous day's sharp rally, the BSE benchmark Sensex jumped 992.74 points or 1.25 per cent to settle at 80,109.85. During the day, it soared 1,355.97 points or 1.71 per cent to 80,473.08.

The NSE Nifty surged 314.65 points or 1.32 per cent to 24,221.90.

From the 30-share Sensex pack, Larsen & Toubro, State Bank of India, Adani Ports, Reliance Industries, Power Grid, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Tata Consultancy Services, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Axis Bank were the biggest gainers.

On the other hand, JSW Steel, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, Maruti, Asian Paints and



HCL Tech were the laggards. Online food delivery giant Zomato will become a part of the benchmark BSE Sensex, replacing JSW Steel from December 23.

This is part of the latest reconstitution announced by Asia Index Private Ltd, a subsidiary of BSE.

"The ability of the market to surprise was evident in the 557 points spurt in the Nifty on Friday. This sharp upswing will continue today assisted by the super NDA performance in Maharashtra. The political message from this election is huge and highly positive from the market perspective," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Vijayakumar, Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said.

D-Street investors richer by Rs 14.20 lakh cr PNS NEW DELHI major boost on expect

nvestors' wealth soared Rs 14.20 lakh crore in two days of spectacular rally in the equity market where the BSE benchmark Sensex jumped nearly 4 per cent during this time. The Sensex has surged 2,954.06 points or 3.82 per cent in the past two days, regaining the crucial 80,000 mark. The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms soared Rs 14,20,004.4 crore to Rs 4,39,58,912.41 crore (USD 5.22 trillion). "The relief rally backed by robust short-covering ahead of the monthly expiry this week continued for a second straight session as benchmark Sensex breached the psychological 80k mark on all-round buying support. "The enthusiasm after the Maharashtra assembly election win by the BJP & its allies gave equity markets a

major boost on expectations that infrastructure projects would get a fresh leg up going ahead," Prashanth Tapse Senior VP (Research) at Mehta Equities Ltd, said The BJP on Saturday pulled off a stunning performance in Maharashtra, winning a record number of seats to propel the party-led ruling Mahayuti alliance to a landslide victory while the INDIA bloc stormed back to power in Jharkhand on the back of a spectacular showing by the JMM. From the 30-share Sensex pack, Larsen & Toubro, State Bank of India, Adani Ports, Reliance Industries, Power Grid, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Tata Consultancy Services. Kotak Mahindra Bank and Axis Bank were the biggest gainers. On the other hand, JSW Steel, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, Maruti, Asian Paints and HCL Tech were the

'No new investment in Adani till bribe charges cleared'

energy giant French TotalEnergies SE on Monday said it will make no new financial contribution as part of its investments in Adani group companies till the Indian firm's founder is cleared of bribery

charges. The energy giant said it was not aware of the investigation into the alleged corruption.

TotalEnergies is one of the biggest foreign investors in billionaire Gautam Adani's business empire and had previously taken stakes in the group's renewable energy venture Adani Green Energy Ltd (AEGL) and city gas unit Adani Total Gas Ltd (ATGL).

In a statement, the French firm said it learnt of US authorities indicting Gautam Adani and two other executives for allegedly paying USD 265 million bribes to Indian officials to secure solar power supply contracts for AEGL.

"This indictment does not

target AGEL itself, nor any AGEL-related companies," TotalEnergies said. "Until such time when the accusations against the Adani group individuals and their consequences have been clarified, TotalEnergies will not make any new financial contribution as part of its investments in the Adani group of companies."

Adani group has dismissed the allegations brought in the US court as baseless and has said it would seek all possible legal recourse.

TotalEnergies holds a 19.75 per cent stake in Adani Green Energy Ltd - the renewable energy arm of the Indian group helmed by Gautam Adani. It also has a 50 per cent stake in three joint venture companies that produce electricity from sunlight and wind with AEGL.

The French firm also holds a 37.4 per cent stake in Adani Total Gas Ltd, which retails CNG to automobiles and pipes natural gas to households for

About 7 pc workforce growth expected: Report

PNS MUMBAI

With 59 percent of employers planning to increase headcount in October-March FY25, 7.1 percent workforce growth is expected during the period, driven by the logistics, e-commerce, and manufacturing sec-

tors, a report said.
According to TeamLease Services 'Employment Outlook Report for October 2024 to March 2025', an additional 22 per cent will maintain their current staffing levels.

The report is based on primary and secondary research, taking inputs from 1,307 employers across 23 industries in 20 cities.

These findings reveal a dynamic hiring landscape where industry-specific demands and macroeconomic factors are significantly shaping employment trends, the report added.

the report added.

This growth will mainly be driven by sectors including logistics, EV & EV infrastructure, agriculture and agrochemicals, and e-commerce, which are heavily investing in infrastructure and technology. infrastructure and technological advancements, it said.

Logistics, for instance, initiatives, and benefits from agriculture and agrochemistands out with a 14.2 per cent National Logistics Policy cals (10.5 per cent), and e-

net employment change, as 69 implementaper cent of companies in the tions, it noted. sector look to increase headcount. This growth is attributed to the sector's adoption of 5G



Logis tics is followed by EV and EV Infra structure (12.1

commerce and tech startups (8.9 per cent), where startups are capitalising on AI-enabled customer insights, Web 3.0 applications, and seasonal demand from the festive peri-As technology continues to

evolve, the automotive industry is also seeing 8.5 per cent growth, spurred by integrated smart technologies, while the retail sector's 8.2 per cent growth reflects the popularity of hyperlocal deliveries and smart-store concepts.

The report further said that cities like Coimbatore (24.6 per cent) and Gurugram (22.6 per

cent) are becoming job hubs, representing a decentralisation of employment opportunities beyond traditional met-While Bengaluru (53.1 per

cent), Mumbai (50.2 per cent), and Hyderabad (48.2 per cent) remained central employment anchors with high workforce demand, demand in cities like Coimbatore, Gurugram, Jaipur, Lucknow, and Nagpur signals a broader spread of job growth across India, reinforcing the appeal of smaller cities as viable alternatives for job seekers and companies alike, it

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA POLICE DEPARTMENT Pre Technical Bid No.D3 seat/635/Cyb/2624 Dit 25.11.202 Bids are invited from authorized bidders for the notification towards Expression of interes

for Police Food Canteen at Cyberabad Commissionerate, Gachibowli for engagin contract services to manage food canteen. The first date for notification schedule openin date on 26.11.2024 and schedule closing date on 28.11.2024 at 1700 hrs the Pro Technical Bid will be on 29.11.2024. The details, terms and conditions Pre-Technical Bid can be downloaded from website: Cyberabadpolice.gov.in and Mobile No: 9493630371

MEERPET MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OFFICE, RANGA REDDY DIST E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

No. E1/M.M.C/Tender Notice-11/2024-25, Meerpet Municipal Corporation has invited tenders for works with Municipal Corporation funds through e-Procurement Platform. 1) Number of works (01), 2) Estimated value of works - Rs 100.00 Lakh, 3] Schedule for downloading bids: From 5.00 PM on 26-11-2024 to 10.30 am on 04-12-2024, 4) Price Bid opening date: 10.31 am on 04-12-2024. For

letails contact in office hours: Ph: 8555870616, 7331147292. Sd/- Commissione Municipal Corporation, Meerpe R.O.No. 7946-PPICL/ADVTH/2024-25, Date: 25-11-2834

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Tuesday November 26, 2024

YUNG SAMMY GOES GLOBAL! JOINS DRAKE & MORE

Trailblazing hip-hop sensation
Yung Sammy, sits down with
The Pioneer for an exclusive chat, as
he speaks about his remarkable
journey from the streets of Noida to
the global stage, leaving an indelible
mark on the music world

SHIKHA DUGGAL shikhaduggalwork@gmail.com

ith his innovative flair and unstoppable energy, Yung Sammy is rapidly becoming one of the most talked-about young artists in hiphop. Through his inventive approach and boundless enthusiasm, this emerging artist is redefining the sonic landscape of his generation. His most recent freestyle, *Noida 2 NYC*, has achieved a historic milestone in Indian hiphop by being featured on New York's *On The Radar* platform, further solidifying his global presence.

scape of his generation. His most recent freestyle, *Noida 2 NYC*, has achieved a historic milestone in Indian hiphop by being featured on New York's *On The Radar* platform, further solidifying his global presence.

Following his highly regarded appearance on *Fire in the Booth* with Charlie Sloth, the musical artist tells us in an exclusive interview, "Hip-hop has always been unique in its storytelling and has undoubtedly been very cultural in expressing other cultures. I believe I have been able to have the USP and I am also receptive to other cultures, including India and my own culture, where I was born at Nigeria. Therefore, if you listen to any of my music, you'll notice that I employ a variety of voice modulations, lingos and slang, which is more open because I have been receptive to both cultures."

He believes that music has a significant role in culture and storytelling. When you see Afro music, you may say! "I'm trying something new like Punjabi lyrics on Afro music, an Afro dialect and Afro music and Afro accent. He has a lot to convey about his experiences living in both countries, so he thinks music has played a significant role. As a result, the music has a greater taste and more listeners." Sammy believes that it has consistently played a positive role.

played a positive role.

The trailblazing Nigerian hip-hop artist further states, "You know, artists have always been pushed by Fire in the Booth. The opportunity to showcase musicians from around the globe and my ability to represent Nigeria and India. I made the track for the intro and when I was in London, Shabz informed me that we were going to Fire in the Booth tomorrow. To be honest, I had no idea that I would be a part of the Fire in the Booth. When I was in the venue and I saw Charlie Sloth, I was really anxious. However, when I was rapping, there was a point in the video where I was kind of annoyed because I began to remember where I started and where I was. That emotion took me by surprise and I thought, 'I need to kill this shit.' I wanted to be flawless when I was in and the location had to be flawless, so that's what I was actually thinking while I was pitting the bars, which was undoubtedly a one-take. I took care to ensure I didn't overlook anything."

Yung Sammy is totally obsessed with Indian music - and it shows in his amazing collaborations with artists like 'Seedhe Maut!' He's also into Honey Singh, Krsna, Raftaar and all the other talented musicians who are making waves in the Indian hip-hop scene. With the scene exploding right now, Yung Sammy is right at the forefront! "As I mentioned earlier, it's a huge honour to represent both India and my home country, Nigeria. As an artist, gaining legitimacy and respect is crucial and people's admiration is a wonderful bonus. In my opinion, it's a significant achievement and it serves as a reminder that anyone can succeed, regardless of their race, nationality, or culture. Moreover, it shows that one can repre-

sent their country from anywhere in the world." Well, true that Yung!

Freestyling is a gift in itself. Not all artists possess the ability to freestyle. For Yung Sammy, freestyling is also a skill he honed in the studio, where he and his team would play instrumental tracks and improvise rap verses. They would experiment with different rhythms and flows to test their abilities and improve their freestyling skills. As a result, Yung Sammy has a deep appreciation for artists who can freestyle well. Joining the league of artists like Drake, Central Cee, Da Baby and Ice Spice, Yung Sammy has become the second India-based hiphop artist, after Hanumankind, to feature on a prominent global show. He states, "This freestyle is more than just music – it's a bridge between Noida and New York, showing the world what Indian hip-hop is capable of. From the streets of Noida to New York's iconic platforms,

this journey represents every young Indian artist's dream." Building on this momentum, his unique journey from Noida's streets to New York's hip-hop scene serves as an inspiration for aspiring Indian artists. His ability to blend authentic Hindi lyrics with international rap styles has not only caught the attention of global platforms but has also created a new blueprint for Indian hip-hop artists aiming to make their mark on the world stage.



Navdeep Khanuja's *Million Dollar* deals and beyond

In an exclusive interview with The Pioneer, Navdeep Khanuja, star of *Million* **Dollar Listing India**, opens up about his journey in luxury real estate, sharing insights into his business mantra and future plans. The new show offers an inside look at the highstakes world of selling multimillion-dollar properties to India's elite, and his expertise makes him a key figure in this thrilling venture.

AARTI SREENATH aarti.sreenath9@gmail.com

n the high-stakes world of real estate, success isn't just about sharp deals and gleaming properties, it's about resilience, adaptability and teamwork. For Navdeep Khanuja, his journey to building a thriving enterprise epitomises these values, with family support and a strategic vision playing pivotal roles.

with family support and a strategic vision playing pivotal roles.

Reflecting on his early days, he recalls a defining moment: "Within a couple of months, I closed a significant transaction. That early success gave me the confidence to go all in." Starting as a one-man army, he managed every aspect of the business himself. However, as demand surged, he quickly realised the importance of a solid support system.

"It was just me at the beginning," he shares. "Then the business expanded so rapidly that I had to hire an executive assistant. Even then, it wasn't enough. I remember telling my wife, Geet, who was managing our five-month-old baby at the time, "Hire two full-time maids because I need you in the office. The business is growing, and I can't handle it alone."

Geet's entry into the business marked a turning point. "She took charge of operations and follow-ups while I focused on the fieldwork," he explains. Her efficiency enabled the business to scale smoothly and today, their team has grown to 15 members. "The credit goes to my wife for managing operations so seamlessly," he says.

By 2023, he had achieved considerable milestones but

By 2023, he had achieved considerable milestones but yearned for more. Inspired by Netflix's *Selling Sunset*, he began dreaming of showcasing Indian real estate in a similar glamorous light. "I thought, 'This doesn't exist in India yet.' I envisioned something centered on my life, my work, and the stunning properties I deal with," he says.

He discussed the concept with industry friends, but one filmmaker advised him to wait for a network's interest. In January 2024, destiny intervened when he received a message from Endemol. "They were planning a show like this and wanted to meet me," he recalls. "It felt surreal, like the power of manifestation coming to life."

During his initial meeting, he learned that the global real estate franchise *Million Dollar Listing* was launching in India. "The moment I heard that, I knew it had to involve me," he says confidently.

Unlike the dramatic rivalries often seen in reality TV, he found the experience on *Million Dollar Listing India* refreshingly collaborative. "All six of us have unique spaces in the market, catering to different clienteles," he explains. "We didn't have prior rivalries, so instead of competing, we ended up learning from each other."

He highlights how the show provided opportunities to collaborate on projects, gaining insights into his peers' approaches. "It became a learning curve for all of us. Each one of us is doing fabulous work in our respective spaces and the show allowed us to showcase our strengths while learning from others."

Being on Million Dollar Listing India wasn't just

Being on Million Dollar Listing India wasn't just a professional milestone, it was a game-changer for his personal brand. "These days, personal branding plays a massive role," he explains. "When a client invests, they're not just buying a property, they're trusting you, your reputation and your expertise." The show gave him a platform to highlight his authenticity and professionalism. "It's about building credibility as a realtor and connecting with people on a personal level. The exposure helps potential clients trust us with their investments," he adds.

Filming the show posed its own challenges. For a month and a half, he had to delegate responsibilities to his team while focusing on filming. "Honestly, I didn't work much during that period," he admits. "I was setting up strategies and overseeing things from afar." Despite his absence, his team delivered impressive results. "I'm so thankful to them for stepping up. They not only kept things running smoothly but achieved big num-

smoothly but achieved big numbers. It's a testament to the systems we've put in place."

He also credits

the show for reshaping his marketing strategy. "It's no longer just about selling properties, it's about selling a lifestyle, a vision, and trust," he says. With increased visibility, his focus shifted to relatability and authenticity, ensuring that his personal and professional values resonate with his audience.

One memorable deal

showcased on the show involved a young client returning from the US. "He contacted me from his UK number, saying he wanted a 500-square-yard property for his mother," he recounts. "He told me, "I've come to you and I'm not going anywhere else."

The transaction unfolded swiftly. "His mother, a senior advocate, visited one of the properties and decided to close the deal on the spot. It was a quick, successful transaction and you'll see it all on the show," he shares proudly.

For those entering the competitive world of real estate, he emphasises authenticity and a client-first approach. "First and foremost, find your niche," he advises. "Identify your space in the market and approach it your way. You don't need a mentor or a godfather. I didn't have either, I carved my own path by staying true to myself."

He underscores the importance of honesty and transparency. "You're handling clients' hard-earned money, it's a responsibility that should never be taken lightly. Establish your credibility through fairness and integrity. Clients value trust, and that's what sets you apart in this industry."

Ultimately, he believes success lies in carving your own journey. "Don't imitate someone else's path. Define your style, build relationships, and focus on trust. Real estate is as much about connections as it is about properties. If you stick to these principles, success will follow."

Participating in *Million Dollar Listing India* marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter for him. "Being on Sony LIV is not just about visibility, it's about opening new doors and exploring fresh prospects," he says. For him, growth is a constant pursuit and his journey exemplifies how resilience, vision and authenticity can lead to unparalleled success.

INDIA'S WAR ON DIABETES

he 52nd Annual Conference of the Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI), in collaboration with the International Diabetes Federation (IDF), was officially commenced on World Diabetes Day. The event attended by several dignitaries brought together over 5,000 healthcare professionals, national and international experts and prominent speakers to discuss and address the growing diabetes epidemic in India. According to the latest report from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), more than 10 crore people are currently affected.

Science and Technology Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, who was one of the attendees at the conference, stated that to tackle the epidemic of diabetes that confronts us today, we need a collaborative effort that has to be extended beyond the practitioners of medicine and the researchers of medicine. He further opined, "This collaboration must include inputs from cultural and social activists. As rightly pointed out, it's about breaking barriers and bridging gaps—between individuals and patients, individuals and doctors, individuals and families, individuals and soci-

ety, as well as between the private and public sectors. I have been a strong advocate of increasing private-sector involvement in these efforts. It is only through such partnerships that we can achieve truly optimal results."

The conference also announced a joint declaration by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) and RSSDI. This declaration underscores the global and regional commitment to diabetes awareness, prevention and treatment. Another key aspect of the conference is the Doctors' Pledge, or Doctor's Oath, with over 10,000 healthcare professionals from across India taking a solemn oath to increase diabetes awareness, advocate for early screenings, and promote healthier lifestyle choices.

Dr. Banshi Saboo, Chief Diabetologist & Chairman of Dia Care—Diabetes Care & Hormone Clinic, emphasised, "The urgency of addressing diabetes as a national priority cannot be overstated. By focusing on prevention, early diagnosis and patient education, we empower individuals to manage their health more proactively, ultimately reducing the burden of this epidemic on families and communities."

The conference agenda features in-depth sessions on various critical aspects of diabetes care and treatment. Key highlights included discussions on diabetes in pregnancy and women's health, addressing topics such as gestational diabetes and unique concerns like diabetes and PCOS, and highlighting both maternal and fetal health. Sessions on Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes management will also provide insights into insulin therapy, glucose monitoring guidelines and the latest combination therapies.

The program also highlighted nationwide activities led by doctors, including the A-Z Diabetes Awareness Activity campaign. Emerging therapies and technological advances are another focal point, with workshops on Artificial Intelligence in diabetes care, Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) and alternative therapies that explore new technological tools and their applications in patient care. Organ-specific complications related to diabetes, including heart, liver, kidney and nervous system issues, will also be explored in detail to help attendees understand the broader impacts of the disease.

Lifestyle, obesity and diet were the critical themes, with master classes and nutritional talks addressing the role of obesity in diabetes and strategies for managing it through diet, exercise and the latest treatments. A specialised focus was placed on the mental health aspects of diabetes, underscoring the importance of psychological support in diabetes management.

ment.
Prevention, global strategies and perspectives, including a lecture by the IDF
President, provided insights into international standards and community-focused preventive measures. Additionally, practical workshops on CPR, manuscript writing, insulin use and case-based learning will equip healthcare providers with the skills needed to enhance their clinical practice.



what's brewing?



Over 600 industry leaders and professionals came together at QE Conclave 2024 in

Qualizeal, to explore

the future of Quality Engineering. The

event also marked the

launch of their Alpowered quality engineering tool, QMentisAl.



Hyderabad witnessed a spellbinding showcase of Mishru's Resonance 2024/25 collection, curated by Swapna Anumolu at The Mishru store in Banjara Hills. Enhanced by sculptural furniture, the event harmonised fashion, design and storytelling, reflecting its dedication to Indian craftsmanship and contemporary innovation.

















The Vignana Jyothi Institute of Management (VJIM) hosted the 30th Convocation with solemn grandeur at Bachupally campus of the Institute, today. The event was attended by President and Executive Board Member of LTIMindtree, Sudhir Chaturvedi, as Chief Guest.



Yardley London, relaunches its signature Perfumed Beauty Talc range. With a sleek, contemporary design, the collection is crafted to appeal to today's modern, driven women while preserving it's time-honoured legacy of elegance and quality



Apollo Institute of Medical Sciences & Research (AIMSR) Hyderabad; hosted the White Coat Ceremony, for the MBBS Class of 2024 students, at the RNR Auditorium, Jubilee

Hills. Chief Guest Dr. Rooma Sinha, Honorary Professor, Gynecology, Apollo Hospitals; presented the White Coats to students on the occasion. Aparna Reddy, COO, AIMSR; Dr. K. Manohar, Dean, Apollo Institute of Medical Sciences & Research; along with the faculty from the Institute and parents of students, were present to catch a glimpse of the momentous



Tansen has introduced 'Sardi Ke Rang, Tansen Ke Sang,' an exclusive showcase of winter seasonal cuisine. Chef Gagan Deep Singh has curated a special menu to bring forth the warmth and flavours of the season



Oldschool Brindavanam, a unique experience center focused on fostering holistic well-being, hosted a captivating conversation yesterday featuring Dr. Sathya Sindhuja, a renowned Siddha Yoga doctor. The event delved into the ancient wisdom of Siddha Yoga, a powerful self-healing system for the human body.

ARCHIE









REALITY CHECK

TELL ME

ABOUT YOUR

CHILDHOOD

CALVIN AND HOBBES



SPEED BUMP

REMEMBER, WHEN ONE DOOR

CLOSES, ANOTHER DOOR OPENS.

SO DON'T FORGET TO FIX

THAT GASO LATCH, TOO.

Q1& 90N OCKSMITHS

SWATTING MOSQUITOES WHILE LYING FROZEN AND CRAMPED ON BUMPY ROCKS, WITH NO TO FAT. IS NOT MY DEA OF A GOOD TIME!



GARFIELD

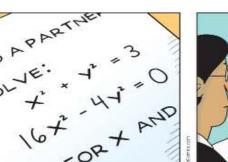
NANCY



THE ASSIGNMENT IS TO FIND A PARTNER

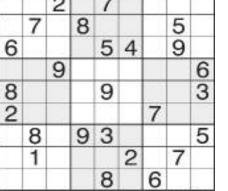








SUDOKU



Yesterday's solution								
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2	5	7	4	9	8	1	3	6
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5	4	6	2	3	9	8	1	7
9	6	3	8	4	5	2	7	1
1	8	5	7	6	2	4	9	3
7	2	4	9	1	3	5	6	8

Rules · Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9)

The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

CROSSWORD



ACROSS 1 A hole in a hill for a train

3 Unlock

19 A planet

DOWN

- 7 Very uncommon
- 8 An animal with a shell 10 An erupting mountain
- 13 A long sort of table where you are served in a shop
- 16 A restaurant worker 17 Meat and vegetables
 - cooked slowly in liquid

4 Tame animals kept at home

Ripped and ragged

2 Opposite of wide

18 Scraps of material

5 Required

6 On fire

9 A month 11 Reply

12 Defeated

voice

night

14 Make music with the

15 These birds hunt at



GINGER MEGGS

WHAT'S THE SECOND STEP?



A FEW MORE KILOS AND YOU WON'T BE RECOGNISABLE AS YOUR FORMER SELF!



DIFFICULTY RATING: ** * * **

RAVI (PRODUC-ER) HAS SO **MUCH LOVE FOR ME** AT THE SAME TIME

HE BROUGHT MORE COMPLAINTS THAN **LOVE. YOU DIDN'T GIVE THE SONG IN** TIME. BACKGROUND **SCORE WAS NOT**

TUNE TURNS SOUR

Devi Sri Prasad expresses

discontent with *Pushpa 2* makers



THE MAKERS OF **PUSHPA 2 HAVE ROPED IN THREE MUSIC DIRECTORS FOR THE BACKGROUND MUSIC, AS** THEY FEEL THAT DSP (DEVI SRI PRASAD) IS NOT **RESPONSE, HE OPENLY**

SURESH KAVIRAYANI sureshkavirayani@gmail.com

is known that the makers of Pushpa 2 have roped in three additional music directors - SS Thaman, B Ajaneesh Loknath and Sam CS - to work on the film's background score, alongside the primary music director, Devi Sri Prasad. This decision was reportedly made due to concerns that the film's delay was partly caused by the background music. However, this move openly suggests that the makers are dissatisfied with Devi Sri Prasad's work. On Sunday, the makers released a special song from the film at an event in Chennai. The song, titled *Kissak*, features Allu Arjun and Sreeleela. The film's lead pair, Allu Arjun and Rashmika Mandanna, along with Sreeleela, attended the event. Music director Devi Sri Prasad, who resides in

Chennai, was also present.

During his speech, Devi Sri Prasad primarily spoke in Telugu, possibly to convey his thoughts directly to the producers of *Pushpa 2*. At one point, he stated, "Whatever we want, we have to ask and take it. The payment from the producers or for the credit on the screen!" His satirical talk is indirectly points towards the producers. He went on to say that if he receives support from fans, noth went on to say that if he receives support from fans, noth-

ing will occur.

The music director discusses the movie and expressed

his happiness after watching the first half of it. "But when I completed the second half too, it was definitely on another level. Allu Arjun is mind blowing and his performance is next level," said Devi Sri Prasad about the film. This confirms that he has provided the music for the entire film.

However, it is still not known whether the makers will go on further with Devi Sri Prasad's background music, or the

other three music directors. Going ahead, he went on to express his disagreement on the producers. "Ravi (producer) has so much love for me at the same time he brought more complaints than love," said DSP. "You didn't give the song in time, background score was not given and even you didn't come for this programme not on time, just like how he has several complaints to me," said DSP. He added that he came to this event nearly 25 minutes before, but they didn't allow him. And the music director added that the producer, after seeing him, said 'wrong timing'. "What do I do sir, if they didn't allow me

inside," said DSP to producer Ravi. "Whatever you want to ask, do it right now, if we do the same separately there's no kick in it," said the music director. This tells us that the differences between producers and the music director continues. The same producers made a film with Ajith titled *Good Bad Ugly* which they roped in Devi Sri Prasad as music director initially. Now, they replaced him with GV Prakash Kumar. *Pushpa 2* is releasing on December 5 and the special song is not going well when compared to the Oo Antava Mava from part one. The trailer also does not appeal to the



Tamil music director-duo Vivek-Mervin enters Tollywood

he Telugu film industry provides a platform for numerous artists, technicians, and other professionals. Many female actors and antagonists from different languages can be seen. Several technicians from various regions of India are currently employed in Tollywood and Mythri Movie Makers has recently brought in a new music director duo to the industry. Tamil music director Vivek-Mervin is

ready to make their first appearance in Telugu with a Ram Pothineni movie directed by Mahesh Babu, known for Miss Shetty Mr Polishetty.

Ram Pothineni takes an active approach in promoting fresh and thrilling talent.

The musical works for this film will be handled by the talented music composer-duo Vivek-Mervin. The producers announced on Monday that the music for *RaPo22*

will be composed by the Vivek-

Mervin duo. Vivek Siva and Mervin Solomon, who are better known by their stage name of Vivek-Mervin.

They collaborated on multiple highly praised Tamil movies, with the standout being *Vada Curry*. They also created music for Dhanush's film Pataas. RAPO22 is set to star Ram and Bhagyashree Borse in the main roles.

Tollywood's weekend washouts disappoint

Telugu audience.

Recently, Vishwak Sen's movies like Mechanic Rocky, Zebra and Devaki Nandana Vasudeva were released. Despite Vishwak Sen's strong belief in the success of his film and his aggressive promotion, the audience did not respond positively and rejected it. The actor had high expectations for this film, but it didn't make as much money as anticipated at the box office. The figures are significantly lower compared to Vishwak's prior movies, resulting in a huge disappointment and a major setback for the actor. This film marked Ravi Teja Mullapudi's first venture as a director, with Shraddha Srinath and

Meenakshi Chaughary portraying the female leads.
Another movie called *Zebra* was also released, featuring Satya Dev, Daali Dhananjaya, Satya Raj and Priya Bhavani Shankar. Satya Dev, who has been seeking a great opportunity for the past few years, is optimistic that this movie will be the perfect one. However, to his disappointment, the audience immediately rejected the film. The director of the film is Easvar Karthic, and the plot revolves around a banking scam and money laundering. However, it appears that the director was unable to effectively communicate the story. Despite being shown on a holiday like Sunday, the film does not attract many viewers to the box office, resulting in disappoint-

ing numbers for Satya Dev once again.

The second film of Mahesh Babu's nephew Ashok Galla, Devaki Nandana Vasudeva, was also released but got cancelled in numerous areas on the very first day. Arjun Jandyala serves as the director of the film, with Devdatta Nage making his debut as the villain in Aadipurush. Miss India Manasa Varanasi also had her first appearance as the female protagonist; however, the movie was rightfully not successful in theaters. The filmmaker invested heavily in this movie, but he is finding it challenging to profit from it.

Vishnu Manchu locks release date of *Kannappa*

Tishnu Manchu's highly anticipated project, big premiere. Accompanied by Mohan Babu, actor Sarathkumar, Arpit Ranka and director Mukesh Kumar Singh, Vishnu went to the Shri Mahakaleshwar Temple in Ujjain to officially reveal the film's rélease date.

Kannappa is set to be globally released on April 25, 2025, strategically scheduled for the summer, which is an ideal time for movie premieres. The movie will be available in languages other than Telugu, including Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, and Hindi. Vishnu Manchu has enlisted numerous top actors from various languages, such as Mohan Lal, Akshay Kumar,

Sarath Kumar and Prabhas, to portray important characters in the Filming is done and post production is nearly finished as well. The majority of the movie was filmed in New Zealand.

So far, the movie has released initial posters showcasing the main actors and a teaser, both of which have greatly increased excitement for the film. The film narrates the untold tale of Kannappa, the greatest follower of Lord Shiva, known for his immense courage and unwavering devotion. The movie is being made on a global level, with Hollywood experts participating in its creation. The movie will highlight the stunning scenery of New Zealand, offering viewers a magnificent visual treat.



FALSE ALARM! KANTARA: CHAPTER 1

Reports indicate that a bus transporting certain individuals from the *Kantara*: *Chapter* 1 team was involved in an accident, leading to the suspension of the film shooting. Kannada actor Rishabh Shetty is currently starring in this movie and the filming is progressing rapidly. This is the movie that came before Kantara, which was a big success. However, it was stated that the shooting came to a stop as the bus transporting 20 junior artistes from Jadkal to Kollur was involved in an accident, resulting in nearly six severe injuries.

However, the production company strongly refuted these claims and stated that filming is still in progress. It was reported that there was a collision, however, they managed to get away unharmed. In a



statement, the production stated

that the shooting commenced at 6 am in the morning.

"The news making the rounds is completely false. The *Kantara*: Chapter 1 team began shooting at 6 am today, and everything is proceeding as normal. A minor accident occurred 20 kilometers away from the shooting location, involving a local bus carrying some members of the Kantara team. However, no injuries were reported," said the production house in a statement.

Kantara was widely popular not just in Kannada but also in other languages. Rishabh Shetty is both the director and main actor, with Saptami Gowda playing the female lead. B Ajaneesh Loknath is in charge of composing the music.

I automatically want to put myself in tough

PTI PERTH

asprit Bumrah said on Monday that he relishes absorbing the pressure in light situations as captain and bowler which can make the job of his less experienced colleagues much easier.

The ace pacer was India's standout bowler with an eight-wicket haul in the Perth Test, shaping India's 295-run humongous 29 drubbing of Australia.

"Whenever the tough scenarios come, I look at myself to see how I can contribute, even when I'm not the captain. So, whenever tough scenarios are there, I look at answers — if I'm going to bowl at this moment, what can I do? I automatically want to put myself in tough scenarios," said Bumrah in post-match press

conference here. Kumar Reddy as all contributed at crucial junctures at the Optus

that tough scenario to make the job a little bit easier for the new guys coming in. Because, you know, it's not very easy in the first tour to take a lot of responsibility.
"So, I was trying to do that

and very happy to be on the positive side," he added.

Despite the historic win, Bumrah will have to vacate the top seat when Rohit

Sharma returns for the Adelaide Test to lead India. So, how will he tackle a rather personal tough spot? Bumrah offered a cheeky reply.
"I'm not going to tell him that

I'm going to (captaincy)," he said. leave

Going more matter of fact, the 30-year-old said: "I said that in the previous press conference as well, he's the captain and he's done a phenomenal job. I was filling in for him.

"I had discussions when he His fighting spirit found resonance in young bowlers like Harshit Rana and Nitish Kumar Reddy as all yeah, I'm going to help him in whatever capacity I can," he noted.



responding to a marshy back to skittle the Aussies for situation after getting 104 in their first essay. situation after getting bundled out for 150 in the

Stadium. However, Burmah was quite first innings. We were put under pressure "I was trying to put myself in chuffed to see his side The Indian bowlers struck in the first innings when we

"I am very proud of the team.

were bowled out for 150. But then, you know, the team showed character and didn't

"Obviously, in this game, there are a lot of positives for lose belief. So, that is us. You know, we scored a lot something that will be really of runs in the second innings.

Of course, Virat scoring a 100 as well is a great sign for us," he added.

So, what was the plan of the Indian bowling unit to be successful on the Perth pitch? "There was some health on the wicket. So, I want to make the batters play as much as I can because the new ball is crucial over here. So, with the wicket having dents in it, the

ball would seam around." Bumrah said the key for his bowlers was not to get desperate to bag wickets even in helpful conditions.

"Sometimes when you are bowled out for a lower score, you can be a little too desperate and try too much to get wickets.

When you try too much here, it doesn't really help and the run scoring goes high. So, we had to be nice and disciplined."

The 30-year-old pacer was delighted to see his colleagues adjusting to the Perth length very quickly to make an impact.

"Usually in Perth, there could be a scenario when we come

New guys coming in, also from India, you tend to bowl chipping in with a lot of runs. a little short because voil can get excited by the bounce and you can't find the length. It looks good when you bowl a back of length delivery and the batsman gets beaten, but the batsman is still there.

"So, you have to find the right length. We were focusing on our strength. We as a bowling unit got a lot of dismissals through LBW and caught behind. So, yeah, we realised that, you have to stick to your strengths and find the right length and we were able to do that," he explained.

However, Bumrah reminded the team that they needed to start afresh in the second Test since it would be the Pink Ball Test, starting from December 6 at Adelaide.

"Adelaide might be totally different. It's a pink ball. So, yes, you can take the confidence from here. But, again, you have to start from zero. You have to build on this confidence.

"You have to take learnings from this game as well. So we're going to take it in our stride and, you know, put our best foot forward," he noted.

Kohli proves why team India needs him

PTI PERTH

 \mathbf{I} n a reverential tone, India skipper Jasprit Bumrah on Monday paid a massive compliment to Virat Kohli, saying the team needs his support more than the batting mainstay needs theirs.

Kohli's 30th Test century, an unbeaten 100, played a big part in India's epochal 295-run win over Australia at Perth after getting rolled over for a paltry 150 in the first innings.

"Obviously, I have already said that Virat Kohli does not need us, We need him. He is an experienced player. This is his fourth or fifth tour. So, he knows his cricket more than anyone else," said Bumrah in the post-match press meet.

"He was in good shape. He was mentally switched on. Sometimes, as long as the career is, sometimes you bat in tough scenarios. He has always been batting in tough scenarios. So, it is always difficult to do in every match. But he was batting in a very good form and in a very good space.

"And obviously, he got a good delivery in the first inning. But he was still in a great space. And in the



second inning, he capitalized. He needed a lot of experience at that time. So, he played with him and also made the other player play with him."

The stand-in skipper added, "So, we are very happy for that. And obviously, at the start of the series, when he comes in confidence, you can't ask for more than this."

Bumrah was also delighted to register his first Test win as skipper, but remained firmly rooted to the ground saying that the India need to start fresh in the second Test against Australia at Adelaide on December

"Special win, first win as captain. We were put under pressure and we showed the character.

"We can take confidence from this game but we need to start fresh in the second Test. We need to carry forward the learnings as well to Adelaide," Bumrah added.

The speedster also said there were no jitters in the dressing room despite getting bundled out for a low

score in the first innings.
"When we got out for 150, no one was feeling down in the dressing room. That was the biggest positive, that attitude, you know," he said.



Getting Ishan Kishan a huge deal for us, nothing

PTI ■ JEDDAH

Ishan Kishan on day one of the IPL mega auction here but admitted that losing T Natarajan to Delhi Capitals was a setback.

Kishan, who made his name at the Mumbai Indians, was sold to SRH for Rs 11.25 crore on Sunday. The left-arm batter has had a tumultuous year, having lost his place in the Indian team as well as a BCCI central contract for defying the board's diktat to play domestic cricket. However, he is back playing

Ranji Trophy. SRH bought as many as eight players on day one including pacers Mohammed Shami (Rs 10 crore) and Harshal Patel (Rs 8 crore). However, they were not able to buy back T Natarajan and Vettori said nobody could offset the loss of the left-arm pacer. SRH had retained five players ahead of the auction including skipper Pat Travis Head, Cummins, Abhishek Sharma, Heinrich Klaasen and Nitish Reddy.

and...Pounce opportunities or you try and wait for the back end," said Vettori in a media interaction. Natarajan was bought by Delhi Capitals for Rs 10.75 crore.

"We decided today to try and sense an opportunity when they came along and Mohammad Shami was one and then Harshal Patel, they were two guys that we potentially didn't think would go for those prices (bargain buvs).

"And then Ishan Kishan was a huge deal for us. We really wanted to secure him and we thought he, once again, we thought he'd go for more. So extremely happy that we got those three players as well as the rest," said Vettori, who took time off from his coaching duties for Australia in the ongoing first Test against India.

Vettori said skipper Cummins is in agreement with all the picks.

"Yes, yes there were (inputs Sunrisers Hyderabad head Scoach Daniel Vettori was most excited about securing and find the players early res, yes there were (inputs from Cummins). A sad captain tonight (referring to Australia being behind in Perth), he had a hard day. I spoke to him earlier today (Sunday) and he understood the logic of the players that we'd gone for and then he had some ideas for obviously the rest of the squad building," said the former New Zealand spinner.

Leg-spinner Rahul Chahar was a steal at Rs 3.2 crore. Vettori said they factored both recent performance and pedigree before going for the players.

"We identified players that we thought had performed in the IPL previously. So we put a premium on that experience. And we've seen that pay off time and time

again.
"So to get those players who maybe didn't have the season they wanted, in terms of Rahul Chahar last year (for Punjab Kings), we still see the skill set. We still see a bowler who's played for India, and hopefully in our conditions, he can be a real asset for us," Vettori added.

PTI PERTH

Skipper Jasprit Bumrah was highly impressed by the fearless attitude and maturity of Harshit Rana and Nitish Kumar Reddy, saying he never got the feeling that the two youngsters were playing in Australia for the first time. Their selection was viewed with raised eyebrows in the run-up to the first Test in Perth, but they silenced the doubters, chipping in their own way in India's massive. "When they made their debut, the biggest positive sign was that they were not nervous at all. It didn't feel like they were playing for the first time in Australia or it was their first match," Bumrah said in the post-match press conference here on Monday. Rana took the prized wicket of Travis Head in the first



innings with a gem of a delivery and was even not hesitant to exchange a few words with veteran Mitchell Starc, despite them being team-mates at the Kolkata Knight Riders during the IPL

Nitish made nerveless 41 and 38 across two innings here, knocks that belied his lack of sufficient exposure in FirstClass cricket.

"If you are scared, then your fear will not go away. So, that is a very positive sign for me that they are not afraid and have a lot of desire to learn. "They have started very well

and hopefully, they will do well in the future as well," added Bumrah. The pace talisman said the

two young players were more

than happy to handle the responsibility once they were informed of their debut.

the match, I would choose Jaiswal. I think this was his best Test knock so far

"They themselves were looking for responsibility. When you talk to them... they are more than ready. They were looking for responsibility. So, that is a very positive sign for our

"All the youngsters who are coming (in), they are very hungry. They have a lot of faith in their ability. So, if that happens, then you can learn skills," he said.

Similarly, Yashasvi Jaiswal was also playing his first Test Down Under but the left-hander left an indelible impression with a remarkable 161. Bumrah said it was the best Test innings in Jaiswal's fledgling career because the 22-year-old showed a lot of self-restraint.

"If I had to choose a man of

because, you know, he has an attacking nature. But in that second innings, he left certain balls, he took his time and batted deep. That gives us a lot of confidence.
"He showed that he has patience as well and he's ready

to adapt and change. That is a brilliant sign for Indian cricket that a batsman is able to adapt so early in his career," said Bumrah.

The 30-year-old also did not forget the role KL Rahul played as an opener.

The right-hander made an obdurate 26 off 74 balls in the first innings before getting out to a dubious caughtbehind decision, and a more fluent 77 off 176 balls in the second while sharing 201 runs with Jaiswal for the first

We are a really tight unit: Cummins scotches speculation on dressing room divide

PTI PERTH

Australia captain Pat Cummins on Monday defended his struggling batting unit after former players including Adam Gilchrist raised the question of a potential batters and bowlers divide in the dressing room.

Following one of their heaviest defeats at home, Cummins was asked if there were any divisions in the team with batters letting the team down in Perth.

The chatter around possible tensions in the unit started when Josh Hazlwood was asked about Australia's approach going into day four, having been reduced to 12 for three on day three chasing an improbable 534. Australia were bundled out for 104 in their second innings after India put up 150 on day one.
"You probably have to ask one "You probably have to ask one" the fast lew years, the core group. So no problems there. Everyone gets along really well. So all good."

I'm sort of relaxing and trying to get a bit of physio and a bit of treatment, and I'm probably looking mostly towards the next Test and what plans we can do against these batters," Hazlwood said on Sunday. A day later, Cummins cleared the air.

"I don't know what Joshy (Hazlewood) said, but no, not at all (division). There's plenty of times where the batters have dragged us bowlers out of tight situations, and we've done the same. So it's a really tight unit. It's probably one of the tightest teams I've ever played with," Cummins was quick to scotch the speculations following the

"We really enjoy playing cricket together. We've been through a lot over the last few

of the batters that question. On Fox Cricket, Gilchrist and Michael Vaughan were the experts who sensed a possible divide between batters and bowlers.

"That to me tells me there is potentially a divided change room. I don't know if there is. I might be reading too much into that," Gilchrist said referring to Hazlewood's comments.

Vaughan added: "I must admit, I'm staggered by that. Josh Hazlewood is a great bowler, terrific team member. Publicly, I've never heard an Australian come out and kind of divide the camp into batters and bowlers."

On the same Fox Cricket panel was Hazlewood's longtime teammate David Warner who came to the fast bowler's defence.

Those comments (from Hazlewood) probably weren't warranted, [but] I don't think there is a divide.



"In the England team, Broady [Stuart Broad] or Jimmy I don't think there is a divide," said Warner. [Anderson] might have come off after a long day and you can start pointing fingers, but [Anderson] might have come off after a long day and you was asked about the lean run [Anderson] might have come off after a long day and you was asked about the lean run [Anderson] might have come off after a long day and you was asked about the lean run [Anderson] might have come off after a long day and you was asked about the lean run [Anderson] might have come off after a long day and you was asked about the lean run [Anderson] might have come off after a long day and you can start pointing fingers, but [Anderson] might have come off after a long day and you can start pointing fingers, but [Anderson] might have come off after a long day and you can start pointing fingers, but [Anderson] might have come off after a long day and you can start pointing fingers, but [Anderson] might have come off after a long day and you can start pointing fingers, but [Anderson] might have come off after a long day and you can start pointing fingers, but [Anderson] might have come of a long day and you can start pointing fingers, but [Anderson] might have come of a long day and you can start pointing fingers, but [Anderson] might have come of a long day and you can start pointing fingers, but [Anderson] might have come of a long day and you can start pointing fingers, but [Anderson] might have come of a long day and you can start pointing fingers, but [Anderson] might have come of a long day and you can start pointing fingers, but [Anderson] might have come of a long day and you can start pointing fingers, but [Anderson] might have come of a long day and you can start pointing fingers, but [Anderson] might have come of a long day and you can start pointing fingers, but [Anderson] might have come of a long day and you can start pointing fingers, but [Anderson] might have been under the scanner of a long day and you can start pointing fingers, but [Anderson] might have been under the scanner of a long day and you can start pointing fingers, b

of Marnus Labuschagne in the post match media interaction. The batters in general have

the great Steve Smith.
"Marnus, along with quite a few guys in the team didn't have the week that we would have wanted. It's no secret how hard the batters, particularly Marn, works in the nets, and he's always trying to find those small marginal gains.

"So, this week, there'll be a lot of conversation with the coaches around, you know, maybe his approach and what he could be doing differently. We know he's a class player. "So, yeah, this week will be about those conversations. As I say, get to Adelaide a little bit earlier, maybe do an extra day or two prep leading to that second Test. But he's done it before over here. He's got a very good pink ball record.
"So I always think it's, you know, looking back at past successes when you're at your

Cummins had no qualms in admitting that his team was thoroughly outplayed in the series opener but he promised to bounce back in Adelaide where India struggled on the previous tour with pink ball under lights. You kind of sit in the change

room after a loss like that and it hurts. You know when a team declares on you, it's never an amazing feeling. So we've all been in these situations before. It's the nature of being professional "You're going to lose some games. The biggest challenge

and the biggest, the most important thing is how do you bounce back? What's your next move? So that's what we've got to do this week," Cummins said.

He also added that there won't be too many changes to the playing eleven despite the unexpected outcome in Perth.