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

'Ek hai toh safe hai', says PM Modi; slams 🔊 Congress

COMPLAINTS OF 'IMPROPRIETY'

Star power with Jafry



QUOTE OF THE DAY the pioneer If anyone in the BRS government has committed offences they must be punished. Not only BRS working president KT Rama Rao and former Minister T. Harish Rao, but also KCR and BRS MLC Kavitha will go to jail if found guilty. KTR is getting ready mentally much before that expecting that he will be arrested in connection with the Formula E - Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Minister P4

Taj eyes mega hotel project in Vizag

The prestigious Taj Group of Hotels is set to expand its footprint in Andhra Pradesh with a proposed mega hotel project in Visakhapatnam, reflecting its focus on key regional markets across India. The luxury hospitality giant aims to establish a high-end property in the city, enhancing Vizag's appeal as a prominent business and tourism destination. The Taj Group, renowned for its exceptional service and iconic properties, has shown keen interest in setting up a large-scale hotel spanning 100 acres in the port city...

20 passengers have miraculous escape

A major mishap was narrowly avoided when 20 passengers travelling in an APSRTC bus had a miraculous escape after the bus plunged into an irrigation canal at Vanapamula village in Pedaparupudi mandal. According to the police, the RTC bus was en route to Vijayawada from Gudivada when the driver reportedly lost control, causing the bus to veer off the road and fall into the canal. Fortunately, all 20 passengers on board escaped unhurt in the incident. RTC officials promptly arrived at the accident...

NSCN-IM threatens 'armed struggle'

Naga insurgent group NSCN(IM) has threatened to break its 27 year-old ceasefire agreement with the government and return to its "armed struggle" if its demands for a separate "national flag and tution" are not me The group, which carried out a violent insurgency in Nagaland soon after India's independence in 1947, entered into a ceasefire pact in 1997 before starting prolonged peace talks with the government's interlocutors. On August 3, 2015, the NSCN(IM)

-PAGE: 5

Greg Chappell all praise for Kohli, Rohit

As Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma prepare for one of their career's defining challenges in Australia in the upcoming Test series, former India head coach Greg Chappell believes the two stalwarts can "rekindle" the energy and focus of their youth to rediscover their lost glory Wounded by an unprecedented 0-3 home series defeat to New Zealand India will look to defend the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in the marquee five-match Test series in Australia beginning on November 22. According to Chappell .

RTG sole data source: CM

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has emphasised that Real-Time Governance (RTG) should serve as the primary data source for the State government. During a review meeting held at the Secretariat on Friday, the Chief Minister enquired about the progress of the data integration work being carried out through the RTG system.

RTG Department Secretary Suresh Kumar and RTG CEÓ K Dinesh Kumar briefed the Chief Minister on the ongoing efforts to integrate data. They informed him that the government currently has data from 40 departments, with 500 TB of information spread across 178 data fields and 128 department heads.

The Chief Minister stressed the importance of RTG functioning as the sole platform for real-time data, saying that all departmental data should be integrated and analyzed to improve the efficiency of government schemes and programs. "RTG should be a facility for the government, providing support at all times," he said, highlighting the need for citizens to access essential services with ease. He pointed out that people still face difficulties in obtaining basic certificates, such as birth, death, residence, income, and educational qualifications, and expressed the need for a policy change to address this issue. "We will introduce WhatsApp governance, making all the necessary services easily acces-

sible to the people," he added. Officials also informed the Chief IT and RTG Minister Nara Lokesh announces plans to make 100 services available through WhatsApp by month-end



- Naidu wants RTG to be used for improving govt schemes and programmes.
- He calls for a policy change to make basic services like certificates easily accessible through WhatsApp governance.

ment is working to make 100 servic-

es available to citizens via WhatsApp

by the end of this month. He also

highlighted that efforts are underway

to provide students with their educa-

- Officials inform CM that data for 40 lakh citizens is currently missing, prompting the CM to expedite its collection and integration.
- CM instructs awareness campaigns to inform officials and the public about the validity of digitally signed certificates.

tional qualifications through QR codes within 90 days. "We aim to have Minister that data for approximately 40 lakh citizens is currently missing WhatsApp governance fully operational by the end of March," Lokesh from the system. The CM instructed that efforts be made to quickly colsaid. Additionally, the officials raised lect and connect this data, and suggested that all houses in the state be concerns that despite regulations inked through GPS. stating that digitally signed certificates IT and RTĞ Minister Nara Lokesh are sufficient, many officials are still informed the CM that the governinsisting on physical submissions. The

The CM further noted that linking

Chief Minister ordered that awareness

campaigns be launched to educate

both the public and officials on this

all data would enhance transparency in governance, improve the implementation of schemes, and reduce opportunities for corruption. He directed that the data integration process be expedited. He also instructed officials to ensure that Aadhaar registration is made mandatory for every child born in the state, ensuring that no one is left without Aadhaar. State Chief Secretary Nirabh Kumar Prasad and officials from various departments attended the

He stresses faster data

integration to increase

CM emphasised making

Aadhaar mandatory for

every child born in the State.

transparency in governance

and eliminate corruption.



Power generation segment 'Stay Ring' put in place

PNS VIJAYAWADA/POLAVARAM

The Polavaram Hydroelectric Project marked a major advancement with the successful installation of the Stay Ring segment, an essential part of its power generation setup. This major milestone was celebrated on-site with a special 'pooja' ceremony attended by senior officials from Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corporation (APGEN-CO) and Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Limited (MEIL).

The Stay Ring, critical to the functioning of the Kaplan turbine, ensures efficient power generation. Each segment of the Stay Ring weighs 34 metric tonnes, with the complete assembly of four segments reaching a total weight of 136

metric tonnes. The installation process sets the stage for the construction of the concrete spiral casing, which will house the turbine and generator, followed by the steel generator barrel construction.

This achievement moves the project forward toward its next phases, bringing the Polavaram Hydroelectric Project closer to operational readiness.

Prominent figures present at the ceremony included APGENCO's Superintending Engineer Rama Bhadra Raju and Executive Engineer (E&M) Y Bhima Dhanarao. MEIL was represented by Joint COO A Satish Babu, along with senior engineers, including Manikanta and other team mem-

DETENTION OF SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVISTS

Record number of habeas corpus pleas filed in HC

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh High Court has seen an unprecedented number of habeas corpus petitions in the last two days, raising serious concerns over the detention of social media activists and potential violations of their legal rights. A total of six petitions — two filed on Thursday and four on Friday — allege that activists have been detained illegally and subjected to mistreatment by law enforcement.

The petitions, submitted by the families of the detainees, claim that individuals have been held without court presentation for up to three to four days, in clear violation of legal procedures. Among the detained activists are Jinkala Ramanjaneyulu, Tirupati Lokesh, Munagala Harishwar Reddy, Nakkina Shyam, the couple Peddireddy Sudharani and Venkata Reddy, and Mohammad Khaja Basha. Families have reported cases of physical assault, harassment, and denial of basic needs such as food while in custody.

Shocked by the volume of petitions, the High Court has raised concerns over law enforcement practices in the state and the treatment of detained social media activists. In response, the court has scheduled a hearing today at 2:15 ability in the region.



PM, summoning the Advocate General to explain these detentions.

This wave of petitions comes amidst reports that over 100 cases have been registered against social media activists in Andhra Pradesh, with many allegedly facing prolonged detentions without legal recourse. The court's swift intervention highlights rising concerns over civil liberties, police accountability, and the safeguarding of legal rights in the state.

Legal experts and human rights advocates have called for close scrutiny of law enforcement actions in Andhra Pradesh, especially amid allegations that activists critical of the state government may be facing repression for their online activities. The High Court's response to these cases is anticipated to have significant implications for civil rights and police account-



Jagan should resign if he boycotts Assembly session: Sharmila

PNS MACHILIPATNAM

Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee president YS Sharmila on Friday demanded the resignation of YSRCP chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy in case, lacks the "boldness" to attend the assembly

Sharmila's demand came after the YSRCP decided to "boycott" the upcoming assembly session starting November 11.

They should resign. Whether it's Jagan Mohan Reddy, his MLAs, or YSRCP leaders, if they do not have the boldness to go to the assembly, they should resign," said Sharmila while speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a Congress event in Machilipatnam, Krishna district.

Earlier during the event, Sharmila called for a caste census in the state, emphasising that the Congress party is "committed to the development of Backward Classes (BCs)." To ensure justice for BCs, the largest population group in the country, she stated a caste census should be conducted.

2,686 murders during Jagan rule: Kolusu Jagan's attempts to secure a resolu- He pointed out that while the TDF

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Kolusu Parthasarathy, has strongly criticised the YSR Congress Party He also condemned the chaos cre-TDP central office in Mangalagiri Parthasarathy pointed to several incidents during the five years of Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's tenure as evidence of this Parthasarathy began by ques-

tioning Jagan's commitment to democracy, stating that the public had been left astounded by his actions. He highlighted that despite

tion for his lifelong leadership of the Minister for Housing and YSRC, the Election Commission had Information and Public Relations, ruled this unconstitutional, as it

> the treatment of political events responsible. under the previous YSRC regime.

government had not imposed restrictions on Jagan's padayatra, the current government had disrupted Nara Lokesh's padayatra. Parthasarathy also accused the (YSRC) government for deteriorating the law and order situation in the law and order situatio Andhra Pradesh. Speaking at a police officials through illegal and offensive remarks about party lead-press conference on Friday at the unethical practices. officials through illegal and offensive remarks about party lead-ers' families, with no action The minister went on to criticise taken against those

The minister also mentioned that 2,005 police cases were filed against TDP activists, 2,014 against Jana Sena activists, 69 against BJP members, and 2526 cases against 267 farmers from Amaravati.



4 drowned in stream, one body retrieved

PNS PADERU

In a tragic incident on Friday, four persons, including three members of the same family, drowned in the Kondavagu stream Thimmapuram village in

Addateegala mandal, ASR district. Rampachodavaram DSP Sai Prashant informed the media that five people from Toorpu Lakshmipuram village had gone to the stream to collect sand for the construction of their house. While Disaster Response Force (SDRF) extracting sand, one of them team was deployed to search for slipped and began drowning. In an and recover the bodies. attempt to rescue him, the others



were also swept away by the cur-

One person managed to swim to safety. The DSP said that the State

GRAD MLC POLLS YSRCP opted out due to lack of support: TDP

PNS VIJAYAWADA

TDP MLC B Ramgoopal Reddy has claimed that the YSRCP withdrew from the Graduate MLC elections due to a lack of public support, effectively acknowledging their inevitable defeat. Speaking at a press conference held at the TDP central office in Mangalagiri, Reddy stated, "The YSRCP leaders have conceded defeat in advance by opting out of the Graduate MLC elections.

20 DSPs shifted in AP

PNS VIJAYAWADA

the transfer of 20 Deputy in Rajahmundry, and N Suresh Superintendents of Police (DSPs) as Kumar Reddy will assume the role

Dwaraka Tirumala Rao through order Rc No 1286/G2/2024. The transfers aim to fill existing vacancies across various departments and districts.

As per the transfer orders, DSP G Seetharama Rao, previously on the waiting list, has been

VV Appa Rao has been posted as SDPO in Kasibugga, while N Security, has been transferred to DSP, Women Police Station, in ACP Harbour.

In Visakhapatnam, I Chitti Babu is now assigned as ACP, CSB. B The State government has ordered Ramakrishna is posted as DSP SB per the directives issued by DGP Ch of DSP at the Women's Police

Station in Krishna. ABG Tilak has been transferred to SDPO Nandigama, taking over from Dr B Ravi Kiran, who has been directed to report to Police Headquarters, Andhra Pradesh.

Further postings include Mallikarjuna Rao as SDPO in Guntur

appointed DSP SP in Srikakulam. South and P Srinivasa Reddy as SDPO in Nandyala. Md Moin has been appointed SDPO in Chirala, Kalidas, formerly of North Coastal and K Ch Rama Rao will serve as Nellore.

PNS VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is set to inaugurate the much-anticipated seaplane service between Vijayawada and Srisailam on Saturday at Punnami Ghat, Vijayawada. This new service aims to boost tourism and improve connectivity between these two prominent destinations.

The launch marks the beginning of what is expected to be a revolutionary mode of transportation in Andhra Pradesh. During the ceremony, the Chief Minister, along with other dignitaries, will board a 14seater seaplane developed by De Havilland Aircraft Company for the inaugural flight from Vijayawada to Srisailam.

A successful trial run of the seaplane was conducted on Friday, with the plane taking off from Vijayawada's Prakasam Barrage and safely landing in the Srisailam reservoir before

jetty. The trial was monitored by officials from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), local police, the Tourism Department, and the Indian Air Force to ensure all safety measures were in place.

For today's inauguration, the has spurred heightened security at

Development Corporation (APADC) has arranged floating platforms, seating, and other facilities at the designated landing and take-off point upstream of Prakasam Barrage.

V'wada-Srisailam seaplane service launch today

Named "Sky Meets Sea," the event

Airports Punnami Ghat. Vijayawada Police the inauguration. Stringent security Commissioner SV Rajasekhar Babu reviewed security arrangements and coordinated with senior officials to ensure crowd management, traffic control, and safety. "We are commit-

ted to providing a safe and smooth experience for the public attending

A successful trial run of the seaplane was the service is expected to attract more

disruptions," the Commissioner stat-The new seaplane service is anticipated to transform travel between . Vijayawada and Srisailam, providing a faster, more scenic, and more efficient alternative to traditional routes. Seen as a significant step in the state's tourism and transport initiatives,

measures are in place, and we are

working closely with all agencies to

ensure the event proceeds without

visitors and boost the local economy. With this launch, Andhra Pradesh aims to modernize its infrastructure and introduce innovative travel options, offering tourists unique aerial views of the region's landscapes and waterways. The Vijayawada-Srisailam seaplane service is expected to become a major attraction, adding to the state's tourism appeal.







A world in flux awaits MAGA outcomes

L movement powered his historic comeback as the 47th President of the United States of America. Given America's significance to the world, the MAGA agenda will impact not just America and Americans but every country and person on the planet. To understand MAGA's likely impact on India, we must first decode the MAGA movement and its "America First" slogan, shorn of their populist political characterisations.

On the economic front, four priorities top the MAGA agenda. The first is lowering the cost of living in the US. The second is to increase fossil fuel production and its supply to reduce energy prices. Third is retaining the supremacy of the US dollar by reducing concerns about weaponising the dollar and international payment sys-

¬rump's MAGA - Make
America Great Again - tems like SWIFT, thus disin centivising or decelerating centivising or decelerating any efforts towards de-dollarisation. The fourth is "Make in America", or moving manufacturing back to America.

Immigration is another

focus area for the MAGA movement - securing America's borders and stopping illegal immigration has been a significant campaign promise by Trump. At the same time, the thrust to move manufacturing back to America and a focus on retaining America's lead in cutting-edge technologies will mean a shift in immigration: from low-skilled illegal immigration to high-skilled legal immigration.

Geopolitically, Trump's 'America First' approach focuses on enhancing America's power internationally while reducing America's direct engagement abroad in global conflicts and internal political A particular Indian opposition political leader, who likes to rush to the US and **Europe now and then to invite their** interference in India's internal affairs, will be highly disappointed, though, finding no sympathetic audience in the American power elite on a fresh visit to the US.

affairs of foreign countries for ideological reasons. Irrespective of who wins and who loses, America's changed approach could mean two outcomes. Firstly, a quicker de-escalation of the Russia-Ukraine war and the Middle East conflict involving Israel, Hamas, Hezbollah, Houthis and the Iranians. Secondly, internal political disturbances in India's neighbouring countries, Bangladesh and Myanmar, could see a significant cooling off, and much quicker than it looks likely

China, by itself, forms a separate focus area of the MAGA movement. Trump considers that China hasn't played fair and has taken undue advantage of America on trade, tariffs, technology, and other fronts with its asymmetric policies. He considers China today the number one rival not just a competitive threat to American supremacy economically and strategically. Under the Trump administration, America will focus on moves that increase the American lead over China;



this will mean specific measures on trade, investment, and technology flows and reshaping America's strategic and economic relations with countries in Asia and beyond.

Let us now try to visualise the impact the above changes in America's priorities could potentially have on India and Îndians. While it is true that national interest is the prima-

ry driver of foreign policy and continuity is its hallmark, some shifts in approach, pace and even direction are a reality when parties and leaders in power change. The establishment of full-scale diplomatic relations with Israel and the de-hyphenation of India's Israel and Palestine relations under the Modi administration is a classic example. Given such a possibility, a clear understanding and corre-sponding preparation are nec essary for any country to reduce the inevitable negative impacts and maximise benefits where possible.

On the geopolitical front, any reduction in global conflict will be a net positive for India's mission to achieve a Viksit Bharat by 2047. India needs a stable international environment and a peaceful neighbourhood to focus on rapid economic progress. The Russia-Ukraine war, for example, inflated global energy, fertiliser and food prices and negatively impacted India's economy. Increased fossil fuel production by America and stabilisation of the Russia-Ukraine and the Middle East situations are bound to reduce global energy and international shipping costs and India's foreign exchange bills. Similarly, any reduction in externally induced political uncertainties in our neighbourhood, for example, in Bangladesh and Myanmar, which could drain resources needed for economic development, is a positive for India.

On the economic front, the push to reduce America's dependence on China can benefit India in multiple ways. It can mean higher American investment flows into India, a boost to "Make in India" as part of the "China Plus One" strategy, and a reduction in barriers to the free flow of highly skilled Indian STEM talent to the US to power 'Make in America', especially in high-tech design and manufacturing. The shift from illegal to highly skilled legal migration will also help on the last front.

Given the likely neglect of ideologically driven agendas by the US and the personal rapport between Modi and Trump, one significant benefit for India will be the eclipse of distractions like Nijjar, Pannun, Khalistan and other similar issues. A particular Indian opposition political leader, who likes to rush to the US and Europe now and then to invite their interference in India's internal affairs, will be highly disappointed, though, finding no sympathetic audience in the American power elite on a fresh visit to the US.

> (The author is BJP TS spokesperson.)

Counter-terrorism policy soon

PNS NEW DELHI

The government will soon bring a national counter-terrorism policy and strategy to fight terrorism, terrorists and their ecosystem, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Thursday.

Addressing an anti-terrorism conference here, Shah also said that while law and order is a state subject and states have the geographical boundaries and constitutional limitations, terrorism doesn't and hence all security agencies -- central and states -must work in close coordination, chalk out joint strategies and share intelligence.

He said the government has come up with a vision on model anti-terrorism squad (ATS) and model special task force (STF) for the states and Union territories, which, if adopted, will work as a com-

"We need to work together to fight terrorism, terrorists and their ecosystem. And that's why, we will soon bring a new national counter-terrorism policy and strategy in which you all will play a key role," he said at the conference being attended by chiefs of

mon structure and platform to

deal with the menace of terror-

state police forces and other top security officials of states and the Centre. The home minister said the new policy will help states and central agencies to work in close coordination to deal with terrorism. On the model ATS and STF, he said the standard operating procedures (SOPs) are being shared with the states and they can tweak according to their respective

Shah said to make India developed by 2047 as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, everyone has to deal with all security challenges and have a unified ter-

ror-fighting ecosystem.
"This (adopting model ATS and STF) doesn't reduce the rights of states," he said.

The home minister said the Modi government is committed to eradicating terrorism in the country and moving forward with a solid strategy against it. Security forces have to well equip young officers and use technology to combat terrorism, he said.

"After Narendra Modi became the prime minister in 2014, the country has been moving forward with a solid strategy against terrorism. We are committed to eradicating

Industry leaders inspire future managers

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The Department of Management at Paari School of Business (SRM AP) recently held the second edition of its signature event, "Success Mantra for Managers" (SMM), gathering industry experts to share valuable insights and professional guidance with students and facul-

Moderated by Prof Bharadwaj Sivakumar, Dean of Paari School of Business and Officiating Vice Chancellor, the event featured a distinguished panel discussing the evolving dynamics of management. The panellists offered their perspectives on leadership, motivation, and the importance of modern skills in today's corporate world. Srimathi Sridharan, Director at BNY Mellon, emphasised that a manager's role goes beyond achieving targets, underscoring the importance of inspiring teams.



the leadership style of late philanthropist Ratan Tata, she highlighted kindness as a key component of effective leadership.

Varun Gupta, Associate Director at PepsiCo, urged students to "Define Your Success, Yourself," stressing the importance of a clear personal and professional vision for guiding managers in their goals and empowering teams.

Dr Bhujanga Rao, Chairman of

KIMS Foundation & Research resenting their team's work to Centre and keynote speaker, shared clients and superiors, while also insights from his work with Dr highlighting the value of persever-Abdul Kalam, emphasising comance and seizing opportunities. passion as a defining trait of effective leadership. According to Dr Rao, supporting team members

Vinay Mantha, MD of Corporate & Investment Banking at JP Morgan Chase, advised that managers should not only celebrate successes but also view failures as learning experiences—an

Pawan Kalyan should tender apology to volunteers: YSRCP

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) has strongly criticised Kalyan for his recent remarks on the volunteer system, accusing him of repeatedly falling Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's alleged traps. Addressing the media at the party's Central Office on Friday, TJR Sudhakar Babu, president of the YSRCP State SC Cell and former MLA, asserted that the volunteer system was introduced by the YSRCP government and was funded until June 2024. During the elections, the NDA had promised to double the honorarium for volunteers but has not fulfilled this commitment, he added.

We demand that the government apologise to the volunteers for these remarks and immediately honour the election promise by increasing the

Sukla Paksha

Nov 08 11:56 PM

Nov 09 10:45 PM

Nov 08 12:03 PM

Nov 09 11:47 AM

to Nov 09 11:47 AM

to Nov 10 10:59 AM

9:10 AM to 10:35 AM

1:24 PM to 2:48 PM

6:21 AM to 7:46 AM

03:39 PM to 05:12 PM

12:56 AM to 02:29 AM

Abhiiit Muhurtham: 11:37 AM to 12:22 PM

Updated: November 8, 2024 5:00 PM

VIJAYAWADA WEATHER

Forecast: Mostly Sunny

to Nov 10 09:01 PM

TODAY

ALMANAC

Tithi: Ashtami:

Nakshatram:

Shravana:

Dhanishta

Rahukalam:

Varjyam:

Gulika:

Yamagandam:

Amritakalam:

Temp: 34°° Humidity: 63%

Sunrise: 6:08 AM

Sunset: 5:34 PM

Navami:

Month & Paksham:



Sudhakar Babu stated. He crit-

icised Pawan Kalyan for mak-

ing statements without proper

sised that volunteers played a

promise by increasing the honorarium to Rs 10.000." honorarium to Rs 10,000," crucial role during the pandemic and condemned both Pawan Kalyan and the TDP for

their derogatory comments

order situation in the State.

"We demand that the

government apologise to

the volunteers for these

remarks and immediately

honour the election

research, noting that the volunagainst them. teer appointments were made He alleged that Chief through official Government Minister Chandrababu Naidu is using Pawan Kalyan to stir Orders (GOs), which he read out to the media. up controversies, including Sudhakar Babu further issues like the Tirupati Laddu, pointed out the government's Sanatana Dharma, Saraswathi double standards" by failing to Cements, and now the volunkeep its election promise while teer system, to distract the also questioning the volunteer public from governance issues system's credibility. He emphaand the deteriorating law and

Ambati slams TDP's 'double standards'

PNS VIJAYAWADA

YSRCP spokesperson Ambati Rambabu strongly criticised arty (TDP) and its friendly media outlets for their use of derogatory language, misleading headlines, and inflammatory content aimed at defaming the YSRCP leadership. He alleged that while the TDP and its media were attacking the government with offensive language, they were also targeting social media activists who were exposing the government's failures.

Speaking to the media, Ambati displayed several headlines from TDP-friendly media outlets and controversial thumbnails that depicted YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, his family, and YSRCP leaders in a negative light. He condemned the use of slanderous language and mudslinging tactics employed by these media platforms.

"Social media has become a powerful tool for people to voice their opinions, and when the government's failures are highlighted, the Chandrababu Naidu-led administration resorts to diversionary tactics, including the harassment of social media activists," Ambati remarked. He accused Naidu of attempting to control traditional media but failing to curb the influence of social media, leading to police intimida-

tion of activists. Ambati also criticised TDPfriendly media for publishing provocative headlines that insulted YSRCP leaders, calling them derogatory names such as "psycho" and using inappropriate language. He asserted that the term "YSRCP's frenzy factory" actually applied to TDP itself, citing the media campaigns run by Nara Lokesh aimed at tarnishing the image of the YSRCP leadership.

Arrest of social media activists undemocratic: LP

personally and professionally

enhances leadership impact. Suresh

Ponnuru, Director-Analytics &

Strategy Leader at Tiger Analytics,

PNS VIJAYAWADA

YSRCP leader Lakshmi Parvathi has condemned the criticising the State government for what she described as undemocratic actions. Addressing the media on Friday, she alleged that TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu, along with supportive media, has long harassed her and TDP founder N.T. Rama Rao (NTR) with derogatory comments and content, even before the advent

of social media. She decried the government's approach, calling it "repressive" towards social media activists who, according to her, have been exposing the alleged misdeeds of the coalition gov-



social media activists without due process has become the norm, which is highly condemnable.'

ernment. "Arbitrarily picking up social media activists without due process has become the norm, which is highly condemnable," she remarked.

Referring to her own experience, Lakshmi Parvathi recounted how both she and NTR were subject to ridicule and fabricated stories, accusing Chandrababu of disrespect. She alleged that YSRCP social media supporters are being unfairly targeted because they continue to reveal instances of corruption and irregularities by the coalition.

She further claimed that activists are being detained in the night, stating, "There is no democracy left in the State." According to Parvathi, Chandrababu Naidu has resorted to these tactics as he is unable to stand up to Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and has failed in governance.

Sub-inspector caught accepting bribe

PNS HYDERABAD

Sub-inspector B Krishna Kumar of Varni Police Station, Nizamabad district, was caught accepting a bribe of Rs 20,000 on Friday.

According to the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), Krishna Kumar demanded the bribe to issue a notice under Section 35 of BNSS and to

accepted the bribe inside his vehicle on the Varni police station premises. The bribe money was found in his vehicle. Tests showed traces of the avoid harassing the complainant in the future. He bribe on his right-hand fing and the vehicle's foot mat. bribe on his right-hand fingers

20 DSPs shifted...

Continued from Page 1

Other notable appointments include S Vijaya Sekhar as DSP, Women Police Station in Chittoor, Kompalli Venkateswara Rao as SDPO Jammalamadugu, and K Rasool Saheb and ČH V Rama Rao to DSP positions in the CID department. Additionally, Shaanu Shaik is posted as DSP PTC, Tirupati, while N Suresh Babu takes on the role of DSP SB, Prakasam.

The transfers also include

YSRCP opted out...

R Vasudevan as DSP SB in Kadapa and D Lakshmana Rao as ACP Crimes in Visakhapatnam.

Continued from Page 1

Under their rule, democratic principles have been severely undermined, with opposition leaders subjected to harassment, violence, and humiliation. These incidents are unforgettable.'

Reddy further dismissed the YSRCP's claims that democracy does not exist in the State, calling it an "old wives' tale." He stressed that the party's decision to boycott the Graduate MLC elections revealed their fear and panic, adding, "It is widely acknowledged that democracy is failing in this state, and for the YSRCP to claim otherwise is laughable. The narrative that conditions for free elections do not exist is purely fictitious.'

The MLC also pointed out that the coalition government is fully committed to providing the necessary infrastructure to ensure a fair and peaceful election process. "The peaceful conditions under which elections will be conducted are clear. The coalition government is ready to facilitate a transparent and democratic election process. The YSRCP's withdrawal reflects misguided thinking. Previous elections under their rule were marred by intimidation and electoral malpractices," Reddy concluded.

2,686 murders during...

Continued from Page 1

The minister recalled an incident when, during Chandrababu Naidu's tenure as Leader of the Opposition, an attack was carried out on Naidu's residence by Jogi Ramesh, but no action was taken against the perpetrators. Parthasarathy claimed that Ramesh was even rewarded with a ministry post following the attack. He further alleged that under the YSRC government, thousands of false cases were filed against various marginalised communities, including 300 cases against Backward Classes (BCs), 192 against Scheduled Castes (SCs), 58 against Scheduled Tribes (STs), 11 against minorities, and against women. Additionally, he claimed that 13 murders were committed during the electoral code period, with 6 more murders after the elections.

The minister also mentioned that 2,005 police cases were filed against TDP activists, 2,014 against Jana Sena activists, 69 against BJP members, and 2526 cases against 267 farmers from Amaravati. Parthasarathy concluded that a total of 2,686 murders were registered over the five years of Jagan's rule.

Parthasarathy accused the Investigation Criminal Department (CID) of being used to intimidate opposition leaders rather than serving the public interest. He urged Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy to clarify whether he would condemn derogatory remarks made about the families of opposition leaders. He emphasised that the coalition government was committed to the development of the people and upholding democratic values, without engaging in vindictive politics or settling scores.

Jagan should... Continued from Page 1

Sharmila also stated that resources should be distributed based on castes and urged Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu to conduct a caste census. Further, she praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a pride for BCs but alleged that the community had not benefited much under his leadership.Sharmila claimed that senior BJP leader and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had promised a BC caste census in 2017 but later backtracked on that promise. Accusing the BJP of being a party of upper castes, Sharmila alleged that the saffron party does not support BCs".

4 drowned in stream...

Continued from Page 1

As of now, two bodies have been retrieved and shifted to the Government General Hospital (GGH) for post-mortem.

A massive search operation is underway for the remaining two bodies. Heart-wrenching scenes unfolded at the stream as grieving family members gathered.

The victims have been identified as Bhusanam, Sreenu, Babu, and Gonthaiah.

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MP Sivanath lays stone for UGD in Division No. 1 of city

Says Gunadala flyover is State govt's priority

In a move to enhance infrastructure, MP Kesineni Sivanath laid the foundation stone for an underground drainage system in the 1st division at SLV Amaravati Grand Road in Gunadala, Central constituency, on Friday. The event saw participation from local MLA Bonda Umamaheswara Rao, who joined as chief guest.

During the ceremony, DE Sindhura provided a detailed explanation of the drainage system's operation. Residents of SLV Apartment also presented a petition to MP Sivanath and MLA Bonda, outlining local

Speaking to the media, MP Kesineni Sivanath emphasised the government's commitment to infrastructure development and assured that the Gunadala flyover remains a top priority. He stated that he would coordi-



nate with railway officials and MLA Bonda to expedite the project, despite some existing technical challenges. The MP expressed confidence that the flyover would be completed within a year.

MP Sivanath also highlighted that the underground drainage system is part of the

work involving a 17-kilometre sewage collection network and a 3.5-kilometre STP main line. The project is expected to cost around Rs 33 crore and aims to

drinking water issues in Vijayawada divisions. Further, he mentioned plans

address sewerage, drainage, and

Western Bypass to Gannavaram to the upcoming Inner Ring Road via a hundred-foot road, enhancing connectivity in the

Bonda Umamaheswara Rao noted the pace of development in the state since the Telugu Desam coalition came to power, adding that he would bring local issues to the Chief Minister's attention to secure necessary funds. He assured that Municipal Administration Minister Narayana, City Commissioner Dhyanachandra, and MP Kesineni Sivanath would regularly review progress on these

The foundation event was attended by 1st Division Party In-charge Kommineni Suresh, SLV Grand Chief Srinivas Raju, SLV Apartments President Nagaratnam, and other local leaders and officials.

CM lauds Eluru Police for swift action in recovering stolen vehicles

Vizag skyline

addition

Visakhapatnam, the Taj

Group also explored land

options near Bhogapuram in

Vizianagaram district, where

a new airport is currently

under construction. Officials

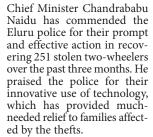
from the Tourism and

Revenue Departments assist-

ed Taj representatives during

the inspection, highlighting

PNS VIJAYAWADA



The prestigious Taj Group of

Hotels is set to expand its footprint in Andhra Pradesh

with a proposed mega hotel project in Visakhapatnam,

reflecting its focus on key

regional markets across India.

The luxury hospitality giant

aims to establish a high-end

property in the city, enhanc-

ing Vizag's appeal as a prominent business and tourism

The Taj Group, renowned

for its exceptional service and

iconic properties, has shown

keen interest in setting up a large-scale hotel spanning 100

acres in the port city. Over the

past two days, Taj representa-

tives have inspected several locations in Visakhapatnam

and the surrounding

Anakapalli district, particular-

ly the coastal areas near

Atchutapuram. If allotted the

required land, the group is

expected to proceed with the

hotel project, adding a major

new landmark to the Vizag

destination.

The Eluru police recently apprehended 25 suspects involved in the thefts, earning recognition from the state leadership for their dedication and swift response. One case that particularly captured public attention was that of Nili Aliveni, a woman whose scooty was stolen while she was taking her Thalassemiaaffected daughter to the hospital. The emotional moment when Aliveni was reunited with her bike after it was recovered by the police deeply resonated with the Chief Minister, highlighting the critical role such vehicles play in the lives of many families.

The Andhra Pradesh Police Department shared this heartwarming story on social media, describing how a mothreceiving her scooty back. "A mother, who used to take her child suffering from Thalassemia to the doctor on her scooty daily, broke into tears when police recovered

her hard-earned bike," the post read. The incident underscored the significant impact vehicle theft can have on daily transportation and livelihoods, particularly for families who rely on their vehicles for essen-

Sharing the police's video on his own social media account, Chief Minister Naidu praised their efforts, stating, "Seeing how important that bike was to that mother is deeply moving. Nili Aliveni was devastated when the scooter she used to take her Thalassemia-affected daughter to the hospital was stolen. Her emotions, when the bike was recovered, show how much it means to her. For families who depend bikes provide a means of daily transportation and livelihood. When a bike is stolen, families

are adversely impacted." The Chief Minister also

and arrested 25 suspects. "These efforts have brought

ments underscore the Andhra Pradesh police's commitment to maintaining law and order addressing community concerns. The Eluru police's swift action in tackling vehicle thefts is seen as a positive example of effective policing and commu-

city hosts IT parks, industrial zones, and ports, which collectively contribute to its rising status as an economic hub. The Taj Group's investment aligns well with these developments and is expected to bolster Vizag's status as a key destination for business and

The project is anticipated to bring significant benefits to the local economy, generating direct and indirect employment opportunities and boosting the region's hospitality and tourism sectors. It also aligns with the Andhra Pradesh government's initiatives to promote tourism, cultural boritage, and infractures tural heritage, and infrastructure in the state.

As Visakhapatnam awaits the official green light for this project, the proposed Taj hotel promises to be a game-changer for the region, setting a new benchmark in luxury and contributing to Andhra Pradesh's growing appeal as an investment destination.

Study on

chain in

millet value

eastern India

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

Research Centre (AERC) at Andhra University has

embarked on a comprehensive study of the millet value

chain in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and Telangana. Funded by the Ministry of

Agriculture and Farmers

Welfare, the research aims to

promote sustainable growth

of millet farming, particular-

Lilly Grace Eunice and

researchers Dr KV Giri Babu

and Dr Ch Praveen Kumar,

the study analyses production, processing, and market access. "Millets are key to our

food security, but AP's farm-

ers need sustained market

access and incentives," Dr

Praveen Kumar emphasised.

"With the right support, the

State can strengthen its mil-

let sector, improve livelihoods,

The Eastern Ghats have a

rich millet-growing tradition,

and build resilience."

Led by AERC Director B

ly in tribal communities.

Agro-Economic

All set for **'Vijayawada Marathon'** tomorrow

Organisers to host 5K, 10K, and 21K runs

PNS VIJAYAWADA

The much-awaited Vijayawada Marathon will take place on November 17 (Sunday), organised by 'Srirama Finance Vijayawada Marathon' under the auspices of the Vijayawada Runners Society, announced organiser Manideepak. A poster for the event was unveiled on Friday evening in Vijayawada.

Speaking on the occasion, Manideepak shared that this would be the ninth marathon, following the successful completion of eight previous editions. He confirmed that all arrangements were in place for the upcoming event, which will feature three categories of runs: 5 kilometres, 10 kilometres, and 21 kilometres. He urged those who have not yet registered to do so, as large-scale registra-

Edupuganti Nagendra, General Manager of Shriram Finance, and Phanindra expressed their excitement about sponsoring the marathon since its inception.

'CM should fulfil promises made to Minorities'

PNS VIJAYAWADA

State president of the Muslim Hakkula Parirakshana Samithi (MHPS), Sheikh Nagul Meera, has sharply criticised Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu for failing to fulfil promises made to the Muslim community during the elections. Meera demanded that the Chief Minister provide clarity on when these commitments would be implemented, accusing him of neglecting the needs of Muslim minorities after assuming office. Meera's remarks focused

on several key promises made by Naidu during the election campaign, including the protection of Waqf properties, the establishment of an Islamic bank, the provision of Urdu Special DSC (District Selection Committee), the Dulhan Scheme, the Dukan-Makan Scheme, subsidised loans through the Minorities and the construction of a Hajj House in Vijayawada. Despite these assurances, Meera claimed that the government had failed to act on any of these promises, even

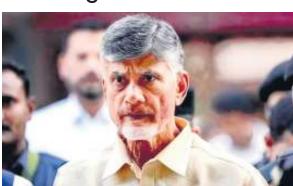
Parirakshana Samithi (MHPS), Sheikh Nagul Meera, criticised the government's stance on the Waqf Amendment Bill, accusing Naidu of supporting the bill, which he claimed was part of a broader agenda to "loot the properties of Allah." "Chandrababu Naidu stood with the BJP in pushing for the Wagf Amendment Bill, and despite his pre-election promises to protect Wagf properties, he has failed to deliver on any front," Meera added

State president of the Muslim Hakkula

after four months in power. He also criticised the government's stance on the Waqf Amendment Bill, accusing Naidu of supporting the bill, which he claimed was part of a broader agenda to "loot the Chandrababu Naidu stood with the BJP in pushing for the Waqf Amendment Bill, and despite his pre-election promises to protect Waqf properties, he has failed to

deliver on any front," Meera added.

Further, Meera pointed to the government's failure to pay honorariums to Mauians (religious leaders) and Imams, stating that promises made to honoured. "While promises made to Hindu priests and temples are being fulfilled, not a single promise made to the Muslim minorities has been kept," he said.



Taj Group mulling mega hotel project in Vizag

The Taj Group, renowned for its exceptional

service and iconic properties, has shown keen

Tai representatives have inspected several

interest in setting up a large-scale hotel spanning

100 acres in the port city. Over the past two days,

locations in Visakhapatnam and the surrounding

Anakapalli district, particularly the coastal areas

near Atchutapuram. If allotted the required land,

the group is expected to proceed with the hotel

Bhogapuram's potential as a

strategic location for the pro-

ject. With proximity to the

airport, Bhogapuram is being

considered as a viable alterna-

Visakhapatnam's strategic

location on India's eastern

coast has driven consider-

able growth in infrastructure,

manufacturing, and tourism,

creating a demand for premi-

tive for the new hotel.

project, adding a major new landmark to the

commended the Eluru police

for their use of cutting-edge technology to tackle thefts and ensure the safety of citizens. He highlighted that in the last quarter alone, the police had recovered 251 stolen bikes

much-needed relief to the families who rely on their vehicles for daily life," the Chief Minister said. "I am glad to see the police working tirelessly to ensure the safety of citizens, and I encourage them to continue their efforts to prevent thefts and protect the public."
The Chief Minister's com-

with crops like Ragi, Foxtail Millet, and Pearl Millet being staples for tribal communities. The study focuses on AF Alluri Sitarama Raju, Odisha's Koraput, and Telangana's Mahbubnagar and Gadwal Iogulamba districts. Dr Praveen Kumar observed, "Odisha has seen notable success with its millet programmes, while Andhra Pradesh lacks sufficient support systems for farmers.

Koraput district's Odisha Millet Mission has achieved remarkable results, with yields reaching up to 12 quintals per acre. Partnerships with NGOs and local farmer producer organisations have contributed to this success. In contrast, Andhra Pradesh's average yield stands at 6-8 quintals per acre.

A key challenge is the high cost of cultivation, particularly in areas like Dasmantpur. Odisha, where labour-intensive practices drive costs up to Rs 15,000 per acre. Andhra Pradesh's cultivation costs range between Rs 6,000 and Rs 8,000 per acre, but farmers face financial strain due to limited mechanisation and subsidy support.

Waging war against 'demonic yellow media': Jagan

PNS VIJAYAWADA

YSRCP chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Friday said that the party is waging a war against a demonic yellow media" and its 'unethical social media".

The former chief minister's statement comes at a time when more than 100 YSRCP activists were detained by police across

PNS VISAKHAPATNAM

The alarming rise in cannabis

addiction among children and young adults has cast a dark shadow over the region, and

the policies of the previous

government are coming under

scrutiny. "It's disheartening

to see students from presti-

gious institutions like uni-

versities, engineering colleges,

and even schools falling prey

to this addiction," a local

police official lamented. "Over

the past four years, hundreds

of these young individuals

have become entangled in

criminal activities linked to drug abuse, posing a signifi-

To address this pressing

established

issue, a special boys' home has

cant threat to society.'

the state for alleged disparaging posts on social media.

'We are waging a war against a demonic yellow media, and it's (its) unethical social media. In this battle (of) illegal detentions, undue harassment and false cases. I am with you in each of these battles," said Reddy in a post on 'X'.

Asserting that truth would

Concern over rising cannabis

addiction among youth

claimed that illegal detentions, undue harassment and false cases had become the order of the day.

Earlier, the opposition leader said that detaining social media activists was equal to infringing upon their fundamental rights, which is a direct assault on the constitutional guarantee.

'Palle Nidra' to improve hostels and villages **PNS** ■ PARVATHIPURAM

district administration has launched Palle Nidra (Night transforming hostels and comdistrict. This innovative proissues related to education quallighting and fans.

gramme effectively, Special Officers are assigned to make night halts at designated hostels every Thursday. The next morn-

Programme calls for district officials to spend nights in hostels to directly observe and address issues

The Parvathipuram Manyam

Halt), an initiative aimed at munity facilities throughout the gramme calls for district officials to spend nights in hostels to directly observe and address ity, sanitation, food standards, and essential infrastructure, like To implement this pro-

ing, they expand their assessments to nearby villages, visiting institutions such as primary schools, Anganwadi centres, and health facilities. Additionally, they evaluate community essentials like water supply schemes, sanitation systems, and the progress of Self-Help Groups. Health, particularly anemia among vulnerable groups like pregnant and lactating women,

is a core focus. District Collector A Shyam Prasad spent a night at the Tribal Welfare Residential School in P.

Konavalasa, where he shared a meal with the students and closely observed their living conditions. "By staying overnight, we gain insight into the students' daily challenges and can identify the real needs within the hostel," he said. "This firsthand experience allows us to make meaningful improvements that directly impact their lives."

The next morning, Prasad visited nearby villages, assessing water facilities, sanitation, and health conditions, particularly anaemia. During this visit, he

encountered Hemalata, an intermediate student grappling with sickle cell anaemia. Responding swiftly, he arranged for an immediate hemoglobin test and underscored the district's commitment to addressing such health issues. "Blood donation camps are being organised to ensure we meet these urgent health needs," Prasad shared, noting the programme's role in the broader 'Grama Darshini' initiative, which fosters proactive

engagement with village com-

MEIL lays stone in TG for Young India Skills University

PNS HYDERABAD

Megha Engineering & Infrastructures Limited (MEIL) took a significant step forward in supporting educational growth and sustainable development with the foundation stone laying for the Young India Skills University at Net Zero Valley, Meerkhanpet, Kandukur mandal, Ranga Reddy district on Friday.

The vision for this state-ofthe-art skills university began with a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on October 26, attended by Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and MEIL Managing Director PV Krishna Reddy. MEIL has pledged Rs 200 crore to construct buildings for the university, aiming to meet international standards.



The foundation ceremony was attended by MEIL Director Ravi P Reddy, Vice-President G Shiva Kumar, Project Managers Madan Kumar Venkateshwarulu, alongside several other team members dedicated to the project. Designed to meet global

standards, the university will focus on eco-friendly and sustainable infrastructure. Facilities will include an academic block, administration block, library, auditorium, advanced classrooms, laboratories and other essential infrastructure, with a commitment

to achieving a zero-carbon footprint. The university will operate an open-air system with advanced ventilation to eliminate the need for air conditioning, ensuring a sustainable and environmentally friendly campus.

MEIL Director Ravi P Reddy

expressed pride in supporting Telangana's youth, emphasising the company's commitment to enhancing educational opportunities. "Our Managing Director Krishna Reddy has allocated Rs 200 crore for this project. We aim to complete the first phase by Telangana Formation Day next year," he stated. Vice-President G Shiva

Kumar highlighted MEIL's dedication to sustainability, noting that the buildings will meet zero-carbon footprint standards and promote an ecofriendly learning environment.

With its focus on sustainability and education, MEIL's Young India Skills University represents a milestone in Telangana's journey towards educational excellence and sustainable progress.

committed to providing reha-

Deenadayalapuram

Mudasarlova. This facility houses juvenile offenders from several districts, many of whom were apprehended for cannabis transportation. The dedicated staff at the home is

criminal activities linked to drug abuse bilitation services, including counselling, vocational training, and mental health support. The root causes of this

Young people have become entangled in

crisis are multifaceted. A recent study identified several key factors contributing to juvenile delinquency and drug addiction among youth, including difficulty managing academic stress, challenges with English-medium education, negative peer influence, a desire for easy money, and a lack of parental supervision.

The Deenadayalapuram boys' home is taking a holistic approach to rehabilitation, aiming to transform these young lives. "These children are at a vulnerable age, easily swayed by the wrong influences," said K. Veeraiah, Executive Officer of the Government Boys' Special Home. "Many are exploited by gangs, lured into the world of drug trafficking. Our mission is to help them break free from this cycle." The home offers vocational training in various skills, including electrical work, plumbing, and courses. Additionally, mental health counselling is provided to address the underlying issues that contribute to addiction. "We bring in inspirational speakers to motivate these young people and help them envision a brighter future," Veeraiah added.

The District Legal Services Organisation is also playing a crucial role by providing free legal aid to the juvenile offenders. By working together, these organisations are striving to create a supportive environment that empowers these young individuals to overcome their challenges and rebuild their lives

the pioneer



DC: Ensure no maternal mortality in Eluru dist

District Collector K Vetri Selvi has instructed officials to take all necessary measures to ensure that there is no maternal mortality in the district. She also directed them to prepare proposals for setting up an ICU for newborns at the Government General Hospital

The Collector chaired a district-level meeting on Friday, where she reviewed the implementation of the Gender Determination Prohibition Act, 1994, along with the District Multi-Member Appropriate Authority Advisory Committee, District MDSR (Maternal Death Surveillance and Response), and CDSR (Child Death Surveillance and Response).

During the meeting, the Collector emphasized the need for the District Medical and Health Officer (DMHO) and District Commissioner of Health Services (DCHS) to conduct training for doctors on effective strategies to control maternal and child mortality.

She urged officials to conduct a case study on maternal and child deaths in the past three years and analyze how alternative treatments could



During the meeting, the Collector emphasized the need for the District Medical and Health Officer (DMHO) and District Commissioner of Health Services (DCHS) to conduct training for doctors on effective strategies to control maternal and child mortality

help reduce these fatalities. She also called for identifying risk factors in cases of sudden pregnancies, such as low maternal age, and taking necessary preventive measures. For high-risk cases, the Collector stressed the importance of ensuring that blood is

available at the time of deliv-

The Collector instructed Anganwadi workers, ANMs, and ASHA workers, under the supervision of the respective CDPOs, to monitor high-risk pregnant women, especially those with anaemia and other She also emphasized the need for orientation and counselling for these women.

Regarding the proposal to establish a Neonatal ICU at the GGH, the Collector directed officials to submit the necessary reports and plans for the required infrastructure.

Gender determination tests are a criminal offence under the law, and strict legal action will be taken against those conduct-ing such tests. Everyone has a responsibility to protect the unborn child. Officials should intensify the implementation of the PC PNDT Act, renew the registration of scanning centres, and carry out decoy operations and surprise inspections in coordination with NGOs," the Collector stated.

She also clarified that using ultrasound medical tests for gender determination in licensed scanning centres is illegal and instructed officials to take stringent action against centres violating the rules.

The meeting was attended by Additional SP Suryachandra Rao, District Red Cross Chairman BV Krishna Reddy, District Medical and Health Officer Dr. S Sharmisti, and ICDS PD K Padmavati, among

8th Class student drowned in tank



PNS BAPATLA

An eighth-class student

An eighth-class student drowned in an irrigation tank at Duddukuru village in Bapatla district on Friday.

According to the police, the deceased, Varun Tej (13), was studying in the 8th Class at the ZP school and was residing in the BC hostel. He, along with three other boys, went to the tank for a bath. went to the tank for a bath. While there, he slipped and drowned. His body was recovered from the tank and shifted to the GGH for postmortem. The police have registered a case.

In response to the tragedy, Minister for BC, Handloom, and EWS Welfare, S. Savitha, expressed her sorrow over the death of the young student. She conveyed her condolences to the family of the deceased. The Minister has directed the Bapatla District Collector to initiate an investigation and assured the bereaved family of all necessary assistance.



PNS PUTTAPARTHI

Minister for Handlooms and Textiles, S Savitha, has announced that tourist destinations in the Sri Sathya Sai (SSS) district will be developed to attract a large number of visitors to Lepakshi, Prasanthi Nilayam, and Thimmamma Marrimanu.

Minister Savitha inaugurated boat rides at Bukkapatnam tank in Bukkapatnam on Friday. She participated in a boat ride on a tourism boat, accompanied by MLA Sindhura Reddy and District Tourism Officer Jaya Kumar.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Savitha highlighted the importance of tourism development in the district. She mentioned that while the state government is focusing on development and welfare schemes, tourism is being given priority. The government is particularly concentrating on tourism development in Sri Sathya Sai district,

The Minister further stated that key tourist attractions in the district, including Lepakshi, Prasanthi Nilayam, Thimmamma Marrimanu, and

the Bukkapatnam irrigation tank, would be developed with all necessary infrastructure to draw more tourists. She expressed confidence that the Bukkapatnam boat rides would be successful and that the location would emerge as a significant tourist centre in the district.

She informed that a 14-seat capacity boat, four federal boats, and a risky boat are being oper-ated at Bukkapatnam tank by Sai Aqua Boating agency. A food court will also be set up at the location. The Minister hoped that a large number of tourists would visit Bukkapatnam tank during holidays to enjoy the boat

rides.
Minister Savitha also announced that a boating facility would soon be introduced at Gollapalli reservoir in Penukonda mandal as part of the district's tourism development. Additionally, a food court and children's park would be estab-

To accommodate the increasing number of tourists visiting Lepakshi, the government will augment the number of available rooms. "The birth anniversary of Sri Sathya Sai Baba will be celebrated on a grand scale in Puttaparthi on November 23," she informed.

MLA Sindhura Reddy acknowledged the efforts to develop Puttaparthi as an international tourist destination, leveraging temple tourism with support from the Central government. She also revealed that the Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple in Kadiri, Yogi Vemana Memorial, Thimmamma Marrimanu, and Lepakshi would be developed into top tourist destinations under special plans by the

Central and State governments. It was a significant moment for her as an MLA to participate in the inauguration of boating at Bukkapatnam, she said.

Tourism Regional Coordinator N Venkateswarulu and other officials also attended

MP urges Centre to reconsider old alignment of NH 165

PNS ELURU

Local MP Putta Mahesh Kumar has urged V Umashankar, Secretary of the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, to reconsider the old alignment of NH 165 at Kannapuram village.

In a representation submitted to Umashankar in New Delhi on Friday, the MP explained that the proposed NH 165 BB project, which connects Jeelugumilli to Kovvuru via Kannapuram village, was initially planned to pass through the village. However, the highway alignment was later altered to bypass Kannapuram village, which, according to the MP, was a setback for the area.

Kumar requested the Union Highways to reconsider the original alignment, allowing the highway to pass through Kannapuram village. He also urged Umashankar to issue suitable instructions to the con-



appropriate action on the mat-

Additionally, the MP appealed for the sanctioning of Rs 289 crore to meet the growing traffic demands in the also called for expediting the reconstruction and repair of roads, seeking suitable instructions from the concerned authorities to address these pressing issues.

20 RTC bus passengers have miraculous escape



PNS MACHILIPATNAM

A major mishap was narrowly avoided when 20 passengers travelling in an APSRTC bus had a miraculous escape after the bus plunged into an irrigation canal at Vanapamula village in Pedaparupudi man-

the RTC bus was en route to Vijayawada from Gudivada when the driver reportedly lost control, causing the bus to veer off the road and fall into the canal. Fortunately, all 20

passengers on board escaped unhurt in the incident.

RTC officials promptly arrived at the accident site and arranged for another bus to transport the stranded passengers to their destinations. The police have registered a case in connection with the incident.

passengers pointed out that the Gudivada-Vijayawada road was riddled with potholes, making it extremely difficult and unsafe for

TTD Trust Board Chairman

BR Naidu on Friday visited the Dharmagiri Veda Vignana

Peetham and the SV Gosala in

Upon his arrival at Dharmagiri, Principal KSS

Avadhani extended a tradition-

al welcome to the Chairman,

accompanied by Vedic chants and Aseervachanam. During

his visit, Naidu interacted with

the students, encouraging them

to excel in their courses and

there are any issues, we are here

Entire brass of BRS will have to go to jail if found guilty: Ponguleti

BRS leaders who were members of the BRS government and had committed offences must be punished, Revenue, Housing, Information and PR Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said.

Working President KT Rama Rao and former BRS Minister T. Harish Rao but also KCR and BRS MLC Kavitha will have to go to jail if found guilty, Ponguleti said.

Friday Khammam district, Ponguleti said that BRS leaders who had committed offences were now trembling.

KTR is getting ready ing that he will be arrested in connection with the Formula E race. KTR is also trying to score political points using the issue, he said.

Pointing out that the Formula

E Race had drawn heavy flak, Ponguleti asked benefit Telangana had obtained from the E-Racing event. He said that he was not making these com-

son or a party. However, they should face trial, if found guilty in the inquiry. The people of Telangana know well how BRS leaders acquired assets worth crores, Ponguleti said.

23 red sanders logs seized, 3 smugglers arrested



PNS KADAPA

In a major crackdown, the Task Force team seized 23 red sanders logs and apprehended three smugglers in the Rajampet forest division of Annamayya district.

According to DSP G Balireddy, the operation was conducted under the direction of SP L Subba Rayudu and Task Force SP P Srinivas. Led by RI Chiranjeevulu and RSI P Naresh, the Task Force team carried out combing operations in the forest on Friday.

The police seized 21 kg of ganja

being illegally transported and

arrested one drug peddler at

Rachapalli village in Prathipadu

Circle Inspector Surya Appa Rao informed the media that, fol-

lowing the directions of SP

Vikranth Patil and under the

supervision of SDOP D Srihari

Raju, a special vigil had been set up to monitor the illegal trans-

PNS KAKINADA

mandal on Friday.

During the search, the team spotted smugglers loading red sanders logs into a car near SR Palem village. As the Task Force team approached, the smugglers attempted to flee into the forest. However, the team successfully chased and

captured three of them. Along with the logs, the team seized the car used in the smuggling attempt. One of the smugglers is from Tamil Nadu, and all three have previous involvement in red sanders smuggling cases.

Task Force CI Suresh Kumar has registered a case.

4 notorious bike lifters arrested; 25 bikes recovered



PNS KADAPA

The police arrested a fourmember notorious bike-lifting gang and recovered 25 motorcycles in Yerraguntla in the dis-

Yerraguntla CI Suresh Babu told the media on Friday they arrested four bike lifters and

21 kg of ganja seized, 1 held

seized 25 bikes worth Rs 25

The four youths were addicted to vices and to earn money easily they started stealing costly motorcycles and selling them by creating fake records. The arrested bike lifters were produced before

the court and sent to remand.

Salt cultivation hit by govt neglect, middlemen

Srikakulam district is teetering on the brink of collapse, as local cultivators grapple with government neglect and exploitative middlemen. Spanning nearly 5,000 acres across villages like Bhavanapadu, Marripadu, and Selagapeta, this coastal salt production has been a mainstay for generations. However, bureaucratic delays and lack of support have pushed the industry to the edge, forcing farmers to contemplate abandoning their traditional liveli-

Since 2018, over 2,000 acres of salt farming land have seen

to resolve them. Our goal is to Officer Health Madhusudhana Prasad, briefed elevate Sanatana Dharma to promoting Sanatana Dharma. He assured the students, "If

TTD Chairman visits Dharmagiri

newer heights.'

Principal The Dharmagiri, along with Special Officer Vijayalakshmi and

institution in Tirumala

the Chairman on the growth and significance of the Vedic Later, Naidu visited the SV

Dr.

Fishermen, tribals take to sea to

protest gas expansion projects

in the Navaneeta Seva. He observed the services rendered by Srivari Sevaks in the Seva and personally handed over butter churned from buttermilk, which is used in Ekanta Seva, to the Sevaks. He also took part in Gopuja. SV Gosala Director Dr. Harnath Reddy was present during the visit.

The Chairman's visit concluded with a trip to Pedda Jeeyar Mutt, where he sought the blessings of Pedda Jeeyar Swamy, worshipped Bedi Anjaneya Swamy, and offered coconuts in Akhilandam.

PNS SRIKAKULAM

The salt farming industry in the Naupada region of

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Over 100 local fishermen and tribal community members gathered in the Bay of Bengal on Friday to protest gas expansion projects, joining a global movement against fossil fuel reliance. Organised by Mines, Minerals & PEOPLE (MM&P), the demonstration was aimed at highlighting the potential environmental and social dangers posed by gas projects, which activists argue directly threaten the climate goals set by the Paris Agreement. Setting out in 10 fishing boats, protesters carried banners with messages such as "Stop Gas Expansion," "Stop Financing Natural Gas," and "No to Gas & LNG". The event in Visakhapatnam was part of a larger movement with similar demonstrations taking place

across India, from Palghar to

Activists say gas projects directly threaten climate goals set by the Paris Agreement

Gujarat. "The Paris Agreement sets a clear target of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. However, the expansion of gas projects threatens to undermine these efforts," stated Rebbapragada, Chairperson of MM&P. "Gas, often falsely portrayed as a transitional fuel, is harmful to both the planet and human health.'

Local communities, especially fishermen and tribal people from the Borra Caves area and the ASR district, voiced serious concerns over the effect of fossil fuel expansion on their livelihoods and the health of their ecosystems.

cle checks on the Tuni-Rajahmundry highway (NH 16) on Friday and discovered that the

portation of cannabis through Kakinada district. drug peddler, identified as Kola A police team conducted vehikgs of ganja.

Manideep, was transporting 21 The arrested peddler had procured the cannabis from

Pasupulanka village in Malkangiri district, Odisha, and was attempting to transport it to Hyderabad for sale at a higher price. According to the Circle

Act, and he was produced before the court, which sent him into judicial remand. The SP appreciated the efforts of Peddapuram SDOP D Srihari Raju, CI Surya Appa Rao, and SI S Lakshmikanth for their role in seizing the large quantity of ganja and apprehending the drug peddler.

Inspector, Manideep, who was

addicted to vices, turned to sell-

ing ganja as an easy way to make money.

A case was registered against

the accused under the NDPS

Since 2018, over 2,000 acres of salt farming land have seen their leases expire

their leases expire, with no action taken by the Central government's Salt Department to renew them. This inaction has resulted in a 40 per cent reduction in the cultivation area, leaving only 3,000 acres operational. The remaining leases are also set to expire by 2027 if the government continues its apathy.

Salt farming is a capital-intensive process, with each acre costing around Rs 30,000 annually. Farmers bear the burden of expenses like seawater pumps, labour costs, and other operational overheads.



ACROSS THE STATES



No place for Hindus in J'khand amid infiltration

ssam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday Accused the JMM-led coalition of patronising infiltration for vote bank politics, warning that if unchecked, there will be no place for Hindus and tribals in Jharkhand in 20 years. Sarma, who is also the BJP co-incharge of elections in Jharkhand, made the remarks during a political rally at Kharsawan in Seraikela-Kharsawan district. He said that while the Hindu and tribal populations were rapidly declining, Muslim population was increasing. "There will be no place for tribals and Hindus in Jharkhand after 20 years at the current pace of infiltration from Bangladesh," he alleged. Sarma claimed that in Santhal Pargana, Hindus and tribals together made up 90 per cent of the population, with tribals accounting for 44 per cent. However, by 2011, the Hindu population had dropped to 67 per cent, while tribals had reduced to just 28 per cent, he alleged. "During the same period, the Muslim population grew from 10 per cent to 22 per cent," he claimed.



Two Naxalites killed in encounter

wo Naxalites were killed in an encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Friday, police said. The gunfight broke out around 11 am in a forest on the tri-junction of Usoor-Basaguda-Pamed villages, where a joint team of security personnel was out on an anti-Naxalite operation, Inspector General of Police, Bastar Range, Sundarraj P, said. Personnel from the state police's District Reserve Guard (DRG) and CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action — an elite unit of the CRPF) were involved in the operation, he said. The official said after the exchange of fire stopped, the bodies of two Naxalites were recovered from the spot along with a self-loading rifle (SLR), barrel grenade launcher shells and locally made weapons. A search operation was underway in the area, he added. With this, security forces have gunned down 191 Naxalites in separate encounters in the state's Bastar region, comprising seven districts, including Bijapur, police said.



Woman's body with bullet wounds found in UP village

he body of a 27-year-old woman with gunshot injuries was found in a car here on Friday, with the police suspecting the murder to be a case of honour killing police said. The incident took place in Rasulpur village under Khatauli police station limits of Muzaffarnagar district, they added. Superintendent of Police (City) Satyanarayan Prajapat that the body of Himanshi with bullet injuries was found in an unclaimed car. After her father passed away, the victim used to live with her mother at her maternal uncle's house, he said. Himanshi was allegedly in a relationship with Vineet Kumar (28), the senior police officer said citing villagers. However, her family members, including her maternal uncle and his two sons, objected to their relationship, he added. The body has been sent for postmortem, the SP said, adding that the matter is being probed and a case is yet to be



NSCN-IM threatens 'armed struggle' over 'national flag', 'constitution'

PNS DIMAPUR

Naga insurgent group NSCN(IM) has threatened to break its 27 year-old ceasefire agreement with the government and return to its "armed struggle" if its demands for a separate "national flag and

constitution" are not met.

The group, which carried out a violent insurgency in Nagaland soon after India's independence in 1947, entered into a ceasefire pact in 1997 before starting prolonged peace talks with the government's interlocutors.

On August 3, 2015, the NSCN(IM) signed a framework agreement with the government in presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to find a permanent solution.

In a statement released on Friday, general secretary of the group and chief political nego-tiator Thuingaleng Muivah said he and former chairman, late Isak Chishi Swu, went to the negotiating table for the resolution of the conflict through peaceful negotiation and also honouring the commitment of former prime ministers P V Narasimha Rao, H D Deve Gowda, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and others to resolve the issue through peaceful political negotiation, leaving aside armed movement.

Accordingly, the political negotiations began on August 1, 1997 and since then more than 600 rounds of talks had held without any pre-conditions both in India and abroad, leading to the signing of the framework agreement of August 3, 2015, he said.

Muivah alleged that authorities and the leadership in the government have "deliberately betrayed" the letter and spirit of the framework agreement by refusing to recognise and acknowledged the Naga "sovereignty national flag and sovereign national constitu-

'Ek hai toh safe hai', says PM Modi; slams Congress

PNS DHULE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday accused the Congress of pitting one caste against another and cautioned people to stay united, saying "Ek hai, toh safe hai."

"The sole agenda of the Congress party is to make one caste fight against another. They do not want SCs, STs and OBCs to progress and get their due recognition... Remember, Ek hai toh safe hai' (We are safe if we are united)," Modi said at Dhule.

"Since Nehru's time Congress and his family opposed reservation and now their fourth generation 'yuvraj' (prince) is working for caste divisions," Modi said, addressing his first poll rally in Maharashtra for the November 20 assembly elections.

Modi also accused the Congress-led INDIA bloc of wanting to take the Constitution out of Jammu and Kashmir and asserted that no power in the world can restore Article 370 there.

Modi said the INDIA grouping is flaunting blank books passing them off as the Constitution to provoke Dalits and Adivasis.



"Since Nehru's time Congress and his family opposed reservation and now their fourth generation 'yuvraj' (prince) is working for caste divisions," Modi said, addressing his first poll rally in Maharashtra for the November 20 assembly elections

The PM said the Congress and its allies should not encourage the "Pakistan agenda" and speak the language of separatists. The agenda won't succeed till he has people's blessings, said Modi.

"Only Ambedkar's constitution will be followed in J&K You must have seen on TV. how a resolution was moved in the Jammu and Kashmir assembly on bringing back Article 370 and when BJP

thrown out. The country and Maharashtra should understand this," Modi said.

The BJP's star campaigner also accused the Congress of playing a dangerous game of dividing castes and communi-ties. If ST (Scheduled Tribes), SC (Scheduled Castes) and OBCs (Other Backward Classes) stay united, the Congress politics will be over,

Earlier, Modi alleged, the Congress played politics over religion which led to India's partition and now the party is indulging in the politics of caste. There can be no bigger conspiracy against the country than this, he said at the rally in the north Maharashtra

Modi quipped that the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), comprising Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP), as a vehicle that has neither wheels nor brakes and there is a fight there to sit in the driver's seat.

Recalling his affinity with Dhule and Maharashtra, Modi said whenever he has asked something from the people of the state, they have been gra-

Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah will quit soon, claims state BJP chief

PNS ■ BENGALURU

Karnataka BJP President B Y Vijayendra on Friday claimed Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, facing probe in the MUDA site allotment case, will

Both Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and Congress national President M Mallikarjun Kharge are also aware as to when the CM will quit, he said. He termed Siddaramaiah's reported recent statement that he

will continue as CM for the full

term, as an attempt aimed at garnering votes from certain communities for the November 13 by-polls for three Assembly seg-

"The Chief Minister, who is an accused, is patting himself on his back. He is trying to instill confidence among legislators (Congress) that he will continue as CM, but Siddaramaiah knows what is the truth. D K Shivakumar and Mallikarjun Kharge know when he will resign," Vijayendra said.

Speaking to reporters here, he



said at the time of election, to get the support of certain commu-

nities, such statements are made. "I don't know whether it is right or not to say this repeatedly, but the Chief Minister's resignation has already been decided," he added.

The opposition has been demanding Siddaramaiah's resignation, following charges against him in the MUDA (Mysuru Urban Development Authority) site allotment case.

There were also behind-thescenes political activities within the ruling Congress last month, with a few Ministers in the Siddaramaiah Cabinet holding closed door meetings, fueling speculation about leadership change. But such activities came to a halt following instructions from the party high command.

Stating that the stand of the Congress government and the Chief Minister on the Waqf issue and their conduct are being questioned by people and farmers of the state, Vijayendra said they should have responded to trouble faced by farmers.

"But, under the CM's insistence, Zameer Ahmed Khan (Waqf Minister) has taken the lead in robbing land from farmers, its implications will be felt in by-polls," he said.

People of the state are questioning the CM's "anti-farmer attitude", the conspiracy to loot the lands and properties of Mutts, and the "anti-Hindu behaviour" of this government, he further said. "All of this will become a curse for the Congress government and people will turn against them. Let there be no doubts."

PANEL ON BANGLADESHI IMMIGRANTS

Jharkhand government asserts no demographic change

PNS NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on the state government. Jharkhand government not to appoint till December 3 expert members to the independent fact-finding committee directed to be constituted by the high court to identify infiltrators from Bangladesh in the

bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Ahsanuddin Amanullah also sought a response from the Centre on a plea of the Jharkhand government challenging the September 20

order of the high court. During the hearing, senior advocate Kapil Sibal appearing for the Jharkhand government pointed out that the state has objection to forming any such panel. The state has also opposed the claim of illegal immigration resulting in a change of demography

made by PIL petitioners Danvaal Danish and Soma Oraon before the high court.

Justice Dhulia said that high

said that a fact-finding committee is needed but it left it to

ter," Justice Dhulia told Sibal and observed that it is a fact that the tribal population is reducing in the state. Sibal \bar{s} aid it is a non-judicial

issue and the high court should not have ordered for constituting the panel. The bench ordered that till

the next date of hearing, December 3, liberty is granted to the Jharkhand government to not appoint members to the fact-finding committee. The state government in its

appeal said that the fact-finding committee was appointed despite the fact that a report was submitted by the Deputy Commissioners of six districts (Godda, Jamtara, Pakur, Dumka, Sahibganj, and Deoghar) wherein no

such illegal migration was found except in two cases of Sahibganj district. It said the state author-

ities are dealing with the two cases of illegal migration as per the

Delhi Congress kicks off monthlong 'Nyay Yatra'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress kicked off its from Rajghat on Friday to put pressure on the AAP government in the city on various issues ahead of the Assembly polls due early next year.

Delhi Congress chief Devender Yadav, AICC national treasurer Ajay Maken, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu, senior leader Subhash Chopra and former Delhi Congress chief Anil Chaudhary were among those who took part in the march.

The participants, wearing "Delhi Nyay Yatra" t-shirts, carried the Congress's flag. They also sang the theme song of the yatra. The participants also carried two large balloons shaped like liquor bottles, with former Delhi chief minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor Arvind Kejriwal's caricature on those.

A band played "Sare Jahan se Accha" at the start of the yatra. On the lines of former party chief Rahul Gandhi's "Bharat Jodo Yatra", Congress workers and leaders would interact with the people of the city during the "Delhi Nyay Yatra" and learn about the problems they have been facing for the last 10

Cong leaders support Article 370, says Union Minister



PNS SURAT

Union Minister CR Paatil on Friday slammed the Congress by saying its leaders move around with a copy of the Constitution but support the restoration of the scrapped Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir.

The I-K assembly had, on Wednesday, passed a resolu-tion seeking a dialogue between the Central govern-ment and elected representatives for restoration of Article 370 granting special status to the erstwhile state. The provision was scrapped on August 5, 2019.

"Congress leaders roam around with a copy of the Constitution but they are sup-

porting Conference to get a decision taken by out Parliament to scrap Article 370 and 35A overturned. The real face of these parties has been exposed. They will never succeed in their intentions," Paatl said at a press conference here.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi often shows a copy of the Constitution at his poll rallies to target the BJP, which he alleges wants to end reservations and other welfare provi-

The scrapping of Article 370 has given people of J-K freedom in the true sense and reservation benefits to Dalits and tribals here, the Union Jal Shakti minister said

'Rahul or his descendants can't restore Article 370'

PNS SANGLI

Neither Congress leader Rahul Gandhi nor his fourth generation will be be able to bring back Article 370 that gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, Union minister Amit Shah said on Friday in a stinging attack on the opposition at a poll rally in Maharashtra's Sangli.

The J-K assembly on Wednesday passed a resolution seeking a dialogue between the Central government and elected representatives for restoration of Article 370 granting special status to the erstwhile state. The move was hailed by the valleybased political parties while it prompted protests by the main opposition BJP which demanded its rollback.

The provision was scrapped on August 5, 2019. Addressing a rally in Sangli for Mahayuti (ruling alliance) candidates Sudhir Gadgil and Sanjay Kaka Patil, the Union Minister said the Congress was supporting the National Conference, the ruling party in J-K, in this

ROHINI NAYYAR PRIZE FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT. Engineer who ferries fun and science to village kids awarded

PNS NEW DELHI

It's no ordinary village bus to ferry passengers. A veritable treasure chest of knowledge and fun, the minibus known as Tinker on Wheels travels from school to school in rural areas and invites students on board to give them a hands-on experience of scientific activities such as

robotics and 3D printing. The brainchild behind Tinker on Wheels is a 28-year-old engineer from Odisha who was honoured this week with the third Rohini Nayyar Prize for Outstanding Contribution to Rural Development.

upon a time and was heartbroken when I couldn't make it. I pursued my engineering from a government college in Orissa. When I began working as an engineer, I realised there is a huge gap in what is being taught in schools and what is actually happening in industry," Anil Pradhan said on Friday.

"While students in metro cities still have exposure to hands-on-learning. It is very limited for students in rural areas and that is why I thought of starting this," said Pradhan.

He started with 200 students in 2017 and has helped 2.5 lakh

"I also had the IIT dream once students so far with his Tinker

on Wheels. The students gather in the school playground, where the minibus is parked and the play area gets converted into a laboratory for the day giving them a chance to innovate and create.

The schools where the bus goes are the ones which do not have infrastructure for offering hands-on learning to students.

The unique project has reached over 140 schools in Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Telangana, and has reached over 2.5 lakh students.

"Earlier, we used to identify such schools and would get in



heartbroken when I couldn't make it. I pursued my engineering from a government college in Orissa. When I began working as an engineer, I realised there is a huge gap in what is being taught in schools and what is actually happening in industry," Anil Pradhan said on Friday

touch with them but now schools reach out themselves too. Depending upon the number of students at the school, mostly above Class 5, we arrange the time span for visit of the bus. Sometimes it goes for a day, sometimes for more days, depending upon the strength. The idea is to give at least eight hours to each batch of students. He said the educators on the

bus work with the school teachers to design activities for the students according to their aptitude. The students get to conduct experiments, create things with 3D printing and innovate.

Anti-corruption sleuths detain doctor, pharmacist

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Anti-corruption vigilance officials on Friday detained a doctor and a pharmacist from a government hospital for accepting a bribe of Rs 40,000 from a contractual nursing officer at Baipariguda in

Odisha's Koraput district. The accused have been identified as Dr. Biswajit Bhuyan, the medical officer incharge at Baipariguda Community Health Centre (CHC), and Uttaam Mahankuda, the pharmacist, officials said.

The two were trapped by vigilance sleuths following an allegation from the nursing officer, whose services had recently been regularised. She was entitled to an arrear

payment of approximately Rs 4,83,572 after the government ordered the release of differential financial benefits from October 2022 onward.

According to the complainant, despite repeated requests, Dr. Bhuyan demanded a 10 per cent bribe of the arrears amount in exchange for processing the payment. He allegedly refused to release the arrears until the bribe was paid and even threatened to transfer her to a remote location if she did not comply.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Rape capital

Despite countless promises and policies, the capital continues to fall short on women's safety

n yet another harrowing incident that highlights Delhi's persistent reputation as the "rape capital" of India, a young woman was allegedly gang-raped by three men near the busy ITO chowk. On October 10, 2024, the survivor, a community leader and researcher from Puri, Odisha, was assaulted and then abandoned near the Sarai Kale Khan area. It would take more than three weeks for Delhi Police to apprehend the suspects in what was an elaborate and challenging investigation. This case, though one among many, casts an intense spotlight on Delhi's persistent challenges with women's safety. Despite widespread public outrage, nationwide protests, and even legislative reforms spurred by the 2012 Nirbhaya case, the city remains one of the most dangerous places for women. This incident underscores the gaps in ensuring safety, accountability, and justice for women, despite heightened scrutiny and the promises made over the years. In the wake of the Nirbhaya gang rape, public demands for justice led to



significant legal reforms, including amendments to the Criminal Law in 2013. These included harsher punishments for sexual offenders and the establishment of fast-track courts. The Delhi Police increased surveillance, deployed women patrol teams, and set up additional helplines. However, cases like this illustrate that systemic changes alone haven't proven sufficient to curb these crimes. Although police presence has increased, patrols are often sparse in secluded areas where many such crimes occur.

There are also challenges with delayed response times and gaps in the training and sensitivity of law enforcement officials towards victims of sexual violence.

Crimes against women are frequently dismissed or downplayed, especially in cases where victims are perceived as "easy targets." The perpetrators in this case allegedly targeted the survivor believing she was mentally unwell. Many survivors face severe trauma, which impacts their ability to recount details of the assault or pursue legal recourse effectively. While authorities in this case took extraordinary steps to support the survivor, such efforts are still rare. Establishing accessible and widespread trauma-informed support systems is crucial for the safety and wellbeing of survivors. This horrific incident should prompt a critical examination of the measures that have failed Delhi's women. Reforms need to extend beyond legal frameworks and involve deeper societal and systemic changes. Expanding surveillance to cover secluded areas, introducing real-time monitoring could enhance response times and deter potential offenders. Law enforcement must receive adequate training in trauma-informed approaches, victim sensitivity, and rigorous investigative procedures. Transforming societal attitudes towards women and sexual violence is critical. Public campaigns and educational programmes that challenge stereotypes and promote empathy can help change the culture that enables such



A Raiasthani nomad vendor waits for customers, in Pushkar

India 2047: Towards a unified developed nation



Achieving 'Viksit Bharat' will demand a collective effort to foster religious harmony, address environmental threats and navigate global tensions

ndia awaits 2047 as it aspires to become one of the developed nations, and obviously, that would mean striving, sincerely and collectively for the welfare of each of its citizens. Hopefully, in the Viksit Bharat, none would need a free ration, and freebies doled out as allurements for votes would become history. It would also unhindered availability of potable water, clean air, an all-weather roof over their heads, and freedom from a 'no-work-to-do' sit-uation. Hunger, ill health and malnutrition would become history! India would have a system of education that would ensure equality of access and success at the same level' for the children of the Lutyens zone and those in the Jhabua Village!

Education shall no longer remain a 'necessary utopia'! Moving in this direction necessitates getting rid of communal disharmony and socio-cultural exclusion of every kind. We expect a nation that no longer suffers the minoritymajority concerns! Having seriously studied various aspects of social cohesion and religious amity - or social and religious cohesion and amity - in India, there is no escape from acknowledging that it is a very complex conundrum of communal curvatures that are resistant to various well-intentioned initiatives to smoothen it out.

There are human values that are common to every religion, and these could become the ground for cementing comradery without in any way interfering with the ways of faith and religious practices. The global rise of fundamentalism, terrorism, and fanaticism, and the consequent expansion of distrust, oppression and seclusion are certainly not conducive to a better life for the people, no matter how many more gadgets are made available in their

the turn of the millennium that that this support is based in days ahead, things would get tougher for leadership to handle, and the very survival of the human race would be at stake. In the third decade of the 21st century, humanity and the planet during the freedom struggle Earth confront the challenges and led to the partition of

posed by climate change, a sharp deterioration of mannature relationships, and everincreasing violence in various forms and formats. The futility of the peace-making efforts by those whose economic interests require greater production of lethal weapons, and their sale and consumption is no longer a hidden

The tensions, turmoil and anxiety that all of this creates are now being experienced everywhere, particularly in the West, which accepted the refugees and intruders with open arms, many of them are now repenting their policies of the past! The rise of distrust and apprehension constitutes greater danger than sporadic violence the instances of which are increasing in European

These examples give some indications of the world before the young of today, and those who would wield power tomorrow!

India is a major Asian nation that suffers from a huge influx of illegal migrants, and most of them get support from sever-Sadly enough, it was very clear at al political parties. It is clear purely on com erations, and is certainly not in the national interest. It adds to the fragile relationship that has existed all along, was fuelled



THERE ARE HUMAN

VALUES THAT ARE COMMON TO EVERY RELIGION, AND THESE COULD BECOME THE GROUND FOR CEMENTING **COMRADERY** WITHOUT IN ANY WAY INTERFERING WITH THE WAYS OF FAITH AND

gious amity remained elusive. The two-nation theory was elaborated in an oft-quoted speech of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan in his Meerut speech delivered in March 1888, his view of the scenario that may emerge after the British leave: "Is it possible that under these circumstances two nations the Mohammadans and the Hindus – could sit on the same throne and remain equal in power? Most certainly not." Sir Syed was one of the most respected and admired of the leaders of the Muslim community who had opened the doors of modern education for them, and hence, the enlightened Muslim youth adored him. The essence of the above represented the prevailing sentiments of the Muslim community, and these were perpetuated by others, particularly by those who opposed the views of Sir Syed on modern educa-

India, the possibility of achiev-

ing social cohesion and reli-

They, however, grabbed the idea of two nations! Subsequently, in the same lecture, Sir Syed elaborates his views further: the principle of a representative government is hat it is government by a nation, and that the nation in question rules over its own people and own land. It is as simple as that: there could be no possibility of any representative government elected by

Hindus and Muslims together ever ruling over India consisting not only of the nations of Hindus and Muslims but others who should also constitute nations of their own. Indian democracy establishes that communal harmony is possible, and the two communities are equally enlightened to work together.

While Sir Syed deserves and gets praise for his futuristic outlook on modern education and its dire need to uplift the Muslims, it would certainly remain a matter of serious debate whether his definition of two nations did create a lasting impact on the psyche of the community that persists even

The doctrine of the two-nation theory finally got buried with the formation of Bangladesh, and emerging multi-religious societies in Europe. If there is one nation that could present a functional model of religious unity it is India, the Hindus and the Muslims of India. Nowhere else, the equality of all religions is so deep-rooted in thought and deed as in the ancient Indian culture. It could be revived by the hereditary dialogical tradition which has excelled historically

(Professor Rajput works in education, social cohesion and religious amity. He is an Atal Fellow in the PMML, New Delhi; views are personal)

Gambling's global impact

RELIGIOUS

PRACTICES

India's Al dilemma: Balancing innovation with job security



ABHAYA AGRAWAL

As AI transforms industries globally, it also raises concerns about job displacement in India, especially within sectors like IT, management and creative fields

rtificial intelligence (AI) is reshaping industries across the globe and India is no exception. The introduction of AI promises growth opportunities, new business models, and enhanced competitiveness in the global market. However, it also raises significant concerns, especially around job security. This is particularly true for workers in sectors perceived as more susceptible to automation, such as IT, management, writing, and entertainment. The duality of optimism for AI's potential and anxieties over job displacement is a pressing issue for India as it seeks to balance these perspectives.

In the business sector, AI is primarily used to automate routine tasks and streamline management functions, resulting in improved decision-making capabilities. Middle management roles are especially vulnerable to automation as AI takes on complex tasks, such as supply chain, data, and customer management, with minimal human intervention. By optimising these operations, companies achieve greater control



and efficiency, but at the potential cost of middle-management jobs.

Similarly, the creative industries are feeling the impact of AI. Fields such as modeling, advertising, voice acting, and content creation face increasing competition from AIgenerated graphics, voices, and written content. AI models are now advanced enough to produce realistic images, draft coherent articles, and even mimic human voices, reducing the need for human involvement in creative tasks. This shift leaves specialists in these areas concerned about future employment prospects. The challenge lies in adapting to these changes, harnessing the benefits of AI while mit-

igating job loss. The Indian government recognises the implications of

AI on job creation and is actively working to address these challenges. One of its main strategies is to focus on human capital development and workforce preparedness. Initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna (PMKVY) aim to upskill a significant portion of the population, emphasising AI, machine learning, and robotics. These initiatives intend to create new job opportunities in AI while managing its impact on the workforce. The private sector is also contributing to this effort. Major Indian IT firms, such as Ínfosys, Wipro, and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), have launched extensive upskilling programmes to prepare their employees for the digital future.

Infosys, for instance, has developed a global training initiative to help its workforce keep pace with advancements in AI and other emerging technologies. These transformation-focused programs prioritise skills in AI, cloud computing, and data science, equipping workers to stay relevant in a rapidly evolving job market. Some companies are also

finding ways to integrate AI that enhance, rather than replace, human productivity. Transitioning to an AI-driven economy has its benefits and challenges. On one hand, AI is expected to spur economic growth and innovation, creating new opportunities. On the other hand, it raises concerns about job security and the redistribution of work. Addressing these challenges requires a collaborative effort among workers, businesses, and the government. For workers, adaptability is key, requiring a willingness to acquire new skills and embrace evolving work environments. For businesses and policymakers, there is a shared responsibility to invest in reskilling initiatives and create jobs that align with AIdriven changes. By prioritising human capital and fostering a proactive approach to workforce development, India can position itself to benefit from AI while minimising the risk of widespread job displacement.

(The writer is faculty-emerging technologies, Wadhwani Centre for Government Digital Transformation; views are personal)

SC UPHOLDS MADARSA ACT

Madam — Recently, the Supreme Court, in its landmark judgement has upheld the constitutional validity of Uttar Pradesh Board of Madarsa Education Act 2004, reversing an Allahabad High Court ruling that" it was nconstitutional." The Madarsa Act provides a legal framework for these institutions in UP. The Allahabad High Court had said in its judgement that the Act made it compulsory for students to study Islam and more modern subjects were made optional, which is a violation of the right to free compulsory education under Article 21A of the Constitution.

By upholding the educational rights of minority communities in Uttar Pradesh, the Supreme Court has now confirmed the state can regulate the madarsa education board to ensure standards of excellence. Also, SC observed that though minorities have a right under Article 30 of the Constitution to establish and administer madarsa to impart religious or secular education, the right is not absolute. SC has also said that so long as the regulation is reasonable and rational, states can regulate aspects of education in minority institutions without violating their rights to handle the administration. At the same time, in a significant move, SC has struck down a part of the Madarsa Act's section 9 which allows the Board to grant degrees as it is against UGC norms. In general, the SC verdict not only safeguards the right of madarsa students to pursue education but also affirms the constitutional principles that protect religious minorities and their educational institutions.

P Victor Selvaraj | Tirunelveli

TRUMP'S HISTORIC WIN

Madam— Apropos to "Trump wins hands down" published on November 7. Someone who has so many serious cases against him that even his candidature was not confirmed, and from that situation to secure candidature, surviving two



ambling, casinos, and betting, once limited and far less accessible, have now become available 24 hours a day through social media, mobile phones, and gambling apps. In the past, individuals had to travel and stand in queues to participate in such activi-

assassination attempts and becoming President again is a massive turnaround and achievement, and it would be an understatement to call Trump a proverbial phoenix. He is now the oldest person in US history to be elected president. He may have been out of power from 2020 to 2024, but he was never away from America's psyche. Either you love him or

hate him, but he is here to stay. His main poll planks were reviving the US economy, vanishing inflation, and illegal immigration, and all these seem to have resonated with US voters. Moreover, this verdict cannot be construed against Kamala Harris, it is more against the Joe Biden administration. She hardly had 100 days to prepare, campaign, and fight. The world would hope that Trump walks the talk and plays a big role in ending the war

in Ukraine-Russia. Trump's policies would be keenly watched because if he follows America's first policy, then Indian exporters in textiles, pharma and automobiles may feel the pinch and H1-B rules could further

ties. This easy access has significantly accelerated the harmful impact of gambling. To date, an estimated 450 million people worldwide have faced negative consequences, including severe financial losses, deteriorating physical and mental health, broken family relationships, and, tragically, suicide.

These alarming trends paint a grim and toxic picture of our global future. The issue doesn't spare any age group. Research shows that 15.8 per cent of adults are addicted to gambling, with an even higher rate of 26.4 per cent among adolescents. Given the severity of the situation, it is imperative for the world to introduce and implement comprehensive strategies to address this crisis. Learning from the past, it must act decisively to safeguard future generations and build a healthier, safer society

Jakir Hussain | Kanpur

be tightened, which could mean Indian IT professionals and companies will be adversely impacted.

Bal Govind | Noida

DELHI CONGRESS NYAY YATRA

Madam — The Delhi Congress commenced a month-long 'Nyay Yatra' on November 8, with the goal of tending to residents' concerns and advocating for governmental action. Senior leaders such as Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, and K C Venugopal have been invited to spearhead the troop, which will traverse all 70 Vidhan Sabha constituencies.

This was disclosed by state unit chief Devender Yadav. Congress workers will engage with locals to listen to their concerns and collect suggestions. Running until December 4, the campaign will showcase a variety of community members and act as a precursor to the upcoming Assembly elections.

Neha Tomar | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

TRUMP 2.0: IMPACT ON INDIA

Trump's return could offer India a pivotal role in global tech and manufacturing



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

The third time is a charm, as the saying goes and we are not talking about PM Modi coming back to power for three consecutive terms, but his close friend, the 47th President of the US, Donald Trump. Having successfully dodged a couple of bullets (quite literally), impeachments, and felony charges, President Trump, triumphed over the collective choice of the most powerful economy in the world the United States of America. While the right-wingers across the globe, including in India celebrated his victory, as a literal victory for the "RIGHT" and what they saw as the tyranny of the so-called "left" liberals, President Trump 2.0 is most likely to be more nuanced than his version one. What it means for India is a mixed box of chocolates which can be bitter or boldly sweet depending on the pick.

President-elect Trump is known to be a hard negotiator, particularly on trade topics and he has famously described India as one of the highest offenders on this front. He is a businessman with decades of experience and has a transactional approach to trade, something not alien to Indian politicians particularly, from the Western regions. Trump's presidency 1.0 and the humungous growth in India-US bilateral commercial relations, plus a business-oriented Indian government at the centre, for now over a decade, has also served as a training ground for several tough negotiators to emerge from the bureaucratic class in India. Therefore, while officials in the government are aware of the tough negotiations ahead with the US on trade-related matters or import tariffs or say restrictions, they are hopeful, of finding a middle path given their familiarity with the President's style of functioning.



The dragon in the room would be cagey, as President-elect Trump in the run-up to the elections has vowed to impose stiff tariffs on imports from China. This may be great news for India, especially with the current government's focus being on making Bharat the manufacturing hub for electronics hardware, at least for the region.

Indian bureaucrats pushing the manufacturing envelope are deeply aware, that developing India into a hub, is a long-term game that may outlive the current regimes in DC and Delhi. They are also acutely aware that, by allowing friendshoring to India, by large US companies in the China pius one model, Trump will nave an advantage. He could negotiate this card by pressuring India to buy perhaps more hydrocarbons or defence technology from the US. While the technology partnership was not primarily the centrepiece of India US bilateral relationship under Trump 1.0, his successor Joe Biden created a delectable topping with cooperation on critical and emerging technologies as an important element of the partnership. Initiatives such as iCET (initiative for critical and emerging technologies) which are directly monitored by the heads of both countries have put an unwavering sanctity to the tech partnership between the two democracies.

President Trump could either encourage US tech to keep fulfilling India's avowed target of being the next global electronics manufacturing hub while holding it as a bargaining chip, or, he may find a creative solution to persuade some of these companies to shift back some of their factories to domestic shores. The latter possibility seems unlikely as Donald Trump has, traditionally been a huge supporter of creating more jobs for Americans in the old manufacturing sectors. Much of President Trump's technology policy is likely to be curated by his biggest donor and tech czar Elon Musk. Elon Musk has business interests in China where he has some of his largest Tesla factories, besides, he has been trying to enter the Indian automobile market with little success. His other business interests including satellite-based telecommunication services, have struggled to start beaming in India. Many of these factors would determine the crucial next four years of the Modi-Trump era.

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

Trump's return: A radical shift in US foreign policy KS TOMAR



As Donald Trump returns to the White House, he may redefine the boundaries of American leadership and influence in an increasingly multipolar world

rump's return to the White House in 2024 sparks a torrent of questions about the future of NATO, the American economy, relationships with allies, and the trajectory of the Ukraine war. Trump's previous tenure exhibited a strong tilt toward "America First" policies, frequently challenging long-standing global alliances and multilateral commitments. A Trumpled presidency, therefore, could dramatically shift the geopolitical landscape, leaving allies like NATO in uncertainty, reorienting America's economic policies, testing India's balancing act, and redefining

The Future of NATO: Endurance or Erosion? NATO, the cornerstone of Western defence since 1949, stands as a central topic of speculation with Trump's return. During his presidency, Trump questioned the alliance's relevance, particularly its financial obligations, going as far as to imply a possible US withdrawal if members didn't contribute "their fair share." This stance generated unease among NATO allies, who rely on the US for critical defence resources, particular-ly amid heightened Russian aggression. As Trump resumes office, his approach to NATO could undergo even bolder recalibration. The European defence structure, largely dependent on the US, might face significant strategic and funding shifts, possibly prompting European powers to take on more defence responsibilities. A reduction in US military and financial support for NATO might embolden adversarial actors, especially Russia. A scaled-back US commitment could mean vulnerabilities for Eastern European countries like Poland and the Baltic states, which depend on NATO's security umbrella to counter Russian expansionism. The impact on NATO, therefore, hinges heavily on Trump's strategic decisions regarding alliance burden-sharing and his capacity to persuade European allies to increase their defence expenditures.

The Global Stakes: A Pivotal Crossroads The implications of Trump's return extend far beyond America's borders. With China's rise and Russia's ambitions continuing to shape global security dynamics, Trump's foreign policy choices will carry weighty consequences. His transactional approach to alliances, "America First" economics, and unpredictable stance on defence alliances could reshape international relationships, with traditional allies rethinking their reliance on US support. His handling of NATO's commitments, the Ukraine war, and relations with global powers like India and China will determine the future stability of Western influence and the global balance of power.

China and India: Competing powers: Under Trump, the US-China relationship could revert to one defined by rivalry, as he has consistently advocated a tough stance on China's trade practices and global ambitions. Trump may reassert his strict tariffs on Chinese goods and impose even tighter restrictions on Chinese companies operating in the US, aiming to curb China's influence in areas like technology and manufacturing. For India, Trump's return poses a mix of opportunities and challenges. His administration was notably warm toward India, fostering stronger economic and defence ties through agreements such as the "2+2" Dialogue. A renewed focus on countering China could make India a key strategic partner, particularly in the Indo-Pacific. Trump might offer India more defence cooperation or





A RENEWED FOCUS ON COUNTERING CHINA COULD MAKE INDIA A KEY STRATEGIC PARTNER, PARTICULARLY IN THE INDO-PACIFIC. TRUMP MIGHT OFFER INDIA MORE

DEFENCE COOPERATION OR **TECHNOLOGY** TRANSFERS, **POTENTIALLY** STRENGTHENING INDIA'S MILITARY AND ECONOMIC POSITIONING IN

technology transfers, potentially strengthening India's military and economic positioning in Asia. However, India's balancing act between the US and Russiagiven India's defence ties with Moscow—could be complicated if Trump takes a firm stance against the Ukraine conflict. India's careful neutrality on the Russia-Ukraine issue might attract scrutiny, with Trump possibly expecting more alignment with US strategic priorities.

Economic Fallout-America's Financial Future: Trump's economic approach has traditionally leaned toward protectionism, focusing on restoring jobs, renegotiating trade deals, and limiting dependence on foreign supply chains. This economic philosophy could be reinvigorated if he returns to the Oval Office, with potential implications for trade, inflation, and employment in the US. One possible outcome is the continuation or even intensification of tariffs on China, aimed at reducing the US trade deficit. However, these tariffs historically contributed to increased costs for American consumers and businesses, raising prices on imported goods and creating inflationary pressures.

Another protectionist push could have similar consequences, forcing Americans to pay more for everyday products as companies pass on tariff costs.

Trump's "America First" approach could also mean tax reforms or incentives for companies to manufacture domestically. This reshoring could create jobs but would also drive up production costs due to higher wages, potentially making US goods less cominternationally. Furthermore, a rigid stance on trade could strain relations with

economically integrated allies,

terms perceived as fair to the US., which could disrupt existing agreements and introduce new economic tensions globally.

Allies under Pressure: A Reshaped Global Order?

The Trump administration's approach to alliances was often unpredictable, blending close relationships with some leaders while alienating others. His "transactional" foreign policy style prioritised immediate gains over long-standing partnerships, which led to fractures with allies. Now Trump's return could mean intensified pressure on allies to prioritise bilateral deals over multilateral cooperation, transforming relationships with the EU, Japan, South Korea, and other allies. Trump's policies toward Europe manifest in demands favourable trade deals or concessions on defence spending.

For Japan and South Korea, his reemergence could signal heightened pressure to contribute more to their defence arrangements, potentially testing their security alliances with the US. Even Middle Eastern allies, like Saudi Arabia, could face new expectations under a Trump administration more interested in specific, tangible returns on US. support rather than abstract com-

mitments. The Ukraine War: A Fractured

Consensus? Trump's return to the White House could introduce an alternative perspective on the Ukraine conflict, deviating from the largely unified Western support for Ukraine. Trump has openly criticised high US financial aid to Ukraine, signalling his belief that European countries should shoulder more of

the burden. With the conflict consuming billions of dollars in American aid, he

with Trump demanding trade may choose to reduce US involvement, putting pressure on European allies to increase their support and potentially compelling Ukraine to consider negotiations. A Trump-led administration might seek to avoid confrontation with Russia, which could weaken Ukraine's position on the battlefield. Trump's emphasis on diplomacy over confrontation with Moscow could affect NATO's cohesion, with some members potentially favouring a stronger stance against Russia while the US takes a more hands-off approach. This scenario could embolden Russia, who might see a shift in US leadership as a chance to pursue more aggressive tactics in Ukraine or even attempt to influence other former Soviet territories.

> The fate of the Ukraine war, thereore, would depend largely Trump's approach—whether he chooses to maintain US. support for Kyiv or pivot toward encouraging negotiations, potentially shifting the course of the conflict and signalling a new era of US-Russia dynamics. In many ways, Trump's presidency would signify a recalibration of American foreign policy, returning to his brand of nationalism mixed with pragma-

> However, this approach could generate friction with allies, alter the global economy, and challenge existing diplomatic norms. Whether this path will foster a stronger, more self-reliant US or an isolated and fragmented world order remains to be seen. As Trump is poised to start second term, his return promises to redefine the boundaries of American leadership and influence in an increasingly multipolar world. (The writer is strategic affairs ana-

> lyst and political analyst based in Shimla; views are personal)

Expanding healthcare for India's elderly: A new phase for PM-JAY

Comprehensive healthcare needs of India's rapidly growing elderly population require further policy evolution, aiming for a holistic, sustainable healthcare system for the aging citizens

ndia is home to a significant elderly population, with approximately 138 million people aged 60 and above, including more than 10 crore individuals over the age of 70. This segment of the population has unique and pressing healthcare needs. As people age, they are increasingly susceptible to multiple chronic conditions that require specialised care and consistent medical attention. According to the Longitudinal Ageing Study of India (LASI), every fourth Indian over 60 years and every fifth Indian over 45 years reports poor health. Additionally, 75 per cent of the elderly have one or more



ASHISH PANGHAL

multi-morbidity, with diabetes and cancer rates rising, particularly in urban areas. As per the Global Health Estimates data of 2019, noncommunicable diseases such as ischemic heart diseases, stroke, and diabetes are leading causes of disabilityadjusted life years (DALYs) lost among individuals over chronic diseases, and 40 per 60. This highlights the growcent experience disabilities. ing need for specialised

medical attention for agerelated disorders. The rising prevalence of hypertension, heart disease, and respiratory issues among the elderly increases the need for hospitalisation and specialised care, placing immense pressure on healthcare providers and overwhelming the elderly and their families. The financial burden associated with recurrent hospital visits and treatments is a signif-

icant challenge. Also, India's current medical inflation rate, standing at approximately 14 per cent which worsens the healthcare difficulties confronting the elderly. Escalating medical costs, including those for hospitalisation, doctor consultations, and medications, 1 in 4 elderly individuals has treatments and consistent make it increasingly chal-

lenging for this vulnerable population to access necessary care. Inflation, coupled with the high cost of living, leaves many elderly individuals struggling to afford even basic healthcare ser-

Additionally, as medical inflation continues to rise, insurance companies are compelled to cover higher expenses for medical procedures and treatments. This, in turn, results in increased premiums for policyholders. For many elderly individuals, these higher insurance costs compound the financial burden, deepening the overall healthcare affordability crisis.

While the expansion of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana



step towards improving healthcare access, covering an additional 6 crore individuals from 4.5 crore families, and focusing on seniors aged 70 and above, several challenges persist in the insurance market. Current insurance products are limited, particularly for individuals over the age of 70. Preexisting diseases (PED) such

conditions, and cancer often result in waiting periods or outright denial of coverage. Furthermore, insurance premiums for senior citizens are substantially higher due to the associated health risks, making insurance unaffordable for many. Denial of insurance based on PED, combined with exorbitant premiums, often forces elderly individuals to rely on personal savings or government schemes, leaving them without adequate financial protection against serious

According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), India's elderly population is projected to nearly triple by 2050, reaching 320 million. This demo-

illnesses.

as diabetes, cardiovascular graphic shift will necessitate more comprehensive solutions to safeguard the wellbeing of the nation's senior citizens. While the expansion of PM-JAY is a welcome development, it does not fully address the broader geriatric needs of India's

aging population. AB PM-JAY is largely limited to inpatient care. The scheme does not cover outpatient services, which make up a considerable portion of healthcare costs. Research published in International Journal of Preventive Medicine shows that outpatient care accounts for 40-80 per cent of health expenditures in India. Consequently, even with the enhanced insurance coverage, many individuals may

continue to face out-ofpocket expenses for treatments that do not require hospitalisation.

There is an urgent need to expand coverage to include services such as long-term care, outpatient services, mental health support, palliative care, and rehabilitation, which are essential for ensuring the well-being of the elderly.

Additionally, the government must focus on reducing financial barriers to healthcare, such as high insurance premiums, and ensuring the inclusion of PED coverage without long waiting periods.

The writer is senior consultant at Enira Consulting; views are VIJAYAWADA | SATURDAY | NOVEMBER 9, 2024

IN BRIEF



Ola Electric reports net loss of Rs 495 cr in Q2

la Electric Mobility on Friday reported narrowing of consolidated net loss at Rs 495 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, 2024 aided by higher sales. The Bengaluru-headquartered firm had reported a net loss of Rs 524 crore in July-September FY24. Revenue from operations rose to Rs 1,214 crore from Rs 873 crore, Ola Electric Mobility said in a regulatory filing. During the quarter, sales increased by 74 per cent year-on-year to 98,619 units as against 56,813 units in the same period last year. Ola Electric said it plans to expand its company-owned store (and colocated service infra) network to 2,000 outlets by March 2025. The company has 782 companyowned stores as on September 2024, it added. "Over the next 2 years, we will be launching 20 products, with at least one new product launch every quarter," it said. The company said that over the last couple of months, it faced a capacity issue at service centres because the service capacity growth lagged sales volume growth over the 2-3 quarters.



Forex kitty drops by \$2.67 bn to \$682.13 bn

ndia's forex reserves declined by USD 2.675 billion to USD 682.13 billion for the week ended November 1, the RBI said on Friday. In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had dropped by USD 3.463 billion to USD 684.805 billion. In September- end, the reserves had hit an alltime high of USD 704.885 billion. For the week ended November 1, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased by USD 3.902 billion to USD 589.849 billion, the data released on Friday showed. Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves. Gold reserves increased by USD 1.224 billion to USD 69.751 billion during the week, the RBI said. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were down by USD 1 million to USD 18.219 billion. the apex bank said. India's reserve position with the IMF was up by USD 4 million to USD 4.311 billion in the reporting week, the data showed.



Pilot run of new centralised pension system successful

inister of Labour & Employment Mansukh Mandaviya on Friday announced successful completion of pilot run of new Centralised Pension Payments System (CPPS) under Employees' Pension Scheme 1995. The CPPS is a paradigm shift from the existing pension disbursement system that is decentralized, with each Zonal/Regional Office of EPFO maintaining separate agreements with only 3-4 banks, a labour ministry statement said. In CPPS, there will be no need for pensioners to visit the bank for any verification at the time of commencement of pension and the pension shall be immediately credited upon release, it stated. The minister mentioned in the statement that the pilot run was completed on October 29-30 with the pension disbursement of about Rs 11 crore for October 2024 to more than 49,000 EPS pensioners of Jammu, Srinagar and Karnal regions. This initiative addresses the long-standing challenges faced by pensioners and ensures a seamless and efficient disbursement mechanism.

Lokpal pulls up SEBI chief on complaints of 'impropriety'

Anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal on Friday sought SEBI chief Madhabi Puri Buch's "explanation" on complaints of impropriety and conflict of interest filed by a Lok Sabha member and two others on the basis of a report by US-based short-seller Hindenburg Research, according to an

official order.
The Lokpal, however, clarified its order is only a "procedural directive" and "not an expression of our opinion on any matter in issue, either

Buch, the chairperson of capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), has been asked to submit her response within four weeks, according to the order.

..We deem it appropriate to call upon the named RPS (respondent public servant) to offer explanation qua the allegations made against her in the respective complainant and elaborated in the concerned explanatory affidavit," reads the order signed by Lokpal chairperson Justice Á M Khanwilkar and five other

"This opportunity is being



per the mandate in the third proviso of sub section (1) of section 20 of the Lokpal Act, before the bench would proceed to determine whether there exists a prima facie case for investigation into the allegations," it said.

It said she can submit her response or explanation complaint wise in all the three complaints to avoid repetition, the order said.

"We reiterated that this order is not an expression of our opinion on 'any matter in issue', either way. This is only a procedural direction...," it

The order, signed by judicial members Justices L Narayana Swamy, Sanjay Yadav and Ritu Raj Awasthi, and members Sushil Chandra and Ajay Tirkey, said Buch can file an affidavit to offer explanation within four weeks from the receipt of the order.

The Lokpal has listed the matter on December 19 for further consideration.

In an order dated September 20, the Lokpal had said that the complaint by the Lok Sabha member alleging impropriety and conflict of interest by SEBI chief "falls short" of persuading it to order any probe.

man's observation came while hearing two complaints, including one by the Parliamentarian, filed on the basis of a report by US-based "activist short-seller' Hindenburg Research.

In its report, Hindenburg Research alleged that Buch and her husband had stakes in obscure offshore funds used in the alleged money siphoning scandal involving the Adani

The allegations were denied by them, saying the short-seller was attacking the capital markets regulator's credibility and attempting a character assassination. The Adani Group had also termed Hindenburg Research's allegations malicious and manipulation of selective public infor-In a post on X, Trinamool

Congress MP Mahua Moitra had on September 13 said that she had filed a complaint against SEBI chief with the Lokpal and said the anti-graft ombudsman should forward it the Enforcement Directorate (ED) or the Central Bureau Investigation (CBI) for preliminary probe followed by a

Irdai Chairman pitches for 100 pc FDI in insurance sector

Irdai Chairman Debasish Panda on Friday pitched for 100 per cent foreign direct investment in the insurance sector, saying a lot of capital is needed to achieve the goal of 'insurance for all' by 2027.

Speaking at Business Standard's annual BFSI event, Panda said insurance is a capitalintensive sector, and the country would need more players in the segment to increase insurance penetra-

India gradually started opening the insurance sector by allowing private and foreign investment in 2000. Currently, up to 74 per cent FDI is permitted in general, life and health insurance.

We need a lot of capital, which means we need a lot of new entities to come in. There may be some consolidation also happening. So, all of that churning will happen.

"And if the FDI route is also

opened that will only augment the domestic investment as well, otherwise, domestic investment may get crowded out. ... perhaps its time to open up for 100 per cent FDI so more players who want to come and operate on their own terms

without trying to look for an Indian partner that may also help," he

Panda further achieving universal insurance will be crucial in India's journey towards a 'Viksit Bharat'

by 2047. He also said the digital platform Bima Sugam, an initiative of Irdai, will be instrumental in revolutionising the insurance sector by acting as a comprehensive public infrastructure for policyholders.

According to him, the initiative will empower customers to explore a variety of products in one marketplace, independent of intermediaries tied to specific companies, while also allowing distributors to conduct transactions more efficiently.

Realty firm TARC posts Rs 67.36cr net loss in Sept quarter

PNS NEW DELHI

Realty firm TARC Ltd has posted a consolidated net loss of Rs 67.36 crore in the second quarter of this fiscal year on higher expenses. The company

posted a net profit of Rs 1.06 crore in the year-ago peri-Total income

declined sharply to Rs 5.02 crore in the July-September period of this fiscal from Rs 34.67 crore in the corre-

sponding period of the previous year, according to a regulatory filing on Wednesday. Its expenses increased to Rs 80.76 crore from Rs 52.79 crore during the period

under review. With a total pre-sales of Rs 1,322 crore in the April-

the company said it is "very well on track to meet its guidance for the fiscal year".

Amar Sarin, MD & CEO, TARC Ltd said, "TARC has officially launched its announced pipeline across its three projects,

boasting a gross development value of Rs 7,500-8,000 crores. "The response

from customers has been exceptional, reinforcing its reputation as a leading ultra luxury residential developer

in the National Capital Region. While we continue with the sale of our current projects, we are also simultaneously preparing to unveil our next series of luxury residential developments in Delhi and Gurugram in the

RBI includes spot deals to expand forex

PNS NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank on Friday said it has decided to expand the reporting requirement of forex transactions and include foreign exchange spot deals to ensure completeness of transaction data in the trade repository (TR) of the Clearing Corporation of India.

"To ensure completeness of transaction data in TR for all foreign exchange instruments, it has been decided to expand the reporting requirement to include foreign exchange spot (including value cash and value TOM) deals in a phased man-ner," the RBI said in a circular.

Accordingly, transactions in foreign exchange cash; foreign exchange tom; and foreign exchange spot, involving the rupee or otherwise shall now be reported to the TR, it said.

Sensex, Nifty fall for 2nd day on FII selling; RIL, ICICI Bank major drag

PNS MUMBAI

"full FIR enquiry".

Stock markets closed lower for the second straight day on Friday amid relentless foreign fund outflows and losses in blue-chip stocks Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank and State Bank of India.

Benchmark BSE Sensex declined by 55.47 points or 0.07 per cent to settle at 79,486.32. During the day, it tanked 424.42 points or 0.53 per cent to 79,117.37.

The NSE Nifty dipped 51.15 points or 0.21 per cent to 24,148.20.

From the 30-share Sensex pack, Asian Paints, Tata Steel, State Bank of India, Reliance Industries, NTPC, Tata Motors, ICICI Bank and IndusInd Bank were the biggest laggards.

Mahindra & Mahindra, Titan, Tech Mahindra, Infosys,



were among the gainers.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 4,888.77 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data.

"Consolidation continued in the market as investors staved cautious due to disappointment in earnings and the flight of FIIs. The US Fed continued its rate-cutting cycle to stimulate the economy," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, at Geojit Financial Services, said. After

early trade, markets moved in a range-bound manner thereafter and ended marginally lower on selective selling in banking, telecom, metal, oil & gas and realty stocks, Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

"Despite recovery in global indices, Indian markets continue to bore the brunt of FII fund outflows. The US Fed rate cut failed to enthuse local investors as the undertone remains cautious with a negative bias,

Gold rises Rs 500; silver jumps Rs 800 amid wedding festivities

PNS NEW DELHI

Gold prices rose Rs 500 to reclaim the Rs 80,000 mark in the national capital on Friday amid fresh buying by local jewellers and retailers for the wedding festivities, according to the All India Sarafa Association. The precious metal of 99.9

per cent purity had settled lower at Rs 79,500 per 10 grams on Thursday.

Silver also jumped Rs 800 to Rs 94,600 per kg against the previous close of Rs 93,800 per

kg.
The price of gold of 99.5 per cent purity climbed Rs 500 to Rs 79,600 per 10 grams. It had closed at Rs 79,100 per 10 grams on Thursday. Traders said demand from

local jeweller businesses has

picked up for the wedding sea-

son. Besides, gold prices wit-

nessed an uptick as investors

bet on this asset class as a safe

haven, owing to depreciation in the rupee against the US dollar (USD).

In future trade on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold contracts for December delivery slipped Rs 198 or 0.26 per cent to trade at Rs 77,213 per 10 grams.

"Gold traded weak amid strength in the dollar index and the Federal Reserve's (Fed) policy announcement that aligned with expectations of a 0.25 per cent rate cut," Jateen

Trivedi, VP Research Analyst of Commodity and Currency at LKP Securities, said.

The Fed's outlook, coupled with inflation trending toward the targeted 2 per cent, offered no new surprises to support gold prices. Profit-booking continued after Donald Trump's election victory, Trivedi added.

Silver contracts for December delivery decreased Rs 630 or 0.68 per cent to Rs 91,683 per kg on the bourse. In the Asian market hours,

Comex gold futures depreciated by USD 10 per ounce or 0.37 per cent to USD 2,695.70 per ounce

According to commodities experts, gold price dropped below the USD 2,700 level on Friday due to a strengthening in the US dollar, buoyed by investor expectations that economic policies under President-elect Donald Trump may spur growth and inflation.

P E Analytics posts 31pc growth in net profit

PNS NEW DELHI

P E Analytics, which runs real estate data analytics platform PropEquity, on Friday reported a 31 per cent increase in its consolidated net profit to Rs 6.44 crore during the first six months of this fiscal.

Its net profit stood at Rs 4.9 crore in the year-ago period. The company posted a 32 per cent growth in consolidated revenues at Rs 25.62 crore during the April-September period of this fiscal as against Rs 19.44 crore for the same period last year, the com-

pany said in a statement. Commenting on the half-yearly earnings, Samir Jasuja, Founder & CEO at PropEquity, said, "The revenue figures for the halfyear have been quite promising. Later this year, we will also launch our overseas services in the Middle East."

Tata Motors Q2 net profit declines 9.9 pc to Rs 3,450 crore

PNS NEW DELHI

Tata Motors on Friday reported a 9.9 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to Rs 3,450 crore for the second quarter ended September 2024, mainly impacted by lower sales. The company had posted a

consolidated net profit of Rs 3,832 crore in the same quarter of the last fiscal, Tata Motors said in a regulatory filing. Its consolidated revenue from

operations stood at Rs 1,00,534 crore compared to Rs 1,04,444 crore in the year-ago period, it added. Total expenses stood at Rs

97,330 crore against Rs 1,00,649 crore in the same quarter a year ago, the company said. JLR revenue fell 5.6 per cent

to 6.5 billion pounds. Profitability was impacted on account of temporary aluminium supply constraint and a hold placed on 6,029 vehicles for additional quality control checks, Tata Motors said.

"Our teams responded brilliantly to the aluminium supply shortages we experienced in the quarter, so we could deliver as many orders as possible to clients...We have invested 250

million pounds so far to prepare our Halewood UK plant for electric vehicle production, and with strong global demand for our products, we are well positioned to deliver on our commitments again this financial year," JLR CEO Adrian Mardell

For JLR, the company said, "Both production and wholesale volumes are expected to pick up strongly in the second half as the aluminium supply situation normalises, and we will continue our diligent management of costs. We hold our full-year guidance for revenue of 30 billion pounds".

Tata Motors said its passenger vehicle volumes dropped 6.1 per cent to 1,30,500 units compared to the corresponding quarter of the last fiscal due to slow consumer demand and seasonal factors. PV revenues in Q2 FY25 declined 3.9 per cent year-on-year to Rs 11,700 crore.

"The passenger vehicle industry in Q2 FY25 witnessed about 5 per cent decline in registrations, resulting in continued build-up of channel inventory. Sales of EVs were additionally impacted by the lapse of certain subsidies.



INDIA INC'S BUDGET WISHLIST

Amnesty scheme for customs, easier tax compliance

PNS NEW DELHI

An amnesty scheme for customs, reduction in tax rates for individuals and Limited Liability Partnership firms, easier tax compliance, fast tracking of faceless appeals and a dedicated dispute resolution mechanism top India Inc's wishlist for the next Budget submitted to the government.

Representatives from all four key industry bodies, CII, FICCI, ASSOCHAM and PHDCCI,

mendations with regard to the Budget, to be presented on February 1, 2025, in separate meetings held with top Finance Ministry officials. Industry body FICCI sought

have put forth detailed recom-

the introduction of an "Amnesty Scheme under Customs" as a one-time settlement scheme to clear past dues, arguing that it will help the industry to reduce

the baggage of litigation. Similarly, Assocham has also pitched for the introduction of a comprehensive Tax Amnesty Scheme under Customs.

"A one-time settlement scheme to clear past litigations can be considered by the Government, on the lines similar to Sabka Vishwas Legacy Dispute Resolution Scheme, 2019 for pre-GST era indirect taxes and Vivad Se Vishwas for Income tax," Assocham stated.

It suggested that the Government can provide relief to importers against all the disputes related to the Customs

Act; Partial waiver of the duty in bursement of daycare expenses dispute depending on the quantum involved; and Complete waiver of interest and penalty.

Industry chambers have also demanded simplified compliance with respect to TDS (tax deducted at source) and the introduction of a new independent Dispute Resolution forum for effective and time-bound dispute resolution.

To enhance women-led development, FICCI urged the government to exempt reimfrom perquisite taxation. PHDCCI submitted sugges-

tions related to a reduction in rates of taxation for Individuals Limited and Liability Partnership firms, fast tracking of faceless appeals by introducing a statutory period; increase in the limit of presumptive tax scheme for professionals; expansion of the PLI scheme beyond the 14 sectors; change in classification norms of MSMEs for NPAs and interest equalization

scheme on pre and post shipment export credit for MSMEs services exports.

"PHDCCI expects a significant increase in the size of Union Budget from Rs 48.2 lakh crore for the year 2024-25 to more than Rs 51 lakh crore for the year 2025-26 and continued capital expenditure expansion from Rs 11.11 lakh crore for the vear 2024-25 to more than Rs 13 lakh crore for the year 2025-26,' said Hemant Jain, President, PHDCCI.

Vijayawada | Saturday November 9, 2024

Sidharth Malhotra leads VVAN

upcoming project VVAN, which will redefine what we call the 'Cinematic Landscape?

The announcement was made by both production houses on the auspicious occasion of Chhath Pooja, leaving everyone excited to witness a never-before-seen cinematic experience.

Balaji Telefilms and TVF have joined hands for a maiden project featuring the super talented and handsome hunk Sidharth Malhotra, titled VVAN, to be directed by Deepak Mishra, who has directed India's most iconic series. Panchavat.

They are set to introduce the genre of folk mythological thriller, something entirely new to the audience. With this collaboration,



'I am a Hindu, but a Hindu means you are secular'

the trailer of *The Sabarmati* Report has truly resonated with the masses. Powerful, hard-hitting and impactful, it showcases glimpses of one of the most devastating incidents in India's history. During the grand trailer

launch, producer K a p o o r spoke boldlv and fear-

lessly about the film. During the trailer launch, when asked about being afraid of sending the film to the censor, Ektaa responded, saying, "I was not afraid at all because I have never acted out of fear in my life. I am a Hindu. But a Hindu means you are secular. I will never make a comment about any religion."

Presenting a glimpse of the facts about what really happened on the Sabarmati Express on the morning of February 27, 2002, the muchawaited trailer of The Sabarmati Report took us on a journey through an incident that changed the socio-cultural factor of India. This perspective on the event has rarely been discussed, yet it has had a lasting impact on countless lives.

Balaji Motion Pictures, presents A Vikir Films Production, The Sabarmati Report starring Vikrant Massey, Raashii Khanna and Ridhi Dogra, directed by Dheeraj Sarna and produced by Shobha Kapoor, Ektaa R Kapoor, Amul V Mohan and Anshul Mohan, a worldwide release by Zee Studios.

The film will be releasing in theatres on November 15, 2024.

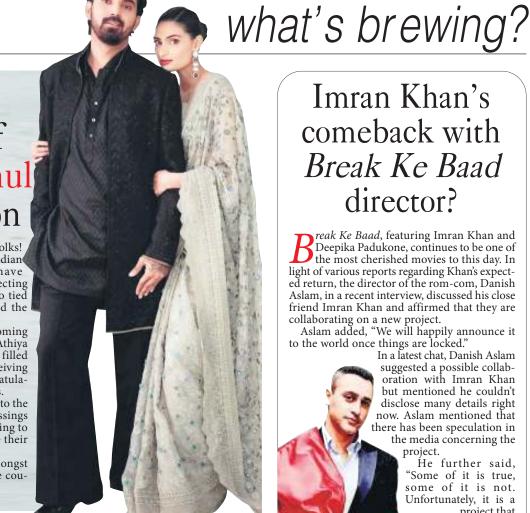
'Beautiful blessing' of Athiya-Rahul coming soon

T's time for some good news, folks!
Actress Athiya Shetty and Indian
cricketer KL Rahul have
announced that they are expecting
their first child. The couple, who tied the knot in January 2023, shared the news taking to their Instagram.

"Our beautiful blessing is coming soon," posted the couple, signed Athiya & Rahul, the announcement was filled with warmth and excitement, receiving an outpouring of love and congratulations from fans and well-wishers.

The news came in as a surprise to the fans and celebrities. Soon, blessings poured in for the couple. According to sources, the couple will welcome their baby in 2025

Athiya's brother Ahan was amongst the first ones to congratulate the cou-



Imran Khan's comeback with Break Ke Baad director?

reak Ke Baad, featuring Imran Khan and Deepika Padukone, continues to be one of the most cherished movies to this day. In light of various reports regarding Khan's expected return, the director of the rom-com, Danish Aslam, in a recent interview, discussed his close friend Imran Khan and affirmed that they are collaborating on a new project.
Aslam added, "We will happily announce it

to the world once things are locked."

In a latest chat, Danish Aslam suggested a possible collaboration with Imran Khan but mentioned he couldn't disclose many details right now. Aslam mentioned that there has been speculation in the media concerning the project.

He further said. "Some of it is true, some of it is not. Unfortunately, it is a

project that is still work-inprogress. m o m e n t things are locked and fall into place, we will very happily announce it to the world. But all I can say is that I'm working with Imran Khan on something."

Danish also mentioned his directorial debut, Break Ke Baad, when conversing about romantic comedies.

The 2010 movie starring Imran Khan and Deepika Padukone might not have been a commercial success at first, yet it received acclaim in the vears that came after.

Nilanjana Ghosh Dastidar calls out T-Series, Sachet-Parampara for plagiarism!

¬-Series is once again caught up in a plagiarism controversy, as musician Nilanjana Ghosh Dastidar claims that the company and composer duo Sachet-Parampara have copied a piece by her husband, Rajarshi Mitter, for the song Maiyya featured in Netflix's Do Patti. The movie, featuring Kriti Sanon and Kajol, premiered on Netflix on October 25.

Dastidar expressed her disappointment on social media, demanding accountability from T-Series and Sachet-Parampara while sharing a link to Mitters original work.

In a post on Facebook, Nilanjana stated, "I am asking all my fellow musicians and artists to shame this music director and the entire Joker t-series music company! How dare you



then don't steal it, you useless buggers! Shame on you guys. shame shame! sachet tandon I am speaking directly to you, you shameless, filthy thief! How dare you not even ask for the rights from my husband?! you thief! go

Bandish Bandits returns!

Bandish Bandits is coming back this December for yet another enchanting season! As the series gears up for the muchawaited second season, here is a special look back at season one that takes fans through the highlights of the season and aspects that made fans fall in love with the series!

With an ensemble cast led by some of India's finest actors, the first season drew praise for its exceptional casting, with lead actors Ritwik

rime Video's fan-favourite musical drama Bhowmik (Radhe) and Shreva Chaudhry (Tamanna) being appreciated for their chemistry and nuanced performances. Actors Naseeruddin Shah, Sheeba Chadha, Rajesh Taliang and Atul Kulkarni too were standouts, bringing gravitas to the series with their layered portravals

Set in Rajasthan, Bandish Bandits showcases the region's vibrant culture and heritage with stunning visuals that highlight its beauty.

As the first ever Indian series set against the

backdrop of music, the show's deep dive into Indian classical music stood out, offering viewers a rare and respectful portrayal of the art form. The soundtrack was widely celebrated, especially for tracks like Sajan Bin, Chedkhaniyan and Lab Par Aaye, which beautifully blended classical and contemporary music. Furthermore, the scenes capturing classical music performances and the royal aesthetic added to the rich tapestry of the series.

The story explored the clash between traditional Indian classical music and modern pop culture, resonating with audiences who appreciated its fresh take on an age-old cultural con-

flict. The romantic drama between Radhe, a classical music prodigy and Tamanna, a rising pop star, was engaging and exciting. The show blended romance, drama and music with a coming-of-age narrative, making it appealing to a wide audience. The balance between Radhe's disciplined journey in classical music and Tamanna's modern approach helped capture viewers from different backgrounds and musical tastes

Directed by Anand Tiwari, who also serves as a co-creator with Amritpal Singh Bindra, Bandish Bandits is produced by Leo Media Collective Private Limited.



ARCHIE





WHICH I THEN DROPPED ON MY FOOT











GARFIELD



SURE



MEDIA I'LL HAVE MY FIRST

REAL SENSE OF

WHO SHE IS AS A PERSON





REALITY CHECK



SPEED BUMP



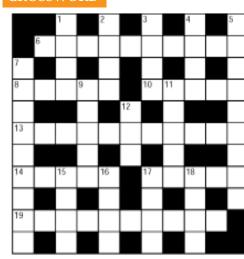
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CROSSWORD



ACROSS

DOWN 1 Fog 2 Skinny

4 Closed

- 6 A machine in a kitchen
- 8 Frequently 10 A room just under the roof
- 13 A country famous for
- making watches 14 Imagine things while you
- are asleep
- 17 Normal
- 19 A large African animal with a horn on its nose

3 Molten stuff from a volcano

7 Thinks over

11 Speaks

12 Not many

building

15 A door out of a

17 Second-hand

9 More than is needed

16 This orbits the Earth





GINGER MEGGS

SHOULD WE

EXCHANGE

USERNAMES?











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Saturday November 9, 2024

'I found my true rhythm in Hyd,' says musician PVR Raja

TEJAL SINHA tejal.sinha30@gmail.com

PVR Raja is a highly acclaimed musician whose work has made a lasting investment. made a lasting impact on the Telugu film industry. Born and raised in Vizianagaram, his deep passion for music began at an early age, shaping his destiny and guid-ing his career toward a life dedicat-ed to sound and rhythm. His com-mitment to music, which he describes as the one constant in his describes as the one constant in his journey, has led him to compose scores for films such as *Vitamin She* (2020), *Black* (2022) and *Madhi* (2022), where his unique compositions have been widely appreciated.

Raja's association with Hyderabate

Raja's association with Hyderabad spans nearly two decades. His decision to move to the city in 2006 was a defining moment in his career. "When I first came to Hyderabad, I was in search of a place where I could grow as a musician. It felt like a city full of opportunities, a place where people from all over the country came to pursue their dreams," he recalls. "Back then, Hyderabad felt like an entirely different world—I hadn't been able to ferent world—I hadn't been able to travel much, but I believed that the world was coming to Hyderabad. It felt like the right place for me to be."

Over the years, what once seemed like an unfamiliar city has become a home, both personally and professionally. "The

city has played a huge role in my journey. It gave me opportunities that I could never have imagined back in my hometown. I met the right people here, people who, like me, had come from different parts of the country looking for a fresh start. It's because of this city that so many doors began to open for me," reflects
Raja with great enthusiasm and pride.
Hyderabad is more than just a professional hub for Raja; it's also

become a place that has shaped his identity as an artist. While he holds his hometown close to his heart, he acknowledges that his connection to Hyderabad runs



found my professional footing. It's the place that turned my dreams into reality. My hometown will always be special to me, but professionally, Hyderabad is where I grew up. It has become a city that represents both my career and my personal growth," he says.

The influence of Tollywood, one of India's largest and most influential film industries, is not lost on Raja. His decision to settle in Hyderabad coincided with the rapid

Hyderabad coincided with the rapid growth of the Telugu film industry, and the city became a natural hub for his musical aspirations. "Tollywood is huge now and being in Hyderabad has given me access to so many talented musicians and deeper. "Hyderabad is where I filmmakers," he shares. "It's allowed me to be a part of the industry at a time when it's at its peak. The opportunities that came my way here have been incredibly important to my career."

Hyderabad's cultural diversity also played a significant role in his musical evolution. The city is a melting pot of influences, blending tradition with modernity, and that has shaped his music in many ways. "The cultural landscape of Hyderabad is unique. From its folk traditions to its festivals, the city has its own rhythm, which I've drawn inspiration from. The music scene here is vibrant, shaped by so many different influences and I've been

fortunate to be part of that. However, Raja also acknowledges

Hailing from Vizianagaram, music composer, record producer, songwriter and guitarist PVR Raja credits Hyderabad's vibrant culture and the growth of Tollywood for shaping his music and fueling his creative iourney. In an exclusive interview with *The Pioneer*, he reflected on how moving to Hyderabad transformed his career

that living in a city like Hyderabad can come with its own set of challenges. "When people first come to Hyderabad, it can be overwhelming. Some people struggle to adapt and they start comparing it to their hometowns," he explains, who is known as 'llaivaragia of short films' known as 'Ilaiyaraaja of short films'. But the reality is, "Hyderabad is a city that invites you to create your own path. Once you embrace the opportunities it offers, it becomes a place where you can truly grow."

For him, Hyderabad represents more than just a professional opportunity. "It's a city that has given me a fresh start. A second chance, in many ways. It's where I was able to find my place in the industry, where I connected with like-minded individuals and where my career took shape," he says thoughtfully. As he reflects on his journey, it's clear that Hyderabad has played an integral role in PVR Raja's growth as a musician. The city has provided him with opportunities, a sense of community and the space to evolve as an artist. What began as a hopeful move in search of a new beginning has, over time, become a place of deep personal and professional significance — a place where Raja's dreams contin-

ue to flourish.

FROM CHALLENGING STEREOTYPES AND NAVIGATING THE COMPLEXITIES OF FAME TO HER PASSIONS AND PLANS FOR BOLLYWOOD DOMINATION, ALFIA OFFERS AN UNPRECEDENTED GLIMPSE INTO HER LIFE, REVEALING THE FIRE, RESILIENCE AND UNWAVERING **DEDICATION THAT DEFINE HER RISE TO STARDOM IN AN EXCLUSIVE CHAT WITH THE PIONEER**

Star power with Jafry twist!

AARTI SREENATH aarti.sreenath9@gmail.com

A lfia Jafry may come from Bollywood royalty, but she's no pampered princess; she's a firebrand in her own right, breaking into the entertainment industry with

a bang! From her headline-grabbing turn on *The Tribe* to her glamorous LA lifestyle, this diva is fast becoming the girl everyone's talking about. With looks that stop traffic and a personality that's pure dynamite, this social media star has the confidence of a seasoned pro and the audacity to say what she thinks—no mat-

the audacity to say what she thinks—no matter who's listening.

Forget the so-called "rich brat" labels; she's got hustle in her DNA, working since her teens and challenging every stereotype with her raw authenticity. Now, she's turning heads, making waves and bringing a whole new vibe to the influencer scene, all while dreaming of a Bollywood takeover.

Alfia Jafry greets with an effortless warmth and confidence, setting an upbeat tone for the conversation. "Hope you're doing great! I'm doing amazing. How's it going?" She begins, her lively energy radiating as she reflects on her unique journey from her budding career to her life in Los Angeles and her dreams of making it big.

Despite her current trajectory, she admits she has long been ambivalent about entering the entertainment world. "I was always in two minds

entertainment world. "I was always in two minds about it. Honestly, I wasn't even sure I wanted to be part of this industry," she confesses. But, as fate would have it, her career took shape by coincidence. When friends of hers started an influencer agency, she was invited to join—and surprisingly, it felt right. "It was like destiny. I didn't chase it or even work too hard to get here," she laughs, reflecting on how naturally things unfolded. Testing her on-screen comfort through *The Tribe* was just the beginning.

One of her standout memories from *The*

Tribe was an emotional confrontation that unfolded on the show. "I know it looked like I was just fighting over one thing, but it was months of built-up emotions coming out," she explains. Her transition to Los Angeles had been overwhelming, with its mix of isolation and excitement. The show provided both an outlet and a support system and the experience became a lifeline that resonated deeply with fans. "I now hear from so many girls dealing with anxiety or diabetes who tell me how my story helped them," she shares. The connection with her audience, even if it's just a handful of people, has made her journey even more meaningful. "If even ten people feel connected, I'm happy to have made a differ-

When asked about the criticism she faces as a so-called "rich brat," she laughs, caught off guard. "Who calls me that? No one sends me these articles!" she jokes, brushing it off with a lighthearted wave. But she's quick to clarify: "I've been financially independent since I was 16," she says, detailing her early work as a production designer on music videos, even loaning props from her own home. From there, she assisted casting directors for years. Raised among strong, self-made women, she proudly shares, "My family taught me to prioritise my own identity and independence." Her grandma, a former principal, her aunt, a national hockey player and her "workaholic" mother all set powerful examples of resilience. "People think I'm rich because of my dad. No! My father's rich— I'm 'Raees', not 'Ameer," she says with a

Fashion, surprisingly, isn't something she obsesses over, even though her style has won fans. "I'm pretty chill—I'll wear whatever someone hands me," she chuckles. But growing up sur-rounded by fashion-forward women—her mom, nani and maasi—style became ingrained in her. "I'm not following trends, but I was raised around it," she says, shrugging with an effortless elegance.

Her stint with The Tribe is another passion, one she shares with close friends in a WhatsApp group called "CT Girls." They coordinate brand projects, share ideas and even dance together for content. "Even if some of them aren't into dance, they join me anyway," she says, visibly touched by their camaraderie. The friendships run deep, too; The Tribe is less about fame and more about genuine connection. "It's real friendship, not competition. We're just a group of friends killing it together."

As for her professional connections, she speaks reverently of Karan Johar, who helped launch her career. "He's my boss, not my friend," she clarifies. "I owe him my break and have endless respect for him." Fabulous Lives of Bollywood Wives holds a special place in her heart, particularly because of her bond with Seema Khan. "Seema's like

At the heart of her success is a close-knit support system. "My makeup artist is a school friend; my manager's been with my dad for 18 years; my stylist is an old friend," she shares. This loyalty from friends and family keeps her grounded, even with newfound fame. When asked what's next, she gives a playful tease: "A lot! But I believe in nazar; I don't say anything until it's set." Her focus remains on The Tribe, a project she's determined to keep in the spotlight. She credits her family for

my godmother. Half of who I am is because of her," she says fondly, acknowledging Seema's unwavering support. Watching women like Seema find success later in life is inspiring to her. "Forget Kardashians; these are my role mod-

her. "Forget Kardashians; these are my role models," she asserts.

Alfia addresses a common misconception about influencer life: that it's effortless. "I used to think it was easy too—until I tried it myself!" she laughs. "You're the actor, director, producer, editor—everything! You end up reshooting and editing countless times." Content creation, she admits, is tougher than it seems

Even with her passion for The Tribe, her heart still beats for Bollywood. "I'd love to play a character like Karishma Kapoor in a mod-

ern-day setting," she says. She's selective with projects, balancing her bold style with her boundaries. "I'm not perfect, but I know my limits," she says with conviction.

than it seems.



Unlocking joint health by distinguishing Rheumatoid from Osteoarthritis

A rthritis is a term that describes a range of conditions affecting the joints, and two of the most common types are rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and osteoarthritis (OA). While both lead to joint pain and discomfort, they are fundamentally different in their causes, symptoms, and treatment options. Understanding these differences is crucial for effective management and treatment of the conditions.

Understanding basics of rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis

Rheumatoid arthritis is an autoimmune disease, meaning that the body's immune system mistakenly attacks its own tissues. In the case of RA, the immune system targets the synovial membrane, which is a protective lining in the joints. This leads to inflammation, swelling, and pain, often affecting both sides of the body simultaneously. RA can develop at any age, but it typically manifests during midlife.

On the other hand, osteoarthritis is primarily associated with wear and tear on the joints over time. It occurs when the cartilage—the smooth tissue that cushions the ends of bones-breaks down. This can lead to pain and discomfort in the affected joints, especially after prolonged activity. OA is most common in older adults and generally develops gradually, affecting one joint or a specific area more than others.

Recognising symptoms of each condition

When someone visits a doctor complaining of joint pain, the specifics of their symptoms can provide important clues about whether they have RA or OA.

In rheumatoid arthritis, patients often experience significant morn-



ing stiffness that can last for an hour or more, along with other symptoms such as fatigue, low-grade fever and a decreased appetite. Additionally, lumps known as rheumatoid nodules may form under the skin. The bilateral nature of the pain—affecting both sides of the body—is also a strong indicator of RA.

Conversely, osteoarthritis usually develops more slowly and is often experienced in one specific joint. The pain associated with OA tends to worsen with activity and improves with rest. Symptoms may include stiffness after periods of inactivity, as well as cracking or grinding noises when moving the joint. People with OA may also notice

bony bumps developing over their finger joints.

Risk factors and

treatment options
Both rheumatoid and osteoarthritis have overlapping risk factors, such as family history and being overweight. However, certain factors may increase the likelihood of developing one type over the other. For example, women are more prone to rheumatoid arthritis, while osteoarthritis is often linked to joint injuries, aging, and repetitive stress

Unfortunately, there is currently no cure for either type of arthritis, but various treatments can help manage symptoms and improve quality of life. In the case of rheumatoid arthritis, treatment aims to slow disease progression and reduce inflammation. Common treatments include nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), corticosteroids, and disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs). Physical therapy and exercise can also help maintain joint function and mobility.

For osteoarthritis, treatments often focus on pain relief and maintaining joint function. Options may include NSAIDs, acetaminophen, topical treatments, and joint injections. Weight management is also crucial, as excess weight can place additional stress on joints, particularly in OA. In both cases, physical activity is essential for improving overall joint health and reducing

Understanding the differences between rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis is vital for effective management and treatment. While both conditions can significantly impact a person's quality of life, they require different approaches to treatment and care.

By recognising the unique characteristics of each type, individuals can better navigate their treatment options and improve their overall well-being. Whether through medication, lifestyle changes, or physical therapy, managing arthritis can lead to a more fulfilling and active

(The author, Dr. Arvind Mehra, is the Senior Director, Orthopaedic, at Paras Health.)

Ageing Kohli, Rohit must rekindle youthful mindset to rediscover lost glory: Greg Chappell

s Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma prepare for one of their career's defining challenges in Australia in the upcoming Test series, former India head coach Greg Chappell believes the two stalwarts can "rekindle" the energy and focus of their youth to rediscover their lost glory. Wounded by an unprecedented 0-3 home

series defeat to New Zealand, India will look to defend the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in the marquee five-match Test series in Australia beginning on November 22.

According to Chappell, the ageing Sharma and Kohli must summon the same drive and focus that once marked their prime years if India hopes to reclaim its form on foreign soil.

Reflecting on a conversation with Indian legend Sachin Tendulkar in 2005, Chappell shared insights into the hurdles players face as they

age. Tendulkar had sought Chappell's perspective and asked "Greg, why does batting become harder as you get older? Surely it should get

"I explained to him that the mental demands of batting intensify with age," Chappell wrote in a column for 'Sydney

Morning Herald'. "Batting gets harder because you realise how hard it is to make runs at this level and how difficult it is to maintain aware of the conditions and

AP ADELAIDE (AUSTRALIA)

 $\begin{array}{cccc} F_{\text{5-29}} & \text{and} & \text{Saim} & \text{Ayub} \\ \text{scored} & \text{82 runs} & \text{as} & \text{Pakistan} \end{array}$

defeated Australia by nine

wickets in the second one-day international on Friday.

Australia was 163 all out in 35

overs against Rauf's relentless pace and left-hander Ayub

smashed six sixes and five

fours as Pakistan cruised to

169-1 in 26.3 overs to level the

(15 not out) clinched the

victory with a pulled six off Adam Zampa with Abdullah

Shafique staying unbeaten on

better than run-a-ball 64

which featured four

The series decider will be

played at Perth on Sunday

with Australia resting five

frontline players to prepare

for the five-match home test

series against India, starting from Nov. 22 at Perth.

The opening pair of Ayub and Shafique had been criticized

for run of low scores in test

matches, but both blunted the

Australian pace with a match-

winning stand of 137 runs

after Pakistan kept faith on the duo in the white-ball

Avub took his time against

boundaries and three sixes.

three-match series.

Former captain Bal



required to be successful," the Australian batting legend

He said "it's not the eyesight or the reflexes that drop off" when a players starts ageing but "it's the intense focus that is required that becomes harder to sustain."

"When one is younger, the mind is focused on making

As you age, the opposition has put work into finding your weaknesses, and you are more the mental focus that is the situation of the game.

nine wicket win over Australia

"As a young player, you don't worry about the conditions or the situation of the game, you only see the ball and how to make runs," Chappell wrote, describing Rohit, Kohli and Australian batting stalwart Steve Smith as the "giants" of

current times. "If you want to play like you did as a younger player, you have to rekindle the attitude and the thought processes that you had as a younger player. That is the greatest challenge for the ageing player," Chappell had

Rauf and Ayub star in Pakistan's resounding

explained to Tendulkar.

Chappell said the upcoming five-match Test series in Australia "will be as much a battle of wits and endurance as it will be of skill, with each player needing to summon the drive and adaptability of their younger selves."

"This sentiment captures what Sharma, Kohli and (Steve) Smith will confront this series. They know that opposition teams have scrutinised their techniques, studied their weaknesses and

deep fine leg when the ball burst through his hands to the boundary but the left-arm fast

bowler made amends when he had Short caught at covers

after trapping Fraser-McGurk

plumb leg before wicket. Afridi ended Australia's

below-par innings when Zampa played a full ball back onto his stumps. Zampa flicked Naseem Shah for a six

and a four in an over which

enabled the home team to

middle-order with only Steve Smith scoring 35 off 48 balls

before he too chased a wide short ball of Mohammad

Hasnain and edged behind

Fast bowler Josh Hazlewood

replaced Sean Abbott in the

only change Australia made from the team which edged

Starc, Smith, Marnus

Labuschagne, Cummins and Hazlewood all will be rested

for the final game of the

series on Sunday. Wicketkeeper-batter Josh Inglis was named interim captain for the last ODI at

Inglis will also lead the side

in next week's three T20s

against Pakistan with Mitchell Marsh and Travis

Pakistan with

Pakistan in the first game.

cross the 150-run mark.

Rauf sliced through

the wicket.

Perth.

specifically to exploit even minor chinks."

Against New Zealand, Kohli endured his lowest-ever aggregate in a home Test series where he batted at least six times, scoring only 93 runs at an average of 15.50, with one half-century.

This poor run has lowered his Test average to 47.83 from a peak of 55.10 in October 2019 - the first time it has dipped below 48 since November

He has dropped out of top-20 batters in ICC Test rankings

Masters

PTI I IKSAN CITY (KOREA)

Continued his spectacular

run in the Korea Masters

badminton tournament as he

stormed into the men's singles

semifinals with a straight-game win over fifth seed

Takuma Obayashi of Japan

here on Friday. The 24-year-old, ranked 41st,

beat world number 34

Obavashi 21-14 21-16 in just

39 minutes to register yet another upset win in the BWF

World Tour Super 300 event.

George runs into Thailand's top seed and world number

five Kunlavut Vitidsarn -- who

won 21-15 21-11 against Liu

Liang of China -- in the

semifinals on Saturday.

George

▼ndia's Kiran

KL Rahul's horror run continues as India A suffer another top-order collapse



PTI MELBOURNE

Kohli dropped eight spots to 22nd in the rankings while

Rohit slipped to 26th.
"For Kohli, the task is one of

rejuvenation. Known for his unmatched intensity, passion and high standards, Kohli's

recent travails will have annoyed him," Chappell

"The aggressive mindset that propelled him to greatness must now coexist with patience and focus."

He enters this series hungry

to reiterate his authority as

India's most formidable batsman of his generation."

For Rohit, according to Chappell, the challenge lies in balancing his aggressive instincts with the calculated

caution that Test cricket

"As captain, he must maintain his own form while

shouldering the pressure of

leadership – a delicate balance he'll need to master

"This Test series, then, is more than just another

chapter in cricket; it is a

testament to the challenges

that father time presents to

even the most skilled

Each player is more than a

celebrated cricketer; they are

icons of the determination

and skill that defines our

game. This series will be a

defining chapter in their

"For Sharma, Kohli, and (Steve) Smith, the true battle

is not against their opponents but against time

Taipei in the pre-quarterfinals. George, the lone Indian shuttler competing in the tournament, was in control of

the match throughout. After

1-1 scoreline, he was always in

When George zoomed to 15-6 lead, Obayashi made a brief

resistance, closing down the gap to 12-16. But that was all

the Japanese could do as George notched four straight

points to take the first game. The second game was a much

closer affair as the duo

breathed down each other's

George was initially 7-3 ahead

but Obayashi fought back to make it 8-8. After that, it was a

neck-and-neck contest. But

the lead in the first game.

itself," Chappell wrote.

if India is to thrive.

wrote.

demands.

players.

legacies.

Kiran George enters

semifinals of Korea

L Rahul's horror run With the bat continued as he got out in a bizarre fashion to leave India A at a shaky 73 for five on the second day of the second unofficial Test against Australia A here on Friday. Seeking to open the batting for India in case skipper Rohit Sharma skips the first Test against Australia in Perth, Rahul endured a disastrous outing in the tune-up to the Border-Gavaskar Trophy and managed just 14 runs across two innings, having got out for 10 in India A's second

innings. Abhimanyu Easwaran's struggles against the moving ball also did not help India A's cause as they led by only 11 runs with half the side back in the dressing room in

their second innings.
After bowling out India A for 161 on the opening day, Australia A managed 223, not a total the home team had hoped for, but it still gave them a substantial firstinnings lead of 62 runs.

Coming out to bat for the Indian disannoii gain as the

Australian bowlers struck some vital blows to help their team inch closer to a series sweep. Australia A won the opening

match by seven wickets. Looking completely out of sorts, Rahul was bowled in a bizarre fashion after facing 44 balls at the Melbourne

Cricket Ground. Rahul misjudged a tossed up delivery and offered no shot as the ball ricocheted off his pads to hit the stumps, leaving the batter embarrassed while he walked back to the dressing

room. Getting bowled between the legs has compounded his woes ahead of the blockbuster series.

Abhimanyu, who was picked as a backup opener for the upcoming five-match rubber

Down Under, also failed to deliver, following his firstinnings duck with a 17 from 31 balls.

Indian top-order The struggled against quality spin and pace, leaving them at 56/5 early in the second

innings.
Wicketkeeper-batter Dhruv Jurel (19 batting) and Nitish Kumar Reddy (9 batting) ensured there was no further setback by negotiating the remaining overs before the stumps were drawn for the

day. Earlier, India A's pace attack, spearheaded by Prasidh Krishna's fourwicket burst and Mukesh Kumar's three-wicket haul, dominated the Australian batting, dismissing them for 223 in 62.1 overs.

Marcus Harris was the standout batter for Australia A, scoring a gritty 74 off 138 balls, while lower-order batter Rocchiccioli provided late fireworks, hitting 35 off 28 balls, including two sixes and three fours.

In response, India A lost openers Abhimanyu and Sai Sudharsan cheaply to disciplined bowling from second time in the game, the Nathan McAndrew and top-order Beau Webster.

Abhimanyu's m McAndrew's pace led to his dismissal at gully, adding to the team's concerns.

Devdutt Padikkal (1) also

fell cheaply, as both Webster (2/14) and McAndrew (2/22) tore through India's batting lineup.
However, Jurel and Reddy then held firm.

Resuming the day on 53/2, translated his Harris overnight score of 26 into a well-constructed innings, showing resilience against a sharp Indian pace attack. Brief Scores:

India A 161 and 73/5 in 31 overs (Dhruv Jurel 19 batting; Nathan McAndrew 2/22, Beau Webster 2/14). Australia A 1st innings: 223 all out in 62.1 (Marcus Harris 74; Prasidh Krishna

from 17-16, George grabbed pushed back Australia. Afridi dropped Matt Short at The Indian had beaten third Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc bats consistently by hitting Head away on paternity four straight points to seal the 4/50, Mukesh Kumar 3/41, second game and the match. before he grew in confidence the right lengths. seed Chi Yu Jen of Chinese Khaleel Ahmed 2/56).

Man United ends winless run in Europe and Osimhen scores two as Galatasaray beats Tottenham

AP ■ MANCHESTER (ENGLAND)

format.

Manchester United secured its first win in Europe for more than a year by beating PAOK 2-0 in the Europa League. Two secondhalf goals from Amad Diallo sealed the victory at Old Trafford on Thursday and boosted United's hopes of progressing in competition, while Tottenham's 100% start was ended by a 3-2 loss at Galatasaray. United's last win in Europe was against

last year.
"We addressed that in the dressing room and it was time to change that, so we did," United interim head coach Ruud van Nistelrooy said.

Copenhagen in the Champions League on Oct. 24

Diallo's looping header beat PAOK goalkeeper Dominik Kotarski in the 50th minute and he followed that up with a deflected shot from outside the area that nestled into the bottom corner in the 77th.

games for United under Van Nistelrooy, who has one more match — against Leicester on Sunday — before handing over to Ruben Amorim.

and flicked Pat Cummins,

Starc and Aaron Hardie for

sixes and also smashed

The left-hander, who made his ODI debut at the

Melbourne Cricket Ground

on Monday, got a reprieve just

before reaching a half century

when Zampa dropped a sitter at third man, but he offered a

tame catch at short third man

just when he looked set for a

Earlier, Rauf, who nearly

pulled off a victory for

Pakistan in the first game,

found the outside edges of the

century.

Zampa for two big hits.

It is not clear if there will be a role for the Dutchman after his temporary reign, but he is doing what he can to ensure that United is in the best possible position for when Amorim takes charge.

Erik ten Hag was fired last week after a woeful start to the campaign left the team in 14th place in the Premier League and without a win in secondary Europe's competition the Europa League.

Amorim was quickly hired in his place, but it has been left to Van Nistelrooy to fill the gap while the Portuguese serves a notice period at

Sporting Lisbon.
He has delivered wins in the English League Cup and the Europa League either side of a draw with Chelsea in the league. Osimhen double Earlier, Victor Osimhen

It's two wins from three scored twice in eight minutes to help Galatasaray beat Tottenham 3-2 in Turkey. Osimhen scored his first goal

Captain Mohammad Rizwan

took five catches — four off

Rauf's bowling — and could have had a sixth had he not

dropped a top-edge off Zampa (18) before Australia

was dismissed after Pakistan

won the toss and elected to

field on a lively Adelaide

Shaheen Shah Afridi (3-26)

provided the breakthrough

inside the first power play. Jake Fraser-McGurk hit three

crisp boundaries on the off

side in Naseem Shah's first

over to get Australia rolling before Afridi's twin strike

wicket.

in Europe for Galatasaray after his transfer from Napoli with a precise low shot inside the right post to give the host a 2-1 lead in the 31st minute and added his second eight minutes later by heading home a curled cross from the right by Dries Mertens.

It was Tottenham's first loss in the competition after three wins. Galatasaray remains unbeaten with three wins and

Every game on Thursday was preceded by a moment of silence to honor the victims of the devastating flooding in Spain. In Istanbul, Yunus Akgün put Galatasary ahead in the sixth minute when Spurs failed to properly clear a free kick by Mertens and the midfielder volleyed home from outside the area past goalkeeper Fraser Forster. Tottenham equalized in the 19th minute through Will

cross from Brennan Johnson. Lankshear, who made only



his second senior appearance for the London club and However, Lankshear was later netted from close range after a card on the hour mark.

sent off for a second yellow Substitute Dominic Solanke

pulled a goal back for Tottenham with a backheel finish in the 69th. Lazio perfect Lazio is the only

team to maintain a perfect record with four wins after Pedro Rodríguez scored in injury time to secure a 2-1 victory over Porto. Ajax had five different goal scorers in a 5-0 rout of Maccabi Tel-Aviv while three substitutes netted for Alkmaar in its 3-1 victory over Fenerbahce, the first loss of the competition for Jose

Mourinho's team. Latvia's RFS salvaged a 1-1 draw with Anderlecht with a stoppage-time equalizer as the Belgian side dropped points for the first time.

Earlier, Eintracht Frankfurt beat Slavia Prague 1-0 thanks to Omar Marmoush's secondhalf goal, while Roma was held to a 1-1 draw at Union Saint-Gilloise, another disappointing result after a 3-2 loss to Hellas Verona in

Serie A over the weekend. Rangers held last year's Conference League champion Olympiacos to a 1-1 draw in Greece. Athletic Bilbao beat Ludogorets 2-1 to stay unbeaten with three wins and

a draw, while Qarabag upset

earn its first points. Nice drew 2-2 with Twente with both teams finishing the game reduced to 10 men. Conference League

Bodø/Glimt 3-1 in Norway to

demolished Chelsea Armenian club Noah 8-0 to set a record for the biggest victory in the third-tier Conference League. Chelsea took a 6-0 lead in the

first half on two goals from João Félix, and one a piece from Tosin Adarabioyo, Marc Guiu, Axel Disasi and Mykhailo Mudrvk. Christopher Nkunku added two more in the second half, the second from the spot.

Nordsjaelland had the previous record, beating Ludogorets 7-1 last season. Chelsea is one of six teams with three wins after three games. Vitória beat Mladá Boleslav 2-1, Jagellonia defeated Molde 3-0 and Heidenheim won 2-0 at Hearts. Earlier, Legia Warsaw routed Dinamo Minsk 4-0 and SK Rapid eased past

Petrocub 3-0.

Vijayawada | Saturday November 9, 2024

tollywood

Lucknow awaits Game Changer teaser with Kiara



turn of events, the city of Nawabs is set to witness a starstudded event on 9th November as the versatile and charming Kiara Advani brings her co-star Ram Charan and acclaimed director S. Shankar to Lucknow for the much-anticipated teaser launch of their upcoming pan-India film, Game Changer. Joining Kiara at the event is Ram Charan, a name that resonates not just in India but globally. Kiara's first Telugu film with Mahesh Babu was a massive hit, and now she is teaming up with Ram Charan for the second time

Appudo Ippudo Eppudo falls flat!

a narrator. The film story is complete-

ly outdated and not a single scene is

interesting in this film. The filmmaker

thought that he is coming up with a dif-ferent screenplay in this film narrating

the story, but still it is not interesting.

The filmmaker chooses an outdated

narration, because most of the scenes

lack reality! There is not even one strong

character in this film. The protagonist's

role is also shown in a pale way. The film-maker showed the villain in a strong way

Cast: Nikhil, Rukmini Vasanth, Divyansha Kaushik, John Vijay, Ajay, Harsha Chemudu, Satya, Sudharshan

c: Sunny MR

er: Richard Prasad

RATING: 1/5

and others

tory: Srikanth Vissa

Producer: BVSN Prasad

irector : Sudhir Varma

sureshkavirayani@gmail.com

ilmmaker Sudhir Varma and actor Nikhil worked for films like Swami Ra Ra and Kesava earlier and have now come together for the third time for Appudo Ippudo Eppudo. This film is said to have been completed long ago as this film was supposed to be Rukmin Vasanth's Telugu debut film as the lead actress, but her other films in Kannada released. BVSN Prasad is the producer and like his earlier films, this film too mostly shot in the UK. Like the title suggested, the film is also supposed to be released long back. but without any buzz it released today. Let's see what this film is about! Story:

Rishi (Nikhil) wants to be a racer and falls in love with Thara (Rukmini Vasanth). Due to some misunderstandings, his relationship with Thara fails and he leaves India along with his friend Yaaji (Harsha Chemudu) to London. There he joins a part time job and also undergoes training for racing. During which, he meets a girl called Tulasi (Divyansha Kaushik) and falls in love with her and when he wants to marry her at a temple, Tulasi suddenly disappears. They are now in search of Tulasi, but at the same time Thara also comes to London and meets Rishi. A local don Badri Narayana (John Vijay) is in search of a chip that is worth Rs 200 crores. What happens to Tulasi? Why does the police arrest Rishi and his friend? What is the connection between Badri Narayana and Rishi? What happens in the end is the crux of the story.

Like his earlier films, Sudhir Varma has taken another crime story for this film Appudo Ippudo Eppudo. For this, he added a small love story in the plot, but he completely failed as a director and

like the film was completed a few years back and the producer wanted to release it in theaters as nominal, before streaming it on OTT. Maybe that's why the film has no buzz at all, though the director Sudhir Varma and actor Nikhil are very popular. This film added to their careers

in the beginning, but later he made him as a comical villain. The love track between Rishi and Divyansha is also boring and does not appeal to anyone. The female lead Rukmini Vasanth's role is not written in a strong way. Audience felt that they were watching a film made ages back. The climax is silly. There

is no reality in any scene. The story is completely predictable and one can know what will come in the next scene. It seems

as one of the worst films! When it comes to the performance, Nikhil Siddhartha played his best, but his character is not strong enough to portray. He is just showcasing his normal acting skills and nothing beyond. Rukmini Vasanth is beautiful and she appears mostly in songs and few scenes. But the highlight is Divyansha Kaushik where she plays as a con girl and she did it well. Harsha Chemudu played as Nikhil's friend as usual. John Vijay irritates with his silly dialogues. Ajay appeared as a regular and routine character. Satya and Sudharshan are also just given voice overs that tell the flashback story. The music by Karthik is not impressive and there is no impact of background score by MR Sunny. Cinematography is okay as the film was shot mostly in the UK.

Finally, *Appudo Ippudo Eppudo* is a mediocre film and it is surprising that Sudhir Varma directed this one. The director has made some good films, but this one he made is how to make a bad



Dhoom Dhaam: A disaster of epic proportions

Cast: Chetan Krishna, Hebah Patel, Sai Kumar, Vennela Kishore, Gopraju

er: Siddharth Ramaswamy

Ramana, Vinay Varma, Banérjee,

Music: Gopi Sunda

Story: Gopi Mohan

Producer : MS Ramkumar

Director : Sai Kishore Macha

SURESH KAVIRAYANI sureshkavirayani@gmail.com

here are many small films releasing this Friday and *Dhoom Dhaam* is one of them. Chetan and Hebah Patel are the

lead pair and Sai Kishore Macha is making his debut as a filmmaker with this one. Gopi Mohan, who worked with filmmaker Srinu Vaitla for many films as writer, provided the story and screenplay for this film. Gopi Sundar is the music director. Before the film was going to be released, the makers said that this is a hilarious one, let's see how the film

Story: **RATING: 0.5/5** Karthik (Chetan) is a rich kid and his father (Sai Kumar) always wants to see him at the top, No.1. Karthik goes on a trip to Europe and he meets Suhana (Hebah Patel) in Poland. Suhana confesses her love for Karthik, but Karthik wants to marry another girl. But after a few scenes, Karthik finds out the truth and falls in love with Suhana. Both want to get married and inform their parents. Meanwhile, Karthik gets to know who Suhana's father (Vinay Varma), and is shocked and from then

onwards avoids Suhana. Who is Suhana's father and what is the story behind him and Karthik? The three Raju brothers (Goparaju Ramana, Baneriee and Vinay Varma) wan to take revenge on Karthik and his father? Everyone meets at Vennela Kishore's wedding and what happens there and how it ends is the crux of the story.

Analysis:

Sai Kishore Macha is making his debut with this film as a filmmaker. Gopi Mohan gave the story for this film means everyone knows how the story is going to be. Because he worked with Srinu Vatila for many films and it is easy to expect that this film story is also on the same lines. But the worst thing is that there is no strong point to narrate this *Dhoom* Dhaam. The point which was taken by Gopi Mohan is a very silly and not interesting one.

The first half of the film is completely bor-

ing with scenes between Chetan and Hebha Patel. The romantic thread is very silly and pathetic. Though the makers say that the story revolves around father and son, their bond is not shown in a proper way. The father wants to make his son number one,

so in his gated com-munity, he won't allow tenants, whose kids are toppers. Don't you think that it looks silly? With these kinds of silly points, one can imagine how the remaining movie goes.
The second half is

another silly thing with introducing Vennela Kishore and his engagement and marriage. The director thought those scenes would make the film

hilarious, but those scenes are mediocre with silly jokes and scenes. From the beginning to end, it not only tests the audience's patience and makes the audience wait for the movie to end.

When it comes to the performance Chetan's character is not justified and the audience cannot see any visible emotions on his face. Even in the comic scenes he does not perform well. Hebha Patel is there for a few songs and few scenes. Sai

Kumar is a senior actor and it's a routine character for him. Seeing Vennela Kishore with the same kind of comedy in every film is a big bore. Nothing much to his character and entire edding episode is a big waste and it comes in the second half. The music and songs do not have much impact. The cinematography is okay. The locations in Poland are beauti-

Finally, Dhoom Dhaam is supposed to be an entertaining one, but it comes off as a completely mediocre film in the end. There are some good technicians and writers who worked for this film, but one wonders how they did a film like this? It seems like the producer wanted to make a film with his son, so he did this with *Dhoom Dhaam*. This film gives you an idea of how to make a bad film. It's a completely terrible film to watch and better to avoid!

Prabhas joins Homable for massive multi-film venture



In an unprecedented move, Superstar Prabhas and Hombale Films have sealed an industry-first, multi-film partnership of unmatched scale.
This historic collaboration,

which includes Salaar Part 2 and two additional back-toback films, represents the largest deal between an actor and a pro duction house to date, marking a transformative chapter for both Prabhas and Hombale. The multi-film agreement with Hombale reflects his strong affinity with India's leading production house, setting him up to headline four films under Hombale's banner.

The partnership begins with Salaar Part 2, directed by Prashanth Neel, who has been instrumental in Hombale's success with cinematic phenomena like KGF 1, KGF 2 and Salaar

SS Rajamouli credits Suriya for inspiring Pan-India cinema movement



pirector SS Rajamouli, in an event has credited actor Suriya for inspiring him to push the bound-aries of Telugu cinema and reach audiences beyond the Telugu states. In a recent interview. Rajamouli opened up about his admiration for Suriya and the pivotal role he played in shaping the Pan-Îndia cinematic movement.

"Suriya is the hero who inspired me to take Telugu cinema to other regions, beyond the Telugu states," Rajamouli said. "During Ghajini era, I would tell my producers and heroes about his efforts to promote his films in Telugu as a case

Rajamouli further revealed that he and Suriya had discussed collaborating on a film in the past, but the project never materialised. "Suriya mentioned at a function that he regretted not working with me, but I too regret not having the opportunity to work with him. I truly admire his acting," Rajamouli said. "He is someone who chooses stories and embarks on a journey more than any filmmaker. I respect his decisions!"

Rajamouli also shared insights into the aking of his much-anticipated film Kanguva, which stars Suriya in the lead role. Filming in challenging locations was a key element of the movie's production and he acknowledged the immense effort put in by the entire team. "Filming in great locations is challenging. Taking the entire crew to a location or shooting in a large studio is difficult in itself. But Kanguva was shot in very rare locations, and the sets were designed in many unique places," he explained. "The hard work put in by the team is clearly visible in the making video. I believe that all the effort put in by the team will be rewarded with success after the film's

'No one in this industry will support you'

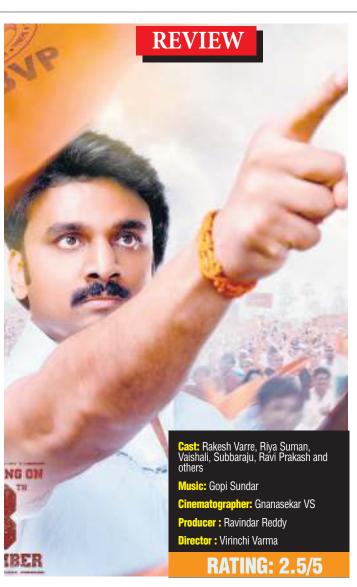


riran Abbavaram's latest film KA has been a big success, which was released during the Diwali festival. Directed by Sujith and Sandeep, the film is produced by Chinta Gopalakrishna Reddy. The makers held a success meet of this film and some of the film celebrities attended and praised Kiran Abbavaram and the film. Producer Dil Raju spoke highly of the film and said that he is following *KA* from the beginning of its

progress.
"It's a young team and they have worked hard to make this film a success. There was tough competition at the box office on the Diwali festival and five films achieved success. It's not easy to stand out in this competition, but a don't take then the producer.

small film like KA did very well despite the competition, said Dil Raju. He praises lead actor Kiran. "He came into the industry without any background, but through his talent and dedication, he has made a name for himself. I am sure he will continue to achieve more success in the future," said Dil Raju. "I heard Kiran's speech and

also another actor's speech, who said that he did not get any support in the industry. I want to say that here in the industry no one supports you, you have to grow up on your own. You don't have to get scared of anyone. If you have talent, you definitely shine," said Dil Raju. He added that many people are here because of their talent! 'You all worked hard and that's why you got success with KA," said Dil Raju. Talking about the trolls, Raju said that 50 years back some people talked about others and it was confined to them, because of no social media at that time. "Now, because of this social media, the whole world gets to know everything. Don't be scared about the trolls and don't take them seriously," said



Varre's stellar turn in Jithender Reddy

Pilmmaker Virinchi Varma after a 8-year long gap, comes out with *Jithender Reddy* film. It is a biopic on Jithender Reddy, who story in an lived in the 80s in Jagtial of Telangana State. He enlightens people with his ideology and at the same time fights against the Naxalites in his area. Virinchi Varma takes his story and narrates it on the big screen. Sudhakar Reddy, younger brother of late Jithington Reddy, is the producer of this film.

Jithender Reddy (Rakesh Varre) is inspired by the stories of Chatrapathi Sivaji from Gopanna, Ramanna and his mother and grows up as a people's leader in his area. He also follows Hindutva and believes that leaders always live with people and not hide in jungles like Naxalites. When the Naxalites started killing some of the students who followed Jithender ideology, Jithender opposed them in a strong manner. He stands for the poor people and fought against the government and Naxalites to resolve the issues in his area. To serve people he decides to enter into politics and becomes a strong contender for the Local MLA Jammi Reddy. After his decision to enter into politics, what happens next is the crux of the

The director narrated the initial story in an interesting way about how a kid wanted to stand for the people. The first half of the story mainly focused on college politics, how Jithender Reddy inspired the students with his ideology and how the Leftists opposed him.

The director focuses mainly on Jithender Reddy and he took his time to establish him as a leader in that area. Though there are few emotional scenes here and there, it lacks gripping narration. The second half is more interesting with the action scenes and encounters between Jithender and the Naxal leaders. Though there are some flaws in the story and screenplay, the filmmaker manages to come up with an interesting film. There are many scenes which resemble the real incidents that happened at that time. In the end the original people's photos were shown

which is very interesting to watch. In some scenes the filmmaker missed the chronology of the incidents. Jithender Reddy meets the Chief Minister who was elected in 1983, but a few scenes later the filmmaker showed an encounter that happened much before 1983.

When it comes to the performance, Rakesh Varre, who played Jithender Reddy, shines in the film. He was actually immersed in the character and he actually carried it on his shoulders. His dialogue delivery, his emotions and the way he performed is simply superb. He is the backbone for this film and proved he is a good actor though he did only a couple of films. Subbaraju played as guru to Jithender and he did an authentic job. There are many other actors who were well supported. The songs, some of them are thought-provoking and well written. The dialogues are impressive and the film is made with good technical values.

Finally, *Jithender Reddy* is a good attempt made by Virinchi Varma and it is interesting to know about unsung leaders like Jithender Reddy. There are few loopholes in the film,

but you can still watch this film. Rakesh Varre's performance is definitely the highlight. There are many small films released on Friday and Jithender Reddy is the best one from