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Vikram READY TO SHINE with Roti Kapda Romance



QUOTE OF THE DAY

40 students take ill eating midday meal

In Narayanpet district, nearly 40 students from Zilla Parishad High School in Maganoor took ill due to suspected food poisoning on Tuesday. It may be recalled that not less than 50 students fell ill six days ago due to food poisoning. Once again the Zilla Parishad School is again in the news for the wrong reason. As many as 40 students have been admitted to hospital with symptoms of food poisoning. The students complained of stomach ache, vomiting and diarrhoea after eating a midday meal.

Rahul, Priyanka to lead agitation

The Congress said on Tuesday that it will launch protests, both inside and outside Parliament, under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi, against the lack of Central assistance for the landslide survivors of Wayanad. Party leader and Kalpetta MLA T Siddique described the Centre's alleged reluctance to provide financial aid to the people in landslide-affected areas as an "inhuman" approach. He said that, besides Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, he, as the local .



Milk production up despite fall in output

India's milk production rose nearly 4 per cent annually to 239.3 million tonnes in 2023-24 on better productivity, even as milk output of buffaloes declined 16 per cent annually, according to government data on Tuesday. The milk output of India the w largest milk producer, stood at 230.58 MT in 2022-23. However, the annual growth rate has slowed down in the previous two fiscal years, the data showed. The growth rate was 6.62 per cent in 2017-18; 6.47 per cent in FY19; 5.69 per cent in ..



'Getting Venky was our main priority'

Former West Indies all-rounder Dwayne Bravo, who is now the mentor of reigning champions Kolkata Knight Riders, has defended the team's strategy of "going all out" for Venkatesh lyer to keep the "core" of the IPL championship-winning side intact. Seen as a potential captaincy candidate for KKR, Venkatesh's acquisition has snarked some criticism over why he wasn't retained if leadership was part of the team thinktank's plan for him. "Getting Venky (Venkatesh lyer) was one of the main ...

AP likely to suspend Adani power deal

BJP refuses to defend Adani in the case

State govt to ask Centre and SECI to probe bribery charges

REUTERS ■ NEW DELHI

Andhra Pradesh is likely to suspend a power purchase deal linked to the Adani Group due to the US indictment of the group's billionaire founder Gautam Adani over an alleged bribery scheme, Reuters news agency said quoting two State government sources.

The southern state will ask the federal government and the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), which awards power supply contracts to companies like Adani, to investigate the charges, the sources said.

The suspension, likely to be announced soon, would be the first such action by an Indian state government after U.S. prosecutors charged Gautam Adani and seven others with agreeing to pay bribes of \$265 million to unidentified Indian government officials to obtain solar



The suspension, likely to be announced soon, would be the first such action by an Indian state government after U.S. prosecutors charged Gautam Adani and seven others with agreeing to pay bribes of \$265 million to unidentified Indian government officials to obtain solar power supply contracts

power supply contracts. Meanwhile, ing to defend him and we are not the BJP sources refused to defend Adani in the case. "We have noth-BJP spokesperson Gopal Krishna

POINTS

- The indictment accuses Adani and others of paying \$265 million in bribes, with \$228 million paid to influence Andhra Pradesh's electricity distribution companies.
- The SECI agreement for power supply to AP was set to begin next year. Clauses in the contract allow termination if serious misconduct is proven.
- Gautam Adani has denied the bribery allegations, calling them baseless.
- The YSR Congress Party, the previous ruling party in the State, has denied any wrongdoing related to the case.

Agarwal said by phone to Reuters. We are not against industrialists. Continued on Page 2

DEFENCE LAND TRANSFER, KEY PROJECTS

CM Revanth seeks speedy approval

Holds discussions with Rajnath

PNS NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy held discussions with Union Ministers in New Delhi, urging speedy approvals for key projects in Telangana, including the transfer of 222.27 acres of defence land for the development of Bapu Ghat and permissions for airports in Paloncha, Antargam, Adilabad and Warangal.

The Chief Minister met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, requesting the transfer of defence land to facilitate the "Gandhi Sarovar Project" at Bapu Ghat in Hyderabad.

Highlighting its significance as a site where Mahatma Gandhi's ashes were immersed, Revanth proposed the development of a global hub for Gandhian philosophy. The plan includes providing a Knowledge Hub, Meditation Centre, handloom promotion centre, landscaped ghats, a Statue of Peace and public spaces aimed at boosting tourism and preserving cultural heritage.



During a meeting with Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu, the Chief Minister detailed Telangana's industrial growth and emphasised the government's focus on improving transport infrastructure. He sought swift approvals for airport projects, underscoring their potential to enhance regional con-

Govt okays Rs 196 crore for **2BHK colonies**

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana Government sanctioned Rs 196.46 crore for providing essential facilities in 2BHK housing colonies under its flagship double-bedroom housing scheme. The funds will be used to ensure water supply, electrification and sewerage systems making the houses habitable.

The order, issued by the Transport, Roads & Buildings Department comes after a proposal from the Managing Director of the Telangana Housing Corporation Limited (TGHC). The request, based on an assessment of the immediate requirements in these colonies, received concurrence from the Finance

According to the directive, the Managing Director of TGHC has been tasked with overseeing the provision of these facilities, ensuring timely action in line with the government's commitment to provide quality housing to weaker sec-

TG BJP MPs, **MLAs** meeting **Modi today**



Ground

Reports

from

Govt launches projects costing Rs 1 L cr in Hyd

PNS HYDERABAD

The Telangana Government has unveiled a transformative vision for Hyderabad's growth under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, focusing on the expansion of urban facilities and infrastructure development through the '2050 Master Plan? Official sources said that in its

first year, the government has 1 lakh crore aimed at establishing Hyderabad as a future business

Elevated corridors and doubledecker flyovers are being constructed to tackle traffic congestion. A Rs

2,232 crore elevated corridor near Alwal on Rajiv Rahadari and a Rs 1,580 crore double-decker elevated corridor on the Hyderabad-Nagpur NH have been approved. The long-pending acquisition of defence land for the Mohdipatnam Skywalk and other projects were resolved in just three months after the government took charge.

Special attention is being given to rejuvenating water bodies like the of Himayatsagar and Osmansagar. The government has proposed 39 sewage treatment plants (STPs) to purify wastewater flowing into the Musi and is working on a multi-purpose project to Continued on Page 2 pose project to

'One State One Digital Card' on hold **NAVEENA GHANATE**

naveena.ghanate@gmail.com ■ HYDEŘABAD

The 'One State One Digital Card' initiative has been put on hold, sparking uncertainty over when it will resume.

A Congress legislator confirmed to 'The Pioneer' that the project, which aimed to streamline citizen services into a single digital identity, is no longer progressing. However, there is no clarity on whether the initiative will resume at

The MLA said that the caste surthing we need to understand about vey, which encompasses a comprehensive demographic and socio-economic assessment, contributed to the decision to halt the project.

"The caste survey covers every-

Despite the explanation, ambiguity prevails, with no official communication from the government outlining the reasons behind holding the initiative or providing a roadmap for its revival

citizens, and perhaps the priorities have shifted for now, as they need enumerators for it," the legislator remarked.

Despite the explanation, ambigu-

ity prevails, with no official communication from the government outlining the reasons behind holding the initiative or providing a roadmap for its revival. The lack of clarity has left citizens

and experts alike speculating about the issue of new Ration Cards and Health Cards. Sources indicated that the pilot project which was initiated in the Cantonment area will be studied and then a comprehensive plan may be drawn up. The 'One State One Digital Card'

initiative aimed at streamlining a unified digital platform, was officially launched by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on October 3, 2024, during a public meeting in the Secunderabad Cantonment area. Continued on Page 2

Many factors behind Congress led MVA defeat in Maharashtra

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

In Mahabaratha Karna's death had many reasons and like that, there were many reasons for the defeat of the Congress-led Maha Vikas Aghadi in the Maharashtra elections. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy

who campaigned during the Maharashtra Assembly elections said on Monday the Maharashtra people did not believe Prime Minister Modi and defeated the BJP candidate in the Nanded Lok Sabha constituency and ensured the victory of Congress candidate Ravindra combo rather than Modi.



Vasantrao Chavan. However, the Maharashtra people believed in the Eknath Shinde, Devendra Fadnavis and Ajith Pawar

Maharashtra and Kerala believed in Rahul Gandhi and ensured the victory of Congress's LS candidates, Revanth said

Continued on Page 2

KALESHWARAM PROJECT

Engineers' conflicting answers anger Justice Ghose

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Justice PC Ghose-led Kaleshwaram Commission has expressed concern over the construction of Block 2A of the Sundilla Barrage, which was reportedly undertaken without proper design. Sixteen field-level engineers

appeared before the Commission on Tuesday to provide clarifications based on affidavits submitted ear-Expressing dissatisfaction, Justice

Ghosh criticised the inconsistency between the information provided in affidavits and statements made stating that

during the hearing.
"How can work be done without proper designs? Providing conflicting information under oath during a public trial is unacceptable and will have consequences," he warned. Justice Ghose questioned the design and quality issues of not only Sundilla Barrage but also the

Medigadda and Annaram barrages. The engineers admitted that the construction of Block 2A began without a design and claimed that it was carried out as per the orders of the then Chief Engineer. Justice Ghose rejected this justification, Continued on Page 2

numbers are expected to remain

unchanged. However, a new PAN

card with an embedded QR code

will be issued as a soft copy version.

announced that a 'PAN Vault

System' will be introduced to

enhance the safety of PAN informa-

tion. This system may imply that like

Additionally, it has been

MUSI'S CRY FOR HELP!!



he Musi River, once the lifeline of Hyderabad, flows through the heart of the city, carrying centuries of history along its banks. A tributary of the Krishna River, it was known for its vibrant waters that nurtured life and agriculture in the region. However, the devastating floods of 1908 prompted the construction of Osman Sagar and Himayath Sagar reservoirs to control its flow and ensure the city's safety. Over the years, this historic river, which once defined Hyderabad's culture and

economy, has turned into a grim spectacle of neglect and pollution. The Pioneer travelled along with a hydrologist its length, from Gandipet to Gowrell within the limits of ORR, and brought to light the alarming realities of its current state. As the river's rejuvenation is on the cards, From Thursday The Pioneer will bring to light the ground reality of Musi across the 55km stretch.

PAN 2.0: More user-friendly and efficient **PNS** ■ HYDERABAD

The government has announced the PAN 2.0 project. The upgrading of PAN includes adding a QR code. This will be rolled out free of cost for all taxpayers. Existing Permanent Account Number (PAN) card holders are not required to apply for a new one under the upgraded PAN 2.0 system that is primarily aimed at introducing a 'common identifier' for all businessrelated activities, the Income Tax Department said on Tuesday.

CBDT also clarified that the "QR code is not a new feature, and it has been incorporated in PAN cards since 2017-18" and the same will be continued under PAN 2.0 project with enhancements (dynamic QR code which will display latest data present in PAN database). PAN 2.0 Project is an e-

Governance project. The project is being undertaken by the Centre for re-engineering the business processes of taxpayer registration services through technology-driven transformation of PAN and TAN services and also for enhancing the digital experience.

The PAN 2.0 project aims to enable the use of PAN as a common identifier for all digital systems of specified government agencies. The addition of a QR Code on an

individual's PAN card has already been done by the Income Tax Department recently. According to Income Tax laws, a PAN will become invalid only if it is not linked to Aadhaar. Merely not having a QR code on the PAN card will not make the existing PAN card invalid. However, it is recommended that individuals having PAN cards without a QR code must upgrade their CBDT also clarified that the "QR code is not a new feature, and it has been incorporated in PAN cards since 2017-18" and the same will be continued under PAN 2.0 project with enhancements (dynamic QR code which will display latest data present in

PAN to the new design

avoid problems. The existing PAN card will not become invalid if there is no QR code on it. The existing PAN card will remain valid and taxpayers have an option to get

PAN database) the upgraded PAN card with QR code without any additional code. This initiative will strengthen the tax

net to catch tax evaders as PAN is a unified identifier for all financial transac-

The existing PAN

Aadhaar usage an OTP authentication process could become mandatory before accessing or using an individual's PAN. This initiative aims to strengthen security and ensure better control

over the use of PAN data. Your PAN card will not become

inactive if you don't apply for PAN 2.0 immediately.

The Income Tax Department has not yet issued a circular clarifying the process of how and when individuals can apply to upgrade their PAN as per the PAN 2.0 project.

Chandrababu may have to go soft on Jagan

hat an opportunity it was for Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu which would have enabled him to margin-POINT/ alise his main opponent YS Jagan Mohan Reddy.

The issue of business tycoon Gowtham Adani facing indictment by the Securities and Exchange Commission of the US for allegedly paying YSRC's Government Rs 1,750 crore to get the contract for executing solar power projects is likely to impact state politics soon.

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu seems to be perplexed over the development as Gowtham Adani is facing a serious charge and is close to the Indian leadership. Naidu has been sailing with Modi and that has ensured him stability in AP.

Will the development make Naidu examine his options afresh? He is probably hoping to have a safe journey with his National Democratic (NDA) Alliance Government in

People know that Naidu hit the headlines a quarter

century ago for supporting the NDA government headed by Vajpayee. During the midterm LS polls in February 1998, Naidu's TDP had an alliance with the CPI and the CPM and fought both the Congress and the BJP. After winning 12 LS seats, he turned towards the NDA headed by the BJP shocking non-NDA parties who accused him of deceiving 'secular' forces.

It may be mentioned here that Naidu had fiercely attacked the BJP during the 1998 LS poll by branding it as the party that had 'demolished' masjids. But he changed tracks immediately after the election and sup**Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu** seems to be perplexed over the development as Gowtham Adani is facing a serious charge and is close to the Indian leadership. Naidu has been sailing with Modi and that has ensured him stability in AP

ported the BJP. Naidu defended his somersault by saying that the Congress should be kept

away from the Centre.
In the 1999 LS polls, he became an NDA partner. This time Naidu hit the jackpot and his TDP won 29 seats in the Lok Sabha. For five years Naidu played a key role as the 'lifeline' of the NDA Government.

Now, after 25 years, Naidu has become a partner in the ruling NDA both in AP and at

the Centre. This is the first time the TDP has a presence in the Union Cabinet after the United Front governments headed by Prime Ministers HD Deve Gowda and IK Gujral between 1996 and 1998.

Naidu managed to come back in the elections held in 2014 and tried to suppress the YSRCP headed by YS Jagan Mohan Reddy by extending Jagan's jail term due to the DA cases filed against him. But due to the soft approach of the



Modi Government that didn't materialise. Jagan took out a padayatra after getting bail and that finally brought him to power in 2019 with a thumping majority. Naidu suffered a lot at the hands of Jagan's government which arrested him in connection with the skill development scam. It was a bitter experience indeed for

PNS HYDERABAD

BRS Working President KT

Rama Rao delivered an address

during a preparatory meeting

for Diksha Divas at the

Telangana Bhavan in Sircilla,

stressing the significance of

the event and Telangana's jour-

ney under the leadership of

Issuing a stern warning to officials acting as Congress karyakartas, KTR said,

Rajahmundry prison and that made opposition parties join the NDA to topple Jagan.

As expected the NDA which included the TDP, the Jana Sena Party and the BJP scored a grand victory in the 2024 polls and limited the YSRCP to just 11 seats.

Adani's alleged bribes of 265 Million US\$ (Rs 2,200 crore) may lead to tremors in AP and Telangana. As US laws are strict, Adani might face serious problems in court. Bribing the government for securing solar power supply projects is punishable. But Adani is supposed to be in the good books of Modi and political observers think that could enable Adani to bail out safely. But what about the country's

image if a global businessman walks away free from a serious criminal case?

Coming to the situation in AP after the Adani case, politoptions on how to respond. If parties are concerned about development, the government as well as the opposition have to welcome investors despite their offences elsewhere.

It would be embarrassing for Chandrababu to remain silent about the Adani case as it was the Jagan admin that helped Adani to enter AP. Earlier, the assets of Gangavaram Port valued at thousands of crores were given to Adani for just Rs 600 crore by Jagan. Chandrababu strongly criticised that and accused Jagan of a quid pro quo deal. But Jagan claimed that Adani had never entered AP and described it as a plus point for his approach.

As an NDA partner, Chandrababu is carefully watching the situation. He wants to weaken Jagan. But the situation may not permit him to take action against Adani. If Chandrababu takes the issue

suring the Modi Government. Jagan's sister and APCC President YS Sharmila demanded that the AP government cancel all PPAs signed with the Adani group. She said the people of AP would lose Rs 1.5 lakh

crore due to inflated power bills

in the next 25 years. The Congress approach is entirely different from that of parties in the BJP alliance. If Chandrababu decides to be firm on the Adani issue he may agree with Sharmila and take a serious look at the PPAs. But he can't act as freely as Sharmila although he would like to liquidate her brother politically.

Chandrababu may be tempted to use this case to fix Jagan, but Modi is likely to continue his soft approach towards Jagan. So Chandrababu seems to have lost an opportunity to marginalise his opponent.

CM orders speedy procurement of paddy

PNS HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has asked Collectors and officials to speed up the procurement process at paddy pur-chasing centres all over Telangana and to ensure that farmers do not face any prob-

Addressing a video conference on Tuesday along with Civil Supplies Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, the Chief Minister emphasised the need for timely payments and efficient operations at all procurement centres.

The Chief Minister directed officials to segregate fine and coarse varieties of paddy and to ensure immediate payments to farmers after procurement. He also announced an additional bonus of Rs 500 per quintal for fine variety paddy.

The CM stressed the importance of providing basic facilities at purchasing centres and preventing logistical delays in transporting paddy to mills. He warned officials to remain vig- to ensure the event's success.

ilant about paddy inflow from neighbouring states seeking to exploit the bonus scheme and asked them to take precautions.

Highlighting the state's focus

on agriculture, the Chief Minister announced a threeday exhibition on agricultural advancements, mechanisation and best practices at Mahbubnagar from November 28 to 30, culminating in the 'Rythu Panduga' (farmers' festival) on November 30. He urged collectors to coordinate

and arrogant. There is hate in

his eyes. He is full of anger and

his mouth is swaying. Even

after the CM announced that

he was returning the Rs 100

crore given by Adani to Skill

TG BJP MPs. **MLAs** meeting **Modi today**

PNS HYDERABAD

BJP MPs and MLAs from Telangana are going to New Delhi on Wednesday to meet Prime Minister Modi. The Prime Minister gave time to Telangana BJP MPs and MLAs to meet him at 11 am

at his office in Parliament. It is learnt that the BJP MPs and MLAs are going to explain the political conditions in Telangana and the issues in their constituencies. The BJP has eight MPs and eight MLAs in Telangana.

Speaking on the eve of Constitution Day, KTR called for a reflection on the Telangana struggle.

ally ensure this."

PNS HYDERABAD

KTR began by paying homage to Dr BR Ambedkar, emphasizing the pivotal role of Article 3 in enabling the cre-

With 40 students from the

Maganoor Zilla Parishad High

School in Narayanapet district

were hospitalised after suffering

from food poisoning on

Tuesday, parents and BRS lead-

the recurring cases of food

contamination in government

schools, accusing the State gov-

Former minister Harish Rao

Hailing the Constitution as a "living

stream", Prime Minister Narendra Modi

on Tuesday said it is acting as a "guiding

light" at a time when India is going

Addressing an event marking

Constitution Day celebrations at the

Supreme Court, Modi also paid homage

to the victims of the Mumbai terror

that all terror groups challenging the secu-

through a period of transformation.

lashed out at the State govern-

ernment of negligence.



Cong leaders 'owe' their posts to KCR: KTR

ation of Telangana. "Every our statehood possible," he said. Telanganite owes a debt to Ambedkar, whose vision made Madhusudhana Chary, KTR

a party, gave up posts, and was ready to sacrifice his life for Telangana. Congress leaders occupying top posts today 'owe' them to KCR's sacrifices." KTR also lambasted the

highlighted KCR's contribu-

tions, noting, "KCR established

Congress's strategies accusing them of undermining KCR's legacy. "No matter how hard they try to play down KCR, Telangana will never forget him," he stated.

"Bureaucrats behaving like Congress workers should 'Congress rolled out red carpet for Adani' remember that when we return to power, they will have to pay BRS Working President KT that Congress's actions expose for their actions. I will person-

Recurring food poisoning incidents in

TG schools sparks BRS outrage

before the government wakes brighter future, cry in agony

Sentiment of 'nation first' will keep Constitution alive for centuries: PM

rity of India will be given a befitting reply.

in his concluding address to the Constituent

Assembly on November 26, 1949, Modi said

he had stated that India does not need any-

thing more than a group of honest people

who will keep the country's interests above

their own. "This sentiment of 'nation first'

will keep alive the Constitution for centuries

to come," he said. Modi said the Constitution

has now been fully implemented in Jammu

ebrated there for the first time there.

Recalling the words of Rajendra Prasad

Rama Rao lashed out at the Telangana Congress government, accusing it of facilitating Adani's entry into the state while pretending to oppose him nationally.

Addressing the media at the Telangana Bhavan, KTR said dards," he said.

address the alarming rise in food poisoning cases. "Within

10 days of 100 students falling

ill, another food poisoning inci-

dent? How many more students

must suffer or lose their lives

ances of strict action against

those responsible for serving

contaminated food have proven

to be hollow promises," he said.

her distress on social media,

MLC Kavitha also expressed

ef Minister's assur-

its hypocrisy. "While Rahul Gandhi calls

Adani a fraud, Revanth is rolling out the red carpet with deals worth Rs 12,440 crore. The people of Telangana can see through these double stan-

stating, "Just 24 hours after the tragic death of a tribal ashram

school student, Shailaja, anoth-

er incident of food poisoning

has occurred in Maganoor. It is

heart-wrenching to see children,

who carry school bags for a

This is a glaring failure of the

Congress government, which

remains unmoved despite recur-

The BRS party issued an offi-

cial statement condemning the

ring tragedies in our schools."

KTR dismissed the Chief Minister's claims that the BRS government had awarded projects to Adani and clarified that decisions on defence and power projects were under the purview of the Centre and not the state. "It's absurd to blame us for Central allocations.

Congress government's 'incom-

petence and negligence.' The

statement highlighted that 20

students were transferred to

Makthal Hospital after falling ill

due to contaminated midday

meals. "This is the third food

The Congress government's apa-

thy is putting the lives of under-

privileged children at risk. How

many more lives need to be lost

for the government to take

action?" the party questioned.

"Our Constitution makers knew that

India's aspirations, India's dreams will

reach new heights with time. They knew

that the needs of independent India and

its citizens will change, challenges will

change. That is why they did not leave our

Constitution as just a mere book of laws.

Rather, they made it a living, continuous-

ly flowing stream," Modi said. "Today

every citizen of the country has only one

goal -- to build a developed India," he said

at the event which was attended by Law

Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal,

KTR's aim is to starve Skill University of funds: Beerla Ilaiah

PNS HYDERABAD

BRS Working President KT Rama Rao's real intention is to prevent the Skill University from getting funds and warned that Congress will not tolerate KTR speaking as he liked against Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Government Whip

Beerla Ilaiah said.

In a video message issued Tuesday, Ilaiah recalled the statement of the CM that "KTR has lost his mind" and said, "I don't know whether KTR has a mind or not."

Ilaiah said that 'Psycho Ram' (KTR) is showing his sadism. "KTR's mind is full of envy and

hate and he holds a grudge University KTR kept barking," against the CM. His mind is Ilaiah said. not working. It seems that He said the Congress gov-KTR's infatuation is perverse

ernment has taken CSR funds for Skill University through a cheque from Adani. However, the Chief Minister returned the cheque given by Adani to avoid disputes. But KTR is still speak-

'One State ... Continued from page 1

This pilot project was designed to integrate services like ration distrihealthcare and other we fare programs into a single digital card for each family.

During the launch, the CM emphasised the government's commitment to ensuring that eligible families receive the benefits of welfare schemes without any obsta-He said that the family digital

cards would serve as a unique identifier for each family, containing comprehensive details, including health profiles of all members. This integration was intended to facilitate efficient and holistic delivery of services.

The pilot project was initiated in two grama panchayats and two urban wards in all the 119 Assembly constituencies in the state. The government plans to assess the project's effectiveness and address challenges before scaling it up state-wide.

TODAY **ALMANAC** Month & Paksham Krishna Paksha Dwadashi: Nov 27 03:47 AM to Nov 28 06:24 AM Nov 28 06:24 AM Trayodashi to Nov 29 08:40 AM Nakshatram: Nov 27 04:34 AM to Nov 28 07:36 AM Rahukalam 12:03 PM to 1:26 PM 7:54 AM to 9:17 AM Yamagandam: 01:35 PM to 03:23 PM Varjyam 10:40 PM to 12:03 PM Gulika: 12:23 AM to 2:11 AM Abhiiit Muhurthan HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Cloudy

Humidity: 39% Sunrise: 6:31 AM

Sunset: 5:35 PM

Updated: November 26, 2024 5:00 PM

Temp: 28°°

Many factors behind ...

Continued from page 1 ment that the Maha Vikas Aghadi will discuss providing four per cent reservations for Muslims after coming to power hit the MVA's prospects. The analysts said that instead of helping the MVA it united Hindus and they voted for the BJP-led Mahayuti. Muslims also did not vote for the Congress-led MVA as they voted during the Lok Sabha elections whatever the reasons may be.

As analysed by Revanth, the Maharashtra people believed Shinde-Fadnavis-Pawar trio and voted for the

Continued from page 1

Minister to approve the project.

action to move the project forward.

for the tribal population in the district.

However, political analysts people are Marathas. Congress leaders as the alliance

Mahayuti.

The Chief Minister elaborated on the progress of the

Warangal airport and said that the state had secured an

NOC from GMR, fulfilling the requirement for 150-km

distance between airports. The state also handed over

Rs 205 crore for the acquisition of 253 acres to the

Airports Authority of India (AAI) and urged the Union

Kothagudem district after a pre-feasibility survey by AAI

found the identified land unsuitable. The state identi-

fied 950 acres as an alternative and provided details to

In Antargam in Peddapalli district, a similar issue was

raised. The CM informed the Minister that the land iden-

tified earlier was not feasible and presented 591.24 acres

of alternative land for the airport. He requested prompt

The CM also emphasized the need for an airport in

Adilabad, saying that the IAF already has 369.50 acres

in the region. He proposed that an additional 249.82 acres

be acquired by the state government and handed over

to the ministry to enable full-scale operations. Revanth

underscored the importance of this project, especially

Revanth proposed an airport at Paloncha in Bhadradri

Moreover, Shinde belongs to the Maratha caste and hails from Satara district and Telangana share nearly which was a stronghold of Shivaji Maharaj. Around 31 living in Maharashtra did not

CM Revanth seeks ...

the BJP did not have any Maratha leader. So the BJP's alliance with Eknath Shinde helped it a lot and won a majority for the Mahayuti

Another factor is Eknath Shinde, who was an autorickshaw driver before joining politics and has been a strong leader of the Shiv Sena for decades. His image of an aggressive Shiv Sainik enabled him to become an attempt

BRS MLA T. Harish Rao said the Maharashtra people did not believe the lies of and taught the Congress a

per cent of Maharashtra believe the lies of Telangana that it would implement its 6-guarantees within 100 days failed to implement them in Telangana.

However, Bhongir Congress MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, who was the in-charge of Assembly constituencies located in Chandrapur Lok Sabha constituency told 'The Pioneer, "The BJP influenced Independent candidates contested from MVA MLA in 2004 in his first in Maharashtra Assembly elections and BJP distributed money in booths. On the other hand, the MVA alliance could distribute seats Telangana Congress leaders only at the last minute. There was no coordination in settling defection issues. Guarantee cards didn't reach a 1,000 km border. Telugus in time for door-to-door canvassing."

Engineers' ...

Continued from page 1

such practices compromise the integrity and safety of large-scale projects. The Commission took

action by seizing placement registers and measurement books of the works. The engineers were required to sign these documents, ensuring accountability. The Chairman of the Commission emphasised that they would not tolerate any attempt to derail the inquiry and warned of strict action against those providing false information.

The Commission plans to question 18 more engineers on Wednesday as part of its investigation into the irregularities in the Kaleshwaram Project.

AP likely to suspend ...

attack and reiterated the country's resolve and Kashmir and Constitution Day was cel-

Continued from page 1

We consider them as partners in nation-building. But the law will take its own course if they do something wrong," he added. Adani Group and the Andhra government did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Most of the alleged bribes - \$228 million - were paid to a government official to get Andhra Pradesh's state electricity distribution companies to agree to purchase power, the US indictment said. Adani has said the allegations are baseless

Andhra Pradesh is ruled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's key ally N Chandrababu Naidu, whose party has the second highest number of parliamentary seats in the coalition government formed after the main Bharatiya Janata Party failed to get a majority in national elections concluded in

Modi's NDA government has not yet commented on the U.S. indictment of Adani. The power supply to Andhra Pradesh under the SEC agreement was scheduled to start from next year, according to one of the sources.

"The decision will be taken very soon," the second source said about the planned suspension.

Clauses in the power supply agreements provide for Indian states to terminate contracts and also bar the companies involved from any future bidding if the bidder has committed a serious transgression.

Earlier on Tuesday Andhra Pradesh was exploring the possibility of cancelling a power supply contract linked to Adani Group.

Andhra Pradesh's previous rul-

ing party - YSR Congress Party under whose administration the alleged misconduct took place, last week denied any wrongdoing.

Govt launches ...

Continued from page 1

bring 20 TMCs of Godavari water to Hyderabad for drinking and ecological needs. Public transport is also being improved with the second phase of the Hyderabad Metro Rail project. The Rs 24,237 crore project will add 76.4 km to the Metro network, connecting areas like Nagole to Shamshabad, LB Nagar to Hayathnagar, and MGBS to Chandrayangutta.

The government is investing Rs 8,996 crore in roads under the Hyderabad City Innovation and Transformative Infrastructure (HCITI) project and has allocated Rs 596.2 crore for stormwater drainage systems. The city will see the installation of water intake wells at major junctions to redirect water to drainage systems to prevent waterlogging during heavy rains. The development of the Future City, spread over 30,000 acres, is also in progress. The city will include hubs for AI, pharma, life sciences and medical technology, along with facilities like the

Young India Skill University and Sports University. A Regional Ring Road spanning 189 km is being constructed at a cost of Rs 18,000 crore to connect key areas around Hyderabad. The government has planned greenfield radial roads between the Outer Ring Road and the Regional Ring Road making Hyderabad a model city for sustainable development.

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Stand up special

A stand up special by Zakir Khan

Shilpakala Vedika November 27 starting from 6:00 pm

Telugu Drama

By Rasaranjani Group Venue

Ravindra Bharati, Hyderabad November 27 From 6 pm to 10 pm

Bashir-K-Safeer

Talk By Urdu poet Dr Ravindra Kumar Choudhary

Venue

Lamakaan, Hyderabad November 27, at 4:00 pm

Weekend kids cooking camp

Master cooking and baking in 09 fun weekends

Venue

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

Venue

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.

Water supply disruption tomorrow

PNS HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad Metro poli-tan Water Supply and Sewerage Board Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) has announced a temporary disruption in water supply on November 28 due to maintenance work being carried out by TSSPDCL at the Aliabad 33/11 KV sub-station.

The power outage at the Aliabad Reservoir Pumping Station will impact water supply in several areas.

Affected areas: Badam Masjid, Bala Gunj, Mahankali temple, Lala Darwaja, Mithra Člub (back and front), Chatrinaka, Gandhi statue (front and back), Srinivas High School area, Sriram Nagar, Panduranga Rao Galli, CIB Quarters, Harijan Basthi, Gowlipura Mekala Mandi, Sardar Patel Nagar, Laxmi Nagar, Hamam Bowli, Boiguda, Kandikal Gate, DK Colony, Rajanna Bowli and Quadri Chaman area.

HMWSSB has expressed regret for the inconvenience caused to its customers and assured that the water supply will be restored as soon as the maintenance work is completed.

City Pioneer

he pioneer hyderabad | wednesday | november 27, 2024

PJTAU to celebrate Diamond Jubilee in Dec

PNS HYDERABAD

Jayashankar Professor Telangana Agricultural University (PJTAU) will celebrate Diamond Jubilee in December. Minister for Agriculture Tummala Nageswara Rao has expressed hope that the Vice-Chancellor's appointment will improve the conditions in the university.

The Minister has called upon the scientists to work towards making the PJTAU the number one among agricultural universities in the country.

The Minister was speaking at the launch of the logo and flyer for the proposed Diamond Jubilee celebrations of PJTAU.

The Agriculture Minister said that the university, which was started 60 years ago, has been neglected in the recent

He expressed hope that with the appointment of a new Vice-Chancellor, the university would be revamped.

AIMS FOR 15-20 LAKH RIDERSHIP BY 2028

L&T to continue collaboration with TG govt for Metro Phase II

PNS HYDERABAD

L&T will not exit Hyderabad Metro, instead fight criticism and will work with the Telangana government for Phase II to begin from January, said NVS Reddy, Managing Director, Hyderabad Airport Metro Limited (HAML).

In a press conference at the Metro Rail Bhavan in Hyderabad on Tuesday, NVS Reddy has shed light on Hyderabad Metro complet-

ing seven years.
"The cumulative ridership of Hyderabad Metro in the last 7 years: 63.40 cr (63 crore 40 lakh passengers) and the everyday ridership of Hyderabad Metro to increase from 5 lakh to 7 lakh.

With the 2nd phase it will add 10 lakh making it between 15 to 20 lakh ridership until 2028. This is our expectation," said Reddy. "HAML is the wing working for the Telangana government to take up the Phase-II of Metro Rail construction along with the Central government.

The work will begin in the Old City from MBGS to Chandrayanagutta - from January first week as we are instructed by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy that instead of awaiting Central government works, we should begin the pending project," said Reddy. "We will start demolishing the properties acquired through the Land Acquisition Act on the route in December last week and also

begin to take up geo-technical studies."

The Centre's nod for the five corridors of 76.4 km with 54 stations is estimated to cost Rs 24,269 crore.

From this, Government of Telangana will spend Rs 7,313 crore, Government of India Rs 4,230 crore, Debt/Loan component from MDBs is Rs11,693 crore and PPP complement is Rs 1,033 crore. "We are in an urgency for Metro expansion. Otherwise, the State



HAML Managing Director NVS Reddy

will fall to 9th position from 3rd position and hence the Chief Minister has conducted over 10 meetings and has already released money for the works, he added.

NVS Reddy said that there are 100 religious structures and nearly six historical monuments in the Old City but one of them will be touched for Metro expansion.

Airport route can be accessed from three lines and extensions. Once completed, travellers can access the airport route from any

of the three existing lines and extensions.

A special highlight is that HAML and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) are planning to have a double-decker flyover-cum-metro rail for a 1.6 km stretch between Miyapur and Madinaguda.

Minority welfare pleas top at Prajavani

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A total of 574 applications were received during the Prajavani programme held on Tuesday at Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Prajabhavan in Hyderabad. Of these, Minority welfare applications were mostly received. The programme saw active participation from citizens seeking resolution of issues across various depart-

According to officials, the applications included 198 related to the Minority Welfare department, 99 to the Electricity department, 98 to the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development department, 55 concerning revenue matters, 26 to the Education department, 4 to the Pravasi Prajavani initiative and 94 to other departments.

State Planning Commission Vice-Chairperson Dr Chinnareddy and Special Officer for Public Governance Divya participated in the event, personally receiving applications and interacting with attendees to understand their grievances.

RTO generates Rs 52.52 lakh from fancy vehicle numbers

PNS HYDERABAD

The Khairatabad Transport Office has collected a revenue of Rs 52.52 lakh through the auction of fancy vehicle registration numbers. Hyderabad JTC Ramesh stated that the highest bid was for the number **TG 09 D 0001**, which fetched Rs 11,11,111, purchased via online bidding by Rudra Raju Rajeev

The number **TG 09 D 0009** generated Rs 10,40,000, acquired by Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Limited. Similarly, **TG 09 C 9999** earned Rs 7,19,999, bought by Srivan Constructions.

Porus Agrofood Products Private Limited secured **TG 09 D 0006** for Rs 3,65,000, while Vega Srigold and Diamonds L.L.P obtained **TG 09 D 0005** for Rs 3,45,000.



US govt and Sesame to train kids in 644 Anganwadi centres

PNS HYDERABAD

The US government and Sesame Workshop India Trust have launched the 'Learn Play Grow' programme as part of International Education

They have selected 644 Anganwadi centres in Bhupalpally district to train foundational skills in literacy, numeracy and hygiene.

The programme is a collaboration between the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and

Sesame Workshop India Trust designed to support early childhood education and health practices for young children and their families across India.

With intera led by Sesame Street characters Chamki, Elmo and their friends, 'Learn Play Grow' will provide foundational skills with digital content in Telugu and Hindi.

The programme is expected to engage with over 14,000-16,000 children and their fam-

Drone usage for sustainable farming in 'Rythu Nestham'

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana's flagship initiative 'Rythu Nestham' has been empowering farmers with advanced agricultural techniques and innovations. Launched on March 6, 2024, the programme enables

direct interaction between farmers and experts through audiovisual setups in 110 Rythu Vedikas, covering all Assembly constituencies. Held every Tuesday, the pro-gramme has already conducted 34 sessions, providing extensive training to farmers.

In the latest session usage in agriculture' and "Zero tillage for maize cultivation.' With labour shortages emerging as a significant challenge, drones were introduced as a viable solution. Experts highlighted how drones can plant seeds efficiently, requiring just 5-6 kilograms of seeds per acre. They also noted significant cost savings in pesticide application, as drones can spray an acre in 5-6 minutes compared to the 1-2 hours needed with tra-

ditional methods.

On zero tillage, the session emphasised its benefits, such as reduced labour and input costs. This method involves sowing crops without plowing the fields, using herbicides and other practices for weed management and maximizing the use

of available water resources. Scientists from Professor Jayashankar Telangana Agricultural University shared insights into ongoing experiments in Basavapuram, Raghavapuram and Ramakrishnapuram villages in Chintakani mandal, where 100 hectares

are under zero-tillage Narasimha Rao from Chintakani mandal shared his success story, inspiring other farmers across the State.

The session saw participation from 566 Rythu Vedikas, district agricultural officers, department staff and farmers. Experts, including Dr D Srilatha from RARS Jagityal and Dr N Ramgopal Varma from RR Rajendranagar, provided practical demonstrations and guidance.



Three TGSPDCL officials arrested in ACB sting

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Bal Ram Naik, Assistant dal Medchal-Malkaigiri district was arrested by the Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) for accepting a bribe of Rs 10,000 from a complainant.

In total three officers have been arrested as another officer Mahesh was intermediary for Bal Ram Naik and B Hemanth Naik, line inspector, also demanded a bribe of

Rs 5,000 from the complainant.

Intermediary officer Engineer (Operations) of Mahesh had sought the bribe TGSPDCL, Ghatkesar man- in exchange for showing official favour approving the line clearance (LC) to shift an 11 KV wire from an old pole to a new pole, as well as for a line connection and installation of a side arm to another pole. Both officials were found to have dishonestly carried out their public duties in

exchange for bribes.

1,336 petitions received during BC Commission public hearings across TG

PNS HYDERABAD

Telangana Commission has successfully concluded its public hearings, conducted as part of the study on the socio-economic conditions of Backward Classes (BCs) in the State. The hearings, held in two phases across 10 erstwhile districts and at the State level over two days, provided a platform for various community representatives and organisations to present their concerns and demands.

The Commission received affidavits from caste associations, voluntary organisations and individuals highlighting their grievances and requests.

Key demands included population-proportionate reservations for BCs, recognition of Nai Brahmins as temple employees, reserving 50% of fishponds for Gangaputras and constructing self-respect buildings for various communities. Issues like reclassification

within BC groups, strengthen-

ing caste federations and

addressing backwardness were also brought to the Commission's attention.

BC Commission Chairman G Niranjan, along with members Rapolu Jayaprakash, Thirumalagiri Surender, Balalakshmi Rangu, Deputy Director U Srinivas Rao and Special Officer G Satish Kumar, presided over the hear-

Addressing the media after the hearings, Chairman Niranjan revealed that the Commission had received 1,336 petitions during the public hearings held in the district headquarters and at the State

He assured that a comprehensive report based on the findings and representations would be submitted to the government soon.

The Chairman also expressed gratitude to all those who supported and participated in the public hearings, acknowledging their contributions to the successful completion of the initiative.



CONSTITUTION DAY

Governor of Telangana Jishnu Dev Varma participating as the chief guest at the 75th Constitution Day celebrations at the High Court of Telangana on Tuesday

Bandi Sanjay asks govt to resolve scribes' housing issue

PNS HYDERABAD

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar said the BJP is ready to fully cooperate with the State government to resolve journalists' housing issue. However, if the government continues to neglect this matter, the BJP will not remain silent, Bandi Sanjay warned and said, "We will formulate an action plan alongside journalists to launch a massive movement. We will ensure Congress faces the same fate as the BRS."

In a statement issued on Tuesday, Sanjay said that the Supreme Court's decision to cancel the allocation of housing plots given to the JNJ Journalist

Housing Society is deeply distressing. "While we must respect the verdict of the highest judiciary, the primary responsibility for journalists not receiving housing plots lies with the BRS party, which was in power for a decade and the current Congress government," he slammed.

Sanjay said that 17 years ago, journalists mortgaged valuables, borrowed money and collectively contributed Rs 2 lakh each, amounting to Rs 12 crore, to secure plots under the JNJ Housing Society. However, both the BRS and Congress governments have repeatedly delayed justice by citing one excuse after another, denying journalists access to their rightful hous-

Mayor orders closure of unhygienic chicken shops

PNS HYDERABAD

In a continued effort to ensure the safety and quality of food consumed by the public, GHMC Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi conducted a surprise inspection at Azad Market,

Chaderghat. During the inspection, two dressed chicken shops were found to be maintained in unhygienic conditions with rats running freely inside the shops. Disturbed by the situation, the Mayor instructed the GHMC officials to close down the shops immediate-

Following the Mayor's orders, a team conducted a thorough inspection of the two chicken shops operated by Rasheed Hussain and Kalim Hussain.

The team discovered over 1,600 live birds, 30 kgs of dressed chicken and 7 kgs of chicken liver being sold under unhygienic conditions. The Veterinary department confiscated the dressed chicken and liver, citing concerns for public health, and gave the shop owners a two-hour deadline to remove the live birds.

This action follows previous warnings issued to the shopkeepers for violating public health norms. Notices under Sections of the GHMC Act, 1955 were also served, demanding the shop owners to vacate their stalls.



Despite these warnings, the shopkeepers ignored the notices, which were eventually pasted on the shop walls and sent via registered post.

The GHMC has emphasised that public health is its primary responsibility and the unhygienic conditions observed in these shops and poor cleanliness posed significant health

The closure of the shops is necessary to protect the well-being of the community.

The GHMC has urged all stakeholders, including shop owners to ensure strict adherence to hygiene standards and cooperate in maintaining a clean and safe environment.



Three sentenced to life imprisonment for murder

PNS NALGONDA

In a sensational double murder case, three persons, including a woman, have been sentenced to life impris-onment and fined by the Additional District Judge-II cum in Nalgonda. The case involved the brutal killings of two men who were allegedly murdered over a dispute regarding the repayment of

According to Ramulu Naik, Additional Superintendent of Police, Nalgonda, the accused Mallikanti Venkateshwarlu of Kummarigudem, Kanagal Mandal, Nalgonda District, had borrowed Rs 3 lakhs from the deceased Sk Ghouse. However, he continuously avoided repaying the money, giving various excuses. When Ghouse and his close friend, Bonda Ravi Kumar, pressured the accused to repay the debt, Venkateshwarlu, along with his family members, Malikanti Yadagiri, Malikanti Ramulu and Malikanti Shobha decided to murder both men.

Bharat Rashtra Samithi leaders at a preparatory meeting in Shadnagar on Tuesday to discuss arrangements for Deeksha Divas to be observed on November 29

BRS holds preparatory meeting

ahead of Deeksha Divas

planning and coordination to

complete all arrangements in

advance and make the event a

nent leaders, including former

Vikarabad MLA Methuku

Anand, former Parigi MLA

Mahesh Reddy, and former

ZPTCs from Vikarabad,

Kodangal, Tandoor, and Parigi

constituencies. Former MPPs,

MPTCs, municipal chairper-

sons, councilors, BRS leaders,

and party activists from the

around uniting efforts for

Deeksha Divas, the leaders

reaffirmed their commitment

to making the event a memo-

rable one for the party and the

With discussions centred

district were also present.

The meeting witnessed the

grand success.

PNS RANGAREDDY

As part of the statewide call by

the Bharat Rashtra Samithi

(BRS) party to observe

29, a preparatory meeting was organised at the party Office

in Vikarabad. The meeting was

chaired by Palamur MLC and

Vikarabad District In-charge

Nagarkunta Naveen Reddy,

who emphasised the need for

a collective effort to ensure

party activists, Naveen Reddy

urged them to conduct the

Deeksha Divas programme

exclusively at district centres

and extend special invitations

to all party leaders and

activists. He stressed the

importance of meticulous

Man stabbed

station

the police station to discuss a According to

Thirumalagiri police, the incident involved Sapavat Muni and Sapavat Mohan, both res-

idents of Kichya Tanda mandal. Around 12:30 pm, they

arrived at the police station in

connection with a case. While

discussing the matter on the

market yard premises in the

presence of elders, Mohan

allegedly attacked Muni with

a knife, stabbing him twice.

The attempted murder with-

in the police station premises

Mohan, was taken into cus-

tody on the spot. Nagarjuna

Sagar Circle Inspector B Sanna

visited the crime scene and

conducted a preliminary

investigation. Meanwhile,

Thirumalagiri Sagar Sub-

Inspector Veera Shekar regis-

tered a case and intiated futher

The alleged attacker,

left the officers stunned.

Addressing the leaders and

success of the programme.

40 students take ill after eating midday meal

This is the second time in six days that students have fallen ill at Maganoor Zilla Parishad School due to suspected food poisoning

PNS ■ NARAYANPET

In Narayanpet district, nearly 40 students from Zilla Parishad High School in Maganoor took ill due to suspected food poisoning on Tuesday. It may be recalled that not less than 50 students fell ill six days ago due to food poisoning.

Once again the Zilla Parishad School is again in the news for the wrong reason.

As many as 40 students have been admitted to hospital with symptoms of food poisoning. The students complained of stomach ache, vomiting and diarrhoea after eating a midday meal.

The students took ill around 3:30 pm. The school staff rushed them to the Maktal Government Hospital.

Doctors at the hospital immediately swung into action and provided treatment to students. A doctor even resuscitated a girl and saved her life.



A doctor resuscitating a girl admitted to Maktal Government Hospital after 40 students fell ill due to suspected food poisoning in Nayaranpet on

Former MLA Chittem Ram Mohan Reddy visited the hospital and inquired about the student's condition. He expressed strong anger over the negligence of the authorities, pointing out that a

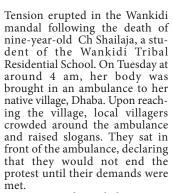
similar food poisoning incident had occurred in the same school just a week ago. He criticised the authorities for allowing such incidents to happen, questioning how food poisoning could occur when meals are being prepared under supervision, blaming the negligence. He also stated that he was afraid to visit schools because of such incidents.

The previous week, over 50 students had fallen ill after eating worm-infested food at the same school. Of them, 15 students were admitted to the Government Hospital Mahabubnagar, where they were served worm-infested food for breakfast. The next day, the rice served for the midday meal was also found to be contaminated with worms.

Taking a serious view of the incident last week, the Narayanpet district administration suspended three officials and issued showcause notices to three others. An enquiry led by Additional Collector Ben Shalom was initiated. This time, several heads may roll after 40 students fell ill on

Protests mark Tribal School student's funeral Nine-year-old Ch Shailaja died while undergoing treatment

for food poisoning at Wankidi Tribal Residential School PNS KUMRAM BHEEM ASIFABAD



MLC Dande Vithal, District Congress Committee president distraught family members and the agitating villagers, assuring that their demands would be resolved after speaking to Minister Sitaakka. Despite these attempts, the villagers remained unrelent-

ing.
Meanwhile, Sirpur MLA Palvai Harish Babu slipped through the police cordon, made his way to the family's home and sat in front of the house with the deceased's body. He demanded that the Collector grant ex gratia of Rs 50 lakh to the girl's family and led protests with slogans against the Collector. After the MLA left, police took student union leaders



Vishwa Prasad, and others reached the village and tried to pacify the student at Dhaba village staging protest with the body of tribal school the village and tried to pacify the

the protest. At the same time, MLC Dande Vithal provided immediate assistance by offering Rs 1.2 lakh and promised to ensure that two acres of land and a job for a family member, besides a house under the Indiramma scheme is provided. In the late afternoon, Sĥailaja's last rites were performed amid

Meanwhile, the police imposed restrictions to prevent media representatives from entering the

into custody who were continuing similar to the ones in Jainoor, police authorities took preventive measures and imposed restrictions on all routes leading to Dhaba village, including the areas around the Wankidi Tribal School. Both the media and the general public were not allowed to pass through. District SP DV Srinivasa Rao and Adilabad SP Gaus Alam supervised the police arrange-

Meanwhile, MLA Kova Lakshmi was placed under house arrest after she was stopped on the way to Dhaba village to console Due to fears of potential riots the grieving family members.

Fisherman nets two species of fish in Nagarkurnool dist

PNS NAGARKURNOOL

In Nagar Kurnool district, a fisherman caught rare fish in his net. While fishing in the Dhundhubhi river, a tributary of the Krishna River, near

the fisherman caught net. One of them was snake-shaped, and the other had spots on its body. The snake-shaped fish was identified as Malagamenu (mot-tled eel), while the spotted one was recognised as a Devil Fish, which is typically seen at Chennai's Marina Beach. Fellow fishermen

Malagamenu fish is rarely found and is considered highly valuable. It is also used in the preparation of modified to the preparation of the preparation of modified to the preparation of used in the preparation of medicinal products. The Malagamenu fish weighed 2.25 kilograms. Fishermen noted that a Malagamenu had been fish production in ponds, irrigation found in the same region four years canals, and rivers, raising concerns ago. These fish rarely get caught in among farmers.

nets, which is why the fishermen are excited about the catch.

The Devil Fish, however, is considered extremely dangerous, according to experts. This highly hazardous fish is found only in rivers and seas. Kamsanipalli village under In the Telugu states, the devil fish was Uppununtala mandal in the district, first spotted in the Krishna River near In the Telugu states, the devil fish was

Vijayawada in 2016. They not only consume the feed in ponds but also prey on other fish. These fish are harmful to the delicate aquatic ecosystem.

Fisheries experts claim that these fish have extraordinary abilities and can survive even in oxygendeprived conditions. In some cases, they damage nets and



Woman staging a protest on Nirmal-Bhainsa highway in Nirmal district on Tuesday

Villagers stage protest against ethanol factory

Members of a joint action committee staged a protest on Tuesday against the proposed establishment of an ethanol manufacturing plant in Dilawarpur

The protesters, including local residents and women, blocked traffic for nearly three hours, causing significant inconvenience to motorists. They raised slogans denouncing the government's approval for the factory in their village and demanded that it be relocated, expressing concerns that the factory would poison their farmlands

Nirmal-Bhainsa road, bringing it to a

standstill. Police swiftly arrived at the scene and held discussions with the demonstrators, assuring them that the issue would be brought to the attention of the government. After receiving this assurance, the protesters called off their demonstration and allowed traffic to

Locals have been strongly opposed to the establishment of the ethanol plant in Gundampalli village, citing fears of environmental pollution and its potential to disrupt their livelihoods. The Joint Action Committee (JAC) was formed to prevent the factory from being set up, nd the community has bee The protest disrupted traffic on the various protests over the past year.

Constitution Day celebrated at Shadnagar

PNS ■ RANGAREDDY

Marking the 75th Constitution Day, Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar on Tuesday paid floral tributes to the portrait of Dr. BR Ambedkar. The event held on the occasion of the

Constitution Day.
Speaking on the occasion, MLA Veerlapalli Shankar described the Constitution as a revolutionary document that served as a guiding framework for the nation's development. He highlighted Dr Ambedkar's tireless dedication, stating that Ambedkar drafted the

The programme saw the presence of Kondurgu Mandal president Krishna Reddy, former MPP Shivshankar Goud, and other notable individuals, including Baba Khan, Raghunayak, Basaveshwar, Ande Mohan, Mubarak Ali Khan, Dandu Srinivas, Srinu Navak, Mallesh, Praveen, Kammadanam Naveen, and Kumaraswamy Goud.



Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar paying floral tributes to architect of the Constitution BR Ambedkar in Shadnagar on

Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority 4º Floor Swarrajaparthi Commercial Complex, America, Hyderabad.

(Lr. No. SML0200009135778/CLU/PIg/TS-IPASS/HMDA/2023 In exercise of powers conferred by Sub-Section (3) of Section 15 of HMDA Act 2008, it is proposed to make the following changes to the land use in the Notified Metropolitan Development Plan (MDP)-2031 for Hydersbad Metropolitan Region (HMR) Notified by the Government vide G.O.Ms No.33 MA & UD. dt: 24.01.2013. The site in Sv.No.271/P. 272/P & 274/P situated at Kesavaram (V), Shamirpot (M), Medcha

The site in SyNo.274/1; 272/2 & 274/2 state of increases which is presently elemented for conservation use cone in the Notified Master plan MDP-2031 vide G.O.Ms. Ma.33 MA. & UD, dt: 24.01.2013 is now proposed to be designated as Manufacturing use zone for setting up unit for Mineral Water Plant, Carbonated Soft Drink & Club Soda under Grange' category. The details of the above are available in Web sites http://gazette.telangana.gov.in// and

http://hmda.gov.in//. Objections/Suggestions would be considered from any person or body to the said proposals, they can submit objections/suggestions in writing either to the Metropoliten Commissioner, HMDA or to Principal Secretary to Government, MA & UD Dept., Telangana Secretariat, Hyderabad within **Seven (7) days** from the date of publication of this Notice.

DIPR R.O. No.: 703-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25

Female cook accused of forcing girl to dance naked In a horrifying incident at

near police

Manthani town in the district, a female cook in a hostel allegedly set PNS NALGONDA a trap for a student under the guise of performing naked rituals. According to reports, the cook lured the student by promising In a shocking incident on Tuesday, a man attacked his money and asking her to cooperate Police searching the hostel premises opponent outside the police station at Thirumalgirid. The incident happened while the two were present at



in the naked rituals. It is believed after allegations of a girl being forced that the cook cajoled the student to dance naked in a hostel at Manthani that performing such rituals would in Peddapalli district on Tuesday

Lakshmi. A week ago, the hostel ensued, leading to tense situations workers reportedly contacted people who perform such rituals. Disturbed by this, the student escaped from the hostel and went to her relative's house a week ago.

The girl had been staying there.

The girl had been staying there.

The girl had been staying there for several days, and when her parents arrived on Monday, she informed them about the entire situation. Following this, the girl's relatives and parents confronted the Manthani.

attract the blessings of Goddess cook at the hostel. A dispute

There are reports of unsavoury incidents in the hostel. The parents of the girls went to the station and filed a complaint. As a result, this

incident has created a sensation in

BRS leaders vow to make Diksha Divas a success

PNS NALGONDA

A preparatory meeting for the upcoming Diksha Divas programme to be held on November 29, was held at the Nalgonda District Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) party office. The meeting focused on planning the event. The party leaders who spoke at the meeting pledged to make the even a success.

Former minister and Suryapet MLA, G Jagadish Reddy, addressing the gathering, stressed the importance of celebrating Diksha Divas with grandeur. "No other Chief Minister in the country has achieved what former chief minister and BRS chief K

Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) had accomplished. KCR introduced numerous welfare schemes. He further added, " The state is currently under villainous leadership. KCR's return as Chief Minister is certain. Even Congress leaders are aware of this.

Jagadish Reddy praised KCR's role in the formation of Telangana, stating, "KCR, who risked his life to bring Telangana to fruition, is the

true leader of the people.

Highlighting the need to educate the youth about the history of the Telangana movement, he emphasised, "We must make the younger generation aware of KCR's struggles. On Diksha Divas, we should



Former minister G Jagadish Reddy speaking at BRS party meeting in Nalgonda on Tuesday

showcase photographs from his protests and commemorate the movement's milestones." The leaders also discussed

and KCR's leadership. The meeting was attended preparations for the event, which will include displaying

by several prominent leaders, including MLC Koti Reddy,

photographs and artefacts related to the Telangana movement

Former Zilla Parishad chairman Band Narendra Reddy, former MLAs Gadari Kishore Kumar, Bhupal Reddy, Chirumarthi Lingayya, Kusukuntla Prabhakar Reddy, Nallamotu Bhaskar Rao, Ravindra Kumar, and Nomula Bhagat. Former Corporation chair-

Former MP Srinivas Reddy,

men Ramachandra Nayak, Ravikumar Goud, and Balaraj Yadav, along with key figures like Cheeruku Sudhakar, Krishna Reddy, Praveen Reddy, Sattayya Goud, Sharanya Reddy, Regatte Mallikarjuna Reddy, Saidireddy, Jamal, Ramarao, Satyanarayana, Abhimanyu Srinivas, and several others were present.

'COMMITTED TO BOOST GEOSPATIAL



ACROSS THE STATES



K'taka to implement Single **Window System software**

arnataka Minister for Large and Medium Industries, M B Patil, on Tuesday set a December deadline for all relevant departments to adopt the newly developed Single Window System software, which is scheduled for launch in January 2025. The announcement was made during a meeting held at Vidhana Soudha. In a statement, Patil noted that current procedures related to project approvals, industrial plot allotments, and CA plot allotments in industrial areas are often complex and multistaged, resulting in delays. The new software, developed by Microsoft, aims to streamline and simplify these processes. To expedite implementation, the Chief Secretary will soon convene a meeting, Patil said. He also assured that appropriate training would be provided to department staff to ensure effective use of the software. Patil emphasised that the Single Window System will eliminate the need for investors to approach multiple departments for approvals, providing a seamless process instead



HC expresses concern over rising elephant deaths

he Orissa High Court on Tuesday expressed concern over the rise in elephant deaths across the state, particularly those caused by electrocution, emphasising the need for immediate and effective measures to protect the jumbos.

Acting on a suo motu public interest petition, a division bench headed by Chief Justice C S Singh directed the state's Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) to submit a comprehensive action plan within 10 days to mitigate the crisis. The PCCF informed the high court that since 2020, 85 elephants have died due to electrocution, with three such fatalities reported recently in the

Sambalpur Nakati Deula range. The court has also instructed the PCCF to prepare a separate action plan in consultation with the power distribution company to prevent further such incidents.



'Accidental gunfire' kills ITBP jawan

n ITBP jawan hailing from Uttarakhand was killed in an "accidental" gunfire in Jharkhand's Dhanbad district on Tuesday, police said.

The incident occurred at a camp in Binod Bihari Mahato College in Baliapur, around 20 km from the district quarters town of Dhanbad.

The jawan, identified as Sandeep Kumar, hailed from Rudra Prayag in Uttarakhand and had come to Jharkhand on assembly elections assignment. He was staying in the camp along with his battalion, they said.

After hearing the sound of firing, his colleagues rushed to his room and found him unconscious with a bullet mark on the chest, said city SP Ajit Kumar. Kumar was immediately taken to a hospital where doctors

declared him dead on arrival, he said.

He said prima facie it appears that the jawan was killed in "accidental gunfire".

"An investigation has been initiated to ascertain the actual reason of death," he said.

Debates over 167 days, 274 members, 36 lakh words -- that's what it took before the Constituent Assembly

Every Article in the Constitution, which ran into 1.45 lakh words at the time, was debated by members of the Constituent Assembly. They sat for 11 sessions and 167 days over a period of two years, 11 months and 18

days to frame the Constitution. BR Ambedkar, regarded as the chief architect of the Constitution, was assisted by members of the

drafting committee he chaired. India's first president Rajendra



It is the largest written constitution in the world and the first edition was

neither printed nor typed -- it was handwritten and calligraphed in

CAPABILITIES IN ASIA-PACIFIC' increasing frequency of natural disasters," Singh said. The UN-GGIM Asia-PNS NEW DELHI Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh on Tuesday said India Pacific Conference on Geo-enabling Data Economy for Sustainable is deeply committed to strengthening Development brought together leading geospatial capabilities in the Asia-Pacific to address the challenges of experts, policymakers, and geospatial professionals from the Asia and the

Pacific region. He said the Asia-Pacific region was home to diverse economies and cultures, and effective use of geospatial data can help ensure inclusive development, equitable access to resources, and sustainable growth for all. India is deeply committed to

geospatial capabilities through UNG-GIM-AP, Singh said. With 90 international delegates from 30 countries, along with 120 delegates from India, the conference provides a platform for sharing knowledge, discussing advancements in geospatial technology, and fostering collaboration between member nations and other regional committees of UN-GGIM. 'To truly harness the power of geospatial data, it is essential that stakeholders -- governments, businesses, and civil society -- collaborate and invest

By working together, we can share best practices, develop common standards, and support

each other in addressing the unique challenges faced by our region - be it rapid

ensure that data is accessible and usable by all," Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, Technology said. Karandikar said with the right approach, geo-enabling the data economy can play a central role in achieving the global sustainable development agenda and ensuring a better future for generations to come.

Department of Science and

urbanisation, environmental degradation, or the increasing frequency of natural disasters JITENDRA SINGH

rapid urbanisation and environmen-

tal degradation. Addressing the inaugural session of the UN Global Geospatial Information Management

Asisa Pacific Conference here, Singh said effective use of geospatial data can

help ensure inclusive development,

equitable access to resources, and sus-

"By working together, we can share

best practices, develop common stan-

dards, and support each other in

addressing the unique challenges faced

by our region - be it rapid urbanisa-

tion, environmental degradation, or the

tainable growth for all.

CENTRE'S NEGLECT OF WAYANAD

Rahul, Priyanka to lead agitation in Parliament

PNS WAYANAD/NEW DELHI

The Congress said on Tuesday that it will launch protests, both inside and outside Parliament, under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi, against the lack of Central assistance for the landslide survivors of Wayanad.

Party leader and Kalpetta MLA T Siddique described the Centre's alleged reluctance to provide financial aid to the people in landslide-affected areas as an "inhuman"

approach. He said that, besides Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, he, as the local MLA, had also submitted a memorandum to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking assistance for the landslide survivors during

his visit soon after the tragedy. Although the prime minister had promised full support, not even one per cent of justice had been delivered by Modi or the Union government led by him in relation to

that assurance, he alleged. "It is an inhuman approach towards the people who have suffered such a massive tragedy," he said, adding that missing.

Congress president Mallikarjun

Kharge on Tuesday demanded

the return of ballot paper and

called for a concerted cam-

paign on the scale of Bharat

Jodo Yatra to create awareness

about it. Speaking at the

'Samvidhan Rakshak Abhiyaan'

function at Talkatora stadi-

um, he said Prime minister

Narendra Modi fears a caste

census. He said Modi is afraid

that if he allows a caste census

then all sections of society

Kharge also accused the BJP

of not having any "constitution-

will demand their share.

the Congress party would intensify its protests both inside and outside Parliament against this.

Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi and Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi will lead the agitation," Siddique told reporters in New Delhi.

Both the ruling CPI(M)-led LDF and the opposition Congress-led UDF have been demanding the BJP-led union government to declare the landslide calamity as a national disaster and provide required assistance for the relief and rehabilitation of the survivors at the earliest.

The state recently witnessed an intense political row following the Centre's recent letter to the state government stating that under the existing guidelines of SDRF and NT is no provision to declare any calamity a 'national disaster"

The disaster, which struck on July 30, devastated large parts of three villages --Punchirimattam, Chooralmala, Mundakkai--along with sections of Attamala in Wayanad.

As per the government, the deadly disaster claimed 231 lives, while 47 people are still

'COVID was different': SC bemoans distribution of free ration

PNS NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday flagged the difficulties surrounding the distribution of freebies and said COVID times were different when distressed migrant workers were provided the relief.

In a judgment on June 29, 2021, and subsequent orders, the top court passed a slew of directions to the authorities asking them to undertake welfare measures, including giving metion, cords to all prigrants ration cards to all migrant workers, who were distressed during the COVID-19 pandemic, registered with the "e-Shram" portal.

The portal was a comprehensive national database of unorganised workers launched by the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment with the primary aim to facilitate delivery of welfare benefits



and social security measures to unorganised sector workers

across the country. On Tuesday, a bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan was informed by advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for an NGO seeking free ration for all the migrant workers, the court directed the Centre to provide free ration and ration cards to all those workers, who are registered on the portal. Justice Kant said, "Ration card is an important official document which is associated with the identity and entitlement of a person but the difficulties arise when we indulge in freebies. COVID time was something different but now, we

have to look into it." Solicitor General Tushar submission and argued the government was bound by the National Food Security Act of 2013 and whatever entitlement was statutorily provided would be given.

He said there were certain

NGOs who did not work on the ground during the pan-demic and he could state on affidavit that the petitioner NGO was one among them.

Bhushan said as the Centre relied on data from the 2011 census for migrant workers and hadn't conducted a census in 2021, actual figures were not available with it.

"There is a jump in figures by at least 20 per cent and that is why this court had directed that despite the mandate of Food Security Act, the government can go beyond the ambit to provide relief to the migrant workers registered on e-shram portal," said Bhushan.

Deputy CM hints at Cabinet reshuffle in Karnataka

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Amid speculation that a Cabinet reshuffle was on cards, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Tuesday indicated about the the days ahead, as he noted that few ministers have been given a "message" about their term.

Shiyakumar, who is also the state Congress president, hinted about it, as he referred to the term of office of panchayat chairman being fixed to two years with a message that they will have to demit office after that, and a similar message being given to some ministers too. He, however, did not

'Bring back ballot paper' Kharge calls for campaign

of the Constituent Assembly

did through the Constitution.

Assembly polls, which the NDA

Referring to the Maharashtra

elaborate further. But, his comments are being seen as an indication about possible reshuffle in the days ahead.

... before the President of India (while staking claim to Shivakumar said. Addressing form govt in 2004), she (Sonia the Constitution day event) said -- I don't want the prime minister post, and let an econ-

swept, Kharge alleged that bil-

lionaire businessman Gautam

Adani had a lot to do with the

election as his wealth was at

stake. "We should all unite and

move forward together and push them aside. I do not wish

to speak about elections, but I

would surely say the votes of all the poor and oppressed com-

munities are going to waste. They should all demand voting

by ballot paper," he said.
"Let them keep EVMs with

them. We don't want EVMs, we

want voting on ballot paper.

Then they will know what

their position is and where they

stand. "From our party, we

omist, a Sikh Manmohan Singh become the prime minister, we have such history....we fix chairman tenure for an year or

six months or two-and-half years, and when we have to make them vacate post after their tenure, (it is so difficult that) god should save us," said, "Now we have fixed the

tenure of the chairmans' to two years. We have given that message to some ministers too. I don't want to discuss

Later, speaking to reporters, Shivakumar said he will be meeting party high command during his visit to Delhi later this

should start this campaign to

make everyone aware that they

should want ballot paper back.

We will speak to other political

parties also," Kharge said, urg-

ing Rahul Gandhi to launch a

movement. "We should start a

campaign like Bharat Jodo

Yatra to bring back the ballot

paper," he stressed. On the

prime minister, he said, "PM

Modi fears caste census as

everyone will then demand

their share and Modi will have

to run away to Ahmedabad." If

the prime minister really wants

unity in the country, then he

and the BJP should stop spread-

ing hatred, he said.

BJP IN NO HURRY TO ANNOUNCE CM CANDIDATE: **SOURCES**

The Bharatiya Janata Party

(BJP) would not rush into

PNS MUMBAI

announcing its chief ministerial candidate until the distribution of portfolios in the new Maharashtra government is finalised, party sources said on Tuesday The indications that the Mahavuti coalition's decision on who would become the next CM would be delayed emerged as the Governor on Tuesday morning asked Eknath Shinde to act as a caretaker chief minister after he tendered his resignation Despite the BJP-Shiv Sena-NCP combine's landslide victory in the assembly elections, there is no consensus among the allies on who would occupy the top post. "The central leadership is in no hurry to name a candidate for the chief minister's post. We have secured a decisive mandate, and the priority now is to work out a comprehensive plan for government formation That includes finalising ministerial portfolios and distribution of key posts such as district quardian ministers," a state BJP leader told PTI while requesting anonymity. The careful approach stems from the desire to avoid friction among the coalition partners, he said. Elaborating, another BJP insider cited the case of Mahendra Thorave, an MLA from Raigad district who had opposed the appointment of NCP's Aditi Tatkare as district guardian minister earlier this year, owing to the long-standing local

"We want to address such issues now, ensuring that everyone is on the same page before moving forward." he said. The BJP won 132 seats. Shiv Sena 57, and the NCP 41 in the November 20 elections. The results were announced on

November 23.

What it took to frame India's Constitution

al integrity or federal character"

and alleged that the party was

undoing everything that BR

Ambedkar and other members

PNS NEW DELHI

adopted the world's longest written constitution on this day in 1949.

> Prasad was the first person to sign the document 75 years ago.

both Hindi and English. According to facts available on the Lok Sabha website and analysis of Constituent Assembly debates by the think-tank PRS India, the Constitution's first copy was handwritten by Prem Behari Narain Raizada and published by him in

Every page was decorated by artists from Shantiniketan, including Beohar Rammanohar Sinha and Nandalal Bose.

It took two years, 11 months and 18 days to complete the final draft. At present, it contains 395 Articles and 12 Schedules. The Constitution has been amended 106 times so far. Approximately 36 lakh words

were spoken during debates in the

Constituent Assembly and two-

As much as 14 per cent of the total clause-by-clause discussions was dedicated to Fundamental Rights. Directive Principles of State Policy

and discussed for 16 days

cussed for six days. clause discussion was dedicated to

were included in Part IV and dis-Four per cent of the clause-by-

thirds of all deliberations were dur-

for clause-by-clause discussions on

the draft Constitution. The members

met for 101 days during this period.

Fundamental Rights were included

in Part III of the draft Constitution

during the second reading.

ing the clause-by-clause discussions ed to citizenship were included in Part II. Two per cent of the discus-From November 1948 to October sion was dedicated to this part. 1949, the Constituent Assembly met

Directive Principles. Provisions relat-

Six members spoke more than a lakh words, with Ambedkar contributing over 2.67 lakh words. India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, a member of the Constituent Assembly, spoke 73,804 words.

The drafting committee scrutinised and revised the draft created by BN Rau, the constitutional advisor, and submitted it for consideration of the assembly.

The drafting committee members frequently responded to comments made by other members during the

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Yet another flashpoint

All stakeholders must demonstrate utmost restraint to prevent any escalation of communal tensions in Sambhal

he town of Sambhal in Uttar Pradesh has become the epicentre of intense communal tension following a violent confrontation over a court-mandated survey of the historic Shahi Jama Masjid. The incident, which unfolded on Sunday, has claimed three lives, injured numerous others and raised pressing concerns about the fragile communal harmony in the region. The Shahi Jama Masjid, situated in Chandausi, Sambhal, is a centuries-old structure recognised as a 'Monument of National Importance' by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). Protected under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904, the mosque became the subject of legal contention following a petition filed on November 19. The petitioners, a group of eight individuals including advocate Hari Shankar Jain and Mahant Rishiraj Giri, alleged that the mosque was built by demolishing a Shri Hari Har Temple in the 16th century under the orders of Mughal Emperor Babur. They claimed that the temple held immense religious significance for Hindus as the proph-



esied site of Lord Vishnu's Kalki avatar. The petition sought ASI intervention and public access to the site, accusing the mosque administrators of obstructing entry and the ASI of negligence in protecting the monument. The legal dispute led the Court of Civil Judge (Senior Division) in Sambhal to order a survey of the mosque, with a report due by November 29. The initial survey on Tuesday was reportedly incomplete, prompting authorities to schedule a follow-up on Sunday. However, tensions escalated as the survey team arrived, resulting in a violent clash between opposing groups. The confrontation saw stone-pelting, arson and the deployment of security forces. Three

lives were lost, and several were injured, including police officers and administrative personnel. The violence has since been condemned across the political spectrum, though it has also sparked a heated debate over the motivations behind the survey and its handling. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav accused the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of instigating communal divisions. BJP spokespersons, however, defended the legal process. The situation in Sambhal remains tense, with heightened security measures in place to prevent further unrest. But are we seeing a pattern here? Some politically motivated individuals deliberately file petitions raking up controversy where none exists. Communal tension ensues and some people and party backs up the claim and polarisation is complete for politicians to exploit the situation. We have had enough of communal violence and surely this one can be avoided as 'The Place of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991' is clear that all places of religion must be preserved as they were at the time of independence. The Shahi Jama Masjid row reflects the broader challenges of navigating historical grievances, communal sensitivities and legal mandates in a pluralistic society. The need for restraint and dialogue among all stakeholders is crucial to restoring peace and preventing further loss of innocent lives.



K P Sharma Oli walks a tightrope on China



Will Oli's stance on the BRI and his decision to prioritise China over India define his political legacy or deepen Nepal's internal divides?

n Kathmandu, I observed that Nepal Prime Minister KP Oli's visit to China has become a hot potato in the chilly Kathmandu valley. The China visit is being portrayed by his Unified Marxist Leninist Party (UML)-led coalition government as a bold initiative by Oli to resolve the long-pending BRI Implementation plan. The BRI Framework Agreement 2017 signed by Nepal figured during the maiden visit of President Xi Jinping in 2019 when Xi announced NC Rs 60 bn in grants under BRI. Since 2008, China has announced NC Rs 80 bn in grants. It seems the government could not use the aid for projects under BRI due to some

Several delegations from both countries have interacted over the BRI Implementation plan for a long but the plan has not been

Oli last visited China in 2016 after the Indian blockade and signed several agreements including nergy trade but almost none has materialised. China is insisting that BRI projects that were truncated at Beijing's request from 35 to 9 be under loan whereas Nepal, especially Nepali Congress, the senior coalition partner, wants them under grant. There were fears Oli might sign in to please the Chinese which resulted in considerable squabbling between them. A high-level task force of the two parties has been meeting to arrive at a consensus. Opposition lawmakers wanted all the agreements signed so far to be made public and discussed in Parliament and with civil society. At a UML meeting, Oli recently announced he would not sign BRI for the sake of coalition unity.

Chinese envoy Chen Song who had been lobbying with lawmakers to sign the BRI plan has clarified that Chinese-built Pokhara airport would not be converted from loan to grant. Foreign Minister Arzu Rana is going to China on November 28 to prepare for Oli's visit with some plans on BRI.

The other troubling issue was 'the first where - China or India' visit of Oli. Traditionally barring two between India and China is a exceptions - Prime Ministers Tanka Prasad Acharya and



Madhav Nepal, Jhalanath Khanal, and Sushil Koirala -OLI LAST from both Left and Centre-VISITED Right parties but New Delhi has historically favoured CHINA IN Nepali Congress. Oli had said some pretty undiplomatic, even unkind things about 2016 AFTER THE INDIAN India during his second term as PM after he had internation-**BLOCKADE** alised the Kalapani dispute and made it into a national issue. AND SIGNED But later, Oli did work with India. Oli going to China SEVERAL without Beijing making any **AGREEMENTS** concession on BRI is cocking a snook at India. **INCLUDING** During the annual Kantipur **ENERGY** TRADE

Conclave in Kathmandu this month, he clarified that as a sovereign nation, a PM can visit any country first. He compared the 'first visit India or China conundrum' to visiting Nizamuddin or Ajmer Sharif first: which made little impact on the mainly Nepali audience, adding that his visit to China will not harm relations with India.

For Nepal maintaining balance vital strategic mission that the founding father of Nepal,



apology from Prachanda. At the Kantipur Conclave, Prachanda informed the audience that he was happy he was no longer heading the government as he could atone for his party's mistakes and serve the people better. He clarified that with 32 seats, he had never sought power but others (NC and UML) had come to him to form the government.

card. UML was incensed by

the allegation, demanding an

He asserted he had made a direct assault on corruption the no 1 bane of Nepal – and put many corrupt leaders including members of his party, and those who had supand former Home Minister. Rabi Lamichhane from the Rashtriya Swatantra Party who is at present in jail, being investigated for fraud. In Kathmandu, I discovered that Lamichhane has created a problem for the government

THE EDITO

on which jail he should be lodged in, due to massive protests by his supporters. They took him to the Terai towns but not to his citadel in Chitwan and brought him back to Pokhara as they were unable to present him before a Kathmandu court to avoid creating law and order issues. Every other day there are massive traffic jams in Kathmandu over some issue or the other. Oli was cool about Rabi, saying at the Kantipur Conclave that he had 'once given Rabi a job (in Nepal Television)' but did not know much about his case. The parliamentary probe that was ordered on him as demanded by the Nepali Congress was at the behest of PM Prachanda and Rabi himself who was the Home Minister in the coalition government. He added: "let law take its course". Oli's China conundrum was grabbing headlines. By declaring he won't sign the BRI Implementation plan on Chinese terms for coalition ported his government in jail. unity he has taken the fizz out This included the newsmaker of the champagne that was to be popped after his visit.

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence *Staff; views are personal)*

eople buy groundnut during the inauguration of the 'Kadalekai Parishe', in Bengaluru' Prasar Bharati unveils WAVES app amid criticism and challenges



Prasar Bharati launched its much-anticipated app, WAVES touted as a strategic leap for India's national broadcaster

In a vibrant ceremony during the 55th International Film Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa, Prasar Bharati unveiled its long-awaited app, WAVES. Marking a strategic step forward for India's national broadcaster, the launch was graced by Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant.

However, the event's significance was overshadowed by the absence of central ministers, drawing criticism that this oversight represented a missed public relations opportunity. A Shift from OTT to App:

A Branding Challenge Originally envisioned as an

OTT platform, WAVES has undergone a rebranding as an app. This shift has sparked speculation that the change may be linked to limited new content. Critics have argued that the current branding does little to leverage Doordarshan's rich legacy, potentially alienating audiences, particularly in rural areas where Doordarshan's identity is

deeply entrenched. Many users remain unclear about the relationship cials in key roles.

between Prasar Bharati and Doordarshan, adding to the

confusion about accessing the app. Delays and Controversies

The WAVES launch comes after multiple postponements, with its original debut planned for August 15. These delays have raised questions about Prasar Bharati's preparedness to compete in the fast-paced digital media environment. Observers have highlighted internal issues, including allegations of favouritism and mismanagement. Notably, the consultancy hired to guide WAVES has faced criticism for lacking expertise in the OTT domain and allegedly sidelining experienced offi-

are unresolved trademark issues surrounding the broadcasters, wary of lenge. potential regulatory challenges, have shown reluctance to collaborate with the platform, dampening its industry reception.
Content and Vision

Despite the hurdles, WAVES aims to differentiate itself in the competitive cord, addressing opera-Indian media landscape. Offering over 65 live channels and content in 12+ languages, the app seeks to combine nostalgia with fresh appeal.

Iconic Doordarshan programmes like 'Ramayan' and 'Mahabharat' are set to feature alongside new productions such as 'Fauji 2.0.' WAVES also plans to support emerging talent by showcasing student films and works by National Creator Awardees.

Operating on a revenue-sharing model, WAVES aspires to empower creators while ensuring the protection of intellectual property. However, stand-

Adding to these challenges ing out against global giants like Netflix and Amazon Prime Video, known for name "WAVES," which their vast libraries and could further complicate advanced technology, prethe app's rollout. Private sents a formidable chal-

The Road Ahead

The launch of WAVES is a critical juncture for Prasar Bharati, offering a chance to redefine public broadcasting in the digital era. However, success will hinge on resolving internal distional concerns, and crafting a user experience that resonates with audiences. While the launch at IFFI has created a momentary buzz, sustaining momentum will require robust strategies, consistent content quality, and a clear brand identity.

As WAVES ventures into the competitive digital media space, its journey will be closely watched. For Prasar Bharati, the app represents both a bold opportunity and a test of its capacity to adapt and thrive in an evolving media ecosystem.

(The writer is a journalist; views are personal)

Madam —Apropos to the news headline

HISTORIC WIN AT PERTH

'Team India rises like a phoenix at Perth' (November 26). Kudos to Team India! After the drubbing from the Kiwis in our own backyard 0-3, India dominated the first Test in Perth, crushing Australia by a massive 295 runs. Chasing a daunting 534, Australia crumbled for 238. This historic win marks India's largest victory by runs in Australia, surpassing their 222-run win in Melbourne in 1977. What is more redeeming is the way the Indian team played the 2nd innings. Not many teams have come back after being 150 all out on the first day, but this Indian team has time and again shown that it is built differently. Bumrah, leading in only his second Test, was left with a lot to do and fewer options to work with.

While Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli and KL Rahul will be among the heroes with their solid second innings batting performances, it was the stand-in skipper Jaspreet Bumrah's unbelievable skill set and selfbelief during Australia's first innings rout that formed the cornerstone of India's win. Hope, after this Test, players should be retained based on their current performance, not on past achievements. The selection process should send a clear message that no player is above the team's performance standards. If a replacement player has excelled, they should be given priority and retained for their contributions. Senior players, regardless of their past glory, must earn their place back through demonstrated performance. This ensures that performance, consistency, and fairness drive the selection process, keeping the team competitive and motivated.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

HOUSE ADJOURNED OVER ADANI

Madam— On the first day of the winter session, i.e., Monday, the House was adjourned due to the demand for a discussion on Adani. Now it does not seem that much work or meaningful discussion will be done in this session. Because of the kind of allegations that have been made against for their renewable energy company in

SC rejects plea challenging Preamble



BUT ALMOST

MATERIALISED

NONE HAS

n a landmark ruling, the Supreme Court has dismissed a batch of petitions challenging the inclusion of the terms 'Socialist and Secular' in the Preamble to the Constitution as per the 42nd Amendment passed in 1976. The Preamble declares India a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular and Democratic republic. The objectives of the Preamble are to secure justice, liberty and equality for all citizens and promote fraternity to main-

Gautam Adani and his entire team in India and hide this information from America, it is obvious that the Opposition of the country will raise its voice on it. Now our Prime Minister wants to defeat every solid allegation through his electoral victory (Maharashtra). That is why when the House was not functioning on Monday, he told the Opposition that "those who have been rejected by the people are indulging

in hooliganism in the House." Is this really so? Obviously, the people who are sitting in the Opposition are sitting there because they are in the minority. Does minority mean that they should not even talk about such a big stain on the country's reputation? Why does this government repeatedly stand in favour of Adani? Charge sheets have been filed in a New York court against Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani, his nephew Sagar Adani and six others. It is impossible to file a charge sheet there without proof. The US Securities and Exchange Commission has alleged that Gautam Adani and his associates paid a bribe of more than \$250 million, i.e., about two thousand crore rupees,

tain the unity and integrity of the nation. The Preamble is considered the soul and spirit of the Constitution. It still plays an important role when there is ambiguity in Articles' provisions or when an interpretation of the Constitution becomes confusing.

The Preamble, which highlights guiding principles and some fundamental values of the bases of which the Indian Constitution was written, will become invalid and insignificant when important terms 'Sovereign, Socialist, Secular' are removed from the Preamble. Knowing the importance of the Preamble in 1973 in the Kesavananda Bharati case, a 13-judge bench of the Supreme Court declared that the Preamble would be considered as part of the Constitution. In the 1995 Union Government vs LIC of India case, the Supreme Court once again held that Preamble is an integral part of the Constitution. P Victor Selvaraj | Tirunelveli

investors while raising capital in America. Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

SAMBHAL MOSQUE DISPUTE

Madam — The horrific incident that occurred in Sambhal highlights the authorities' alarming reaction, where, without conducting a proper hearing or trial, they initiated a survey within just two hours. The incident has spread a curtain of fear and horror across the country.

The assertion of replacing a mosque with a temple is intensifying over time, threatening the diversity and unity of our nation. Mohan Bhagwat's statement should be taken into account: it is not right to dig beneath every mosque in search of a Shivling and claim it as a temple. Such actions are detrimental to the harmony of society. Early recognition can help us to take immediate measures to limit any dam-

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FIRST COLUMN LESSONS IN HUMILITY AND FAITH

Are we ready to confront the truth of our smallness in the grand scheme of existence?



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

ave we realised that we are intrinsically small souls? That we only play small roles, yes, of different levels, but always small. I will cite many examples to substantiate this fact in this article. The only big is God, who is omnipresent, omnipotent and omniscient. He controls everything. We shouldn't be surprised by the reality of us being small. What did we expect? There are billions of us and all interdependent.

We cannot exist without the support of others right from our birth. Ravana was puffed up because he thought that he was big, having defeated important entities. But he was made to bite the dust and he accepted that his highly bloated ego was his undoing. Hitler thought that he was big and was going to control the world. What happened? He committed suicide having realised his smallness. Nixon was President of the USA – a large and prosperous nation. He was forced to resign, because of his underhanded activities. Napoleon was similarly humiliated when he was banished from his country to live in Elba - an Italian island, away from his dear coun-

Smallness is only one of our handicaps; ignorance is another. Despite the vast knowledge Ravana possessed, he was ignorant like most of us; he ignored the reality of God. Only the most fortunate like



Sant Tulsidas transcend the barrier of ignorance. What will you call Kansa? He kept on trying to kill the child Krishna without realising that the Lord cannot be killed. Ultimately, Lord Krishna had to kill him. Duryodhana saw so much of Lord Krishna, but somehow it didn't sink in that the Lord was different; He was God. He saw how the Lord protected Draupadi from being disrobed; how Arjuna was protected by bringing back sunlight; and many such instances. His ignorance was quite deep-seated. What will you call persons, who outwardly pretend to be servants of God, but molest unsuspecting children?

Their depth of darkness, which engulfs their consciousness does not let them see that punishment is coming. Only after they are hit with severe punishments they realise that they are quite helpless really. Draupadi realised it and cried for the Lord's help, which the merciful Lord provided. Arjuna knew in his heart that he was enjoying the protection of the Lord. That is how he was able to triumph over very powerful adversaries. In the modern era, famous film stars have committed suicide.

We become very impressed by the fame they enjoy but little do we realise that they are just as helpless as we are. Wealthy people are no better when they are hit with mental trauma as a result of extraordinarily stressful events, which shatter their sense of security, making them feel insecure in this dangerous world we live in. Yes, this world is a place of misery (The Bhagavad-Geeta 8.15), as long as one does not take shelter from God. Both external and internal dangers exist. Demonic forces are out there to harm us in order to gain some pecuniary advantage like by stealing from us.

Then, one does not know what is in store due to our past sinful acts. The smart thing is to come under the protection of God. So, what do I do? Having done my duty, I try to leave it to my Lord. Believe me, He takes care of me better than I could have imagined. It sounds like a fairy tale, but I am one of millions, who are benefiting in the present and have benefited thus in the past.

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

Realigning India's economic strategy



Achieving the ambitious goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047 demands a decisive overhaul of current economic policies



he world is undergoing rapid political changes. With these geopolitical changes underway, it becomes imperative to relook at the current strategy for economic development to meet the declared target of achieving a developed nation status by 2047. It becomes necessary to realign and readjust the policy points with the changing circumstances. Countries become rich by producing and selling globally valuable and value-added products. India's share in label trade has to grow regidly from the global trade has to grow rapidly from the present measly 1.8 per cent in goods exports and 2.8 per cent in goods imports. In the service sector too, India needs to enhance its share of delivered services upwards from the present 6 per cent. How will this happen? We need to take quantum measures and hard steps without caring for internal politi-cal expediency. Global political scenario may affect the choice of strategic steps but it can have, at best, limited effect if we as a nation are determined, focused and forthright.

Nothing can come in the way if we act united and our government performs its actions without fear or favour. The government's backtracking on the Agriculture and Farm Bills of 2019 was an unfortunate incident. Such incidents should not recur. The government buckled under the fake protests by agro market middlemen masquerading as farmers who created a false show of protests to put spokes in the wheel of the Bills and sabotage them. The government, under fear of bourgeoning vandalism by antinational elements to prevent the promulgation of Bills, backed by foreign enemy countries capitulated and rolled back the Bills. This should not have happened. The country paid a heavy price for this as agriculture is still the mainstay of India's economy. If only those important Bills had been passed, we would have witnessed an economic growth rate increase of at least 2 per cent over the existing. Let our government bring back those Bills at the earliest appropriate time to provide a vital booster to our economy. The other important area



GOVERNMENT BUCKLED UNDER THE FAKE PROTESTS BY AGRO MASQUERADING AS FARMERS WHO CREATED A FALSE SHOW OF PROTESTS TO PUT SPOKES IN THE WHEEL OF THE BILLS AND

SABOTAGE

the government is the MSME sector which continues to lie stagnant. This sector is the prime driver of employment growth and needs steps to facilitate the establishment of new units and expansion of the existing ones. These steps are bureaucratic reforms to cut red tape and reduce unnecessary regulatory compliances that engender corruption and impede growth. To boost Indigenous manufacturing and increase the share of manufacturing in the national GDP from 16 per cent (almost stagnant since 2015) to upwards of 20 per cent, rebooting the entire Make in India program is needed.
The blueprint of this otherwise visionary plan was, alas, not implemented seriously.
Too much dependence on foreign

capital and FDI was never forthcoming and efforts should have been made to utilise domestic capital. The central sector and state sector Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) should have taken the initiative in enhancing domestic manufacturing. Also, Make in India should have emphasised Make by India. Bureaucratic reforms, an increase in domestic manufacturing especially by PSUs by increasing import tariffs and further increasing fiscal concessions are some of the steps needed. Good work has been done in the area of defence and space in this context by encouraging and promoting startups.
This should be extended to other

sectors of the economy. Valueadded manufacturing in agriculture, food, healthcare and education will go a long way in boosting indigenous manufacturing and even exports. It is quite a pity that in spite of the wonderful success of the BJP government in the cleanup of the Banks, its benefit has not percolated to domestic manufacturing. Why out of the

that needs the urgent attention of 100 smart cities conceived in 2014, only about 20 have seen the light of the day and that too partially? The establishment of special economic zones and specialised product production zones was blueprinted but its implementation has also got stuck in the legislative and bureaucratic quagmires. Bureaucratic reforms, I reiterate, are an emergent necessity. Large imports from China over the last ten years have indeed prevented the growth of MSMEs in the country. Many pre-existing factories faced closure and many manufacturers turned traders. India's exports to China in 2023-24 were USD 16.65 billion, while imports stood at USD 101.75 billion, leaving a trade deficit of more than USD 85 billion. Efforts were made by the ruling NDA government to contain Chinese imports. But most of the curtailment took place in lower-end consumer goods and less dent could be made in import of industrial goods. Irrespective of government policy, if our countrymen had decided to boycott Chinese goods that can be produced in India, we would have made a huge dent in Chinese imports and facilitated the growth of the domestic manufacturing industry. But this did not happen. The land acquisition Amendment Bill was presented in Parliament on 10 March 2015 but could not be passed due to opposition by non-BJP lawmakers in the Rajya Sabha where the ruling NDA lacked a clear majority in numbers. The opposition party MPs called the proposed amendments antifarmer and anti-poor. The proposed amendments sought to remove requirements for approval from farmers to proceed with land acquisition under five broad categories of projects. Its passage continues to hang fire. It is the foundational base of the Make in

passed? Political expediency has been truly the bane of our country and the main impediment to our fast-track economic progress. In the above context, it would be appropriate to mention that strongly nationalistic citizens can collectively create conditions conducive to the growth of the domestic industry. The economic resurgence of Germany and Japan post World War 2 are case in point. Though the USA lent economic support to these countries, their citizens were patriotically driven to establish their domestic manufac-turing base and the countries developed into major industrial and economic powers in a period of barely two decades following their defeat and total devastation in 1945, the end year of the war. Both these countries lay stress on manufacturing, innovation and technology development. Their emphasis was on production and value-added exports. A similar strategy is needed. India has been the world's major economic power for millennia and in keeping with its inherent potential; it is capable of a long-term economic growth rate of 12 per cent.

For this to happen, the aforesaid steps brook no delay. In the destiny of nations, there are some phases when it becomes necessary to take bold steps in line with progressive principles of economic development rather than get bogged down by over-strategising and political expediency. Our revered political and economic scholar Chanakya had stated that Dharma (righteousness) should take precedence over everything else in governance and even strategy should be aligned with universal divine Dharma. We need to proceed further in our economic

journey accordingly.
(The author is a management consultant based in New Delhi;

Reaping our demographic dividend: Can skilling be the secret sauce?

With coordinated action, innovative strategies and a commitment to scalable skill development, India can emerge as a global economic and workforce leader

Tith a staggering 1.44 billion people 68 per cent of them between the ages of 15 and 64, India stands to gain from an immense, globally unmatched, demographic dividend that presents an unprecedented opportunity for economic growth amidst global challenges of declining birth rates and labour shortages. The vast labour force positions India to realise the government's vision of becoming the world's third-largest economy and the skills capital of the

world. This, coupled with the global shift towards diversifying talent supply chains - particularly to countries like India - can



ARUNESH SINGH

reaping the demographic dividend. UNFPA reported that Korea saw its per-capita gross domestic product grow about 2,200 per cent between 1950 and 2008, and Thailand's GDP grew 970 per cent.

The pressing question now is whether India can fully capitalise on this demographic significantly enhance our dividend, and can the skills geopolitical standing. East Asia ecosystem be the key to ally. Crafting Scalable Solutions offers compelling evidence of unlocking this potential. The To leverage India's demograph-

Challenge Effectively leveraging the demographic dividend requires addressing several critical challenges. The prima-ry challenge is the need to create sufficient job opportunities to absorb the increasing number of young people entering the workforce.

Another key challenge is to bridge the 'skills gap' - the discrepancy between the skills that job seekers possess and the skills that employers require, thereby creating opportunities for meaningful employment. This must be achieved on a large scale as the country is already home to 103 million youth categorised as NEET (not in education, employment or training) and millions of youth enter working age annu-

ic dividend effectively, scalable solutions for skill development are imperative. This involves creating an ecosystem

support large-scale skill enhancement initiatives. Firstly, systemic change cannot occur in isolation; therefore, it is vital for government bodies and private companies to collaborate and pool resources, expertise and fund-

Therefore, fostering public-private partnerships (PPPs) is essential for expanding skill development initiatives. It is important to align training programs with market demands, focus on outcomebased skilling, leverage technology and design effective, replicable, and adaptable programs. This collaboration can significantly contribute to cre-



ating a more resilient and practical skill development

Several initiatives in the realm of skill development highlight the transformative impact of targeted training and strategic partnerships. One such initiative is Project AMBER, a unique public-private partnership (PPP) where each stakeholder-government, training partners, and the prigrams, which are in sync with

vate sector (philanthropy)—contributes to the model. This initiative aims to enhance overall employment and retention outcomes by prioritising the quality of training, mentoring, and retention. Such initiatives not only help achieve success at an individual level but also lay the groundwork for broader systemic changes that can redefine the impact of the skilling ecosystem.

Secondly, aligning skilling programs with market demand is crucial. Collaborating with businesses provides valuable input on course content which ensures that learners are trained on skill sets that are relevant for the industry. Employer feedback mechanisms enable continuous adjustments to training pro-

industry requirements. This approach addresses the skills gap by equipping learners with relevant skills, helping them adapt effectively to the workplace. Ultimately, this strategy offers a solution to talent scarcity and unemployment by bridging the gap between workforce skills and market

India program. When will it be

To ensure training programmes remain dynamic, it's important to integrate datadriven insights to evaluate the progress of the trainees. Thirdly, focusing on outcomebased skilling is essential as it prioritises employment and retention rather than just training. Outcome-based skilling is an approach to training that focuses on achieving specific, measurable outcomes rather than merely completing a set

curriculum or an instructional programme.

Finally, with the right use of technology, we can design skill development programmes that are both effective and scalable and create significant impact. Technology can greatly expand the reach and accessibility of these programmes through online learning platforms, virtual classrooms, and mobile-friendly resources, even in remote areas. At the same time, standardised models like 'train-the-trainer' programmes ensure that rapid expansion does not come at the cost of quality, maintaining consistency across different regions.

(The writer is CEO, Generation India Foundation with inputs from Sourabh Anand, views are personal)

HYDERABAD | WEDNESDAY | NOVEMBER 27, 2024

IN BRIEF



Term deposits outpace CASA growth

erm deposits, which offer more attractive return, outpaced the growth in CASA (current account and savings account), and their share in total deposits rose to 61.4 per cent in September 2024 from 59.8 per cent a year ago, as per RBI data. The Reserve Bank on Tuesday released Quarterly 'Basic Statistical Return' (BSR): Deposits with Scheduled Commercial Banks - September 2024. "A substantial amount of deposits have shifted to higher interest rate bucket during the latest monetary policy tightening cycle; term deposits bearing over 7 per cent interest rate has increased to 68.8 per cent from 54.7 per cent a year ago," it said. As per the BSR, bank deposits growth (y-o-y) at 11.7 per cent in September 2024 remained close to that in the previous quarter. Deposits of all population groups (rural/semiurban/urban/metropolitan) recorded double-digit annual growth During Q2:2024-25, 66.5 per cent of the total incremental deposits were contributed by the metropolitan branches, which have 54.7 per cent share in total deposits.



Govt invites comments on amendments in coal bill

he government has sought comments on the draft amendments proposed in the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development)Amendment Bill, 2024 an official statement said on Tuesday. The amendments include using mined out or decoaled land for public utility like setting up nuclear plant and having provision to lease the land for its better utilisation, sources said. "Ministry of Coal invites comments/feedback from the public as a part of the public consultation exercise on the draft amendments proposed in the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024," the coal ministry statement said. The Cabinet had earlier approved a policy for use of land acquired under Coal Bearing Areas Act.

The government had approved a policy for utilisation of nonminable land for development and setting up of infrastructure relating to coal and energy.



Majhi presents Rs 12,156 cr supplementary budget

disha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Tuesday presented a supplementary budget of Rs 12,156 crore for the 2024-25 fiscal in the assembly. While laying the supplementary statement of expenditure, Majhi, who also holds the finance portfolio, said this budget is aimed at fulfilling the requirement of funds for public welfare and developmental activities, mainly through reallocation of available resources and receipt of tied-up resources from various sources. He said the funds proposed in the supplementary budget would meet the additional requirement of expenditure for completion of important ongoing projects and centrally sponsored schemes Some of the new initiatives to be covered in the supplementary budget include Rs 125 crore for holding the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in Bhubaneswar, and Rs 92 crore for the 'Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan' (DAJGUA). It also has provision of Rs 142 crore for Constituency Wise Allocation under the Minimum Needs Programme, Rs 299 crore for deployment of central forces to tackle the Maoist menace and Rs 51 crore for installation of CCTV Surveillance System in police stations and outposts.

Cooperative banks to be digitised by March 2025: NABARD Chairman

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) Chairman Shaji K V on Tuesday said cooperative banks are expected to be digitised by March 2025 with a view to streamline operations and enhance the efficiency of these financial institutions.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has mandated all cooperative banks to adopt the Core Banking Solution (CBS) marking a significant step towards modernisation.

"We are on behalf of central government undertaking digitisation of cooperatives. By March 2025 it will happen and by that time we will invite fintechs to work on that. We need a lot of technology solutions to work on these digitised database that we will have besides looking at transaction trails of digital platform," he said.

Speaking at a CII event here, he said NABARD is proposing to set up a common shared services entity across the country for all rural coop-



"Both government and the Shaji said fintechs must RBI have agreed in principle for this entity. We jointly with look to enhance their focus on the cooperatives sector and RRBs, noting that both are the central government and cooperative banks will set up engaging with technology in a a separate company for digital adoption," he said.

There will be ample room This entity will also need lot for fintechs to devise tech of fintech collaboration and solutions' work on the digithere are a lot of opportunities tised database and platforms for fintechs to partner with in the two areas of cooperaboth regional rural banks tives and RRBs in the coming (RRBs) and cooperative banks. days, he said.

Observing that RRBs are the middle layer of the bank-As smaller entities, most cooperative banks are currently not able to invest in ing system in the country, he said these banks are engaging account of the intervention of the Department of Financial Services (DFS) in the finance ministry.

Now, consolidation of RRBs is also being agreed in-princi-ple by the finance ministry and this could lead to a situation of 'One State One RRB', he added.

Earlier this month, the finance ministry has initiated the fourth round of consolidation for RRBs and the number of such banks is likely to come down to 28 from 43 at present.

As per the the finance ministry roadmap, 15 RRBs operating in various states will be merged to achieve operational efficiency and cost rationali-

Among states that will see onsolidation of RRBs include Andhra Pradesh, which has the maximum of four RRBs, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal (3 each), and Bihar, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan (2 each).

Proptech mkt size in India to jump multifold

PNS NEW DELHI

The Proptech market size is estimated to jump multifold to around USD 600 billion by 2047 from the current USD 10.5 billion due to the rise in the use and EY joint

report. Realtors apex body CREDAI and Ernst & Young (EY) released their joint report at the association's 25th foundation day. Indian real estate sector is

set to cross USD 4.8 trillion in market size by 2047 from the current around USD 300 bil-

The real estate sector will contribute over 18 per cent to the projected USD 26 trillion GDP in 2047. "The current market penetration for ICT/PropTech-based solutions in the real estate sector is USD 10.5 billion which is less than 5 per cent of the overall real estate market size," the report

LABOUR MIN TO EPFO

At present, PropTech makes up less than 5 per cent of the USD 300 billion real estate sector. CREDAI-EY report further highlighted that the PropTech market is expected to be around of technology in the real estate sector, according to CREDAI will be 12-13 per cent of the USD 600 billion by 2047, which

overall real estate sector. "PropTech is shifting from the

traditional role as facilitators to growth drivers in the real estate sector. The integration of propTech is enhancing the

operation efficiency, streamlining automation, reducing expenses and improving margins in the real estate sector," the report said. Boman Irani, President of CREDAI, said, "Indian real estate finds itself at an extremely crucial and exciting junction, characterized by rapid urbanisation, technological integration, pivot towards sustainable methodologies and ever-increasing homebuyer and government focus.

Sensex, Nifty snap rally on weak global trends, tariff concerns

PNS MUMBAI

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty snapped the two-day rally and closed lower on Tuesday in line with weak global market trends amid concerns over tariff threats by US President-elect Donald

In a volatile trade, the 30share Sensex declined 105.79 points or 0.13 per cent to settle at 80,004.06. During the day, it lost 311.18 points or 0.38 per cent to 79,798.67. The broader NSE Nifty

declined by 27.40 points or 0.11 per cent to 24,194.50. Adani Ports & SEZ was the

biggest loser among Sensex stocks, dropping by 3.23 per cent. UltraTech Cement, Sun Pharma, NTPC, Tata Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra, Larsen & Toubro and Power Grid were among the lag-

On the other hand, Asian aints, Infosys, ISW Steel, Tata Consultancy Services and Reliance Industries were among the biggest gainers.

Global stock markets declined following concerns over US President-elect Donald Trump's comment that he plans to impose new tariffs on Mexico, Canada and China as soon as he takes office on January 20.

technology, he said.

"The domestic market took a pause after the recent strong

However, the broader market remained agile. FIIs have turned net buyers, breaking a long streak of selling, with MSCI rebalancing," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said.

All Adani group stocks ended lower, with Adani Green Energy tumbling 7.05 per cent. Broader markets defied

trend with the BSE smallcap gauge climbing 0.62 per cent and midcap index by 0.10 per

Among sectoral indices, utilities dropped 1.77 per cent, auto (1.26 per cent), oil & gas (0.93 per cent) and services

Gold plunges Rs 1,250 to Rs 78,150 per 10 gm amid strong dollar

PNS NEW DELHI

Gold prices fell sharply for the second straight session and plunged Rs 1,250 to Rs 78,150 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday as strengthening dollar took the sheen off the yellow metal in the global

According to the All India Sarafa Association, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent puri-ty settled Rs 1,000 lower at Rs 79,400 per 10 grams on Monday. Gold of 99.5 per cent purity also slumped Rs 1,250 to Rs 77,750 per 10 grams from Monday's closing level of Rs 79,000 per 10 grams.
Silver also followed suit and

declined Rs 1,100 to Rs 90,600 per kg on Tuesday. It had closed Rs 1,600 lower at Rs 91,700 per kg in the previous session.

Analysts said US Presidentelect Donal Trump's threat of imposing additional tariff on imports from China, Mexico and Canada drove investors towards the American currenuation in the Middle East reduced gold's safe-haven

Focus on plans to launch ELI Scheme

The Labour Ministry on Tuesday asked the retirement fund body EPFO to focus on preparations for boosting IT infrastructure and capacity building to launch the Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme. Finance Minister Nirmala

Sitharaman had announced in the Union Budget that the government will launch three employment-linked schemes based on enrolment in Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO). Three schemes for ELI were

announced in Union Budget 2024-25 as part of the Prime Minister's package of five schemes and initiatives to facilitate employment, skilling and other opportunities for 4.1 crore youth over 5 years with a central outlay of Rs 2 lakh

The ELI Scheme aims to create over 2 crore jobs in the country over 2 years. This will significantly contribute to increasing employment oppornhancing

According to a ministry statement, a comprehensive

review of the various attached offices and autonomous institutions of the Ministry of Labour and Employment was held on Tuesday, chaired by Labour Secretary Sumita

During the review, the EPFO was asked to focus on preparations for the launch of the Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme, with respect to the preparedness of IT infrastructure and aspects related to capacity building, among oth-

For the upcoming EPFO apex decision-making body Central Board of Trustees 2024, the EPFO was also directed to be ready with various important aspects to be reported to the CBT members. It was reiterated that the ministry, with the Chief Labour

Commissioner (Central), will continue the drive for review and resolution of pending cases of Industrial Disputes and Claim cases, timely onboarding of inspection reports on the Shram Suvidha Portal, besides undertaking review of inspection formats to streamlining

A review of pendency in the Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts (CGITs) and bringing reforms through e-courts was emphasised. Judicial training of Central Labour Service (CLS) officers with respect to the development needs of tripartite constituents -- the Central and State officers, Trade Union Members, and Members of Employment organisations, among others.

Training institutes of the ministry -- VV Giri National Labour Institute (VVGNLI) and Dattopant Thengadi National Board for Workers Education and Development to review, rationalise and monitor the existing training mod-

Axis AMC, Axis MF Trustee pay Rs 16.57 lakh to settle case with Sebi

PNS NEW DELHI

Axis Asset Management Company (Axis AMC) and Axis Mutual Fund Trustee on Tuesday settled with markets regulator Sebi a case related to an alleged violation of mutual fund norms by paying Rs 16.57

Axis AMC is the investment

manager of Axis Mutual Fund. The SCN was issued to Applicant 1 (Axis AMC) as it has incurred the excess expenses of the mutual fund scheme, thereby allegedly violating the Sebi rules, whereas Axis Mutual Fund Trustee (applicant 2) by not ensuring

tions, Sebi said in the order. The order came after the applicants proposed to settle the instant proceedings initiated against them, without "admitting or denying the find-

the compliance of Applicant 1

with the Mutual Fund regula-



ings of facts and conclusions of

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) initiated adjudication proceedings against the Axis AMC for the alleged violation of Sebi rules and against the Axis Mutual Fund Trustee Ltd for the alleged violation of Mutual Funds rules.

Thereafter, the markets

Singh said the per capita

milk availability has also

increased to 471 gm per day in

2023-24 from 459 gm per day

watchdog issued a show cause notice on March 22, 2024, to the applicants for the alleged violations.

"In view of the acceptance of the settlement terms and the receipt of the settlement amount by Sebi, the instant adjudication proceedings initiated against the applicant vide SCN dated March 22, 2024, is disposed of in terms of the settlement regulations," Sebi's adjudicating officer Barnali Mukherjee said in the

Axis AMC and Axis Mutual Fund Trustee applied to settle the proceedings that may be initiated against it for allegedly violating the market norms.

Pursuant to the receipt of the settlement application, the applicants proposed revised settlement terms, wherein they will pay collectively Rs 16.57 lakh as the settlement amount.

The revised terms proposed

India signs Riyadh design law treaty

PNS NEW DELHI

India has signed Riyadh Design Law Treaty, which seeks to harmonise procedures and simplify registration processes of industrial designs in different countries, an official statement said on Tuesday.

After nearly two decades of negotiations, the member states of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) adopted the Design Law Treaty (DLT), the commerce and industry ministry said.

"By signing the Final Act of the Riyadh Design Law Treaty, India builds on its progress and reaffirms its commitment to fostering inclusive growth and ensuring equitable access to intellectual property protection," it said.

The treaty seeks to harmonise the procedural frameworks for industrial design protection, improving the efficiency and accessibility of registration processes across multiple jurisdictions, it added.

The DLT introduces sevapplication.

Govt working on integrated platform for insolvency ecosystem

PNS NEW DELHI

The government is working on an integrated platform for the insolvency ecosystem covering key stakeholders that will also help speed up resolution processes.

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), which came into force in 2016, aims to provide marketlinked and time-bound resolution of stressed assets. However, there have been delays in the resolution process.

Anita Shah Akella, Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), on Tuesday emphasised that IBC is not a recovery mechanism but a rescue mechanism.

She was speaking at a conference in the national capital to mark the eighth annu-

al day of the Indian Institute of Insolvency Professionals of ICAI.

While mentioning various steps taken and also being planned to further improve IBC resolutions, she said the ministry is working on having an integrated platform for the insolvency ecosystem.

"(It will be a) federated architecture that will push and pull data as and when required," she noted.

The platform will connect MCA, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) and insolvency professionals, among others. It will have various features such as red flags in case of delays and alerts on the app, she added.

Milk production up 4 pc despite fall in output

is celebrated every year on

November 26 to honour the

Father of white revolution,

Verghese Kurien, who was

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's milk production rose nearly 4 per cent annually to 239.3 million tonnes in 2023-24 on better productivity, even as milk output of buffaloes declined 16 per cent annually, according to government data on Tuesday.

The milk output of India, the world's largest milk producer, stood at 230.58 MT in 2022-23.

However, the annual growth rate has slowed down in the previous two fiscal years, the data showed. The growth rate was 6.62 per cent in 2017-18; 2024 on the occasion of

6.47 per cent in FY19; 5.69 per cent in FY20; 5.81 per cent in FY21; and 5.77 per cent in FY22. In FY23 it came down to 3.83 per cent and 3.78 per cent

Addressing an event to celebrate National Milk Day, Union Minister of Fisheries Animal Husbandry and Dairying Rajiv Ranjan Singh said the milk production has increased to around 239 MT in 2023-24 on the back of

improvement in productivity. The minister released Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics



The minister noted that the average growth in India's milk production has been 6 per cent in the last 10 years as against the global average of 2

per cent. As per government data, milk production from buffaloes has decreased 16 per cent in 2023-24 compared to the previous year.

Milk output from exotic/crossbred cattle has increased 8 per cent while production indigenous/non-descript cattle increased 44.76 per cent.

eral key provisions aimed at benefiting design applicants, including relaxed time limits, the reinstatement of lost rights, the option to correct or add priority claims, simplified procedures for recording assignments and licenses and the option to file multiple designs in a single

HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY nmda URBAN FORESTRY

Rc. No. 1512/UF/HMDA/2024 TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sub : HMDA - Urban Porestry - Installation and Operation of Children Kiddy rides in Suffiguda Park and maintenance & development of greenery in HMDA - Reg. The HMDA is inviting tenders for (1) Installation and Operation of Children Kidd

ides in Safilguda Park and (2) Maintenance & Development of greenery in HMD/ rom the registered contractors in any State or Central Government Departments Organizations who have previous experience of essecuting similar nature of works or e-procurement platform. The last date for tender filing is 05.12.2024. For further detail. e visit e-procurement website http://tender.telangana.gov.in. DIFR.R.O. No.: 707-FP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25, Dt. 26.11.2024

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
PUBLIC HEALTH & MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT 'E'-PROCUREMENT NOTICE (Notice Inviting Tender) -Proc. Notice No.15/SE/PH/Wgl/NIT/1/2024-25/1024 Construction of CC Road and CC Drain in Ward No.7 at Dharmap. Municipality for an amount of Rs.395.50 Lakhs. 2) Construction of CC Road and CC Drain in Ward No.11,12,13&14 at Dharmapuri Municipality for an amount of Rs.243.00 Lakhs. Bid Down Load Start Date: 28-11-2024 and End Date: 16-12-2024. Further details can be seen @ e-procurement market place .e., www.tender.telangana.gov.in and for any further clarifications required

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Wednesday November 27, 2024

It's now 'sensationalism over substance':

DEEPA BHATIA ON LONG-FORM DOCUMENTARY EDITING

TEJAL SINHA tejal.sinha30@gmail.com

n the realm of filmmaking, where stories have the power to transform and transcend, Deepa Bhatia is a masterful storyteller who is redefining the boundaries of creativity and social impact. With a career spanning over two decades, this visionary editor, producer and director has consistently pushed the envelope, leveraging her exceptional craft to bring to life narratives that are both deeply personal and universally relatable. From the intricacies of human emotion to the complexities of social justice, her films are an attestation to her unwavering commitment to amplifying marginalised voices and sparking meaningful dialogue.

As a leading figure in Bollywood, Bhatia has edited some of the industry's most commercially successful films, including *Taare* Zameen Par, My Name is Khan, Rock On, Kai Po Che, Student of the Year and Raees. Her projects are not just refined to these but also include the critically acclaimed films Kedarnath, Drive and the highly anticipated biopic on Sachin Tendulkar, Sachin: A Billion Dreams. With her hands on the pulse of contemporary storytelling, she continues to inspire audiences and push the boundaries of cinematic excellence. As a BAFTA Breakthrough 2024 participant, she is poised to take her creative vision to new heights, solidifying her position as a trail-blazing filmmaker and a beacon of inspiration for generations to come.

This recognition marks a significant milestone in her career and we had the opportunity to discuss its impact on her future projects and aspirations.

Deepa's eyes light up as she discusses her selection for BAFTA Breakthrough 2024: "The word is so laden with meaning for me," says our guest for the day, who has been into editing for a long time, for about 25 years. She feels this recognition comes at a perfect time as she transitions into independent filmmaking. "First Act was my first baby step towards that. I'm writing my own film now. So, it's really given me a lot of strength, encouragement, hope and energy that yes, something's changed. Some kind of pattern has broken." Looking at her influences with the international exposure and opportunities, she's seen it coming from Britain like Gary Dollner's Fleabag. She hopes to engage with industry experts like



Jon Harris and Chris Smith to gain guidance and inspiration.

Her current project that she's writing at the moment is a period film set in India's pre-independence era, an adaptation of P Sainath's *The Last Heroes*. "Just imagine getting a conversation with Peter Morgan," she exclaims. "Oh my god!" As a woman in the industry, she's drawn to exploring specific issues and admires writers like Sharon Hogan in Bad Sisters and Sally Wainwright in *Happy Valentine*. "So, there are a whole lot of people that I would love to talk to to get some guidance, inspiration, more so since this is my first feature. Period projects are very difficult and in India, they often fall into a certain genre that is jingoistic and hyper-nationalist. I want to do something authentic and I'd love to have conversations with people who share my vision." The Hawaa Hawaai editor's admiration for the British film and television industry's writing is evident. Well, talking of First Act, the project has garnered critical acclaim and recognition. "My husband, Amol and I have been making films for children and we realised that the film industry's treatment of children is governed by parents and the industry's shortcomings in handling their well-being." She hopes to achieve a change in the industry's approach to working

approach to working with children through the documentary's storytelling. Looking at her jour-

ney, the Fitoor editor has worked on various genres, from feature films to documentaries. She shares her approach to e d i t i n g

across dif-

With a portfolio that's a

storytelling - from the

masterclass in innovative



ing change on sets.

She approaches each project with honesty, aligning her editing style with the filmmaker's goals and aspirations. "Every project has an aspiration and the edit must align with that aspiration and with the call of the material," she explains. By mixing up genres and roles, Deepa avoids complacency and stays challenged, ensuring her work remains fresh and authentic.

the industry looking inward and enforc-

When faced with creative and technical challenges, the *Drive* fame embraces discomfort and growth. While working on *Guests* (2009), a documentary film

about the agrarian crisis and farm suicides in India, she was pushed out of her comfort zone. "I was a little out of my depth and I was afraid because I didn't know enough," she

because I didn't know enough," she a d m i t s . However, by taking risks and facing her fears, she

grew both personally and professionally. Through her experiences, Bhatia emphasises the importance of taking risks and facing challenges head-on. "I always try to put myself into these situations so that I'm really taxed and challenged," she says. By doing so, she continues to evolve in her art, pushing boundaries and creating meaningful content. When asked about the future of long-form documentary editing, the *Raees* fame expresses concern about the industry's increasing focus on fast-paced content. "Downhill is what my answer is...the platforms are now more and more interested in certain kinds of sensational storytelling."

sensational storytelling." Also known for *Kai Po Che*! she believes that the film industry can benefit from innovation and change to support more inclusive and diverse voices. She emphasises the importance of including people from non-urban centers in teams and creating opportunities for young talent from far-flung areas.

Her experience with Instagram has led her to discover a new relationship with young people from remote areas, asking her editing questions and seeking mentorship. "Tve become friends and a mentor to so many young people...trying to include people for whom this ecosystem is far away." She highlights the need for inclusivity and diversity in the film industry, encouraging others to do the same. "If there's a way we can find ways to

include them in our creative teams, in our production teams, I think that will take the narrative," she says. By including people from non-urban centers and providing opportunities for young talent, she believes that the industry can become more representative and diverse. She had also worked with an NGO on a project that empowered women to tell their own stories after the Gujarat earthquake. "We trained them to use the camera, to do interviews and I mentored them and they made their own film documenting the conditions in the villages," she recalls, highlighting the importance of technology in making storytelling more accessible and inclusive.

"Whatever you believe in, you go after that," says the *My Name is Khan* fame, as we head towards the end of the chat and as she shares her message for the aspiring filmmakers. By staying true to oneself and telling stories that matter, she believes that aspiring filmmakers can make a meaningful impact in the industry.

'More authentic we are to our stories, farther they travel'

AARTI SREENATH aarti.sreenath9@gmail.com

onisha Tyagarajan, not long ago, named a 2024 BAFTA Breakthrough honouree, stands at a pivotal moment in her career. Known for her work on globally resonant projects like The Hunt for Veerappan, the International Emmy-winning Delhi Crime and the Oscar-selected The Glassworker, she is using this prestigious recognition to amplify untold narratives and foster international collaborations.

"A lot of what I'm pursuing involves international collaborations and co-productions," she explains. Current ventures include a climate action documentary with Sarvnik Kaur, an animated series co-produced with Richa Chadha and Ali Fazal and the groundbreaking *The Glassworker*, a hand-drawn animation by Usman Riaz.

From the controversial *The Hunt for Veerappan* to *Delhi Crime*, she has consistently sought authenticity while navigating sensitive narratives. For *Veerappan*, she immersed herself in the forests where the notorious bandit once roamed, working with indigenous communities and experts like wildlife filmmakers Krupakar and Senani. "Every story we told had to honour its teller's truth," she says. The project was bolstered by extensive archival research and insights from lawyers, activists, and storytellers like Selvamani Selvaraj, the director.

Her approach to *Delhi crime* was equally meticulous. "Richie Mehta's crystal-clear vision drove the narrative," she explains. She took on the logistical challenges of securing real locations, managing tight budgets and executing complex sequences like protest scenes, all while maintaining the story's emotional integrity.

"Emerging talents bring new voices to the forefront, but navigating this vast industry can be overwhelming," she notes. Programs like these provide the crucial support and guidance necessary to turn ideas into impactful realities.

As a creative producer, her projects often focus on underrepresented themes,

from gender and climate issues to wildlife and social constructs. "Stories have the power to shift perspectives, even subtly," she says. She carefully chooses projects that raise questions and foster dialogue, often inspired by filmmakers whose unique points of view challenge her own understanding.

secrets of her storytelling genius

Behind every great film, there's a master storyteller and editor,

who weaves magic with their craft. With a remarkable career

spanning over two decades, Deepa Bhatia has left an indelible

mark on Indian cinema, expertly editing, producing and directing

some of the most iconic films in recent history, including *Taare*

Zameen Par, My Name is Khan, Rock On, Kai Po Che and Raees.

Now in this exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*, she takes us on a

journey into the heart of her creative process, revealing the

Her mission is clear: to bring India's rich and diverse narratives to a global audience. "India's content landscape is a treasure trove of stories," she says. "Our diversity is unmatched and each project reveals a new layer of culture, geography, and lived experience."

Monisha recalls her time

in the forests for *The Hunt* for Veerappan as transformative. "It was surreal to live amidst nature, meet indigenous communities and gain a new perspective on harmony with the wild," she reminisces.

Even in high-pressure situa-

tions, she prioritises authenticity. "When dealing with sensitive topics, cultivating empathy within the crew and stakeholders is key," she shares. Thorough research and trust-building ensure that her work remains true to its subjects.

Looking ahead, she is commit-

Looking ahead, she is committed to expanding the global reach of Indian stories. "The more authentic we are to our stories, the farther they travel," she says. She also recognises the importance of tools like dubbing and subtitles in bridging cultural divides and making stories accessible to wider audiences.



FROM SCARS TO SMOOTH SKIN

urns can damage multiple skin layers, leading to scars. These scars can cause discomfort, itching, tightness and more importantly, impact emotional well-being. In the last few decades, the aesthetic segment has seen tremendous advances in research and development. Burn injuries that were once considered fatal are now successfully treated. Scar appearance can vary; they can be flat, discolored, or sunken, depending on factors such as skin texture, the type of injury and an individual's age.

Here's a comprehensive guide to surgical and non-surgical treatments for burn scars. It is important to consult with a qualified dermatologist or plastic surgeon to identify which treatments will be most effective based on individual needs.

NON-SURGICAL BURN SCAR

TREATMENTS

Non-surgical treatments are often the first line of treatment for mild to moderate burn scars. They aim to improve the appearance of scars, curb discomfort and recondition skin elasticity without invasive

Bio remodeling

Bio remodeling, also known as Profhilo, is a minimally-invasive treatment that involves minimal discomfort and little to no downtime. It utilises stabilized ultrapure hyaluronic acid to hydrate and rejuvenate the skin on a deeper level, thereby, encouraging natural tissue repair. Profhilo, unlike traditional dermal fillers, spreads evenly under the skin, promotingelasticity and helping scars become softer. For those whose burn scars are mildly textured or raised, this is a preferred technique, as it restores hydration, improves tissue quality and leaves the skin looking smoother.

Derma pen with PRP scar reduction

Microneedling using a derma pen, combined with Platelet-Rich Plasma (PRP) therapy, is another method for scar reduction. While the derma pen creates tiny punctures in the skin to promote natural healing, PRP, on the other side, accelerates tissue regeneration. It's minimally invasive and the dual approach assuages burn scars and

Steroid injections

improves their texture over

For hypertrophic and keloid scars, steroid injections work well. It's a targeted treatment that requires multiple sessions, spaced a few weeks apart, but helps achieve the desired effect. By injecting corticosteroids directly into the scar tissue, inflammation is reduced and the scar becomes flatter and less noticeable.

SURGICAL BURN SCAR TREATMENTS

Surgical interventions provide a more definite success, especially when burn scars cause functional impairments or are resistant to non-surgical methods. These procedures focus on removing scar tissue and restoring the skin's natural appearance and mobility.

Microvascular therapy

Microvascular therapy is typically useful for scars that restrict movement or have poor blood supply. It involved relinking small blood vessels to restore circulation in scarred areas. The procedure promotes skin healing and to a large extent reduces the visibility of burn scars by improving vascular health.

Flap surgery

Flap surgery is used for intense scars that involve extensive tissue loss. It is a more progressive procedure where healthy skin, along with underlying blood vessels, is transferred to the scarred area from a donor site. The transferred flap mergers well with the surrounding skin, warranting both functional and

Skin grafting

Skin grafting is a familiar treatment to many. One of the most common surgical treatments for burn scars, it is effective for large scars. Here, healthy skin from another part of the body is transplanted onto the scarred area. It uses the top

grafts or full-thickness grafts, which is including the dermis, chosen depending on the scar's depth. The choice of treatment depends on factors and is to be decided by the expert and patient mutually. In some cases, a combination of surgical and nonsurgical treatments is recommended to achieve optimal results. Whatever the treatment is, post-treatment care is a must for maintaining results and preventing complications. Regular follow-ups with your specialist will ensure the treatment

progresses as expected.

layers of the skin, also known as split-thickness

(Dr. Shweta Sawalka Nangalia, dermatologist, cosmetologist and trichologist at Skin Glow Clinic.)

what's brewing?

















The annual program "Sangam" for Sr. Seeds Primary Campus, part of The Creek Planet Schools, at Vediri Township, HMT Colony, Miyapur and Seeds Arion Campus at Srivani Nagar, Ameenpur, was held at Vishwanaadha Gardens, marking a resounding success. The event saw the participation of guests, including Pandu Ranga Chary, vice-chairman, Narendra Prasad Edpuganti, founder and managing director and Dr. Jayashree Nair, academic head.



The 52nd Pandit Motiram Pandit Maniram Sangeet Samaroh, organised by the Pandit Jasraj Cultural Foundation, continues to enchant music and dance enthusiasts with its stellar lineup of artists. Day 2 of the Samaroh presents a rich blend of traditional art forms featuring celebrated performers in Pakhawaj, Bharat Natyam and Carnatic

vocal music.



Sadhana Infinity International School celebrated its much-awaited Annual Day, with the theme, Twisted Tales – Fantasy Meets Reality, celebrating the timeless relevance of traditional narratives in shaping the minds of today's learners. The event marked he presence of Ajay Mishra, Retd. IAS Officer, along with Chairman Sunand Surapaneni, Chairperson Padmapriya Surapaneni, Chairperson and

managing director Sadhana Surapaneni, among the other





The Huddle, at The League Hyderabad, recently celebrated the start of the Christmas season with a joyful cake mixing event. Brimming with tradition and merriment, the event brought together guests for an afternoon filled with festive cheer, laughter and a taste of Christmas joy.



flagship electric motorcycle, Quanta, at T-Hub in Hyderabad. designed and manufactured at Gravton's stateof-the-art Cherlapally Hyderabad

Gravton Motors Pvt Ltd launched its

ARCHIE







CALVIN AND HOBBES REMEMBER LAST YEAR, WHEN IT RAINED ALL WEEK? IT POURED SO HARD WE COULDN'T EVEN MAKE A FIRE







GARFIELD

NANCY

THIS PROBLEM IS SO EASY





WHAT A SIMPLE ASSIGNMENT



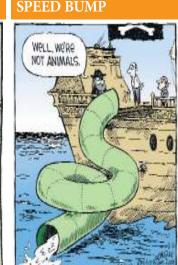




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ACROSS

DOWN

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- 8 Bees make this 10 Exchanges for money
- 13 Make
- 14 Hair in ring shapes

 Part of your face 2 Don't go

3 Birds lay these

of these behind them 5 Spoke very quietly

7 A person in a laboratory

mixes these together

- 17 Smashed to pieces 19 People who work in libraries
- cloth is joined

11 Go in

12 A month

17 The edge around the top of a container 18 A noise made by a pig

15 Bones in your chest

16 A line of sewing where

9 Of exactly the same size

4 Many animals have one



Hyderabad | Wednesday November 27, 2024

VIKRAM 'READY TO SHINE' WITH ROTI KAPDA ROMANCE

IT'S NO CAKEWALK **FOR ANYONE TO ENTER TOLLYWOOD** WITHOUT CONNECTION. **SO HAS IT BEEN FOR VIKRAM REDDY, WHO HAŚ NOW TURNED INTO**

A DIRECTOR FILM ROTI KAPADA ROMANCE. **AHEAD OF THE** RELEASE, HE **SHARES HIS JOURNEY AND STRUGGLES** FROM BEING **RAISED IN LB** NAGAR BASTI

TO DIRECTING

THIS FILM

his confidence.

Determined to meet Puri Jagannadh, He

him," he said. At that time, Puri Jagannadh

several months, the security staff noticed

was working on a film with his brother. After

Vikram's persistence and informed him of the

place where Puri Jagannadh would often rest.

sureshkavirayani@gmail.com very year, many debutant directors emerge with innovative ideas, some of whom achieve success while others continue to strive for it. Becoming a film director is no easy feat; it's a challenging journey. Vikram Reddy's journey is proof of this. Now, Reddy is eagerly awaiting the release of his upcoming film, Roti Kapada Romance, on November 28. "I was born and raised in LB Nagar Basti," said Vikram, as he reminisced about his early days. At the tender age of four, he developed a passion for films, courtesy of his mother, who would watch new films every Friday with her friends. "She took me along and that's how I got introduced to films." His first film was the Balakrishna-starrer Muddula Mavayya. During his intermediate studies, Vikram saw a poster for the film Chitram and decided he wanted to become a director. This was around 2000. "I didn't know how to write a script or screenplay, but I started writing stories." Vikram said. After completing his degree in B.Sc. Computers, he chose not to look for a job, as he wanted to pursue his dream of becoming a filmmaker. "I wanted to see a script and understand how it was written. One of my friend's acquaintances took me to Warangal, where the famous Surabhi theatre group was performing. Seeing my passion for films, the director of the play handed me a script and cautioned me about its importance, advising me not to lose it. That was the first time I saw a script and learned how to write one," he recalls After writing a few stories, he decided to work as an assistant director. However, he didn't have any connections in the film industry. "I tried to meet Krishna Vamsi for three years, but I couldn't even get a chance to see him. During that time, he made three films—*Chakram*, Danger and Sri Anjaneyam-but I couldn't get through him. The same thing happened with director V.V. Vinayak while he was working on Bunny," he

shared. Despite these setbacks, he never lost regularly went to his office and waited in front of the gate. "I couldn't get access to speak with

Finally, Puri Jagannadh called Vikram and asked about him. "I want to join as your assistant," he told Puri. However, Puri gave him a stern lecture, saying that there were many aspiring directors like him in Krishna Nagar and advised him not to waste his time. From that moment, he decided not to pursue the role of an assistant director and instead set his sights on becoming an independent director. "I started watching films from various countries, including French, Korean and Iranian cinema, to learn about filmmaking, screenplays, editing and the overall craft. I immersed myself in world cinema for a few years and then began writing my own story," Vikram said. In 2013, he met producer Bekkem Venugopal and narrated the story of Roti Kapada Romance to him. "Discussions were ongoing and Venugopal suggested partnering with producer Dil Raju garu for the film. When I met Dil Raju, he asked me to make some changes to my story. While I was open to small adjustments, he wanted significant changes that I wasn't willing to make. So, he refused to produce the film," Vikram shared. Refusing Dil Raju, a prominent producer, was no small decision. Bekkem Venugopal cautioned Vikram and urged him to reconsider, but Vikram stood firm. "It took two and a half years of back and forth with Dil Raju during Eventually, Vikram returned to Bekkem Venugopal and the project finally took off. "It was almost seven years of struggle to bring Roti Kapada Romance to life. It's like a baby to

me," he said, recalling how his younger son was born during the film's development and is now seven years old. Over the years, Vikram sifted through nearly 1,500 to 1,600 profiles to cast the perfect actors for his film. "I chose whoever suited my characters best. The story revolves around eight characters—four boys and four girls—and explores their love stories, breakups and various emotions," he

> Releasing the film posed another set of challenges. "We initially announced October 4 as the release date but postponed it to October 25 because many films were releasing around the same time. The satellite and OTT rights were bought by ETV Win and the distribution rights were also sold, so the release was not entirely in our control," he said.

The release date was later pushed to November 22, but even that was changed "There were other releases on November 22 as well, and my distributor wanted a wider release, so it was postponed to

November 28. I was frustrated because we had already spent a lot on promotions and pre-release events. The films released the previous week didn't perform well at the box office, but Amaran was still doing

Finally, Roti Kapada Romance is set to release on November 28. "We've secured good screens across the country and I'm confident the film will perform well," he said. He also revealed his ultimate goal. "I have many stories ready, but my dream is to direct Chiranjeevi and his son Ram Charan together in a film. I already have a story prepared for them and I will work tirelessly to achieve this goal," he concluded.



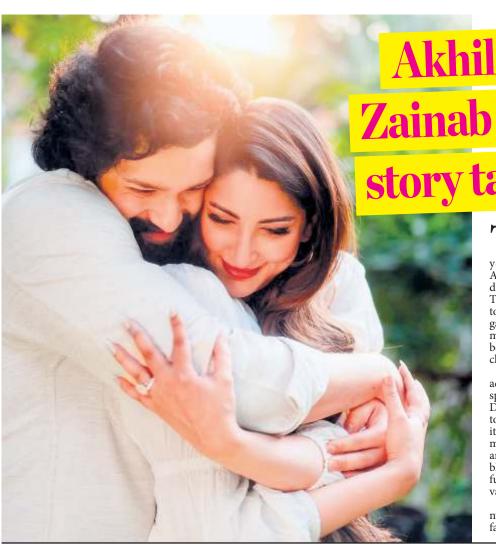
Fear all set to send chills down your spine on Dec 14

to hit the screens before the end of this year. Although *Pushpa 2* is releasing on December 5, many other small films are releasing before and after that big film. One of them is Fear, which is releasing on December

Vedhika plays the main lead in the suspense thriller directed by Haritha Gogineni. The film is produced by Dr. Vanki Penchalayya and AR Abhi. Fear is set against a suspenseful thriller storyline and Arvind Krishna will appear in a special role. Before its release, Fear

T's time for small films had already set a remarkable record, winning over 70 awards at various prestigious international film festivals. On Tuesday, the makers officially announced that they plan to release the film on December 14.

The producer stated that the film will be released in all languages. He added that the teaser, released in Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam, has generated a good response. The film's achievement of winning over 70 awards at international film festivals has further fuelled excitement around its release. the producer said.



Akhil Akkineni and Zainab Ravdjee's love story takes new turn!

engagement of their younger son, Akhil Akkineni, to Zainab Ravdjee, daughter of Zulfi Ravdjee. The engagement ceremony took place in an intimate gathering with close family members, marking the beginning of a beautiful new chapter in their lives.

accomplished artist who has spent her life between India, Dubai and London, bringing together her love for creativity and culture. The two met a couple of years ago, and their relationship has blossomed into a meaningful bond rooted in shared values and mutual respect.

The engagement ceremony was held at the Akkineni family home, a warm and

The Akkineni family intimate setup reflecting the family's preference for privacy and heartfelt celebrations. While the wedding dates are yet to be finalised for sometime next year, the couple and their families are delighted to share this joyous milestone with their well-

wishers. On this special occasion, napter in their lives. Nagarjuna Akkineni Zainab Ravdjee is an expressed his happiness, saying, "As a father, it brings me immense joy to see Akhil take this significant step in his life with Zainab, someone who complements him beautifully. Zainab's grace, warmth and artistic spirit have truly made her a wonderful addition to our family. We are overjoyed and look forward to celebrating this new journey with

both families.



Ukku Satyagraham hits theatres on Nov 29

The popular poet, singer and activist who fought for Telangana statehood, Gaddar, acted in a film titled *Ukku Satyagraham*. Gummadi Vittal Rao, popularly known as Gaddar, also fought against the privatisation of the Visakha Steel Plant. P Satya Reddy, the director and producer, made the film Ukku Satyagraham and announced that it will be released on November 29. The producer recalls

> Gaddar, renowned for his activism and inspiring poetry, made significant contributions to the film. He sang three songs, performed in two, and acted in key messagedriven scenes. Popular writers Goreti Venkanna and Suddala Ashok Teja penned a few other songs, and the music was composed by Srikoti. The producer stated that the film promises to be thought-provoking. He added that the film is deeply rooted in real-life struggles.

Gaddar's contribution to the film.

Former CBI Joint Director VV Lakshmi Narayana attended the event and said it is a good thing that Gaddar acted in this film. "I have seen some scenes and it is inspiring. Gaddar used to greet me as

Lachchanna Etlunnav.' He has infused his inspiration into this film. I hope that this film will be a huge success," said Lakshmi Narayana. Gaddar's daughter Vennela said that her father spent a lot of time on this movie. "His intention was that the steel plant should not be privatized," she said. She wished this movie a great success.

Telugu cinema loses a gem: Mahavatar Narsimha Popular lyric writer Kulasekhar no more premieres at 55th IFFI

Marking a significant milestone in the history of Indian cinema, *Mahavatar Narsimha* had its

king Hiranyakashipu, who wants to exact revenge

on Lord Vishnu and his son Prahlad, whose

Popular lyricist Kulasekhar passed away on Tuesday morning at Gandhi Hospital. His life was a tragic story of a talented individual who began his journey as a journalist and later became a renowned lyricist with many hit songs to his credit. He worked on nearly 100 films as a lyricist.

Kulasekhar started his career as a journalist in a popular Telugu daily. He later transitioned to lyric writing, making his debut with the film *Chitram*, directed by Teja and produced by Ramoji Rao. Kulasekhar collaborated with music director RP Patnaik on many films, becoming a sought-after lyricist in Tollywood. His notable works include Jayam, Gharshana, Vasantham, Ramma! Chilakamma, Nuvvu Nenu, Mrugaraju, Subbu and Dadagiri. Kulasekhar's life took a dramatic turn when he was diagnosed with kleptomania, a rare mental health disorder. In December 2013, he was arrested in Kakinada for stealing a silver crown from a temple. The next day, he attempted to return the crown, but it was found in his

Rajahmundry for treatment. After the incident, Kulasekhar's health declined and he distanced himself from the film industry, friends and family. On Tuesday, news broke that he had passed away at Gandhi Hospital, leaving the Telugu cinema industry in mourning.

world premiere at the prestigious 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI). This cinematic gem, directed by acclaimed filmmaker Ashwin Kumar, takes viewers on a spiritual and visually captivating journey and depicts the epic narratives of Lord Vishnu's third and fourth avatars, Varaha and Narsimha. Taking about the film at the 55th IFFI, the director expressed, "This is not just an animation film; it's a labour of love and a tribute to our rich cultural heritage. Drawing from the Vishnu Purana, Narasimha Purana and Shrimad Bhagavat *Purana.* we have staved true to the original sources to present a story that resonates with all generations. I wanted to preserve these stories not as myths but as part of our collective history and bag, leading to his arrest. Kulasekhar admitted to the crime and was later sent to consciousness The film shows the epic battle between the demon

unshakable faith forces the Lord to take on the form of Narsimha. With a cinematic experience that appeals to all age groups, Mahavatar Narsimha seeks to elevate the standard for Indian animation. This film took four and a half years to make, with lifelike animation and careful attention to detail. Ashwin Kumar addressed the notion that animation in India is mostly meant for young audiences, saying, "We wanted to challenge this perception and create a film for everyone. No one believed in our vision initially, but we've proven that Indian VFX and animation can be of world-class quality." Talking about how the film is just a part of his larger vision, the director added, "This is not just a movie, it's a legacy. Art that is rooted in research and depth resonates deeply and we are committed to upholding this standard in our future endeavours." Mahavatar Narsimha is directed by Ashwin Kumar. Produced By Shilpaa Dhawan, Kushal Desai and Chaitanya Desai, the film has been made under the banner of Kleem Productions and Hombale Films.

ICC board to meet on November 29 to finalise Champions Trophy schedule

PTI ■ DUBAI

→ the all-powerful board of the International → Cricket Council will meet virtually on November 29 to finalise the muchdelayed schedule of the Champions Trophy to be held in Pakistan in February-March next year.
The cause of the delay has

been India's refusal to play in Pakistan considering the tense relations between the two countries. India has not toured Pakistan since the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks. The BCCI wants the tournament to be played in a hybrid model with India games scheduled in a third than the scheduled in the scheduled in a third than the scheduled in the sch country, preferably UAE, something that its Pakistani counterpart has not agreed to thus far.

The ICC board will meet on November 29 to discuss the Champions schedule," spokesperson told PTI on Tuesday.

The crucial virtual meeting takes places two days before BCCI secretary Jay Shah takes over as ICC chairman on December 1.



He and other board members would be keen to resolve the matter before the new regime takes over.

With the deadlock over the schedule and venue yet to be broken, questions have been raised against the current dispensation of the ICC

including chair Greg Barclay and CEO over why it did not resolve the issue earlier and left it for the 11th hour.

With the Indian government firmly sticking to the status quo, Champions Trophy in a hybrid model with India games outside Pakistan is the most likely option. Sources said that PCB will be offered financial incentives, over and above the hosting fees of USD 70 million, to agree to the hybrid model.

followed last year when India

matches in Sri Lanka while

four group games were hosted by Pakistan.

The PCB has spent millions of dollars to renovate stadiums in Karachi, Lahore and Rawalpindi for what will be its first ICC event since it co-hosted the 1996 World

Major teams including England and Australia have toured Pakistan recently after vears of isolation following the horrific attack on the Sri Lanka team bus in 2009.

Since the ICC awarded Champions Trophy hosting rights to Pakistan in 2021, PCB has been facing constant pressure from the fans to host all the games in the

PTI ■ SINGAPORE

ndian Grandmaster D

Gukesh bounced back to

draw a largely uneventful

second game against defending champion Ding Liren of China in the World

It was a good recovery by Gukesh as Liren could do very little with his white

pieces and had to share the

always nice and it's too early,

in the post-game press

"I think after I was surprised

in the opening, I reacted pretty decently, and I didn't give him any chances. It was a solid game with black, which is nice," he added.

If Monday was the day when nothing he did worked according to plan, Tuesday changed everything for Gukesh as he could not have

It was one of the quietest

conference.

23rd turn.

country.
PCB has also threatened that it won't send its national teams to India for future ICC events if the latter doesn't cross the border for

Champions Trophy. Having said that, Pakistan Chess Championship here on Tuesday. Playing with black pieces, Gukesh made a comeback of toured India for the ODI World Cup last year, the sorts, having lost to Liren in the opener of the 14-game team's first visit to the country in seven years. showdown, on Monday.





India head coach Gautam Gambhir has flown back to India with his family due to "personal emergency" and is unlikely to be present during the the two-day pink ball warm-up game in Canberra starting November

Gambhir, however, is slated to directly link up with the squad in Adelaide before the 'Pink Ball Test' starting December 6.

It is understood that Gambhir has sought permission from BCCI brass with regards to his return. "He left with his family on early Tuesday morning for India. It is an unavoidable

personal emergency. He will be back in Adelaide before the start of the second Test match," a BCCI official told PTI on conditions of anonymity. The Indian team will leave

for Canberra on Wednesday, November 27 where the entire team is expected to attend an official reception thrown in their honour by the Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese. The two-day Pink ball match will give the Indian team a chance to get some game

time under its belt. PMXI is a squad full of youngsters but India will get some good match practice with pacer Scott Boland expected to play the game.

game of World Championship

It may be recalled that the Chinese had won the last world championship match against Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia after coming back from behind as many as three times

Gukesh draws with Liren in second

The 32-year-old said he was happy with how he performed in the second round.

"In the first game I played something new in the opening and of course it requires a lot of memory. Today I also played not a common move (for me) 1.E4 and I prepared a lot," Liren

'Draw with black in the "I think it will be a big fight tomorrow. He's a point down world championship match is and he will have the white we still have a long match," the Chennai-based GM said pieces, so I am ready for a fight," he added.

Liren's fifth move, when he moved his Queen's knight, was indication enough about his peaceful intentions. There have been many top-level games that have ended in draws through this manoeuvre and this game was no exception. Gukesh just had to develop

his pieces randomly and the game never really got off to a situation where it could be truly called complicated.

asked for a better start.
Liren did not press at all
while Gukesh just followed Both the Bishops and the Queens were off the board early and what remained the basics as the game ended in a draw via repetition soon after black had completed the were a couple of Knights, the Rooks pair and eight pawns each for both players with hardly any real chances for a variation in the Italian breakthrough.

opening as Liren probably The draw was a just result but did not want to rush things having grabbed a full point

now look up to his next game with optimism with the slightly favourable colour in

the game. In head-to-head encounters, Liren has a handsome threepoint lead in Classical games and Team Gukesh will now be focused on bringing it down in the USD 2.5 million prize money championship.

The 18-year-old Gukesh is the youngest ever challenger to the world crown and is looking to become the first Indian after the iconic Viswanathan Anand to win the title.

"There is obviously some pressure for anyone playing in a World Championship; there is a lot of pressure. But I also see it as a privilege that I can represent so many people and my country," he said.

"I am just focusing on one game at a time. Hopefully, things go my way," he added. The first player to reach 7.5 points among the two will claim the coveted crown in the USD 2.5 million prize money event.

Anand, who has played a major role in shaping Gukesh's career, held the title five times in his illustrious career before Norwegian superstar Magnus Carlsen dethroned him in 2013.

The Moves: 1.E4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.D3 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.A4 d6 7.0-0 h6 8.Be3 Be6 9.A5 Bxc4 10.Dxc4 0-0 11.Bxc5 dxc5 12.B3 Qxd1 13.Rfxd1 Rad8 14.Rdc1 Nd4 15.Ne1 Rd6 16.Kf1 g6 17.Rd1 Rfd8 18.F3 did not want to rush things there was no denying that it kg7 19.Kf2 h5 20.Ne2 Nc6 having grabbed a full point was a morale-boosting advantage in the first game moment for Gukesh who can 23.Nc3 Nd4 game drawn.

My backstory always gives me confidence to tackle any situation: Yashasvi Jaiswal

PTI ■ PERTH

Brought up in penury, the sensational Yashasvi Jaiswal says he now uses the experience gained from those difficult days as ammunition to conquer the battles on and off the field. Jaiswal stamped his class with a masterful hundred in the first Test against myself, how I can believe in Australia, and is poised to take over the mantle of being India's batting mainstay from the great Virat Kohli, who also made a century after a long time.

Having moved to Mumbai from Uttar Pradesh's Bhadohi at age 11 to train at Azad Maidan, Jaiswal lived in tents with the groundsmen and sold paani puri at night to earn money for food.

"It's something backstory) that always gives me confidence that I can come out of any situation. I always fight, I always look to fight, I want to be in the battle, I want to enjoy the Asked about his unusual

battle." Iaiswal said during a with Australian chat television broadcaster Mark Howard.

added, "So this is what it gives me and I am really blessed that I have this life, that can give me a lot of confidence, learnings about me, and how I can go through with different emotions, different situation in my life.

"So I think it's just incredible and I really want to thank god for where I am and what I am doing, and I am doing what I love, so I am just happy at the moment. I want to enjoy this with every ball." His journey to fame is a fascinating tale of a strongwilled man making his own destiny. His swashbuckling hundred more than made for the first-innings duck at Perth, where the five-match Test series began from November 22.

battle and I want to win the celebration after getting to Jaiswal said, "Yes, it was (an unusual) way to bring up the hundred. In my mind, I was The 22-year-old opener like, I will do this or that, and then suddenly, something happened, and I was like, oh my god, what

should I do. "So, I was like, okay, I will just celebrate, and I will enjoy this moment. I was blessed, I was grateful, I enjoyed it, this feeling will stay with me for a long time. "I give kisses to all my loved ones, all my fans who have supported me. I just wanted to give them my love with the kisses.

He spoke to his family after the fine achievement. "I just called my family on

whatsapp, getting everyone along and celebrate with them. My brother always talks to me about cricket." India won the first Test by a huge margin of 297 runs and the second match will be played in Adelaide from December 6.

Getting Venky was one of our main priorities, says Bravo **PTI** ■ JEDDAH

Former West Indies all-rounder Dwayne Bravo, who is now the mentor of reigning champions Kolkata Knight Riders, has defended the team's strategy of "going all out" for Venkatesh Iyer to keep the "core" of the IPL championship-winning side intact.

Seen as a potential captaincy candidate for KKR, Venkatesh's acquisition has sparked some criticism over why he wasn't retained if leadership was part of the team thinktank's plan for him.

"Getting Venky (Venkatesh Iyer) was one of the main priorities for us, as you could see, we went all out for him," said Bravo, a four-time IPL winner at Chennai Super "It's good that we have 90 per

cent of the players from the championship-winning team. That in itself is a positive

sign.
"It's important to keep your core because when you have to build from scratch, it becomes complicated to make combinations and all." "We started planning while I was in Trinidad. We had come with a proper plan, the players we wanted to target," added Bravo, who will be in charge of all the franchises of the Knight Riders label in T20 leagues.

At a staggering Rs 23.75 crore, the 29-year old Madhya Pradesh all-rounder, who has represented India in nine T20Is and two ODIs, emerged as the third most expensive player at the twoday IPL mega auction that concluded here on Monday. Only Rishabh Pant (Lucknow, Rs 27 crore) and Shreyas Iyer



ahead of Venkatesh on the list of most expensive players as he even eclipsed experienced Indian batter KL Rahul, a former Lucknow Super Giants captain, who was picked up by Delhi Capitals for Rs 14 crore. Bravo was also excited that KKR roped in fiery pacer

Umran Malik.

operates, I always admire him -- his work ethic, energy and all. Happy that we're able to nail him down."

KKR CEO and MD Venky Mysore added: "The way the retention rules are set up, the RTM rules, the salary caps, marquee players, and the two-day auction -- this was definitely more demanding,

for sure. Quite nerve-wracking because of the nuances. "The think tank's unanimous view

was to maintain the structure, which we have done. In certain areas, we have also improved and upgraded. Hopefully, it will continue to work well."

Mysore also highlighted the value Rovman Powell would bring to the Kolkata Knight Riders setup, emphasising his extensive experience and leadership qualities.
"Rovman Powell, over the

years, we have seen what he has done in the CPL, other leagues, and, of course, the IPL as well. He's highly experienced, leads West Indies -- that leadership experience, captaincy, and what he has achieved -- all of it put together makes him really, really special. Great to have him in the side."

Australia to retain squad for Adelaide Test, Marsh's fitness will be monitored: McDonald

PTI ■ PERTH

Australia will not make any change to the squad that took a 295-run but there are some fitness concerns over all-rounder Mitchell Marsh's ability to bowl, coach and selector Andrew McDonald has said. Following the crushing loss, McDonald revealed that the team would land in Adelaide for the day-night second Test beginning December 6 earlier than planned to allow an additional net session.

"The people in that changeroom (for Perth Test) are the same people that will be in Adelaide," McDonald was quoted as saying by 'cricket.Com.Au'.

"It (making changes) is always a consideration, wherever you go in the world

Marsh, who bowled just 17

match haul of three wickets, hammering from India in has been dealing with the opening Border- "niggles" since the white-ball the opening Border- "niggles" since the white-ball Gavaskar Trophy Test here tour of England in September. Skipper Pat Cummins has

already revealed that Marsh finished the first Test "a little bit sore." McDonald expressed satisfaction with Marsh's

bowling performance in the first innings but said his fitness would be monitored closely moving forward.
"Has he (Marsh) pulled up

okay? We'll wait and see," McDonald said. "No, we didn't feel that (was a weakness). We knew that Mitch (Marsh) was slightly underdone coming in, but I thought the performance in the first innings was satisfactory."

in terms of the personnel Another player under vou pick for conditions." Another scanner is top-order batter Marnus Labuschagne, who overs in the first Test for a has struggled for form with an average of just 13.66 in his last 10 Test innings. However, McDonald said he has faith in Labuschagne's abilities, describing him as "the player we need" and urging him to rediscover his form.

"That's an ongoing discussion and that ebbs and That's flows in players' careers, so at the moment he's in one of those patches and no doubt he'll be getting critiqued externally," McDonald said. "But internally we're really confident that, at his best, he's the player that we need."

When asked if Labuschagne's struggles were due to a technical issue, McDonald responded: "It's always a combination of factors, isn't it, with the mindset?



"There's some technical said, we're really confident The decision to ask debutant aspects to that also within that he can turn that Nathan McSweeney to open the mindset play. So as I around."

Nathan McSweeney to open the innings backfired as he two innings. McSweeney had enjoyed success in first-class cricket, as had Beau Webster, but neither of them has the experience of being an opener.

"I think there's been enough players banging down the door. I feel as though we've got some depth there if called upon," he said.

"I think sometimes people look at the pure numbers of what's happening in Shield cricket, but it's sometimes hard to get a connection with the surfaces they're playing on. So we feel as though we've got ample players available if called upon."

Despite the heavy defeat, McDonald said morale of the

team was strong.
"I think we've got to own it, and we've got to own that as coaches as well. So there will be a semblance of review around what we have done

scored just 10 and 0 in his and what we can learn from it," McDonald said. "But I think morale is pretty

good. I think this team is really good at the highs and lows, it's quite a level team, so we'll be somewhere in the middle of that." The coach also stated that

while a review of the performance would take place, the team's preparation had been sound, and they were focused on challenges ahead.

'We felt as though our planning going in (to Perth) was where we needed it to be. Execution in amongst that is always a question, but we were comfortable with the plans.

"Clearly, the method with the batters and the way they've been challenged is always going to be a learning moving forward. So we've got some challenges, no doubt about that."