www.dailypioneer.com

Published From: VIJAYAWADA HYDERABAD DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL RAIPUR CHANDIGARH BHUBANESWAR RANCHI DEHRADUN



NEEDS TO TAKE PLUNGE IN SPACE SECTOR: ISRO

Rahasyam Idham Jagath is based on Sri Chakra: KOMAL R BHARADV



paddy harvest. We request rice millers to support the government's efforts. Public representatives and officials must play a proactive role in making Telangana's largest-ever paddy procurement initiative a success. Delays or negligence will not be tolerated under any

QUOTE OF THE DAY

the pioneer

Paddy procurement is a testing time

for the government given the record

- Uttam Kumar Reddy, Minister

circumstance

Tourist spots should be developed in...

Minister for Housing and I & PR, K Parthasarathy has emphasised that the tourist places in Bapatla district should be developed. The District Review Committee meeting was held here on Tuesday. Parthasarathy, who is also Bapatla district in-charge minister, presided over the meeting Speaking on the occasion, Minister Parthasarathy said that Bapatla district has a coastal area of 95 km and if tourism can be developed with various projects, it can excel in all fields. He recalled that even though there is nothing in Goa, it is popular as a...

Majority children addicted to...

Majority of parents surveyed believe their children are addicted to social media, over-the-top apps and gaming platforms and more than half have observed behavioural changes in them which include aggression, impatience and lethargy, says a report. According to a survey of parents of children aged between 9 and 17 years in urban areas, 47 per cent have shared that their wards spend an average of three hours or more every day on social media, videos, over-the-top apps, and online games...

'Festive consumption...

Japanese brokerage Nomura on Wednesday said the growth rate in festive consumption halved to 15 per cent in the current year. Analysts at the brokerage attributed their findings to "rough estimates" and added tha same growth had stood at 32 per cent in 2023 and 88 per cent in 2022. "Anecdotal data suggests retail sales (offline and online) rose during this festive season, but overall growth rates are slower," they said in a note. It said while festive demand remained steady in rural areas and tier-2..

-PAGE: 8

Aussie quick Boland looks to...

Australian pacer Scott Boland wants to extend the barren run of KL Rahul and keep him under pressure ahead of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy when he faces the Indian batter in the four-day A-Team match here from Thursday. Rahul along with wicketkeeper batter Dhruy Jurel flew early to Australia, and will appear for India A in the second four-day game at the MCG. "I was lucky to bowl to him in a Test over in India a couple of years ago but it'll be nice to play against him in our backyard," Boland was quoted

A presidential campaign marked upheaval and rancor approached its finale on Election Day as Americans decided whether to send Donald Trump back to the White House or elevate

Kamala Harris to the Oval Office.

Polls opened across the nation on

Tuesday morning as voters faced a stark

choice between two candidates who have

offered drastically different temperaments

and visions for the world's largest econo-

my and dominant military power.

Locked in close battle in presidential election

Harris, the Democratic vice president, stands to be the first female president if elected. She has promised to work across the aisle to tackle economic worries and other issues without radically departing from the course set by President Joe Biden. Trump, the Republican former president, has vowed to replace thousands of federal workers with loyalists, impose sweeping tar-

iffs on allies and foes alike, and stage the largest

The two candidates spent the waning hours of the campaign overlapping in Pennsylvania, the biggest battleground state. They were trying to energise their bases as well as Americans still on the fence or debating whether to vote at all.

deportation operation in US history.

"It's important, it's my civic duty and it's important that I vote for myself and I vote for the democracy and the country which I supported for 22 years of my life," said Ron

Kessler, 54, an Air Force veteran from Pennsylvania who said he was voting for just the second time.

Harris and Trump entered Election Day focused on seven battleground states, five of them carried by Trump in 2016 before flipping to Biden in 2020: the "blue wall" of Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin as well as Arizona and Georgia. Nevada and North Carolina, which Democrats and Republicans respectively carried in the last two elections, also were closely contested.

Polavaram set for Mar 2028 finish

Emphasis placed on obtaining required

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday directed officials and contractors of the Polavaram project to work in close coordination to ensure the timely completion of the

During a high-level review meeting, the Chief Minister assessed the steps taken over the past four months to address challenges inherited from the previous administration. Naidu emphasised the need for clearances at different project stages, along with addressing technical and financial issues impacting project

Officials briefed the CM on the work undertaken since the TDP-led government came to power, including dewatering efforts essential for the diaphragm wall construction. They informed him that a conducive environment has been created for diaphragm wall works, and a request for design approval was sent to the Central Water Commission (CWC) on October 24.

The diaphragm wall, planned to span 1,396 meters, is set to begin construction in January if the CWC grants approval. Officials noted that for the diaphragm wall and ECRF can be completed within a year, (Earth-cum-Rock Filling) works. while ECRF dam works would Further technical clarity is expect- require an additional 24 months. If For Phase-1, Rs 7,213 crore is need-

CM directs officials and contractors to work in close coordination for timely completion



Left bank canal is 77% complete, with additional works worth Rs

to expedite power project

CM insists on

quality

adherence to

standards and

guidelines.

960 crore to start in December. Construction company urged

CM to visit Polavaram this month to release

project.

Phase-1 land acquisition

and R&R require Rs 7,213

Plans underway to expand

CM proposes iconic bridge

crore, with 16,440 acres still

right bank canal capacity to 30,000 cusecs.

construction on Polavaram

works and secure clearances. project plan.

ed for land acquisition and R&R (Relief and Rehabilitation) as 16,440 carried out concurrently, the works could be finished by July 2027, or more acres are required. The CM instructed that these activities progress alongside con-The CM stressed the importance of adhering to quality standards and guidelines. Officials reported that 77 struction, with funds to be released percent of the Polavaram left bank as needed. The review also includ-

ed plans to expand the Polavaram works worth Rs 960 crore, set to start capacity and construct an iconic bridge over the project.

LAND FOR SARASWATI POWER & INDUSTRIES

Dy CM orders probe into irregularities

PNS NARASARAOPET

Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Panchayat Raj K Pawan Kalyan has ordered an inquiry into the irregularities surrounding the land acquisition for the establishment of Saraswati Power and Industries Limited in Palnadu district.

Pawan Kalyan on Tuesday visited the lands allocated for the project, which is owned by family members of former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, in Vemavaram village, Machavaram mandal. He stood on top of his car to survey the area. District Collector Arun Babu briefed him about the

Addressing the gathering, Pawan Kalyan accused the government of seizing assigned lands belonging to Dalits for Jagan Reddy's projects. He stated that he had ordered a detailed inquiry into the acquisition of both assigned and dotted lands for the

taken by force. The YSR family is acting as if the lands belong to them. Farmers parted with their lands in

the hope of jobs for their kin, but the plant has yet to be established," Pawan Kalyan lamented.

He further noted that land acquisition for the captive power project began during the tenure of Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy. However, he claimed that it was later converted into a cement company with promises of thousands of jobs.

"Preliminary reports indicate that 400 acres of forest land were misclassified as revenue land in official records. I have ordered the Collector project.

"The farmers in the area were and submit a report on the irregularities in the land acquisition for the large."

"The farmers in the area were and submit a report on the irregularities in the land acquisition for the large."

"Person Saraswati Power Plant," Pawan Kalyan announced.

'Ensure transparency in Mega DSC test'

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh, following the successful conduct of TET 2024, has directed officials to ensure transparent and well-organised arrangements for the upcoming Mega DSC examina-

During a review meeting on School Education and Intermediate Education, Minister Lokesh dis-

cussed the procedures for the Mega DSC, emphasising the aim to provide maximum opportunities for eligible candidates. He also announced that Best Teacher Awards would be presented on November 11 and suggested that a Mega Parent-Teacher Meeting (PTM) be organised in the first week of December, involving parents to help raise educational standards in schools. Continued on Page 2

ed after a workshop at Polavaram

scheduled from Wednesday till

October 9. Naidu directed officials

to discuss with the CWC the feasi-

bility of undertaking diaphragm

wall and ECRF works simultaneous-

ly. Construction company represen-

works commence in January

tatives assured that if diaphragm

CM to open 5 substations tomorrow PNS VIJAYAWADA

separately by March 2028.

canal works have been completed,

in December and finish by July 2025.

with tenders issued for additional

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu will inaugurate five APTRANSCO substations and lay the foundation for 14 new substations and power lines across the State, with a total project cost of Rs 5,407 crore, on November 7 (Thursday). He will be physically present to inaugurate the 400/220 kV Gas Insulated Substation (GIS) in Thallayapalem, located in the CRDA. The remaining four substations will be inaugurated virtually. along with the laying of the foundation for an additional 14 substations.

In this regard, Special Chief Secretary for Energy and CMD of APTRANSCO, K. Vijayanand, visited the venue at Tallayapalem to review the arrangements for the Chief Minister's programme. He instructed the officials of the power utilities and held discussions with well as other concerned SEs and sen-

those addicted to drugs. The com-

mittee will also assess the existing

legal, regulatory, and enforcement

frameworks to curb illegal drug

and liquor activities across the state.

Minister for Home, Vangalapudi

Anitha. Its members are Minister for

HRD, Nara Lokesh, Minister for

Excise, Kollu Ravindra, Minister

The GoM will be headed by



Chekuri, CMDs of DISCOMs Pattansetti Ravi, I. Prudhvi Tej, K. Narasimha Rao (CE/Civil), Sudeevan Kumar (CE/Projects), as

senior officials, including MD of ior officials. Vijayanand empha-APGENCO K. V. N. Chakradhar sized the importance of ensuring all Babu, JMD of APTRANSCO Kirthi arrangements are flawless to ensure the success of the inauguration and foundation-laying programme. He Santosha Rao, APTRANSCO Grid
Director A. K. V. Bhaskar,
APTRANSCO Chief Engineers

also advised officials to take swift
action and meticulously plan the
completion of these power infrastructure projects within the stipulated timelines.

States not empowered to take over all private properties: Apex court

PNS NEW DELHI

In a majority 7:2 ruling, the Supreme Court on Tuesday held that states are not empowered under the Constitution to take over all privately-owned resources for distribution to serve the "common good".

A nine-judge bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, however, said states can stake claim over private properties in certain cases.

The majority verdict pro-nounced by the CJI overruled Justice Krishna Iyer's previous ruling that all privately owned resources can be acquired by the State for distribution under Article 39(b) of the Constitution.

Bill against land-grab on agenda at AP Cabinet meet today

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh State Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, is set to meet at 11 am on Wednesday to deliberate on several critical matters. Among the key agenda items is the proposal for a new Land Grabbing Prohibition Bill 2024, aimed at tackling land encroachments across the State.

The State government has raised concerns regarding the challenges in registering land encroachment cases under the existing Land Acquisition Act of 1982. Authorities have highlighted difficulties in taking effective action against illegal land grabbers, resulting in a significant backlog of complaints. This issue has garnered particular attenencroachments during the previous government.

YSR Congress Party government's

Currently, approximately 80 per cent of the grievances received by the government pertain to land encroachments, prompting the administration to seek a more robust legal framework. To address this, the government plans to repeal the Land Acquisition Act of 1982 and introduce a new law focused on prohibiting land grabbing. Proposals for the Land Grabbing Prohibition Bill 2024 are expected to be discussed and likely approved during the cabinet meeting.

Another significant item on the agenda is the reservation of 34 per cent for Backward Classes (BCs) in nominated posts. The state government aims to repeal the Nominated Posts Allocation Act of 2019, which tion due to reports of extensive was enacted by the previous YSRCP

AP govt forms GoM to combat drugs, illicit liquor

The Andhra Pradesh government, under the leadership of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, has constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to address the growing concerns related to narcotics, drugs, and illicit liquor in the State. The government issued orders on the formation of the GoM with the aim of studying, controlling, and preventing the use and trafficking of illegal substances, while also focusing on the rehabilitation of victims.

The official orders for establishing the GoM were issued by Neerabh Kumar Prasad, Chief Secretary to the Government, under G.O.R.T. 1888.

According to the order, the GoM will be tasked with analyzing the current state of narcotics production, trafficking, and consumption, as well as the availability and adequacy of rehabilitation facilities for



for Tribal Welfare, G Sandhya Rani, in Andhra Pradesh, while also eval-

will be the member convenor. The

GoM has been empowered to invite

other ministers or officials for con-

sultations as needed. Its mandate

includes conducting a comprehen-

sive review of the prevalence of ille-

gal drugs, narcotics, and illicit liquor

The GoM will be tasked with analyzing the current state of narcotics production, trafficking, and consumption, as well as the availability and adequacy of rehabilitation facilities for those addicted to drugs.

Minister for Health, Satya Kumar uating the existing systems for tack-Yadav. Principal Secretary to ling these issues. Government, Home Department

In addition, the GoM will engage with key stakeholders such as law enforcement agencies, public health experts, and community-based organizations to develop a broader understanding of the challenges. The group is expected to make recommendations on policies to reduce both the supply and demand for nar-

cotics, drugs, and illicit liquor, as well as propose measures to strengthen enforcement and prosecution related to drug trafficking and illicit liquor production.

The committee will also focus on awareness campaigns to educate the public on the dangers of drugs and illicit liquor. A special emphasis will be placed on the issue of ganja (cannabis) cultivation, particularly in the Andhra-Odisha Border (AOB) areas, and trafficking across the state. The GoM will examine the effectiveness of current mechanisms for controlling the Ganja problem and recommend steps for its complete eradication.

The AP government hopes that the formation of this Group of Ministers will lead to more effective strategies and actions in curbing drug-related problems and provide relief to victims, thereby making the state safer and healthier for its citizens.



BRS may not be able to maintain equidistance from BJP & Cong

mies in politics. But when it comes to handling enemies, one needs capability to ensure success. Survival in politics requires defeating POINT the enemy by any means. Those who extend or seek

help to defeat the enemy may not be like-minded in politics. These parties might have ideological differences, but they may secretly join hands to achieve common goals. The element of common political purpose would make them join hands behind the screen to tackle the enemy. The approaching local body polls might be a litmus test for the ruling Congress and would give it an opportunity to assess its status among the public.

The Congress which promised to bring the Moon to the people was given a chance to rule. At present, the

✓ Congress government is trying hard to wriggle out of the cobweb of its election promises due to the state's bad fiscal health. Now it is fighting

against its arch-rival, the BJP, and the BRS.

The people of Telangana know the role played by the BRS during the Telangana movement. BRS President K. Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR) strategically secured early polls to minimise Modi's influence in Telangana. KCR managed to sway people by painting the alliance between the Congress and the TDP as unholy and detrimental to the interests of

He said that voting for the Congress means inviting 'Andhra rule' due to the presence of the TDP and its supremo Chandrababu Naidu in the alliance. As expected by KCR,

The arrest of KCR's daughter K Kavitha for her alleged involvement in the Delhi liquor scam, has badly affected the BRS. There is an opinion that help from the BRS enabled the BJP to win eight Lok Sabha seats for the first time. During the 1999 elections, the BJP could win only seven Lok Sabha seats in United AP even though it had an alliance with the TDP

people fell for this argument and voted for him. After winning a second consecutive election, KCR's dictatorial tendencies came out and the antiincumbency factor became the deciding factor in the 2023 TG Assembly elections. This led to the BRS suffering a humiliating defeat at the hands of the Congress.

Now, the BRS is recouping. The arrest of KCR's daughter K. Kavitha for her alleged

involvement in the Delhi liquor scam, has badly affected the BRS. There is an opinion that help from the BRS enabled the BJP to win eight Lok Sabha seats for the first time. During the 1999 elections, the BJP could win only seven Lok Sabha seats in United AP even though it had an alliance with the TDP.

In the 1998 elections, the BJP had bagged four Lok Sabha seats on its own. Now in



Telangana, the BJP got eight seats out of 17 without having an alliance with any party. Due to this alleged transfer of votes, the BRS drew a blank although it was the ruling party for a decade. The reason for this is that the BRS decided to prevent the Congress from emerging as the top scorer in

PNS ANANTAPUR

A grand passing out parade was held in Anantapur on Tuesday for 12 probationary Deputy Superintendents of

Police (DSPs) who completed their training at the Police

Training College. The ceremony was attended by State Home

Minister Vangalapudi Anitha

and State Director General of Police (DGP) Ch. Dwaraka

Tirumala Rao, who graced the

Minister Vangalapudi Anitha

expressed her pleasure in

attending the ceremony and

thanked Chief Minister N.

Chandrababu Naidu for the

opportunity to participate. She

congratulated the newly

trained DSPs and emphasized

the state government's commit-

ment to enhancing police infrastructure and facilities.

'The state government is

focused on providing all the

necessary resources to strengthen the police force,"

Reflecting on the challenges

faced by the police department in recent years, Anitha point-

ed out that during the previous

administration, there was a severe lack of funding and

gerprint identification tools. "In women

she stated.

In her address, Home

event as chief guests.

Incidentally, Kavitha got bail shortly which even the AAP couldn't manage for its leaders. The series of incidents that culminated in the defeat of the BRS created the impression that the BRS was focused on defeating the Congress both at the Centre and in TG. The BRS's image was badly affected by its crushing defeat. But surprisingly, the voters of Hyderabad rallied behind KCR. This surprised even BRS leaders as the Congress failed to win even a single LS seat in Hyderabad.

The BRS has to defeat the Congress to regain its lost glory and for that sometimes the BJP's help might be necessary. BJP leaders might brush this aside and boast that their party would come to power in the next Assembly elections. But as the ruling party at the Centre, the BJP would naturally try to focus on the Centre by acquiring support during the Lok Sabha polls from states like Telangana. The party is not in a position to win power in Telangana as it still has no presence in the state's rural

But the leaders and cadres of both the Congress and the BJP are engaged in a war of words accusing the BRS of acting as the B-team of the latter. The results of the last Lok Sabha polls indicate that the BRS had a hand in the BJP's upsurge. Political pundits say that the politics of compromise might have forced the BRS to help the BJP. HYDRAA operations are also getting a political colour due to demolitions in some

The BRS's options before the 2028 Assembly polls must be viewed in the context of the current political situation. When it comes to survival, it

Passing out parade held for

12 probationary DSPs

has to choose between the BJP and the Congress if both the national parties seek support

to form a government.

Both Telangana and the BRS are not new things for the BJP and the Congress. The requirements of national parties change from state to state. Regional parties also change their priorities depending on their needs. In South India, some parties like the DMK and the Janata Dal (Secular) have changed their priorities for political gains. Both parties have shifted their loyalties from the NDA and UPA

Dwaraka Tirumala Rao congratulated the newly appoint-

ed DSPs and underscored the

importance of the passing-out parade. "This is a memorable day for the probationary DSPs

as they begin their journey in public service," he said. He

urged the new officers to

uphold the values of impartial-

ity, fearlessness, and integrity in their duties. "From this day

onwards, you have pledged to

serve the people without prej-

udice, remembering always

your responsibility to protect

human rights and uphold the

Constitution of India," he

the ongoing efforts to combat

cybercrime, informing the

gathering that the Chief

Minister has agreed in princi-

ple to establish a cyber station

in every district. "We are also

planning to procure new cyber

forensic tools and set up a sub-

committee with ministers to

address issues like white-collar

crime, fraud, and narcotics," he

said. He assured the new DSPs

that the police will take firm

action to tackle crimes against

women, children, and margin-

alized communities and will

work towards improving the

quality of case investigations the use of s

Polavaram set...

Chandrababu Naidu

urged the construction com-

pany to expedite power pro-

ject works and obtain all nec-

essary clearances. He

announced plans to visit

Polavaram this month to

release a detailed project

plan. Officials also updated

the CM on the Chintalapudi

Lift Irrigation project, which

requires Rs 2,463 crore to

irrigate three lakh acres, and

reviewed the progress of the Veligonda project. Minister Rama Naidu,

officials from the Irrigation Department, and representatives from construction com-

panies attended the review

Continued from Page 1

The DGP also touched upon

Junior college in every mandal soon: Lokesh

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Education, IT, and Electronics Minister Nara Lokesh has stated that the coalition government is committed to enhancing the quality of education in government intermediate colleges across the State. The Minister has instructed officials to devise plans for establishing an intermediate college in each

On Tuesday, Minister Lokesh held a review meeting with officials regarding intermediate education at his residence in Undavalli. He emphasised the importance of improving students' learning outcomes in intermediate col-

leges and directed officials to take measures to raise the pass percentage in government

junior colleges to match that of private institutions. He suggested efforts be made to publish photographs of students from government junior colleges who excel in competitive examinations like IIT and Medicine in daily newspapers. He also ordered that permissions

for setting up

in

leges

areas be expedited. Officials informed the min-

ister that admissions have increased by 15,000 this year, attributed to the provision of free textbooks for students

called for President's Rule.'

78 reported cases of attacks,

and minor girls, with no con-

crete action taken so far. He also

up the latest case in Tirupati.

remarks about Singapore,

Dubai, and Uttar Pradesh Chief

Minister Yogi Adityanath,

Rambabu called them imma-

ture. "Pawan Kalyan's call for

police to take stern action

against those posting on social

Addressing Pawan Kalyan's

in government junior colleges. The Minister urged officials to aim for an additional 200,000 admissions next year. He informed

that revicolleges

being considered, along with reviews of student attendance and the issuance of progress cards. The Minister recommended that students receive training for bridge courses with top faculty. He announced that NCERT books will be introduced for first-year intermediate students starting next year, along with changes to the question paper pattern.

The meeting was attended by School Education Secretary Kona Sashidhar, Director Vijayaramaraju, Intermediate Education Director Kritika Shukla, and Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan State Project Director B. Srinivasa Rao, among oth-

PK resorting to diversion politics: YSRCP

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Former MLA Kasu Mahesh Rambabu further criticised Reddy strongly criticised Deputy Chief Minister the government's inaction in the rapes, and murders of women Machavaram in Palnadu, calling it a deliberate attempt at "diversion poliaccused Pawan Kalyan of blamtics" aimed at distracting ing the Home Minister, the from the government's fail-DGP, and the police for not ures in maintaining law doing their jobs, while the and order and addressing police seem to be trying to cover increasing atrocities against

Speaking to the media, Mahesh Reddy said, "Pawan

Saraswathi Cements land at

Kalyan's visit to Palnadu should have been for a development-related activity, but instead, he singled out Saraswathi Cements and made baseless statements with malicious intent. This is nothing more than an attempt to divert public attention from the government's repeated fail-

and Industries Limited, describing it as their own company. "They made false

He pointed out that the YSR family holds an 86 per cent share in Saraswati Power promises of establishing an industry and generating employment while acquiring land at lower prices from farmers under the guise of job assurances," he claimed.

He added that farmers who refused to sell their lands were also intimidated. "Yet, no industry has been established these lands, and when Y.S.

Dy CM orders probe... Kalyan asserted.

the past five years, the depart-

ment had been severely

neglected," she noted, adding

that a significant portion of the

funds allocated for police wel-

fare schemes had gone unuti-

lized. She also mentioned that

while the central government

had fully funded the Greyhounds unit, the previous

government had failed to allo-

cate funds for the UCC, result-

ing in delays in several crucial

the state government's proac-

tive stance on tackling crimes,

and

children.

The Minister highlighted

projects.

The Deputy Chief Minister revealed that among the acquired lands, there are 1,043.75 acres of patta land and 75 acres of dotted land. The government has requested a report from revenue officials regarding this issue. According to the officials' report, 24 acres of assigned land given to Scheduled Castes for farming purposes were included in the acquired lands.

In 2009, a limestone lease was granted for 30 years on

Jagan Mohan Reddy became Chief Minister in 2019, the lease was extended for 50 years. Officials noted that permission to draw 196 crore litres of water from the Krishna River was granted without the necessary environ-

"Whenever a crime against

women or children is report-

ed, the Chief Minister person-

ally contacts the district SPs to

ensure swift action," she said.

She also spoke about the gov-

ernment's efforts to modernize

police stations, improve train-

ing, and enhance police infrastructure. "It's not just about

providing weapons or vehicles;

it's about comprehensive train-

ing and strengthening the entire police system," she

added, emphasizing that the

police, from constables to the

DGP, play a vital role in serv-

In his speech, DGP Ch.

mental clearance. "I will raise this issue in the Cabinet meeting. An inquiry will cover all aspects, including the leasing arrangements, the extension of the lease period, and the allocation of water resources to the cement factory," Pawan Kalyan announced. Gurajala MLA Yarapathineni Srinivasa Rao and SP K. Srinivas accompanied him

during the visit.

The Minister instructed that all teacher promotions and transfers be completed before the next academic year begins. Officials informed him that the APAR ID programme for students across the state has achieved 57.48 percent completion. Minister Lokesh stressed that report cards should be distributed to all students in government schools and recommended a focus on improving school rankings, ensuring that government schools are on par with private institutions. He also called for measures to improve student attendance and directed attention towards upgrading infrastructure facilities such as toilets, drinking water, benches, leakproof buildings, and school

depending on circumstances. When it comes to politics all parties including the BRS have to act according to circumstances. Maintaining equidistance from both the Congress and the BJP may not be possible for the BRS as it has to go a long way to regain lost

mandal soon.

Ambati slams Pawan's provocative speeches

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Former Minister Ambati Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan for allegedly trespassing on the private lands of Saraswathi Company and delivering provocative speeches, while the state government continues to fail to maintain law and order.

Speaking to the media on Tuesday, Ambati Rambabu clarified that the lands in question were privately owned by Saraswathi Company, purchased by the company itself and not allotted by the government, as Pawan Kalyan has been claiming. He accused the Deputy Chief Minister of using this issue as part of diversionary tactics to cover up both his own and the government's failures, particularly in ensuring law and order.

"Pawan Kalyan visiting pri-

Sukla Paksha

Nov 06 12:17 AM to Nov 07 12:41 AM Nov 07 12:41 AM to Nov 08 12:35 AM

Nov 05 09:45 AM to Nov 06 11:00 AM Nov 06 11:00 AM to Nov 07 11:47 AM

11:59 AM to 1:24 PM

7:45 AM to 9:10 AM

08:55 PM to 10:34 PM

10:34 AM to 11:59 AM

TODAY

Tithi:

Pancham

Shashthi

Moola

Nakshatram:

Purva Ashadha

Rahukalam:

Varjyam:

Gulika:

Yamagandam:

Amritakalam:

Abhijit Muhurtham:

Forecast: Sunny

Sunrise: 6:07 AM

Sunset: 5:35 PM

Temp: 34°° Humidity: 62%

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Updated: November 5, 2024 5:00 PM

ALMANAC

Month & Paksham



vate lands and making inflammatory speeches with exaggerated gestures does nothing to solve the problem. It is a clear example of vindictive poli-

tics," said Rambabu.

Kalyan's body language and disjointed speeches, Ambati Rambabu remarked, "It's been five months since coming to power, and now he realises that law and order has broken down in the state. This is something we pointed out three months ago and even

Poking fun at Pawan

media is a sign of his immaturity," he said. "He should also explain what his government has done about the 33,000 missing women he mentioned. Has any woman been traced yet?"

Construction of NRT ICON Tower

in Amaravati to begin soon

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Minister for MSME, SERP, and NRI Empowerment & Relations, Kondapalli Srinivas, has announced that the construction of the NRT ICON Tower in the Capital Region of Amaravati will commence shortly and is expected to be completed within two years.

Minister Srinivas, who has recently been appointed as the Chairman of the Governing Body of the Andhra Pradesh Non-Resident Telugu Society (APNRT Society), made this statement following a meeting of the Governing

Body. The 4th Governing Body meeting of the APNRT Society was held in the Minister's chambers at the AP Secretariat on Tuesday, where several key resolutions were passed. Speaking after the meeting, Minister Srinivas revealed that the Governing Body has approved the initiation of the NRT ICON Tower construction, with an anticipated completion timeline of

In addition, the Minister highlighted that the Governing Body has decided to establish special courts for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to address issues related to property, civil matters, marital disputes, and other concerns. Furthermore, district-level special cells will be set up to resolve these issues effi-

Continued from Page 1 "As part of strengthening the overall power network and ensur-

CM to open 5...

ing 24x7 quality power supply, APTRANSCO is set to establish power transmission infrastructure with substations and connected power lines at various locations across the state. The total project cost of ?5,407 crore will cover substations with capacities of 132/33 kV, 220/132 kV, and 400/220 kV in districts including NTR, Guntur, Chittoor, Nandyal, Sri Sathya Sai, Srikakulam, Anakapalli, Krishna, Prakasam, Tirupati, and Kadapa," said Vijayanand. The Special Chief Secretary also mentioned that Minister for Energy Gottipati Ravi Kumar is actively monitoring the preparations for the Chief Minister's inauguration programme and has directed officials to take all necessary steps to ensure the smooth and successful conduct of the event.

Who will triumph?...

Continued from Page 1

The closeness of the race and the number of states in play raised the likelihood that once again a victor might not be known on election night. There was one early harbinger from the New Hampshire hamlet of Dixville Notch, which by tradition votes after midnight on Election Day. Dixville Notch split between Trump and Harris, with three votes for each.

In the 2020 presidential race it took four days to declare a winner. Regardless, Trump has baselessly claimed to fraud. Harris' campaign was preparing for him to try to declare victory before a winner is known on Tuesday night or to try to contest the result if she wins.

launched an effort to overturn the voters' will that ended in the January 6, 2021, insurrection at the US Capitol.Trump planned to vote in his adopted home state of Florida on Tuesday, then spend the day at his Mar-a-Lago estate in advance of a party at a nearby convention center. Harris already voted by mail in her

home state of California. She'll

have a watch party at her

alma mater, Howard University in Washington. Each candidate would take the country into new terrain Harris, 60, would be the that if he lost, it would be due first woman, Black woman

and person of South Asian descent to serve as president. She also would be the first sitting vice president to win the White House in 32

'Ensure…

Continued from Page 1

maintenance.

States not...

meeting.

Continued from Page 1

The CJI wrote for himself and six other judges on the bench which decided the vexed legal question on whether private properties can be considered "material resources of the community" under Article 39(b) and taken over by State authorities for distribution to subserve the "common good".

It overturned several verdicts that had adopted the socialist theme and ruled that states can take over all private properties for common good. Justice BV Nagarathna partially disagreed with the majority judgement penned by the CJI, while Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia dissented on all aspects.

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisem of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.





MP Kesineni Sivanath addressing the DISHA meeting at the Pingali Venkaiah Meeting Hall on the premises of the collectorate in Vijayawada on Tuesday

NIRD Cluster planned at Tiruvur

Focus on providing safe and potable drinking water to the public

PNS VIJAYAWADA

MP Kesineni Sivanath who is also the NTR District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) Chairman, has directed the officials concerned that the NTR district should be in first place in implementing the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) scheme effectively. Also, he asked the officials to provide safe and potable drinking water to the public by giving household taps connections.

The DISHA meeting held at the Pingali Venkaiah Meeting Hall on Tuesday was chaired by MP Sivanath. NTR district in-charge Collector Dr Nidhi Meena, MLAs Gadde Rama Mohana Rao, Kolikapudi Srinivasa Rao, Sriram Rajagopal alias Tataiah and others attended the meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, MP Sivanath said that in the previous year, the NTR district was in fifth place in implementing the JJM scheme. This time, it should be in the first place among the districts. The

MP Sivanath said that in the previous year, the NTR district was in fifth place in implementing the JJM scheme. This time, it should be in the first place among the districts. The government is aiming to provide safe drinking water to the people by giving tap connections to every household in the district. For that, the district administration is preparing the Detailed Project Reports (DPR), he added

government is aiming to provide safe drinking water to the people by giving tap connections to every household in the district. For that, the district administration is preparing the Detailed Project Reports (DPR), he added.

Further, he said as many as 35 Central government schemes are being implemented by 19 departments in the district. He advised the officials to understand every scheme and strive for the overall development of the district. The main agenda of the DISHA meeting was to take the Central government schemes to all eligible people in the 289 villages of 16 rural mandals during the 2024-26 year, he said.

Meanwhile, he highlighted the establishment of a cluster of the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) at Tiruvur to provide training for all youths and farmers to get employment opportunities. The NIRD is located in Hyderabad.

The MP said, "We will work on the slogans of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Viksit Bharat and Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's 'One Family - One Entrepreneur'. All the Central

ed in the district effectively," Additionally, he said advanced medical services are to be provided to the people at all Primary Health Centres

On the other hand, Sivanath mentioned that hygienic kitchens are to be provided in all Anganwadi Centres. Under Prime Minister Sadak Yojana, road connectivity will be expanded to all rural areas in the district. Also, he mentioned the importance of Zero Based Natural Farming and added that Andhra Pradesh is in the first place and similarly, the NTR district should be in the first place in this regard.

Later, he assured that agriculture and food processing units will be developed in the district. Furthermore, with the support of MLAs and district officials, he will strive to develop the district.

DRO M Lakshmi Narasimha, ZP CEO K Kannama Naidu, CPO Y Srilatha, DWAMA PD A Ramu, ICDS PD G Umadevi, DEO UV Subba Rao and oth-

'Seaplane' to be launched on Nov 9

The prestigious event will be taking place at Punnami Ghat

Andhra Pradesh Government is organising another remarkable event, the Seaplane', which will be launched at the Punnami Ghat near Babburi Grounds in Vijayawada on November 9. Municipal Commissioner HM Dhyanachandra said the arrangements for the inaugural ceremony are being made

On Tuesday morning, a meeting was held at Baburri Grounds with the CEO of the Maritime Board, Praveen Aditya, Vijayawada Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) K Chaitanya, and the event organisers to review the preparations for the inauguration.

The officials discussed several aspects of the prestigious event, including seating arrangements, entry plans, drinking water supply, temporary toilets, and providing the public with the opportunity to watch the live event through LCDs at major locations in

PNS TIRUPATI

TTD will observe the Mana Gudi programme from November 11 to 17 in selected

Siva temples in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana States

under the auspices of its Hindu

Dharma Prachara Parishad

(HDPP) wing. As part of this,

religious discourses on the

importance of Kartika month

will be held for seven days in

26 districts of AP and 33 dis-

tricts of Telangana, in one Siva

nection with Kaisika Dwadasi,

two temples will be selected in

each district and special pro-

grammes will be conducted.

On November 13, in con-

temple in each district.



VMC Commissioner HM Dhyanachandra, Maritime Board CEO Praveen Aditya and RDO K Chaitanya inspecting the preparations for the inauguration of 'Seaplane' event at the Babburi grounds in Vijayawada on Tuesday

During the meeting, Dhyanchandra emphasised that all facilities, including drinking water and temporary toilets, should be set up without any shortcomings.

The meeting was attended by Additional Commissioner of Projects Dr D Chandrashekhar, Chief Engineer R Srinath Reddy, Chief City Planner GVGSV Prasad, In-charge Chief

Medical Health Officer Dr Suresh Babu, Commissioner Keerthana, Executive Engineer Director Amruth, and Incharge Dr Latha, among others.

CM to inaugurate universal **Mana Gudi** programmes in cancer testing drive today **Kartika month**

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Concerned about the rising incidence of cancer in the State, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has decided to implement robust preventive measures to combat this epidemic.

On Wednesday, the Chief Minister will inaugurate the universal cancer testing programme, which aims to conduct medical tests for patients across the state, particularly focusing on the causes of mouth, breast, and cervical cancer. The Medical, Health and Family Welfare Department has strongly urged all individuals aged 18 and above to participate in these tests.

Community Health Officers and Auxiliary Nursing and Midwives (ANMs) will visit households to carry out these a release on Tuesday. Additionally, those who test positive will be transported to hospitals by Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) workers. Early detection of cancer can lead to effective treatment at min-

imal costs. The Chief Minister will also launch the STEMI (ST-

Segment Myocardial Infarction) programme, aimed at conducting cardiac tests for patients to identify any heart ailments. In the event of a heart stroke, it is crucial for individuals to immediately three cancer tests, as stated in notify the Spoke hospital, allowing doctors to perform an ECG and alert the relevant hospital hub.

The Minister for Medical and Health, Satya Kumar Yadav, along with Special Chief Secretary MT Krishna Babu, held detailed discussions with department officials regarding these initia-

Legal support offered to social media activists to face false cases

YSR Congress Vijavawada Central constituency coordinator and former MLA Malladi ment of targeting social media representatives of the party. Vishnu expressed concern over the various challenges faced by the people of the State since the coalition government assumed office five months ago.

The YSRC conducted a meeting of leaders and cadres with the party's social media wing and assured social media activists about the party's total support in fighting against false cases and attacks by Telugu Desam. Vishnu highlighted issues such as the rampant sand mafia, soaring electricity charges, and skyrocketing prices of essential goods. He further lamented the alarming increase



in attacks and atrocities against

Vishnu remarked that the coalition government is fearful of the impact of YSRC's social media outreach, which is effectively bringing these realities to the public's attention. He cited recent unlawful cases filed against hundreds of social media activists in Guntur District, including farmer Alla Jagadishwara Reddy and a puncture shop owner, Ismail Mohammed, as evidence of this crackdown. Vishnu noted that six illegal cases had been registered within just one police station in the Central constituency. "Do not lose hope; we stand with you," he urged, assuring that the YSRC Legal Cell would always provide support to those facing government harassment. Vishnu said that any legal assistance required could be swiftly addressed by their central office.

Maldivian delegation visits Visakhapatnam

A group of public representa-tives from the Maldives has arrived in Visakhapatnam district on an educational tour, meeting with District Collector MN Harendhira Prasad to discommunity engagement practices. The delegation explored Pendurthi and surrounding areas, seeking insight into the district's governance and selfhelp group structures.

During their visit to the Mandal Parishad Development Office in Pendurthi, the delegates observed how the Panchayati Raj system functions at the grassroots-level. The Maldivian representatives expressed particular interest in how self-help groups operate, including their financial management, savings methods, and income generation efforts.

'The Panchayati Raj system showcases how decentralised To study local governance and community systems



governance can effectively connect with the needs of the people," one of the Maldivian delegates remarked. "This visit has given us invaluable insights into community-driven growth and

The delegation also engaged in dialogues with members of local self-help groups, discussing the groups' structure, savings plans, and the significant role they play in economic empowerment. Later, in a formal meeting at the Collectorate, the delegation presented their observations and raised questions about district-level administrative methods. Collector Harendhira Prasad took the opportunity to provide a comprehensive overview of local governance, covering administrative proto-

cols and development strategies.

"It's always encouraging to share our practices with international representatives," said the Collector. "The questions from our guests reflect a genuine interest in understanding and possibly adopting similar frameworks in their own

DPO Srinivasa Rao, DRDA officers, and several other officials participated in the meet-

ing, adding perspectives on various aspects of local governance and answering queries. The visit highlighted a productive exchange of ideas, underscoring the value of cross-cultural collaboration in governance. "Our goal is to adapt and learn from global examples to benefit our own people back home," noted one of the dele-

Nagula Chavithi celebrated with fervour

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Nagula Chavithi was celebrated with great enthusiasm across the Krishna and NTR districts, attracting large crowds to temples and anthills in various villages and towns. Observed on the fifth day after Deepavali, this festival is dedicated to the worship of the serpent god, a tradition that holds deep spiritual significance among devotees, who believe it helps in overcoming prolonged ill-

Major temples, such as the Sri Subramanyeswara Swamy Temple in Mopidevi, Sri Subrahmanyeswara Swamy Temple in Singarayapalem, and the temple in Chodavaram, were beautifully decorated to mark the occasion. Devotees lined up at these temples, as well as at the Sri Valli Devasena $Sametha\ Subrahmanyeswara$ Temple atop Swamv Indrakeeladri.

As part of the rituals, devotees offered milk, eggs, and palmyra sprouts (toddy palm sprouts), along with sesame laddus, to honour the snake god. Women and young girls, dressed in traditional attire,



Devotees pouring milk in a snake pit on the occasion of Nagula Chavithi in Vijayawada on Tuesday (Photo: Ch. Vijaya Bhaskar) gathered near anthills and mark of reverence. Shiva fast, symbolising their faith

snake pits, offering saffron, temples also saw a large num-turmeric, milk, and eggs as a ber of devotees observing a in receiving divine protection and healing.

Civic authorities turn to drone technology for better governance

Drones help to identify and rectify unauthorised layouts and constructions

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

In a significant stride towards modernising city administration and enhancing public services, Visakhapatnam's civic authorities have initiated the deployment of drone technology to combat unauthorised construction and boost revenue generation. The Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region Development Authority (VMRDA) and the Greater Authority Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) are spearheading this innovative approach, which has received strong support from the Municipal Administration and Development Urban (MA&UD) Minister P Narayana.

"Drones provide an efficient means to monitor compliance in real-time, a challenge that traditional methods have struggled to address," explained Ramesh Kumar, an official with GVMC. to identify and rectify unauthorised layouts and constructions more comprehensively."

Currently, VMRDA and GVMC are responsible for authorising construction permits and layout approvals. However, unauthorised expansions and additional floors frequently evade detection by local authorities. To tackle this issue, GVMC has launched a pilot project with Clove Technologies, commencing with Zone-11. Dedicated enforcement squads are being formed in each zone, equipped with vehicles to dismantle any illegal structures flagged by drones. These squads will submit regular reports to headquarters, ensuring accountability and transparency.

"Our goal is to significantly reduce unauthorised constructions through this innovative approach," stated GVMC's Chief Planner, Suresh Reddy. The based on building area, but offi-

"This technology empowers us initiative also aims to optimise vacant land tax collection. In the previous fiscal year (2023-24), GVMC identified 37,752 vacant plots, resulting in tax notices worth Rs. 3.85 crore. This year, the number of identified vacant plots increased to 39,004, with tax notices amounting to Rs. 4 crore. However, officials believe that numerous plots remain untaxed due to lapses in local inspections. By leveraging drone technology, they anticipate identifying all vacant land parcels and issuing corresponding tax demands, potentially generating an additional Rs. 25 crore in

> "The potential for revenue growth is substantial," said Anil Sharma, a senior official at VMRDA. "Drones will enable us to accurately identify untaxed vacant plots, thereby addressing significant gaps." Property tax collection is another key focus

annual revenue.

cials acknowledge that some high-value properties pay dis-proportionately low taxes due to errors or deliberate misreport-

Currently, certain property owners are able to pay lower taxes than they should, and lower-level staff may be involved in such practices," explained S. Venkatesh, an official with GVMC's tax department. Drones will soon be deployed to reassess properties and identify discrepancies in tax reporting, targeting buildings that are underpaying or evading taxes altogether. This reassessment is expected to yield an additional Rs. 50 crore in annual revenue for GVMC.

Minister Narayana, who has been instrumental in driving these reforms, urged officials to expedite the drone rollout. "Implementing drone technology will not only boost our revenue but also ensure a fairer system for all," he emphasised.



MP urges Centre to set up food processing industries in Eluru

Local MP Putta Mahesh Kumar has appealed to the Union Secretary for Food Processing Industries, Anita Praveen, to take steps towards establishing food processing units in the Eluru district, citing the area's ample infra-structure as a key asset for such industries.

The MP met with Secretary Anita Praveen in New Delhi on Tuesday, where he presented a detailed representation high-lighting the district's infrastructure, which he believes is well-suited for the establishment of food processing units.

In his appeal, Mahesh Kumar emphasised that the Eluru district is equipped with essential infrastructure such as reliable water supply, good road and railway connectivity, and abundant agricultural products. These factors, he pointed out, make the district ideal for setting up agro-based industries, and he called for efforts to develop Eluru as a food processing hub.

establishment of food processing industries would not only



add significant value to agricul-He further explained that the tural products but also create job and employment opportunities within the Eluru

Mahesh Kumar emphasised that the Eluru district is equipped with essential infrastructure such as reliable water supply, good road and railway connectivity, and abundant agricultural products. These factors, he pointed out, make the district ideal for setting up agro-based industries, and he called for efforts to develop Eluru as a food processing hub

food processing units will strengthen the local economy and benefit farmers by offering better opportunities," the MP

Mahesh Kumar also highlighted the variety of crops cultivated in the Éluru district, including rice, wheat, maize, sugarcane, fruits, cocoa, palm oil, coconut, lemons, and vegetables. This diverse agricultural base, he argued, makes the region particularly suited for food processing ventures.

In his representation, the MP stressed that food processing industries would allow farmers to sell their produce locally at remunerative prices, while also generating both direct and indirect employment in rural areas. This, he added, would

help reduce the migration of rural youth to urban centres in search of work.

Union Secretary Anita Praveen responded positively to the MP's request. She assured Mahesh Kumar that the government would provide the necessary incentives, subsidies, and assistance to support the establishment of food processing industries in the region. She also promised full support to transform Eluru district into a prominent food processing hub.

Following the meeting, MP Putta Mahesh Kumar expressed his confidence that the establishment of these industries would greatly benefit the local economy and the farming community in Eluru.

Kolusu: Tourist spots should be developed in Bapatla district

Minister for Housing and I & PR, K Parthasarathy has emphasised that the tourist places in Bapatla district should be devel-

oped. The District Review Committee meeting was held here on Tuesday. Parthasarathy, who is also Bapatla district incharge minister, presided over the meeting. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Parthasarathy said that Bapatla district has a coastal area of 95 km and if tourism can be developed with various projects, it can excel in all fields.

He recalled that even though there is nothing in Goa, it is popular as a tourist area. Suryalanka Beach will become a tourist centre in the district if developed, he opined. "If a comprehensive plan for the development of the beach is prepared, it will be implemented immediately. Especially in the service sector, the youth will get the most job opportunities," the Minister acknowledged.

He revealed that if new policies of the government are added to the establishment of industries in areas where water resources are available, the industrial sector will develop. "Efforts will be made to fill the vacant posts in the respective departments of

Bapatla district. I will do my best for the development of the district," Parthasarathy assured.

Minister Parthasarathy insisted that all those who were issued job cards should be given 100 working days under the NREGA scheme. There are opportunities to allot work to 2.64 lakh workers under the NREGA but they were not allocated work, he said and expressed displeasure over the officials for the same.

The administration should pay special attention to the employment guarantee scheme, which receives the most funds. They should undertake works like digging ponds, constructing

roads, and buildings and planting horticultural crops, he told the officials.

Collector J Venkata Murali said that Rs 69 crore was disbursed as compensation to the damaged houses and crops due to the flood of the river Krishna. MLC K Lakshmana Rao said that if the Guntur channel is extended it will bring 25,000 acres into irrigation. Though Rs 143 crore was released for the Guntur channel works not being carried, he pointed out. MLC T Madhava Rao and MLA M Malakondiah also spoke. SP Tushar Dudi and JC Prakhu Jain were among those attended the

Collector inspects site of electrocution incident



PNS RAJAHMUNDRY

East Godavari District Collector P Prashanthi visited Tadiparru village Undrajavaram mandal on Tuesday, following the tragic electrocution of four individ-

flex banners on Monday. The Collector, accompanied by Revenue Divisional Öfficer (RDO) Rani Sushmita, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) G. Dev Kumar, and other officials, inspected the site where the electrocution occurred. She inquired with the officials about the circumstances that

led to the incident. During her visit, Collector

Prashanthi advised the villagers to avoid erecting large flexi banners, as such activities could result in electrocution. "A small act of negligence can cost lives," she cautioned.

She also conveyed that Chief and cutouts for safety rea-Minister N. Chandrababu over the incident and the loss of four lives. The government, she said, had announced an ex gratia payment of ?5 lakh to each of the bereaved families.

The tragic electrocution occurred while the victims were putting up large flexi banners to mark the occasion of the unveiling of social reformer Sardar Papanna's statue. Following the incident,

the Collector directed the removal of the giant banners and cutouts from the village. She urged the villagers to cooperate with the officials in dismantling the large flexes

Parliamentary Constituency.

on agriculture for their liveli-

"Farmers in Eluru depend

the four deceased—B. Veerraju (26), M. Manikantha (28), P. Nagendra (23), and K. Krishna (20)—were performed in the village on Tuesday. Heartwrenching scenes were witnessed as grieving family members and relatives bid a tearful farewell to the young victims, who were remembered by their loved ones with



Development of Amaravati expedited: Narayana

PNS KAKINADA

Minister for Municipal Administration P Narayana has acknowledged that the development works in the Capital city Amaravati are going in a speedy

Talking to the media here on Tuesday, the Minister clarified that Amaravati is the only capital and already a resolution in this regard was made in the Assembly long before. Even the Parliament Minister while giving a reply to the question clarified the position that Amaravati capital

Narayana who is also the charge Minister for the Kakinada district said he would show his style of functioning in the development of the Kakinada district coordinating with Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan. Though it is the first visit to the district, the Minister made it a personal visit given the election

He revealed that no central

government notification is necessary 'he said while replying to queries of media persons at the Telugu Desam party office here on Tuesday. He made it further clear that development would not be centred in one area but distributed by setting up indus-

in Municipal Administration Rs.437 Crores was diverted. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu with his experience and ability is now striving hard to set right the situation' he added.

At the Telugu Desam office, with the Chiefs of three parties of the alliance on the coordinat ed effort to ensure the success of the alliance candidate Perabathula Rajasekhar in the MLC elections. Referring to the developmental activities, he said that the previous Jagan Mohan Reddy government has turned the state bankrupt leaving debts to the tune of Rs 10

3 interstate bike lifters arrested, 25 two-wheelers recovered



PNS ELURU

The police arrested three interstate bike lifters and recovered 25 bikes from

Informing this to the media here on Tuesday, SP K Prathap Shiva Kishore said that the police team arrested three notorious interstate bike lifters and seized 25 two-

wheelers, worth Rs 17.50 lakh from them. The SP gave the names of the detained bike lifters as Puthi Prasad, Nadipudi Appala Naidu and

Gudise Naganjneyulu. One of the arrested, Puthi Prasad, was a notorious thief who was involved in several theft cases in the Eluru, Tadepalligudem, and Tanuku

police station limits. He was mprisoned in various cases.

The trio were addicted to bad habits and to fund their vices they were stealing twowheelers to earn money eas-

The SP said that the Eluru police have recovered over 200 stolen two-wheelers and handed them over to the

A 'testing time' for TG

Uttam on paddy purchase



PNS HYDERABAD

Civil Supplies and Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy described paddy procurement as a 'testing time' for the government due to the record paddy yield and called on public representatives to ensure smooth procurement opera-

He called on public representatives and officials to play a proactive role to make Telangana's largest-ever paddy procurement drive a success.

Uttam also stressed adherence to Central guidelines on the paddy's moisture content and said that farmers must be educated about these standards. Expecting disruptions like unseasonal rains, Uttam directed the Civil Supplies Commissioner, DS Chauhan, to ensure prompt readiness among officials to tackle problems. "Delays or negligence will not be tolerated under any circum-

stance," he warned. Uttam also called on rice millers to support the government's efforts, reaffirming the administration's commitment to backing the milling industry. He cited the Congress government's recent increase in milling charges - Rs 50 for fine rice and Rs 40 for other grades – and urged millers to cooperate fully. He also emphasised the need for

bank guarantees as required by

rules to manage operations

He asked officials to maintain accountability in transporting paddy from procurement centres to mills, so that high-quality rice can be delivered to beneficiaries in Telangana. He said that Sanna paddy, being sensitive to moisture, could suffer discolouration or an increase in broken grains. So procurement centres must be equipped with dryers and cleaners to maintain

quality, he said.

Public representatives were encouraged to coordinate closely with Collectors to establish procurement centres as needed. He assured that the government would meet the costs of providing additional centres.

Municipal workers' union seeks bonus of one month's pay

PNS VIJAYAWADA

On Tuesday, the leaders of the Vijayawada Municipal Workers Union affiliated with the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) met the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dhyanachanda at his chamber on the premises of the VMC building to discuss significant issues faced by municipal workers in the city. The union leaders have taken many issues regarding the workers and their problems to the notice of ommissioner Dhyanachandra. In this connection, Union General Secretary Budde Raja

emphasised that, in recognition of the efforts made by Municipal Workers during the Budameru flood, a bonus equivalent to one month's salary should be granted. He also requested that the minimum wage be set at Rs.26,000 per month, following the Supreme Court's ruling on equal pay for equal work.

Additionally, Raja proposed that contract workers be provided with permanent positions, and the retirement age be increased from 60 to 62 years. Also, he asked the commissioner that the number of workers be increased to reflect the city's growing expansion.

Prez, Min interact with 51 women achievers in Civil Aviation sector

PNS VIJAYAWADA

President Droupadi Murmu has interacted with 51 women achievers in the Civil Aviation sector, including pilots, cabin crew, flight dispatchers, air traffic controllers, maintenance engineers, airport managers and regulators. A luncheon was hosted by the Ministry of Civil Aviation in the honour of these women achievers. Minister of Civil Aviation K Rammohan Naidu interacted with the

They shared their success stories with the Minister who appreci-

women achievers.

ated their perseverance, dedication, hard work and resilience. He motivated the achievers to take their message to small and remote parts of the country to inspire the young women to join the aviation sector.

Speaking on the occasion, Rammohan Naidu said, "Today's edition, which brings together pioneering women in civil aviation, holds exceptional significance as we honour those who have dared to defy stereotypes, conquer challenges, and inspire a generation by rising to leadership in a field traditionally dominated by men."

Rs 13,420 cr loans sanctioned till Sept 30: Prakasam DC



PNS ONGOLE

Prakasam District Collector A Thameem Ansariya has announced that loans amounting to Rs 13,420.90 crore have been sanctioned by banks in the district as of September 30,

The District Consultative Committee and District Level Review Committee meetings, chaired by the Collector, were held here on Tuesday to assess the progress on loan targets set for the banks. Collector Ansariya reviewed these targets with representatives from

various banks.
The Collector urged bankers to be more flexible in offering loans to low-income groups, self-help groups (SHGs), entrepreneurs, and

tenant farmers. For the 2024-25 financial

year, the district's credit plan target was set at Rs 20,591.18 crore, with loans worth Rs 13,420.90 crore sanctioned as of September 30, achieving 65.17 percent financial progress, she stated.

Additionally, Rs 5,141.38 crore has been disbursed as crop loans under the Kharif target of Rs 3,900.40 crore, achieving 131.81 percent of the target. The Rabi target for crop loans is set at Rs 4,737.16 crore, and all tenant farmers holding CCRC cards are eligible for loans based on their entitlements, she informed bankers.

Collector Ansariya also highlighted that Rs 715.43 crore worth of loans have been granted to 10,880 SHGs under the District Rural Development Corporation, achieving 42.81 percent of the target of Rs 1,671.03 crore for this year. Through MEPMA, loans totalling Rs 268.77 crore have been sanctioned to 1,757 SHGs, surpassing the target of

Rs 59.40 crore. "The Central and State governments are implementing numerous welfare schemes for the poor, and bank officials should extend loans to eligible beneficiaries promptly. Bankers must also conduct financial and digital literacy programmes to encourage cashless transactions," she added.

SP A.R. Damodhar presented on cybercrimes, advising bankers to remain vigilant. Lead District Manager Ramesh, DRDA and MEPMA PD Vasundhara, Agriculture JD Srinivasulu, and APMIP PD Ramana were among those who attended the meeting.

Graft charges plague Srikakulam's Stamps & Registrations Dept

PNS SRIKAKULAM

The Srikakulam district's Stamps and Registrations (S&R) Department is mired in new allegations of corruptrar offices (SROs), despite the NDA government's reform promises. Persistent complaints in regions like Ranastalam, Ponduru, and Amadalavalasa suggest a continuation of issues seen under the YSRCP regime, raising questions about the efficacy of recent transparency efforts.

A network of document writers and stamp vendors allegedly act as intermediaries, facilitating bribes for faster services while claiming to help customers. However, critics argue this system fuels corruption. "Customers are often unaware they can approach SROs directly and are directed to intermediaries," shared an S&R source. 'This arrangement leads to inflated fees, with portions reportedly going to SRO

Several disturbing cases illustrate these abuses. In Amadalavalasa, a man executed a gift deed favouring his sons over his daughter. "When I heard my brother got the property, I couldn't believe it," the daughter said, filing a complaint with local authorities.

ACROSS THE STATES

the pioneer



Delhi Police ASI held for accepting Rs 10,000 bribe

The vigilance unit of Delhi Police has arrested an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) posted at Krishna Nagar police station for accepting a bribe of Rs 10,000, officials said on Tuesday. The ASI identified as Pramod Kumar was reportedly forcing a Rohtak-based man to settle a financial dispute, police said in a statement. On November 4, the complainant approached the vigilance unit claiming that ASI Kumar was demanding bribe from him to settle a matter related to a financial dispute, the statement read. The complainant also alleged that he was being threatened that if he didn't settle the matter in favour of the other party, he would be arrested in a criminal case, it said. The complainant alleged that Kumar demanded Rs 2 lakh as bribe to close the matter, which was reduced to Rs 50,000 following his pleading.



Court issues bailable warrant against Pragya

special NIA court here on Tuesday issued a bailable warrant against BJP leader Pragya Singh Thakur, an accused in the 2008 Malegaon blast case, for failing to attend the proceedings. Final arguments were going on and the presence of the accused is necessary, special judge A K Lahoti noted as he issued a bailable warrant of Rs 10,000 against Thakur. The warrant is `returnable' by November 13 which means Thakur will have to appear before the court by then and get it cancelled. The BJP leader's lawyer cited her health problems while requesting the special court for National Investigation Agency cases to grant her reasonable time to remain present. But the court noted that Thakur, the accused number 1, had not attended the proceedings since June 4.



Delhi hospitals see spike in respiratory issues

mid worsening air quality in Delhi, hospitals across the city are witnessing a spike in the number of patients with respiratory issues. While those with pre-existing conditions like chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or asthma are the worst hit, numerous people with no prior medical history are experiencing symptoms like chest congestion, headaches, and discomfort, doctors said. "It's a tough time especially for those with lung and chest conditions as the air quality is putting additional strain on their health," said Dr. Amitesh Aggarwal, Director and Professor, Department of Medicine. "Most of the patients coming in have preexisting lung conditions like COPD or asthma," he added. Aggarwal said such patients are experiencing a drop in oxygen saturation and breathing difficulties due to the rising pollution levels.

Abhishekam, archana at Kamala's ancestral village temple in TN

PNS ■ TIRUVARUR (TAMIL NADU)

A special 'abhishekam' of sandalwood and turmeric, besides a special 'archana' was performed on Tuesday at a temple in the village of ancestors of Democrat Kamala Harris as the villagers prayed that she becomes the next US president.

If she wins, the village lead-

If she wins, the village leaders are prepared to provide 'annadhanam' (free food/community lunch), local councillor apuja held at the temple for

Arulmozhi told reporters.

Meanwhile, three fans of
Harris visited the native place
of the American leader's maternal family near here and joined

the prayers.

While one is from the UK, two others are from the US and their arrival at Thulasendrapuram, which is about 350 kms from Chennai, was a matter of surprise for the local people. They met the village elders and also took part in puic hold at the tomple for



Harris's win.

One of the fans said she was from Las Vegas and told PTI Videos: "I came here to Kamala's great grandparents' village to support her because I happen to be in India."

She said they are hopeful of her win. The foreigners touched the garlands brought by the priest before it was offered to the deity, as part of the puja and prayers, in keeping with the tradition.

The villagers performed

prayers at the Sri Dharma Sastha temple in her ancestral village expecting her to trounce former president and Republican Donald Trump, and emerge victorious as Americans vote to elect their next president.

Thulasendrapuram is the ancestral village of Kamala's maternal grandfather P V Gopalan, who was in British government civil service. Her mother Shyamala was Gopalan's daughter.

'India and China await de-escalation'

PNS CANBERRA

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday said the agreement on disengagement of Indian and Chinese troops in eastern Ladakh will be implemented in the coming days "to everybody's satisfaction."

Jaishankar was speaking at the inaugural session of a think tank here in conversation with Justin Bassi, the executive director of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) when he was asked a question about the India-China relationship after the seeming breakthrough.

India on October 21 announced it had reached an agreement with China on patrolling along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, ending the over four-year-long military standoff between the two armies.

In Canberra on Tuesday, Jaishankar: "The immediate part which awaits us is what we call the de-escalation, which is the build up of forces along the Line of Actual Control (LAC)."

Both the countries have bigger troop deployment than existed along the LAC before 2020, "so we have negotiations ahead of us," the External Affairs



In Canberra on Tuesday, Jaishankar: "The immediate part which awaits us is what we call the de-escalation, which is the build up of forces along the Line of Actual Control (LAC)." Both the countries have bigger troop deployment than existed along the LAC before 2020, "so we have negotiations ahead of us," the External Affairs Minister said

Minister said.

The ties between the two Asian giants nosedived significantly following the fierce clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between

the two sides in decades.

"What India and China negotiated on October 21 was the last set of what we call disengage-

tially means that after the summer of 2020, Chinese and Indian troops have been deployed along the LAC in distances which were

extremely concerning," he said.

"The priority has been to find ways of separating the troops, which is why the word disengagement."

He listed "having them (the two armies) go back to their normal operating basis as far as possible" and also resuming patrol "in the way in which it used to be done in 2020," were the last set of agreement and said, the expectation is that the patrolling would resume there, which in fact, "is happening as we speak."

which in fact, is happening as we speak."

The disengagement chapter is done, its implementation "will happen in the coming days to everybody's satisfaction."

During this period (post 2020), India-China relationship was also "very profoundly affected," because it has always been an assumption on India's side that peace and tranquillity in the border areas is a prerequisite for the development of bilateral ties, he mentioned.

He also drew attention to what was agreed between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping in their first bilateral meeting after five years, that the foreign minister and the National Security Advisor would meet their counterparts and find ways to normalise the relationship.

"And how do you establish an

and now do you establish an equilibrium between yourselves at in the border, border areas, which happens to be disputed as well, as well as establish a working relationship in on other issues," he said and termed them as "a very complex set of issues" that require a "lot of thinking and management."

Jaishankar also spoke about how India balances its position as a member of both the BRICS bloc, which he explained is non-west but not anti-west, and QUAD.

Highlighting the importance of the Indian diaspora, the Indian minister said the change in India-US relations can be almost completely correlated with the growth of the diaspora in the United States and asked Australia to learn from it.

The more the diaspora is made comfortable, the more they are seen as equal partners in Australia, the more they are likely to serve, actually, almost as the ballast of the growing relationship, Jaishankar added.



India has always been strong votary of human rights: Birla

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Tuesday said India has always respected international laws and has been a strong votary of human rights and the statutes brought to ensure the dignity of women are a fine example of the country's commitment in this regard.

He also said three new criminal laws were passed after extensive deliberations in the House and at the standing committee, along with public participation.

Birla's remarks came amid a charge by opposition parties that their views on the three laws were not included in the final draft placed before Parliament.

'Drone warfare major disruptor in present-day battlefield'

PNS KOLKATA

Maintaining that drone warfare has proved to be a major disruptor on the present-day battlefield, Eastern Army Commander Lt General R C Tiwari on Tuesday said that the Indian Army is looking at augmenting its units and formations with potent state-ofthe-art drones.

Delivering the opening address at the two-day expo 'East Tech 2024' here, he urged the defence industry partners of the armed forces to provide robust drones that can operate in high altitudes and challenging environments where the soldiers are deployed.

Stating that drone warfare has proved to be a major disruptor on the present-day battlefield, he said, "We are looking at augmenting our units and formations with potent state-of-the-art drones."

"Equally important and in light of increasingly potent capabilities available in this domain with militaries the world over in general and our neighbourhood in particular, having an effective counterdrone system is of utmost importance," Lt General Tiwari, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Command, said.



Lt Gen R C Srikanth, Chief of Staff, Eastern Command, later told reporters that the defence industry and the armed forces are now developing various counter-drone technologies and these are being inducted to carry out operations against the drones in various manifestations.

"Drones have become a major threat in terms of technology... both the armed forces and the industry are fully geared up and are conscious of the fact that we need to develop counter-measures," he said.

He said that some of these are already being inducted and some others will be inducted in due course of time. Lt General Tiwari said that cutting-edge technology to improve survivability of troops and resources is the way for-

ward."Given the high humidity across the eastern region, moisture-proof storage conditions, especially for ammunition in forward areas is something that we expect the Indian defence industry to take on and come up with positive solutions," he said.

He said that over 140 defence industries were participating in the two-day defence expo 'East Tech 2024' here, displaying their capabilities in various fields of defence manufacturing.

He urged West Bengal minister Arup Biswas, who was present at the inauguration, to ensure that more manufacturers from the state, which claims to have the highest number of MSMEs in the country, participate in defence production.

'Politics not genuinely working for people'



PNS WAYANAD (KERALA)

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi, the UDF candidate in the Wayanad Lok Sabha bypoll, on Tuesday took a dig at both the BJP-led Central government and the CPI(M)-led Kerala government, stating that politics in India and Kerala "is not genuinely and honestly working for the people."

On the third day of her fiveday bypoll campaign in the hill constituency, Priyanka highlighted Wayanad's lack of adequate drinking water, education, and healthcare facilities, along with the need for improvements in tourism and setbacks in the farming sector.

"The only real answer is that the politics we are seeing in the country and state is not genuinely and honestly working for you," she contended.

Majority children addicted to social media: Survey



BJP seeking to plunder J'khand's mineral resources: Kharge

PNS RANCHI

Claiming that the BJP has "no intention" to ensure the welfare of people in Jharkhand, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday accused the saffron camp of trying to grab power to "plunder" the state's coal and other mineral resources. He also alleged that the number of BJP leaders congregating in poll-bound Jharkhand is "higher than the total number of candidates", showing that the saffron party wanted to snatch power from a tribal chief minister.

Addressing an election rally in Jharkhand's Mandu, Kharge also accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of being "jhootho ke sardar" (head of liars). "The BJP is eyeing Jharkhand's 'black gold' (coal)

and seeking to plunder its mineral resources. Their intention is not the welfare of the people. The BJP talks about infiltration, but why can't its governments at the Centre and in Assam act against illegal immigrants," Kharge alleged.

"PM Modi is 'jhootho ke sardar' (head of liars). He promised two crore jobs to youths. But where is employment? Beware of them who will only indulge in looting," Kharge claimed.

Addressing another rally in

Addressing another rally in Ranchi, he charged the BJP with having some "rotten thoughts" and believing in "batenge toh katenge" (if divided, we will be finished).

He alleged that the saffron party was conspiring to grab power in Jharkhand and send its tribal Chief Minister Hemant Soren behind the bar.

'State under positive obligation to treat all equally'

PNS NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said the positive concept of secularism required the state to treat minority institutions at par with secular ones and treat all equally irrespective of faith, and

belief.

A bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra made the remarks while upholding the constitutional validity of the 2004 Uttar Pradesh madrassa education

As a result, it set aside the March 22 Allahabad High Court order that quashed the madrassa law on the ground that it was violative of the principle of sec-

The bench said, "The positive concept of secularism requires

SC upholds UP madrassa law



the state to take active steps to treat minority institutions on par with secular institutions while allowing them to retain their minority character. Positive secularism allows the state to treat some persons differently to treat all persons equally. The concept of positive secularism finds consonance in the principle of substantive equality."

The bench said fundamental rights comprise both the negative and positive postulates and required the state to restrain its exercise of power and create conducive conditions for exercising these rights.

Referring to Article 30(1), the top court said it recognised and preserved different types of people, with diverse languages and different beliefs, while maintaining the basic principle of equality and secularism.

"In the spirit of positive secularism, Article 30 confers special rights on religious and linguistic minorities because of their numerical handicap and to instil in them a sense of security and confidence," said the judgment.

Majority of parents surveyed believe their children are addicted to social media, overthe-top apps and gaming platforms and more than half have According to a survey of parents of children aged

addicted to social media, overthe-top apps and gaming platforms and more than half have observed behavioural changes in them which include aggression, impatience and lethargy, says a report.

According to a survey of parents of children aged between 9 and 17 years in urban areas, 47 per cent have shared that their wards spend an average of three hours or more every day on social media, videos, overthe-top apps, and online games.

Around 10 per cent of the parents shared their children

parents shared their children spend more than six hours on social media, online games and videos, online survey firm LocalCircles said.

"66 per cent of parents of urban Indian children sur-

veyed believe that their children

are addicted to social media,

parents of children aged between 9 and 17 years in urban areas, 47 per cent have shared that their wards spend an average of three hours or more every day on social media, videos, over-thetop apps, and online games



OTT or online gaming platforms and 58 per cent of these parents believe that this is leading to increased aggression, impatience and lethargy in children," LocalCircles founder Sachin Taparia said.

The survey was conducted online between August 16 and October 31, 2024, and received over 70,000 responses from parents located in over 368

urban districts of the country, LocalCircles said.
The number of responses to

The number of responses to each question differed.

In response to the question on the "emotional or mental impact of social media, videos or OTT and online games" observed on children, 58 per cent out of 13,743 shared that they see "aggressive" behaviour, 49 per cent stated that the per cent described the children as being 'lethargic', 42 per cent stated that the children are 'depressed', 30 per cent stated that the children are 'hyperactive'.

Besides this 19 per cent

children are "impatient", 49

Besides this, 19 per cent described the children to be 'happier' and 4 per cent of parents stated that the children were 'more social'.

According to the survey report, 66 per cent of urban Indian parents surveyed want the data protection law to ensure that mandatory parental consent is sought for children under 18 when they join social media, OTT or video and

online gaming platforms.

33 per cent of urban Indian parents as per the survey believe that India should operationalise mandatory parental consent for children joining social media, OTT and online gaming platforms via Aadhaar authentication.

www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Cowardly attack

The temple attack in Canada raises concerns over the safety and rights of the Indian diaspora in Canada

he recent attack on the Hindu Sabha Mandir in Brampton, Canada, has once again brought to light the tense diplomatic situation between India and Canada, with both nations navigating an increasingly complex web of domestic and international issues. The incident, marked by violent clashes involving pro-Khalistani extremists outside the temple, was swiftly condemned by both Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. However, the response from each leader underscores the stark differences in their approach, further straining bilateral ties. Prime Minister Modi's condemnation of the attack was resolute and pointed. Taking to social media, he expressed his disappointment over the attack, calling it a "deliberate" act against Hindu religious sentiments and stressing that "such acts of violence will never weaken India's resolve." PM Modi did not hold back from calling on the Canadian government to ensure justice and uphold the rule of law, sending a clear message that India expects Ottawa

to take decisive action to protect its diaspora. While Trudeau also condemned the temple attack, his statement notably avoided any direct mention of the pro-Khalistani extremists involved. This omission reflects a recurring issue in Trudeau's handling of Indiarelated tensions within Canada, where a vocal pro-Khalistani community has been implicated in acts perceived as hostile by India. Trudeau's hesitance to directly address this faction has been a persistent irritant in India-Canada relations, amplifying concerns in New Delhi about Ottawa's stance on issues impacting Indian diaspora and the wider Hindu community in Canada. The attack also comes at a time when broader diplo-

matic relations between the two countries are under significant strain, with recent allegations and counter-allegations creating a sense of mutual mistrust. Last September, Trudeau alleged that India might have been involved in the death of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a known Khalistani activist, who was killed under mysterious circumstances in Canada. Although the Canadian Prime Minister has yet to provide concrete evidence for this claim, the accusation has deepened divisions between the two nations, prompting India to refute any such involvement and criticise the Canadian government's stance. Modi's recent comments have also touched on an additional point of contention: the alleged surveillance of Indian consular staff in Canada. This has not only raised security concerns but has also highlighted the increasing difficulty Indian diplomats face within Canadian borders. The presence of surveillance, paired with incidents like the temple attack, fuels a perception that pro-Khalistani extremists are becoming emboldened, even as Trudeau's administration appears reluctant to fully confront these groups. With each new incident - whether it be a temple attack or allegations of state-backed assassination plots - the divide only seems to grow wider, testing the resilience of both countries' commitments to a constructive relationship.



A girl collects newly plucked saffron flowers during the harvesting season, in Pulwama

India's tribute to the architect of unity



In a historic tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Government has announced sesquicentennial celebration to honour Patel's unyielding legacy in unifying India

Amit Shah has announced that to honour Sardar Patel's 'monumental contributions', to commemorate, his 'enduring legacy as the visionary behind the establishment of one of the world's most robust democracies and his pivotal role in unifying India from Kashmir to Lakshwadeep' which 'remains indelible, the government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, will celebrate his sesquicentennial from 2024 to 2026.

After the nationwide movement to erect the Statue of Unity, this is another watershed occasion, when the legacy of Sardar Patel would be commemorated and cherished. This honour was long due and is richly deserved. The Sardar's centenary in 1975, was a given a short-shrift. It was deliberate. The Indira-led Congress, busy enforcing an unethical and draconian 'Emergency', had little time to commemorate Sardar

A commemoration would have certainly raised hard questions. Moreover, could Sardar's democratic legacy be commemorated, with the entire Opposition, minus the crooning communists, behind bars? One of Patel's foremost biographers, Rajmohan Gandhi, writing in 1991, spoke of how acknowledgements in the case of Nehru were 'fulsome' and in the case of Gandhi 'dutiful', but in the case of Patel, were 'niggardly.' Speaking of the Nehru centenary celebrations in 1989, Gandhi writes, that it 'found expression on a thousand billboards, in commemorative TV serials, in festivals and in numerous other platforms.' While Patel's centenary on October 31, 1975, four months after Emergency was clamped, 'was by contrast, wholly neglected by official India and the rest of the Establishment.'

In a long interview with Harry Hodson, British economist and his biographical opus, LK litor. Patel's shadow and troubleshooter-in-chief, VP Menon, recalled a day when the usually tolerant and absorbing Patel chose to talk back to Nehru. 'You think you made the Congress?', he snapped, 'We are all co-builders in it. You think I want your posi-



would not have resigned my Presidency and asked Gandhiji that you should take over. I told him that I would stand down.' 'There was rare emotion in the Sardar's voice, writes Narayani Basu in her biography of Menon citing that particularly acerbic encounter. The post Sardar Patel Congress was made to believe that it was Nehru alone who made it and therefore only he and his political progeny were worthy of commemoration and remembrance. VP was saddened to 'see that under the veil of idealism and greatness Nehru wrapped himself in, there existed a vindictive and petty man.'

For someone who saw Patel so closely for many intense years, VP told Hodson, how Sardar 'died as a very, very bitter and sad man', and 'Panditji should never have treated him the way he did.' That propensity of negating Patel and his contribution to our national march percolated through Nehru's dynasty and the Congress that he shepherded post-Patel. In nas rightly Advani the Congress's dégringolade, after Patel, arguing that 'after Sardar Patel passed away, there was no one left in the Congress Party to counterbalance Nehru's negative views on various important issues.' As an

PATEL'S **BIOGRAPHER** RAJMOHAN GANDHI **ARGUES** THAT 'IN THE POLITICALLY SIGNIFICANT SELECTION OF **AMBEDKAR** AND MOOKERJEE, PATEL'S WAS UNDOUBTEDLY THE DECISIVE ROLE'

my mind the special bond that they shared in free India's first

Patel's biographer Rajmohan Gandhi argues that 'in the politically significant selec-tion of Ambedkar and Mookerjee, Patel's was undoubtedly the decisive role.' While Sardar had his eyes on Babasaheb Ambedkar from the 'summer of 1946', Dr Mookerjee, who then represented the Hindu Mahasabha, had earned Sardar's plaudits by calling for and advocating the partition of Bengal in March 1947 and 'by refusing to join an abortive bid for a united and independent sovereign Bengal that Sarat Bose' and the then Muslim League premier of Bengal, mastermind of the bloody 1946 'Direct Action', H S Suhrawardy, had floated. It was a clever ploy by Suhrawardy to try and wean away the whole of Bengal from India and to toss it eventually into his master Jinnah's

Pakistan cauldron. Both, Dr Mookerjee's bold advocacy and Sardar Patel's support to his demand, saved Bengal and ensured that a portion of it remained an integral part of India. It was a moment,

THE EDITO

like a few more to follow in the coming years, in which both Sardar Patel and Dr Mookerjee worked closely.

In his voluminous memoirs, 'Living an Era', veteran Congressman DP Mishra, recalls that, when Suhrawardy realised his nefarious plan of snatching away Bengal was falling through, 'he took to making veiled threats about Calcutta being destroyed as a result of communal warfare' and told Mountbatten that he 'feared serious riots and damage' in Calcutta and 'wanted six-months joint control' of the

Mishra writes that when Mountbatten sought Patel's reaction to the proposal, Patel replied, 'not even for six hours.' These are all worth remembering, commemorating and revisiting.

The nationwide Statue of Unity movement from 2013 to 2104, the humongous mission of erecting and unveiling the Statue of Unity, and the commemoration of 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas', have all been milestones in the last decade. A long and deliberately neglectlegacy is being streamed.

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

A robust EV Infra can support sustainable mobility



As India races toward a sustainable mobility future, electric vehicles have emerged as key drivers in reducing emissions and lowering fossil fuel dependence

ustainable mobility is the future of transportation, focusing on reducing our reliance on fossil fuels and minimising harmful emissions. In this context, Electric Vehicles (EVs) have emerged as a game-changer, offering lower emissions and a reduced carbon footprint compared to traditional gasoline vehicles. Governments worldwide are encouraging the adoption of EVs to address climate change, and India is no exception. India's Push for Electric

Mobility:

The Indian government has laid out ambitious targets to boost the adoption of EVs, with policies and incentives underlining its commitment. In July 2023, NITI Aayog set a clear roadmap, aligning with the national goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2070. The targets are impressive: 30 per cent EV penetration in private cars; 70 per cent in commercial vehicles; ; 40 per cent in buses 80 per cent for both two- and three-wheelers. India's EV market has seen tremendous growth, with EV registra-

over 15 million in 2023. This momentum is further fueled by the Government's aim to make 100 per cent of EV production local, contributing to both sustainability and economic growth.

Challenges in EV Charging Infrastructure While EV adoption is on the rise, India's progress is hindered by gaps in charging infrastructure. Sustainable EV infrastructure, especially charging stations, is critical to supporting the EV ecosystem. However, several challenges remain:

Unequal Distribution of **Charging Stations:** Most of India's 1,742 charging stations are located in urban areas, leaving rural regions underserved.

Limited Grid Capacity: Although EVs will only account for 1.3% to 4.8% of India's overall electricity

grid stability remain key

Current charging methods, including conductive, inductive, and battery swapping, all present unique challenges in cost, efficiency, and scalabil-

Regulatory and Policy Barriers: Compared to global EV leaders like Singapore, India's regulatory framework is still evolving, and better coordination between the government and private sector is essential to build a robust charging infrastructure. To achieve its EV goals, India needs to significantly expand and upgrade its EV charging network. Sustainable EV infrastructure in both urban and rural areas is essential for widespread adoption. Here are key strategies for

Expansion to Rural Areas: Addressing the rural-urban disparity with solar-powered and mobile charging stations can help bring sustainable mobility to remote regions. Partnerships: Public-private partnerships will be crucial in tions increasing eleven-fold, India's overall electricity scaling up the infrastructure. from 1.3 million in 2018 to demand by 2030, managing Stakeholders such as

peak demand and ensuring automakers, technology companies, and the government must work together to estab-Technological Constraints: lish a reliable and accessible network of charging points. **Technological Innovations:** Standardizing charging systems and investing in advanced technologies like smart grids and energy stor-age solutions can make EV infrastructure more efficient and user-friendly.

Supportive Policies: Financial incentives, tax breaks, and clearer regulations on EV infrastructure development can help catalyze faster growth in the sector. As India continues its journey toward sustainable mobility, developing a robust EV charging infrastructure is critical to ensuring the success of its electric mobility mission. With the government's ambitious targets and contributions from key players, India is poised to make substantial progress in transforming its transportation sector. With collective effort, India can achieve its vision of a greener, cleaner future while fostering economic growth.

(The author is CTO & Co-Founder, Park+; views are

AVOID RELIGIOUS POLITICS

Madam —This refers to the editorial dated 4-11-24. The students' movement that started against 30 per cent reservation announced for the Mukti Bahini martyrs was only a spark and all those who were waiting for an opportunity to throw out the dictatorial regime and the religious fundamentalists joined hands with the agitating students and made the situation worse, ultimately forcing the government head to flee the country. But during the course of the movement, students were pushed behind and the religious fundamentalists took the dominating role and used the agitating students to push forward their tactical goals.

The demands of the students were, after all, ending the reservation, but subsequently it took political and religious turns plunging the country into further social and economic crisis. History is clear with its message. Wherever religion and religious heads are allowed to dominate the agenda it leads to dictatorship and ends up with chaotic scenes on the social and economic front. Religion is an innate affair and politics is a public affair. Mixing these incongruent ingredients will have its inevitable and serious adverse effects. It is the responsibility of every citizen to keep religion and religious fundamentalists at a distance to ensure them not to indulge in politics.

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

ELECTION DRAMA CONTINUES Madam— As the 2024 US presidential elections gather momentum, we must be perplexed at the nation's freewheeling ethos in its various forms. Tirades and misinformation are freely used by parties. While it takes the Supreme Court to reveal funds received by our political parties but not the nexus to a specific donor, Elon Musk, the US multibillionaire, openly donates millions to the Trump campaign. and even censors anti-Trump have their own laws on elections that our government schemes to reach out to

Violence against Indians in Canada

he deplorable violence at the Hindu Sabha Mandir in Brampton has laid bare Canada's inept handling of a sensitive situation. This is a new low for the Justin Trudeau government, which has been recklessly burning bridges with India following the murder of Khalistan activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar. The allegation that the police targeted Hindu devotees and tried to protect Khalistan supporters has added fuel to the fire. Canadian Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister David Morrison's allegation that Home Minister Amit

Shah ordered a campaign of violence, intimidation and intelligence-gathering targeting Sikh separatists in that country has raised India's hackles Khalistanis' anti-India protests have put them on a collision course with Indian-origin Canadian citizens who wear the Tricolour on their sleeve. Canada, which proudly regards itself as a peaceloving land of opportunities, needs to deal firmly with those who threaten communal harmony and public order.

It must crack down on troublemakers and rabble-rousers, no matter which community they helong to Allowing the misuse of Canadian territory to spew venom against India - all in the name of freedom of expression - is undermining the Trudeau government's diplomatic and democratic credentials. Meanwhile, Trudeau owes an explanation for letting anti-India elements have their way with impunity

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Washington

counting too.

They are seldom bound by the Federal Election Commission, whose remit to call the elections has long been usurped by the media!. The dominance of the fifth estate in the US seems to be a wart that has come to be its beauty spot. The irony is that Donald Trump, who lost to Biden by 7 million votes in 2020, has not conceded his defeat even today. And despite all these aberrations, the outcome is keenly awaited globally. Transparency is a virtue in US politics, embellished by no-holds-barred campaigns and a media splurge in millions of dollars.

R Narayanan | Mumbai

SHINDE'S WINNING STRATEGY

Madam —It is an advantage for Shinde Sena, as they have had a whip hand in providing a clean administration for over 30 months and won the hearts of the people. Moreover, the bow and arrow symbol he inherited as the real Sena is a tweets on his X outlet. States in the US magic wand for victory. He is carrying cover not only voting procedure but their the people in the best way possible and

it is a victory sign for success. Chief Minister Eknath Shinde launched Shiv Sena's campaign for the upcoming Assembly elections with promises of affordable housing for the poor, increasing the monthly installment of the Ladki Bahin Yojana and making Mumbai

In the past two years, we have worked to give to people but those who were in power in Mumbai for 25 years did nothing but corruption and scams. They indulged in Rs 3,500 crore corruption in various spheres. The road for victory is well laid with CM also provided updates on the welfare programme, including the increased insurance coverage of Rs 5 lakh under the Mahatma Phule Jan Arogya Yojana, targeted support for youth employment with the 'Ladka Bhau Yojana, and expanded access to free higher education for girls statewide. It is indeed a win-win situation.

Jayanthy Maniam | Vashi

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

FIRST COLUMN LIFE BEYOND THE GRAVE

Rebirth is not only a source of spiritual continuity but also a foundation for the pursuit of higher consciousness



RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR NIKUNJ JI

very time we see death or attend a funeral, we experience something like cemetery-induced reclusion which makes our mind & body numb. This makes us question the very purpose of our life. We start thinking that if death is the be-all and end-all of it-all, and it can kill anyone, anytime, then why should we bother about doing good deeds and fear punishment for our sins? There are mainly two kinds of people who have two different beliefs in this regard.

The first kind of people believe in the rebirth of human beings and strongly feel that the account of our good and bad deeds will be settled on the day of judgment when the dead rise from their graves, and then there are the second kinds of people who not only believe that human souls are reborn, but they also feel that humans transmigrate into 8.4 million species before getting a human birth again. However, there is very little knowledge about the third kind of people who believe that human souls take rebirth and are always in the human body.

Let us suppose that humans are not reborn. In that case what reason would there be to perform good deeds and desist from bad ones? Also, if there were no rebirth there would be no fear of punishment for one's bad deeds either, and little to stop people from doing as they pleased as long as they could evade the law. We should understand that if there is no future after death, people would also not amass wealth right up to their death, or build houses in their old age.

These efforts would be futile, in the absence of rebirth. Thus, our hopes



of eternal prosperity and happiness, desire to earn merit by performing good deeds, fear of punishment in future births and feelings of eternal love and patriotism, would not arise at all if rebirth were not a reality. According to Hindu Mythology, a soul never dies, it is the body that dies & immediately after death, the soul changes body as we change clothes. With modern techniques like Past Life Regression, there are lots of cases around us where we see a child claiming to be experiencing visions of his/her previous births. Many of these cases have been verified by experts and psychologists who have recorded the testimonies of people recalling their previous birth and then cross-checked the facts with official records and the people mentioned by them.

Another simple fact that points to the reality of rebirth is that a soul cannot function without a body. If there were no rebirth, where does the soul go after a person has died? As human beings, nearly all our interactions are with fellow humans. Thus, we create karmic accounts with humans, to which we have to take birth in human form again. The analogy of the seed also illustrates this point. Just as a mango seed brings forth a mango tree, which then produces mangoes, which again provide mango seeds, the human soul possesses human qualities, feelings and experiences, and is the seed of human life. Hence it cannot function in any other living creature's body. Scepticism about the existence of souls and facts like rebirth is widespread because of the lack of an experience of soul consciousness. Such an experience requires spiritual effort for which one has to focus the mind and the intellect inward and then contemplate on it in silence. Slowly one begins to sense the existence of a sentient entity within, which is the soul. Such an experience, repeated over time, brings soul-consciousness, or the belief that one is a soul. It is this experience of reality that removes the shroud of ignorance from all other facts of the subtle world of souls, which we usually dismiss in disbelief for lack of material proof. So let us practice remaining in soul consciousness and enjoy being an enlightened soul

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

Punjab's MSMEs: Poised to compete on the global stage



With tailored state-specific export policies and enhanced trade routes, Punjab's MSMEs are poised to overcome geographical disadvantages and harness lucrative global markets

n a decisive step to enhance industrial growth in Punjab, the NITI Aayog in partnership with the Aayog in partnership with the Punjab Government, has sought feedback from stakeholders to explore the potential of MSMEs as a driver of export growth. This initiative is essential for identifying and promptly resolving industry challenges. To meet the objective of boosting Punjab's exports, MSMEs must be equipped with a comprehensive State Export Promotion Policy, linking them to sustainable growth and significant employment gengrowth and significant employment gen-

Exports are a fundamental pillar of a state's development, and a strategic geographical location is vital for ensuring global competitiveness and job creation factors for robust economic growth. For instance, Haryana once a barren expanse, has emerged as one of the top five states for export value, thanks to its advantageous proximity to the National Capital Region (NCR). Currently, Haryana outpaces Punjab with five times more exports. Coastal states with access to seaports are a step ahead in engaging in international trade, while landlocked regions like Punjab endure higher trade costs and transit challenges. It is unacceptable that policymakers have not prioritised Punjab's geographical disadvantages as a landlocked border state. The remoteness from seaports, inadequate connectivity, and frequent protests have created significant barriers to investment, resulting in a concerning decline in the industrial sector—a crisis that Punjab can no longer afford to ignore. The non-competitive environment for Puniab's MSMEs, stemming from their distance from seaports, must be addressed head-

These challenges are surmountable, and it is crucial to focus on empowering Punjab's vital MSMEs, which have the potential to become an "Export Engine" and deserve a fair platform to compete on equal terms. According to NITI Aayog's latest Export Preparedness Index (EPI), Punjab ranks a disappointing 10th with a score of 58.95, while Haryana leads in 5th place with a score of 63.65. Notably, Gujarat has the highest number AND COMPELLING of districts among the ton try for export share (54 per cent), followed by Maharashtra with five districts, Haryana with one, and Punjab with none—only a meagre 2 per cent of the country's exports.

Therefore, it is essential for Punjab to actively engage in export promotion initiatives for every potential MSME to dramatically increase its export figures. Why a State-Specific Policy Needed: The Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) for 2023-2028 has set an ambitious target of achieving \$2 trillion in exports by 2030. However, with 766 districts across the country, it is unacceptable that only 43 cities designated as centres of export excellence receive crucial financial incentives for global market surveys, brand promotions, warehouse establishment, and zero customs duty on capital goods for export-oriented production.

This glaring disparity in the distribution of incentives underscores the urgent need for a more inclusive, state-specific policv. The current focus on a handful of 'Towns of Export Excellence' severely undermines the principles of 'One District, One Product' and 'Sabka Saath,



WHILE INDIA CURRENTLY LAGS BEHIND CHINA IN **BICYCLE** EXPORTS, WE HAVE A CLEAR

ELEVATE OUR GLOBAL EXPORT TARGETS BY AT LEAST 10 PER **CENT OVER THE** NEXT TWO TO THREE YEARS, PARTICULARLY IN UNTAPPED MARKETS IN THE

US, EUROPE, AND

Punjab must decisively shift towards 'Industries of Export Excellence' (IEE). This strategy will empower the identification and promotion of key sectors, such as textiles and apparel, bicycles, auto parts, tractors, engineering goods, hand and machine tools, sports goods, footwear, and leather prod-

Furthermore, the Foreign Trade Policy is resolutely committed to enhancing decentralised export promotion. The introduction of districts as export hubs is a nonnegotiable strategy within the MSMEs Export Promotion Policy. This initiative will systematically identify potential export products and services in every district, establishing institutional mechanisms for their promotion—a critical step toward realising the policy's objectives. Every district in Punjab possesses significant untapped potential.

It is essential to identify additional to identification additional to identify additional to identification additional to identify additional to identify additio

al districts for bolstering export operations, aligning with the imperative 'Vocal for Local' and 'Make in India' initiatives. India's vision of transforming each district into an export hub demands the active engagement of MSMEs from all districts. The time for action is now.MSMEs Export Potential: Punjab boasts an impressive 14.65 lakh MSMEs, which are the backbone of the state's industrial growth and are primed for global expan-

These MSMEs are powerful hubs, excelling in industries such as textiles and apparel, bicycles, hosiery, tractors, automobile components, hand tools, machine tools, sports goods, engineering goods, footwear, and leather goods. They constitute a staggering 99.7 per cent of all MSMEs in the region, employing 65 per cent of the industrial workforce and generating 78 per cent of the state's total industrial output. These industrial clusters possess immense poten-

further.Ludhiana stands as a powerhouse, ranking first(Rs 20,140 Crore export business) among the top ten exporting districts with an export business valued at Rs 55,844 Crore for 2023-24. It leads the nation by producing 92 per cent of India's bicycle parts and 75 per cent of all bicycles, commanding an 80 per cent share in bicycle exports from India.

While India currently lags behind China in bicycle exports, we have a clear and compelling opportunity to elevate our global export targets by at least 10 per cent over the next two to three years, particular-ly in untapped markets in the US, Europe, and Africa. As the foremost producer of blended yarn and hosiery, Ludhiana holds its ground as the second-largest producer of polyester silk, fibre, and cotton yarn. It dominates woollen knitwear (95 per cent) and hosiery ernment's export promotion poli-(65 per cent) exports, showcasing cies. unparalleled strength in the glol al market. While China captures a commanding 37 per cent share in textiles apparel and hosiery, India needs to aggressively increase its mere 5% share in the worldwide market. The opportunity for growth is vast, particularly in lucrative export markets such as the USA, UAE, UK, Germany, France, and Australia.

In the farm equipment sector, Punjab is a force to be reckoned with, hosting one-third of the total original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and standing as the leading tractor manufacturer. With a commanding 34.3 per cent share in exports, Sonalika ITL stands as the largest tractor exporter(Rs 3000 Cr) in 2023-24. Despite India's current 2.2 per cent share in the global market, the potential for over 2 lakh tractors to be exported in the next 2-3 years to burgeoning markets such as Brazil, Argentina, Turkey, SAARC, and African nations is undeniable. Jalandhar dominates the sports goods sector,

producing 45 per cent of the nation's total and contributing to 75 per cent of the country's sports goods exports. While China currently leads with a 42.2 per cent share, India's scant 0.56 per cent share of global exports highlights the tremendous untapped potential for growth. The time is ripe for Punjab to seize lucrative opportunities in markets like the USA, UK, Brazil, Germany, Mexico, South Africa, Colombia, and Argentina, and make a formidable mark on the global stage. The Way Forward: To enhance the competitive edge of MSMEs in foreign trade, it's crucial to allow the flow of bilateral trade from Punjab through the Wagah Border of Pakistan to Middle Eastern countries, CIS nations, Europe, and the US. Establishing a Directorate of Exports in the state is vital for aligning the state and central gov-

One of the most pressing issues is the high borrowing cost of 10-12 per cent. It is essential to introduce interest subvention to create a level playing field for MSMEs, especially when compared to leading global players like China (3.1 per cent), Vietnam (4.5 per cent), Malaysia (3 per cent), and Thailand (3 per cent). Competitive and efficient logistics are foundational for export growth. Therefore, policybacked support for state-owned wagons in landlocked border states like Punjab is essential.

This will help alleviate the burden of over-freight and provide a more equitable environment for driving export growth.

The Author is Vice-Chairman of Sonalika ITL Group, Vice-Chairman of the Punjab Economic Policy and Planning Board, Chairman of ASSOCHAM Northern Region Development Council and President of Tractor and Mechanization Association(TMA); Views expressed are personal.

How mobile video conferencing is bridging the digital divide in Bihar

The Bihar Government has taken a bold step toward real-time governance with the launch of a mobile outdoor video conferencing system

n a time when digital communication is essen-Ltial for efficient government, resolving infrastructur-al and geographic obstacles is vital to making decisions in real time. This need is especially acute in large states like Bihar, where there are major connectivity challenges due to the expansive rural environ-

To narrow this gap, a major tion can now function project was started by Bihar Electronics Development Corporation (BELTRON) along with Millenium Automation as a system integrator, to establish a mobile outdoor video conferencing system that would improve communication



VARINDER SINGH JAWANDA

smoothly throughout Bihar by introducing an inventive, stronger video conferencing system.

Improving Governance With the use of the new outdoor video conferencing technology, authorities in Bihar can now hold virtual challenges and enhance the meetings and communicate state's governance. Because of with other officials directly this initiative, the administra- from almost anywhere in the (BSWAN) was required.

This technology allows gov-ernment officials to communicate in real-time, independent of their actual location, providing a much-needed degree of flexibility. This solution's robust, continuous connectivity and high-quality video streaming facilitate quicker decision-making, effective governance, and a more open line of contact with rural residents.

Recognising the Challenge In places remote from urban networks, ensuring reliable, fast communication was crucial but challenging. To prevent interruptions, a smooth interface between the new mobile video conferencing system and the Bihar State Wide Area Network

Sustaining steady uptime was essential since government communications are so vital. To maintain system functionality and quickly address any technological problems, comprehensive maintenance assistance was also necessary, guaranteeing dependability and continuity throughout the state. A Comprehensive Solution

With portable video conferencing devices that have highquality audio and video components in cases that are easy to move, a specially designed solution was developed to meet these demands.

Even in remote locations, the system's smooth integration with the current Bihar State Wide Area Network (BSWAN) guaranteed reliable service quality.



Advanced networking equipment allowed for seamless data transfer, particularly in areas with limited bandwidth. Disruptions during crucial meetings were minimised by optimising bandwidth in locations far away. Prompt technical assistance, and onsite maintenance guaranteed continuous strong system operation across the state.

This initiative empowered Bihar's government to conduct mobile, outdoor video conferences statewide, enabling officials to make real-time decisions from any location, thus streamlining operations and improving emergency response.

As a technological advancement, it highlights how mobile technology can bridge the digital divide, aligning with the "Digital India" vision by enhancing transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement.

With scalability for future needs, the system can expand into public services and disaster management, offering a sustainable, resilient model for evolving governance demands, and setting an Key Outcomes of the Project inspiring precedent for other

states. Future Prospects and Potential for Growth. This outdoor video conferencing solution has the potential to revolutionise governance in Bihar and other similar states. As Bihar continues to advance, the system can be further expanded to incorporate additional features and applications, including new egovernance initiatives. Emerging technologies like IoT, advanced bandwidth optimisation, and real-time analytics are being explored to enhance communication

efficiency even further. The success of this project opens doors for expansion into other government sectors, allowing more departments to benefit from mobile video conferencing. In conclusion, this outdoor video

conferencing initiative has enabled the Bihar government to communicate and make decisions effectively, regardless of officials' physical locations. It has solved an immediate

challenge while laying the foundation for future technological advancements in government communication. By bridging the digital divide, this solution is enhancing governance in Bihar, helping to build a more inclusive, connected, and prosperous state. The collaboration with

BELTRON demonstrates that strategic digital initiatives can empower state governments to deliver on the promise of accessible, efficient governance for all.

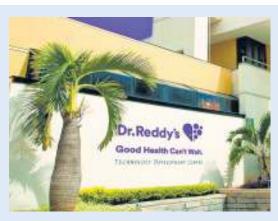
(The writer is CEO at MAPL World; views are personal)

IN BRIEF



Gold rises Rs 200 to Rs 81,300 per 10 grams

Gold prices rose Rs 200 to Rs 81,300 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday amid fresh buying by local jewellers and retailers and strong global trends, according to the All India Sarafa Association. The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity retreated from a record high in the national capital on Monday, declining Rs 1,300 to Rs 81,100 per 10 grams. Silver jumped Rs 1,800 to Rs 96,700 per kg on Tuesday. In the previous session, it had closed at Rs 94,900 per kg. Gold of 99.5 per cent purity appreciated by Rs 200 to Rs 80,900 per 10 grams against the previous close of Rs 80,700 per 10 grams on Monday. Traders attributed the rise in yellow metal prices to a pick-up in demand by local jewellers and retailers in the domestic markets. Meanwhile, in futures trade on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold contracts for December delivery slipped Rs 18 or 0.02 per cent to trade at Rs 78,404 per 10 grams



Dr Reddy's PAT dips to Rs 1342 cr

Dr Reddy's Laboratories Ltd on Tuesday said its consolidated profit after tax for the quarter, ended September 30, was down by nine percent to Rs 1,342 crore (before non-controlling interest) compared to the same period last fiscal. The drugmaker reported a profit after tax of Rs 1,480 crore in the second quarter of FY24. A press release from the company stated that consolidated revenues during the guarter under discussion were up by 17 percent to Rs 8,016 crore compared to Rs 6,880 crore in Q2 FY24. DRL cochairman and managing director said the company delivered another strong quarter and maintained growth momentum across its businesses. "We made progress on our future growth drivers, operationalised our venture with Nestlé, and completed the acquisition of Nicotinell and related brands. We will continue to drive efficiency, strengthen our core businesses, and positively impact patient lives through science and innovation," he said.



Renewable energy investment to touch \$3.1 trillion mark

he renewable energy investment globally is likely to register 29 per cent growth to touch USD 3.1 trillion in 2024 against USD 2.4 trillion in 2018, a report said Tuesday. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), in a statement, said that as per the World Investment Report, the solar segment leads the renewable energy investments, accounting for 59 per cent of the total, driven by lower costs, with APAC (Asia Pacific region) emerging as the top investing region. "The latest report highlights a global shift toward sustainable energy, with energy investments rising from USD 2.4 trillion in 2018 to USD 3.1 trillion by 2024," the report said. The report was released by MNRE Minister and ISA President Pralhad Joshi at the ongoing assembly of the International Solar Alliance held in the national capital. Joshi also launched three other reports, namely the World Solar Market Report, World Technology Report, and Green Hydrogen Readiness Assessment for African Countries, the

Govt pegs record 119.93 MT rice output for kharif season

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's rice production is likely to touch a record 119.93 million tonne (MT) in the 2024-25 kharif season on good monsoon, according to the agriculture ministry's first advance estimate released on Tuesday.

The record estimate comes amid surplus stocks in government godowns.

Rice production is projected 6.67 million tonne higher than the previous year's kharif season. The harvesting

of the main kharif crop is underway across the country. Among coarse cereals, maize output is estimated at an all-time high of 24.54 MT for the 2024-25 kharif season (July-June), up from 22.24 MT last year.

While jowar production is estimated higher at 2.19 MT, bajra output is likely to decline to 9.37 MT. Total coarse cereals production is pegged lower at 37.81 MT against 56.93 million tonne in the year-ago period.

PNS NEW DELHI

margin.

State-owned GAIL (India)

Ltd on Tuesday reported 10

per cent rise in September

quarter net profit after an

increase in earnings from

gas transmission business

and turnaround in petro-

chemical business neu-

tralised fall in marketing

Rs 2,689.67 crore in July-

September FY25 compared

with Rs 2,442.18 crore in the

same period a year ago, according to a stock exchange filing by the com-

India's biggest natural gas

transmission and marketing

firm reported almost flat

revenue from operations at

Pre-tax earnings from gas

up 8 per cent to Rs 1,402.81 crore.

Rs 33,981.33 crore.

Consolidated net profit of

kharif season, higher than 155.76 MT last year. Pulses output is expected to remain almost flat at 6.95 MT compared to 6.97 MT, while oilseeds production is likely to

The ministry estimates total foodgrain production

at 164.70 MT for the 2024-25



increase to 25.74 MT from 24.16 MT. India relies on imports to meet domestic shortages of pulses and oilseeds. Among cash crops, sugarcane production is projected to decline to 439.93 MT from 453.15 MT last

Cotton output is estimated lower at 29.92 million bales (170 kg each) against 32.52 million bales, while jute/mesta production may fall to 8.45 million bales (180 kg each) from 9.69 million bales.

crore. The petchem business

clocked an earning of Rs

146.19 crore as against a loss

of Rs 160.94 crore in the

However, earnings from

marketing business were

down 27 per cent at Rs

Natural gas transmission

volume stood at 13.63 mil-

lion standard cubic metres

per day in Q2 while gas

marketing volume was 96.60

mmscmd, the firm said in a

statement. GAIL Chairman

and Managing Director

Sandeep Kumar Gupta said

the petrochemical segment is

expected to be reasonably profitable in FY2024-25.

The company logged a capex of Rs 1,885 crore dur-

ing the quarter, mainly on

pipeline and petrochemicals,

taking cumulative capex up

ember 30 to Rs 3,544

year-ago period.

1,253.64 crore.

GAIL Q2 profit up

10% Rs 2,690 cr

"India is not devoid of big (industry) houses having

ISRO chairman S Somanath on

Tuesday urged industry houses

to invest in the space sector in a big way to build rockets and

allied systems for India to

emerge as a space power by

concern over the "elusive" invest-

ments in the upstream sector of

the space industry comprising

launch vehicles, hardware and

software for ground-based stations, telemetry, tracking and

He said the share of the

Indian space economy in the

global market was very low and

there was a need to encourage

and inspire the next generation

of leaders to come into the sec-

tor and create a vibrant activity.

pegged at USD 8.4 billion and is

projected to grow to USD 45 bil-

lion in the next ten years.

India's space economy is

Somanath said investments

were not forthcoming from big

industry houses within the

country for the upstream side of

the business despite pursuing the matter with them.

command stations

Addressing the Indian Space Conclave here, Somanath voiced

systems, virtual digital assets

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and Qatar's Financial Intelligence Units (FIU) discussed use of IT systems and tools, public and private partnerships, strategic analysis, and experience in virtual digital assets segment, the finance ministry said on Tuesday.

A nine-member delegation,

Big industry needs to take

plunge in space sector: ISRO

enough capability to invest and create as much as others in the world. But, they need to take the plunge, possibly alone or in a very cooperative mode with others," the ISRO chairman said addressing the conclave organised by the Indian Space

Association. He acknowledged the risks involved in the space sector where a longer time is required to develop complex systems which could prove to be unsuitable as technologies tend to change fast. "There are industries and start-ups happening, but their ability to scale up to a level, become competitive enough to challenge established players remains to be seen," Somanath said. "It is here that the role of bigger industrial houses needs to come in. If you want to really scale up this domain, it has to be through a very high level of risksharing capability that has to be taken only by bigger industry houses," Somanath said. He said there was a need to create leading space companies in India, not just service-providing com-

Money 08

panies. "Companies who have the capability to conceive, design, manufacture and put up cost competitive products in front of the world," he said.

Last year, ISRO's commercial arm NewSpace India Limited awarded a contract to a consortium of L&T and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to build five Polar Satellite Launch

Vehicles. The space agency has also offered to transfer its latest Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) to the industry for mass produc-

The company or a consortium identified for the transfer of technology for the SSLV can continue to build the rocket at ISRO facilities till it develops its own campus for manufacturing the launch vehicles.

India and Qatar FIU discuss IT

headed by Sheikh Ahmed Al Thani, Head of FIU-Qatar, visited Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND), on November 4-5, 2024, New Delhi. During the visit, FIU-IND head Vivek Aggarwal and Sheikh Ahmed Al Thani discussed current practices in Anti-money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) regime as well as possible areas of future collaboration between

Seven developers seek govt approval for full or partial cancelation of SEZs

PNS NEW DELHI

Seven developers, including Kerala State Information Technology Infrastructure, have approached the government for the full or partial cancellation of their special economic zones (SEZs).

The inter-ministerial Board of Approval (BoA) chaired by the Commerce Secretary would take a decision on these applications in its meeting on November 8.

Of the seven zones, four are from the IT/ITeS sector. While other sectors include apparel and pharma, according to the BoA meeting agenda document.

Kerala State Information Technology Infrastructure Limited (KSITIL) has sought denotification of its two IT/ITeS proposed zones in Kerala.

of the two SEZs. "As regards reasons, the

developer has stated that due to lack of demand for SEZ space, their board has decided to transfer the land to the Industries Department for setting up an industrial park," the document said. Arshiya Ltd has submitted

an application for full de-noti-fication of their FTWZ (free ed to de-notify the entire area trade warehouse zone) at for non-SEZ clients," it said.

Nagpur, Maharashtra. Qubix Business Park has asked for partial denotification of 1.47 Ha out of 10.17 Ha of their IT/ITeS SEZ at Rajiv Gandhi Infotech Park, Pune,

Maharashtra.

The (Qubix) developer wishes to operate as a DTA (Domestic Tariff Area) without availing duty benefits and

Stock markets stage spirited recovery; Sensex up 694 pts

Benchmark Sensex recovered its early losses to close higher by 694 points on Tuesday on late buying in banking, steel and oil & gas shares amid firm trends in global equities ahead of the US presidential elections. Bouncing back from Monday's sharp fall, the BSE Sensex jumped 694.39 points or 0.88 per cent to settle at 79,476.63. During the day, it soared 740.89 points or 0.94 per cent to 79,523.13.

The NSE Nifty climbed 217.95 points or 0.91

per cent to settle at 24,213.30 as 39 of its constituents advanced and 11 declined. Stock markets opened on a weak note and traded in a range with a negative bias in the first half

ahead of the US presidential elections. Sensex hit a low of 78,296.70 while Nifty touched 23,842.75. Value buying in the afternoon session helped indices recover losses and closed in the green. "Markets

witnessed a remark

'turnaround towards the closing hours as value buying in banking stocks along with gains in metals and oil & gas stocks

aided broad market recovery.

"Optimism across Asian and European indices ahead of the US election outcome boosted local traders' confidence, although medium-term outlook still looks hazy due to scepticism over further rate cut by the Fed and subdued corporate earnings," Prashanth Tapse, Equities Ltd, said.

Sensex pack,

surged nearly 5 per cent while Tata Steel jumped nearly 4 per cent. Axis Bank, IndusInd Bank, HDFC Bank, State Bank of India, Kotak Mahindra Bank and UltraTech Cement were also among the big gainers.

Adani Ports, ITC, Bharti

Airtel and Asian Paints were among the laggards. The domestic market expe-

rienced a sharp recovery, reclaiming most of the previous day's losses amid uncertainty surrounding the likely downgrade in Q2 GDP forecast and closely contested U.S. presidential election," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said.

Tax officers detect Rs 25K cr GST **evasion by 18,000** bogus firms

PNS NEW DELHI

Tax officers have detected about 18,000 fake companies registered under GST which have been involved in tax evasion of about Rs 25,000 crore, an official said. In the recently concluded all-India drive against fake companies, GST officers had identified 73,000 companies which they suspected of being set up only to avail of input tax credit (ITC) without any actual sale of goods and thereby

defraud the exchequer.
"We had identified around 73,000 GSTINs for verification in the second all-India drive against fake registrations. Of this, around 18,000 were found to be non-existent. They were involved in tax evasion of about Rs 24,550 crore," the official said.

Home textiles likely to witness 6-8 pc revenue growth

India's home textile industry is expecting 6-8 per cent revenue growth this financial year driven by resilient demand from the key export destination like the US and expansion in the domestic market, a report said on Tuesday.

Following a 9-10 per cent rebound in revenue growth last fiscal, India's home textile industry is set to stitch 6-8 per cent growth this fiscal riding on resilient demand from the US and expansion in the domestic market - and notwithstanding some lingering logistical challenges, Crisil Ratings said in a

The credit profiles of home textile companies will remain stable, supported by healthy cash accrual and moderate capital expenditure (capex) plans on the back of deleverage bal-

The home textile industry derives 70-75 per cent of its revenue from exports, of which the US alone accounts for 60 per cent, and the remaining from the domestic market.

growth of the home textiles industry this fiscal. One, resilient consumer spending and normalised inventory levels at major retailers in the US will spur exports, though container availability bears watching. Two, the industry's continued focus on expanding domestic presence will aid growth," Crisil Ratings Senior Director Mohit Makhija said.

Third, he said, the domestic prices of cotton, the key raw material, are likely to remain close to international levels, resultantly retaining the competitiveness of domestic compa-

"Therefore, for the home textiles exported by India, the country's share in US imports will remain steady this fiscal in January-August 2024, it was 30 per cent, same as in calendar year 2023," he added.

International cotton prices had plummeted below the domestic prices between June and September 2024, driven by a surge in cotton supply from Brazil and the US, the report



'Festive consumption growth halved in 2024'

PNS NEW DELHI

Japanese brokerage Nomura on Wednesday said the growth rate in festive consumption halved to 15 per cent in the current year.

Analysts at the brokerage attributed their findings to "rough estimates" and added that the same growth had stood at 32 per cent in 2023

and 88 per cent in 2022. 'Anecdotal data suggests retail sales (offline and online) rose during this festive season, but overall growth rates are slower," they said in a note. It said while festive demand

remained steady in rural areas and tier-2 and tier-3 cities, metros and industrial demand was "weak", leading to "mixed" overall festive consumption

Last month, the Union Ministry of Finance had said

urban demand was weak. The Nomura analysts said weddings in December should provide a fillip to the festive

There are broadly two ways to assess the strength of festive demand. One is to sift through anecdotal evidence and compare trends with previous years. Another, in the



case of 'hard' conventional data, is to aggregate economic activity across the September-December period and compare across years, which helps to iron out the 'date effect' on growth rates," it explained.

Under anecdotal evidence, it cited The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) expectations on retail sales growth slowing down to 13.3 per cent in 2024 from 36.4 per cent in the year before, growth in ecommerce sales and gold volumes falling even though

sales have picked up. On the 'hard' data front, the

brokerage said incoming inputs are suggesting stability but there are fireworks. It said retail auto sales are

up 14 per cent adjusted for the period of shradh, but on the wholesale side, passenger vehicles and MHCV have fared poorly in 2024.

A "cyclical growth slow-down" is underway in the economy, it said, adding that the Reserve Bank of India's 7.2 per cent real GDP growth estimate for FY25 looks "overly optimistic" and there are "rising downside risks" to its own projections of 6.7 per cent growth.

Vijayawada | Wednesday November 6, 2024

BARKHA TO ROMANCE SABARMATI REPORT

xcitement is building around the upcoming film *The Sabarmati Report* presented by Balaji Motion Pictures. While details about Barkha's character remain under wraps, reports indicate that Barkha is playing Vikrant's love interest.

According to reports, a source close to the project revealed, "Barkha Singh will be seen romancing Vikrant Massey in this theatrical film. Her chemistry with Vikrant is something to watch out for." Barkha has continuously impressed viewers with her versatility, effortlessly transitioning between different genres and roles.

Barkha has also announced her forthcoming project titled *Lafangey* with Amazon MiniTV. In addition to this promising venture, she has an array of intriguing projects lined up for release this year.

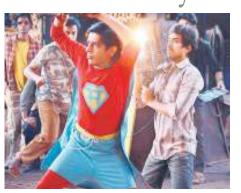


Adarsh Gourav shadows real-life filmmaker Nasir for Zoya Akhtar's next

nown for his versatility and commitment to his craft, Adarsh Gourav is set to take on a unique and challenging role in the upcoming film Superboys of Malegaon. Based on the real-life story of a group of amateur film-makers from Malegaon, Gourav will portray Nasir Shaikh, one of the key visionaries behind Malegaon's grassroots film movement. To bring authenticity and depth to his character, Gourav spent considerable time shadowing Nasir Shaikh and even took it a step further—creating his own short film with minimal resources, just as Nasir did.

Superboys of Malegaon follows the journey of passionate, small-town filmmakers in Malegaon, a city known for its local film industry that creates parody versions of Bollywood blockbusters on shoestring budgets. To ensure his portrayal was rooted in reality, Gourav immersed himself in Shaikh's world and gained firsthand experience of the obstacles these filmmakers face.

In a statement, Adarsh Gourav shared his thoughts on this extraordinary process: "The story of *Malegaon's* filmmakers is truly inspiring



and I knew I had to do justice to Nasir Shaikh's character. To understand him, I didn't just want to hear about his experiences—I wanted to live them. That's why I spent time in Malegaon, shadowing Nasir and creating my own short film with the same limitations he had: minimal equipment, a small crew and almost no budget. It was an eye-opening experience. The struggles they facedthe ingenuity and resilience required to create something meaningful with so little—helped me understand not just Nasir but the soul of Malegaon's film community."

He further added, "Going through the process of filmmaking with these constraints allowed me to get into the skin of the character in a way that wouldn't have been possible otherwise. I have a deep admiration for Nasir and everyone in Malegaon who dares to dream big despite all odds. This is a story of heart, passion and unshakeable belief in the magic of cinema, no matter where you come from or what resources vou have."

Superboys of Malegaon, directed by ace filmmaker Reema Kagti and produced by Zoya Akhtar's Tiger Baby Production, promises to be a heartwarming and comedic tribute to the creativity and perseverance of local filmmakers in India, blending humor, drama and an exploration of grassroots cinema. The film is set to release in cinemas soon, with audiences eagerly awaiting to see Gourav bring Nasir Shaikh's inspiring story to life on the big screen.

DJ LYAN x Baby Jean's Tapori brings Kerala to world stage

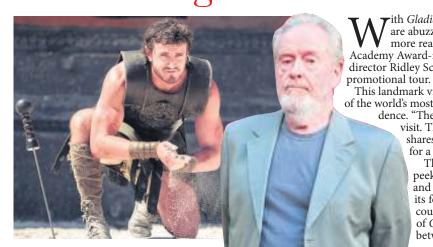
n a groundbreaking fusion of traditional Indian culture and contemporary music, British-Asian producer DJ LYAN and Malappuram's rising rap star Baby Jean have unveiled their latest track, *Tapori* (meaning street thugs) with DESI TRILL. The high-energy single, coupled with a visually stunning music video, thrusts Kerala's exhilarating bull surfing sport onto the interna-tional stage. The music video, filmed across the picturesque landscapes of Kerala, captures the raw energy and daring athleticism of bull surfing, a traditional sport known locally as Maramadi. By seamlessly blending ancient tradition with modern music production, DJ LYAN and Baby Jean have created a captivating audiovisual experience that celebrates Kerala's rich cultural heritage.

Drawing inspiration from local street slang for its title, the track resonates deeply with the youth culture of modern India. The collaboration bridges the gap between South Asian and Western musical sensibilities, featuring Baby Jean's authentic Malayalam rap flow over DJ LYAN's sophisticated production that incorporates traditional South Indian percussion.

Tapori is more than just a song and serves as a fitting tribute to Kerala's vibrant lifestyle and the fearless spirit of its people. The music video's stunning cinematography showcases the breathtaking beauty of the region, from its lush green landscapes to its bustling urban centers. *Tapori* is part of DJ LYAN's EP *Thank You, Come* Again, packed with infectious club bangers and anthems delivering a unique blend of traditional samples and new-age vocals. With sounds ranging from Spanish to his native Indian influences, DJ Lyan crafts an international club experience with his distinct tempo and style. Excited about *Tapori*, DJ LYAN said, "The growing popularity of Malayalam music in India inspired me to work with Baby Jean. His distinct voice and authentic approach to storytelling perfectly complemented the sound I envisioned for *Tapori*."

Baby Jean said, "When I first heard LYAN's production, I knew this was an opportunity to do something different and showcase our local culture on a global platform. The track allowed me to represent Malappuram's street culture and shoot the video in my hometown. Everything was coming together in full circle."

Is India next? Paul Mescal, Ridley Scott's alleged Gladiator II promo tour



ith Gladiator II's release on the horizon, Indian fans are abuzz with anticipation—and now, there's even more reason to be excited. Sources reveal that Academy Award-nominated actor Paul Mescal and legendary director Ridley Scott may be headed to India for their first-ever

This landmark visit is poised to elevate the film's appeal in one of the world's most passionate movie markets and it's no coincidence. "There have been conversations about an India

visit. The market is key in the ecosystem of things," shares a source close to the film. "They're planning for a series of interactive events to engage fans." The visit is expected to feature exclusive sneak

peeks, including a special preview of *Gladiator II* and live discussions with Mescal and Scott. With its focus on engaging Indian audiences, this tour could be one for the ages, celebrating the magic of *Gladiator II* and the enduring cinematic bond between Hollywood and India.

STANDALONE

Attended by some of India's top celebrities, alongside the immensely talented cast and crew, the premiere was an electrifying celebration of the action-packed series born from the world of Citadel. The spies. Varun Dhawan (Bunny) and Samantha (Honey), in addition to the ensemble cast including Sikandar Kher, Soham Majumdar, Shivankit Parihar and Kashvi Majmundar proved to be scene stealers even off the screen.



ARCHIE







CALVIN AND HOBBES



REALITY CHECK







GARFIELD

NANCY



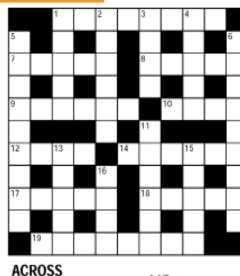








CROSSWORD











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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ***

SUDOKU

		resterday 5 sortificati									
	_		8	4	2	9	1	5	3	7	6
	9		5	9	6	7	3	2	8	4	1
2			1	7	3	8	6	4	5	9	2
<u> </u>			3	6	4	2	5	9	7	1	8
	5		2	8	1	4	7	3	9	6	5
	_		9	5	7	6	8	1	4	2	3
			4	1	5	3	2	7	6	8	9
			6	2	9	5	4	8	1	3	7
			7	3	8	1	9	6	2	5	4
			Ru	les							
5	_		(Each cont exac	ain	eac	h nı	olui umb	mn er (can 1 to	9)

. The sum of all numbers in

any row or column must equal 45.

 Broader A six-legged creature 3 Round handle

5 People not known to

 Beard 7 Movements of the sea caused by the moon's

pull on the Earth 8 A sour oily fruit from a tree

9 One of the continents

10 An alcoholic drink 12 Look at something for a

long time

14 Me 17 A type of small bird

18 A clothing size

19 A chart of months and days

4 Lift up

15 Mistake



6 Extremely frightened

11 An eye's cover

13 A striped animal

16 A joint in the leg

GINGER MEGGS







the pioneer The pioneer land a land

Follow us on

@TheDailyPioneer

facebook.com/ dailypioneer

Wednesday November 6, 2024

KANIKA KAPOOR'S LATEST TRACK WILL MAKE YOU GO MATAK MATAK

SHIKHA DUGGAL shikhaduggalwork@gmail.com

enowned for her strong vocals and Bollywood blockbusters, Kanika Kapoor unveiled her international collaboration with Timi Boi, an Afro singer. This endeavour, which combines Indian vocals with international influences like afrobeats and modern music, is a major turning point in her career! What better moment to do an exclusive interview with one of today's most well-known The goal for Matak Matak was to collabo-

rate with Nigerian and Indian artists in a way rate with Nigerian and Indian artists in a way that was authentic to both cultures and felt organic. Our goal was to blend the lively rhythms and beats of both cultures without sacrificing their distinctive sounds. Maintaining the authenticity of each culture's style was the most difficult task, but I believe that by striking the correct balance, we produced something novel and fascinat-

we produced something novel and fascinating that brilliantly embodies both," Kanika expressed.

The song Matak Matak celebrates ethnic diversity with its lively, dance-driven blend of Indian and Afro-pop traditions. It was filmed in Lagos, Nigeria and emphasises joy, movement and cultural cohesion. "My music has evolved over time, moving from Pallymood hits to more india and

Bollywood hits to more indie and international collaborations. I enjoy collaborating with musicians from all around the world and experimenting with various sounds. I can now reach even more people with my voice thanks to this improvement, explains how Kanika is demonstrating her uniqueness and dedication to experimenting with new musical concepts!

Kanika continues to shatter stereotypes as the proprietor of Bajao, demonstrating her adaptability as a mother, artist and businesswoman. Her latest hit, which combines pop, Indian and Afrobeat sounds to create a genuinely global experience, represents another phase in her career. "The energy and style of Timi Boi's

In an exclusive conversation with The Pioneer, Bollywood's reigning songstress Kanika Kapoor opens up about her latest international collaboration, Matak Matak, a vibrant fusion of Indian and Afropop sounds with Nigerian sensation Timi Boi. With her unparalleled energy and passion, Kanika Kapoor talks music, cultural diversity and empowerment, offering

> verse were fantastic. His influence really influenced the final version's tone, giving it a distinctive flavour. We had a great time writing and recording the song in Lagos. The main themes of Matak Matak include excite-

ment, enjoyment and

a glimpse into her

remarkable world

great energy. The song perfectly expresses how it feels to let go, have a good time and celebrate life with friends. I wanted to develop something that would inspire people to dance, let go of their anxieties and simply savour the present. hope it connects with listeners on a happy and carefree level, giving them a rush of excitement and enjoyment and making it their go-to song for festivities," Kanika Kapoor says with

Lagos was the ideal location for them to film the song because it was lively and full of activity. They wanted the images to depict a vibrant, dynamic world and to match the enthusiasm of the song. She continues

the exclusive conversation with well-known songs like *Baby Doll, Lovely, Chittiyaan Kalaiyaan, Beat Pe Booty, Premika, Desi Look* and more. "Great musicians from all over the world are joining together to create music because it has the ability to transcend cultural boundaries. It is my hope that Matak Matak will strike a chord with viewers in Nigeria and

will strike a chord with viewers in Nigeria and India. Without a doubt, music has the ability to unite individuals from all backgrounds."

Her remarkable talent and unwavering love for music are demonstrated by her path from her first success to becoming a household superstar! "I can't wait to continue collaborating with Afro artists! You can anticipate more tracks that combine African and Indian themes; however, I can't give away too much themes; however, I can't give away too much just yet. In addition to several Indian collabs, we have numerous foreign collabs in the works too. Managing my responsibilities as a mother, artist and businesswoman is difficult but immensely fulfilling. Every project is unique and I couldn't accomplish them without the love and support of my family, which inspires me to work harder. On the other side, becoming a property of the other side, becoming a property of the other side, becoming a property of the other side. ing an entrepreneur helps me stay grounded and goal-focused. I am continuously inspired and driven by these various aspects of my life," added the one who is also creating waves on social media!

In the end, music speaks to everyone. It unites individuals, improves our understanding of one another and reveals that we are not all that different at our core. In reality, we are all the same and begging this through provide in that different at our core. In reality, we are all the same and hearing this through music is a blessing. In this candid conversation, she also added, "My advice would be to stay true to yourself. Despite the difficulties in the independent music industry, you can reach listeners worldwide if you are committed and distinctive. I've discovered throughout the years. tinctive. I've discovered throughout the years that perseverance and enthusiasm are crucial for success in the music business. Although there are always highs and lows, remaining loyal to my music and objectives has aided in my development as an entrepreneur and musician. Women in India frequently have extra difficulties in this area as they attempt to balance their artistic endeavours with cultural norms and familial obligations. It has been a voyage of redefining boundaries and demonstrating my abilities. My goal as an entrepreneur is to push Bajao to the global scene while dispelling myths and removing obstacles for upcoming musicians. This collaboration is a rection, encouraging women to think they can be successful in the global business and creative industries."

As a singer, the finest means for her to interact with her followers and loved ones are through live performances and public gatherings. For Kanika Kapoor, seeing it in person is unique and poignant! Having said that, they engage in a number of initiatives that provide their fans with social media insights. She enjoys sharing new projects, behind-thescenes photos and even brief tidbits about her everyday life. Additionally, social media has developed into a potent medium for listening to and sharing new music. It's a great way to discover new products and artists from around

Millions missing out on financial benefits

n a country where economic financial literacy, the Indian governaspirations continue to soar, millions of Indians remain unaware of a powerful tool that could unlock their financial potential: the CIBIL score. The three-digit number, ranging from 300 to 900, serves as one of the most reliable indicators of one's credit health, allowing one to determine their abilit to secure loans and credit cards.

A strong CIBIL score offers numerous advantages in financial transactions. It typically results in increased credit limits across various financial products, including credit cards and overdrafts. Financial institutions tend to extend more generous credit offerings to individuals with a proven history of reliable loan repayment. Moreover, those with favourable scores often experience expedited loan approval processes. Perhaps most importantly, a high CIBIL score significantly enhances the likelihood of loan approval, as banks view such individuals as lower-risk borrowers, making them more inclined to extend credit.

However, despite its substantial significance, the importance of a healthy CIBIL score remains amiss among the majority of the masses.

Overcoming financial barriers

A TransUnion CIBIL report published in 2022 noted that more than 160 million Indian consumers were considered to be underserved at the end of 2021. 'Credit underserved' people refers to those who have some credit history, yet do not use traditional credit products. This revelation is astounding considering that India has now sur-passed the 100 million mark for credit cards in February 2024.

A significant portion of the

Indian population faces challenges in understanding fundamental credit and lending concepts due to imited financial exacerbated by the widespread reliance on the informal economy, which keeps many individuals outside the formal banking system and limits their exposure to credit-related information.

Paving way for financial

To bridge the awareness gap and ensure that more Indians understand the importance of maintaining a good CIBIL score, a multipronged approach involving the government, non-government agencies, and the corporate sector is the need of the hour.

Recognising the need to improve

ment has undertaken several initia-tives aimed at raising awareness about the importance of CIBIL scores. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) annually observes Financial Literacy Week to enhance the public's knowledge of financial literacy. Additionally, the RBI has also mandated that all individuals are entitled to one free credit report annually from each of the four credit information companies, including CIBIL. Moreover, the government has integrated credit score awareness into broader financial inclusion programs such as the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), which seeks to bring more people

into the formal banking system.
At the same time, WEP and TransUnion CIBIL launched SEHER, a program to boost financial literacy for women entrepreneurs. Part of WEP's Financing Women Collaborative, it aims to improve credit access and financial management skills for women-led businesses. Simultaneously, NGOs and corporations can play a significant role in enhancing financial literacy among individuals by collab-orating on the development and implementation of educational programs tailored to different demographics via workshops and seminars. Utilising their expertise and the resources dedicated to their CSR projects, corporates can massively impact the reach of such programs across the lengths and breadths of the country, while NGOs play a crucial role in focussing on the outreach of the programs at the grassroots level, particularly in underserved communities to provide both theoretical and hands-on experiences in local dialects.

Such initiatives have made a gradual yet remarkable impact in recent years: a recent TransUnion study reported a 73% growth in Indian credit monitoring in 2023, with motives varying from monitoring pre-account opening (57%), and score improvement (23%), to managing debt (20%). As we embark on our journey to become a truly developed nation, it is essential to create a financially informed and capable society that recognises the significance of a healthy credit score necessary for financial stability - further facilitating a calmer, enhanced quality of life.

> (The author, Vikram Kumar, is the Head of partnership & Communications, at NIIT Foundation.)

TEJAL SINHA teial.sinha30@gmail.com

magine taking a deep breath, only to feel your lungs struggle to expand. The sweet, buttery aroma of freshly popped popcorn turns toxic, hiding a dark secret: a debilitating condition that ravages the airways, leaving its victims gasping for air. Welcome to the alarming world of 'popcorn lung,' a mysterious and irreversible disease that's silently spreading its reach, fuelled by the very substances meant to bring us pleasure.

As we delve into the world of popcorn lung, we'll explore the intricate web of causes, symptoms, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention strategies. We'll shed light on the high-risk groups, from factory workers to vapers, and examine the alarming rise of this disease in our communities.

Join us on this critical journey to uncover the truth about popcorn lung, a condition that demands attention, awareness, and action. Together, let's break the silence surrounding this silent killer and safeguard our respiratory health for a brighter, breathier tomorrow

WHAT IS POPCORN LUNG?

Popcorn lung, medically known as bronchiolitis obliterans, is a serious and irreversible condition where the smallest airways of the lungs, the bronchioles, become inflamed and scarred. This scarring narrows the airways, making it increasingly difficult to breathe over time. Also known as Bronchiolitis Obliterans, popcorn lung is a chronic and progressive disease that silently inflames and scars the small airways, obstructing the flow of life-giving oxygen. This insidious condition is primarily triggered by prolonged exposure to harmful chemicals, particularly diacetyl, a seemingly innocuous flavoring agent used in microwave popcorn, e-cigarettes, and other vapor products.

Dr. Ganesh Pratap, Consultant Pulmonologist, Allergy & Asthma Specialist, SPARSH Hospital, Yeshwanthpur, begins to take us a little bit into the flash from the past, as he shares, "Named after cases in workers in microwave popcorn factories who were exposed to a chemical called diacetyl, this condition has gained attention in recent years due to its association with vaping and e-cigarette usage."

In popcorn lung, symptoms often resemble those of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), including shortness of breath, a persistent dry cough, wheezing and fatigue. While these symptoms may initially seem mild,

Are you breathing trouble? Devastating reality of popcorn lung

In a special report, **The Pioneer** examines the growing concern of popcorn lung, a chronic and progressive disease affecting the lungs. Health experts with us share their insights on causes, symptoms and prevention strategies

SYMPTOMS:

Coughing, especially during and after exercise. Coughs

may sometimes bring up mucus.

Shortness of breath (dyspnea),

especially during and after exercise

Wheezing.Tiredness.Fever.

they can worsen over time if exposure to harmful chemicals continues, ultimately leading to severe respiratory complications "People who are particularly prone to popcorn lung include those working in environments with exposure to chemicals like diacetyl or other flavoring agents used in food processing. More recently, individuals who use e-cigarettes or vape products are also at risk. Many flavored vape liquids contain diacetyl, and repeated exposure can damage lung tissue over time,' highlights Dr. Ganesh.

CAUSES Dr. Swetha Nagalla, pulmonologist and asthma and allergic expert, says, "Inhaling diacetyl leads to bronchiolitis obliterans, also known as "popcorn lung," which causes scarring in the small air sacs of the lungs, resulting in the constriction of the airways. Despite its harmless-sounding name, "popcorn lung" is a severe lung condition that results in symptoms such as coughing, wheezing, and difficulty breathing, reminiscent of those seen in COPD."

Night sweats. Skin rash. The primary cause of popcorn lung is exposure to diacetyl, a chemical that was once routinely used in microwave popcorn production to create that enticing buttery flavor. While the food industry has modified its use in recent

years, diacetyl can still be found in various vaping products and flavored tobacco. "Inhalation of this chemical can lead to scarring of the small airways in the lungs, resulting in chronic cough, wheezing, and shortness of breath,

which can severely affect daily life. One lesser-known fact about popcorn lung is that the symptoms may take years to develop after initial exposure. This delay can result in a lack of awareness, leading individuals to underestimate the potential risks

associated with certain substances." further highlights Dr. Ankit Bansal, Consultant, Internal Medicine & Infectious Diseases, Sri Balaji Action Medical Institute

WHO ARE AT RISK?

Women and children are particularly susceptible to respiratory illnesses, and the impact of popcorn lung can manifest differently in these groups. Women, for example, may experience more pronounced respiratory symptoms due to hormonal

influences on lung function. Children, whose lungs are still developing, may face debilitating long-term consequences if exposed to harmful chemicals like diacetyl during critical growth periods.

RAISING AWARENESS—NEED OF THE HOUR

"Raising awareness about popcorn lung is crucial, as this condition is often misunderstood or misdiagnosed due to its similarity to other respiratory illnesses. People, especially younger individuals who might use vape products need to understand that these products are not without risk," says Dr. Ganesh, adding that even with safety claims, certain chemicals used in vaping liquids may still have long-term, harmful effects on lung health.

Furthermore, people who have had lung transplants are also susceptible to bronchiolitis obliterans as a form of rejection, emphasising the importance of post-transplant lung care

DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT

Currently, there is no cure for popcorn lung, but early diagnosis and treatment can help manage symptoms and slow the disease's progression. Treatment usually involves corticosteroids and immunosuppressive medications to reduce inflammation, and in severe cases, lung transplants may be considered. However, once lung tissue is scarred, it cannot be restored, making prevention and awareness critical

"To protect oneself from the risks associated with popcorn lung, it's imperative for people to take self-precautions. Avoiding environments where diacetylcontaining products are prevalent—such as enclosed spaces where popcorn is frequently made or where e-cigarettes are heavily used—is crucial. Additionally, being aware of product ingredients and opting for safer alternatives can mitigate risks. The long-term impact of popcorn lung can be severe, as the damage to the airways is often irreversible," explains Dr. Bansal. In terms of prevention, avoiding exposure to known irritants is the best approach. For workers, Dr. Ganesh shares that appropriate workplace safety protocols and protective equipment can minimise risks. For the general population, staying away from vaping and e-cigarettes, especially flavoured products, can significantly reduce the likelihood of developing this irreversible condition. "Awareness and stricter regulations around the use of diacetyl and other harmful chemicals in consumer products can also help protect public health and prevent cases of popcorn lung in the future.'

Dr. Nagalla further says besides popcorn lung, the damaging chemicals in the vapor could also lead to pneumonia or lung collapse. Certain vaping products may also result in cardiovascular issues.

Patients diagnosed with this condition frequently require ongoing medical management, including pulmonary rehabilitation and medications to help manage symptoms. Thus, Dr. Bansal says that understanding the implications of our environment and the products we consume is essential not just for individual health but also for public health initiatives aimed at reducing exposure to dangerous substances.

Aussie quick Boland looks to keep KL Rahul under pressure ahead of Border-Gavaskar Trophy

Drubbing at the hands of NZ might awaken

ustralian pacer Scott Boland wants to extend the barren run of KL Rahul and keep him under pressure ahead of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy when he faces the Indian batter in the four-day A-Team match here from Thursday. Rahul along with wicketkeeper batter Dhruv Jurel flew early to Australia, and will appear for India A in the second four-day game at

the MCG. "I was lucky to bowl to him in a Test over in India a couple of years ago but it'll be nice to play against him in our backyard," Boland was auoted saying ESPNCricinfo.

Rahul made a hundred on his

Australian pacer Josh Hazlewood believes India's confidence would

have been shaken by the shocking

series loss to New Zealand, but the

"sleeping giant" can mount a strong

comeback in the Border-Gavaskar

PTI SYDNEY



sleeping giant India, feels Hazlewood

debut tour to Australia in fifties across nine innings 2015, a 110 at Sydney, but his overall performance Down Bangladesh and New Under remains scratchy, evidenced by an average of 20.77 across four Tests.

Boland wants to heap more misery on the 32-year-old. "He's a world-class player but someone I think we can get on top of pretty early and hopefully stay on top of him for the majority of the summer," said Boland. Rahul was dropped from India's eleven after the first

Test against New Zealand at Bengaluru where he made 0

modest run since cracking a hundred against South Africa at Centurion in December

Since then, he made just two

Australia in the WTC standings. India are now faced with a tough task

to win four of their five matches

against Australia to qualify for their third consecutive WTC final without

"It's obviously better them losing 3-0 than winning 3-0, easily. The confidence might have taken a bit of a

hit. A lot of them have been out here,

but there are a few batters who

haven't, so they'll be a bit unsure of

"I don't think you can read too much

what to expect," Hazlewood said.

relying on external results.

Zealand.

But the Bengaluru man could return to the eleven if skipper Rohit Sharma skips the first Test against the Aussies at Perth, starting from November 22, owing to personal reasons.

Boland also remained cautious about the impact of India's recent 0-3 whitewash at home by the Kiwis.

The 35-year-old said India has enough experience to make a comeback. 'There's so much more

It was a continuation of his bounce here, more seam. The way they'll structure their team (in Australia) will be completely different to what you see over in India," he

into it. The results are obviously good

for us in a way." Hazlewood, who is a part of

Australia's three-pronged pace attack along with Mitchell Starc and skipper

Pat Cummins, lauded his Trans-

Tasman rivals for achieving

something no other team has been

India is unbelievable. It's hard enough

to win one game there, let alone every

match of the series," Hazlewood said.



Harmanpreet Kaur rises to nineth, Smriti Mandhana remains fourth in women's ODI rankings

Tndia captain Harmanpreet Kaur climbed to the joint ninth spot while opener Smriti Mandhana remained fourth in the latest ICC Women's ODI rankings, released here on Tuesday. Kaur, who played an important part in her team's six-wicket victory over New Zealand in the third ODI of their ICC Women's Championship series in Ahmedabad, had slipped three slots after the first two

However, her 59 not out off 63 balls pushed her back into the top 10.

Left-hander Mandhana, who won the player of the match award for her knock of 100, added 23 rating points to reach a tally of 728, just five less than Sri Lanka's Chamari Athapaththu in the list led by Natalie Sciver-Brunt of England with 760 rating

points. "Credit to the Kiwi boys. They played outstanding cricket. To win 3-0 in Wicketkeeper Yastika Bhatia moved up from 48th to 45th after chipping in with 35 runs, while for New Zealand, Brooke Halliday's knock of 86

lifted her 12 spots to 24th position and Georgia Plimmer's 39 runs took her from 85th to 74th position. In the bowling chart, seasoned spinner Deepti Sharma gained important rating points after helping India win the series 2-1. Deepti, who had already attained a career-high 687 rating points last week while consolidating her second place among bowlers, added 16 more to reach 703 rating points after her haul of 3/39 to hold on to the second spot. England's left-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone enjoys a huge lead at the top with 770 rating points. India pacer Renuka Singh was up four places to 32nd while Saima Thakor (up 20 places to joint-77th) and Priya Mishra (up six places to 83rd) also progressed.

India are placed in third position in the ICC Women's Championship standings with 25 points while New Zealand are sixth with 20 from 21. Australia and England are at the top with 28 points each, from 18 and 21 matches, respectively.



Indian boxer Mandeep Jangra wins WBF's world title

PTI NEW DELHI

super featherweight world title after defeating Britain's Conor McIntosh in the Cayman Islands. The 31-year-old, who inspire more Indian pugilists to trains under former Olympic silver medallist Roy Jones Jr and has faced only one defeat in his professional career so far, had the upper hand in most rounds.

He delivered powerful punches from the outset, maintaining his stamina throughout the 10 rounds, while the British boxer struggled to keep pace.

Conor did try to make a comeback, but Jangra continued to maintain the

upper hand in most rounds.
"This is one of the biggest victories of my career. I am thankful to my sponsor Nash Built Construction, Chief Coach Roy Jones, Assistant Coach Asa Beard and Angel,"

Jangra said in a media release "I have worked hard for years Indian professional boxer to achieve this. It is a matter of pride for me that I could bring glory to the country

> The Haryana boxer, who made his professional boxing debut in 2021, hopes the title will turn professional. "I think this title will open the

> way for other boxers of the country and they will also decide to make a career in professional boxing.

> "Our boxers are good and there is no dearth of talent in them. If they get good promoters and managers, they can also become world champions," Jangra added. Jangra has won 11 out of his 12 fights in his pro career with being knockout seven

victories. He had a decent run in the amateur circuit as well and won a Commonwealth Games silver medal in the 2014 Glasgow edition.

PTI NEW DELHI

"It might awaken a sleeping giant, so to speak. We'll see that when they

come out," Hazlewood told 'Sydney

Not only did the drubbing at home

mark one of the darkest moments in

Morning Herald'.

Delhi SG Pipers will play Visakhapatnam franchise, Gonasika in the opening match of the men's competition of the revamped Hockey India League, starting December 28 in Rourkela. franchise-based

tournament is set to return after a hiatus of seven years in a new look with the event being organised for both men and women co-currently.

While the men's competition will feature eight teams, the Pool B consists of Gonasika, women's event will be played in Ranchi among four teams. Hyderabad Toofans, Tamil The men's HIL will be Nadu Dragons and UP conducted in two phases, with Rudras. the opening phase witnessing the eight sides playing against each other once their respective pools, with the



Each team in phase 2 will compete against each other in



able to do.

Delhi SG Pipers to play Gonasika in opening

top four teams advancing to the semifinals, scheduled to be held on January 31. The third place play-off and the final will be played on February 1. women's

competition, to be conducted for the first time, will start on January 12 in Ranchi. In the women's tournament all

four teams — Delhi SG Pipers, Odisha Warriors Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers and Soorma Hockey Club — will play against each other in two

between Delhi SG Pipers and Odisha Warriors. Following the league stage, the top two teams will progress to the final scheduled for February 1. "Both men and women teams

will also play one of their matches at an alternate venue to bring HIL excitement to fans in multiple locations," the organisers said in a media release.

Commenting on HIL's return, Hockey India president and HIL Governing Committee chairperson, Dilip Tirkey said: "We are thrilled to reintroduce the HIL after a seven-year hiatus.

"This season promises highcalibre matches and intense competition, showcasing the of

In conversation with ACC to revive Afro-Asia Cup after nearly two decades: ACA chair Mukuhlani

PTI ■ BENONI (SOUTH AFRICA)

The Africa Cricket Association (ACA) has started dialogue with the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) and other stakeholders to revive the once popular Afro-Asia Cup, a common meeting ground for players from the two continents, after nearly two decades.

The Afro-Asia Cup has had only two editions to date -- 2005 in South Africa (draw) and 2007 in India (won by Asia).

A third edition of the event was scheduled to be held in Kenya in 2009 "We have had o but it never happened.

"The Afro-Asia Cup, apart from the cricket, brings the much-needed financial input to the organisation, and the appetite is huge from both ends," ACA interim chairman

Tavengwa Mukuhlani, who is also Zimbabwe Cricket Chair, was quoted as saying by ESPNCricinfo.

This tournament event gives players from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh a unique chance to be in

after big start with Mizoram in Plate League

Agni Chopra's dream: Playing Ranji Elite division

"We have had conversations with our counterparts within the Asia Cricket Council, and obviously our African contingents, they want the Afro-Asia Cup to be revived," said Mukuhlani. The ACC is yet to make any response on the matter.

The 2005 Asia squad was captained by then Pakistan skipper Inzamam-ul-Haq and featured the likes of Rahul Dravid, Ashish Nehra and Anil Kumble.

The 2007 Asia XI included MS Dhoni,

Sourav Ganguly, Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan, Yuvraj Singh, Virender Sehwag and Sachin Tendulkar while Mohammed Asif, Mohammed Yousuf and Shoaib Akhtar represented

ACA PLANNING IPL-STYLE LEAGUE: The ACA is also pondering over conducting the Africa Premier League, a mini version of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

While the concept is still in the planning stages, ACA CEO Cassim Suliman said details will emerge once

the required approval is received from the respective African cricketing

boards. "It's the mini vision of the IPL. So, we're taking that concept of the IPL and driving that concept to ensure that everybody benefits in that aspect," he revealed.

"But the board will decide exactly who's hosting and from there, we'll take it to them from there.

"It's going to be like the IPL format, but with a lower status and then we'll grow it from there," he added.

PTI MUMBAI

Currently, Agni Chopra's First-Class average stands at a box office 99.06 and it has attracted as much, may be of the biggest Bollywood chartbusters his father has

Khushpreet (Singh). The only thing he told me was, 'forget in the runs you just have even more, attention as some

earlier this year, Agni, son of Bollywood filmmaker Vidhu anything else. My second goal Vinod Chopra and film critic Anupama Chopra, has garnered 1585 runs with eight hundreds and four fifties.

The beginning of this filmy sequence started in January this year when he debuted with a 166 against Sikkim at Nadiad, and from there on Agni has not stopped scoring runs in tons, literally.

This season the 26-year-old left-hander has started from where he left and has already scored 218 and 238 against Arunachal and Manipur. So, what is the secret of his

run rush? "It's all about hunger, right?"

Agni told PTI in an exclusive interview. "Before this season started, I

discussed it with my coach

produced. thing he told me was, torget about the runs, you just have debut in the Ranji Trophy Plate league for Mizoram get out." to focus on one thing - don't get out." So I've not thought about

was to score double hundreds because last year I didn't score a single double hundred," said Agni, adding that specific work on his fitness has also helped him pile up big scores. His domination of bowlers,

which has seen his average touching Bradmanesque-levels, has come in the Plate League so far, and Agni nourishes the dream of getting into Elite League with Mizoram.

"I don't think too far into the future. Of course, in terms of the larger picture, I would love to be picked in the Duleep Trophy, or India A, to play in the IPL, to hopefully, one day, represent India," he



(when) I always focus on the next game. I don't even think because in order to play for India, I have to do well in the said. about the second game. I only "For me what works best is think about what's next

next game." But for it, Agni knows that, he

segment of the Ranji Trophy.

But to do those things, I have "I would love to represent an Elite division team, then playing right now and to do

that, I also have to score runs in the next game. So, I genuinely think about only

the next game," he said. Agni realises that he has to shoulder a major share of responsibility of carrying Mizoram into the Elite round. "Our Mizoram team's collective goal is to qualify for the Elite division. The goal is for us to finish on top and qualify... Then I'll be able to play in the Elite division against the top level of bowlers," he said.

"Even last year, that was our goal but unfortunately, we fell short. We lost in the semifinals; we were one game away. If we had won, we would have qualified and I would have been playing there this year itself," he continued.

"That's what I think my personal and team-wise goal

cricketers, on-field For success and scrutiny go hand in hand and more so in case of

those who have famous parents. Agni has a simple way of

tackling the situation.
"I just think it is funny. I genuinely don't even take it seriously. There is my circle of people whose opinions I value and whose opinions I trust," he said.

"Off the field, (it) is my parents and my sister. Anything related to off the field, I'll defer to them. They don't give me advice about cricket too much. I mean, I don't tell my dad how to make movies and he doesn't tell me how to play cricket," he said. "Khushpreet Singh, my coach, is my number one guy on and off the field. Shubman (Gill) is a close friend and with him, also on the field and off the field, we have discussions," he said.

had to endure Agni disappointment during last year's IPL auction, but he hopes for better tidings in the upcoming mega auction.

"Everybody wants to be a part of that, play in the IPL. A lot of the work that I have put in is with that in mind as well and that's a big motivating factor is to play in the IPL," said Agni, who idolises Yuvraj Singh and Brian Lara.

Vijayawada | Wednesday November 6, 2024

tollywood

RAHASYAM IDHAM JAGATH IS BASED ON *SRI CHAKRA*: KOMAL R BHARADWAJ



Komal Bharadwaj left the software job and is now turning into direction, which he feels is a risk, but his passion about directing made it this way. "Many directors are now in the top position, but they all had taken a big risk at that time. I wanted to take a risk, because I believe in my story and my potential," he said. He added that he showed the film to many people and they appreciated his efforts and the film.

and the film.

Komal introduced many new artists with this film. "I wanted to go with newcomers because I feel that this kind of story needs new faces. Though they are new, they are proven actors and they have performed very well in my film," he said. About his future plans, he said that he has some new kinds of stories. "This film is a learning experience for me and if there are any mistakes. I want to correct if there are any mistakes, I want to correct them for my next film," said Komal.

GAME CHANGER **PROMOTIONS KICKSTART IN**

am Charan and director Shankar's film Game Changer promotions are all set to start on November 9 in Lucknow. It is interesting to see the team's strategy that they want to launch not the regular cities like Hyderabad, Delhi, Mumbai, or Chennai, but they want to start in Lucknow. Kiara Advani is the female lead, while Dil Raju is the producer. The movie is hitting the screens on January 10, 2025, on the occasion of the coming Sankranthi festival.

From the last few days onwards, the makers are under pressure as they didn't start the promotions because Ram Charan has a huge fan following. Now, the makers wanted to start with a teaser release event in Lucknow on November 9 and continue till the film release. The makers earlier

tinue till the film release. The makers earlier released a couple of songs, *Raa Macha Macha* and *Jaragandi*, which were popular on the internet. Now, this upcoming teaser definitely boosts the excitement among the audience.

In this film, Ram Charan is essaying the role of an IAS officer who combats corrupt politicians by an IAS officer who combats of advocating for fair elections. Karthik Subbaraj is provided the story and written by SU Venkatesan and Vivek. S Thaman provides the music with dialogues by Sai Madhay

Naga Chaitanya's Thandel gets sizzling February 7 release

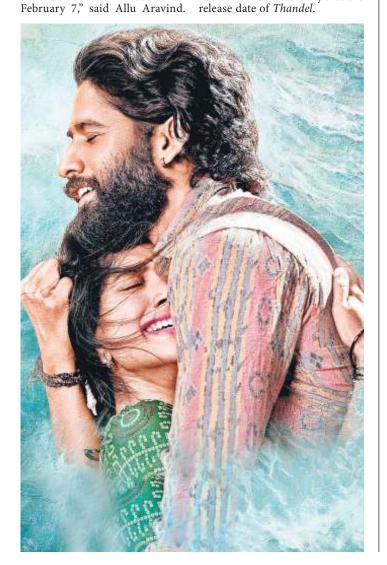
Finally, the release date of the much-awaited *Thandel* film is announced on Tuesday. Directed by Chandoo Mondeti, the film has Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi as the lead pair. Allu Aravind is the presenter, while Bunny Vas is producing it. The film's story is based on a true incident that happened in Srikakulam district.

He also used the Wormhole concept for

The producer Allu Aravind announced that they are releasing the film on February 7. "Initially we wanted to release it on December 20 and then planned on Sankranthi festival, but now, we have decided to release it on

Both Sai Pallavi and Naga Chaitanya are presented at this release date announcement event.

Few days back the director said that he almost completed the shoot and it is the producers to make an announcement on the release date. Though the makers wanted to release it in December, the Allu Arjun starrer *Pushpa 2* is releasing on December 6. Then they planned it on Sankranthi, but again Ram Charan's Game Changer and few other films are hitting the screens for the coming Sankranthi. With all the above, Allu Aravind decided to lock February 7 as the



rikram Reddy is mak-ing his debut as director with the film *Roti* Kapda Romance. The film's promotional event was released and there are a few words that were shown in the trailer that were objec-

Intense face-off b/w Allu

revealing the characters one after another," he said.

he wait is nearly over! Fans of Pushpa have been eagerly anticipating the next chapter in the saga and now the countdown for *Pushpa 2: The Rule* has officially begun. Following the massive success of Pushpa: The Rise, the sequel promises to take the action, drama, and intensity to even greater heights—and the newly released poster is already setting the tone for what's to come.

Mythri Official have released a new poster along with the countdown, captioning it as One month to go for Pushpa 2: The Rule. The exploring trailer for the film is going to come out soon. As we bid adieu to the year 2024, *Pushpa 2: The Rule* will be an apt



'No vulgarity, only youthful entertainment in Roti Kapda Romance'

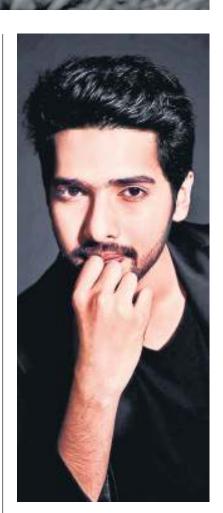
tionable. In the trailer there are few romantic scenes, and when asked the director about them, he said,

"Whatever you see in the trailer, those are the few regular scenes and in the film there are no vulgarity or derogatory scenes or words," said the director Vikram Reddy.

The director said that it is a youthful entertainer, and the film's climax is very important. "The last fifteen minutes of the film are very emotional and evervone definite ly feels about it," said the director. Bekkam Venu Gopal is the producer of this film. The film is releastures Harsh Narra, Sandeep Saroj, Tarun, Supraj Ranga, Sonu Thakur, Nuvvikesha. Meghaleka and Khushboo Chaudhary in lead roles.

"This film has been crafted as a vouthful romantic family entertainer with themes that resonate with today's youth, along with a blend of family emotions. Every character in the movie is designed in a way that will connect with young audiences," said the producer, Bekkam Venugopal. He added that the film has all ingredients, like romance, entertainment, and emotions, which are the key strengths of this film. "We have shown the film to a select group of people that includes students, families, and young adults and the response has been overwhelming," said the produc-er. After seeing the content, popular OTT channel ETV Win bought the OTT streaming rights before this film release.

The producer said that they are planning the premieres of this film on



Armaan Malik nominated

nown for pouring his heart into every song, Armaan has an incredible gift for making listeners feel seen and heard, and Always is a perfect example of that magic. With its tender lyrics and soothing melody, the song captures the beauty and vulnerability of love, striking a chord with fans across the globe.

It's proof that his journey, from singing in multiple languages to find-ing a global audience, is inspiring peo-ple everywhere. He's constantly bridging cultures through his music, bringing his roots to an international stage while staying true to himself. This isn't just another nomination; it's a reminder of how far he's come and how his music resonates with people around the world. With Always, Armaan captures a raw, beautiful vulnerability that's so relatable, and fans everywhere have been drawn to its honest simplicity and the way it speaks directly to the heart.